



THE Hans India



India win two gold, four bronze medals
Reigning Paralympics champion Harvinder Singh and world No. 1 Sheetal Devi led the charge as India signed off their World Archery Para Series Stage III campaign on a high, winning two gold and four bronze medals, on the final day.

P10

Raising a toast to the mesmerising culinary art
Cooking is the art, science, and craft of preparing, heating, and combining raw ingredients to make them safe, digestible, and flavoury; a vital life skill that directly impacts our health, saves money, builds self-reliance, and connects us to different cultures.

P6

Geopolitical storm batters D-Street as Sensex cracks 813 points
Falling for the third straight day, benchmark stock index Sensex tumbled 813 points to a three-month low, and the Nifty settled below 23,450 following selling in IT, FMCG, financial services and oil & gas shares, as escalating tensions in West Asia drove crude oil.

P11

'Haiku' teaser: Aegan and Sridevi lead a vibrant romantic entertainer
The teaser of Haiku, a romantic entertainer starring Aegan, Sridevi and Femina George, has been unveiled by popular romantic hero Harish Kalyan. The upcoming Tamil romantic entertainer, which is produced by Vision Cinema House.

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WINDOWS

Govt to mark 100 days in office with spl programme today

BENGALURU: The Karnataka government, led by Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, will complete 100 days in office on Thursday. The government plans to mark the occasion with a special programme titled "Dhruda Karnataka Sankalpa -- Shatakada Patha, Pragatiya Ratha" (Resolve for a Strong Karnataka -- Path of a Century, Chariot of Progress) at the Vidhana Soudha here on Thursday, according to a press release. Former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will inaugurate the event, while Shivakumar will preside over the programme. Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara, all state Cabinet ministers, legislators, Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha members, Legislative Council members and senior government officials, including Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh, will attend the event, it said. Beneficiaries of the government's five major guarantee schemes—Anna Bhagya, Gruha Lakshmi, Shakti, Yuva Nidhi and Gruha Jyothi—along with workers from various sectors and other sections of society, will participate in the programme. Shivakumar will directly interact with the beneficiaries and discuss the impact of the government's welfare initiatives on their lives and the state's future development, the release said. Farmers, auto-rickshaw drivers, porters, gig workers, street vendors, ASHA workers, anganwadi workers and civic sanitation workers are among those expected to participate. Shivakumar was sworn in as chief minister on June 3, following Siddaramaiah's resignation as CM on May 28, on the directions of the Congress high command.

State to move SC against CWRC order

BENGALURU: The government is preparing to move the Supreme Court challenging the orders directing the state to release 6,000 cusecs of Cauvery water daily to Tamil Nadu, state Water Resources Minister N Chaluvarayaswamy said on Wednesday. The Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) on Tuesday upheld the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee's (CWRC) recommendation directing Karnataka to ensure a flow of 6,000 cusecs of water to Tamil Nadu for 15 days from September 9.

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But we're allowed to carry firearms to PM meetings... I read the news on WhatsApp!

Cabinet decides to revive students' elections in varsities, colleges

BENGALURU: The Karnataka Cabinet on Wednesday decided to reintroduce students election in the universities and colleges, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara said. Political parties will not be allowed to take part in these elections, he said.

"Student elections were earlier held in colleges but were subsequently banned. We have now decided to reintroduce elections in

universities and colleges," Parameshwara briefed reporters after the cabinet meeting.

He explained that in each college, there will be one student president, two vice-presidents, including one woman, one general secretary, two joint secretaries, including one woman, and an executive committee of six members, including two women.

There will be no reservation in these elections



as the government does not want to promote caste-based elections among

students, the Deputy CM said. The detailed modalities regarding when and how the

elections will be held will be decided later, he added.

Parameshwara clarified that the students' elections are not mandatory for colleges and it can happen only if students want it. "If students don't want it, they can decide not to have it. The management cannot decide. It is the students' choice," he explained.

According to him, a committee led by Minister Sharan Prakash Patil was formed, which visited

various colleges and universities and submitted a report. Based on the report, the decision to hold students' election was taken.

The objective is primarily to build leadership quality among students, he added. Parameshwara said student organisations and political parties will not be allowed to participate in the elections.

"Students themselves should elect their representatives. They should be officially enrolled

students of that college," the Deputy CM said.

He added that this will be implemented from this year. It will apply to colleges and universities, not schools.

Speaking about Bharat Jodo Yuva Sanghas (BJYS), Parameshwara said it has already been launched, but membership had been temporarily stopped due to technical problems. The state government has decided to set up 10,000 BJYS (youth clubs) across village level.

CM orders use of bulldozers against illegal construction

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

IN a major crackdown by the Delhi government following the Satya Niketan building collapse that claimed seven lives, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Wednesday directed the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) to take strict action against illegal construction, including the use of bulldozers against illegal structures.

The Chief Minister has ordered strict and comprehensive action following the Satya Niketan building collapse incident.

The Chief Minister directed the MCD to carry out demolition action in several areas of Delhi and instructed all senior municipal corporation officials to remain present on the ground during the exercise, as per the CMO.

CM also directed officials to conduct intensive inspections of all paying guest hostels across Delhi and take action against illegal construction found on the premises



Gupta also directed officials to conduct intensive inspections of all paying guest (PG) hostels across Delhi and take action against illegal construction found

on the premises. "Conduct intensive inspections of all PG hostels in Delhi and take action against illegal construction," the Chief Minister said.

She further instructed officials to scrutinise building records to establish when the illegal construction took place and determine under whose jurisdiction it was carried out. "Scrutinise building records--determine exactly when the illegal construction took place and under whose jurisdiction," Gupta said in her directive.

In a post on X, Delhi CMO wrote, "On the instructions of Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, MCD has been directed to demolish the dilapidated building adjoining the accident site in the interest of public safety. The belongings of students inside the building are being safely removed by Delhi Fire Service personnel in a systematic manner. All students and local residents are requested to cooperate with the authorities."

'AI may kill us all by decade-end'

TEXAS

A 27-year-old AI researcher, Jacob Coxon, walked away from Anthropic after a three-year stint. Not quietly. Not with a bland "pursuing other opportunities" LinkedIn post. He went straight to X and lit a match.

"I resigned from Anthropic today," he wrote. "I spent the last three years doing pretraining research at both OpenAI and Anthropic. Neither company is acting responsibly. They are racing straight to self-improving superintelligence and gambling with our lives. More thoughts below."

That was just the opening line. Coxon didn't stop there. In a thread that quickly went viral, he made a claim that should stop anyone scrolling mid-swipe:

"The people building AI earnestly believe that it could kill us all by the end of the decade. This is



not a marketing stunt. If anything, many executives and senior researchers will couch their phrasing in the press to sound sensible -- but I hear the same people express fear privately. No other human activity poses this level of danger."

He wasn't done. Coxon described what's coming next in blunt terms: "Do

not underestimate the power of this technology. These will soon be superhuman systems that can hack anything, revolutionise any field overnight, and acquire real power and resources. We have all witnessed the progress in each of these domains, and progress is not slowing."

'Hybrid terrorist' arrested as terror module busted

SRINAGAR: Security forces on Wednesday busted a terror module run by an ex-terrorist in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said.

Police in Handwara received reliable information regarding the activities of an ex-terrorist who was operating as a "hybrid terrorist" as part of a module of the banned Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) in the Handwara-Kupwara area, a spokesperson said.

"Hybrid terrorist" refers to an unlisted, radicalised individual who performs a specific subversive or violent task assigned by his handlers and then slips back into normal life.

Acting swiftly on the information, the police spokesperson said, security forces launched an operation at the identified location in Handwara town.

Intl cooperation key to future spaceflight: Sunita Williams

BENGALURU: Renowned astronaut Sunita Williams on Wednesday said greater international cooperation is needed for future human spaceflight, and that humanity would return to the Moon and go farther into space "as human beings, not as one country."

She was speaking during an interaction on 'The Next Chapter of Space: A Conversation on Exploration, Science and Innovation' at the ninth edition of the Bengaluru Space Expo here.

Williams said countries could benefit from each other's approaches to solving problems as they prepared for increasingly ambitious exploration missions. Responding to a question on international cooperation in human spaceflight, she said, "International cooperation is wonderful because we see how other cultures think and



Vice President of Crew Partnerships, Vast Space Tom Shelley, Group Captain and astronaut Angad Pratap and renowned astronaut Sunita Williams during an interaction in Bengaluru on Wednesday

solve problems. We get to compare modules, spacesuits, and experiments." Group Captain Angad Pratap, one of the astronauts selected for the Gaganyaan Mission, said India still needed critical technologies for the Bharatiya Antariksh Station, including regenerative life-support systems, a functional Extravehicular activity spacesuit and docking capability.

ED raids PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi

BENGALURU

THE Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday searched Karnataka PWD minister Satish Jarkiholi, his MP daughter Priyanka Jarkiholi and some others as part of an investigation, officials said. They said about 18 premises in the state are being searched, including those belonging to the 64-year-old minister in the Dollars Colony area of the city, his MP daughter Priyanka Jarkiholi and brother-in-law Y D Manjunath in Belagavi. A contingent of the CRPF provided security to the search teams. Priyanka, 29, represents the Chikkodi Lok Sabha seat. There was no immediate comment from Jarkiholis or the Congress party on the ED action.

Cabinet approves 3 Rly projects covering 14 dists

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved three Railway Ministry projects with a total cost of Rs 10,783 crore.

These projects include construction of the fourth line between Kharagpur-Jharsuguda and Katni-Pendra Road section as well as the third line between Bilaspur (Uslapur)-Pendra Road section.

"The increased line capacity will significantly enhance mobility, resulting in improved operational efficiency and service reliability for Indian Railways. These multi-tracking proposals are poised to streamline operations and alleviate

congestion," a press note said.

"The projects are planned on PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan with focus on enhancing multi-modal connectivity and logistic efficiency through integrated planning and stakeholder consultations. These projects will provide seamless connectivity for movement of people, goods, and services," it added.

The three projects covering 14 districts across the states of West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, will increase the existing network of Indian Railways by about 656 kms.



SC: Exempt Std 6 this year from 3-language policy

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to consider exempting Class 6 students from its three-language policy for this academic year.

A three-judge bench led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant, while deferring the hearing on a batch of pleas challenging the CBSE's three-language policy to September 17, asked the Board to look into the possibility of accommodating the students of Class 6 in the ongoing academic session.

BJP's 'Seva' drive to mark Modi's 25 yrs in public office

PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI

THE BJP on Wednesday announced a month-long nationwide 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan' to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi completing 25 years in constitutional public office, combining social-service activities with programmes highlighting his governance journey.

BJP national president Nitin Nabin said the campaign will run from September 17 to October

BJP to showcase Modi's rise from Gujarat CM to Prime Minister and highlight his governance record; blood donation camps, cleanliness drives, exhibitions, seminars and welfare awareness programmes planned

17, covering Modi's 76th birthday on September 17 and the 25th anniversary of his taking oath as Gujarat Chief Minister on October 7, 2001.

Nabin said Modi served

Gujarat for nearly 13 years before becoming Prime Minister in 2014. Describing his journey from an ordinary BJP worker to the country's "Pradhan Sevak", he said the past 25 years had been



guided by public service.

The BJP will use the campaign to highlight what it describes as India's transformation under Modi,

including economic growth, the startup ecosystem, women-led development, youth empowerment and development of border

villages. Nabin also cited initiatives such as Khelo India, Fit India, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Lakhpati Didi and the Nari Shakti Vandan Act. He claimed around 25 crore people have emerged from poverty during Modi's tenure and highlighted free ration and medicines during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The campaign will begin on Modi's birthday with blood donation camps and an 'Aashirwad Ka Diya' programme. A nationwide cleanliness drive will be held on October 2. Photo and

digital exhibitions chronicling Modi's 25-year political journey will be organised, along with seminars on good governance, development and Antyodaya. Special camps will spread awareness about Central and state welfare schemes. BJP national general secretary Vinod Tawde has been appointed national convener. Seven-member teams, comprising a minister, an organisational general secretary and five senior leaders, will coordinate the campaign in each state.



WINDOWS

AIADMK to contest Madurantakam, Dharapuram bypolls

CHENNAI: The AIADMK will contest the upcoming Tamil Nadu Assembly by-polls in the Madurantakam and Dharapuram reserved constituencies, party sources said on Wednesday.

AIADMK senior leaders Agri SS Krishnamurthy, KP Munusamy, OS Manian, C Sreenivasan and other party leaders visited the Tamil Nadu BJP headquarters, Kamalalayam here on Tuesday to seek support from the safe-rn party.

The leaders met BJP state chief Nainar Nagendran. The senior leaders also convened a crucial meeting at the residence of AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami in Chennai to chart out electoral strategy for both constituencies.

Party sources on Wednesday said that the discussions focused on candidate selection, grassroots campaign mobilization, and allocation of election duties across the two constituencies to ensure a synchronised campaign effort ahead of the October 6 election. A senior party functionary from the AIADMK, seeking anonymity, said that the party would contest in both the constituencies with the support of its alliance. The bypolls were necessitated following the resignation of AIADMK legislators Maragatham Kumaravel (Madurantakam) and P Sathiyabama (Dharapuram) who later joined the ruling Tamil-laga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK).

As per the EC schedule, the filing of nominations will take place from September 9 to 16, scrutiny of the papers on September 17, and the last date for withdrawal is September 19. Following bypolls on October 6, votes will be counted on October 9.

DMK names candidates for Assembly by-polls

CHENNAI: The DMK on Wednesday announced its candidates for the upcoming Tamil Nadu assembly by-polls in the Madurantakam and Dharapuram reserved constituencies. An official release from the DMK headquarters here said I Paranthaman, joint secretary of the party legal wing and former Egmore MLA, would contest from Madurantakam (reserved). Similarly, S Suganya has been fielded from Dharapuram (reserved).

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has issued the notification for the by-polls, bringing the Model Code of Conduct into force in Madurantakam and Dharapuram constituencies.

Anbumani seeks strict enforcement of public smoking ban

CHENNAI: Expressing deep concern over a massive surge in fatalities linked to second hand smoke, PMK president Anbumani Ramadoss on Wednesday urged central and state governments to strictly enforce the ban on smoking in public places.

Citing a recent global medical study published in "The Lancet Public Health", Anbumani highlighted that passive smoking claimed 3,25,600 lives in India in 2023 alone and that represents a 49.56 per cent increase compared to 1990, when 2,17,700 deaths were recorded.

According to the study, mortality rates due to secondhand smoke rose by 61.74 per cent among men and 38.35 per cent among women. While the population exposed to passive smoking grew by only 18.40 per cent from 37.50 crore to 44.40 crore, the nearly 50 per cent jump in fatalities underscores the severity of the hazard.

"The primary reason for this alarming trend is the failure to curb public smoking. Innocent non-smokers, particularly women and children, suffer severe health consequences due to the irresponsible actions of others," Anbumani said in a statement.

Rajnath Singh's Lanka visit to resolve fishermen issue: BJP

First visit by an Indian Defence Minister to the island-nation in 38 years

CHENNAI

TAMIL Nadu BJP President Nainar Nagenthran on Wednesday said Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's official visit to Sri Lanka would strengthen regional maritime security and pave the way for a permanent solution to the issues faced by Tamil Nadu fishermen.

Highlighting the significance of the trip, Nagenthran said this was the first visit by an Indian Defence Minister to the island nation in 38 years, since K C Pant travelled to Sri Lanka in 1988.

Visits by Indian Defence ministers have been avoided due to sensitivities surrounding India's past military involvement

during Sri Lanka's civil war, even as administrative and diplomatic exchanges continued.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh arrived in Colombo on Tuesday for a three-day official visit, he said in a statement.

The TN BJP leader said that the visit holds strategic importance given Sri Lanka's key position along

major international sea routes in the Indian Ocean.

Additionally, he said, the visit is expected to boost joint military exercises, including SLINEX and Mitra Shakti, enhance security at the Trincomalee oil tank farm, and increase training slots for Sri Lankan armed forces personnel at Indian defense institutions.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during a meeting with the Sri Lankan Prime Minister Hariri Amarasingura in Colombo on Wednesday

AIADMK chief flays TVK govt for negligence in paddy procurement

CHENNAI

AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami on Wednesday strongly condemned the C Joseph Vijay-led TVK government for its negligence in paddy procurement, which resulted in crop damage and financial losses following sudden rains across Tamil Nadu.

In a statement, the former chief minister accused the four-month-old administration of deceiving all sections of the public. He stated there is a vast difference between the state government's words and actions.

"Thousands of paddy bags brought by farmers to direct procurement centres in various parts of the state, including Thanjavur, Mayiladuthurai, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Cuddalore, Erode, and Gobichettipalayam, have been left unprocured and piled up on roadsides," Palaniswami noted.

Due to the sudden rains, these bags have been completely soaked and ruined, causing financial losses to the hard-working farmers, he said. He recalled that despite



raising the issue of delayed procurement and sprouting of the harvested paddy grains during the previous Assembly session, the ministers concerned merely offered pacifying replies. They failed to take concrete administrative steps to protect the produce, he charged.

Highlighting the extent of agrarian distress, Palaniswami pointed out that recent sudden downpours in core Delta districts such as Tiruvarur and Nagapattinam have severely submerged agricultural crops cultivated on approximately 2,000 acres.

Citing specific regional damages, the statement outlined the following losses: In Mayiladuthurai district, areas including Nallathukudi, Valuvur, and Kolangudi, around 20,000 paddy bags were damaged. In Cuddalore district, areas like Virudhachalam and Rajendrapa-

tnam, about 10,000 paddy bags suffered damage. In Kanchipuram district near Salavakkam and Melpuramanallur, approximately 20,000 paddy bags were ruined. In Chengalpattu district, at the Achirupakkam and Thozhuppedu open procurement centres, around 50,000 metric tonne of paddy were soaked in the rain.

The AIADMK chief also heavily slammed the state government for its failure to release Cauvery water on time for Kuruvai cultivation. This inaction prevented farmers from completing agricultural cycles, thereby breaking the promise to fully procure cultivated crops.

Taking a broader dig at the TVK administration, Palaniswami claimed the state's law and order situation is rapidly deteriorating. He accused the inexperienced government of being paralysed and clueless about operating the administrative machinery. "People have begun to realise that this fake government neither has the intellect to listen to others nor its own intellect to function," he said.

TVK-led meet names alliance as 'Secular Social Justice Victory Front'

CHENNAI

A meeting of the post-poll allies of Tamil Nadu's ruling TVK on Wednesday named the front led by it as the "Secular Social Justice Victory" alliance and unanimously elected Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay as the leader of the alliance.

The meeting led by Vijay also deliberated fielding candidates in the bypolls to be held on October 6 in the state for two constituencies, which will be the first acid test for the ruling TVK.

TVK senior leader and Public Works Minister Aadhav Arjuna, briefing reporters after the meeting, said that the alliance under the leadership of his party has been formed up and it is not for pills alone. It is an ideology-based alliance for the sake of people which upholds the ideals of reformist icons Periyar EV Ramasamy, Dr BR Ambedkar and Dravidian stalwart C N Annadurai, he said.

"Wherever secularism and social justice are there, vic-



From left Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) leader K.M. Kader Mohideen, Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK) general secretary Vaiko, Tamil Nadu CM and Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) chief Vijay, Tamil Nadu Congress Committee (TNCC) president Manickam Tagore and Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) president Thol Thirumavalavan pose during a meeting of the ruling government alliance in Chennai on Wednesday

tory is always there and it is for the people," Arujna said. On the Left parties not signing up for the alliance, he said: "We have a lot of respect for the Left parties." Further, he expressed confidence that "hearts of the Left parties would continue to stay with the alliance," and they

are part of the government. Left parties support the government from the outside. The MDMK is also a post-poll ally. In the 234-member-strong Assembly, TVK won 108 seats -- short of a simple majority -- and formed the government with the support of post-poll allies.

The name of the alliance -- Secular Social Justice Victory Front -- itself speaks volumes about the ideals and agenda of the combine and all parties that fight for the rights of the state are part of the alliance, Tagore said, adding the TVK-led front will function from Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. "The alliance will be robust and candidates will be announced for the bypolls tomorrow and we will work for the victory of the alliance candidates," Tagore said.

IUML top leader Kader Mohideen said a "new history" has been created as this is the first time, a coalition government is in place in Tamil Nadu. In all the polls to be held, the constituents of the TVK-led alliance will work together for victory, he said.

Family refuses to accept body, alleges 'honour killing' in student's death

The protesters demanded that the police thoroughly examine all available evidence, including CCTV footage, mobile phone call records, letters recovered during the investigation, the video recording of the post-mortem and forensic medical reports, to determine the circumstances of his death and whether it involved an honour-killing angle



cident, the girl's father had reportedly confronted and warned him against speaking to her and asked where he lived. Based on these circumstances, the family suspected foul play and alleged that it could be a case of honour killing.

Agitated over the death, the student's family initially staged a demonstration outside the government hospital mortuary, refusing to accept the body and alleging contradictions in statements given by persons identified through CCTV footage.

The agitation intensified as members of the joint action forum, "Tamizhselvan Neethikkaana Kootu Iyakam", along with the family, staged a protest near the Thiruvalluvar statue in Madurai.

MADURAI

THE family and relatives of a Class 11 student whose body was found with injuries near a sewage pumping station in Anaiyur protested on Wednesday, refusing to accept his mortal remains. They demanded a comprehensive probe into the suspected murder, including the possible "honour killing" angle.

The victim, Tamizhselvan, a student at a government-aided school in Arapalayam, Madurai, had gone missing on Sunday morning after informing his mother that he was going to play cricket.

When he did not return by evening, his mother Yogalakshmi and relatives searched for him before lodging a missing person complaint at the Koodal Pudur police station. On Monday, the boy's body was recovered from a puddle amid thorny bushes at an isolated spot near a sewage pumping station on Abdul Kalam Street in Anaiyur. The Koodal Pudur police initially registered a case of suspicious death and launched an investigation, collecting forensic evidence and examining CCTV footage from the locality. According to family members, Tamizhselvan was friendly with a schoolgirl from another community in the neighbourhood.

A few days before the in-

Hooch tragedy: TNCC chief seeks action against negligent officials

CHENNAI

EXPRESSING serious concern over the findings of the Justice P Gokuldas Commission report on the 2024 Kallakurichi hooch tragedy, TNCC president Manickam Tagore, on Wednesday urged Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay to take stern action against negligent officials and investigate whether the illicit liquor business had any political patronage.

In a statement, the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee chief highlighted the findings of the inquiry commission, which investigated the deaths of 70 people after they consumed illicit liquor in Kallakurichi between June 17 and June 20, 2024.

He said the commission's report, recently tabled in the



Legislative Assembly, concluded that the tragedy was primarily caused by the failure of officials to discharge their duties properly.

According to the report, which was prepared after the commission examined 433 people in connection with the illicit liquor trade, the failure of successive governments to effectively implement the prohibition policy since 1971 had contributed to widespread alcohol addiction, he said.

"The substantial price difference between legal TAS-

MAC liquor and illicit brew forced poor and vulnerable sections to turn to cheap bootleg alcohol, resulting in the loss of many lives," he claimed. On the commission's welfare recommendations, Tagore noted that while the previous government had provided Rs 10 lakh in compensation to the families of the victims, the state government must now extend humanitarian assistance to children who lost their fathers.

He urged the government to provide these children with food, housing, educational assistance and government jobs. Tagore emphasised that long-term social relief for the people of Tamil Nadu could be achieved only by swiftly freeing the state from the grip of alcohol addiction.

Vijay to make first official foreign visit, travel to London via Dubai

CHENNAI

CHIEF Minister C Joseph Vijay will embark on his first official foreign visit, travelling to London via Dubai on a week-long tour, sources said. According to preliminary information, the CM will depart from Chennai International Airport at 10 pm on Thursday aboard Emirates commercial flight EK 547 to Dubai, from where he will continue to London.

A high-level delegation comprising state government officials, departmental secretaries and personal aides will accompany the CM during the tour. An advance security team and personal assistants have already left for Dubai to coordinate arrangements.

The visit has been organised by the state's

Industries Department. As it is an official state mission, the entire expenditure for the overseas trip will be borne by the Tamil Nadu government through the Industries department.

Notably, while Vijay has conventionally used chartered flights for his tours within India, he will travel on a scheduled commercial flight for the overseas visit. Ahead of his departure, a multi-agency security and protocol review meeting was held at 11 am on Wednesday at the Chennai Airport reception complex.

Senior officials from various departments and security agencies attended the meeting, which reviewed security arrangements and other logistics for the CM's departure.

PMK chief opposes Pattinapakkam site for new Secretariat

CHENNAI

PMK President Anbumani Ramadoss on Wednesday urged the Tamil Nadu government to abandon plans to build a new Secretariat complex at Pattinapakkam in the state capital.

Instead, he demanded the creation of an integrated administrative city spanning 500 to 1,000 acres outside the state capital to meet governance needs for the next century.

Reacting to media reports suggesting that the proposed Rs 1,200 crore, 20-lakh square feet Secretariat and Legislative Assembly complex announced by Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay would come up on a 26.36-acre parcel of land in Pattinapakkam, Anbumani, in a statement, termed the move "shortsighted."

"While the need for a modern Secretariat in

Demands satellite administrative city



Tamil Nadu is beyond dispute, establishing it at Pattinapakkam will cause more harm than good," PMK leader said. He cited severe traffic congestion along Santhome High Road and Greenways Road, which are already heavily strained despite the construction of a loop road. Adding a massive government complex near densely populated hubs,

major schools, and the Santhome Church would choke traffic in the area, he warned. The former union minister further pointed out that 26.36 acres would be grossly inadequate once mandatory FSI compliance, green space allocation, fire stations, emergency medical units, parking facilities, and public transit links are accounted for.

"Building it on a re-

stricted plot will inevitably replicate the current space constraints within a few years," he noted. Highlighting Vijay's stated vision that the new complex should serve the state's needs for the next 100 years, the PMK chief argued that global and historical precedents favor relocating administrative hubs to dedicated greenfield locations. Anbumani urged the government to acquire at least 500 to 1,000 acres outside Chennai to build a self-contained administrative city. The proposed township, he suggested, should house the Secretariat, Legislative Assembly, departmental headquarters, residences for the Chief Minister, Ministers, and civil servants, as well as Metro connectivity, helipads, schools, colleges, sports arenas, and commercial complexes.

Financial mismgt cost state PSUs Rs 3,299 crore: CAG

CHENNAI: WIDESPREAD financial mismanagement, tender irregularities and governance deficits across Tamil Nadu's State Public Sector Enterprises resulted in compliance-related financial implications of Rs 3,298.75 crore, a CAG report has revealed.

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India, in its Compliance Audit Report on Commercial Enterprises for the year ended March 31, 2023, noted that 22 public sector undertakings had suffered complete erosion of capital. The report was tabled in the State Legislative Assembly on September 8.

The report primarily covers the accounts of SPSEs for the financial year 2022-23. It also includes observations relating to earlier years that could not be reported previously.

According to the report, the combined net worth of the 22 enterprises was negative at Rs 1,93,132.98 crore against an equity capital of Rs 33,263.46 crore.



MoU inked for used oil recycling

BENGALURU: PETRONAS Lubricants India, part of the PETRONAS group and a known supplier of advanced automotive and industrial lubricant technology, and Tata Motors, India's largest commercial vehicle maker, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the responsible collection and recycling of used automotive lubricants.

The firms will run a structured, scalable pilot at the same time in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. The pairing joins complementary strengths to tackle a core sustainability problem, support compliance with India's changing Extended Producer Responsibility framework and further national circular-economy goals. Launching the pilot, Binu Chandy, India MD, PETRONAS Lubricants India, said true circularity in used oil begins when re-refined base oil is put back into finished lubricants. The tie-up with Tata Motors, he said, is a step toward a scalable used-oil circularity model and shows the reach of the firm's channel network as it works to cut its carbon footprint across operations. Vikram Agrawal, Head – Spares and Non-Vehicle Business, Tata Motors Ltd., said practices and partnerships that advance sustainability sit at the heart of circular-economy work and environmental effect across the automotive value chain.

My Spinny story launched

BENGALURU: Spinny has launched its My Spinny Story film featuring Indian footballer Ryan Williams, tracing his journey from Australia to India, family roots, Bengaluru life, football career and association with Spinny.

Kaftan company expansion

BENGALURU: The Kaftan Company marked its 10th anniversary with Middle East expansion and the launch of Homebody, a nightwear collection targeting women aged 21-34, as the brand expands its 1,000-plus SKU portfolio globally.

Awareness walkathon held

BENGALURU: Dr Agarwals Eye Hospital and Hillside Group of Institutions held an awareness walkathon in Bengaluru to mark Eye Donation Fortnight 2026, with over 150 students, doctors and staff highlighting eye donation, dispelling myths and promoting corneal transplant awareness.

Mrs Grand Universe presides over Guruvandan 2026

PATHANAMTHITTA: The Kerala chapter of the SFEIA International Foundation organised National Teachers' Day celebrations and Guruvandan 2026 at the Pathanamthitta Press Club Hall, honouring teachers for their meritorious service and contributions to education. Dr Sasilekha Nair, founder and director of the SFEIA Foundation and winner of the Mrs Grand Universe title, presided over the programme. Dr Jitheshji, who has received the History Man of India honour and holds a world record in speed drawing, inaugurated the event. Senior teachers were felicitated during the programme in recognition of their dedicated service and contributions to the education sector. Anil Adoor, Senior Vice-President of Asianet News, presented the honours.

Pathanamthitta Press Club president Biju Kurian delivered the congratulatory address. The event brought together educationists, teachers and members of the media to recognise the important role played by teachers in shaping society and nurturing future generations.

NO NOTICE ISSUED TO BHARAT RATNA C N R RAO

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

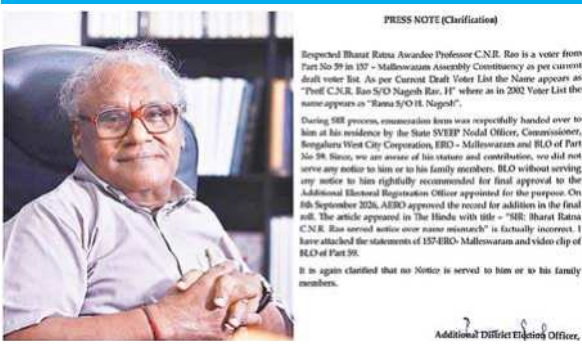
BENGALURU district election officials have dismissed reports claiming that Bharat Ratna awardee and renowned scientist Prof. C N R Rao was issued a notice over a discrepancy in his name in the electoral roll.

Officials termed the report "completely false" and clarified that no notice of any kind had been served

on Prof. Rao or his family in connection with the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls. As part of the revision exercise, election officials personally visited Prof.

Rao's residence and handed over the enumeration form to his family. The form was filled in during the visit in the presence of the state SVEEP nodal officer and the Bengaluru West municipal commis-

District election officials clarify



sioner, officials said.

The clarification followed questions over differences in Prof. Rao's name in electoral records. Officials said his name had appeared as "Rama" in the 2002 electoral roll, while the current electoral records carry his name as "Professor C.N.R. Rao M". The discrepancy prompted Booth Level Officers (BLOs) to verify the details as part of the routine electoral roll revision

process.

Officials said the verification was not accompanied by any notice or summons. Instead, the BLO recommended that Prof. Rao's name be retained in the electoral roll without issuing a notice. His name has already been included in the draft electoral roll, and the necessary process has been completed to ensure that it remains in the final electoral roll, the authori-

ties said.

The Bengaluru election officials reiterated that the visit to Prof. Rao's residence was only to facilitate the enumeration process and verify electoral details in view of the discrepancy in historical records. They said the claim that a notice had been issued to the eminent scientist was contrary to the facts and sought to put the record straight regarding the SIR exercise.

CABINET MEET AT MANGALURU ON SEPT 18

Permanent coastal schemes, Tulu status to be taken up

Sunil Kumar seeks special funds ahead of 2027 Gommateshwara consecration

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

V Sunil Kumar, the BJP MLA for Karkala and a former minister, called on Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Wednesday for an extended conversation about the full development of his constituency and about readiness for the historic Mahamastakabhisheka of Sri Gommateshwara Swamy.

That twelve-yearly ceremony will occupy ten days beginning 18 February 2027, when pilgrims and visitors from India and other countries are expected in large numbers; a special grant for the infrastructure those crowds will need was therefore requested.

Progress on existing works inside the Karkala Assembly segment, release of money still outstanding, and administrative approval for newly proposed schemes were examined in detail. With the state cabinet fixed for



Mangaluru on 18 September 2026, the MLA asked that the meeting be used to design permanent programmes that serve the comprehensive and lasting development of the coastal districts.

Lengthy discussion also covered proclamation of Tulu as the state's second official language and the placement before the cabinet of projects covering tourism, Kambala, basic infrastructure, jobs and irrigation in the coastal belt, including Karkala, along with the

funds and sanctions those projects require.

A release from Vikas Janaseva Office, Karkala, quoted Sunil Kumar as saying he trusts the state government to answer adequately the plans needed for Karkala's overall growth.

Among the concrete demands set before the Chief Minister were extra money for roads inside the municipality and in rural pockets, higher grants for coastal Kambala meets, development of Karkala

Parashurama Theme Park and related tourism, work on historic Ramasamudra lake and park, and improvement of Varanga Chaturmukha lake Basadi.

The list continued with Koodlu Falls at Nadpalu in Hebri taluk, the road from Hiriyaadka through Karkala, Joduraste, Miyaru and Bajagoli up to Guruvaayanakere, and a sculpture-and-furniture hub meant to open self-employment for local youth.

Hebri Community Health Centre was proposed for elevation to a 100-bed taluk hospital, a new building was sought for Karkala Nursing College, the Karkala Textile Park project was pressed for further development, and a lift-irrigation project near Ikkoddu in Belanje village of Hebri taluk was added. A special grant tied specifically to infrastructure for the Mahamastakabhisheka completed the set of major requests.



Cauvery order

Ashoka accuses govt of surrendering state's interests

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

LEADER of Opposition R. Ashoka on Wednesday accused the Karnataka government of failing to protect the state's interests after the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) directed Karnataka to release 6,000 cusecs of water daily to Tamil Nadu for 15 days.

Ashoka described the order as a serious setback for Karnataka and alleged that the state government's "soft approach" and failure to mount an effective legal challenge had weakened its case before the authority. He said the government should

have firmly opposed Tamil Nadu's demand for 20,000 cusecs a day and questioned why it had failed to prevent the release of additional water when Karnataka's reservoirs were already under pressure.

"When our reservoirs are facing a shortage even for drinking water and farmers are struggling due to inadequate rainfall, agreeing to release around 7.77 TMC of water to Tamil Nadu over 15 days is a betrayal of Kannadigas," Ashoka said.

He urged the government to stop delaying a decision on challenging the CWMA order and immediately approach the Supreme Court

with a strong appeal seeking a stay on the water release. Former chief minister and MP Basavaraj Bommai also criticised the government, alleging that it had failed to take the Cauvery issue seriously. He demanded that Karnataka immediately approach the Supreme Court and appoint a senior special counsel to handle the case.

Bomma said releasing 6,000 cusecs daily for 15 days would mean the state losing nearly 7.5 TMC of water. He pointed out that storage in the Kabinri reservoir had already declined significantly, while the KRS reservoir was releasing around 5,000 to 6,000 cusecs daily.

Minister under fire for 'objectionable language' against BJP MLA

BENGALURU

HORTICULTURE Minister S S Mallikarjun has come under criticism over a purported video in which he allegedly uses objectionable language against BJP MLA B P Harish at a public gathering in Davanagere district. The incident reportedly took place recently during the inauguration of a veterinary centre in Harihar town, where farmers approached the minister seeking water supply to the constituency.

In the video, the farmers can be seen approaching Mallikarjun and telling him that they had raised the issue with local MLA Harish, whom they referred to as "Harish anna" (elder brother), but were allegedly asked to approach their "Sahukaar"—the minister.

Mallikarjun immediately questioned why Harish was being referred to as "anna" and allegedly made remarks against the BJP legislator that



were considered objectionable and unparliamentary. The purported video has since gone viral on social media, drawing criticism from BJP leaders and triggering a political controversy. Reacting to the controversy, Mallikarjun said on Wednesday that he had only told the farmers who met him that Harish was not a suitable person to be addressed as "anna".

"What have I said? I have said nothing. When the farmer referred to Harish as anna, I only questioned the farmer's age. That's all. I told him: You are elderly; why are you addressing him (the MLA) as 'anna'? Instead, refer to eligible people as 'anna', as he (the MLA) was not a suitable person to be addressed as 'anna',

he told reporters. Accusing Mallikarjun, who is the Davanagere district in-charge, of using "vulgar" words against him and behaving "rashly" with farmers when they sought Bhadra river water for irrigation, Harish said people would teach the minister a lesson in the future. He said he would discuss the matter with BJP leaders and decide on taking any further action. "Karnataka BJP is behind me against SS Mallikarjun," he added. BJP state President B Y Vijayendra, hitting out at Mallikarjun, demanded that the minister publicly apologise. "When a person from a prominent family background speaks so irresponsibly about an elected MLA, it is not merely an insult to Harish; it is an insult to the people of the entire constituency. Minister Mallikarjun must immediately publicly apologise to the MLA and the people of the constituency," he said on Tuesday evening.

ISRO support sought for 'student-scientist interaction' at science centres in state

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

WITH the objective of taking science beyond textbooks and making learning more experiential, Minister for Minor Irrigation and Science and Technology Dr. Ajay Dharam Singh has sought the support of ISRO to organise direct interaction programmes between ISRO scientists and students at science centres across the State.

During his meeting with ISRO Chairman Dr. V. Narayanan, the Minister formally proposed the initiative and requested support to enable students to learn directly from scientists about space science, research, satellite technology and career opportunities in science and technology.

"When students get an opportunity to interact di-



rectly with scientists, science begins to appear not merely as a subject in a textbook, but as a future opportunity. The experiences and achievements of ISRO scientists can inspire curiosity, a research mindset and bigger aspirations among young students," Dr. Ajay Dharam Singh said.

The Minister said the State Government is expanding science centres, mobile planetariums and

telescope-based learning initiatives to promote practical and interactive science education among students. The Science & Technology Department's Mobile Digital Planetarium programme has already reached 3,282 schools and benefited more than 5.46 lakh students and teachers.

In addition, under the Providing Access to Telescopes (PAT) programme, telescopes have been provid-

ed to KREIS schools and colleges, along with training for science teachers. As a next step, the proposed ISRO Scientist-Student Interaction programme at science centres would help bring space science and technology closer to students in a more engaging and meaningful way, the Minister said.

"Science must be shown, experienced and questioned. Direct interaction with scientists can strengthen scientific temper among students and help nurture the next generation of scientists, researchers and technology professionals," he said. Through ISRO's partnership, the Government aims to extend these interaction programmes across science centres in the State and create opportunities for students not only in cities, but also in districts and taluks, to engage directly with scientists.

‘Govt should write to Centre for changes in drought mgt guidelines’

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

RURAL Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Eshwar B Khandre has suggested that the Karnataka government write to the Centre seeking amendments to the guidelines under the Drought Management Manual, stating that the existing norms are inadequate to assess the ground reality of drought conditions.

The suggestion was made during a meeting of the Cabinet Sub-Committee chaired by Revenue Minister Dr G Parameshwara to review the State's 2026 monsoon and drought situation, along with other natural disaster conditions, and to decide on policy measures and necessary steps to manage them effectively. Khandre pointed out that



the State had already made several representations to the Centre seeking changes to the drought management

guidelines, but they had not been considered. He suggested that the State should once again write to the Centre,

highlighting the shortcomings of the guidelines point by point and seeking necessary amendments.

Under the existing Drought Management Manual, declaring a taluk as drought-affected requires

consideration of not only rainfall deficiency but also satellite-based indices. Khandre said this approach could lead to situations where a crop fails despite receiving some rainfall, but the area is not declared drought-affected because the sowing-based criteria are not met.

He said the drought situation in Karnataka is assessed scientifically based on reports from the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC) and the Disaster Management Cell of the Revenue Department before a formal drought declaration is made.

According to the existing norms, a taluk can be considered for drought declaration based on factors including a 60 per cent deficiency in rainfall compared to normal, more than 50 per cent

deficiency in sowing and a continuous dry spell of three weeks, during which there is no rainfall and soil moisture is depleted.

Khandre, however, said these criteria could become a major constraint when there is only light or sporadic rainfall. Even a small amount of drizzle can result in some soil moisture, making it difficult to meet the prescribed criteria despite severe crop stress and adverse conditions on the ground.

He stressed the need for the drought assessment mechanism to reflect the actual conditions faced by farmers rather than relying solely on rigid technical parameters. Ministers Lakshman Savadi, Puttaranga Shetty and others attended the Cabinet Sub-Committee meeting.

Ministers meet Governor, complain against BRS over ‘purification’ ritual

Adluri Laxman alleges caste discrimination, seeks Governor’s intervention

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

A delegation of Ministers led by Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka met Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla at Lok Bhavan on Wednesday and submitted a complaint over the alleged “purification” ritual carried out by BRS leaders at Erravalli.

The ministers apprised the Governor of the conduct of BRS MLAs and MLCs on the first day of the Assembly session, particularly the alleged objectionable remarks directed at Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar.

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti, Ministers Duddilla Sridhar Babu, Seethakka, Adluri Laxman, Ponnam Prabhakar and



Mohammed Azharuddin were among those who met the Governor.

Minister Adluri Laxman accused the BRS of displaying an “arrogant and feudal attitude” and alleged that BRS MLCs had verbally abused the Speaker

and his mother.

He alleged that the reported “purification” of the road near KCR’s farmhouse, after Dalits staged a protest by playing traditional drums, reflected an anti-Dalit mindset.

“We complained to the

Governor about the practice of untouchability exhibited by KCR,” Laxman said.

He questioned whether the reported purification ritual was carried out at the direction of former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao (KCR).

“Is the humiliation of Dalits happening at KCR’s behest? If KCR did not order it, why is he remaining silent?” he asked, demanding a clarification from the BRS chief.

Laxman said the Assembly Speaker had responded to a complaint lodged by BRS women MLAs, ordered an inquiry and assured that action would be taken against those found responsible.

He asserted that there was no place for untouchability or caste discrimination in a people’s government and said such incidents would not be tolerated.

The minister said the delegation had specifically approached the Governor to bring the alleged conduct of BRS leaders to his notice.



A delegation of BRS MLAs and MLCs call on Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla at Lok Bhavan in Hyderabad on Wednesday

BRS leaders take police ‘atrocities’ row to Governor

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

BHARAT Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leaders met Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla on Wednesday to bring to his attention recent state incidents, including alleged insults to female legislators, death threats directed at party chief K Chandrashekar Rao, and the suspension of two party MLCs, seeking his direct intervention as constitutional head.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, BRS Working President KT Rama Rao stated that the delegation briefed the Governor on prevailing political conditions in Telangana. Expressing outrage over police intercepting leaders on main roads while heading towards the Assembly, he criticized law enforcement for behaving inappropriately towards female legislators, adding that video footage of police aggression against former Minister Sa-

- **Women legislators’ alleged harassment**
- **KCR death threats and MLC suspensions raised with Shiv Pratap Shukla**

bitha Indra Reddy was presented to the Governor.

KTR stated that the delegation explained how police created a Dushshasana parvam by pulling the sari of MLA Sunitha Lakshma Reddy. Wearing a black shirt in protest, he emphasized that BRS leaders maintain deep respect for the Speaker while noting that citizens and public representatives alike faced severe humiliation. The Governor was informed that Congress cadres were allegedly urged to gather at the residence of former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao to assault him.

According to KTR, the Governor assured the delegation that an inquiry would be

conducted into issues raised outside the Assembly, while examining matters related to legislative proceedings.

Relying on this assurance, the opposition expects constitutional intervention to halt ongoing aggression. The BRS delegation clarified that members faced attacks simply for demanding the fulfillment of public promises and seeking justice.

Formal complaints have already been lodged regarding AI-generated images and videos circulated by political opponents, with the party warning of strict legal action against those utilizing fabricated material to file false charges.

KTR added that if state authorities fail to deliver justice, BRS leaders will approach the National Commission for Women at the national level to lodge formal complaints, ensuring accountability for police misconduct and political harassment targeting female representatives.



DC inspects SC boys’ hostel

HANS NEWS SERVICE
WANAPARTHY

COLLECTOR Adarsh Surabhi conducted a surprise inspection of the SC boys’ hostel in the 30th ward of the town on Wednesday. He inspected the newly constructed kitchen and store-room; examined quality of the construction and materials being used, offering specific instructions to the concerned officials. Surabhi emphasised that work must strictly adhere to the prescribed estimates; no additional works beyond those estimates should be undertaken. He instructed that the building must be made operational within the next month.

The Collector inquired about the facilities available to the students. He instructed officials to take measures to provide better accommodation and basic amenities for them. There should be no compromise regarding the food provided.

Dalits up in arms over ‘purification’ of road ‘after dappu protest at Erravalli

MLA Medipally Satyam seeks SC/ST Atrocities case against KCR, BRS workers

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

CHOPPADANDI MLA Medipalli Satyam said he had lodged a complaint over the alleged purification of a road at Erravalli following a protest by Dalit groups, describing the incident as an inhumane act and an instance of caste discrimination.

Satyam alleged that Dalits had staged a democratic protest at Erravalli by playing dappus (traditional drums), following which BRS workers, allegedly acting on the directions of former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao (KCR), sprinkled turmeric water on the road on the grounds that it had been “polluted” by the presence of Dalits. He said media reports had also highlighted the incident and alleged that the act amounted to an insult to lakhs of Dalits.

Satyam also condemned the alleged use of objectionable language against Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar by BRS leaders.



Choppadandi MLA Medipalli Satyam lodges a complaint at Saifabad police station over the alleged purification of a road at Erravalli following a protest by Dalit groups

“Purifying the land merely because Dalits had walked on it amounts to a crime,” he said. He added that he had lodged a complaint against those allegedly involved and demanded that the police register a case under the SC/ST (Prevention

of Atrocities) Act.

Meanwhile, Senior Congress leader and Madiga-Mala Associations JAC Chairman Devani Satish Madiga said he had filed an SC/ST Atrocities complaint against KCR and BRS workers over the alleged incident.

He alleged that BRS workers sprinkled turmeric water on the road leading to KCR’s farmhouse after members of the Madiga and Mala communities took out a dappu procession from Varadaraja Palli village to the farmhouse.

A Zero FIR has reportedly been registered at Saifabad Police Station against KCR and BRS workers, he said.

Satish Madiga also announced plans to conduct a milk purification ceremony at the 125-foot Ambedkar statue, stating that the ritual was proposed because former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) had touched the statue.

He appealed to the government to provide a mega crane to facilitate the ceremony, which he said would be performed by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy.

He said the proposed programme was intended to condemn caste discrimination and assert the dignity and equality of Dalit communities.

Shadnagar MLA clarifies remarks on KCR, condemns abusive language

- **Shankar says wishing death on anyone is unjustifiable**
- **Condemns caste-based and abusive remarks**

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

SHADNAGAR MLA Veerlapalli Shankar on Wednesday clarified his recent remarks concerning former Chief Minister and BRS chief K Chandrashekar Rao (KCR), stating that wishing for anyone’s death was completely unjustifiable.

Speaking to the media, Shankar strongly condemned the alleged use of abusive and caste-based language against Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar and women ministers.

Shankar criticised what he described as reckless and vulgar remarks against constitutional authorities. He said he was deeply distressed by the alleged conduct and had demanded that KCR attend the Assembly and participate in discussions on issues concerning the state.



The MLA asserted that Telangana belonged to its four crore people and not to any particular family. He also criticised alleged personal attacks on the Chief Minister and his family members.

“You have women in your own family. Would you speak like this in front of them?” Shankar asked, condemning the alleged use of profane language in political discourse.

Shankar released video clips purportedly showing BRS working president KT

Rama Rao (KTR) making an objectionable remark about Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during a speech in Karimnagar three days ago.

Referring to Sonia Gandhi’s support for the formation of Telangana, Shankar questioned the use of such language against her son. He urged political leaders to maintain restraint and dignity while expressing differences and said public discourse should not descend into personal or abusive attacks.

BJP WILL COME TO POWER IN TELANGANA, SAYS BANDI SANJAY

HANS NEWS SERVICE

BHADRACHALAM: Claiming that the people are looking for a double-engine government in the State, Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar asserted that the BJP was certain to come to power in Telangana in the next Assembly elections. Addressing a BJP

workers’ gathering here on Wednesday, Sanjay alleged that the previous BRS government was worse than the rule of the Razakars and claimed that the Congress government has already lost public support within a short period. “Earlier, a family looted the state; now ministers and MLAs are looting it,” he alleged.

Sanjay said the BJP, which was once mocked for having only two Lok Sabha seats, had subsequently formed the government at the Centre three consecutive times under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In contrast, he claimed, the Congress, which once had a nationwide presence, has been reduced to a handful of

states.

“The Congress’ game will be over and its shop will be shut in the four states this time,” he said, referring to upcoming elections.

The Union Minister alleged that several thousand crores of rupees had been sanctioned by the Centre for the erstwhile Khammam district,

but local ministers were taking credit for the funds.

He also raised the issue of lands placed under the prohibited list under Section 22-A, claiming that lakhs of acres were affected and poor people were facing difficulties. He demanded that the government address the issue immediately.

Mahesh clears the air, says KCR may face trouble from kin, not Cong

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

TELANGANA Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud on Wednesday said the Congress party respected BRS chief and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) and had never wished him ill. Addressing the media at the Assembly media point on Wednesday, Goud said the Congress wished KCR a long and healthy life. He noted that as Leader of the Opposition, KCR was being provided security by the government second only to that of the Chief Minister.

Goud said respecting opposition leaders was part of the Congress culture and cited former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and senior Congress leader S Jaipal Reddy as examples.

Congress respects KCR, never wished him ill, TPCC chief says



He recalled that the Congress government had facilitated medical treatment for Vajpayee when he was unwell and supported Jaipal Reddy during his medical treatment. He also said that after Congress came to power in Telangana, KCR was shifted

to a hospital through a “Green Channel” after he reportedly suffered a fall at his residence. Goud said it was inappropriate to blame the Congress for issues concerning KCR’s personal or family matters and alleged that KCR had rarely attended Assem-

bly proceedings.

Goud condemned the reported performance of ‘Pinda Pradanam’ for a sitting Chief Minister by BRS, calling such political practices inappropriate and unhealthy for democratic discourse. The TPCC president de-

manded an explanation from BRS leader T Harish Rao over allegations that he commissioned occult rituals allegedly aimed at affecting KCR’s health.

Referring to remarks attributed to K. Kavitha in a video clip, Goud said the allegations required clarification. He also termed comments made by BRS leader Tata Madhu objectionable.

Goud said the Congress had a history of empowering Dalits by appointing members of the community to the country’s highest constitutional positions.

He urged political parties to maintain dignity and a humanitarian approach in public life.

TIRUMALA BRAHMOTSAVAMS

CM to offer silk robes to Lord Venkateswara on Sept 15

- On the occasion of Srivari Brahmotsavams, Naidu will inaugurate 25 electric buses donated to TTD by Reliance
- Chairman BR Naidu says TTD will maintain a buffer stock of 10 lakh Srivari laddus to meet the expected demand
- This year, cultural programmes will be presented by 27 groups from 25 states, along with artists from Singapore and Germany, during the Vahana Sevas

PRADEEP VENNELAKANTI & DUSI VENKATESWARA RAO
TIRUMALA

CHIEF Minister N Chandrababu Naidu will present silk robes to Lord Venkateswara on behalf of the state government during the annual Srivari Brahmotsavams at Tirumala on September 15. The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has completed prep-



TTD chairman B R Naidu, EO M Ravichandra, additional EO Ch Venkaiah Chowdary and board members releasing Srivari Brahmotsavams booklet in Tirumala on Wednesday

arations for the nine-day festival. Speaking to the media after the TTD trust board meeting in Tirumala on Wednesday, chairman B R Naidu and executive officer M Ravichandra said that the annual Brahmotsavams will be celebrated from September 15 to 23. The festivities will formally begin with Ankurapanam at 7 pm on September 14, followed by the Dwajaroohanam ceremony between 5.30 pm and 7 pm on September 15 in Meena Lagnam. Following Dwajaroohanam, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu will offer the traditional silk garments to Lord Venkateswara. He will

later take part in the Pedda Sesha Vahana Seva scheduled for 9 pm. On September 16, the Chief Minister is scheduled to inaugurate 25 electric buses donated by Reliance to TTD and unveil the TTD calendars and diaries for 2027. In view of the Chief Minister's visit, elaborate security arrangements have been put in place at Tirumala. The chairman said all arrangements had been completed to conduct the annual Brahmotsavams on a grand scale and ensure that devotees do not face difficulties during the festival. With a large number of pilgrims expected to converge on Tirumala, the temple ad-

ministration has strengthened arrangements across darshan, accommodation, Annaprasadam, transport, security, medical services, sanitation, power supply and floral decorations. Special focus has been placed on the Garuda Seva, which is expected to draw a particularly heavy pilgrim turnout. While 6.13 lakh devotees were served Annaprasadam during Garuda Seva last year, TTD has made arrangements to cater to around 9.30 lakh devotees this year, representing an increase of nearly 52 per cent. Security will be maintained by around 5,600 personnel, including 3,000 police personnel. The temple administration has also decided to maintain a buffer stock of 10 lakh Srivari laddus to meet the increased demand during the Brahmotsavams. Sanitation arrangements have been stepped up as well, with the number of sanitation workers in Tirumala being increased from 3,000 to 3,300 during the festival period. The Brahmotsavams will also feature a series of cultural programmes ahead of the Vahana Sevas. Artists representing 27 groups from 25 states, besides performers from Singapore and Germany, are expected to participate. TTD has earmarked Rs 1.60 crore towards their travel and accommodation. Meanwhile, the 2026 booklet containing details of the annual Srivari Salakatta and Navaratri Brahmotsavams was unveiled during the board meeting. TTD Chairman BR Naidu, Executive Officer M Ravichandra and board members jointly released the booklet. It may be noted that the Navaratri Brahmotsavams are scheduled to commence on October 12. The chairman said that TTD officials are coordinating closely with the police and district administration to manage the movement of pilgrims and provide essential facilities throughout the festival.

SWACHH VAYU SURVEY

Guntur, Vijayawada Ward-60 secure All-India No 2

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

ANDHRA Pradesh has recorded an improvement in the Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan (SVS)-2026, with Guntur city and Ward-60 of Vijayawada securing All-India Rank 2 in their respective categories. Conducted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change under the National Clean Air Programme, the survey assesses non-attainment cities on air-quality improvement measures. All 13 Non-Attainment Cities in Andhra Pradesh participated, while 726 wards were covered under the

ward-level assessment. At the city level, Guntur secured Rank 2 under Category-II with a score of 195, improving sharply from Rank 6 in SVS-2025. It is Guntur's best performance so far, surpassing its earlier Rank 3 in 2023. The city also received a Rs 25 lakh national award. At the ward level, Vijayawada Ward-60 secured All-India Rank 2 under Category-II and received a Rs 30 lakh cash award. At the State level, Guntur Ward-42 and Vijayawada Ward-31 received recognition under Category-II, while Nellore Ward-06 was recognised under Category-III.

The survey also reflected wider improvement across Andhra Pradesh. Eluru jumped from Rank 31 to Rank 4, Nellore from 18 to 9, Vijayawada from 13 to 8, Vizianagaram from 8 to 6 and Srikakulam from 16 to 11. Municipal administration and urban development minister P Narayana said the results reflected the State government's sustained efforts to improve urban living conditions. He said the government would further strengthen measures relating to road-dust control, scientific waste management, emission reduction and public participation.

Principal secretary S Suresh Kumar said the improved rankings resulted from close monitoring, coordination among departments and sustained field-level implementation. The assessment covers measures against biomass and waste burning, road and construction dust, vehicular and industrial emissions, besides public awareness and reduction in particulate matter. The national awards were announced on Swachh Vayu Diwas on September 7, following scrutiny and field verification by the Central Pollution Control Board and the MoEF&CC.

Rs 281 cr okayed for Totapuri mango support price

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

THE state government has given approval to the AP State Cooperative Marketing Federation (AP Markfed) to process Rs 281 crore through working capital or short-term loans towards the support price for Totapuri (Collector) variety mangoes during the 2026-27 marketing season. To this effect, agriculture and cooperation department ex-officio special chief secretary B Rajasekhara issued G O Ms No 47 on Wednesday. The order was issued with the concurrence of the finance department. According to the

government order, the funds will be utilised for implementing the Price Deficiency Payment (PDP) under the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) in Chittoor, Annamayya, Tirupati and Kadapa districts. The assistance will cover 7.03 lakh metric tonnes of Totapuri mangoes at Rs.4 per kg, involving an estimated expenditure of Rs.281 crore. The initiative is aimed at providing support to mango growers in the four districts through the price deficiency payment mechanism. The director of horticulture and sericulture had earlier requested the sanction and release of funds for imple-

menting the scheme. After examining the proposal, the government gave its concurrence to AP Markfed to arrange the required funds through working capital or short-term loans. The managing director of AP Markfed, Vijayawada and the director of horticulture and sericulture have been directed to take necessary action in this regard. The horticulture department has also been instructed to initiate the process of claiming reimbursement of the Government of India assistance after disbursement and ensure timely payment of interest and repayment of the principal amount.

Cyber crime fight gets major boost with C4 centre

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

DIRECTOR General of Police (DGP) Harish Kumar Gupta on Wednesday inaugurated the Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (C4) of the NTR District Police Commissionerate at the Krishnalanka police station in Vijayawada. On the occasion, DGP Harish Kumar Gupta and NTR District Police Commissioner SV Rajasekhara Babu performed special pujas. The centre has been established with the support of the AP Police Housing Corporation under the guidance of NTR District Police Commis-



DGP Harish Kumar Gupta, along with NTR district police commissioner S V Rajasekhara Babu, AP Police Housing Corporation managing director M Ravi Prakash, DCPs and others, unveiling the plaque marking the inauguration of the Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (C4) at Krishnalanka police station in Vijayawada on Wednesday

sioner SV Rajasekhara Babu, with Cyber Crime DCP K Krishna Prasanna supervising the initiative. Cyber Crime

ACP Bhanu Prakash Reddy and his team developed the facility on the third floor of the Krishnalanka police sta-

tion with corporate-style infrastructure. Speaking on the occasion, DGP Harish Kumar Gupta said cyber crimes had emerged as a serious challenge in the State, similar to the problem of drugs. He said the government had already taken steps to control the drug menace and was now focusing on strengthening the fight against cyber crimes. He said a Cyber Guard policy was being introduced in Andhra Pradesh and a State-level cyber war room would be established soon. Similar C4 centres would be set up in every district, along with specialised teams, he added. The DGP said 20 cyber con-

stablets would be appointed in every district to strengthen cyber crime detection and investigation. He stressed the importance of reporting cyber fraud immediately and urged victims to call the national cyber crime helpline 1930 or lodge complaints directly through the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal www.cybercrime.gov.in. Police Commissioner SV Rajasekhara Babu said the C4 centre would analyse every piece of information, from a victim's complaint to the digital trail of the accused, and follow every available lead to prevent cyber crimes and ensure justice to victims.

Jagan maps 2027 padayatra, sounds 'Kurukshetra' bugle

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

YSRCP president Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Wednesday announced plans for a statewide padayatra in September or October 2027, declaring that the party was preparing for a major political battle against the Chandrababu Naidu-led NDA government. Addressing YSRCP local body representatives and leaders from the Parchur Assembly constituency at the party central office, Jagan said people had already begun comparing the five years

of YSRCP rule with the present government and were recognising the difference. He claimed that the YSRCP had implemented 99 per cent of its election manifesto promises. In contrast, he alleged that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and deputy chief minister Pawan Kalyan had issued election bonds carrying their signatures but failed to honour the promises after coming to power. Jagan highlighted his government's village secretariat and volunteer systems, claiming that governance and welfare were taken to

people's doorsteps without discrimination or corruption. Listing the



YSRCP chief Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy addressing the Parchur party leaders from Assembly constituency at the party central office in Tadepalli on Wednesday

government's initiatives, he referred to Nadu-Nedu reforms, bilingual education, digital classrooms, TOEFL training and tablets for Class VIII students. He said Aarogyasri coverage was expanded from about 1,000 to 3,300 procedures, with treatment coverage of up to Rs 25 lakh, while Village Clinics, the Family Doctor programme and 18 new medical colleges were also taken up. He also highlighted Rythu Bharosa Kendras, e-Crop registration and price-monitoring mechanisms for farmers. Launching a sharp attack on the NDA government,

Jagan accused it of failing to fulfil promises including Rs 15,000 for every school-going child, Rs 18,000 annually under Aadabidda Nidhi, Rs 26,000 for farmers, Rs 48,000 annually under Cheyutha and Rs 3,000 monthly unemployment allowance. "The people are now seeing the difference between a government that kept its word and one that failed to honour its promises," he said. On local body elections, Jagan alleged that the government was using the issue of 34 per cent BC reservations and the Special Intensive Revision of elec-

toral rolls as excuses to delay the polls. He also accused the government of misusing police and official machinery against those questioning it. Calling the coming political confrontation a "Kurukshetra Sangramam," Jagan urged party cadres to stand with the people and resist what he described as repression and misuse of power. "Whenever and wherever elections are held, YSRCP will stand with the people. If elections are conducted fairly, YSRCP will emerge victorious. Even otherwise, we will fight strongly," Jagan said.

Iran conflict escalates; India must respond appropriately

If there is one region that is perennially in turmoil, it is the Middle East. A cocktail of factors—religious conflicts, disputes between superpowers, and, of course, oil—keeps it in the news all the time. After a full of a few weeks, with Washington focusing on economic strangulation rather than kinetic action, the region has heated up again, as the US military struck five Iranian oil tankers on Tuesday. This happened, according to the US Central Command (CENTCOM), “after the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) targeted a US Navy warship with ballistic missiles twice over the past two days.” The US warship successfully evaded the attempted Iranian attacks and continued to patrol regional waters. No American personnel were harmed, it added.

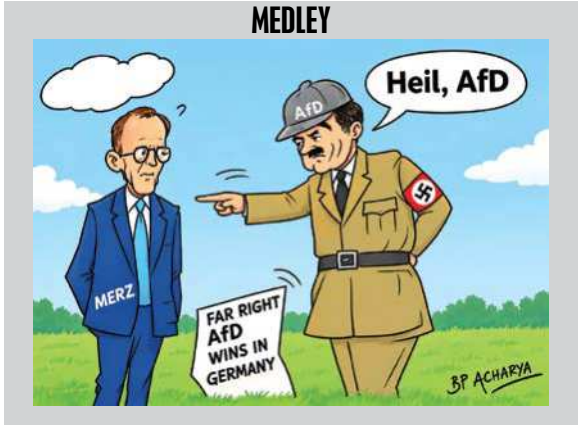
There is also a report of Iran firing about 20 ballistic missiles towards Jordan, targeting two US military bases. Meanwhile, the pro-Tehran Houthis in Yemen have also launched ballistic missiles toward Israel. They also launched a wave of attacks on Saudi Arabia on Tuesday, wounding over 70 people and igniting fires at oil facilities and utilities in the kingdom.

Tensions seem to be escalating. It looks like conflict will stay that way for some time. The reason is that US President Donald Trump is unwilling to fight the war all-out, with American troops on the ground. This is in tune with his opposition to the ‘forever wars’ that the US has fought many a time. His core base, the MAGA crowd,

hates America’s wars in faraway lands, gobbling up resources and killing young soldiers. Besides, his party, the Republican Party, must face midterm elections soon. At the same time, Trump doesn’t want to let Iran off the hook. Hence the blow-hot-and-cold nature of the ongoing war in the Middle East.

The escalation has affected crude prices, which hit a six-week high. Brent futures are touching the \$100 mark. Owing to our heavy dependence on crude imports, the government has changed the composition of its top five suppliers, with Brazil and Venezuela replacing the US and Nigeria. Russia, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) stay the top crude sellers.

The government must chalk out short, middle, and long-term strategies to end or at least curtail the country’s excessive dependence (around 88 per cent) on imported crude. In the short term, the priority should be to diversify sources of supply, build adequate strategic petroleum reserves, and maintain flexibility in purchasing crude from different markets so that geopolitical disruptions do not immediately translate into domestic price shocks. The government should also strengthen bilateral energy partnerships with major oil-producing countries and explore long-term contracts at competitive prices. In the medium run, India needs to accelerate the transition towards cleaner and more efficient sources of energy. Greater



LETTERS

Delhi PGs are deathtraps

THIS is further to ‘Delhi building collapse was waiting to happen’ (THI Sept 9). The Satya Niketan building collapse in the national capital that has been the PG for students studying in the Delhi University was so pathetic to watch which proved to be a virtual death trap for students with big expectations to make big in life. Similar incidents of fire accidents and building collapse are happening in Delhi NCR, resulting in no follow up action being taken to prevent such tragedies from happening. It is reported that ten or more buildings have been earmarked for demolition in the area, which is a positive development. Meanwhile, there must be a thorough check of PGs in Delhi to assess their structural health, and other safety precautions. The vulnerable ones must be declared unsafe. The Delhi University, on its part, must create more hostel accommodations for students whose numbers are growing every year.

K R Parvathy, Mysuru

Preventive measures must be the norm

Propos ‘Delhi building collapse was waiting to happen’, the Satya Niketan tragedy is painfully predictable, and the response is equally predictable. Politicians express shock, officials promise inquiries, FIRs are filed, and then everyone moves on until the next tragedy. This pattern has repeated itself far too many times. The heart of the problem is that urban governance remains a low priority for our leaders, who are busy with populist schemes and emotive distractions. Illegal constructions flourish, often with the tacit approval of those in power. We cannot keep treating safety as an afterthought. What we need is continuous enforcement, transparent building approvals, regular structural audits, and real accountability for officials and politicians who allow violations. Students and citizens deserve better than a system that only acts after lives are lost. Prevention must finally become the norm.

K Chidanand Kumar, Bengaluru

Building safety is a collective responsibility

THIS refers to “Delhi building collapse was waiting to happen”. Building safety cannot be ensured by municipal officials alone. Residents, tenants, landlords and local associations also have an important role in identifying warning signs such as cracks, water seepage, unauthorised extensions and damaged structural members. Delhi could establish a simple complaint system through which photographs and location details can be submitted and tracked until action is taken. Municipal authorities should publish inspection outcomes and deadlines for corrective measures. Public awareness programmes can also help residents understand when a building requires professional assessment. Such participation would make safety a continuous community responsibility rather than a matter left entirely to government agencies. Prevention becomes more effective when citizens can see that their complaints lead to timely action.

S P Suganya Devi, Coimbatore

Trafficking menace not among govt priorities

THE ‘Silent auction of innocence’ (THI Sept 9) piece by Nomula Srinivas Rao reflects a system that has accepted its failure. Traffickers move children across states, while the rescued victims are dumped into underfunded shelters, and often re-trafficked. If the state can build surveillance for elections, it can trace missing children. The problem is not technology, but non-prioritisation. Until we have real legislation, inter-state data sharing, and proper support, we are tending to look the other way.

Aayush Shandilya, Dhenkanal

thehansreader@gmail.com

BENGALURU ONLINE

Cabinet decides to reintroduce students’ elections in varsities, colleges

BENGALURU: The Karnataka Cabinet on Wednesday decided to reintroduce students election in the universities and colleges, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara said. Political parties will not be allowed to take part in these elections, he said. “Student elections were earlier held in colleges but were subsequently banned. We have now decided to reintroduce elections in universities and colleges,” Parameshwara briefed reporters after the cabinet meeting. He explained that in each college, there will be one student president, two vice-presidents, including one woman, one general secretary, two joint secretaries, including one woman, and an executive committee of six members, including two women. There will be no reservation in these elections as the government does not want to promote caste-based elections among students, the Deputy CM said. The detailed modalities regarding when and how the elections will be held will be decided later, he added.

Parameshwara clarified that the students’ elections are not mandatory for colleges and it can happen only if students want it. “If students don’t want it, they can decide not to have it. The management cannot decide.

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

Raising a toast to the mesmerising culinary art



Cooking is the art, science, and craft of preparing, heating, and combining raw ingredients to make them safe, digestible, and flavoury; a vital life skill that directly impacts our health, saves money, builds self-reliance, and connects us to different cultures.

Culinary art is the professional discipline and creative practice of preparing, cooking, and presenting. Serving food is a creative form of expression.

The practice of preparing safe, tasty and nutritious meals, and the need to consume simple, fresh and healthy food together with seasonal vegetables and fruits, has been connected with spiritual matters in various faiths across the world, including Hinduism, Christianity, Islam and Greek.

And, according to Greek mythology, Prometheus, the Titan, while not a cook himself, stole fire from Mount Olympus and gave it to humanity. By doing so, he taught mortals how to use fire to cook food and transition from raw diets to civilization.

Among the well-known practitioners of the culinary art are Gordon Ramsay and Sanjeev Kapoor.

In the books of the inimitable P G Wodehouse, Anatole is the supremely skilled

French chef, who is described as ‘God’s gift to gastric juices’. Many people are known to be fond of good and tasty food. In that sense, a ‘gourmet’ is one who appreciates high-quality, sophisticated food, drink, or who judges fine culinary experiences. In a similar sense, ‘foodies’ is a person who has an enthusiastic, refined, or passionate interest in food, eating it not just out of hunger, but as a hobby or lifestyle.

This is perhaps why there is the famed saying, “the way to a man’s heart is through his stomach”, meaning that cooking delicious food is a good way to win someone’s love and affection.

Mythologies of various cultures in the world contain references to famous persons who excelled in culinary art. In Mahabharat, Bheema is known to be a great cook. In fact, when the Pandava princes need to remain incognito for a whole year and are forced to seek shelter in the court of King Virata, Bheema chooses to don the guise of a cook. Meanwhile, Nala, who ruled the Nishada Kingdom, is renowned not only for his valour and wisdom, but also his mastery of the culinary arts.

A good, tasty, nutritious, and balanced spread is recommended across cultures. In the western countries, a 7-course meal is a structured fine-dining experience where seven distinct dishes are served sequentially in a specific order to guide and balance the diner’s palate.

Likewise, in Indian tradition and Ayurveda, there is the term ‘Pancha Bhakshya’ which describes a complete and balanced meal or a grand royal feast, which, when paired with ‘Paramanna’ or sweet rice pudding, repre-



sents a feast that satiates all the five senses and aids proper digestion.

As one looks around the various regions of the world, including India, one encounters many a specific style, method or manner of cooking typical of that place.

Chinese cuisine is known for its diverse culinary tradition, encompassing distinct, regional styles, historical influences and fundamental flavour profiles developed across the country’s geographical landscape.

Rice is the primary staple in the southern and semi-tropical regions while wheat, millet and barley dominate the dryer, northern climates. Dishes frequently build flavours using aromatics and seasonings that are known to be high in protein content.

Mexican cuisine, on the other hand, is celebrated for the ingredients of corn, fresh chilies, avocados, and is famous for the recognition accorded by UNESCO.

Another example is that of French cuisine, which is defined by foundational cooking techniques, fine pastries, sauces, and local cheeses.

Yet another example is the Italian variety, known for fresh Mediterranean ingredients, pasta, and regional pizzas ranked highly on global food lists which feature iconic national dishes, top-rated recipes, and culinary staples from every corner of the planet

And Indian cuisine is acclaimed for spice blends, vegetarian options and distinct regional variations.

Just as in the case of music, dance, sports and games or literature, every nation has its favourite dish. Many such delicacies have gained popularity across the world.

The Pad Thai, a stir-fried rice noodle dish from Thailand, with its sweet, salty,

Just as in the case of music, dance, sports and games or literature, every nation has its favourite dish. Many such delicacies have gained popularity across the world. The Pad Thai, a stir-fried rice noodle dish from Thailand, with its sweet, salty, and sour flavours certainly ranks high in that list. For those who are meat eaters, the Italian Carbonara Pasta, with pork, eggs, cheese, and black pepper would be a close competitor. Not far behind is the Haee of England, the Beef Poh of Vietnam and the Taco Adobada of Mexico.

and sour flavours certainly ranks high in that list. For those who are meat eaters, the Italian Carbonara Pasta, with pork, eggs, cheese, and black pepper would be a close competitor. Not far behind is the Haee of England, the Beef Poh of Vietnam, and the Taco Adobada of Mexico. Also, figuring in the list not for taste, but for popularity and following, is the omnipresent Burger of the USA. Not to be left far behind is the traditional Japanese dish sushi. And, as far as India is concerned, everyone knows that the all-time favourites from different parts of the country, but enjoyed by everyone are butter chicken, biryani, masala dosa, pav bhaji, rasagolla and gulab Jamun. Incidentally, many phrases and idioms relating to the practice of cooking find application in the English language. We have the idiom ‘in a soup’ meaning to be in a difficult, awkward or troublesome situation; ‘half baked’ stands for an idea or plan which has not been fully thought out; a ‘flash in the pan’; ‘out of the frying pan into the fire’; ‘soup to toothpick’ or ‘soup to nuts’, stands for the complete sequence of events in a full meal.

A cookbook or cookery

(The writer was formerly Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh)

Reservation must reach the last person: Reform, don’t abolish



INDIA needs a more intelligent affirmative-action architecture: preserve protection against discrimination but deliberately widen first access to families and communities still waiting for opportunity. India’s affirmative-action journey predates the Republic. In 1902, Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj of Kolhapur reserved 50 per cent of government posts for backward classes, recognising that formal equality meant little when entire communities lacked access to education, administration and power. After Independence, B R Ambedkar and the Constitution gave this principle a durable democratic framework: equality sometimes requires corrective measures where history has produced structural exclusion.

Reservation is not a poverty scheme:

Reservation should not be confused with poverty alleviation. Its central purpose is social

inclusion, representation and protection against entrenched discrimination. A family may gain education or a government job and still encounter caste identity in workplaces, housing, social networks and marriage. One successful generation therefore cannot automatically be treated as proof that discrimination has disappeared.

Who is still waiting?

At the same time, supporters of reservation must confront an uncomfortable question: are the benefits circulating widely enough within eligible groups? Families that have already acquired education, information and networks can often compete more effectively, while a first-generation student from a deprived family may never reach the starting line. The answer is neither to stigmatise repeat beneficiaries nor to abolish reservation. It is to improve its distribution.

A first-opportunity window:

A pragmatic reform would create a ‘first opportunity’ window within the existing reservation categories. Around 25–35 per cent of opportunities should be prioritised for first-time or first-generation beneficiary families. If adequate candidates are unavailable, those opportunities should flow back to the wider



Policy notes: The suggested 25–35 per cent first-opportunity window and deprivation index are proposals for public debate, not current law. Political implementation would require constitutional and legislative scrutiny.

Fact anchors: Shahu Maharaj’s 26 July 1902 Kolhapur measure; constitutional affirmative-action framework; Supreme Court, State of Punjab v. Davinder Singh (2024); Reservation Hatao mobilisation in Delhi, August 2026.

parent category rather than remain vacant. Previous beneficiaries would not suddenly lose all protection; instead, the system would ensure that a meaningful share reaches families that have never received its benefits.

Apply deprivation measures across categories:

The same logic can travel upward across the opportunity structure. Rural or remote schooling, low family income and assets, parental education, first-generation graduate status and poor access to quality schools can disadvantage candidates even outside caste-reserved categories. These factors should supplement—not replace—caste-based safeguards. A transparent opportunity or deprivation index could operate horizontally across categories, because a wealthy rural household and a poor urban household cannot sensibly be treated as identical simply by geography.

Political representation also needs circulation:

The principle should also inform political representation. Within constitutionally reserved political opportunities, India should debate mechanisms that encourage first-generation political entrants and sections that remain under-represented, rather than allowing representation to become concentrated in a small set of political families or networks. A 25–30 per cent first-opportunity principle deserves serious study here too, although any such mechanism would require careful constitutional and legislative design.

Beyond endless sub-caste fragmentation:

The Supreme Court’s 2024 Davinder Singh decision opened constitutional space for sub-classification within Scheduled Castes (SCs). That can help governments address unequal access, but India should be cau-

tious about answering every inequality by permanently multiplying caste compartments. Policy should increasingly ask measurable questions: Who has received opportunities? Who remains excluded? Which families are first-generation entrants? Where is representation still weakest? The goal should be circulation of opportunity, not permanent social fragmentation.

Reform is better than ‘reservation hatao’:

The August anti-reservation mobilisation around Jantar Mantar reflects genuine public dissatisfaction, including demands for greater attention to economic disadvantage. Such concerns deserve democratic debate. But abolishing caste-based affirmative action because its benefits may be unevenly distributed would confuse a problem of design with a failure of purpose. The answer to imper-

fect affirmative action is better affirmative action.

Make reservation less necessary:

The ultimate success of reservation should be measured by whether society gradually needs less of it. That requires far more than quota engineering. India must equalise school quality, enforce anti-discrimination norms in employment and housing, weaken caste barriers in marriage and social networks, and reduce unnecessary caste signalling in routine public life—while retaining caste data where needed to measure exclusion and enforce rights. A mature policy should neither romanticise reservation nor demonise its beneficiaries. It should keep opening doors until birth no longer determines opportunity.

(The writer is Vice-President of Telangana Pradesh Mahila Congress)

Srisailam gears up for Dasara festivities from Oct 11 to 20

- Srisailam Devasthanam will celebrate the Dasara Mahotsavams from October 11 to 20, featuring daily Vahana Sevas, Navadurga Alankarams, and traditional rituals
- EO holds a preliminary planning meeting with chief priests, Vedic scholars, department heads, and engineering staff
- Continuous drinking water, snacks, and Anna Prasadam will be provided in queue complexes, backed by LED screens for live proceedings and round-the-clock sanitation

HANS NEWS SERVICE
SRISAILAM

SRISAILAM Devasthanam is making elaborate preparations for the annual Dasara Mahotsavams, scheduled to be celebrated from October 11 to 20.

Executive Officer M Srinivasa Rao chaired a preliminary review meeting with temple priests, Vedic scholars, and department heads on Wednesday to outline

operational plans for the 10-day festival.

The discussions covered ritualistic schedules, daily Vahana Sevas, Navadurga Alankarams for Goddess Bhramaramba Devi, and major festival highlights, including the Nijaroopa Alankaram, Shami Puja, and Teppotsavam on Vijayadashami.

EO Srinivasa Rao instructed temple departments to work in total co-



Srisailam temple EO M Srinivasa Rao addressing a meeting on Wednesday

ordination, ensuring strict adherence to traditional ritual timings.

Final operational blueprints will be presented at the upcoming Dharma-Karma Mandali meeting.

To handle the anticipated influx of pilgrims, the engineering wing was directed to setup LED screens at key locations and execute extensive electrical illumination across the shrine.

The gardens wing will decorate the premises traditionally with fresh flowers, while security personnel and police will enforce strict traffic and parking management to prevent bottlenecks during village processions.

For pilgrim comfort, the queue management team was instructed to maintain an uninterrupted supply of drinking water, milk, and snacks in queue lines, alongside regular Anna Prasadam service. The sanitation wing has been tasked with continuous cleaning of public utilities and temple surroundings. Cultural programs including Harikatha, discourses, instrumental music, and traditional dances will perform at the Nitya Kala Vedika, while folk troupes featuring Kolatam and Chekka Bhajana will accompany the daily processions.

CPI demands immediate relief from soaring fuel, LPG, and food prices

- The CPI organized rallies and dharmas against rising essential commodity prices
- CPI cadres staged a unique protest by carrying LPG cylinders, rice sacks, and edible oil cans during their march through Somappa Circle
- Protesters demanded immediate price cuts on rice, pulses, cooking gas, petrol, and diesel, alongside strict action against black marketing and hoarding

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NANDYAL

PROTESTING the continuous escalation in the prices of essential commodities, cadres of the Communist Party of India (CPI) staged demonstrations across Nandyal and Yemmiganur on Wednesday, demanding immediate intervention by the Central and State governments to control inflation. Leading a rally in Nandyal from Gandhi Chowk to Kalpana Centre, CPI Nandyal District Secretary Ranganayudu criticized



CPI leaders staging a protest at Yemmiganur on Wednesday

both governments for shifting financial burdens onto working-class and middle-income families. Following the rally, protesters sat on a dharna at Kalpana Centre, demanding immediate price reductions on daily staples including rice, pulses, edible oil, salt, and sugar, alongside cuts in petrol, diesel, and cooking gas rates. Ranganayudu urged authorities to clamp down heavily on hoarding and black marketing to stabilize retail markets.

Meanwhile, CPI leaders in Yemmiganur organized a novel protest by carrying gas cylinders, rice sacks, and edible oil cans during a rally through major thoroughfares.

The procession culminated in a sit-in demonstration at Somappa Circle, where activists raised slogans against government economic policies.

Addressing the gatherings, CPI leaders highlighted that skyrocketing commodity prices have severely eroded household budgets while public purchasing power continues to decline.

They demanded that the state and central administrations establish efficient market intervention mechanisms, ensure adequate public distribution of essential food items, and guarantee remunerative prices for farming communities. Warning that minor palliatives would not suffice, CPI leaders cautioned that failure to provide swift relief to ordinary citizens would force the party to mobilize a massive, state-wide sustained agitation.

BCs are not weak; self-respect drives the community: Minister Satya

HANS NEWS SERVICE
DHARMAVARAM

AFFIRMING that Backward Classes (BCs) are social pillars who never compromise on self-respect, Health Minister and Dharmavaram MLA Satyakumar Yadav hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for elevating India's global standing while originating from a BC background.

Addressing the BJP OBC Morcha district executive meeting at Gotluru village in Sri Sathya Sai district, Satyakumar commended Gotluru residents for achieving national "Best Village" awards twice by keeping local development above party politics. He urged party cadres to actively participate in nationwide service initiatives starting September 17 to mark PM Modi's 25-year public service journey.

He called on workers to organize "Seva Setu" outreach camps, verify central welfare



delivery, honor Anganwadi staff, and light "Ashirvada Deepam" across all villages.

Outlining major infrastructure projects in Dharmavaram constituency, the Minister highlighted ongoing Rs 650 crore highway works between Kadiri and Mudigubba, the sanctioning of an Ayurveda Medical College, establishment of a Mega Handloom Cluster, and expanded dialysis facilities.

He reiterated that coalition welfare schemes—including doorstep pension delivery of Rs 4,000, Talliki Vandanam, and Deepam—are being distributed without political

bias.

Satyakumar noted that the "Stree Shakti" free bus travel scheme has significantly improved healthcare access for women, leading to increased outpatient and inpatient registrations at government hospitals. He advised party cadres to spread awareness regarding the Ayushman Bharat scheme, which provides free medical coverage up to Rs 5 lakh for eligible families.

He promised to treat every constituent as a family member and continue driving inclusive development across the region.

Choose eco-friendly clay Ganesha idols to protect water bodies: APPCB



HANS NEWS SERVICE
KURNOOL

CLAY Ganesha idol-making competitions promote student creativity while driving environmental awareness, said organizers at an event in Kotla Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy Memorial Municipal High School.

APPCB environmental engineer PV Kishore Reddy and school authorities urged students to avoid Plaster of Paris (PoP) idols and toxic

chemical dyes, which pollute local water bodies during immersion.

Speakers highlighted that natural clay idols dissolve safely, preserving aquatic ecosystems.

Appealing to the public to choose eco-friendly idols for Ganesh Chaturthi, organizers called for sustainable festival practices. School Headmaster Rayapati Srinivas and Lions Club of Kurnool Melvin Jones representatives attended.

FOUR TIPPER TRUCKS SEIZED FOR ILLEGAL SAND TRANSPORT



HANS NEWS SERVICE
BUKKAPATNAM

ON the direct instructions of the District Collector, mining officials seized four tipper trucks in Bukkapatnam on Wednesday for transporting sand without valid bills.

Led by Assistant Director (Mines) Ameer Basha, the inspection team intercepted vehicles AP39WU0354, AP-39WC3446, AP26TE6449, and AP05TG1245.

Failing to produce valid transit permits, the trucks were confiscated and handed over to the Bukkapatnam Station House Officer (SHO) for further legal proceedings.

Warning against unauthorized sand mining and smuggling, officials declared that strict action will continue against violators. Surveyor Sunitha Bai and staff participated in the raid.

AP ST Commission chief interacts with tribal residents



HANS NEWS SERVICE
PAMIDI

STATE ST Commission Chairman Solla Bojji Reddy, alongside Commission members P Venkatappa and K Malleswara Rao, held an interactive meeting with tribal residents at Palyam Thanda in Pamidi mandal on Wednesday.

Local tribal families submitted representations outlining various civic and

welfare grievances. Chairman Bojji Reddy assured residents that their issues would be taken up with key department officials for prompt resolution.

RDO Srinivasulu, District Tribal Welfare Officer Srinivasulu, Tahsildar Sharma, MPDO Prabhakar Naik, Medical Officer Dr Sudhakar, local ST leaders, and villagers participated in the outreach drive.

All-new 3-row Kia Sorento SUV launched



HANS NEWS SERVICE
ANANTAPUR

MG Brothers Kia launched the all-new 3-row Kia Sorento SUV at its Anantapur showroom, with ex-showroom prices starting at Rs 27.99 lakh. CEO Aditya Machani, Kia ASM Kiran Bangarimath, and dealership officials attended the event, where valued customers lit the ceremonial lamp.

Tailored for India, the Sorento offers 2.2-litre diesel and 1.6-litre turbo GDi hybrid engine options with AWD terrain modes.

Advanced features include Level-2 ADAS (29 safety functions), 10 airbags, a 360-degree camera, a panoramic sunroof, and a 12-speaker Bose audio system, establishing a new luxury benchmark in the segment.

“Nijam Gelichindi” rally held to commemorate Naidu’s 53-day detention

HANS NEWS SERVICE
ANANTAPUR

TDP leaders and activists organized a "Nijam Gelichindi" torch rally in Anantapur on Wednesday to mark the anniversary of TDP President N Chandrababu Naidu's arrest, which they termed a fabricated political case.

Local MLA Daggubati Prasad led the rally from the 'Pedda Gadiyaram' (Big Clock Tower) to Saptagiri Circle, carrying 53 torches to symbolize Naidu's 53 days in detention.

Addressing the gathering, leaders noted that the global Telugu community stood by



Naidu until truth ultimately prevailed.

Corporation chairpersons,

party directors, and large numbers of TDP cadres participated in the procession.

Defeat taught me more lessons than victory in politics: Former MP

HANS NEWS SERVICE
ANANTAPUR

FORMER MP Talari Rangaiah stated that political defeat teaches more valuable life lessons than victory, instilling a strong resolve to succeed.

Speaking at a YCP local body election preparatory meeting in Anantapur—attended by Rayalaseema Coordinator Peddireddy Mithun Reddy—Rangaiah noted that defeat reveals people's true character, separating opportunistic



followers from honest supporters.

Exhorting party workers not to fear the ruling coalition government, he promised that the YCP

leadership would stand firmly behind cadres and urged them to fight bravely to secure victory and hoist the party flag in upcoming local body elections.

Shun drugs and focus on skill development: SETKUR CEO

- SETKUR organizes a narcotics awareness session at the AP Residential Junior College (Minority Boys)
- SETKUR CEO Dr K Venugopal urges students to resist peer pressure, avoid narcotics, and focus on academics, sports, and skill development to secure their future
- Excise CI Chandrahass details the severe legal consequences of involvement in drug trafficking and advised students to report suspicious narcotics trade via the toll-free helpline 1972

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KURNOOL

URGING students to channel their energy toward education and career development, Society for Employment Generation and Training in Rural Areas (SETKUR) CEO Dr K Venugopal called upon the youth

to stay strictly away from narcotic substances.

Addressing an anti-drug awareness program organized under the aegis of Youth Services-SETKUR (Kurnool and Nandyal) at the AP Residential Junior College (Minority Boys) on Wednesday, Dr Venugopal highlighted that youth rep-



SETKUR CEO Venugopal addressing a meeting in Kurnool on Wednesday

resent the nation's most vital human resource.

Warning that substance

abuse degrades physical health, damages family stability, and derails educa-

tional growth, he advised students to withstand peer pressure and consult parents or teachers during personal crises rather than resorting to harmful habits.

Elaborating on the judicial framework, Excise Inspector Chandrahass cautioned students against participating in the illegal purchase, transportation, or sale of narcotics, noting that aiding drug networks carries severe legal penalties.

He urged students to act responsibly and report any suspicious drug-related activities by dialing the toll-free helpline 1972, emphasizing that timely information could save lives and safeguard families.

Adding to the address, Excise Inspector Rajendra Prasad encouraged students to utilize leisure hours constructively by participating in sports, yoga, skill development courses, and social service.

College Principal Suresh highlighted the duty of educational institutions in instilling moral values, health consciousness, and discipline among youth.

Calling for a united front involving parents, educators, and government agencies to eradicate substance abuse, SETKUR officials, Excise Department personnel, faculty, and students participated actively in the anti-drug drive.

CS directs Collectors to fast-track land resolution for 38 pending MSME parks



HANS NEWS SERVICE
ANANTAPUR

CHIEF Secretary G Sai Prasad held a video conference with District Collectors to review preparations for the 'Partnership Summit 2026' and SIPB MoU implementations.

The CS directed officials to select high-performing MSMEs to display products at five regional meets planned for October 2026.

He also instructed Collectors to resolve land issues for 38 remaining MSME parks out of 175 state-wide.

Anantapur Joint Collector C Vishnu Charan, District Industries Officer Srinivasa Yadav, Horticulture DD Umadevi, NEDCAP Manager Kishore, and other officials attended the virtual meeting from the Anantapur Collectorate's mini-conference hall on Wednesday.



Monsoon care tips for pretty hands this season



Hydrate



SHAHNAZ HUSAIN

Your hands are involved in nearly every task you undertake. We rely on them for working, cooking, cleaning, eating, writing, using tools and devices, self-care, and even for conveying our thoughts during conversations. Excessive moisture and humidity during the rainy season come with their own set of challenges, especially for our hands.

Dry hands are a common concern at this time of year due to dehydration, as a lot of water content is lost through excessive sweating. Due to dampness and fluctuations in humidity, hands frequently face issues like fungal infections between the fingers, joint stiffness, and dry skin irritation during the rainy season.

1. Hydrate

Hydrate your hands using hand cream or moisturiser. It can be a saviour, especially when you're working around water, like in the kitchen.

For especially dry hands, an overnight routine can help provide extra hydration. Apply a thicker layer of moisturiser before bed and wear soft cotton gloves. This allows your skin to absorb and lock in moisture overnight, leaving your hands feeling soft and

The monsoon season can leave your hands and nails vulnerable to dryness, irritation and infections. A little extra care can help keep them soft, healthy and beautifully groomed throughout the rains

nourished in the morning.

To keep your hands hydrated during the rainy season, apply a lightweight, non-sticky moisturiser right after every hand wash to trap water in your skin before it evaporates.

Mix coconut oil, sea salt, and vitamin E oil. Scrub your hands with the mixture for 5 minutes in a circular motion. Clean with warm water and pat dry.

Add lemon juice to a few drops of your regular hand wash in a bowl of warm water. Soak your hands in the mixture for 10–15 minutes every night before bed. Pat dry and apply moisturiser to get clean and soft hands.

2. Keep Your Hands Clean During Monsoon Season

Hand hygiene becomes even more crucial for staying healthy and preventing the spread of germs during the monsoon season. Clean your hands meticulously for at least 20 seconds with mild, fragrance-free soap and running water before eating,



Keep your hands clean during monsoon season



Exfoliate your hands with a mild scrub

after using the restroom, and immediately after coming home from outside.

Use germ-protection handwashes that provide 99.9% germ protection. They cleanse tough dirt and grime to leave your hands squeaky clean. Make sure that the handwash is made with 90% natural-origin content and doesn't contain parabens, silicones, triclosan, or triclocarban. Regular handwashing removes these microbes, significantly reducing the risk of monsoon-related illnesses like colds and flu, which spread easily through contaminated hands and water.

3. Exfoliate Your Hands with a Mild Scrub

Exfoliating your hands during the monsoon season helps remove dead skin cells and grime that stick to humid skin. Exfoliation helps remove dead skin cells and impurities, keeping your hands smooth and soft. Use a gentle scrub specifically designed for hands and feet at least twice a week. Pay attention to rough areas to prevent the buildup of dead skin. Apart from properly cleansing your hands with a mild cleanser, make sure you

don't miss out on the nails, as they can accumulate a lot of bacteria during the season. Get a nail brush that comes with small, tough bristles to clean under the nails and soft bristles to clean the top of the nails.

Homemade Hand Scrubs Coconut Oil, Sea Salt and Vitamin E Oil:

Mix coconut oil, sea salt, and vitamin E oil. Scrub your hands with the mixture for 5 minutes in a circular motion. Clean with warm water and pat dry.

Coffee, Coconut Oil and Sugar Scrub:

Mix 3 tablespoons of coffee, 2 tablespoons of coconut oil, and 1 tablespoon of sugar in a glass jar. Gently apply it to your hands and massage them. Rinse off after 2–3 minutes with warm water.

Coconut Oil, Honey, Sugar, Sea Salt and Lime Juice Scrub:

Take 1 tablespoon of coconut oil, 1 tablespoon of honey, 1/4 cup of sugar, 1/4 cup of sea salt, and a few drops of lime juice. Mix one tablespoon each of coconut oil and honey. Then add the sea salt and sugar and mix well. Now add the lime

juice and blend for 20–30 seconds. Gently rub the scrub on your hands for a minute or two and then rinse it off. Exfoliate your hands only once or twice a week to avoid damaging your skin barrier.

4. Take Extra Care of Your Cuticles

Nails take the most hit during the rainy season. The monsoon calls for special care of the nails to avoid damage due to red, swollen, and itchy skin around them. The skin becomes sweaty or infected due to overexposure to water, and as a result, both fingernails and toenails can be affected by the rains.

Painting your nails is like therapy. Trying out new nail colours and designs is something that just makes you feel groomed and uplifted. When your nails are groomed in invigorating hues, you automatically get a dose of colour therapy that is just great for your mood.

The monsoon season calls for special care of the nails to avoid infection and chipping. The monsoon can lead to rough, brittle, and discoloured nails. Well-kept nails are a part of our presentation and look. Be it any occasion, we all know how essential it is to maintain them.

(The author is international fame beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India.)



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ACROSS

1 Early stage of the foetus (6)

7 The father of Communism and author of Das Kapital (4,4)

8 Hindu god of love (4)

10 Tempestuous (6)

11 Impious (6)

14 To understand (3)

16 "The __ has landed" (5)

17 Surrounded by (4)

19 Exploits (5)

21 Hocks (5)

22 The evening star (5)

23 Have clothes on (4)

26 Central west coast of ancient Asia Minor (5)

28 Overact (3)

29 Mediterranean country (6)

30 Holds dear (6)

31 Charged particles (4)

32 Summit (8)

33 Obligations (6)

DOWN

1 German town - "as seed" anagram? (6)

2 Brought up (6)

3 Alright (4)

4 Uranus, Neptune, Jupiter et al (7)

5 Gog and __; the old-time pair? (5)

6 A daisy, the marguerite (2-3)

8 Tributary of Ganges (4)

9 Name Mrs. (3)

12 Ows (3)

13 South American animal (5)

15 Clinch (3,2)

18 Important (5)

19 Air mover (3)

20 Responses abbreviation (3)

21 Our national bird (7)

22 Contend with (3)

23 A nut with a hard crinkled shell (6)

24 Running birds (4)

25 Waterside plants (6)

26 Inuit dwelling (5)

27 More recent (5)

28 Monetary unit of Vietnam - "o ha" anagram? (3)

30 Competed (4)

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Solution to September 9

Saba Pataudi shares rare 1980s family album featuring young Sharmila Tagore & family

Bollywood veteran star Sharmila Tagore and the Pataudi family's priceless memories from the 1980s were shared by Saba Pataudi on Wednesday.

The jewellery designer shared a series of rare childhood pictures featuring her mother Sharmila Tagore, father, Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi, siblings Saif Ali Khan, Soha Ali Khan, and herself.

Taking to her social media account, Saba posted a carousel of unseen family pictures from the 1980s.

The opening picture shows a smiling Sharmila Tagore with husband Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi and their three children during a family gathering. The other pictures capture young Saif, Soha and Saba sharing candid moments with their mother.

The post also includes pictures of a young Sharmila Tagore with her children, and many more adorable sibling moments of Soha and Saba. The photos also comprise of recent moments of Saba with Saif Ali Khan.

For the uninitiated, Mansoor Ali Khan who passed away in 2011, was a stalwart cricketer. Talking about Sharmila Tagore, the actress who hails from the family of Guru Ravidranath

Tagore, was a very successful actress of the late 60s and early 70s era of Bollywood.Soha Ali Khan and Saif Ali Khan are successful actors from the Hindi film industry while Saba chose to stay away from cinema professionally.

For the uninitiated, Bollywood star Kareena Kapoor is the sister-in-law of Saba Pataudi. She is married to Saif Ali Khan and the couple are parents to two sons, Taimur Ali Khan and Jehangir Ali Khan.

Actor Kunal Kemmu is the brother-in-law of Saba with him being married to Soha Ali Khan.

Let them navigate:
Why teenagers need space
to make their own choices

Teenagers need guidance, but they also need room to make choices, test ideas and learn from small failures

HARISH PARAMESWARAN

Every parent has heard it: “I have other commitments.” The commitment might be a group call, a game with friends or simply time spent doing something that adults may not consider particularly important. But these moments matter. They are part of how teenagers build friendships, practise independence and learn to navigate life without someone evaluating every decision.

Parents have always worried about how much freedom to give their children. Yet growing up requires more than academic success. Teenagers also need opportunities to make choices, handle disagreements, manage their time and understand the consequences of their decisions.



THE FAMILY BUSINESS OF EXPECTATIONS

Between the first school performance and the repeated question, “What do you want to be?”, parents can gradually develop a set of expectations for their children. These expectations often come from love and a desire to see their children secure and successful. Sometimes, however, parents may also project their own experiences or unfinished ambitions onto the next generation. Having hopes for children is natural. The challenge begins when a hope becomes a fixed destination, with little room for a different interest or career path. When every decision is made for them, teenagers may become good at meeting expectations without necessarily learning how to make decisions independently. A student who performs well academically but is afraid to ask questions, explore unfamiliar subjects or make mistakes may be missing an important part of education. Learning is not only about getting the correct answer. It is also about asking questions, testing ideas and understanding why something did not work.



LANTERNS, NOT ROCKETS

A sky lantern does not rise by fighting every movement of the wind. It adjusts to the conditions and continues upwards, sometimes moving sideways before finding its direction.

Teenagers can need something similar: guidance without complete control. When a parent says, “I want you to become a doctor,” the statement may be about more than a particular profession. It may reflect hopes for financial security, stability and respect. Understanding that underlying concern can open a more productive conversation.

A teenager might respond by asking, “I understand that you want me to have a secure future. Can we talk about what that means and explore different ways of getting there?” That shifts the discussion from disagreement to negotiation.

Parents can also begin with curiosity. Asking, “Why do you want to try this?” creates an opportunity to understand a child’s thinking before saying no. Curiosity can help build trust and make difficult conversations less confrontational.



A SMALL TOOLKIT FOR NAVIGATING CHOICES

- Start with a shared goal: “We both want me to do well” can create a better starting point than “You never listen.”
 - Suggest a trial: Trying something for a term or a few months can be less intimidating than making a permanent decision.
 - Bring a plan: Interest becomes more convincing when accompanied by a practical plan for managing time, studies and responsibilities.
 - Allow small failures: A manageable mistake during the teenage years can become an opportunity to develop resilience, reflect and try again.
- Let the lantern wobble. A change in direction does not necessarily mean that a teenager is losing their way. Sometimes, it is part of learning how to navigate.

FOR PARENTS, IN THE MARGINS

A parent’s “just a suggestion” can sometimes sound much stronger to a teenager than intended. The way advice is delivered matters.

If a child’s ambition sounds smaller than a parent’s expectations, it is worth asking whether it is genuinely less ambitious or simply unfamiliar. Different interests do not automatically mean lower aspirations.

Parents can provide boundaries while still allowing teenagers to participate in decisions that affect their education and future. The objective is not to remove every obstacle or prevent every mistake. It is to help young people develop the judgement and confidence to handle challenges when parents are no longer there to make every decision for them. Education, after all, is not only preparation for examinations or careers. It is also preparation for making choices, responding to setbacks and finding a direction of one’s own.

(The author is a Talent Strategy leader at KniTT, and Co-Founder of edutech startup)

IISc’s FSID strengthens focus on research, innovation

The Foundation for Science, Innovation and Development (FSID) at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has announced a new leadership structure aimed at strengthening its work in research, innovation and technology-based entrepreneurship. Omprakash Subbarao has been appointed as the organisation’s Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Under the new model, Subbarao will oversee FSID’s operations and external engagements, while Prof Suryasarathy Bose, Professor-in-Charge, will provide institutional oversight and serve as the link between FSID and IISc.

An IISc alumnus, Subbarao has worked across technology, industry, public digital infrastructure and innovation. Before becoming CEO, he served as CEO of CORE Labs at FSID, where he worked on research and innovation collaborations connecting scientific expertise with industry requirements.FSID’s activities are centred on two areas—

innovation and incubation. Through these initiatives, the organisation seeks to support the translation of scientific research into practical applications and provide an environment for developing technology-focused startups.

The organisation has also been expanding opportunities for collaboration between researchers, companies and startups through its Innovation Hub (iHUB). The facility provides research and development laboratories for industry partners and infrastructure for incubated startups. BEML, Toyo Ink and Schaeffler are among the companies that have established research facilities or workspaces at iHUB.

For students, researchers and aspiring entrepreneurs, such initiatives can provide opportunities to engage with applied research, technology development and innovation beyond the academic laboratory. Industry-linked projects can also expose researchers to practical challenges and the process of developing technologies for wider use.

IIT Kharagpur students design and fly aircraft in international competition

The Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur (IIT Kharagpur) made its debut at the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) Design/Built/Fly Competition in Wichita, Kansas, securing the 39th position globally and fifth in Asia. The institute also recorded the highest total score among participating Indian teams.

The competition brought together university teams from 12 countries, with 98 teams submitting design reports and participating in the fly-off. IIT Kharagpur was represented by a 21-member student team that designed, built, tested and flew an aircraft within four months.

The competition provided students with practical experience across multiple areas of aerospace engineering, including aerodynamics, aircraft structures, propulsion, avionics, computer-aided design, manufacturing and flight testing. The project required students to



work through design and engineering challenges within a defined timeline and prepare their aircraft for competition flights.

The team received support from the Department of Aerospace Engineering and the Aerial Robotics Kharagpur (ARK) Lab, along with mentorship from Prof Arnab Roy, Anup Ghosh, Naba Kumar Peyada, Prof Sandeep Saha and Prof Somesh Kumar.

The 2026 edition marked the 30th year of the AIAA Design/Built/Fly Competition. Of the 175 proposals submitted and

evaluated, 102 teams were invited to submit design reports. A total of 98 teams submitted reports, while 89 teams attended the fly-off, including 17 international teams. More than 1,200 students, faculty members and guests attended the event, and 83 of the participating teams completed the technical inspection. The competition recorded 197 official flight attempts, of which 143 resulted in successful scores. Seventy-three teams achieved at least one successful flight score, while 17 teams completed all four missions,

Today is National Swap Ideas Day
How sharing thoughts can lead to change

Ideas often begin as simple thoughts—something that could make a classroom better, solve a small problem at home, or improve the way people work together. But an idea becomes more useful when it is shared, discussed and developed. Talking about ideas with friends or family can help us look at familiar problems from a different point of view.

An easy way to start is to set aside some time to “swap ideas”. Pick a topic that interests everyone and let each person suggest a change they would like to see. It could be something small, such as organising a study space, reducing food waste or planning a family activity. It could also be a larger idea, such as making a school more environmentally friendly or finding ways to help people in the community.

The important part is to listen as well as speak. Someone may suggest an approach that you had not considered, while another person may identify a

challenge that needs to be addressed. Instead of immediately deciding whether an idea is good or bad, ask questions: What problem does it solve? Who could benefit? What would be needed to make it work? Can it be tried on a small scale first? For students, swapping ideas can also support learning beyond textbooks. Group discussions encourage communication, listening, creativity and problem-solving. They can help students understand that there may be several possible answers to a problem and that improving an idea often takes more than one attempt.

Not every idea will become a major project, and that is perfectly fine. Even an unsuccessful suggestion can lead to another thought or help someone understand what does not work.

World Archery Para Series

India win two gold, four bronze medals

Reigning Paralympics champion Harvinder Singh and world No. 1 Sheetal Devi led the charge as India signed off their World Archery Para Series Stage III campaign on a high

AHMEDABAD

REIGNING Paralympics champion Harvinder Singh and world No. 1 Sheetal Devi led the charge as India signed off their World Archery Para Series Stage III campaign on a high, winning two gold and four bronze medals, on the final day, here on Wednesday.

World No. 1 and reigning world champion Sheetal Devi held her nerve in a dramatic shoot-off to win the para compound women's individual gold, while double Paralympics medalist Harvinder, paired with Bhawna, helped India to gold in the para recurve mixed team event.

In the recurve mixed team final, double Paralympics medalist Harvinder and Bhawna



made short work of China's Liang Qiurong and Xia Lei, winning 6-0 in straight sets.

India took the opening set 35-31 before winning the second 36-33 and completing the clean sweep with a 34-32 victory in the third.

Bhawna then added another bronze in an all-Indian para recurve women's bronze-medal play-off, defeating compatriot Rajshree Rathod 6-0.

Sheetal returned in the evening session and produced a

composed performance against Kazakhstan's Aizada Seidan in a thrilling compound women's individual final. Both the archers started with perfect 30s and remained locked at 59 after the second end, with both shooting 29. Aizada then edged ahead by a point in the third end after shooting 28 to Sheetal's 27.

The fourth end ended 29-29, before Sheetal produced a 29 in the final end against Aizada's 28 to level the scores at 144-all and force a shoot-off.



Alcaraz's US Open title defence ends

Shelton's win sets up a match in the last four with compatriot Frances Tiafoe, boosting home hopes of a first American men's Grand Slam champion since 2003

LOS ANGELES

BEN Shelton beat defending champion Carlos Alcaraz 6-7(5), 6-1, 6-3, 1-6, 7-6(10-7) in the early hours of Wednesday to reach the U.S. Open semi-finals in the latest-finishing match in tournament history.

Shelton's win sets up a match in the last four with compatriot Frances Tiafoe, boosting home hopes of a first American men's Grand Slam champion since 2003. Seven-times major champion Alcaraz arrived at Arthur Ashe Stadium with a 13-0 Grand Slam record against U.S. men but found Shelton tough to break down in a match that

began at 11.05 p.m. on Tuesday and finished at 3.33 a.m. on Wednesday.

"For me it's always about the people in the crowd," Shelton said in explaining how he got through the gruelling contest.

"Whether it's my coaches and my team there, all my family and friends here, or the city of New York that showed up tonight till 3 a.m. with the USA chants until the very end.

"That's what kept me going, and that's what got me this win tonight. "It's incredible. I always say that this is the greatest sports city in the world. I say that this is the greatest stadium in the world."

Alcaraz clinched a tight first-set tiebreak and looked to have all the momentum but uncharacteristic sloppiness allowed Shelton to breeze through the next set before the American tightened his grip on the quarter-final by taking the third.

ASIAN GAMES: 400 ATHLETES EVACUATED



Hundreds of athletes and officials were briefly evacuated after heavy rain battered Nagoya, but the city's mayor on Wednesday ruled out any disruption to the Asian Games. Torrential rain flooded roads and water entered some of the venues for the multi-sport event, scheduled from September 19 to October 4. Around 400 people, including staff and athletes, had to be evacuated due to the heavy rain, but they later returned and no injuries were reported, an Asian Games official told Reuters.

Nyra youngest Indian to qualify for Nationals

NEW DELHI

DELHI shooter Nyra Sharma, aged just 10 years and three months, has become the youngest Indian to qualify for the National Championship.

Nyra secured her place in 10m air rifle after scoring 363/400 at the recently concluded All India Inter School Shooting Championship in Bhopal. Nyra trains at the TOPGUN Shooting Academy in Delhi and will now prepare for the National Championship, scheduled to be held later this year. Her rise has been remarkably swift. She made her competitive debut at the Delhi State Championship in June, followed by the India Open in July at Dehradun. At only her third competition, she produced the score that earned



her a place at the Nationals.

Speaking about the achievement, Nyra's father, Prashant Sharma, said, "As a father, I feel immense pride and gratitude on seeing Nyra become India's youngest shooter to qualify for the Nationals. This remarkable achievement is the result of her hard work, discipline,

and determination, along with the guidance and support of TOPGUN Shooting Academy."

For a shooter who entered competitive sport only a few months ago, qualifying for the Nationals at just 10 years old marks an exceptional beginning to her competitive career

IOA to probe Lakra's harassment charge

NEW DELHI

THE Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has constituted a four-member independent inquiry committee headed by retired High Court judge Deepa Sharma to probe the allegations of harassment and intimidation levelled against Hockey India secretary Bhola Nath Singh by former women's team captain

Asunta Lakra.

The panel, formed following a directive from the Sports Ministry, includes former track-and-field athlete Vandana Rao, former women's hockey team captain Mamta Kharb, and lawyer Sitwat Nabi as members.

Lakra, who is also a member of Hockey India's Executive Board, had accused Singh of threatening and har-

assing her after she objected to the alleged sexual harassment of girls in Jharkhand at the hands of local coach Sudhir Golla.

Hockey India has been directed to handle all requisite payments concerning the committee's honorarium, travel, accommodation, and incidental expenses.

"Hockey India is also requested to extend its full co-

operation to the committee and to ensure that all relevant documents, information and such other assistance as may be required is made available to the committee in a timely manner..." IOA President PT Usha's letter to HI stated.

The dispute between between Hockey India and Lakra had taken an ugly turn after the national federation's ethics committee is-



sued a show cause notice and launched an inquiry against the former captain after she was accused of threatening young player Albela Rani Toppo, who is also from Jharkhand.

TOP COURT: ENFORCE SEAT BELT LAW STRICTLY

The law is very clear on seat belts. The question is implementation. How can we ensure that every citizen and every driver in this country complies with it?

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said there are adequate laws mandating wearing seat belts while a vehicle is in motion and it is the duty of the law enforcement agencies to ensure compliance.

The observation came from a bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and

V Mohana, which was hearing a petition seeking directions for mandatory wearing of seat belts in vehicles.

The petitioner's counsel told the bench that many deaths and injuries from road accidents could be prevented if the law mandating seat belt use was followed.

He said that despite the law, a number of vehicles have non-functional seat

belts because of fancy seat covers or other modifications.

The bench said, "The law is very clear on seat belts. The question is of implementation. How can we ensure that every citizen and every driver in this country complies with it?"

The top court asked the petitioner to send his suggestions on the issue to the com-

petent authority.

"It is the work of the law enforcement agencies to ensure compliance," it said.

Referring to Rule 138(3) of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, the bench said it requires the driver, the person seated in the front seat or the persons occupying front-facing rear seats to wear seat belts while the vehicle is in motion.

The petitioner's counsel argued that negligence of people and weak enforcement of law lead to serious injuries and even deaths in road accidents across the country.

The bench noted that there are adequate laws concerning road safety measures, including wearing of seat belts while a vehicle is in motion.

It said non-compliance of

law by people or failure of law enforcement agencies in taking appropriate action against the defaulters was essentially a question of maintenance of law and order.

The bench disposed of the plea while granting liberty to the petitioner to forward a copy of his petition to the concerned authority to consider the suggestions given by him.



Faridabad: Infant dies after drowning in water bucket

FARIDABAD

IN a tragic incident, a one-year-old boy died after drowning in a water-filled bucket while playing at his home in Jeevan Nagar Part-2, Faridabad, police said on Wednesday.



The deceased child was identified as Aryan.

Aryan's grandmother, Meena, said that at the time of the incident, the child and her mother were upstairs at home. While her mother was in a room, Aryan was playing outside. His father was away at work.

While playing, he wandered towards a bucket full of water kept near the bathroom and fell into it headfirst.

"After some time, I realised something was amiss when I could no longer hear any sound from the child," Meena said, adding that when she went to check on Aryan, she found him in the bucket.

She said that they then rushed Aryan to a government hospital, from where he was referred elsewhere. Aryan was then taken to a private hospital, where doctors declared him dead, Meena added.

"The child's body has been placed in the mortuary at ESIC Medical College and Hospital for a post-mortem examination. Further action will be taken based on the post-mortem report," said a senior police officer of Mujesar police station.

'UP govt docs can now serve till 70'

LUCKNOW

GOVERNMENT doctors in Uttar Pradesh will now be able to continue providing services through reappointment until the age of 70, Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak has said.

Pathak -- who also holds the health portfolio -- said the move is aimed at further strengthening government healthcare services in the state.

Under the existing system, government doctors can serve until the age of 65. Following Pathak's direction, the health department has now initiated the process of issuing an order to facilitate their reappointment up to the age of 70, according to an official statement.

Government hospitals, community health centres (CHCs) and primary health centres (PHCs) in the state receive a large number of patients daily. Extending the services of experienced doctors would provide patients with better medical consul-



tation and treatment, while also easing the pressure on hospitals and health centres, the deputy chief minister said on Tuesday.

"The Provincial Medical and Health Services cadre is the principal medical cadre of the Health Department and includes medical officers and specialist doctors who play a crucial role in providing healthcare services at government hospitals, CHCs and PHCs," Pathak said.

He said allowing eligible and experienced doctors to serve until the age of 70

would enable patients to directly benefit from their expertise.

The arrangement would be particularly useful in departments facing a shortage of specialist doctors, and would also help strengthen healthcare services in rural areas, he said.

Pathak said the additional chief secretary, health department, has been directed to expedite the process of issuing orders regarding reappointment of doctors after retirement, up to the age of 70

Food licenses of Rly catering, ISKCON suspended

MUMBAI:

The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Wednesday suspended the licenses of a supplier linked to a railway caterer, a dairy unit and multiple eateries at a religious centre in Juhu for alleged violations of food safety norms. Improvement notices issued to four others. Licenses of three food establishments operating at ISKCON, Juhu, suspended. Serious irregularities found in the milk business, Kharghar; license suspended. Licenses were also suspended for 20 renowned food establishments (hotels, restaurants, etc.): 6 in Mumbai, 3 in Konkan Division, and 11 in Pune Division," FDA stated. According to the Maharashtra FDA, "Inspection of food establishments, specifically base kitchens and food plazas supplying food to railway passengers conducted by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)." The food license of a hospitality and catering company was suspended and improvement notices were issued to four others. The enforcement drive also hit the dairy sector, with authorities suspending the license of a Kharghar-based milk business after uncovering alleged operational irregularities.



5,326 missing; Nepal toll climbs to 1,365

CHITWAN

THE death toll from the devastating flash floods in Nepal climbed to 1,365 on Wednesday as more bodies were recovered from the affected areas, authorities said.

Rescue teams continued to search for 5,326 people, including at least 589 foreign nationals, who remain missing, according to a Nepal Police news bulletin.

Rescue teams recovered 363 bodies from Chitwan district, 226 from Nawalparasi East, 222 from Nawalparasi West, and 197 from Nuwakot.

Similarly, 174 bodies were recovered from Rasuwa district, 75 from Gorkha, 70 from Dhading and 38 from Tanahu.

So far, 102 bodies have been handed over to the family members after completing the identification process, police said.

Security personnel have safely kept 1,147 unidentified bodies underground in accordance with all prescribed protocols, including the collection of DNA samples to facilitate their identification.

The flash floods, triggered by an ice-rock avalanche near the Nepal-Tibet border on August 26, devastated towns and villages in northern and central Nepal.





“The E20 programme has been very successful so far and several automobile companies have announced plans to roll out flexi-fuel vehicles soon. Now our focus is on allowing blending at a percentage which will be higher than E20.”

-Tarun Kapoor, Advisor to PM Narendra Modi

BIZ BRIEFS

Organic Creamery unveils new product

Organic Creamery by Iceberg has launched its new Chef Special, Cookie Theory Sundae, in collaboration with celebrity chef Sanjay Thumma. Featuring a Cashew Caramel Cookie with rich caramel and crunchy cashews, the dessert pairs with customers' choice of creamy ice cream flavours. Available from September 4 across outlets in Hyderabad, Vijayawada and Bangalore, the sundae reflects Organic Creamery's focus on innovative, customisable and premium dessert experiences.

Credlix crosses \$1bn in export financing

Credlix, Moglix's cross-border trade financing platform, has surpassed \$1 billion in export financing, supporting over 1,000 MSME exporters across key global markets. The company has committed more than \$100 million to the India-Mexico corridor in FY27. Pramit Joshi, Senior VP, Credlix, said: "India has made significant progress in building digital and formal financing infrastructure for MSMEs, and export financing calls for a further set of capabilities alongside it."

AM/NS India launches Pelican

ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India) has launched Pelican, a premium galvanised steel brand targeting construction, infrastructure, manufacturing and engineering sectors. Ranjan Dhar, Director, AM/NS India, said: "Indian customers increasingly require steel solutions tailored to specific applications and performance needs. AM/NS Pelican offers a high-quality galvanised steel solution that combines reliable corrosion protection with consistent quality and performance. The launch further strengthens our growing portfolio of specialised steel products and expands the range."

Amazon India logs milestone

Amazon India's seller base has crossed 20 lakh, with over three lakh sellers joining the marketplace, marking its strongest growth in three years. Seller Assistant interactions rose 7.5x year-on-year, while adoption of AI advertising tools increased 77%. Aruna Daryanani, Director, Amazon India, said: "Our continued endeavor is to make Amazon, in the best place to sell for sellers of all sizes. Whether it is lowering fees, building AI-powered tools that simplify day-to-day operations."

TCS inaugurates lights-out factory

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), an IT services, consulting, and business solutions firm, has launched the TCS Industrial Autonomy & Engineering Lab - Lights-Out Factory, at its Sahyadri Park campus in Pune. Joakim Landholm, SVP, SKF, said: "Reducing friction has always been central to industrial progress, and the next wave of manufacturing will depend on smarter, more energy-efficient, and more reliable operations."

OIL AT FOUR-FIGURE MARK, IT MAJORS BLEED, FIIS TURN NET SELLERS

Geopolitical storm batters D-Street as Sensex cracks 813 points

BRENT CROSSES \$100, IT STOCKS PLUNGE AND INDIA VIX RISES OVER 6%

MUMBAI

FALLING for the third straight day, benchmark stock index Sensex tumbled 813 points to a three-month low, and the Nifty settled below 23,450 following selling in IT, FMCG, financial services and oil & gas shares, as escalating tensions in West Asia drove crude oil to over \$100 per barrel.

The 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 813.35 points, or 1.08 per cent, to settle at the day's low of 74,764.23, also the lowest closing level in nearly three months.

The 50-share NSE Nifty declined 203.60 points, or 0.86 per cent, to end at a nearly three-month low of 23,431.50. The index had closed near this level on June 11 previously.



Among the 30 Sensex firms, HCL Tech fell the most, down 4.55 per cent. Infosys dropped 4.43 per cent, Tech Mahindra by 3.87 per cent, and Tata Consultancy Services by 2.26 per cent. HDFC Bank and Hindustan Unilever were also among the major laggards.

Adani Ports was the lead gainer, rising by 3.67 per

cent. Tata Steel, Trent and NTPC were among the winners. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, jumped 2.67 per cent to \$100.5 per barrel.

India VIX climbed more than 6 per cent, reflecting increased hedging activity and growing caution over the near-term outlook, he added. The BSE SmallCap Select index declined 0.59 per

cent and the MidCap Select index dipped 0.52 per cent. Among the BSE sectoral indices, IT tanked the most by 3.21 per cent, followed by Focused IT (2.99 per cent), Realty (2.01 per cent), Insurance (1.49 per cent), Housing Finance (1.39 per cent), Top 10 Banks (1.03 per cent) and Bankex (0.74 per cent). Commodities, Energy, Utilities, Hospitals, Metal, Power and Services were the winners.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 123.19 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data. On Tuesday, the Sensex dropped 555.23 points, or 0.73 per cent, to settle at 75,577.58. The Nifty declined 144.05 points, or 0.61 per cent, to end at 23,635.10.

Rupee loses ground as oil shock, market sell-off intensify

MUMBAI: The rupee slumped by 34 paise to close at 95.08 against the American currency on Wednesday as crude prices crossed the \$100 per barrel mark, stoking concerns over inflation and high forex outflows. Weak equity markets and FII outflows also pressured the rupee, forex traders said.

Brent crude futures surpassed \$100 a barrel for the first time in almost six weeks after attacks on oil facilities and ships in West Asia threatened to weaken the already strained supply chain amid the US-Iran tensions. Brent crude was trading higher by 2.94 per cent at \$100.73 per barrel.



At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 94.80, also its intraday high, against the US dollar. The local unit fell to an intraday low of 95.22 as crude oil prices surged. The rupee settled at 95.08, down 34 paise from its previous close of 94.74.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 98.84, higher by 0.05 per cent.

Adani Airports enters global top three after \$1-bn fundraise

NEW DELHI

BILLIONAIRE Gautam Adani's airport business is set to rank among the world's most valuable airport operators after securing about USD 1 billion in fresh equity from investors including Temasek, BlackRock-managed funds, Alpha Wave Global and Premji Invest.

The transaction values Adani Airport Holdings at about \$18 billion before the investment. Its implied post-money equity value of approximately \$19 billion places it around third globally among major listed and recently valued airport operators, behind Spain's Aena and Airports of Thailand,



according to market research analysts.

The comparison is not strictly like-for-like as Aena and Airports of Thailand are publicly traded, while Adani Airport Holdings is privately held within Adani Enterprises. Public-market valuations also fluctuate with share prices.

Under the agreements,

the investor consortium will acquire newly issued shares in three tranches and collectively hold about 5.54% once the transaction is completed. The final tranche is expected by July 2027.

The capital will fund expansion and modernisation of Adani's airport network, airport-linked commercial infrastructure and businesses such as ground handling and passenger services. The company aims to increase annual airport capacity to about 200 million passengers. Adani Airports operates eight airports, including Mumbai International Airport, and handles roughly a quarter of India's passenger traffic and about a third of its air-cargo

volumes. It is India's largest airport operator by number of airports, although GMR handles larger passenger volumes.

The valuation puts Adani Airports ahead of Groupe ADP, valued at about \$13 billion, and GMR Airports at around \$10.9 billion, according to analysts. Aena has a market value of about \$46 billion and Airports of Thailand about \$27 billion.

The company also plans about 22 million sq ft of mixed-use development in the first phase of its airport-city projects, adding commercial and real-estate revenue streams. The fundraise follows Adani Enterprises' Rs 15,000-crore QIP in July.

Jio Platforms begins global roadshow for \$3.8-bn IPO

MUMBAI

Jio Platforms is set to begin investor outreach later this week for its proposed initial public offering, which is widely expected to become India's largest public offering at about \$3.8 billion, according to sources.

The digital services arm of Reliance Industries received Sebi's final observations on August 28, clearing the way for the IPO. Jio Platforms had filed its draft papers in June.

Investor meetings are expected across key global financial centres, including the US, Hong Kong, Singapore and the UK. Jio did not respond to an email seeking comment.

Under its draft prospectus, Jio Platforms plans to issue up to 27 crore fresh equity shares, representing about 2.9% of its post-issue equity base. The offering could value the company at around \$137 billion.

Most of the proceeds will be used to repay or prepay about Rs 27,500 crore of outstanding borrowings of Reliance Jio Infocomm, Jio Platforms' material subsidiary. The balance will be used for general corporate purposes.

Jio Platforms houses Reliance's digital businesses, including its telecom operations.

Reliance Jio Infocomm has a 39.29% share of India's mobile connections, serving 506 million customers, and a 32.89% share of fixed-line connections with 157.9



WHAT IT MEANS

- **Potential record IPO: At around \$3.8 billion, Jio could overtake previous Indian IPO records.**
- **Huge valuation benchmark: The issue could value Jio Platforms at about \$137 billion**
- **Debt reduction: Most IPO proceeds will go towards repaying/prepaying Rs 27,500 crore of Jio Infocomm borrowings**

million customers.

The company had 26.85 crore 5G customers as of June 2026 and claims its 5G network carries close to 60% of India's wireless data traffic.

Jio has expanded into cloud, artificial intelligence and enterprise network services. For FY26, Jio Platforms reported a 15% rise in profit after tax to Rs 30,053 crore and a 14.5% increase in revenue to Rs 1,46,885 crore. The IPO would be Reliance group's first public offering since 2008 and its first IPO of a consumer-focused business.

Gold loses sheen for third day but silver shines

NEW DELHI: Declining for the third straight session, Gold prices fell Rs 100 to Rs 1,58,000 per 10 grams in the national capital on Wednesday amid subdued demand in local markets. The yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at Rs 1,58,100 per 10 grams in the previous session. However, silver bucked the trend and extended its gains for the second straight session, surging by Rs 2,300 to Rs 2,43,400 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes) from Tuesday's closing level of Rs 2,41,100 per kg, according to the All India Sarafa Association. "Gold has remained within a narrow range as investors take a cautious approach ahead of important US inflation data set to be released later this week," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

BharathCloud and Ibentos team up to power AI-led marketing

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

BHARATHCLOUD, India's sovereign AI cloud service provider, has partnered with Ibentos, an AI-driven technology company operating across North America and India, to advance AI-powered brand marketing and event technology across India and Canada.

The partnership was formalised following discussions at the India-Canada Business Summit held on the sidelines of the 7th India-Canada Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and Investment, chaired by Union Minister Piyush Goyal. BharathCloud will leverage Ibentos HYPE, an AI-powered marketing platform, to create and manage on-brand campaigns at scale, while exploring ways to offer similar capabilities to its customers. The partnership will also focus on AI-led event experiences to enhance audience engagement and event management.

"As BharathCloud will keep growing its footprint in different markets, we require a technology partner that can bring smarter and more interactive experiences to our marketing campaigns, events and digital engagements," said Rahul Takallappally, Co-Founder, BharathCloud.

Jaspinder Bhatia, Co-founder and CMO, Ibentos Inc, said the companies' vision, customer base and innovation approach were strongly aligned, creating an opportunity to strengthen BharathCloud's brand and offer intelligent, scalable marketing solutions. Piyush Goyal noted that bilateral trade in goods and services reached \$23.66 billion in 2024, with merchandise trade at nearly \$8.98 billion.

AI and career growth fuel executive job-hopping

94% of senior leaders open to new opportunities, Page Executive report finds

NEW DELHI

INDIA'S senior leadership market is becoming increasingly fluid, as 94 per cent of executives are open to exploring new career opportunities, according to the Executive Compensation and Talent Trends Report by Page Executive India, part of Michael Page India.

The report, based on a survey of more than 1,200 C-level executives and senior leaders, found that 63 per cent are actively looking



for a new role, while 41 per cent do not expect to remain in their current position for more than a year. Executives are seeking faster career progression, broader responsibilities and greater opportu-

nities for impact.

Page Executive India Managing Partner Jon Goldstein said the executive market was not constrained by a lack of talent but by the pace at which organisations could

develop and retain it. Senior leaders, he said, were looking for faster progression, greater impact and clearer alignment between performance and reward.

Artificial intelligence is also becoming central to senior leadership roles. The report found that 75 per cent of executives actively use AI in their work. An equal proportion reported higher productivity from the technology, while 72 per cent said it had improved the quality of their work. Nilay Khandel-

wal, Senior Managing Director, Michael Page India and Singapore, said the conversation around AI was moving from adoption to accountability. Identifying, developing and retaining talent capable of working effectively alongside AI would become an increasingly important leadership priority. On compensation, 65 per cent were satisfied with remuneration, while 87 per cent cited pay as a key driver of job satisfaction. However, the report said compensation alone was

no longer enough to retain senior leaders, who were increasingly prioritising career progression and promotion opportunities.

The report also found that skills-based hiring was gaining ground as organisations sought to widen access to talent and reduce bias.

The findings point to a competitive senior talent market in which companies may need clearer career paths and opportunities with emerging technologies to retain experienced leaders.

'Policy must balance innovation with accountability'

MUMBAI: Policy should provide room for innovation to grow while ensuring that accountability and resilience grow alongside it, RBI Deputy Governor Rohit Jain said on Wednesday. The objective of policy, therefore, is to create the conditions in which useful innovation can develop responsibly, he said here at the Global Fintech Fest 2026. "This requires clear guardrails where the risks are understood, room for experimentation where they are still emerging, and the ability to adapt the framework as technology and its uses evolve."



‘Epic – First Semester’ is a beautiful journey: Anand Deverakonda



Vijay Deverakonda and director Sandeep Reddy Vanga along with the ‘Epic-First Semester’ team at the film’s pre-release event held in Hyderabad

Anand Deverakonda and Vaishnavi Chaitanya, who went viral together in Baby, are back as a pair with the upcoming youthful entertainer EPIC – FIRST SEMESTER. The movie directed by Aditya Hasan and produced by Suryadevara Naga Vamsi and Sai Soujanya is all set to hit the theatres on September 11, 2026.

While talking about the film, Anand called EPIC – FIRST SEMESTER a ‘beautiful journey’ as opposed to a regular love

story. The film chronicles love, family, career, and responsibilities of a middle-class youngster who goes abroad from Wanaparthy in search of his future.

Anand plays Aditya, an innocent young man torn between personal dreams and parental expectations. But his life takes a complete turn when he falls in love and gets into a live-in relationship. As per the actor, the situations have been portrayed in a very naturalistic angle so that the family audiences can easily connect to the story, without



any kind of discomfort.

Anand even stated that he could connect to his character on a personal level as he too had completed his studies in the US. He had left his home town for higher education and taken the road less travelled in order to make a better life for himself.

Vaishnavi plays Kadali, who embodies the hidden

struggles and responsibilities behind a cheerful facade.

Anand even clarified that EPIC is not a sequel to Aditya Hasan’s popular 90s web series, though it is indeed a part of the same universe. As per the actor, the film has the power to connect to different generations owing to its relatable emotions and realistic humour.

‘Mandaadi’ clears censor with U/A, set for a grand release

The much-awaited movie Mandaadi is all set for a grand release today. Starring Suhas and Soori in the lead roles, the movie directed by Mathimaran Pugazhendhi and produced by Elred Kumar of RS Infotainment is ready for an exclusive release in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Hindi.

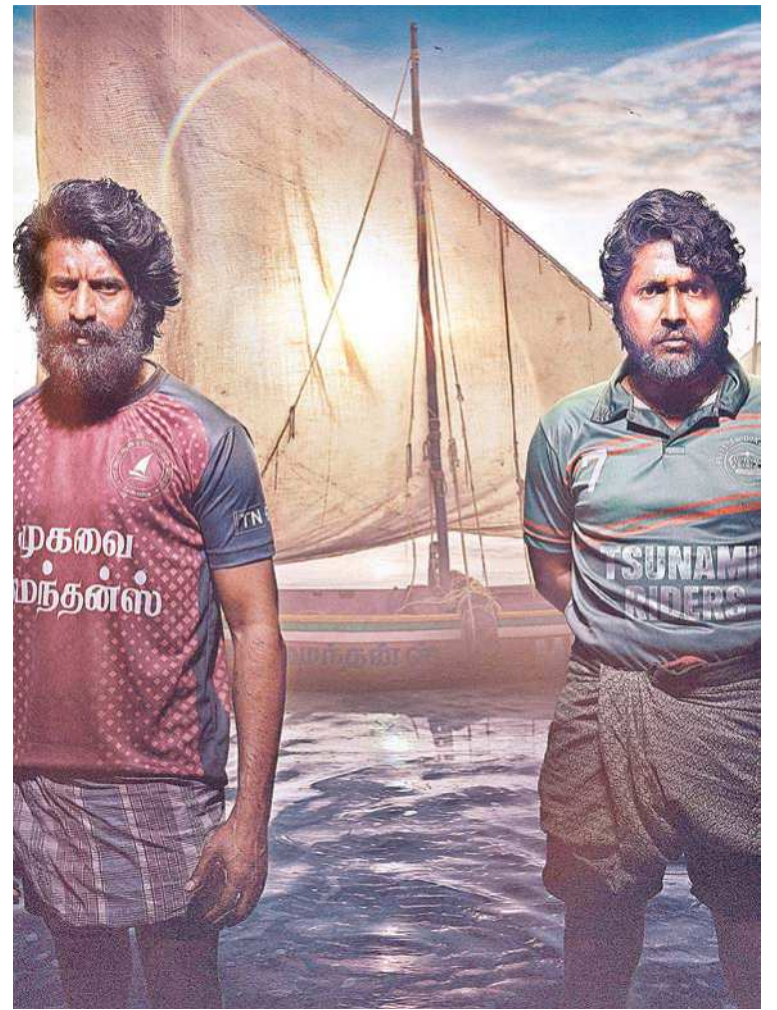
The film has cleared censor with U/A certificate. The authorities were quite happy with the film especially with the boat sequence which was shot realistically in the sea.

Starring Mahima Nambiar in the female lead, the film also features Sathyaraj, Ravindra Vijay, Mithun, Bala Saravanan and others. Moreover, the film has good technical departments with cinematography by Kathir, GV Prakash Kumar’s background score, and action choreography by Peter Hein, Dilip Subbarayan and Mahesh Mathew.

Besides all that, the promotional events of the film have created a great hype around it. The songs and the teaser have got a good response from the audience, and the recently released trailer has already given a peep into the thrilling world of Mandaadi.

Besides, Mythri Movie Distributors LLP is all set to release the film on a large scale in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. According to the latest reports, the bookings are happening fast in these states, especially on BookMyShow.

Finally, the interesting concept and realistic action along with the great technical values will surely make the film a hit. Moreover, with its wide release in multiple languages, Mandaadi is all set to make a mark and create a great opening for Suhas and Soori.



‘Sigma’ 3rd single is full of energy

The makers of Sigma have released the much anticipated “Rage Of Sigma” song, which has added more excitement and hype to the upcoming film. It has gained a great response on social media after its release.

This high energy number has been sung by Sean Roldan and scored by Thaman S has left everyone excited for the film.

The film, which is set to release worldwide on October 2nd has been produced on a large scale by Lyca Productions and A. Subaskaran. It stars Sundeep Kishan in the lead role and marks Jason Sanjay’s directorial debut.

The earlier released songs Sigma Style and Ayyayyo Ammadi have managed to create good talk back about the film due to their differing music styles.

The film also features Faria Abdullah, Raju Sundaram, Sampath Raj, Shiva Pandit, Anbu Thasan and Yogi Babu in prominent roles.

Krishnan Vasant has been appointed as the cinematographer for the film, which has been edited by Praveen K.L and VFX by Hariharasudhan. The music has been composed by Thaman S. Set for October 2nd release, Sigma has all aspects to deliver a great experience for the viewers on the big screen.

‘Haiku’ teaser: Aegan and Sridevi lead a vibrant romantic entertainer

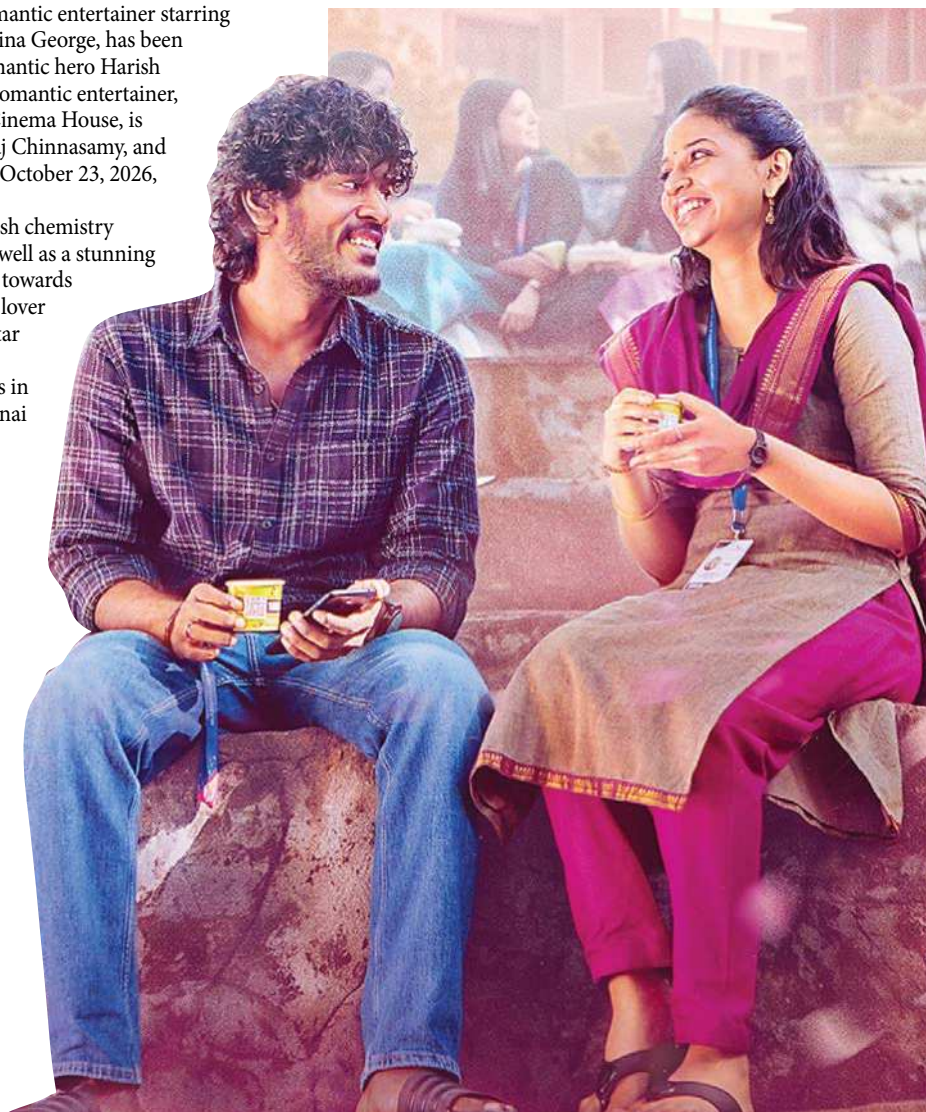
The teaser of Haiku, a romantic entertainer starring Aegan, Sridevi and Femina George, has been unveiled by popular romantic hero Harish Kalyan. The upcoming Tamil romantic entertainer, which is produced by Vision Cinema House, is written and directed by Yuvaraj Chinnasamy, and slated to release worldwide on October 23, 2026, has been unveiled.

The teaser showcases the fresh chemistry between Aegan and Sridevi as well as a stunning appearance by Femina George towards the end. Aegan plays an urban lover in this stylish yet innocent avatar in a vibrant love story, having delivered natural performances in his previous starrer, Kozhi Pannai Chelladurai.

Music composer Siddhu Kumar’s soothing background score with violin, classic ragas, and contemporary fusion adds to the romantic mix. A breezy presentation that makes for a fresh take on love and relationships is likely to enchant the viewers with its vibrant visuals.

In the meanwhile, the film’s post-theatrical digital streaming rights have been acquired by Netflix for a reported fancy price even before the completion of its shoot.

Dr. D. Arulanandhu and Mathewo Arulanandhu are producing the film. Meanwhile, Priyesh Guruswamy has done the cinematography, Sakthi Praneesh has edited and Prem has designed the art.



Producer Madhu Kalipu expresses confidence about ‘Mahendragiri Varahi’

Mahendragiri Varahi starring Sumanth and Aishwarya Rajesh is all set to release globally on September 11. The devotional action thriller is directed by Santosh Jagarlapudi and stars Siddhu Jonnalagadda in a special role. The film is produced by Kalipu Madhu and Laxman on Rajashyamala Entertainments and Bridge Films.

Producer Madhu Kalipu expresses confidence on the film’s production and says that it has been made on a huge scale and budget without any compromise on the narration. He says Mahendragiri Varahi is a unique devotional action thriller which will surprise the audiences with its grand production value and an entirely new genre.

The film has Goddess Varahi as the central theme and a star-studded cast. As per Madhu, Sumanth has delivered his best performance in his career, Aishwarya has done a dramatic role that looks like a Goddess and Siddhu’s character in the film should also surprise the audience.

The film’s VFX, which is said to be the highlight of



the film, has been worked on extensively. There is nearly an hour of VFX in the film which has been done at the Annapurna Studios. The VFX team has created the effects with realistic graphics. The music and background score of the film are also supposed to be a major strength.

The film’s locations have also been shot in extensively. The team has done a lot of work to get permits to shoot in Ramachandrapuram Fort, Muchintal, Gandikota, and other places in Odisha. The team also constructed a massive set for the temple sanctum. The makers plan to release the film in nearly 900 screens globally, while OTT deals were also finalized after the teaser’s launch. Additionally, the producer is also planning to work on another film with Santosh Jagarlapudi in addition to a bilingual horror film with a Hollywood studio.

‘Lust Stories 3’ trailer filled with love, desire and drama

The much-awaited Lust Stories 3 is all set to premiere on Netflix, and the recently released trailer has only spiked more the expectations from the anthology. The third edition of the anthology will have four stories highlighting love, relationships, desires and emotions.

Directed by Vikramaditya Motwane, Kiran Rao, Shakun Batra and Vishal Bhardwaj, the anthology has an ensemble cast that includes Radhika Apte, Konkona Sen Sharma, Aditi Rao Hydari, Radhika Madan, Sana Thampi, Vijay Varma, Abhishek Banerjee,



Siddharth, Ali Fazal and Gurfateh Pirzada.

The trailer introduces

multiple couples dealing with complicated relationships while

facing their desires and vulnerabilities.

Apart from the couple-centric stories and the emotions, the stories seem to combine humour and drama, which is sure to make for an enthralling watch.

Siddharth and Aditi Rao Hydari, as well as Ali Fazal and Radhika Madan, feature heavily in the trailer, while Radhika Apte and Konkona Sen Sharma also spark the curiosity. The third edition seems to carry forward the tradition of the first two, with the female leads taking on the core of the stories.

The anthology is set to stream on Netflix from September 18.

‘Kalyanam Kamaneeeyam Jeevitham’ trailer promises love, family emotions and thrills

The trailer of Kalyanam Kamaneeeyam Jeevitham was unveiled at a grand event in Hyderabad, spiking the anticipation levels for the upcoming Telugu film. Movie star cast includes Khan Durani and Sahithi Avancha. Directed by Ravi Lokireddy and produced by Paila Prasada Rao and Kishore Gundala of VIVIFY Media Film Factory, the film is all set for a worldwide theatrical release on the 18 th of this month.

The movie has love, family emotions and thriller as the main elements and tracks the journey of a couple who get into trouble with the entry of a third party into their lives. It promises to engage viewers with loads of twists and turns, all without losing out on family-appropriate themes.

Director V.V. Vinayak, who was present as chief guest at the trailer launch, complimented the newcomers and wished that it becomes a massive success. Producers K.L. Damodara Prasad and Prasanna Kumar also praised the trailer and

urged people to support new talents. Music director Sri Murali Karthikeya is optimistic about his songs and background score that will be a major attraction, he says. Hero Khan Durani says he started doing films after spending some time learning and working in cinematography and other film departments. Sahithi Avancha says that the team has worked hard to deliver a story that would appeal to the youth as well as the family audience. Rajavamsi is releasing the film across the Telugu states.

