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THE Hans India

NATION\SPORTS
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. P6

EDIT
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. P4

BUSINESS
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. P7

ENTERTAINMENT
'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. P8

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SC raps Noida magistrate for notice to CJP protester

Hans News Service
New Delhi

'No question of taking action against protesting student; we are surprised how can the magistrate issue a notice when we have already annulled'

THE Supreme Court on Wednesday said it would seek explanation from the Greater Noida executive magistrate for issuing a notice to a student there over his participation in the CJP-led Jantar Mantar protest.

Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant questioned how the executive magistrate could issue such a notice when the top court has earlier directed that no penal action would be taken against students. A lawyer mentioned the matter before a three-judge bench led by CJI Kant, asserting that "experiment" was being done on students, and that the notice, which was also revoked subsequently, was contrary to the top court's order. "You are absolutely right. There is no question of taking action against our youth.. We have passed a clear order," the CJI stated.

"We are surprised how can the magistrate issue a notice when we have already annulled.. No penal action against any student. It was a clear-cut order," added the CJI

CJI Kant asked the lawyer to place the facts on record and said, "We will ask for explanation. Let him explain."

The bench also comprised Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana.

A student of Gautam Buddha University (GBU), who allegedly participated in a CJP-led protest at Delhi's Jantar Mantar, was served a notice by the Greater Noida Executive Magistrate seeking a personal bond of Rs 5 lakh for maintaining peace, officials said on Tuesday, adding that the order was later revoked.

The student, Akshat Tripathi, however, denied the allegations and claimed that he had participated in the protest peacefully and was not attending university classes at the time.

The notice was issued on September 4 under Section 130 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).

WINDOWS

ED raids K'taka 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.

Man beaten to death on suspicion of cow theft

INDORE: A 35-year-old man was beaten to death here on suspicion of cow theft and the assailants are absconding, police said on Wednesday. The incident took place under the Lasudia police station area, said Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police Amarendra Singh. A man's cow went missing. During the search, it was found with Chander (35). Suraj Jat and three others allegedly assaulted him, accusing him of stealing the animal. Chander was admitted to the Government Maharaja Yashwantrao Hospital in Indore where he died late Tuesday night. A case of murder was registered against Jat, who already has a criminal record, and the others, the official said, adding that probe was on.

SI suspended after man drinks toilet cleaner

MEERUT : A police post in-charge in Meerut has been suspended for alleged negligence after a man brought there for questioning in a motorcycle theft case purportedly drank a chemical substance kept in the premises' toilet, officials said. The incident took place under the Kharkhoda police station area, they said. Kithore Circle Officer Vishwajyoti Rai said Mithun, a resident of Noorpur in Ghaziabad, had been brought to the Dhir Khera police post for questioning in connection with a motorcycle theft case.

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

CM orders use of bulldozers against illegal construction

Hans News Service
New Delhi

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

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.

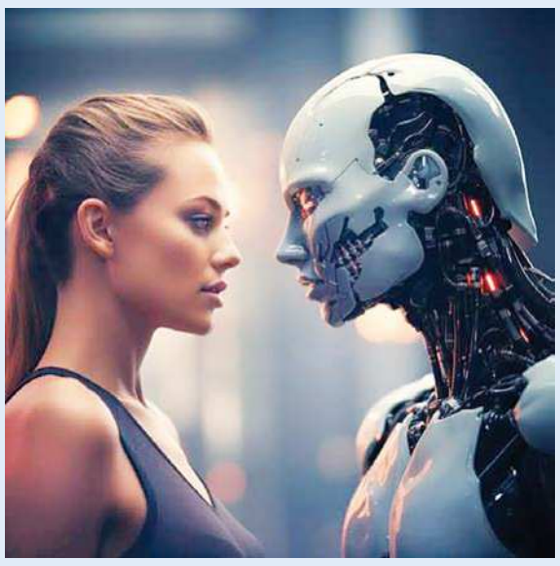
Gupta also directed officials to conduct intensive inspections of all paying guest (PG) hostels across Delhi and take action against illegal construction found on the premises. "Conduct intensive inspections of all PG hostels in Delhi and take action against illegal construction," the Chief Minister 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." -- ANI

'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.

SIR row: 'No notice issued to Bharat Ratna Rao'

BENGALURU: GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao on Wednesday said that no notice was issued to Bharat Ratna awardee Prof C N R Rao in connection with the ongoing SIR of the electoral roll, as appeared in a section of the media.

In a statement, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) said there was a discrepancy in the name of Rao but instead of issuing any notice, the Booth Level Officer recommended including his name.

The GBA said as part of the SIR, Enumeration Forms were respectfully delivered in person to Rao and his family members at their residence by the State SVEEP Nodal Officer, along with the Commissioner of the Bengaluru West City Corporation. The required information was also duly filled in.

The GBA said Rao was enrolled as a voter in Part No-129, Serial No-431 of the 76-Malleshwaram Assembly Constituency in the electoral roll of 2002. "At that time, his name was recorded as 'Rama'. At present, he is registered as a voter in Part No-59, Serial No-187 of the 157-Malleshwaram Assembly Constituency, under the name 'Prof CN Rao M'. Accordingly, his name has also been included in the draft electoral roll," the statement said.

US destroys five Iranian oil tankers

TEXAS: US Central Command (CENTCOM) said that its forces destroyed five Iranian crude oil carriers in the Middle East , noting them as retaliatory strikes after the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) targeted an American Navy warship with ballistic missiles twice over a 48-hour period. According to a statement by CENTCOM, the targeted American warship successfully evaded both attempted missile strikes and suffered no personnel injuries or operational damage, remaining on active patrol in regional waters. "U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) forces destroyed five Iranian crude oil carriers, Sept. 8, after the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) targeted a U.S. Navy warship with ballistic missiles twice over the past two days. The U.S. warship successfully evaded the attempted Iranian attacks and continued to patrol regional waters.

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

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

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 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 convenor. Seven-member teams, comprising a minister, an organisational general secretary and five senior leaders, will coordinate the campaign in each state.

NO DISCIPLINARY ACTION ASSURED

Punjab govt employees call off pen-down strike

The development came after representatives of the Punjab Sanjha Mulzam Manch held talks with Chief Secretary Sinha

Hans News Service
Chandigarh

PUNJAB Ministerial employees on Wednesday called off their pen-down strike after an assurance by the chief secretary that show-cause notices for disciplinary action against them will be withdrawn.

The development came after representatives of the Punjab Sanjha Mulzam Manch on Wednesday held talks with Chief Secretary K A P Sinha here.

During the meeting, Sinha assured them that the show-cause notices will be withdrawn, the employees' representatives said.

The employees on Tuesday had announced an extension of their pen-down till September 11, while the state government decided to implement 'no work, no pay'.

Protesting employees were demanding withdrawal of show-cause notices for disciplinary action over "unauthorised" absence on August 27 when they went on a statewide strike.

Employees on August 27 were on leave. They were not "unauthorised" absent, the leader said.

It is a small victory for employees, the leader added.

A pen-down strike on Tuesday adversely affected the administrative work in government offices in the state.

The deadlock began August 27 when over three lakh government employees went on a statewide strike by availing mass casual leave, pressing the state government to accept their various demands, including release of their pending 18 per cent Dearness Allowance.

A meeting between the Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and the representatives of employees' bodies could not take place on August 27 as Mann made it clear that talks could only be held after they call off their strike.

On September 4, the Punjab government announced a DA hike for around 85,000 government employees recruited after July 17, 2020, from 42 per cent to 60 per cent.

The decision covers employees recruited under the post-2020 regime whose pay is based on the central government's 7th Pay Commission pattern.

However, it will not benefit employees recruited before July 17, 2020.

Employees remained adamant on their demand for clearance of DA arrears as per directions of the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

Folk singer Rajwada dies in road accident

Hans News Service
Mathura

FOLK singer Rinku Rajwada, known for performing the traditional Rasiya folk genre and devotional songs, was killed in a road accident in Mathura district, police said on Wednesday. Rajwada, 31, was travelling on his motorcycle from Barauli to Farah through the Kanjouli Ghat North Bypass in the Baldev area on Tuesday when an unidentified vehicle hit his bike, Superintendent of Police (Rural) Suresh Chandra Rawat said. The singer, a resident of Midhakur village in Agra district, suffered serious injuries in the accident and died due to excessive blood loss, the officer said.

Police were examining CCTV footage from the area to identify the vehicle and its driver, Rawat said.

The body was handed over to the family after post-mortem examination late Tuesday evening, he said.

The officer said Rajwada was not wearing a helmet at the time of the accident and suffered a severe head injury.

Rajwada performed Rasiya songs as well as devotional music programmes.

He used to perform at bhajan sandhya and other religious events at different places as part of a troupe led by Karan Sharma of Hathras, according to those familiar with his work.

He was well known among fellow artistes, they said.

Businessman beaten to death in Kanpur

Kumar was brutally killed with a brick by four youths after he objected to one of them urinating on a road in an upscale locality

Hans News Service
Kanpur

A 47-year-old businessman was allegedly beaten to death with a brick by four youths after he objected to one of them urinating on a road in an upscale locality here, with CCTV footage revealing the shocking sequence of events, police said on Wednesday.

The incident took place around midnight near Om Crossing in Kakadeo when Amit Kumar, a resident of Naveen Nagar, was returning home after closing his shop, Police Commissioner Raghubir Lal told PTI.

According to the CCTV footage now in police possession, four youths were drinking on the roadside when one of them allegedly began urinating on the road.

Kumar objected, following which an argument broke out and the youth allegedly abused him.

Three others accompanying him then joined the assault and surrounded Kumar, repeatedly hitting him on the head with a brick, leaving him critically injured, Lal said.

When some bystanders attempted to intervene, the attackers allegedly threatened them and told them to leave or face a similar fate, he said.

"The CCTV footage has revealed the shocking sequence of events. We have launched a massive search for the accused and are making efforts to arrest them at the earliest," Lal said.

Two of the alleged attackers have been identified as Jitendra Srivastava and Kushal Srivastava, while efforts are underway to identify the other two with the help of CCTV footage, the police commissioner said.

Local residents alerted police through the emergency helpline 112 and informed Kumar's family following the assault.

Kumar was initially taken to a nearby private hospital and later shifted to Anurag Hospital, where he remained under treatment for two days. His condition subsequently deteriorated and he died on Monday night.

Kumar's family reached the post-mortem house and demanded the immediate arrest of all the accused. His body was handed over to the family after the post-mortem examination.

Ambedkar statue desecrated in Pb

Hans News Service
Ludhiana

UNIDENTIFIED persons allegedly desecrated a statue of Dr B R Ambedkar at Jalandhar Bypass Chowk here, prompting various Valmiki organisations to call for a Ludhiana bandh on Wednesday, police said.

The incident sparked anger among members of the Valmiki community.

Heavy police deployment was made at several places in Ludhiana following the bandh call.

Members of various Valmiki organisations staged a dharna near the statue and blocked a stretch of the National Highway 44 at Jalandhar Bypass on Wednesday.

The blockade severely affected traffic movement towards Delhi and Jalandhar, with long queues of trucks, buses, cars and other vehicles forming on both sides of the highway.

Commuters were left stranded and faced inconvenience due to the blockade.

A truck driver said he was on his way to deliver goods to a factory but got stuck in the traffic, while a bus passenger travelling to Amritsar said he was waiting for the blockade to be lifted.

Police said efforts were underway to identify and arrest those responsible and appealed to people to maintain peace.

Monsoon activity weakens in Raj

Hans News Service
Jaipur

MONSOON activity has weakened across Rajasthan, with the Meteorological Department forecasting largely dry weather in the state over the next week.

Weak monsoon conditions are likely to prevail over most parts of the Jaipur, Bharatpur, Ajmer, Kota and Udaipur divisions in eastern Rajasthan for the next four days, the department said. Most parts of the Jodhpur and Bikaner divisions in western Rajasthan are also expected to witness weak monsoon conditions for the next five days.

A fresh low-pressure area is likely to form over north coastal Andhra Pradesh and adjoining south Odisha coast near the Bay of Bengal on September 11, the department said.

Under its influence, a fresh spell of light to moderate rainfall may begin in some parts of eastern Rajasthan from September 12, it said.

Leopard spotted in Kota had escaped from zoo

Hans News Service
Kota

THE leopard, which ventured into Chattar Villas (CV) Garden in the Nayapura area of Kota city on Tuesday, had escaped from an enclosure inside Kota Zoo, an official said on Wednesday. The leopard was rescued safely after a three-hour operation and was put under observation in Abheda Biological Park in the city, he added. The two-and-a-half-year-old female leopard -- rescued earlier from the forest and was kept in an enclosure in the zoo -- was spotted in its enclosure till Monday-Tuesday night. However, it escaped in the early morning hours on Tuesday and wandered into the CV Garden, chief conservator of forest, Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve T Mohan Raj said. Following the escape, Raj ordered an inquiry committee headed by the DFO to submit a report within seven days, the CCF said.

Notably, panic gripped morning walkers and fitness enthusiasts in Kota on Tuesday

morning after a full-grown leopard was spotted in the crowded public garden.

The park, frequented daily by local residents for yoga, exercise, and morning walks, was thrown into chaos as visitors spotted the big cat roaming through the green space.

As visitors raised shouts, the animal climbed a nearby 40-foot-high tree. Large crowds gathered outside the garden boundary as news of the wild intruder spread rapidly throughout the city, hr said. A joint emergency team comprising forest department personnel and local police cordoned off the area and successfully rescued the animal by tranquillising it atop the tree, he said.

SP MLAs protest against BJP over local issues

Hans News Service
Raebareli

SAMAJWADI Party MLAs staged a protest outside the Raebareli collectorate against the ruling BJP on Wednesday, alleging that local issues were being ignored by the district panchayat, ahead of a District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (Disha) meeting attended by Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi.

Gandhi, who is also the Congress MP from Raebareli, arrived at the collec-

torate around 11 am along with Amethi MP Kishori Lal Sharma for the meeting. District Magistrate Sarneet Kaur Broca welcomed them.

The two SP legislators Rahul Lodhi and Shyam Sundar Bhati arrived at the collectorate carrying placards and posters listing issues they wanted to highlight at the meeting. Their posters mentioned school closures, alleged encroachment by land mafias, false cases, problems faced by farmers, unemployment and poor basic amenities. Speaking to reporters before the meeting, Lodhi alleged that development work was not being carried out in the district and accused the BJP-led government of damaging children's future.

"Most of the schools have been closed in my constituency, Harachandpur. Land is being encroached upon in the district, but there is no one to speak up. Every person and every section of society is troubled," he alleged.

Anganwadi centres key to building developed India: Yogi Adityanath

Hans News Service
Varanasi

Adityanath said the government's focus on nutrition and strengthening anganwadi centres reflected Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of laying a strong foundation for India's development

UTTAR Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday said anganwadi centres and basic education schools will serve as the foundation for building a healthy, educated and self-reliant India.

He was speaking at the launch of the ninth Poshan Maah programme here.

The Rashtriya Poshan Maah (National Nutrition Month) is observed every September as a dedicated platform to mobilise communities and reinforce key nutrition, health and caregiving behaviour among pregnant women, lactating mothers, children, adolescents, and their families.

Adityanath said the government's focus on nutrition and strengthening anganwadi centres reflected Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of laying a strong foundation for India's development.

He said the transformation in the functioning of anganwadi centres in Uttar Pradesh was visible during his visits to districts, where he regularly inspects Bal Vatika facilities and observes activities there.

"The change we see today is the result of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision. He took steps in 2014 to strengthen the foundation of the country, building on the work he had implemented on the ground in Gujarat since 2001," Adityanath said. "The same vision that began in Gujarat in 2001 is today being implemented across the country, and Uttar Pradesh is also moving forward in this direction," he said.

Drawing a parallel with the concept of Ram Rajya, the chief minister said it envisioned a society free from poverty and deprivation, where people were healthy and capable of contributing to the creation of a strong nation.

He questioned why such a vision had not translated into effective ground-level

action before 2014, particularly for poor families, malnourished children and pregnant women whose health was directly linked to India's future.

Adityanath said the launch of the ninth nutrition month, coinciding with the completion of 10 years of the Matru Vandana Yojana, was an opportunity to further strengthen efforts aimed at improving nutrition and maternal and child welfare. Referring to the condition of anganwadi centres before 2017, he said many were in dilapidated and unhygienic conditions, lacked drinking water and toilets, and did not provide hot meals or nutrition supplements on time.

"Before 2017, many anganwadi centres were in a pathetic condition. Children would carry their own mats to sit on; there was no proper drinking water, no toilet and no hot meal," he said.

Rajasthan civic polls; turnout crosses 50pc

Hans News Service
Jaipur

GLITCHES in Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) disrupted polling at several places in Rajasthan on Wednesday as voters lined up to elect councillors in the first phase of urban local body elections, with 50.38 per cent turnout recorded till 1 pm, officials said.

Polling was disrupted at a booth each in Ward 39 of Sujangarh Municipal Council and Ward 52 in Bikaner due to malfunctioning EVMs, according to officials.

In Alwar city, voters expressed anger after an EVM stopped working at a polling booth, while long queues of voters were witnessed in Sawai Madhopur and Jodhpur following technical glitches in EVMs, they said.

Complaints of alleged fake voting also emerged from Wards 16 and 18 in Baran district, Ward 1 in Dudu in Jaipur district, Ward 22 in Bhilwara, Ward 34 in Jalore and Ward 29 in Bharatpur.

The highest turnout till 1 pm was recorded in Sikari municipality in Deeg district, where 81.28 per cent of voters had exercised their franchise. The lowest turnout of 36.67 per cent was recorded in Bhilwara Municipal Corporation. Polling began at 7 am and will continue until 6 pm, the officials said. More than 20,000 candidates are in the fray for 5,393 councillor posts in the first phase, covering 162 urban local bodies -- four municipal corporations, 27 municipal councils and 131 municipalities.

A total of 57,52,278 voters are eligible to exercise their franchise across 7,683 polling stations in the 162 civic bodies. In Jaipur district, voting is being held at 565 polling stations across 18 urban local bodies.

Oxygen cylinder blast in Okhla leaves one dead, 4 injured

Hans News Service
New Delhi

The blast was so intense that a ringing sound continued in our ears for some time and shattered glass windows of nearby buildings

ONE person was killed and four others injured after an oxygen cylinder exploded while it was being unloaded from a truck at a commercial godown in southeast Delhi's Okhla Phase-I on Wednesday, police said.

The deceased was identified as Mohit Singh (35), a helper working with a company which operates from Okhla Phase-I. He was a resident of Jaipur and had reportedly been working with the firm for around three years, police said.

The injured were identified as Umesh, Arvind, Manoj and Pankaj. They were immediately rushed to the AIIMS Trauma Centre for treatment.

According to officials, a PCR call regarding the blast was received at around 10:45 am, following which police and fire department teams reached the spot and secured the area. Three water tenders and a multi-casualty first responder vehicle were also rushed to the site following information about the blast.

Preliminary police inquiry found that the labourers were working for a firm engaged in trading and local distribution of industrial oxygen cylinders, which were intended for medical purposes and gas-cutting work.

The firm's manager, in a statement, said the vehicle carrying the cylinders had arrived at the premises in the morning as part of the firm's routine operations. The workers were in the process of unloading the cylinders and shifting them inside the godown when one of the cylinders fell from the vehicle onto the road.

"An immediate explosion followed. Preliminary inquiry suggests that only one cylinder exploded. The exact technical cause of the blast has not yet been established. The scene, the cylinder, the vehicle and other relevant material will be examined by technical and forensic agencies to determine the precise cause of the explosion," the officer said.

"The blast was so intense that a ringing sound continued in our ears for some time," he said.

The blast was powerful enough to shatter glass windows of nearby buildings, according to eyewitnesses.

Jal Board STP case: Court grants bail to four accused

The latest bail order also comes in the backdrop of Satyendar Jain's earlier legal battle in a separate money-laundering case

Purna Singh
New Delhi

THE Rouse Avenue Court in Delhi on Wednesday has granted bail to four accused in the alleged Delhi Jal Board sewage treatment plant (STP) scam, bringing relief to former board officials and private contractors facing corruption allegations in the case.

Special Judge Digvinay Singh ordered the release on bail of former Delhi Jal Board CEO Udit Prakash Rai, former contractual consultant Ankita Srivastava, AN Enterprises owner Nagendra Yadav and Srijanhar owner Pankaj Verma. Former Delhi minister Satyendar Jain, who is also an accused in the case, had earlier been granted bail by the court.

Jain and the other accused were arrested on August 18 in connection with the case. Challenging Jain's arrest, senior advocate Maninder Singh had argued that the arrest was unlawful because the reasons for taking him into custody were allegedly not communicated to him at the time.

The defence maintained that this amounted to a violation of the arrest safeguards and guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court.

The Anti-Corruption Branch had arrested Jain along with several other individuals in the case.

The list of accused arrested by the agency includes Udit Prakash Rai, former contractual consultant Ankita Srivastava, Nagendra Yadav, proprietor of AN Enterprises, Raja Kumar Kurra, owner of Eurotech Environment Private Limited, and Pankaj Verma, proprietor of Sirjanhar. The latest bail order also comes in the backdrop of Satyendar Jain's earlier legal battle in a separate money-laundering case.

The Enforcement Directorate arrested Jain on May 30, 2022, and he spent 872 days in Tihar Jail in connection with that case.

He was subsequently granted bail by the trial court on October 18, 2024, and walked out of jail.

With four more accused now granted bail in the Delhi Jal Board STP case, the proceedings will continue on the allegations surrounding the tender process and the ACB's claims of corruption and favouritism.

Emergency treatment to EWS patients

SC slams hospital for not responding to notice

Hans News Service
New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Wednesday rapped Yatharth Super Speciality Hospital for not responding to a contempt notice issued by it over preparation of a standard operating procedure (SOP) for providing emergency medical care to EWS patients.

A bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and Shree Chandrashekhar sought reply from the hospital in two weeks.

The top court noted that the hospital in its affidavit stated that it had not been served with any notice to participate.

"This statement is contrary to the office report dated April 2, 2026, which clearly records that notice had been served. The statement made in the reply is, therefore, ex facie false. Accordingly, we draw up formal contempt proceedings against the said respondent through its Medical Superintendent," the bench said.

During the hearing, the top court was informed by amicus curiae and senior advocate Sanjay Jain that only 12 hospitals have participated in the meeting out of 52.

He informed the apex court that a revised standard operating procedure (SOP) has been filed as per the court's direction.

"It is stated that only 12 hospitals participated in the consultation process. Senior counsel appearing on behalf of several hospitals submit that they wish to file their responses and suggestions to the revised SOP," the bench said while posting the matter for hearing on September 30.

The top court was hearing a plea related to its 2018 judgment which held that hospitals which received land at concessional rates must provide free treatment to EWS patients, to the extent of 10 per cent at in-patient departments and 25 per cent at out-patient departments.

Dariyapur gang member arrested

Hans News Service
New Delhi

AN alleged member of the Sonu Dariyapur gang was arrested with an illegal country-made pistol, leading to the busting of an arms manufacturing unit in Uttar Pradesh's Aligarh, Delhi Police said on Wednesday.

The accused, Anurag alias Hunny (22), was apprehended on September 2 following a tip-off that he would arrive in Narela by road carrying an illegal weapon, they said.

A country-made pistol was recovered from his possession, following which a case was registered at Narela Industrial Area police station. Subsequently, he was arrested.

During interrogation, Anurag disclosed that he had procured the weapon from an illegal arms supplier operating from Talaspur Khurd in Aligarh. Based on the disclosure, a police team conducted a raid at a house in Talaspur Khurd, where an illegal arms manufacturing setup was allegedly found on the rooftop. Seven additional country-made pistols and 20 live rounds of 8 mm calibre were recovered from the premises, the police said. Six of the seven pistols were found in semi-finished condition, indicating that illegal manufacturing of firearms was underway at the site. With the recovery of the weapon from Anurag, the total seizure includes eight country-made pistols and 20 live rounds. Anurag, a resident of Jain Colony near Barwala in Delhi, has two previous involvements. Further investigation is underway.

HC SEEKS REPLY ON DU HOSTEL PIL

Hans News Service
New Delhi

THE Delhi High Court on Wednesday issued notice and sought responses from the Union Government, Delhi Government and Delhi University on a public interest litigation seeking adequate hostel facilities for students across colleges run by or affiliated with the University of Delhi.

The PIL has been filed in the backdrop of the recent Satya Niketan building collapse near Delhi University's South Campus, where a five-storeyed building being used as a paying guest accommodation collapsed, resulting in the deaths of several college students and injuries to others.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia sought the response of the authorities on the plea filed by Vinod Jakhar. Advocate Vimal Tyagi appeared for the petitioner.

The Court, however, questioned the inclusion of the University Grants Commission as a respondent in the petition and directed that the UGC be deleted from the array of parties.

Observing that a public interest litigation was a "very serious business", the Bench directed the petitioner's counsel to file an amended memo of parties within one week.

The matter will now be heard on September 25, when another PIL concerning the Satya Niketan building collapse incident is also listed before the High Court.

Another PG landlord held, building repairs probed

Hans News Service
New Delhi

A PG operator has been arrested in connection with the collapse of a five-storey building in Delhi's Satya Niketan that left seven people dead, as police are probing the role of the leaseholders of the building on lease and the construction and repair work carried out there, sources said on Wednesday.

Sudhanshu, one of the two business partners running the 'Hostel Daze' PG, was arrested during the investigation and is being questioned by police, sources said. Police sources said the building owner Mahesh had leased the property to Sudhanshu and his business partner Shubham Tyagi in August 2025. The duo subsequently started operating the premises as a paying guest accommodation under the name 'Hostel Daze'.

Tyagi is currently absconding and efforts are underway to trace him, the sources said. A labour contractor, Sanoj, has already been apprehended in connection with the case. He is being brought from Kasganj in Uttar Pradesh to Delhi for questioning over the construction and repair work carried out at the building. The development comes as investigators scrutinise the rent agreement under which the PG was being operated. According to a police source, the agreement stated that the PG operators would not be responsible for any "casualties or risk" to tenants.

2 shooters injured in Rohini gunfight

Hans News Service
New Delhi

TWO alleged shooters linked to gangster Himanshu Bhau's gang were injured in a gunfight with Delhi Police in Rohini, while three suspects, including a juvenile, were apprehended on Tuesday night, police sources said.

The sources said that the accused were allegedly involved in the murder of a property dealer named Pramod in Narela when he was going to gym.

The encounter took place when a team of the Rohini district police's Special Staff intercepted the suspects in connection with the murder, they said.

According to sources, over 10 bullet rounds were fired from both sides during the exchange of fire.

"The two accused, identified as Deepak Pahalwan and Nitik, sustained bullet injuries in their legs and were taken to a hospital for treatment. A juvenile allegedly associated with the gang was also apprehended," the source told PTI.

Police said the killing was suspected to have been carried out after the victim allegedly failed to pay an extortion demand. Following the murder, police teams were working to trace the suspects.

Acting on specific information about their whereabouts, the Special Staff team laid a trap in Rohini, the source said.

When the suspects allegedly opened fire at the police team, the personnel retaliated, resulting in the encounter. Further investigation is underway to establish the motive and identify others involved in the murder and its alleged links to Bhau.

Bizman's home burgled of valuables worth crores

Hans News Service

NEW DELHI: A businessman's residence in north Delhi's Timarpur was allegedly burgled of cash, gold and diamond jewellery worth crores while he was in Australia with his family, police sources said. Two domestic helps, who allegedly had keys to the house, are under the scanner and have been untraceable since the incident, they said.

The incident came to light when the businessman's nephew reached the first-floor residence on Mall Road and found its doors open, the source said. "On entering the premises, he found the rooms in disarray and cupboards open. Cash and valuables kept inside the cupboards were missing, following which police were informed," the source said. The businessman had left for Australia with his family on September 2. His younger brother lives in another portion of the same flat, they added.

16 killed in 5 building collapses in Delhi this year

Hans News Service
New Delhi

The underlying factors leading to the collapse of all the buildings are common: unregulated and unauthorised construction, additional floors, ageing structures and a lack of structural assessments

THE five-storey building that collapsed in Satya Niketan is the fifth in the city this year, the seven people killed in the congested colony near Delhi's University's South Campus taking to 16 the number of those who lost their lives in the tragedies.

According to official figures and police statements, the 16 deaths have come from three incidents - six in Saket in May, three in Rohini in July and seven in the latest incident on September 6.

The underlying factors leading to the collapse of all the buildings are common, said officials. These include unregulated and unauthorised construction, additional floors, ageing structures and a lack of structural assessments. Add to the list inadequate precautions during repair work and monsoon-related water damage to foundations, walls and basements and the picture of negligence is complete.

On May 30, a multi-storey commercial building housing a coaching centre, cafes and offices in south Delhi's Saket area crumbled like a house of cards. Like in Satya Niketan, most of the six killed were students. Eight people were injured.

A magisterial inquiry ordered by the Delhi government later held the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) "primarily responsible" for the collapse.

It found that illegal third and fourth floors had been added to the building and that the civic body failed to act on a complaint about the unauthorised construction received more than two months earlier.

The inquiry also found that MCD officials created "fabricated" records after the collapse to suggest they had already taken action.

The MCD suspended two engineers, while police arrested the building owner and two contractors.

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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 lull 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.

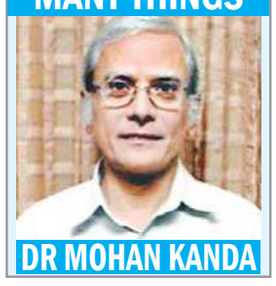
Tensions seem to be escalating. It looks like conflict will stay that way for some time. The reason is that US President Donald Trump is unwilling to fight the war all-out, with American troops on the ground. This is in tune with his opposition to the 'forever wars' that the US has fought many a time. 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 investment in electric vehicles, public transport, biofuels, natural gas, solar and wind power can gradually reduce the demand for imported petroleum. At the same time, domestic exploration and production should be encouraged through stable policies, faster clearances and appropriate incentives, without compromising environmental safeguards. The long-term answer lies in reducing the economy's structural dependence on fossil fuels. India must expand renewable energy, battery storage, green hydrogen, and other emerging technologies. A broader and more resilient energy mix would not only reduce the import bill but also protect the economy from wars, sanctions, and volatile global oil prices

Raising a toast to the mesmerising culinary art

TALKING OF MANY THINGS



DR MOHAN KANDA

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, represents 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, 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.

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.

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 book is a culinary reference work that contains a collection of recipes and instructions for food preparation. Cookbooks serve as comprehensive guides that may include cooking techniques, ingredient information, nutritional data, and cultural context related to culinary practices.

The pleasures of good spread have often been the subject matter of praise in poetry, prose and cultures across the world. Perhaps the most popular among them is the amazing variety and dimension of the dishes prepared for a royal wedding in the yesteryear runaway cult Telugu movie Maya Bazaar.

Bob Hope, the well-known American comedian, actor, entertainer and producer, acts as a hunter in one his movies titled 'Call me Bwana'. In one scene, his mother-in-law prepares breakfast for both and serves it to him. Noting his expression after tasting one morsel of the food, she exclaims that, after all, she is an interior decorator and not a cook. And Bob wryly retorts, "Just think what you are doing to mine!"

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

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

REKHA BOYAPALLI

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 could be prioritised for first-time or first-generation beneficiary families. If adequate candidates are unavailable, those opportunities should flow back to the wider

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 cautious 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.

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.

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 imperfect 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)

MEDLEY

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

Apropos '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

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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

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

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 preparations 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 Ankurarpanam at 7 pm on September 14, followed by the Dwajarohanam ceremony between 5.30 pm and 7 pm on September 15 in Meena Lagnam.

Following Dwajarohanam, 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 administration 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 Salakatla 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.

LIQUOR TRANSPORT CASE

Govt sanctions ED prosecution of former APSBCL MD

- ED alleges Vasudeva Reddy engineered unauthorized centralised transport policy and inflated costs
- Govt says prima facie material exists for prosecution in money-laundering case

Hans News Service
Amaravati

THE state government has accorded sanction for the prosecution of former Andhra Pradesh State Beverages Corporation Limited (APSBCL) managing director Dontireddy Vasudeva Reddy in a money-laundering case linked to alleged irregularities in the liquor transportation tender process.

The state government on Wednesday granted permission for prosecution of Vasudeva Reddy in a case registered by the Enforcement Directorate under Section 197(1) of the CrPC, corresponding to Section 218 of BNSS (in connection with ECIR/HYZO/17/2026).

The ED case followed FIR No. 11/2026, registered by the APCID on February 10, against Vasudeva Reddy and others in connection with alleged irregularities in the APSBCL liquor transportation tender process. Vasudeva Reddy was appointed managing director of APSBCL in September 2019 and was subsequently appointed commissioner of distilleries and breweries in the State government.

The vigilance and enforcement investigation, as referred to by the ED, alleged that Vasudeva Reddy, in collusion with private individuals and alleged benami entities, replaced the existing decentralised district-wise liquor transportation system with a centralised state-level transportation policy without obtaining the required government approval.

The existing mechanism functioned through district-level committees and agreements. The ED investigation alleged that the decentralised system was dismantled and replaced with a centralised transportation arrangement based on allegedly false and misleading recommendations regarding transportation rates and labour-handling issues.

According to the the government, the centralised policy was implemented without categorical government approval for deviating from the existing framework. The government alleged that repeated extensions were granted to the transportation contracts awarded to Sigma Supply Chain Solutions Private Limited (SSCSPL) beyond their original tenure without mandatory government approval or intimation to the competent authorities.

The alleged manipulation resulted in transportation costs increasing from an average of about Rs 19.68 per carton box to as high as Rs 35.57 per carton box, causing an estimated wrongful loss of Rs 195.33 crore to the government exchequer, according to the material examined by the government.

The ED also alleged that proceeds generated through the transportation contracts were layered and diverted through shell entities and alleged fake vendors, including Bonvour, Casta Pink, Ezylod Network Pvt. Ltd. and RK Logistics, for allegedly concealing the origin of funds and distributing kickbacks and commissions among the accused, their associates and relatives.

In the final phase of the APSBCL transportation arrangement, the contract was allegedly awarded to Prasaad Transports, which the investigation described as a front entity allegedly used by Vasudeva Reddy's brother-in-law, Vijaya Narasimha Reddy Marella (VNR), to participate in the tender process.

The order said the investigation found that the firm allegedly lacked the required experience, infrastructure and operational capability for liquor transportation but was positioned as the successful bidder through alleged manipulation of the tender process. The ED alleged that Vasudeva Reddy, while serving as APSBCL managing director, facilitated the award of the contract to the entity, enabling alleged unlawful financial gains to himself, his relatives and associates.

The Enforcement Directorate stated that sufficient material had been collected during the PMLA investigation indicating Vasudeva Reddy's alleged involvement in money laundering. He was arrested by the ED on June 11, 2026, under Section 19 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act and was subsequently remanded to judicial custody by the Special Court dealing with PMLA cases.

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.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

e-OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

Name of work with location, cost of work and Earnest money: Cess Repair and widening of UP & DN line on DLI-UMB (DUK) Section in jurisdiction of Sr.DEN-I/DLI.

Approx. Cost: Rs. 7,69,99,586.38/-

Earnest Money: Rs. 15,40,000/-

Completion Period: 09 Months.

Date and time of submission of tender and opening of tender: Upto 15:00 hrs on 06.10.2026, opening of e-tender after 15:00 hrs on 06.10.2026.

Website particulars, published-tender, notice location etc. complete details of tender can be seen and web site where the tender form can be downloaded: Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. **www.ireps.gov.in**

Similar nature of work: Any civil engineering work involving earth work in banks/cutting.

No.: 128-W/280/Tender Notice/26-27/W-I (NIT-46) Dated: 09.09.2026 3118/26

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

The Divisional Engineer/IV, Northern Railway, Delhi Division for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender on prescribed form for the following work

1.	Name of work with its location	Standardization of turnouts & maintenance of track infrastructure in various yard in the section under ADEN/JIND. (NIT-40-2026-27-W-IV)
2.	Approx. Cost of work	(1) Rs. 2,29,70,020.81 /-
3.	Earnest Money	(1) Rs. 4,59,400.00 /-
4.	Date and Starting time for filling e-tender & tender opening time	Starting time for filling e-tender is **Date: 17.09.2026** at 15:00 hrs. & Tender opening time is **Date: 01/10/2026** at 15:00 hrs.
5.	Website particulars, published e-tender, notice location etc. complete details of tender can be seen and web site where the tender form can be downloaded	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. **www.ireps.gov.in**

No: 128-W/260/Tender Notice/NIT-40-2026-27-W-IV Dated: 09.09.2026

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3110/26

BRS leaders take police 'atrocities' row to Governor

Hans News Service
Hyderabad

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

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 Sabitha Indra Reddy was presented to the Governor.

KTR stated that the delegation explained how police created a Dusshasana 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.

Mahesh clears 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.

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 Assembly 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 demanded 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.

KIND ATTENTION RAIL PASSENGERS!

SPECIAL EXPRESS TRAIN-2026

In order to clear extra rush of passengers, Northern Railway has decided to run the following Special Train as under:-

04032/04031 Delhi Jn - Varanasi Jn - Delhi Jn Reserved Special Express Train — 04 Trips

Train No.: 04032 ARR.	Train No.: 04032 DEP.	STATIONS	Train No.: 04031 ARR.	Train No.: 04031 DEP.
----	21:10	Delhi Jn	11:45	----
21:35	21:40	New Delhi	11:15	11:20
22:30	22:32	Ghaziabad	10:08	10:10
23:06	23:08	Hapur	09:08	09:10
00:45	00:55	Moradabad	07:30	07:40
02:18	02:20	Bareilly	05:57	05:59
03:28	03:30	Shahjahanpur Jn.	05:00	05:02
04:13	04:15	Hardoi	04:03	04:05
06:30	06:40	Lucknow	02:10	02:20
09:40	09:45	Ayodhya Cantt	23:40	23:45
13:10	13:12	Jaunpur Jn.	21:18	21:20
15:00	----	Varanasi Jn.	----	20:15

DAYS OF RUN: 04032 Ex Delhi Jn on 10.09.2026 & 12.09.2026 and **04031 Ex Varanasi Jn** on 11.09.2026 & 13.09.2026.

ACCOMMODATION: 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General.

For any other information passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App.

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NORTHERN RAILWAY

visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

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2002 is still fresh in my mind. It has been almost 25 years, but if anyone asks me what my number one achievement in golf, or the number one achievement in my career, is, it is still winning the gold medal

-Former Asian Games gold medallist Shiv Kapur

Sports Nation

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 medallist 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 harassing 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 cooperation 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 issued 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 competent 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 consultation 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 rekigious 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 Hans India

"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

Business

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. JoakimLandholm, 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.

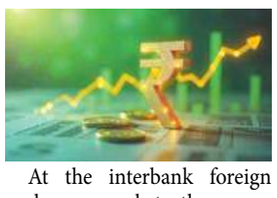
India VIX climbed more than 6 per cent, reflecting increased hedging activity and growing caution over the near-term outlook, he added. The BSE SmallCap Select index declined 0.59 per cent and the MidCap Select index dipped 0.52 per cent. Among the BSE sectoral indices, IT tanked the most by 3.21 per 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 pressurised 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 34paise 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.

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.

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 million customers.

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**

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.

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 Takkallapally, 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.

O P Bhatt steps down as Coforge chairman after board report row

NEW DELHI: Coforge Chairman and Independent Director O P Bhatt has resigned with immediate effect after an internal audit raised concerns over the handling and presentation of a board evaluation report, including the non-disclosure of certain material information, the IT services company said on Wednesday. Coforge clarified that the board evaluation exercise conducted in March-April 2026 for the previous year did not relate to the company's financial statements or financial matters. It also said the issue had no bearing on its operations or business performance and

did not affect its near-, mid- or long-term guidance.

As part of its audit plan for the second quarter of FY26, the company's internal auditor reviewed the process followed for the board evaluation exercise conducted under Bhatt's guidance and the resulting Board Evaluation Report presented by him to the board. The review identified concerns over how the report had been dealt with and presented.

Coforge shares tank over 5 pc as Chairman Bhatt resigns New Delhi, Sep 9 (PTI) Shares of IT firm Coforge tumbled over 5 per cent on Wednesday after its Chairperson O P Bhatt resigned abruptly from the company after an internal audit raised concerns over the manner in which a 'board evaluation report' was handled. The stock tanked 5.24 per cent to end at Rs 1,846.90 on the BSE. During the day, it dropped 8.67 per cent to Rs 1,780.10.

TG govt, Zepto partner to set up 5 rest centres for gig workers in Hyd

NEW DELHI: The Telangana government and quick commerce platform Zepto have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish five dedicated rest and amenity centres for gig and platform workers across Hyderabad. Named 'Project PRAGATI Centres', these facilities will be platform-agnostic, catering to last-mile delivery personnel across various sectors, including food delivery, quick commerce, e-commerce, and logistics. Under the agreement signed with the Cyberabad Municipal Corporation, Zepto will fund and maintain the five centres on an ongoing basis, the company said in a statement.

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 opportunities 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 Khandelwal, 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.

Entertainment

'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 Pugazhendi and produced by Elred Kumar of RS Infotainment is ready for an exclusive release in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Hindi.

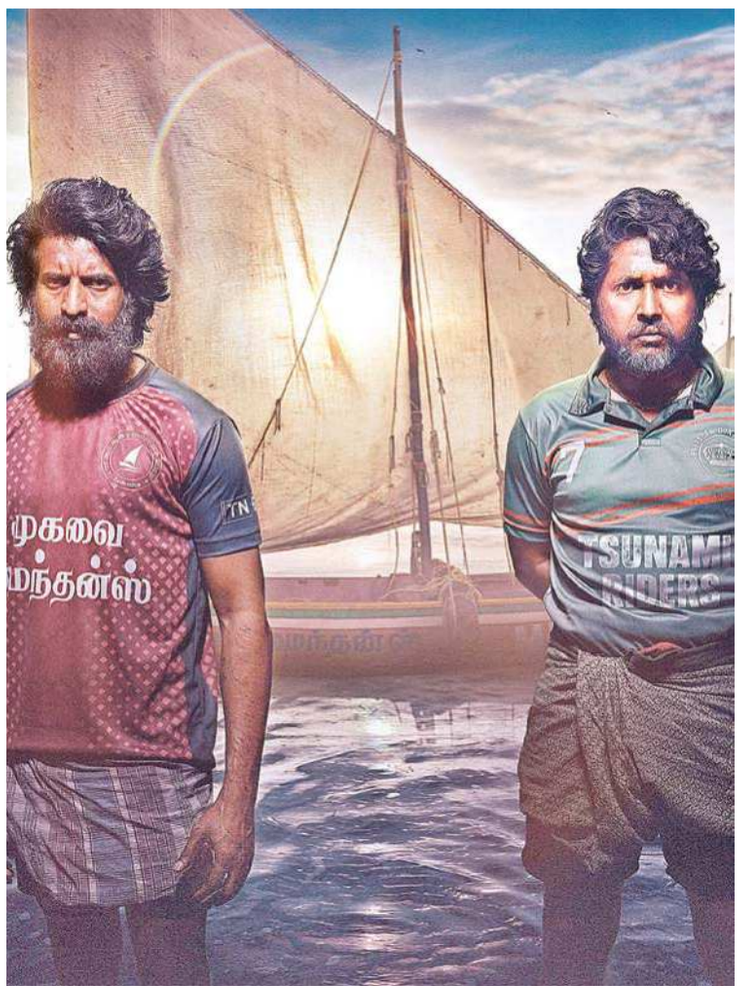
The film has cleared censor with U/A certificate. The authorities were quite happy with the film especially with the boat sequence which was shot realistically in the sea.

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 Pranesh 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 Kamaneeyam Jeevitham' trailer promises love, family emotions and thrills

The trailer of Kalyanam Kamaneeyam 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.