



Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh speaking to the media in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday

National conference to focus on ‘India–The World’s Next Tourism Opportunity’

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

VISAKHAPATNAM is set to host a national conference ‘41st Indian Association of Tour Operators’ (IATO), with key discussions on the use of artificial intelligence and advanced technology in tourism along with carbon audit registration.

Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh announced that the prestigious conference will be held in Visakhapatnam from September 10 to 12.

Addressing a media conference in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday, the minister unveiled the details of the three-day conference and highlighted its significance for Andhra Pradesh’s tourism sector being held for the first time.

Minister Kandula Durgesh said the IATO is organising the national conference with the objective of accelerating the growth of inbound tourism in India. More than 1,000 representatives from the tourism sector, including leading tour operators, policymakers and industry leaders from across the country, are expected to participate in the conference, which is being organised under the theme ‘India – The World’s Next Tourism Opportunity’.

The minister said it was a matter of great pride for Visakhapatnam to host the IATO, one of the country’s leading organisations promoting inbound tourism that has a strong network of

more than 2,068 members and delegates associated with the tourism industry.

He said the conference would provide Andhra Pradesh with an important platform to showcase its enormous tourism potential before national and international stakeholders.

The event would help place the state’s coastline stretching over 1,000 kilometres, rich spiritual heritage, scenic Araku Valley, vibrant tribal culture, historic Buddhist sites and abundant natural beauty prominently on the global tourism map.

Expressing confidence in the outcome of the conference, Minister Kandula Durgesh said IATO representatives would play a crucial role as a bridge between Andhra Pradesh and international tourists.

Through stronger partnerships with leading tour operators and tourism stakeholders, the state would be able to attract greater international tourist arrivals, investments and employment opportunities.

The minister said the state had attracted tourism investments worth around Rs.20,000 crore during the last two years. In Visakhapatnam alone, permissions have been granted for 16 tourism projects involving investments of Rs.5,529 crore. These projects are expected to add around 950 new rooms and generate direct employment opportunities for nearly 10,000 people. The Andhra Pradesh government is

working towards creating an additional 50,000 rooms across the state by 2029 to encourage tourists to extend their stay and improve accommodation facilities at major tourist destinations, he informed.

Minister Kandula Durgesh stated that the government is giving utmost importance to the upcoming Godavari Pushkaram and is preparing to organise the massive spiritual event in an eco-friendly and plastic-free manner across six districts, drawing inspiration from the large-scale arrangements made for the Kumbh Mela.

Special tent cities and homestay facilities are developed to accommodate devotees.

He said that a major Buddhist tourism circuit was being developed by connecting Amaravati, Thotlakonda, Bojjanakonda and Nagarjunakonda. The initiative is aimed at attracting the global Buddhist population, estimated at around 600 million, and positioning Andhra Pradesh as a major destination for international Buddhist tourism. He said a special Cabinet Sub-Committee had also been constituted to ensure the speedy resolution of issues related to land allocation and statutory permissions involving departments such as endowments, forest, irrigation and roads and buildings. Several long-pending issues concerning tourism development have already been resolved through coordinated action, he added.

A tech-driven system to ease mobilisation of crop loans for farmers

- Developed in partnership with the Central government’s AgriStack digital ecosystem, the initiative aims to mobilise agricultural credit faster
- The initiative is expected to mark a major transformation in agricultural credit delivery in Anakapalli district by reducing paperwork and improving transparency

VASU POTNURU
ANAKAPALLI

IN a concrete step towards strengthening digital agriculture and ensuring faster access to institutional credit for farmers, a pilot initiative of a digital Kisan Credit Card (KCC) loan disbursement system was flagged off in Anakapalli.

The innovative initiative, developed in partnership with the Central Government’s AgriStack digital ecosystem, aims to mobilise agricultural credit faster, more transparently, and without unnecessary delays. Under the new digital system, eligible farmers can have their KCC loan applications processed and the sanctioned loan amount credited directly to

their bank accounts in less than 10 minutes.

As part of the pilot project, data relating to nearly 3 lakh farmers in Anakapalli district was examined through the AgriStack-based digital filtration process. Of them, around 80,000 farmers were initially identified as eligible for Kisan Credit Card loans.

Launching the project, District Collector Vijaya Krishnan informed that specific targets had been fixed for branches of nationalised banks with each branch expected to sanction loans to at least 100 eligible farmers. Targets have been allocated mandal-wise and branch-wise to ensure the effective implementation of the programme across the district.

One of the major advantages of the new system is that once a farmer’s application is uploaded, the loan approval process is carried out digitally based on the information available in the integrated system, reducing the scope for delays and unnecessary human intervention.

Following the completion of the required verification process, the sanctioned amount can be credited directly to the farmer’s account in 10 minutes.

Officials will organise meetings with bank

branch managers and loan-disbursing officers at Rythu Seva Kendras (RSKs) in villages, in coordination with Agriculture Department officials. Farmers will be educated about the new digital process through live demonstrations and guided on how to submit their applications online.

The initiative assumes greater significance at a time when farmers are reeling under the impact of inadequate rainfall and prevailing El Nino conditions. With irrigation support strengthened through various projects and increased water availability, the speedy disbursement of crop loans is expected to provide much-needed financial assistance to farmers and help them meet their agricultural requirements during the coming months.

The Andhra Pradesh government’s rythu digital register will play a key role in the process by integrating farmers’ land records, crop details and ownership information into the digital ecosystem. The Jan Samarth portal, which already facilitates access to several government-supported financial schemes, has now been made available for the digital processing of Kisan Credit Card loans.

The initiative adds

another important digital service to the existing ecosystem of financial and development schemes available to citizens.

Under the new system, authorities and banks can digitally verify whether agricultural land has any existing loan liabilities, liens or mortgage-related issues through online records.

The system can also examine the farmer’s eligibility for interest subsidies and review the history of timely loan repayments using Aadhaar-linked information.

To apply for a digital Kisan Credit Card loan, a farmer must first create an account on the Jan Samarth portal using a registered mobile number and provide digital consent for the required information to be shared with the portal and participating banks.

The digital Kisan Credit Card Crop Loan application and onboarding process requires farmers to log in through OTP authentication and select the KCC Crop Loan scheme, along with their respective state and district details.

Along with other details, the geo-coordinates of agricultural land are also verified with details of existing KCC and other

agricultural loans, as well as land-related liabilities, to prevent duplicate or multiple financing.

The digital platform further verifies whether the farmer’s bank account has active KYC status, whether the required UPI and other account mappings are maintained and whether the applicant meets the eligibility criteria prescribed by the respective bank.

After completing the verification process, the farmer’s land records are digitally collected and analysed. The final loan amount is then determined based on factors such as the extent of land and the crops being cultivated.

The agriculture department, bank managers and a Central government team from Delhi are coordinating with farmers and organising meetings at Rythu Seva Kendras across the district to ensure smooth implementation of the pilot project and help farmers complete the digital loan application process.

The technology-driven system is expected to mark a major transformation in agricultural credit delivery in Anakapalli district by reducing paperwork, improving transparency and ensuring that eligible farmers receive timely financial assistance.



AP’s first-ever slum redevelopment project launched at Velampeta

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

IN a historic first for Andhra Pradesh, Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development Ponguru Narayana on Wednesday launched the prestigious ‘in-situ slum redevelopment’ project at Lakshmi Nagar in Velampeta, Visakhapatnam.

Laying the foundation stone for the Rs.28.44-crore modern multi-storeyed housing project, Narayana said, “As part of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu’s vision to transform Visakhapatnam into a slum-free city, a modern residential complex for 177 families will be built at Lakshmi Nagar in Velampeta under the GVMC south zone.

The state government is committed not merely to providing houses to the urban poor, but also to ensuring safe and dignified living conditions, improved quality of life and essential civic infrastructure.”

Expressing satisfaction that families who have been living for many years in congested conditions at Lakshmi Nagar would now be provided modern housing at the same location, the minister explained that conventional slum redevelopment often involves relocating residents to other areas, which may affect their livelihoods, children’s education and established social networks.

The unique project, however, lies in redeveloping the existing slum at the same location without permanently shifting beneficiary families elsewhere, he reiterated, directing officials to make



A model of the slum redevelopment project at Lakshmi Nagar in Velampeta in Visakhapatnam



Minister P Narayana, at the foundation-stone laying ceremony of the slum redevelopment project in Visakhapatnam

the state’s first such project a model initiative and ensure that its successful implementation serves as a template for redeveloping other slums in the future.

During the foundation-laying programme, the minister interacted with the director of Nagarjuna Construction Company and directed the agency to accelerate construction so that beneficiary families would not have to remain in alternative accommodation for an extended period.

He instructed the construction agency to complete the project in nine months and hand over the houses to beneficiaries by June 2027, to which the company representatives agreed.

Presiding over the programme, south constituency MLA CH. Vamsi Krishna Srinivas stated the project would fulfil the long-cherished aspiration of underprivileged families residing at Lakshmi Nagar.

The MLA said that when the concerns of residents were brought to the government’s attention, Minister Narayana responded positively and took

special initiative to bring the project to fruition.

Visakhapatnam District Collector M Abhisikh Kishore said that in-situ slum redevelopment involves several challenges compared with a conventional housing project. Planning within a limited site, arranging alternative accommodation for existing residents, mobilising financial resources and ensuring coordination among various departments were among the major issues that had to be addressed, he emphasised.

GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg mentioned that the foundation-laying of the Lakshmi Nagar slum redevelopment project marked the beginning of a new chapter in Visakhapatnam’s urban development history.

He said the project, being taken up for the first time in the state under the ‘in-situ slum redevelopment’ model, an approach with relatively few examples across the country, would create history. The modern residential complex will be constructed

over 2,691 square yards at a project cost of Rs.28.44 crore, benefiting 177 families. There will be 15 units on each floor from the first to the 11th floor and 12 units on the 12th floor, making a total of 177 units.

The cost of each unit is Rs.16.07 lakh. Of this, Rs.1.50 lakh will be provided under PMAY, Rs.1 lakh by the government of Andhra Pradesh, and Rs.3.50 lakh will be the beneficiary contribution. The rest of the Rs.10.07 lakh will be taken through viability gap funding in the form of TDR.

To facilitate alternative rented accommodation for beneficiaries during the construction of the housing complex, a total of Rs.31.86 lakh was provided as rental assistance, calculated at Rs.3,000 per month.

Following the meeting, the Minister, Collector, Commissioner and MLA handed over assurance letters for the proposed new houses to several beneficiaries.

NTR Vaidya Seva chairman Seethamraju Sudhakar, Swachh Andhra Corporation director B Ramireddy, among others, participated.

‘Kopparapu’ national award presented to Samavedam Shanmukha Sarma

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

RENOWNED spiritual orator Samavedam Shanmukha Sarma received the prestigious Kopparapu Kavulu National Talent Award-2026. The award presentation took place on Wednesday evening at the Kalabharathi Auditorium in Visakhapatnam during the 24th anniversary celebrations of the Kopparapu Kavala Kalapeetham.

The awards were presented by distinguished guests, including Andhra Pradesh High Court Judge Justice B. Krishna Mohan, retired Judge Justice Durga Prasad, Professors Viswanatha Gopalakrishna Sastry and Tadepalli Patanjali Sastry and renowned US-based cardiologist Alla Srinivasa Reddy.

Betavolu Rama Brahman presided over the event. Machavaram Venkata Chenchurama Maruti Subbaraya Sarma, known as MAA Sarma, the founder-president of the ‘Kopparapu Kavula Kalapeetham’, delivered the inaugural address.

He detailed how these grand annual festivals have been celebrated with great distinction across the Telugu states for the past 24 years

to honour the Kopparapu Brothers (Kopparapu Venkata Subbaraya Kavi: 1885–1932, Kopparapu Venkata Ramana Kavi: 1887–1942), the pioneers and supreme masters of the unique Telugu literary art form known as Avadhanam.

He highlighted that Dr Alla Srinivasa Reddy, renowned US-based cardiologist, receiving the first copy of ‘Sri Kopparapu Sodara Kavula Shatavadhana Soundaryam’ authored by the Kopparapu Brothers, during the book launch was a special gesture.

The event featured presentation of the ‘Kopparapu National Talent Award’ to Brahmasri Samavedam Shanmukha Sarma, followed by his captivating one-hour discourse on the theme of ‘Daiva Sankalpam’ (divine will), which impressed the audience.

Earlier, the proceedings featured an enthralling musical treat, a rendition of ‘Tarangams’ by Narayana Tirtha performed by Ghorakavi Sampath Kumar, followed by a recital of verses composed by the Kopparapu Kavulu such as ‘Nilambujarama Keli Maralamai’ by Alamuru Radhakumari. ‘Bharati Bhushana’ Rambhatha Narasimha Sharma, among others, were present.



Officials launching the book ‘Sri Kopparapu Sodara Kavula Shatavadhana Soundaryam’ at Kalabharathi Auditorium in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday

‘Teachers have a huge responsibility in preparing students to face challenges’

VISAKHAPATNAM: Teachers have a huge responsibility in preparing students to face the challenges and opportunities of modern society, stressed SP Ravindra, chairman of READ Group of Educational Institutions.

Speaking about the upcoming alumni reunion programme, ‘APS Homecoming-2026’, organised by Alwar Das Public School, Ravindra said the primary objective of the event is to bring together alumni from different generations on a common platform and strengthen their lifelong association with the institution.

A teaser for the ‘APS Homecoming-2026’ programme and a logo were released on the occasion. An exclusive alumni web portal was launched to facilitate greater interaction and participation

among former students. Alwar Das Public School director Divya Das stated that the institution has been providing education under the ICSE and ISC curriculum while maintaining international standards. She said the institution, which began as a public school nearly four and a half decades ago, evolved into Alwar Das Public School and has continuously strived for the overall development of students by combining quality education with strong values and discipline. The organisers appealed to the alumni and former students to actively participate and make ‘APS Homecoming-2026’, scheduled to be held at the school premises in December 2026, a grand success. Programme coordinators M Vinila and D Gowri Shankar were present on the occasion.



State Bank of India
Central Recruitment & Promotion Department
Corporate Centre, Mumbai
Phone: 022-22820427

Scan QR to Apply



Recruitment of Specialist Cadre Officers on Contract Basis

Applications are invited from eligible Indian citizens for the following posts on Contract basis:

Advertisement No.: CRPD/SCO/2026-27/21 (Contractual position)		
Name of Post	Vacancy	Age (As on 31.08.2026)
GROUP CISO (Chief Information Security Officer)	1	Maximum 57 years

For eligibility criteria (age, experience, job profile etc.), vacancy details, requisite fees, other details and for online submission of application as well as online payment of application fees log on to Bank's website <https://sbi.bank.in/web/careers/current-openings>. Refer detailed advertisement to ensure eligibility and other details before applying and remitting fees. For any query, please write to us through link “CONTACT US” → “Post Your Query” which is available on Bank's official website (<https://bank.sbi/web/careers/post-your-query>)

• DATE FOR FILING ONLINE APPLICATION & PAYMENT OF FEES: FROM 04.09.2026 To 24.09.2026.

Place: Mumbai
Date: 04.09.2026

General Manager (RP & PM)





CM discusses 14 projects with IHC, Adani

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR

ODISHA Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Wednesday began the State's investor outreach in the UAE with a high-level meeting with senior representatives of the International Holding Company (IHC), a leading Abu Dhabi-based investment group with interests across several strategic sectors, and the Adani Group.

An Odisha government statement said that the meeting was attended by the Adani Group's Karan Adani and Sagar Adani, IHC Group's Managing Director and CEO Syed Basar Shueb, its Chief Strategic and Growth Officer Peter Abraam, and 2PointZero Group CEO Samia Bouazza.

Representatives from Dune, Al Seer Marine, Ghitha Holding PJSC, Epoint Zen, Sirius Holding and Burjeel Holdings also participated in the discussions, with the talks focusing on potential investments in metallurgy, rare earth and critical minerals, coal-to-chemicals, port-based special economic zones (SEZs), and industrial infrastructure.

According to the State government, the Adani Group and IHC Group have expressed interest

in exploring 14 projects for which MoUs have been signed, involving an estimated aggregate investment of around Rs 2.105 trillion (Rs 2.10 lakh crore). The proposed projects are estimated to generate around 8.7 lakh employment opportunities, including approximately 1.9 lakh direct/on-site jobs, 4 lakh indirect jobs, and 2.8 lakh construction-related employment opportunities. The government clarified that the estimates are indicative and subject to feasibility studies, due diligence, statutory approvals, and execution of definitive agreements.

Addressing the roundtable, Chief Minister Majhi said Odisha offers a unique combination of natural resources, industrial capabilities, strategic location and a growing infrastructure ecosystem. "Odisha offers a unique combination of natural resources, industrial capabilities, strategic location and a growing infrastructure ecosystem. We invite IHC and its group companies to explore long-term investment opportunities in Odisha, particularly in critical minerals, metallurgy, port-led development and emerging

industrial sectors," he said.

Majhi highlighted Odisha's investor-friendly ecosystem and assured continued government support to facilitate strategic investments and partnerships between UAE-based companies and the State. The meeting marks the beginning of Odisha's UAE investor outreach, aimed at showcasing the State's industrial potential and attracting long-term investments across emerging and strategic sectors.

Later, the Odisha Chief Minister also participated in a roundtable discussion with the Indian Business & Professional Group (IBPG) as part of Odisha's UAE Investors' Meet. The discussion focused on strengthening cooperation and facilitating exchange of goods, exports and trade between Odisha and the UAE. Opportunities in turmeric, ginger, seafood, food processing and contract manufacturing for leading UAE brands were highlighted. The meeting also explored opportunities for deployment of highly skilled professionals from Odisha. Odisha-based companies with established UAE presence participated. IBPG President Rajiv Shah also attended the interaction.

Ex-CJI Dipak Misra gets Kalinga Ratna Award

KATAKA: Former Chief Justice of India (CJI) Justice Dipak Misra was conferred with the Kalinga Ratna Award by Sarala Sahitya Sansad here on Tuesday. The award comprises a silver idol of Goddess Saraswati and a citation.

Speaking on the occasion, Justice Mishra said a person may travel far in life, but the soil of birth continues to shape memory, identity and cultural inheritance. Turning to the Constitution, Justice Misra described "fraternity" in the Preamble as a living moral bond that rises above caste, creed, language and social status. The dignity of an individual, he emphasised, could never be protected by diminishing another's dignity. "By respecting another person's humanity, we affirm our own," he said. Invoking anti-war poets, Justice Misra observed that wars might produce victories, but seldom peace, leaving behind grief, hatred and wounded generations. The Sansad also, on the occasion, bestowed the Sarala Samman on eminent litterateur Dr Ramachandra Behera for his notable contributions to Odia literature for over six decades. Presided over by Sansad's founder and president, Pravakar Swain, the award-giving ceremony was attended by Odisha Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan as chief guest.

Man gets 20-yr RI for rape

BRAHMAPUR: A Special POCSCO court here on Tuesday sentenced a man to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment after convicting him of raping a 13-year-old girl after kidnapping her in Ganjam district. The incident took place six years ago in a village under Rambha police station limits in Ganjam district.

POCSCO court judge Rohit Lal Panda has also imposed a fine of Rs 70,000 on the convict. He will undergo jail for an additional nine months if he fails to pay the fine amount, said special public prosecutor Siba Prasad Mishra.

The court has also directed the district legal service authorities to pay Rs 5 lakh to the victim under the victim compensation scheme. The entire fine amount will be paid to the survivor after recovery from the convict, the court ruled.

The court pronounced the judgment after recording the statements of 14 witnesses, including the police and medical officer and based on the medical reports and seized articles, he said. Sources said the accused had taken the victim, a student of Class 8, from her home by giving some false promises on June 8, 2020. The mother of the victim lodged an FIR at Rambha police station after she could not find her daughter.

Police rescued the girl from a house with the accused. He was arrested after a medical test. The accused has been in jail since his arrest, as his bail plea was rejected earlier, the government pleader said.

Officials probe smuggling of five orangutans

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR

A day after at least five orangutans were rescued from a forest in Baleshwar district, a joint probe was launched by the State police's STF and the WCCB on suspicion that an international wildlife smuggling racket might be behind the animals' sudden appearance here. State Forest and Environment Minister Ganesh Ram Singhkhuntia on Wednesday said the joint probe by the Special Task Force (STF) and the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) would look into how the animals came to Baleshwar, who brought them to the forest and who was involved in such activities.

Given the high value of the animals -- an orangutan can fetch Rs 20-25 lakh in international markets -- it is suspected that they were smuggled from foreign forests, he said. The minister said orangutans are not found in India and are native to rain forests in Malaysia and Indonesia, including the islands of Borneo and Sumatra



in Southeast Asia. The animals were rescued and kept in quarantine at the Nandankanan Zoological Park in Bhubaneswar.

"A team of veterinary doctors are monitoring the health of the animals, and they are stable. I will visit them. These rare animals are kept in an air-conditioned atmosphere," the minister said.

Odisha STF Inspector General Himansu Lal said a team, led by an SP-rank officer, had already left for Baleshwar and started a probe into the matter. "We are at the preliminary stage of investigation and presently collecting data

and facts available locally. We are in contact with the Central government's IG, Wildlife, and seeking to know whether a similar incident had ever happened in any part of the country," STF DIG Vishal Singh said.

The STF team contacted the Baleshwar SP and the DFO and collected details regarding the rescue of the rare animals from a casuarina forest in the Bichitrapur area of Bhograi block in Baleshwar district.

Meanwhile, forest officials and local police went door to door to collect information regarding the incident. Villagers first spotted the

young apes clinging to trees on Tuesday morning and immediately alerted the Forest department, Baleshwar Divisional Forest Officer Prateek Prakash Indalkar said. Local people have so far reported seeing a black SUV on a road near the forest on Monday night. The vehicle was also spotted in CCTV footage. "Therefore, locating the SUV and its owner could give some clue to the arrival of the baby orangutans in Baleshwar," a local police officer said.

The Odisha Forest department has also sent messages to zoos across the country seeking

information on whether any orangutan was missing from their facilities, the minister said. CCTV footage from airports, ports and major railway stations is being examined, while the Coast Guard has also been contacted to verify whether its personnel had come across any transportation of the animals through water routes, he said.

Authorities at Nandankanan Zoological Park said three of the five animals were males and two females, aged between six months and one year and standing roughly one to one-and-a-half feet tall. All five are currently being provided food and oral rehydration solutions.

Nandankanan Zoological Park has a special enclosure for orangutans, but it has remained empty since the death of one such animal in 2019 at the age of 41. A female orangutan was brought from Pune Zoo to Nandankanan in 2003. The minister said the State government has urged the Central Zoo Authority to allow it to keep the five baby orangutans at the Nandankanan Zoological Park.

BJD protests mining law, appeals to Prez

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR

THE Opposition BJD on Wednesday staged a demonstration against the MMDR Amendment Act near the Lok Bhavan in Bhubaneswar and sought President Droupadi Murmu's intervention to safeguard Odisha's financial interests and the country's federal structure.

A party delegation later met Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati and submitted a memorandum addressed to the President. "Any legislative measure that substantially curtails the rights and financial interests of the State in relation to mines and mineral-bearing lands therefore has far-reaching consequences for Odisha and deserves careful constitutional and legal examination," it said.

The party cited the July 25, 2024 judgment of a nine-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court, which recognised the power of State governments to impose taxes and levies on mines and mineral-bearing lands and also dealt with recovery of such dues from April 1, 2005. Based on the

judgment, Odisha became entitled to receive more than Rs 1 lakh crore in arrears of mining-related taxes and levies, besides an estimated additional annual revenue of around Rs 12,000 crore, the BJD claimed. The party said that the MMDR Amendment Act restricted State governments from imposing taxes, cesses or similar charges on mineral-bearing lands, and empowered the Centre to frame rules affecting such taxation. It said that if the amendments permanently dilute States' rights over mines and mineral-bearing lands and deprive Odisha of the arrears and future revenue recognised following the Supreme Court judgment, the issue cannot be treated as merely a matter of legislative policy. Addressing a separate press conference, Congress Legislature Party leader Ram Chandra Kadam said his party was strongly opposed to the MMDR Amendment Act and would continue to protest against it. BJP MLA Babu Singh, however, rejected the allegations, accusing the Opposition of "misleading" people over the new mining laws.



Vedanta-V-Spark tech tieup targets Rs 2.1K cr

HANS NEWS SERVICE
JHARSUGUDA

VEDANTA Aluminium, India's largest aluminium producer, partnered with manufacturing deep-tech incubator V-Spark to host the MetALVerse tech showcase in Jharsuguda. The company also announced alliances with tech leaders like OpenAI, Microsoft, and SAP. Together, they will deploy AI, digitalisation, and automation solutions to unlock up to Rs 2,100 crore across Vedanta Aluminium's operations.

Vedanta Aluminium's MetALVerse event united global tech leaders, startups, and experts to accelerate breakthrough industrial technologies. This collaborative platform will

evaluate, pilot, and scale next-generation solutions across the company's value chain. The initiative aims to unlock a Rs 2,100 crore opportunity by boosting plant productivity, cutting costs, ensuring asset reliability, and driving sustainability.

Vedanta Aluminium and V-Spark have partnered to fast-track deep tech innovations from the lab to real-world industrial use. By using Vedanta's massive, fully integrated manufacturing plants as a mega testing ground, the partnership aims to turn promising new technologies into industry-ready solutions and build a powerful, AI-driven manufacturing ecosystem.

"India's manufacturing

sector is entering a defining decade where the future belongs to companies combining scale with intelligence, sustainability, and innovation," said Priya Agarwal Hebbar, Non-Executive Director of Vedanta Limited and Chairperson of Hindustan Zinc. "Akarsh Hebbar, Non-Executive Vice Chairman of Vedanta Aluminium and Chairman of V-Spark DeepTech Ventures, stated that the biggest opportunity in industrial innovation is scaling new technologies for measurable business value. "AI allows industrial companies to transform how they access knowledge, make decisions, and manage operations," said Pinak Dattaray, Founder & CEO of Ripik.AI.

Drinking water concerns dominate Rayagada ZP meeting

C B SINGH
RAYAGADA

THE 83rd Rayagada Zilla Parishad meeting reviewed basic services, as elected representatives questioned the proposed mega drinking-water project, healthcare staffing shortages, school and hostel operations, and the DWO's management of tribal welfare institutions.

The meeting, chaired by Zilla Parishad Chairperson Saraswati Majhi at the Zilla Parishad conference hall, brought together district-level officials, MLAs and elected representatives to assess whether government schemes and infrastructure projects are actually translating into reliable

services for people on the ground.

Major concerns raised during the deliberations included shortages of drinking water, inadequate healthcare, hospital vacancies, declining education, and poor hostel management. The District Welfare Department also faced scrutiny over its supervision of remote and tribal residential schools and hostels.

District Collector and Zilla Parishad Chief Executive Officer Ashutosh Kulkarni, Rayagada MLA Kadraka Appala Swamy, Bissam Cuttack MLA Nilamadhab Hikaka, Gunupur MLA Satyajit Gamango, MP representative Durgaprasad



Panda, Zilla Parishad members and other elected representatives attended the meeting. Chief Development Officer-cum-Executive Officer Akshaya Kumar Khemundu and officials from various departments were also

present.

Drinking water emerged as one of the most pressing issues, with MLA representatives seeking clarity on the proposed mega drinking-water project and the extent to which it will address

the recurring water crisis across Rayagada district. Questions centred on the progress of the project, its implementation timeline and whether the proposed infrastructure would provide dependable water supply to villages facing

seasonal shortages and supply disruptions.

The Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Department was asked to respond to water shortages reported from different parts of the district. Representatives stressed that merely sanctioning large projects would not be sufficient unless the system ultimately delivers regular and safe drinking water to households.

The meeting also discussed the need for immediate interventions in areas facing shortages, including borewells and other local solutions wherever required. The larger question, however, was whether the mega project and existing rural

water-supply infrastructure are being implemented quickly enough to provide a permanent solution.

Healthcare was another major area of concern, with the shortage of doctors and other medical personnel emerging as a critical issue. Elected representatives stressed that people in Rayagada, particularly those living in remote and hilly areas, should not be forced to travel outside the district simply because adequate doctors, specialists, emergency services or other facilities are unavailable locally. The meeting reviewed manpower requirements in health institutions and called for vacancies to be filled according to the actual

workload and population needs of the district.

During a detailed review, elected representatives questioned the quality of government school education and efforts to boost exam scores. Officials stated that additional academic support, such as daily extra classes from 4 pm to 5 pm, is being provided to increase the number of top-tier grades (A1 and A2) on Board examinations. The meeting also evaluated the overall school environment, focusing on drinking water, mid-day meals, CCTV installation, hostel security, parent-teacher engagement, and the need for adequate wardens in boys' hostels.

Iran conflict escalates; India must respond appropriately

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

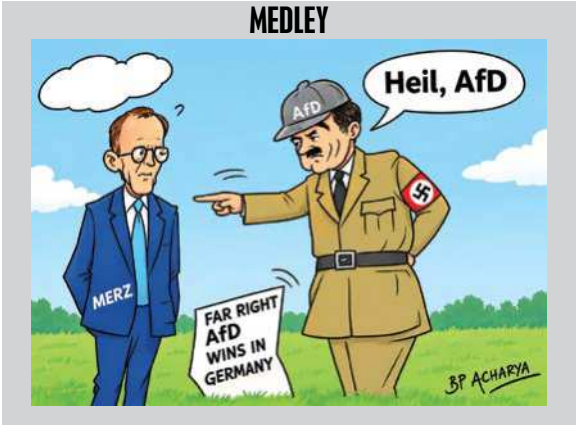
There is also a report of Iran firing about 20 ballistic missiles towards Jordan, targeting two US military bases. Meanwhile, the pro-Tehran Houthis in Yemen have also launched ballistic missiles toward Israel. They also launched a wave of attacks on Saudi Arabia on Tuesday, wounding over 70 people and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

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

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

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

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



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

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

K Chidanand Kumar, Bengaluru

Building safety is a collective responsibility

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

S P Suganya Devi, Coimbatore

Trafficking menace not among govt priorities

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

Aayush Shandilya, Dhenkanal

thehansreader@gmail.com

BENGALURU ONLINE

Cabinet decides to reintroduce students’ elections in varsities, colleges

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

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

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

Raising a toast to the mesmerising culinary art



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

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

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

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

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

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

French chef, who is described as ‘God’s gift to gastric juices’.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Mexican cuisine, on the other hand, is celebrated for the ingredients of corn, fresh chilies, avocados, and is fa-

mous for the recognition accorded by UNESCO.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A cookbook or cookery

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 of 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 should 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 cau-

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.

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

Reform is better than ‘reservation hatao’:

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

fect affirmative action is better affirmative action.

Make reservation less necessary:

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

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

Union Cabinet okays ₹20,804-crore railway projects across 9 states

Continued from page 1

Five projects worth around Rs 10,021 crore have been approved across Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The projects will add around 540 km to the railway network and cover 17 districts, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

The projects include the third and fourth lines between Arakkonam and Renigunta, third and fourth lines between Whitefield and Bangarapet, doubling of the Hosur-Omalur section, doubling of the Salem-Karur-Dindigul section, and 110 km of multitracking between Secunderabad (Ghatkesar) and Kazipet.

The projects are expected to improve connectivity to around 2,121 villages with a combined population of about 52 lakh. The government said they will also strengthen connectivity to destinations including Tirupati, Kolar Gold Fields, Mettur Dam, the Kodaikanal Hills and Sathyamangalam Wildlife Sanctuary.

The southern projects are expected to support incremental freight movement of around 47 million tonne per annum (MTPA).

The government estimates that they could reduce oil imports by about 80 million litres and carbon dioxide emissions by around 420 million kg.

The remaining three projects, worth Rs 10,783 crore, will be implemented across West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. They comprise the fourth line between Kharagpur and Jharsuguda (Bagdehi), the fourth line between Katni and Pendra Road, and the third line between Bilaspur (Uslapur) and Pendra Road.

These projects will add around 656 km to the railway network and cover 14 districts. They are expected to improve connectivity to around 4,790 villages with a combined population of nearly 56 lakh, while also easing congestion and improving line capacity.

The additional infrastructure is expected to strengthen connectivity to tourist destinations including Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, Amarkantak Temple, Achanakmar Tiger Reserve and Ratanpur Mahamaya Temple. The routes are also important freight corridors for commodities such as coal, cement, iron and steel.

The three projects are expected to enable incremental freight movement of around 27 MTPA. They could also reduce oil imports by around 120 million litres and carbon dioxide emissions by about 620 million kg, according to the government.

14 people killed in Syria blast

SARMADA (SYRIA): An explosion at a weapons warehouse in northwestern Syria killed at least 14 people and injured 11 others, state media reported Wednesday, citing the Health Ministry. The cause of the blast near the town of Sarmada, in Idlib province, was not immediately clear.

‘AI could kill us all by end of decade’

Continued from page 1
“At OpenAI, many have not deeply internalized the civilizational stakes. At Anthropic, the stakes are well-understood,” he claimed.

He added that Anthropic, despite understanding the dangers, is “locked in a race to get there first - they believe no one else will act responsibly, so they must do it themselves, despite the risk.”

Lokesh lights 53 candles to mark Naidu’s arrest

Continued from page 1

He said the episode demonstrated that the support of the people remained the ultimate strength and safeguard for both Chandrababu and the Telugu Desam Party.

The TDP has been observing the anniversary as a reminder of Chandrababu’s arrest

and subsequent 53-day detention, portraying the episode as an example of political persecution during the previous YSRCP regime. Lokesh expressed confidence that the continued support of the people would protect Chandrababu and strengthen the TDP in the political battles ahead.

TTD announces first-of-its-kind insurance cover for devotees

Continued from page 1

TTD Executive Officer M Ravichandra and other senior officials attended the meeting.

Explaining the board decisions after the meeting, the Chairman and EO said the measures were aimed at strengthening pilgrim welfare, improving employee benefits and advancing environmental initiatives.

The board also enhanced the insurance compensation for devotees who die in accidents from Rs 3 lakh to Rs 10 lakh. It approved medical facilities under the Employees Health Fund (EHF) for employees covered by the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) and Modified Contributory Scheme (MCS), bringing them on par with those covered under the Old Pension Scheme (OPS). Salary revisions for em-

ployees belonging to 48 categories were also approved.

In a move aimed at promoting sustainable waste management, the board approved a proposal to convert food waste generated at the Annarasadam complex, canteens and hotels into biogas. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has offered to undertake the conversion using a water hydrolysis process. The TTD approved handing over the operation of the biogas plant to GPS Renewables at a cost of Rs 2.80 crore.

With the anticipated rush during peak periods, the TTD has also sent proposals to the government seeking approval for 400 additional outsourcing posts to accelerate laddu production. The board sanctioned Rs 1.60 crore for three years towards transportation charges for

Gujarat team lauds natural farming transformation in AP

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

A Gujarat team visiting Andhra Pradesh to study the Andhra Pradesh Community-managed Natural Farming (APCNF) approach has appreciated the visible transformation in farmers’ fields, particularly in crop diversity, biodiversity, soil health and income opportunities.

The team visited Guntur district on Wednesday to study natural farming practices implemented by Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (RySS). After interacting with farmers and observing various field models, the team said the shift from chemical farming

to natural farming had resulted in healthier crops, greater biodiversity, diversified cropping systems and improved livelihood opportunities.

The Gujarat delegation comprised Achyut Kumar Hasmukhbhai Patel, Dixit Babulal Patel, Hitesh Jamnadas Vora, Jaydeepsingh Ratansingh, Ratilal Vitthalbhai Shethia, Vanrajsingh Dilipsingh Chauhan, Prafullbhai Mansukhbhai Thakor, Nikunj Singh Hendrasingh Thakor, Bhikhabhai Hirabhai Bhutka and Dilipsingh Solanki.

APCNF representatives Krishna Rao, team leader, NRO Unit; Dada-peer, project executive, NRO; and Rajakumari, district project manager,



The Gujarat team visits a natural farming field at Pidamarthi in Guntur district on Wednesday

Guntur, accompanied the delegation and explained the natural farming approach, field-level implementation and different models being promot-

ed in the state. The team first visited Vijay Kumar’s POP model at Pidamarthi, where around 35 crop and plant varieties are grown on just 30 cents, generating a monthly income of about Rs. 13,000 to Rs. 15,000. The visitors appreciated the favourable microclimate, beneficial insects and crop diversity maintained on the farm.

At Ratnakumari’s A-Grade okra model, the team observed a healthy crop with more than 10 intercrops and banana plantations along the borders. Compared with a neighbouring chemical farming field, the natural farming plot had healthier plants and fewer visible symptoms of

virus incidence and leaf curling.

The delegation also visited Mastan Bi’s five-acre natural farming paddy compact block at Munnangi village. Officials explained weed-management practices, including the use of Azolla for weed suppression and soil enrichment.

Sticky plates, pheromone traps and L-shaped bund plantations were also demonstrated.

At Athota village, the team interacted with farmer Bapayya and appreciated his efforts to conserve and promote indigenous paddy varieties and traditional seeds. The delegation showed keen interest in the diverse varieties being preserved on his farm.

Renigunta, Arakkonam rail expansion gets approval

Continued from page 1

The 76.559-km project is expected to ease congestion on one of the important railway routes connecting Tamil Nadu with Andhra Pradesh and provide greater operational flexibility for passenger and freight services. Renigunta, a major railway junction, serves as a key entry point for thousands of pilgrims travelling to Tirupati and Tirumala.

The project is part of a larger railway infrastructure expansion approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on Wednesday. For the Tirupati

region, the additional lines are likely to be particularly useful during festivals and peak pilgrimage seasons when passenger movement increases considerably. The Arakkonam-Renigunta section carries several passenger, long-distance and freight trains, putting considerable pressure on the existing infrastructure.

The proposed lines will also strengthen rail access to several prominent religious destinations along the corridor. Improved capacity could help the Railways handle the increased flow of devotees during major

religious events. The capacity augmentation proposal had been under consideration for some time. The Detailed Project Report for the third and fourth lines was completed and submitted to the Railway Board earlier this year. Land acquisition proceedings had also begun before the project received Cabinet approval.

A Gazette notification issued in January 2026 declared the proposed railway expansion between Arakkonam and Renigunta as a Special Railway Project for land acquisition in Tirupati and Chittoor districts. The

new lines will effectively extend the multi-tracking network beyond the existing four-line Chennai-Arakkonam section towards Renigunta.

This is expected to improve train movement into Andhra Pradesh and facilitate smoother operations for services heading towards destinations farther south. Meanwhile, work on another capacity expansion project is progressing in Tirupati district. Land acquisition has commenced for an 83.17-km third railway line between Gudur and Renigunta.

Will safeguard people’s land rights, asserts CM

Continued from page 1

Naidu also launched a sharp attack on YSR Congress president Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, referring to remarks he attributed to former chief minister K Ro-saiah and members of Jagan’s family. He alleged that Jagan’s conduct had caused differences within his family and referred to the murder of former minister Y S Vivekananda Reddy. These remarks were part of his broader criticism of the previous regime.

The Chief Minister alleged that land records had been tampered with during the previous regime and criticised the Land Titling Act, which he said was scrapped after the coalition government assumed office.

Mee Bhoomi-Mee Haku programme was launched to protect every farmer’s land forever, he said.

The government was issuing pattadar passbooks with the State emblem and security features including e-KYC, QR codes and blockchain technology, he said. Resurvey had been completed in 8,234 villages and 36 lakh passbooks issued, while 16 lakh acres

had been removed from the 22-A prohibited list, Naidu claimed. A major relief was announced for residents of ground-rent lands in Amalapuram, Machavaram, Mummidivaram and Ramachandrapuram. Naidu said the lands, which had remained in the 22-A prohibited list for more than a century, were being freed and treated on par with Gramakantham lands.

He said the government had also settled a 120-year-old land dispute and resolved long-pending land issues in places including Shettipalli, Vatticherukuru, Kalidindi, Kangundi and Mudinepalli. Naidu said 57.37 acres spread across 1,281 survey numbers would benefit 1,416 residents.

During his visit to Jayanthi Nagar in Machavaram, the Chief Minister interacted with families living on the ground-rent sites and handed over documents relating to the land rights. He said auto-mutation had been introduced immediately after registration and that 1.25 lakh families had benefited. He also said long-pending land disputes in several parts of the State had been

resolved.

On irrigation, Naidu said more than 1,000 tmc of Godavari water had flowed into the sea this year despite the impact of El Nino. Proper utilisation of the water was essential for the state’s future, he said, alleging that delays in irrigation projects during the previous regime had cost the state heavily. He explained the coalition government was pursuing development, welfare, and good governance through programmes such as NTR Bharosa pensions, P4, Swarna Andhra-Swachha Andhra and Sanjeevani. Governance, he said, should not be confined to the Secretariat but should bring a visible change in people’s lives.

Earlier, Naidu unveiled the foundation plaque for Rs 240 crore grid modernisation works being undertaken by the Eastern Power Distribution Company of Andhra Pradesh to provide three-phase power. Ministers K Atchannaidu, Anagani Satya Prasad and Vasamsetti Subhash, MP Ganti Harish, MLA Giddi Satyanarayana, public representatives and officials attended the programme.

Extra ‘F’ in CNR Rao’s name triggers SIR notice

Continued from page 1

His entry in the previous electoral roll reads “Prof. CNR Rao,” while the current one has it as “Proff. C.N.R. Rao,” adding an extra “f” to the title.

This week, the ECI withdrew a notice issued to Padma Shri awardee Harekala Hajabba regarding a discrepancy in his name found during the SIR in Karnataka. Hajabba was asked to appear at a gram panchayat on September 11 with original documents, and an accountant was to be present during the verification. His name in the 2002 electoral roll and subsequent records differed from the full name he provided during the SIR enumeration. Hajabba said officials visited his residence after the notice became public and took it back, telling him they would examine the matter and get back to him. His documents since 2004 carried his name as Harekal Hajabba.

The discrepancy arose because his name appeared as only Hajabba in the 2002 electoral roll, while his subsequent records identify him as Harekala Hajabba. His Aadhaar card, ration card, passport, and voter ID carry the name Harekala Hajabba. The same name also appears in documents relating to his Padma Shri and other awards. Hajabba, a fruit seller turned education campaigner from Newpadapu in Mangaluru, became nationally known after using savings from selling oranges to establish a primary school in his native village. He received the Padma Shri, India’s fourth-highest civilian award, in 2020 for his contribution to education. Over 4.381 million notices are expected to be issued as part of the SIR, which began in Karnataka on June 30, to voters whose names fall under the “no mapping” and “anomalies” categories. The disposal of claims and objections will continue until October 22. The final electoral roll is scheduled for publication on October 27.



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
NEW DELHI
OFFICE OF THE REVENUE DIVISIONAL OFFICER ,
KADAPA , Y.S.R. KADAPA DISTRICT.

PUBLIC NOTICE

3(A) NOTIFICATION U/S NH ACT 1956

S.O. 4809 (E) – In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building widening, two/four lane with paved shoulders etc.), maintenance, management and operation of Kopparthi Industrial Area to Kadapa ByPass Road under Newly proposed National Highway in km. 0.000 to 3.500 in the district of Y.S.R Kadapa in the State of Andhra Pradesh, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.

Any person interested in the said land may, **within Twenty One (21) days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette**, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose, under sub-section (1) of section – 3C of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the competent authority, namely, the Revenue Divisional Officer, Kadapa, Y.S.R. Kadapa District, Andhra Pradesh in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the competent authority shall give the objector and opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the competent authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the competent authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of the land covered under their notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the competent authority.

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling in the stretch of land from Km. 0+000 to Km. 3+500 (Kopparthi Industrial Area to Kadapa By Pass Road) of Newly proposed NH in the district of YSR Kadapa in the state of Andhra Pradesh



(In English)



(In Telugu)

Competent Authority (LA) & Revenue Divisional Officer, Kadapa Y.S.R. Kadapa District



Monsoon care tips for pretty hands this season



Hydrate



SHAHNAZ HUSAIN

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

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

1. Hydrate

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

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

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

nourished in the morning.

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

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

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

2. Keep Your Hands Clean During Monsoon Season

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



Keep your hands clean during monsoon season



Exfoliate your hands with a mild scrub

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

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

3. Exfoliate Your Hands with a Mild Scrub

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

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

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

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

Coffee, Coconut Oil and Sugar Scrub:

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

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

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

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

4. Take Extra Care of Your Cuticles

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

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

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

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



CROSSWORD

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

ACROSS

1 Early stage of the foetus (6)

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

8 Hindu god of love (4)

10 Tempestuous (6)

11 Impious (6)

14 To understand (3)

16 "The __ has landed" (5)

17 Surrounded by (4)

19 Exploits (5)

21 Hocks (5)

22 The evening star (5)

23 Have clothes on (4)

26 Central west coast of ancient Asia Minor (5)

28 Overact (3)

29 Mediterranean country (6)

30 Holds dear (6)

31 Charged particles (4)

32 Summit (8)

33 Obligations (6)

DOWN

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

2 Brought up (6)

3 Alright (4)

4 Uranus, Neptune, Jupiter et al (7)

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

6 A daisy, the marguerite (2-3)

8 Tributary of Ganges (4)

9 Name Mrs. (3)

12 Ovens (3)

13 South American animal (5)

15 Clinch (3,2)

18 Important (5)

19 Air mover (3)

20 Responses abbreviation (3)

21 Our national bird (7)

22 Contend with (3)

23 A nut with a hard crinkled shell (6)

24 Running birds (4)

25 Waterside plants (6)

26 Inuit dwelling (5)

27 More recent (5)

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

30 Competed (4)

SILL R ASTHMA

L A FIB H U T

AKIN OUTRIGHT

VARIETY U E

P E ABIDES

SPECIFICS O T

AW E IAN ASK

Q O INCESSANT

UNKIND O O

A M SIGNALS

SRI NAGAR ELLE

A S T YAP B A

RAPPED O FAIR

Solution to September 9

SUDOKU

6

2

3

7

5

9

6

8

3

7

4

4

3

1

9

1

4

6

2

4

5

1

8 1 7 2 6 3 9 5 4

4 5 9 8 7 1 3 6 2

3 6 2 9 5 4 1 8 7

9 2 6 7 8 5 4 1 3

5 8 4 3 1 9 2 7 6

1 7 3 6 4 2 8 9 5

6 4 1 5 3 8 7 2 9

2 3 5 1 9 7 6 4 8

7 9 8 4 2 6 5 3 1

Solution to September 9

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HARISH PARAMESWARAN

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

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



THE FAMILY BUSINESS OF EXPECTATIONS

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



LANTERNS, NOT ROCKETS

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

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

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

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



A SMALL TOOLKIT FOR NAVIGATING CHOICES

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

FOR PARENTS, IN THE MARGINS

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

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

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

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

IISc’s FSID strengthens focus on research, innovation

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

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

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

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

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

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

IIT Kharagpur students design and fly aircraft in international competition

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

World Archery Para Series

India win two gold, four bronze medals

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

AHMEDABAD

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

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

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



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

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

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

Sheetal returned in the evening session and produced a

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

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



Alcaraz's US Open title defence ends

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

LOS ANGELES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ASIAN GAMES: 400 ATHLETES EVACUATED



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

Nyra youngest Indian to qualify for Nationals

NEW DELHI

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

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



her a place at the Nationals.

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

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

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

IOA to probe Lakra's harassment charge

NEW DELHI

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

Asunta Lakra.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

TOP COURT: ENFORCE SEAT BELT LAW STRICTLY

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

NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

belts because of fancy seat covers or other modifications.

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

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

petent authority.

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

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

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

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

It said non-compliance of

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

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



Faridabad: Infant dies after drowning in water bucket

FARIDABAD

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



The deceased child was identified as Aryan.

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

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

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

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

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

'UP govt docs can now serve till 70'

LUCKNOW

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

would enable patients to directly benefit from their expertise.

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

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

Food licenses of Rly catering, ISKCON suspended

MUMBAI:

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

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

CHITWAN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



-Tarun Kapoor, Advisor to PM Narendra Modi

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), an IT services, consulting, and business solutions firm has launched the TCS Industrial Autonomy & Engineering Lab - Lights-Out Factory, at its Sahyadri Park campus in Pune. Joakim Lindholm, 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."

NEW DELHI: Declining for the straight session, gold prices fell Rs 100 to Rs 1,58,000 per 10 gram 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 gram 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 Sarafari Association. "Gold has remained within a narrow range as investors take a cautious approach ahead of important US inflation data set to be released this week," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

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.

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.

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.

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 Festival 2026. "This requires clear guardrails where the risks are understood, room for experimentation where they are still emerging, and the ability to adapt the framework as technology and its uses evolve.



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



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

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

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

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

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



any kind of discomfort.

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

Vaishnavi plays Kadali, who embodies the hidden

struggles and responsibilities behind a cheerful facade.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



‘Sigma’ 3rd single is full of energy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Producer Madhu Kalipu expresses confidence about ‘Mahendragiri Varahi’

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



Siddharth, Ali Fazal and Gurfateh Pirzada.

The trailer introduces

multiple couples dealing with complicated relationships while

facing their desires and vulnerabilities.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

