



What today's women really look for saree beyond design
WOMENIA Women today are looking beyond beauty when choosing a saree, considering comfort, versatility, authenticity and rewear value. Tradition still matters, but women increasingly want sarees that fit their lifestyles and reflect their personal style. P8 EDIT

The mental health of our society
P6 BUSINESS There is a mental health crisis around us that we rarely acknowledge. When we speak of mental health, we usually think of depression, anxiety, addiction, loneliness or other clinically recognised conditions.

Brent crosses \$105 on Iran war, Saudi output slump
P9 YOUNG HANS Brent crude oil prices climbed above \$105 a barrel on Thursday, reaching their highest level since May 25, as renewed fighting between the US and Iran raised concerns over prolonged disruptions to global energy supplies.

AI and its integration with education: Building a future for students
P5 India is entering a period of significant change in education as Artificial Intelligence (AI) becomes increasingly integrated into industries, governance, healthcare and other areas of society.

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ECI recognises Vijay-led TVK as state party
Reserves 'whistle' symbol

CHENNAI: The Election Commission of India (ECI) has recognised Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) as a state party in Tamil Nadu and reserved the 'whistle' as its election symbol. The recognition comes after the party's performance in the Assembly election, winning 108 of the 234 seats in the State. This marks a significant milestone for the actor-turned-politician Vijay-led TVK party. In a communication dated September 9, the ECI said it had reviewed TVK's performance in the 2026 Tamil Nadu and Puducherry Assembly elections and found that the party had fulfilled the conditions prescribed under Para 6A of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968. Accordingly, the Commission granted TVK recognition as a state party in Tamil Nadu as well as in the Union Territory of Puducherry.

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25 killed after fire breaks out on cargo ship in China port



BEIJING: At least 25 people were killed and five were missing after a cargo ship caught fire while docked in a Chinese port, Chinese state media reported on Thursday. The vessel was undergoing repairs at Beihai Ship-building Co. at the port of Qingdao, a major shipping hub on China's northeastern coast, when the fire broke out. China's Xinhua news agency released a photograph identifying the ship as the Ocean Melody. The vessel sails under a Liberian flag, according to the tracking website VesselFinder. There were 42 people aboard the ship when the incident occurred, Xinhua reported. Twelve people were safely evacuated, while five others suffered injuries and were taken to hospital. Their condition was reported to be stable.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL
I use vulgar language, roast everyone and abuse frequently. I don't know why Gen Z still can't connect with me

'PERFORM OR PERISH'

CM TELLS CONG MLAs ASPIRING FOR 2ND TERM

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

CHIEF Minister A Revanth Reddy has made it clear to Congress MLAs that only the performance of every legislator will determine the success of the party and therefore their own conduct will influence the chances of their winning a second term in the next elections. The Chief Minister instructed all MLAs to attend the ongoing Assembly session and raise local issues in the House.

The Chief Minister presided over the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting here on Thursday, with Ministers, government whips and Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee president in tow.

- Wants full attendance in House
- Asks them to raise local issues

Asking all the party MLAs to attend the ongoing Assembly session regularly, CM Revanth Reddy advised them to raise local issues in the House and work hard to succeed politically in the future as well



He told the legislators that people gave a big mandate in the last elections; so, everyone has to work hard to succeed politically in the future as well. Revanth Reddy commended

the legislators for strongly countering the Opposition's conspiracy and exposing their "plot" against the government to the public. An inquiry into the incidents that took place

has already been initiated. The opposition Bharat Rashtra Samithi had "conspired" to disrupt the Assembly session, he reiterated. Even after losing power, BRS leaders had refused to shed their arrogance. The opposition leaders abused police officials and public representatives verbally. They behaved inappropriately towards officials and caused embarrassment by taking off their T-shirts in the presence of female officers. The use of highly objectionable language to abuse the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly was uncalled for. The BRS also insulted the Dalit community by "purifying" the ground where Dalits had walked at KCR's farmhouse.

Continued on Page 7

2-DAY BRICS SUMMIT BEGINS TOMORROW

India pushes Global South priorities amid trade tensions

NEW DELHI

IN a strategic balancing act triggered by escalating global trade tensions, India is leveraging the two-day BRICS Summit starting Saturday to position the grouping as a complementary engine for economic growth while championing the Global South's core developmental priorities — most notably safeguarding food, energy and supply chain security.

With New Delhi putting



the finishing touches to the summit, China has confirmed President Xi Jinping's attendance, marking his first trip to India after a seven-year gap.

Iranian President Masoud

Pezeshkian, Russian President Vladimir Putin, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and his Indonesian counterpart Prabowo Subianto are among the top leaders attending the crucial meet in the national capital.

India is steering the BRICS grouping as a vital complementary platform to champion the Global South's core developmental priorities, top Indian officials said on Thursday.

Continued on Page 7

S-400, BrahMos on table at Modi-Putin meet

NEW DELHI: The next phase of



S-400 deliveries and the next phase of BrahMos development will both be on the table when Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets Russian President Vladimir Putin in New Delhi on Friday, ahead of the BRICS Summit on September 12-13. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov has confirmed that Russia would fulfil its commitments. "Russia is capable of fulfilling its obligations, and they will be fulfilled. This issue is being mentioned during the conversations of our two leaders," he said. Continued on Page 7

IT'S CERTAIN: Xi to visit India for BRICS Summit

NEW DELHI: Chinese President Xi Jinping will be visiting India over this weekend to attend the 18th BRICS summit in New Delhi, the government has confirmed, effectively ending days of heavy diplomatic suspense. At the invitation of Prime Minister of the Republic of India Narendra Modi, President Xi Jinping will attend the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi from September 12 to 13, China's foreign ministry statement read. Earlier in the day, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jia-kun refused to provide any confirmation on Xi's visit to New Delhi.

Continued on Page 7

'Sexual assault' cases against KTR, Harish Rao

HANS NEWS SERVICE



HYDERABAD: After Bharat Rashtra Samithi legislators' September 7th scuffle with cops while protesting at the Legislative Assembly's main gate during the start of the monsoon session, the Saifabad Police have registered cases against BRS MLAs

T Harish Rao, K T Rama Rao and others for allegedly abusing a woman constable posted at the premises. The police stated in the FIR that the complainant was afraid of threatening the accused persons. But due to viral video clippings and photos of assault over her, she was offended and decided to lodge a complaint. Continued on Page 7

TG PR Act amended

GP's get quick access to funds

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE Telangana Assembly on Thursday amended the Telangana Panchayat Raj Act, 2018 allowing the gram panchayats in the state to have separate bank accounts so that they can utilise the funds whenever they are needed. Under sub-section (3) of section 70 of the Telangana Panchayat Raj Act, 2018 (Telangana Act No. 5 of 2018), all moneys received by the gram panchayat are required to be lodged in the nearest government treasury. The proviso to that sub-section permits amounts received under central or state government schemes to be lodged in nearby nationalised banks, co-operative banks or post offices in such manner as may be prescribed.

The government had received representations seeking permission to deposit the gram panchayat general fund in nearby nationalised banks, co-operative banks or post offices, in addition to amounts received under centrally- or state-sponsored schemes.

Panchayat Raj Minister



Dhanasri Anasuya (Seethakka) said that it had been brought to their notice that delays in processing payments through the treasury system impede timely payment of salaries to gram panchayat staff and the timely discharge of other obligations. She said that while the Municipalities Act prescribes separate schedule commercial bank, there is no such provision in the Panchayat Raj.

The Minister said that it was decided to substitute sub-section (3) of section 70 of the Telangana Panchayat Raj Act, 2018 so as to provide that all moneys and funds received by a gram panchayat, including amounts received under the schemes of the central government or the state government from time to time, should be deposited in a nearby nationalised bank, co-operative bank or post office in such manner as may be prescribed. Continued on Page 7

Court frames charges against Lalu, family under PMLA act

NEW DELHI: The Special MP-MLA Court on Thursday directed to frame money laundering Charges against LARA Projects, Rabri Devi, Tejaswi, Lalu Prasad Yadav, PC Gupta, Sarala Gupta, Sujata Hotels and Vijay Kochar and Vinay Kochar for the money laundering offences. This alleged money laundering case is linked to the irregularities in the IRTC hotel tender scam case registered by the CBI. The court also said that the Investigation against Lalu Prasad Yadav was not politically motivated.

Continued on Page 7

SEC'BAD-KAZIPET MULTI-TRACKING RAIL PROJECT

Kishan, Laxman see fillip to TG economic development

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

RAJYA Sabha member and a member of the Railway Standing Committee Dr K Laxman has called the approval of the Secunderabad (Ghatkesar)-Kazipet Railway Multi-Tracking Project "another historic decision by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government for the development of Telangana".

The decision was taken in the meeting of the Union Cabinet



Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by PM Modi on Wednesday. Dr Laxman, while welcoming the announcement, said that the Union Govern-

ment had approved eight railway multi-tracking projects across the country with an investment of Rs. 20,804 crore.

Continued on Page 7

'Get off our roads, Mr Singh'

US HOMELAND SECURITY POSTER SPARKS OUTRAGE

WASHINGTON

A social media campaign by the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has caused outrage after an AI-generated poster appeared to single out Indian truck drivers as part of the Trump administration's push encouraging undocumented migrants to leave the country.

The graphic, shared by the official DHS account on X, is designed like a movie poster and is titled Transformers: Age of Deportations. It shows an AI-generated robot carrying a DHS



badge facing a brown-bearded man wearing a head covering.

Across the centre of the image is the message: 'America for Americans. Get off our roads; you don't know how to drive, Mr Singh.' The post also tells undocumented commercial drivers to 'self-deport or find out' and includes a federal hotline through which people can report what DHS describes as 'illegal aliens on American roads'. The reference to 'Mr Singh' has drawn particular criticism from Sikh and Indian American organisations. Continued on Page 7



BANK STRIKE TODAY

- **Friday:** Unions strike
- **Saturday:** 2nd Saturday
- **Sunday:** Gen holiday
- **Monday:** Ganesh Chaturthi

NEW DELHI

BANK unions will go ahead with their planned nationwide strike on Friday, after talks with the government over key demands, including service conditions, failed to break the deadlock.

The United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) has said it will not defer the strike unless there is a favourable decision or a definite timeline on its principal demand for a five-day banking week. It may noted here that banks are closed on the second Saturday (September 12), followed by Sunday (September 13) and Monday (September 14: Ganesh Chaturthi) in some states. Continued on Page 7

RECYCLED WATER FOR INDUSTRIES

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE cash-strapped Telangana government, looking for avenues to boost revenues, proposes to make the Musi river, presently under phased rejuvenation, a money-spinner.

For context, the state government has launched the Musi Riverfront Development Corporation Ltd to clean the 55-kilometer urban stretch, build sewage treatment plants, and transform the corridor into a sustain-

able public space.

Right now, the government is focusing on creating a commercial demand for recycled water (grey water) from the Musi Rejuvenation Project. As the first phase of the Musi project, already grounded, is scheduled to be completed by 2027; the available water from the STPs along the Musi river would be on sale for commercial needs.

In view of mushrooming data centers and industrial estates at the Bharat Future City and in the PURE



region, the government would start selling water to meet industrial needs. It is

estimated that 1,900 MLD of recycled water from the STPs in the Musi project would be

produced every day. Since data centres required huge water for cooling and other

purposes, officials said: "Arrangements are being made to cater to their needs once the Musi - phase one project is completed next year."

Presently, the establishment of data centres with 800 megawatts capacity are in various stages of completion. Each megawatt capacity requires around 15 million litres of water a year. The government estimates that 210 crore litres would be required every year to keep the existing and upcoming data centres in and around Hyderabad cool. "IT

is impossible to meet the requirement of huge amounts of water to keep the systems at data centers cool round the clock with the available water resources in the state.

The available water in Musi during monsoon season would be enough to meet the requirements of data centres and other industrial needs. A separate water supply network needs to be developed for all data centers. Water stock points should also be created around the data centers in the summer.

Continued on Page 7

Uttam announces mega job mela in Kodad tomorrow

200-250 companies expected to offer jobs to unemployed youth

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

IRRIGATION and Civil Supplies Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Thursday announced that a Mega Job Mela will be organised at Kodad on Saturday with an ambitious plan to bring 200 to 250 companies and provide employment opportunities to unemployed youth.

The minister said unemployment among educated youth was one of the most serious challenges facing society and stressed that elected representatives and government agencies had a responsibility to create opportunities for them.

Recalling the Mega Job Mela organised at Huzurnagar in October, 2025, the minister said it had received an overwhelming response. Around 200 companies participated, nearly 40,000 unemployed youth registered,



and about 20,000 candidates appeared for interviews. Nearly 3,000 candidates either secured jobs or were shortlisted for subsequent rounds of interviews, he said.

Encouraged by its success, Uttam Kumar Reddy said he had decided to organise a

similar large-scale employment drive at Kodad. The minister said unemployed youth from Kodad, Huzurnagar, Suryapet and Thungathurthi Assembly constituencies should be extensively mobilised.

Youth from the erstwhile Nalgonda district

and neighbouring Khammam district would also be encouraged to participate. Special teams would reach out to engineering colleges, polytechnic colleges, degree colleges and ITIs, particularly final-year students, and invite them to attend the recruitment drive.

IT'S A REVANTH GOVT-INDUCED DROUGHT, FUMES HARISH RAO

BRSLP Deputy Leader demands full operation of Krishna lift irrigation projects to protect local farmers

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

PUBLIC NOTICE

Under the instructions received from my client Pandiri Rajya Laxmi, D/o. Venkat Reddy, R/o Kodad Town and Mandal Suryapet district, I do here by issue the following public notice as under. Whereas My client entered into Reasons for Missing/Lost Original Registered link document No. 6640/2022 This is to certify that Stated that on 20.08.2026 My client lost her Original Registered Link Doc. No. 6640/2022 while My client Proceeding her Ranga Theater in Autorikshaw from Bus Stand center in Kodad Town and they searched for the missing Original documents, but in vain. This certificate only for getting From Sub-registrar office. That my client intended to obtain loan from any Bank for registration of the said house property, as such my client hereby calling upon any claims, litigations, court attachments etc over the schedule property. If any interest or claim over the said property my client calling upon them to come along with proper document within in 7 days.

Your's faithfully,
Shaik Karimulla, Advocate,
#Beside Shafi
TVS Show Room Line,
Opp: Sai Apartment Bhavan Nagar,
KODAD-508206, Suryapeta District,
Telangana State,
Cell No:9705178603.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the general public at large that my client DCB BANK, having its branch at Sathupally Town, Khammam Dist Telangana State, is in the process of considering a loan application from Mr. Mohammad Anwar S/o Shareef, R/o H.No. 7-1-33324, Adarsha Nagar-Manuguru, Manuguru Mandal, Bhadradi Kothagudem Dist., Telangana State. The said loan application pertains to the property situated at RCC Building Bearing H.No.4-141/C, Assessment No. 1129002997 in an extent of 181. ½ Sq Yds situated at Sy.No.104/D, Sathupally Revenue Village, Sathupally Municipality, Sathupally Mandal, Khammam Dist., Telangana State. The intending borrower has represented that the original title documents i.e., Link documents relating to the aforesaid property, specifically Regt Sale deed No 2144/2013 dated 17-06-2023 of SRO Sathupally and Regt Sale deed No 397/2007 dated 25-01-2007 of SRO Sathupally have been inadvertently lost or mislaid and are not traceable. Any person, bank, or financial institution having any claim, right, title, interest, charge, lien, or objection whatsoever in respect of the aforementioned property or the missing documents, or having possession or knowledge of the whereabouts of the said missing documents, is hereby required to notify the undersigned advocate in writing with documentary proof within fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this notice.

If no claim or objection is received within the stipulated period, my client, DCB BANK, branch at Sathupally Town, shall proceed with the processing of the loan application on the presumption that there are no claims or encumbrances on the said property, and that the original documents are genuinely lost. Thereafter, no claims or objections from any person shall be entertained by my client DCB BANK, branch at Sathupally Town.

Schedule property
The RCC Building Bearing H.No.4-141/C, Assessment No. 1129002997 in an extent of 181. ½ Sq Yds situated at Sy.No.104/D, Sathupally Revenue Village, Sathupally Municipality, Sathupally Mandal, Khammam Dist., Telangana State. Boundaries: East: Municipality Road, West: House of Mandapati Krishna Reddy, North: House of Shaik Ahmad, South: House of Gaddam Prathapa Reddy.
Date:
Place: Sathupally
Sd/-Mrs Nallagatta Indira Priyadarshini Advocate
H.No09-117/66/11,Road no.7
Dwarakapuri Colony,Ayyagaripeta
Sathupally Khammam Dist
Cell No 9492222002

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

BRSLP Deputy Leader T Harish Rao accused the Congress government on Thursday of failing to utilize available Krishna River water, thereby failing to protect Telangana farmers. Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan, Harish Rao asserted that the current crisis is not a natural calamity but a government-induced drought resulting from Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy administrative failure. He alleged that despite claiming to be a son of Palamuru, Revanth Reddy is betraying the region by failing to lift available river water.

Harish Rao alleged that the state government remains a silent spectator while Andhra Pradesh draws water, ignoring weather agency warnings regarding potential El Nino impacts. He highlighted operational failures across major lift irrigation projects, noting that the Kalwakurthy project Ellur pump house operates only



two of its five motors intermittently. Similarly, he questioned why Bhima operates only one of three motors, Nettampadu operates one of four, and Koilsagar runs just one of three. He questioned whether the administration is aiding Andhra Pradesh in drawing water through Veligonda and Pothreddypadu. Harish Rao recalled that while Kalwakurthy irrigated only 13,000 acres for nearly 30 years, BRS governance expanded its coverage to 3.07 lakh acres.

Demanding immediate corrective action, Harish Rao urged the government to halt the diversion of Tel-

angana rightful Krishna water share to Andhra Pradesh. He called for an immediate Apex Council meeting if necessary to safeguard state water rights and demanded that all pump motors across Palamuru, Kalwakurthy, Bhima, Nettampadu, and Koilsagar projects be switched on fully without delay. Concluding his remarks, Harish Rao emphasized that state farmers require immediate water release rather than administrative excuses, urging the government to end its negligence and act swiftly to protect agricultural interests across Telangana.



DC inspects proposed site for bus station in Kazipet

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HANUMAKONDA

District Collector Chahat Bajpayee along with officials inspected the railway lands proposed for the construction of a permanent RTC bus station in Kazipet on Thursday. The Collector inspected the site in front of the railway station, where city buses are

currently plying. He also inspected the railway school site, the railway stadium area, and about an acre of land belonging to the railway opposite the stadium and inquired from the officials about their suitability for the construction of a bus station.

The Collector also inspected the current bus stand where RTC buses go-

ing to Hyderabad stop on the Kazipet main road. He examined the movement of passengers, stopping of buses and other aspects and discussed with the officials the infrastructure required for the construction of a permanent bus station. She also discussed issues such as land acquisition, land exchange process and others.

Researchers combing Kothagudem forests to assess wildlife population

- The district is home to rare species such as king cobras and pangolins, besides gaur, deer, sloth bears and other wildlife
- Forest officials said more than 200 crocodiles were estimated to be present in the Kinnerasani reservoir
- The study will help identify pangolin habitats and threats, including poaching and illegal wildlife trade, and assist in strengthening conservation measures

PV SATYANARAYANA
KOTHAGUDEM

THE Forest department official have been conducting a month-long scientific survey to assess the wildlife population and document biodiversity in Bhadradi Kothagudem district, which is home to several rare and endangered species.

Began on August 20, the survey primarily covers the Kinnerasani Wildlife Sanctuary, spread over 64,435 hectares, and focuses on wildlife habitats, species diversity and threats to animals.

A team of 10 research students from the Forest Research Institute has undertaken the field study in coordination with Forest department officials.

The district is home to rare species such as king cobras and pangolins, besides gaur, deer, sloth bears and other wildlife.

Forest officials said more than 200 crocodiles are estimated to be present in the Kinnerasani reservoir.

The survey assumes significance as pangolins, among the most trafficked mammals globally, are



found in considerable numbers in Bhadradi Kothagudem and some neighbouring forest districts.

Officials said the study will help identify pangolin habitats and threats, including poaching and illegal wildlife trade, and assist in strengthening conservation measures.

The forests in the district are also facing threats from hunting, road accidents and attacks by stray dogs, officials said.

Recently, signs indicating the killing of a leopard by hunters were reportedly found in a forest area along the district's border. Incidents involving the hunting of deer and other wild animals have also been reported from some areas.

The findings of the scientific survey will be compiled into a report, which will include recommendations for strengthening wildlife protection and conservation measures, officials said.

Meanwhile, the Forest Department is taking steps to improve the Kinnerasani Wildlife Sanctuary as a suitable habitat for tigers, following an increase in tiger movements in the district in recent times.

District Forest Officer Siddharth Vikram Singh and Kinnerasani Wildlife Forest Division Officer Babu said efforts were under way to improve habitat conditions and strengthen protection measures. The officials said the survey findings would be reviewed after its completion.



tion and necessary measures would be taken to protect wildlife and their habitats. Strict action would be

taken against those involved in hunting and other illegal activities threatening wildlife, they added.



HANS NEWS SERVICE
KARIMNAGAR

MOHAMMED Imran has been appointed as the Karimnagar district president of the Na-

Mohammed Imran appointed NSUI Karimnagar dist president

tional Students' Union of India (NSUI). Telangana NSUI president Edavalli Venkat Swamy issued the appointment orders on Wednesday.

Imran, who has been associated with the Congress student wing for the past 10 years, has held various responsibilities, including college president,

NSUI constituency coordinator, district general secretary, district vice-president, Huzurabad MLA election in-charge and Karimnagar district coordinator during the MLC elections. Expressing gratitude to the NSUI State president for recognising his work among students, Imran said he would

work to strengthen the organisation and continue raising issues concerning students. He thanked Transport Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar, Karimnagar DCC president and Choppadandi MLA Medipalli Satyam, Manakondur MLA Dr Kavvampalli Satyanarayana and others for his appointment.

Sunil Rao lays out action plan for BJP's 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan'

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KARIMNAGAR

THE Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Karimnagar South Zone conducted a mandal-level workshop on the 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan' here on Thursday.

The workshop focused on the month-long campaign proposed from September 17 to October 17 to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi completing 25 years in public service. Party leaders discussed plans for various service-oriented activities to be organised during the campaign.

Karimnagar Deputy May-



or Yadagiri Sunil called upon party workers to explain to people the Prime Minister's long-standing public service and the development and welfare initiatives undertaken under his leadership. He suggested organising blood donation camps, sanitation drives, free medical screen-

ing camps and awareness programmes on Central government schemes as part of the campaign.

He urged party leaders, workers and representatives of various BJP morchas to work in coordination and ensure the effective implementation of the campaign across

the South Zone.

South Zone in-charge and BJP Mahila Morcha president Nirmala Devi, South Zone president Gayatri, Seva Sankalp South Zone in-charge Panduga Nagaraju, BJP corporators, leaders and party workers attended the workshop.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA Irrigation & CAD Department O/o. Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Circle, Khammam		
Tender No-	Name of work	Estimate amount
16/2026-27 date: 30.06.2026 (2nd Call)	RAT- repairs of village ponds in Konijerla (Mandal), Kondavanamala (village), Seetharampuram (habitation) in Khammam district.	Rs. 28,30,625.00/-
17/2026-27 date: 30.06.2026 (2nd Call)	RAT- repairs of village Large ponds in Konijerla (Mandal), Munagala (village), Pedda Munagala (habitation) in Khammam district.	Rs. 26,61,185.00/-
Bid Document Download start from date: 11-09-2026, 10.30 A.M. Last date of Bid submission : 18-09-2026, 04.00 P.M. Note: Further details please can be seen e-Procurement website & https://tender.telangana.gov.in DIPR.O.No.: 1694-PP/CQ/ADVT/2026-27 Date: 10-09-2026		
Sd/-Superintending Engineer Irrigation Circle, Khammam		

Chakali Iamma an inspiration for future generations: Sudharani

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HANUMAKONDA

KAKATIYA Urban Development Authority (KUDA) Chairperson Gundu Sudharani said that the life of Veeranari Chakali Ailamma, who fought against oppression for land, land rights and freedom from

forced labour, is an inspiration for future generations. To commemorate the death anniversary of Veeranari Chakali (Chityala) Ailamma, Chairperson Gundu Sudharani, Hanumakonda and Warangal district Collectors Chahat Bajpai, Satya Sarada, officials and representatives of public or-

ganisations paid floral tributes to the statue of Chakali Ailamma on Thursday.

Sudharani also said that Chakali Ailamma was not just a woman who fought for a particular community, but she has gone down in history as a brave woman who fought bravely for the rights of farmers, the poor

and the oppressed.

She said that her struggle against injustice without backing down even in adverse circumstances is inspiring to everyone.

He said that Chakali Ailamma's struggle has become a symbol of women's empowerment, self-respect and social justice.



Erratic power supply killing our crops: Farmers

HANS NEWS SERVICE
WANAPARTHY

FARMERS from Peddagudem in Kadukuntla village of Wanaparthy mandal protested on Thursday alleging that their crops were withering due to irregular electricity supply. They held the protest in front of local sub-station and on the main road.

Protesting ryots expressed distress, noting that while a 12-hour supply had been promised, they were not receiving even six hours of reliable, quality power. Power outages were preventing borewells and motors from functioning, thereby depriving crops of water and causing them to dry.

Following the protest, officials arrived at the site to assess the situation. Electrical DE Srinivasulu explained

District farmers stage protest at local sub station



- Protesting ryots alleged they were not received even 6 hours of reliable power
- They reminded that they were promised a 12-hour supply
- Power outages preventing borewells and motors from functioning
- Electrical DE explained difficulties in maintaining supply arose due El Nino effect

to farmers difficulties in maintaining adequate supply arose due to increased demand caused by the El Niño effect.

Additional collector Kheema Naik and Srinivasulu spoke with farmers and assured the issue would be

resolved. The protest was withdrawn after they assured measures to ensure a continuous power supply for agriculture.

Meanwhile, Mandal BRS presidents K Manikyam, Raghu Vardhan Reddy, and others; sarpanch Tirupatai-

ah; former sarpanches Hari-
tha Balakrishna and Kon-
daiah; and village presidents
Venkatesh and Ashok joined
the protest.

Power disruptions threaten paddy crop in Yadadri Bhongir

Farmers urge authorities to ensure uninterrupted and timely power supply

HANS NEWS SERVICE
RAJAPET
(YADADRI-BHONGIR)

FARMERS in Rajapet mandal of Yadadri Bhongir district are facing difficulties as alleged irregular power supply during crucial agricultural hours is affecting irrigation. With groundwater levels declining and water becoming increasingly scarce, farmers are struggling to provide adequate irrigation to their crops.

Erravolla Pentaiah, a farmer from Doodi Venkatapur village, said his paddy field was drying up due to the delay in power supply. With no electricity available at the required time to operate the irrigation motor, he was forced to arrange water through a tanker to save his crop. He expressed concern that the paddy crop could wither if



Farmer Pentaiah of Rajapet watering his paddy field through a water tanker

water is not supplied on time.

Several other farmers are also resorting to tankers to transport water to their fields as their crops face the threat of drying up. Farmers said they had cultivated paddy based on the limited availability of water, but declining

groundwater levels have now intensified the problem.

Those dependent on agricultural wells and borewells said frequent interruptions in power supply are preventing them from operating their motors when needed. Having already borrowed money

With groundwater levels declining and water becoming increasingly scarce, farmers are struggling to provide adequate irrigation to their crops

to cultivate their crops, farmers are now being forced to spend additional amounts on tanker water to protect their investments.

The farmers urged the authorities to ensure uninterrupted and timely power supply for agricultural purposes and take immediate measures to prevent crops from drying up. They said reliable electricity and adequate irrigation support are essential to protect the standing paddy crop and ease their financial burden.

Three deaths, including a suspected murder

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KHAMMAM

THREE separate incidents, including a suspected murder of a woman by her husband, were reported in the district, police sources said.

In the first incident, 24-year-old Bharat, who had gone swimming in the Munneru river near Edulapuram municipality along with his friends, drowned accidentally.

In another incident, 44-year-old Nagaiah of Proddutur village in Chintakani mandal died after reportedly being bitten by a snake while spraying pesticide in his agricultural field.

In the third incident, a woman, identified as Renuka, was allegedly strangled to death by her husband Vidyasagar following a quarrel inside their car. According to preliminary information, Vidyasagar suspected that his wife was having an extramarital relationship.

The couple were reportedly travelling in a car when an argument broke out between them. In a fit of anger, Vidyasagar allegedly strangled Renuka and later abandoned the car near Pragathi School before leaving the spot.

Police have begun an investigation into the incident and are examining the circumstances leading to the woman's death. Further details are awaited.



Blood donation camp marks 'Vigilance Awareness Week'

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KHAMMAM

AS part of Vigilance Awareness Week-2026, a blood donation camp was organized at the Regional Office of Union Bank of India, Khammam, in association with the Thalassemia and Sickle Cell Society (TSCS), Khammam.

Regional Assurance Head N. Sudhakar Rao, along with bank officials and staff

members, donated blood during the camp.

The organizers stated that blood donation not only helps save the lives of people in emergencies but also provides vital support to patients suffering from thalassemia and sickle cell disorders, who require regular blood transfusions.

Bank officials and staff members, along with representatives of TSCS, participated in the programme.

BC Samaj pays tributes to Chakali Ilamma

HANS NEWS SERVICE
MAHABUBNAGAR

BC Samaj State General Secretary Modal Srinivas Sagar described Chakali Ilamma as a brave woman who fought in the Telangana Armed Struggle for land and livelihood and against the exploitative vetti system.

On her death anniversary, Sagar, along with leaders of caste associations, garlanded Chakali Ilamma's statue at Green Belt Colony in Padmavathi Colony and paid floral tributes on Thursday. He said Ilamma courageously stood against the Razakars, oppressive landlords and the Vishnoor Deshmukh Ramachandra Reddy.

He recalled that when the Vishnoor attempted to oc-



cupy the land leased by Ilamma in the Palakurthi region, she resisted and protected her crop with the support of Communist fighters and Andhra Mahasabha activists.

Leaders of caste associations added Ilamma displayed exceptional courage by directly challenging the landlord and his men. They recalled that following the success of her land struggle,

Communist activists distributed the grain seized from the landlord's house among the people and distributed about 90 acres of the landlord's land.

BC JAC leaders Sarangi Lakshmikanth, Kummari Sangham district president Bugganna, BC Samajh town president Narsimha and others participated in the programme.

Sarpanch election recount on Sept 19

Minor 13-vote margin puts Chinnamadaram Sarpanch result under fresh suspense

HANS NEWS SERVICE
CHINNA MADARAM
(NALGONDA)

THE outcome of the Chinnamadaram sarpanch election in Kanagal mandal of Nalgonda district has once again come under suspense with votes set to be recounted on September 19. The recounting will be conducted at 11 am on the Nalgonda court premises to re-examine the result, which was decided by a narrow margin of only 13 votes. The ballot boxes related to the election are already under the custody of the court.

The court has appointed MV Raghava Rao as the

Advocate Commissioner to supervise the recounting process.

In the previous election, Congress-backed candidate Mallekanti Sujatha emerged victorious defeating BJP candidate Pindi Bhagyamma. Alleging irregularities during the counting process, Bhagyamma approached the court seeking legal intervention.

After hearing her petition, the court recently ordered a recounting of the votes. The decision has now generated considerable interest among the candidates and villagers, who are keenly awaiting the outcome.

Celebrate Sept 17 as TG Liberation Day: BJP



HANS NEWS SERVICE
WANAPARTHY

BJP State general secretary Virender Goud stated that September 17 is a pivotal day in Telangana's history. Speaking at a press conference here on Thursday, Goud noted that although the country gained independence on August 15 the Hyderabad State

remained under the Nizam's rule. "The struggle waged by people against the Nizam and the Razakars culminating in 'Operation Polo' led by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel resulted in merger of Hyderabad State into the Union on September 17, 1948. September 17 is not merely a date but a symbol of the courage, sacrifice, and strug-

gle of people. It is everyone's responsibility to convey the sacrifices of martyrs in the liberation struggle to future generations," he said.

Goud mentioned that September 17 holds another special significance. Various service activities would be organised on a large scale this month, as the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra

Modi coincides with Vishwakarma Jayanti.

He appealed to voters regarding the ongoing SIR process; voters who receive notices should not ignore them but contact officials and respond appropriately within the stipulated time-frame; advised those who receive notices to complete the formalities.

Brake failure triggers multi-lorry pile-up

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KODAD (SURYAPET)

A truck created panic on National Highway-65 (NH-65) after its brakes reportedly failed, causing it to ram into two lorries parked near Durgapuram Stage in Kodad mandal on Thursday. The truck later lost control and overturned on the highway. Fortunately, no one was injured in the incident. According to police and locals, the accident occurred when a lorry carrying a load of cement from Deccan Cement Factory was heading towards Vizianagaram. When it reached Durgapuram Stage, the vehicle's brakes reportedly failed. Although the driver



tried to bring the lorry under control, he was unable to do so. The speeding lorry's crash created impact that caused considerable damage to both stationary vehicles. The lorry responsible for the accident subsequently overturned on the highway.

Fortunately, a major tragedy was narrowly averted as there was nobody inside the parked lorries at the time; the drivers had stepped out for lunch.

Meanwhile, the accident briefly disrupted traffic move-

ment on the highway. With the overturned lorry and the damaged vehicles lying along the roadside, motorists had to slow down while passing the spot, resulting in temporary traffic congestion. On receiving information, police personnel reached the spot and inspected the scene. They began collecting details regarding the accident and the extent of damage to the vehicles. Preliminary information indicated that brake failure was the likely cause of the accident.

Traffic SI Baireddy Anjireddy, along with his staff, reached the spot promptly and took steps to clear the traffic and restore the smooth movement of vehicles.

22A land restrictions: Protests staged by BJP rock Khammam

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KHAMMAM

THE BJP staged a mahadharna in Khammam on Thursday demanding the removal of privately held lands allegedly included in the 22A prohibited properties list and sought the resignation of Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy over the issue.

Addressing the protest near the Collectorate, BJP Khammam district president Nelluri Koteswara Rao said farmers and poor and middle-class families had been facing difficulties as they were unable to sell or register lands they had been possessing for decades.

"BJP will not step back from resolving public issues. If necessary, we will intensify the agitation and ensure that lands wrongly included in the 22A list

Leaders demand resignation of Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy

are removed," he said. He alleged that discrepancies existed between land records and the prohibited properties list, resulting in landowners being unable to use their property for pressing financial needs, including children's education and marriages, medical treatment, and agricultural investments.

Rao alleged that the Congress government had failed to resolve the issue despite mistakes of previous governments. He particularly criticised Srinivas Reddy, who oversees the Revenue portfolio, and demanded that the minister resign if he could not address the grievances of affected landowners. A large number of BJP leaders, workers, farmers and alleged 22A-affected



landowners from different parts of the district participated in the protest and raised slogans demanding relief. A memorandum was subsequently submitted to the district Collector.

The 22A issue has also emerged as a contentious political issue across Telangana. BJP MLAs have raised

the matter during the ongoing Assembly session, demanding a judicial inquiry, while the BRS has sought a probe and a white paper on the prohibited land list.

The government, however, has maintained that mistakes in the 22A list would be rectified. Ponguleti has directed officials

Nelluri Koteswara Rao alleged that the Congress government had failed to resolve the issue despite promising to correct mistakes of previous governments

not to reject registration applications merely because a property figures in the 22A list and asked them to examine individual cases comprehensively and provide relief to eligible applicants.

The minister had also acknowledged that some lands may have been included in the prohibited list inadvertently and said such errors would be corrected.

Meanwhile, the Telangana High Court has also

examined disputes concerning inclusion of private lands in the 22A list in various cases, highlighting the importance of following due legal procedure while restricting transactions involving privately held properties.

BJP leaders said the party would continue its agitation until genuine landowners affected by the 22A restrictions received relief.

Among those who participated in the protest were former Kisan Morcha president and Warangal in-charge Kondapalli Sridhar Reddy, Nalgonda in-charge Sanne Uday Pratap, former district president and state executive member Galla Satyanarayana, state spokespersons Namburi Ramalingeswara Rao and Vakadani Pullarao Yadav, and several district and state-level leaders and party workers.

Hans India Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Patlavath Anjaneyulu S/o Sevyra, R/o H No: 2-100, Piratwanipally Thanda Village, Uppunuthala Mandal, Nagarkurnool Dist.Telangana - 509376., do hereby declare that I have changed my name as **PATHLAVATH ANJI S/o SEVYA** (New Name), for all future purposes
(Th-Venkat Mungi)

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Paniganti Janaki W/o Paniganti Raghava Reddy, R/o H No: 1-93, 2nd street, Kyathur Village, Alampur Mandal, Jogulamba Gadwal Dist. Telangana., my name was recorded in my RPLI Policy Bond as **B. HYMAVATHI**. My actually and correct name is per Aadhar card is **PANIGANTI JANAKI**. Hence both names are one and same
(Th-Venkat Mungi)

CHANGE OF NAME

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Scholarships

PART-I

Scholarship Name 1:	LIC Golden Jubilee Scholarship 2026-27
Description:	The LIC Golden Jubilee Scholarship Scheme 2026 is being offered by the LIC Golden Jubilee Foundation. The scholarship is a financial award designed to support meritorious students belonging to economically weaker sections, providing them with better opportunities for higher education and employment.
Eligibility:	The application is open to meritorious students who have secured at least 60% marks or an equivalent CGPA in Class 10th or 12th/equivalent examinations during the academic years 2023–24 to 2025–26. For the General Scholarship, applicants must have taken admission in the first year of one of the listed academic programmes in 2026–27. For the Special Scholarship, applicants must have taken admission in the first year of Intermediate/10+2, vocational or diploma courses. The annual family income for both the categories must not exceed ₹4.5 lakh.
Prizes & Rewards:	An award of up to ₹50,000.
Last Date to Apply:	30-09-2026
Application mode:	Online Application Only
Short Url:	www.b4s.in/hans/LICCI
QR Code:	https://dle9eg0t055l3.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/lic-golden-jubilee-scholarship-2026-271788792351.png

Scholarship Name 2:	IDFC FIRST Bank Engineering Scholarship Programme 2026-30
Description:	A promising engineering career should not be limited by financial constraints. The IDFC FIRST Bank Engineering Scholarship Programme 2026-30, an initiative by IDFC FIRST Bank, supports deserving first-year B.E. and B.Tech. students from modest family backgrounds with financial assistance of up to ₹1 lakh per year for four years. The scholarship aims to ease the cost of engineering education and help students continue their studies and pursue their career aspirations with confidence.
Eligibility:	• Must be an Indian citizen. • Open to students enrolled in the first year (academic year 2026-27) of their B.Tech or B.E. program. • Must have secured admission to one of the FIRST IMPACT empanelled colleges. • The gross annual family income from all sources must be less than or equal to INR 6 lakh. • Applicants must have a valid mobile number linked to their Aadhaar number. • IDFC FIRST Bank employees and their family members are not eligible to apply.
Prizes & Rewards:	INR 1,00,000 per year for up to four years.
Last Date to Apply:	20-09-2026
Application mode:	Online applications only
Short Url:	www.b4s.in/hans/IFBES2
QR Code:	https://dle9eg0t055l3.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/idfc-first-2026-301787580725.png

Scholarship Name 3:	OakNorth Scholarship and Mentorship Programme 2026-27
Description:	The OakNorth Scholarship and Mentorship Programme 2026-27 supports underprivileged women pursuing STEM degrees. It is available to female students from Jharkhand and Bihar who have completed Class 12 and are enrolled in a STEM undergraduate program at government institutions.
Eligibility:	• Open to domiciled students of Jharkhand or Bihar. • Only female students are eligible to apply. • Applicants must be pursuing the 1st-year of a graduation degree in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) subjects at a government university or college in India. • Applicants must have scored a minimum of 75% marks in Class 12. • Annual parental income must not exceed INR 3,00,000 from all sources.
Prizes & Rewards:	INR 30,000 (one-time, fixed amount)
Last Date to Apply:	20-09-2026
Application mode:	Online applications only
Short Url:	www.b4s.in/hans/ONSS5
QR Code:	https://dle9eg0t055l3.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/oaknorth-2026-271787580810.png

Scholarship Name 4:	SBI Platinum Jubilee Asha Scholarship 2026
Description:	The SBI Platinum Jubilee Asha Scholarship 2026-27, an initiative of SBI Foundation, supports meritorious students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds across India. It covers students from Classes 9 to 12 to undergraduate, postgraduate, medical, IIT, IIM and eligible overseas programmes.
Eligibility:	• Open to Indian nationals studying in Classes 9 to 12, undergraduate, postgraduate, MBBS, IIT or IIM programmes. Overseas Studies is open only to SC/ST Indian nationals. • Applicants must have at least 75% marks or 7.0 CGPA; SC/ST applicants receive a 10% relaxation. Annual family income must not exceed INR 3 lakh for school students and INR 6 lakh for other categories. • General UG/PG institutions must have NAAC Grade 'A' or above or be among the Top 300 in NIRF Overall 2025-26. Medical applicants must study at AIIMS or a Top 50 NIRF medical institution. • Overseas applicants must study at a Top 200 QS/THE-ranked institution and have a valid offer or acceptance letter. Category-specific entrance or proficiency scores may apply.
Prizes & Rewards:	Scholarships ranging from INR 15,000 to INR 20,00,000 per academic year will be awarded depending on the scholarship category. (*T&C Applied) Note: • Scholarship support may be utilised for eligible education-related expenses such as tuition fees, accommodation, books, examination fees and educational equipment.
Last Date to Apply:	19-09-2026
Application mode:	Online applications only
Short Url:	www.b4s.in/hans/SBISF20
QR Code:	https://dle9eg0t055l3.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/sbi-platinum-jubilee-asha-scholarship-20261786449537.png

Young Hans

AI and its integration with education: Building a future for students

DR ATUL CHAUHAN

India is entering a period of significant change in education as Artificial Intelligence (AI) becomes increasingly integrated into industries, governance, healthcare and other areas of society. For higher education institutions, this shift brings the responsibility of preparing students to work with AI while also understanding its limitations, ethical implications and impact on society.

According to the 2024 Advancing India's AI Skills: Interventions and Programmes Needed report by NASSCOM and Deloitte India, India's AI talent pool is projected to grow from 600,000–650,000 to more than 1.25 million between 2022 and 2027. The broader AI market, particularly software and services, is also projected to grow at a 25–35 per cent compound annual growth rate through 2027.

For universities, these developments underline the need to integrate AI education into academic programmes. Used thoughtfully, AI can support personalised learning, assist teachers, expand access to educational resources and help students develop skills relevant to emerging careers.

Supporting personalised learning

AI-based systems can analyse aspects of student performance and recommend lessons, exercises or practice material. Students who require additional support can receive further explanations and practice, while those progressing faster can be given more challenging tasks.

However, such systems should complement rather than replace teacher judgement. Educators remain important in understanding students' individual circumstances and providing academic and personal guidance.

Supporting teachers and classrooms

AI can also assist educators with tasks such as lesson planning, organising learning materials and routine assessments. By reducing some



administrative responsibilities, technology could allow teachers to devote more time to mentoring, classroom discussion and creative learning.

The role of teachers remains central because education involves more than the delivery of information. Empathy, encouragement, ethical guidance and an understanding of students' social and emotional needs cannot be reduced to automated systems.

Expanding access to learning

India's linguistic and geographical diversity presents another area where AI could contribute. Digital platforms such as DIKSHA and SWAYAM have expanded access to educational resources. AI-enabled translation, speech recognition and text-to-speech technologies could further support students who learn in regional languages or require accessibility features.

Rural and remote learners could also benefit from AI tutors, digital laboratories and career-guidance tools. However, these possibilities depend on reliable electricity, affordable devices, internet access and systems capable of functioning in low-bandwidth or offline environments.

Preparing students for an AI-enabled workplace

Universities in different parts of the world

are experimenting with interdisciplinary approaches to AI education, combining technical learning with problem-solving, projects and applications across disciplines.

For students, technical knowledge alone may not be sufficient. They will also need to understand how to evaluate AI-generated information, identify limitations, verify outputs and apply human judgement. These skills will be relevant across sectors including healthcare, agriculture, finance, manufacturing, education and public services.

India's education system must therefore approach AI as a tool that works alongside human intelligence. Investment in computing infrastructure, teacher training, regional-language technologies, ethical safeguards and inclusive access will be important to ensure that AI reduces rather than widens educational inequalities.

The future of education will not be secured by AI alone. Its value will depend on how effectively institutions combine technological capabilities with human judgement, responsible use and meaningful learning. By taking this balanced approach, education can help students become capable and ethical participants in an increasingly AI-enabled world.

As Artificial Intelligence becomes part of education and the wider economy, universities face the task of preparing students for an AI-enabled future. Thoughtful integration of AI can support personalised learning, assist teachers and expand access to educational resources. At the same time, students need skills to evaluate AI-generated information, understand its limitations and apply human judgement. The future of education will depend on balancing technology with ethical safeguards, teacher guidance and inclusive access to ensure AI supports meaningful and equitable learning



UoH Professor Rajadurai Chandrasekar elected INSA Fellow

Prof. Rajadurai Chandrasekar of the School of Chemistry, University of Hyderabad (UoH), has been elected as a Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA), with the fellowship taking effect from January 2027. The recognition acknowledges his contributions to materials science, nanoscience and photonics research.

With the fellowship, Prof. Chandrasekar will become a Fellow of all three National Science Academies of India. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC), UK. His research work has received recognition through several awards, including the SERB-STAR Research Award, the Materials Research Society of India (MRSI) Medal and the YIM Boston Young Scientist Award.

Prof. Chandrasekar has also been listed among the top 2% of scientists globally in the field of Nanoscience and Technology in a Stanford University-based global ranking. He has an H-index of 47 and serves on international editorial boards of journals covering materials chemistry and science.

His research group works on miniature, all-organic photonic microsystems designed to guide, modulate, split and process light. The research has potential applica-

tions in areas such as optical communication, sensing, computation, robotics and space technologies.

Prof. Chandrasekar has also contributed to the development of the field of "Mechanophotonics", which combines mechanical micromanipulation with crystal photonics. His work in this area explores the development of all-organic photonic integrated circuits and new approaches to controlling light at the microscale.

His current research includes AI-driven soft materials for programmable optical communication devices, supported by the J. C. Bose Grant. The interdisciplinary research brings together artificial intelligence, soft materials and photonics to explore optical technologies with programmable functions.

The INSA fellowship adds to Prof. Chandrasekar's academic and research recognitions and highlights the role of interdisciplinary research in areas connecting chemistry, materials science, photonics and emerging technologies. His work also reflects the growing use of advanced materials and computational approaches in developing new technologies for communication, sensing and other applications.

TODAY IS LIBRARIES REMEMBER DAY Spaces that inspire learning and discovery

Libraries have long been more than quiet places filled with books. They are spaces where people discover information, develop new interests and learn at their own pace. From school libraries to public and university libraries, these spaces continue to play an important role in supporting education and lifelong learning.

For students, a library can provide an environment away from everyday distractions. It offers access to textbooks, reference materials, newspapers, journals and digital resources that can support classroom learning. More importantly, spending time in a library can encourage students to explore subjects beyond their prescribed syllabus. A student researching a science project, reading about history or simply discovering a new author can begin to develop the habit of learning independently.

Libraries also help preserve knowledge. Books, manuscripts, newspapers and other records document ideas, experiences and discoveries across generations. Today, many libraries are combining traditional collections with digital archives, making information accessible in new formats while continuing to protect valuable physical resources.

Another important role of



libraries is bringing people together. Reading groups, workshops, exhibitions, lectures and community programmes can turn libraries into shared learning spaces. Such activities allow people of different ages and backgrounds to exchange ideas and learn from one another.

Technology has also changed the way libraries operate. Students can now use online catalogues, e-books, academic databases and digital archives alongside printed materials. Learning how to find reliable information, evaluate sources and use digital resources responsibly is becoming an important skill in education. Libraries can therefore contribute to more than academic performance. They can encourage curiosity, concentration, critical thinking and independent learning. They also provide an opportunity to slow down, read carefully and engage with ideas without the pressure of constant digital notifications.

Anti-Indian sentiment in US can derail trade relationship

A social media post by the US Department of Homeland Security has created a furore among Indian immigrants in the North American country. The social media post on platform X had an AI-generated poster featuring ‘Transformers’ character Optimus Prime and a brown man with a written message of “Self-deport or find out”. Just a few days back, the US Department of Labour has suspended Permanent Labour Certification Filings- widely known as PERM- of Cognizant as the US authorities investigate alleged fraud in the immigration programme. PERM is a key route for employers to get employment-based green cards for the foreign workers, whom they bring in to the US for executing project work.

Notably, Cognizant is a Nasdaq-listed company though it was founded by people of Indian-origin. Many believe that the investigation may widen its ambit to other large Indian IT firms in coming days. These two developments in the US shows that anti-immigration sentiment in the US is at its peak.

Surprisingly, most of the hate speech and social media posts are directed at Indians as a major section of Indian immigrants are successful professionals. The MAGA supporter base of Donald Trump is actively flaring such anti-India sentiment. Since the first day of Trump as the President of the US, immigration from India has been facing huge issues.

It began with humiliating eviction of illegal Indians staying in the US. The memory is still fresh how

people were deported in planes with their hands and legs tied on chains. Then came a wave of measures restricting movement of professionals through H1B visa route. H1B- the most popular temporary work visa- has seen entry fee raised to around \$100,000.

Moreover, procedural delay has crept in. Visa appointments are being cancelled abruptly. Visa application processing is also facing undue delay. Amid such restrictive measures, the visa applications of Indian IT companies have gone down significantly. These measures by the US administration show that Indians are no longer welcome in the US.

For decades, the bright and wealthy in India aspire to work and settle in the US. Given the current measures, it seems the route

is slowly getting closed with active discouragement from the US government. Against this backdrop, it is worth evaluating the impact of such a development. For more than three decades, India and the US’ tech industry has been very closely integrated.

From unhindered flow of people to capital, India & US relationship has been built on mutual interest. The ongoing anti-India sentiment is likely to impact that relationship. When companies are no longer allowed to send professionals to the US, they have to shift much of the work back home as the US doesn't have the required STEM talent.

Moreover, rising people-to-people relationship is responsible for more Indian students opting for higher studies in the US. As restrictions pile up, slowly Indian

LETTERS

‘Purification’ corrodes democratic culture

THIS refers to “Dalits up in arms over purification of road after dapuu protest at Erravalli” (Sept 10). Purification rituals after political rallies revives the old caste practice of untouchability, now reengineered as a weapon of party rivalry. Though it appears as a theatrical gesture meant to delegitimise opponents, but it drags public life back into the language of discrimination. When parties extend this symbolism into rallies by “cleansing” spaces, they are essentially staging caste-like differentiation in political form’. Moreover, in Parliament and assemblies, even the seating arrangement has become an analogy for it— ruling party on one side, opposition on the other — a physical enactment of separation. While such seating is procedural, the mindset it reinforces is adversarial rather than collaborative. Will purification rituals be enacted there as well? This is not just ritualistic excess; it corrodes democratic culture. Instead of debating ideas, parties are dramatising purity versus pollution, which questions the very notion of equal citizenship.

Dr O Prasada Rao, Hyderabad

Political differences getting uglier

CONSIDERING the report titled “Ministers meet Governor, complain against BRS over ‘purification’ ritual”, I would like to bring to your notice the complaint made by a delegation of Telangana Ministers to the Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla about the purification ritual allegedly performed by the leaders of BRS at Erravalli. According to the ministers, the act which was allegedly performed by the BRS leaders after Dalit leaders held a protest near the farmhouse of KCR indicated a discriminatory attitude. The ministers were also concerned about the remarks allegedly made and the manner in which Dalit leaders were being treated. It is a very serious matter and needs to be investigated. Differences of opinion in politics should not lead to acts or statements which might affect the dignity of any community. It should be investigated by the concerned authorities and necessary action taken if these allegations are found to be true.

Pulpa Architha, Hyderabad

Address Gen Z issues, don’t pose

AFTER the CJP and Gen Z protests, the PM urged ministers to connect more often with Gen Z through Instagram and other social media. Soon, MPs—and now ministers—began borrowing Gen Z lingo. Suddenly, even the Assam Chief Minister and other ministers are sharing AI-generated “1980s retro” images of themselves. Rahul Gandhi, too, has joined the trend. The images may be amusing, but have politicians misunderstood what Gen Z is saying? The EC had already cautioned political parties and candidates in October 2025 to clearly label AI-generated/synthetic content and follow safeguards. Gen Z doesn't need politicians to look young or speak their language. They want their concerns heard and addressed. The best way to connect with Gen Z is not through retro AI photos, but by responding to the issues they are raising.

N Nagarajan, Hyderabad

‘Hanuman Ansh’ hits a new high!

THE extraordinary box-office success of the modestly budgeted film Hanuman Ansh proves that genuine storytelling and emotional sincerity still resonate deeply with contemporary audiences. Made without mega-star power, aggressive marketing, or high-tech spectacles, this film is on track to become one of the biggest hits of the year. The movie succeeds because it stays true to its roots. By focusing on the life, teachings, and philosophy of the revered mystic Neem Karoli Baba, it offers a clean, values-driven narrative centered on faith, love, and service to humanity. Its triumph sends a clear message to the film industry: clean dramas devoid of excessive violence, gore, and vulgarity can work wonders at the box office. The movie also shows that an intelligent filmmaker who prioritizes the soul of cinema over glitz and glamour will always find an audience. Hanuman Ansh is a refreshing reminder that powerful characterisation, good music, and a novel subject are the true pillars of filmmaking.

M Pradyu, Kannur

thehansreader@gmail.com

BENGALURU ONLINE

WhatsApp ticket booking facility available for KSRTC, NWKRTC and KKRTC

BENGALURU: The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has been providing an online advance reservation booking facility to make passenger journeys more comfortable and convenient. As part of this initiative, the One Karnataka Mobility App has been developed to bring together the services of the four State Road Transport Undertakings KSRTC, NWKRTC, KKRTC and BMTC on a single digital platform. With a modern and user-friendly interface, the platform is aimed at providing passengers with a simple, seamless and integrated travel experience. The upgraded Mobile App KSRTC AWATAR 2.0 and WhatsApp ticketing facility was launched by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka on 10-09-2026, during the 100-day programme held at Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru. A secure user login facility will enable passengers to authenticate their identity, access details of previous bookings and conveniently manage their transactions. Passengers will be able to register grievances related to all four transport undertakings on a single platform. The system will facilitate tracking of grievance status, escalation wherever required and monitoring of the resolution process. A digital monthly pass facility will be introduced in a phased manner, enabling passengers to book, receive and manage bus passes online. The facility will also provide for QR code-based digital verification.

For the convenience of passengers, Ticket booking through WhatsApp is now available for bus services operated by KSRTC, NWKRTC and KKRTC. Passengers can initiate the booking process by sending message by WhatsApp to number +91 6364940880

The interactive WhatsApp booking system will guide passengers through the complete ticket reservation process, similar to the existing KSRTC online booking system.

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

THE MENTAL HEALTH OF OUR SOCIETY



K KRISHNA SAGAR RAO

THERE is a mental health crisis around us that we rarely acknowledge. When we speak of mental health, we usually think of depression, anxiety, addiction, loneliness or other clinically recognised conditions. These are undoubtedly serious concerns and deserve professional attention. But there is another, less visible crisis unfolding in our homes, workplaces, friendships and communities, a deterioration in the emotional health of society itself.

I call them the social diseases of our times. They are not psychiatric diagnoses. They are patterns of behaviour, attitudes and emotional dysfunction that are becoming so widespread that they are beginning to influence the way we relate to one another. They manifest themselves in broken relationships, toxic workplaces, bitter family disputes, fractured friendships, workplace politics and an extraordinary inability to disagree without becoming disagreeable.

The paradox is striking. We have never been more connected, yet we seem increasingly incapable of connecting with one another. As someone who has spent years observing organisations, leadership and human behaviour through the lens of Emotional Intelligence, I believe that six particular social diseases deserve our urgent attention.

1. The disease of insufficient consideration

Perhaps the most fundamental social disease today is our declining ability to consider the feelings, circumstances and dignity of another person. We are becoming increasingly self-referential. What I want, what I feel, what I deserve and what I think mostly takes precedence over what another person may be experiencing.

Consideration is not weakness. It is not submission. It is the simple ability to pause before acting and ask: “How will this affect the other person?” In families, this disease appears when spouses stop considering each other's emotional needs. In workplaces, it appears when leaders treat employees as resources rather than

people. In society, it appears when inconvenience to oneself becomes more important than the legitimate needs of others.

The tragedy is that consideration costs very little. A little patience, courtesy, listening and sensitivity can prevent enormous emotional damage. Yet our increasingly hurried, competitive and individualistic lifestyles seem to be eroding precisely these qualities.

2. Chronic jealousy and the comparison syndrome

Jealousy has always existed. What has changed is its scale, visibility and frequency. Social media has transformed life into a continuous comparison exercise. Someone else's holiday, house, career, children, wealth, marriage, social circle or success becomes a benchmark against which we quietly measure our own lives.

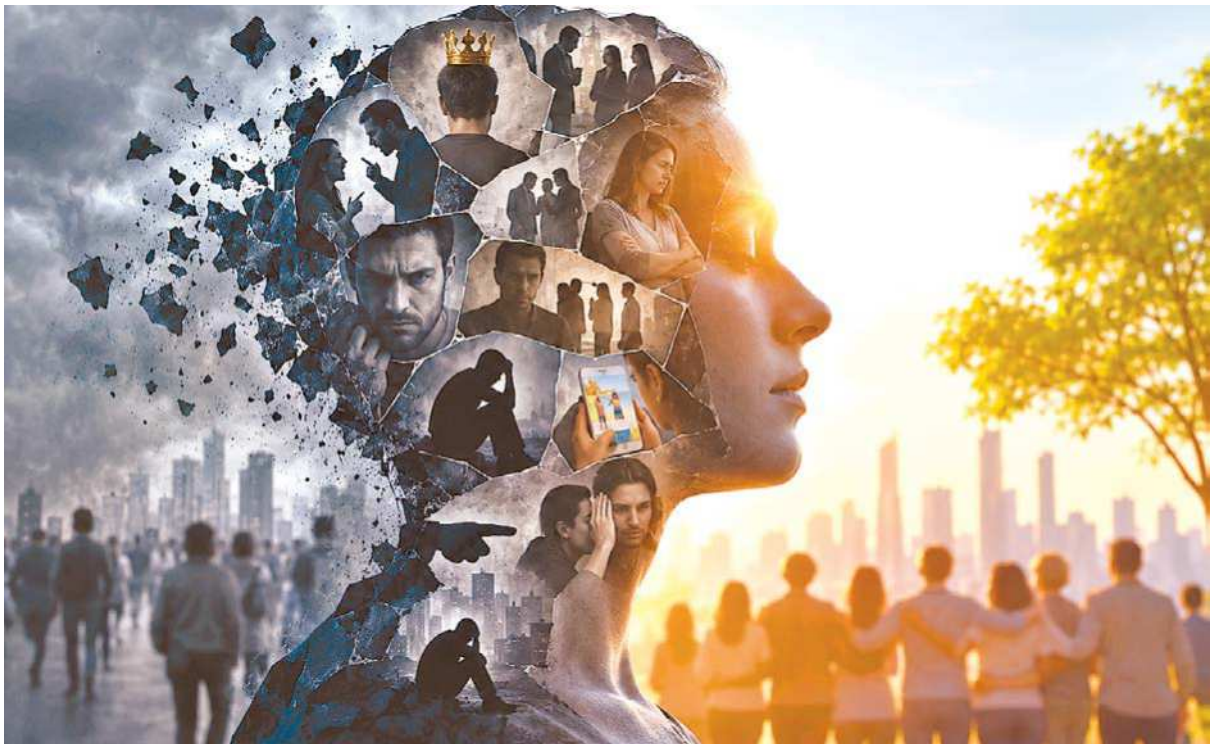
The result is a generation that is increasingly uncomfortable with another person's success. Healthy competition can inspire us. Chronic jealousy destroys us. It makes us question the motives of successful people, diminish their achievements and sometimes even derive satisfaction from their failures. In organisations, jealousy produces unhealthy politics, withholding of information, sabotage, non-cooperation and resistance to talented colleagues. In families, it can create lifelong resentments between siblings and relatives.

The emotionally intelligent person understands a profound truth: “Another person's success does not diminish one's own worth”. We need to move from comparison to self-evaluation, from resentment to genuine appreciation.

3. The trust deficit

Trust is the invisible infrastructure of every healthy relationship. When trust disappears, communication becomes guarded, intentions are questioned, even innocent actions are interpreted suspiciously and relationships become exhausting.

We increasingly live in an environment of suspicion. We doubt what people say. We question motives. We assume hidden agendas. We demand proof where faith and goodwill once existed. The consequences are particularly damaging in families. When trust between spouses deteriorates, every disagreement becomes evidence of betrayal. Financial decisions become sources of suspicion. Friendships become transactional. Even professional relationships suffer when col-



leagues spend more energy protecting themselves than collaborating.

A trust deficit also has an enormous organisational cost. Organisations with low trust require more controls, more approvals, more monitoring and more bureaucracy. Decisions slow down and Innovation suffers. Employees become defensive rather than entrepreneurial. Trust, however, cannot be demanded. It has to be earned through consistency, transparency and integrity.

4. Weaponised communication - the disease of the sharp tongue

Words have always had the power to heal or hurt. Today, however, we seem to be losing our restraint. We speak impulsively, respond instantly and often use words not to communicate but to hurt and caused wounds. The sharp tongue has become a weapon. Sarcasm is mistaken for intelligence and Insults are disguised as honesty. Public humiliation is defined as “telling it like it is”. Arguments quickly become abusive and personal. And once hurtful words are spoken, apologies often arrive too late to repair the damage. Imagine this is happening across all relationships, spouses, colleagues and even between young children and their parents.

Emotional Intelligence demands something very different: the ability to regulate the emotion before expression. Not every thought needs to be spoken. Not every provocation requires a response.

5. Emotional volatility

Another disturbing feature of our times is our declining capacity to regulate emotions. Small disagreements become major confrontations. Frustration quickly becomes anger and a difference of opinion becomes a personal attack.

We increasingly react before we reflect. Emotional volatility is particularly destructive because emotions are contagious. One person's uncontrolled anger can destabilise an entire family,

I call them the social diseases of our times. They are not psychiatric diagnoses. They are patterns of behaviour, attitudes and emotional dysfunction that are becoming so widespread that they are beginning to influence the way we relate to one another

team or organisation. A volatile leader creates fear. A volatile parent creates insecurity. A volatile spouse creates an environment in which everyone learns to walk on eggshells.

Emotional regulation does not mean suppressing emotions. It means managing them intelligently.

One of the defining characteristics of emotionally intelligent people is their ability to create a small but enormously important space between what they feel and how they respond. That space is where maturity resides.

6. The disease of entitlement

Perhaps the most corrosive disease of all is entitlement, the belief that we are owed attention, respect, success, money, loyalty, recognition or preferential treatment simply because we expect it. Entitlement quietly destroys gratitude.

It makes people focus on what they have not received rather than what they have. It turns relationships into transactions: What have you done for me? What have you given me? What do I get in return?

In marriages, entitlement can turn partnership into scorekeeping. In families, it can create permanent grievances between generations. In organisations, it produces employees who demand rewards without accepting corresponding responsibility and leaders who expect loyalty without demon-

strating fairness.

A healthy society must rediscover the difference between rights and privileges, expectations and gratitude, entitlement and responsibility. The question cannot always be, “What do I deserve?”, Sometimes it must be, “What do I owe?”

The social cost

These six diseases may appear individually insignificant. Collectively, they are enormously expensive. The cost is visible in rising family conflict, broken marriages, estranged children and parents, workplace toxicity, employee disengagement, declining trust, social polarisation and increasing loneliness.

There is also massive, quantifiable economic cost. Organisations pay for poor emotional intelligence through attrition, conflict, absenteeism, lost productivity, leadership failures and internal politics. Families pay through legal battles, counselling expenses, financial disputes and years of emotional estrangement. Society pays through declining social cohesion and an increasing burden on institutions that are forced to manage problems that could often have been prevented through better human behaviour.

And slowly, something fundamental changes: we begin to normalise dysfunction. That is perhaps the most dangerous consequence of all.

Can We Cure These Social Diseases?

The answer is yes, but there is no medication, app or government programme that can cure them. 5

The cure begins with self-awareness. We must become conscious of our own behaviour before judging the behaviour of others. We must learn to ask ourselves uncomfortable questions:

Am I sufficiently considerate? Do I become jealous of another person's success? Do people trust me? Do my words heal or hurt? Can I control my emotions when provoked? Am I grateful or perpetually entitled? - These questions belong in our homes, schools and workplaces.

We need to teach Emotional Intelligence as seriously as we teach academic intelligence. Children should learn empathy, listening, conflict resolution, emotional regulation, gratitude and respectful disagreement as fundamental life skills.

Families must create cultures where difficult conversations can take place without humiliation. Couples must learn that winning an argument is often less important than preserving the relationship and parents must model the emotional behaviour they expect from their children.

Organisations, too, must recognise that Emotional Intelligence is not a soft corporate accessory. It is a strategic capability. Leaders who cannot regulate themselves, influenced by rumours, handle disagreement and build trust eventually become liabilities to the organisations they lead.

And perhaps most importantly, we need to rediscover the virtues that modern life is slowly pushing to the margins: kindness, patience, humility, gratitude, restraint, empathy and respect. None of these qualities is old-fashioned.

(Author is a senior BJP leader, Chairman of Nation Building Foundation & a Harvard Business School certified Org.Strategist)

International air connectivity from Tirupati gets big push

► CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER PITCHES FOR DIRECT TIRUPATI-KUWAIT FLIGHT

► VIRTUALLY INAUGURATES REGIONAL AIRLINE FLY91'S OPERATIONS TO TIRUPATI

PRADEEP VENNELAKANTI
 TIRUPATI

UNION Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu has pitched for direct international air connectivity between Tirupati and destinations like Kuwait, a long-standing demand of people from the region and overseas devotees visiting the temple city.

Despite Tirupati airport being accorded international airport status in June 2017, the pilgrim city has so far remained without a direct international flight connection. A direct service to Kuwait is expected to particularly benefit devotees and residents from the Rayalaseema region who have been seeking easier air



Tirupati Airport Director D Boominathan handing over the ceremonial boarding pass to a Hyderabad-bound passenger on Thursday

access to the Gulf country.

The minister made the remarks while virtually inaugurating the first flight of regional carrier FLY91 to Tirupati. With its entry into the city, FLY91 has added Tirupati as its 13th destination and its third station in the state. The airline has introduced direct services linking Tirupati with Hyderabad, Vijayawada and Rajahmundry.

The Tirupati-Hyderabad flight will operate daily, while services to Vijayawada will run four days a week on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays. The Rajahmundry service will be available on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The flight arrives from Hyderabad at 07.40 hrs, departs from Tirupati at 08.05 hrs and reaches Vijayawada at 09.15 hrs and again departs

from Vijayawada at 09.45 hrs and reaches Tirupati at 10.50 hrs. Similarly, the flight arrives from Hyderabad at 7.40 hrs, departs from Tirupati at 8.05 hrs and reaches Rajahmundry at 9.30 hrs and again departs from Rajahmundry at 10.00 hrs and reaches Tirupati at 11:25 hrs. Naidu said improved air connectivity was important for Tirupati, which receives millions of pilgrims every year.

He said efforts were under way to establish direct links with international destinations, including Kuwait, to make travel more convenient for devotees coming from abroad. The Hyderabad connection will provide passengers with access to a major aviation hub and onward links to several domestic and international destinations.

PARIS SPACE SUMMIT

Be co-travellers in our space journey: Modi

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday called for greater international cooperation, sustainability and inclusion in the exploration and use of outer space, saying that the growing number of actors and technologies in space requires collective responsibility. Addressing the first International Space Summit in Paris through video conferencing, PM Modi thanked French President Emmanuel Macron for the invitation and for taking the initiative to convene the summit.

He said space, which had inspired human imagination for centuries, now plays an important role in everyday life, influencing areas ranging from climate and agriculture to oceans and communities. "As orbits become more crowded, technologies more powerful, and actors more numerous, our choices must be clear: cooperation over confrontation; sustainability over short-term gain; and inclusion over exclusion," PM Modi said.

The Prime Minister said India's approach to space cooperation is rooted in the principle of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam", or "One Earth, One Family, One Future", and called for the same spirit to extend beyond Earth.

‘Sexual assault’ cases against KTR, Harish Rao

Continued from P1

According to the FIR, a 33-year-old Armed Reserve Woman Police Constable (ARWPC) of the CAR Headquarters, Hyderabad, lodged a complaint with the Saifabad Police alleging that she was posted at the Legislative Assembly for bandobast duty at Gate No. 3.

Legislators T Harish Rao, along with K Taraka Rama Rao, D Sudheer Reddy, K P Vivekanand, Gangula Kamalakara, Padi Kaushik Reddy, Naveen Reddy, several other MLCs and their followers, came to Gate No. 3. Some of the MLAs were wearing black T-shirts bearing the slogan, "Congress has failed to implement its promises."

"Harish Rao loudly shouted at the women police on duty, stating, "Are you doing cheap politics by using lady constables as a shield?" At the same time, Taraka Rama Rao also publicly insulted them and loudly shouted, "Who is doing 'Shikhandi politics' by using women as a shield? Who is the local DCP here?" The said remarks were made with the intention of insulting the dignity and self-respect of the women police and intimidating them so as to prevent them from performing their official duties. Harish Rao removed his T-shirt and threw it towards

a police officer and stood semi-naked in front of them. MLC Naveen Reddy, MLA Sudheer Reddy and others, also removed their T-shirts and stood semi-naked at a very close distance from the complainant," said Saifabad Inspector K Nageswara Rao.

The woman police constable also alleged that the legislators, in an aggressive manner and while being semi-naked, shouted, "Where do they keep the women police?" Such conduct was deliberately carried out with the intention of outraging the modesty, dignity, and honour of the women police personnel. They behaved in such a vulgar and indecent manner despite knowing that they were women and were performing official duties.

Their conduct was intended to humiliate, intimidate, and sexually harass them and to prevent them from discharging their lawful duties. The entire incident was recorded by the cameras of various media channels present at the spot. The humiliation, fear, and distress caused to the women police personnel were clearly visible on their faces in the video footage. The complainant alleged in her complaint that the BRS MLAs and MLCs indulged in physically pushing against them amounting

to physical harassment and assault upon them. They deliberately approached them in a semi-naked condition, fully knowing that they were women police personnel on duty and could not leave the place of deployment.

They further attempted to forcibly enter the Assembly premises by pushing and jostling the women police personnel. During this process, they pushed and pressed against the chest area of the women police personnel.

Following the complaint, the Saifabad Police registered cases under section 74 (criminal force against a woman with the intent to outrage her modesty), 75(1) (offence of sexual harassment), 79 (intentionally insult a woman's modesty), 121(1) (voluntarily causing hurt or grievous hurt to a public servant to deter them from performing their official duty), 130 (criminal force), 132 (criminal force used to deter a public servant from discharging their official duty), 296 (speaks obscene words in or near a public place), 351(2) (deals with the punishment for basic criminal intimidation), 352 (intentional insults made with the intent) read with 3(5) (constructive criminal liability for acts done by several persons in furtherance of a common intention) of the BNS.

PRIME LAND SOLD FOR A SONG !

KTR smells a rat in land deal struck with CM Revanth sibling's company

HYDERABAD: Suspended BRS MLAs on Thursday staged a protest at Thukkuguda, alleging that the State government had illegally allocated land to Tesseract, a company linked to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's brother, Anumula Kondal Reddy. BRS Working President KT Rama Rao, BRS Deputy Leader T Harish Rao, along with MLAs, MLCs and senior party leaders, visited the site to inspect the land.

KTR alleged that government land worth around Rs 250 crore was allocated to Kondal Reddy for just Rs 7 crore. He questioned how government land could be allotted at such a low price instead of its market value and demanded that the government place complete details of the allocation before the people. He questioned whether granting government land, concessions and exemptions to the Chief Minister's family members amounted to abuse of power, conflict of interest and dynastic rule.

KTR also questioned the government incentives, land and exemptions allegedly granted to a company linked to A Jagadishwar Reddy under a Rs 1,000-crore investment agreement.

S-400, BrahMos on table at Modi-Putin meet

Continued from P1

India signed a \$5.43 billion (Rs 40,000 crore) deal with Russia in October 2018 for five S-400 Triumf regiments. Four have already been delivered and are operational. Three squadrons are deployed in Punjab, Rajasthan and the Jammu sector against Pakistan, while one is deployed in the north against China.

The S-400 was credited with a 300+ km intercept -- the longest-ever kill in Operation Sindoor in May 2025 -- taking out a Pakistani AEW&C aircraft

and helping establish air dominance. The fifth and final squadron was delayed due to the Russia-Ukraine war. It is now assured for delivery by November 2026.

Peskov also said the two countries were jointly producing BrahMos missiles and that it was time to consider upgrading them. "We are jointly producing the BrahMos missiles, and it is time to think about improving those missiles, adding some additional characteristics, making them more competitive in

the market and more effective," he said.

The BrahMos-NG (Next Generation) is a lighter 1.3-tonne missile compared with the 2.9-tonne BrahMos. It is smaller, has a speed of Mach 3.5 and a range of 400 km-plus, and can be carried by Tejas and MiG-29 fighter jets -- allowing six to seven missiles per fighter compared with one on the Su-30MKI at present.

Russia still accounts for 40% of India's arms imports for the 2021-25 period, down from 51%.

It's certain: Xi to visit India for BRICS Summit

Continued from P1

"I have no information to provide regarding the question you raised," Guo Jiakun replied to a question on if the Chinese leader will be travelling to India this weekend to attend the BRICS leaders' meeting. The high-stakes visit marks Xi's first visit to India in seven years, following a chill in bilateral relations after the 2020 Galwan Valley border clashes that killed 20 Indians and an unknown number of Chinese soldiers. The last time Xi visited India was in 2019 for an informal summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Mamallapuram near Chennai. Xi had first come to India in September 2014 when it was the first terms of both the leaders in office and had later visited Goa in 2016 to attend the BRICS summit. Bilateral ties between the two nations have improved in recent years, especially since PM Modi visited China last year and as both nations grapple with volatile relationships with the US. New Delhi has since then eased some of the restrictions on Chinese investment that it imposed following the 2020 clashes, focusing on electronics, capital goods, and solar cell sectors.

India pushes Global South priorities amid trade tensions

Continued from P1

As global trade disputes and geopolitical realignments create economic headwinds, India is looking at addressing critical vulnerabilities in food security, energy stability and resilient supply chains, they said.

The summit in New Delhi is taking place against the backdrop of a global economy facing the adverse impacts of the Russia-Ukraine war, the West Asia crisis, especially the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, and the Trump administration's trade and tariff policies.

With just a day left before the summit, it remains unclear whether the member nations

of the grouping have reached a consensus on a joint statement, as differences between Iran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) over the West Asia crisis persist. The grouping operates under a framework of consensus.

BRICS, originally comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, expanded in 2024 to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, with Indonesia joining in 2025.

Belarus, Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Cuba, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda, Uzbekistan and Vietnam became BRICS partner countries last year.

BRICS has emerged as an in-

fluent grouping as it brings together 11 major emerging economies of the world, representing around 49.5 per cent of the global population, around 40 per cent of the global GDP and around 26 per cent of global trade.

India's chairship of the grouping is centred on four pillars: resilience, innovation, cooperation and sustainability. In addition to these areas, the leaders will exchange views on strengthening intra-BRICS cooperation on common priorities and share perspectives on global and regional matters of mutual importance, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

Bank strike today

Continued from P1

The latest conciliation talks were held at the office of the chief labour commissioner (central), with representatives of the UFBU, Indian Banks' Association (IBA), Department of Financial Services (DFS) and labour authorities.

The DFS representative appealed to the bank unions to reconsider the strike call in view of the BRICS Leaders' Summit during 11-13 September in New Delhi. The unions, however, maintained that they could not defer the strike in the absence of a favourable decision or a definite timeline for implementation of the five-day work week.

"Two rounds of online meetings were held today. There has been no concrete outcome on the five-day work week. The strike stands," said Rupam Roy, general secretary, All India Bank Officers' Confederation (AIBOC).

The September 11 action is the first in a wider programme announced by the UFBU.

The unions have also called a three-day nationwide strike during September 28-30 and have announced an indefinite strike from October 26 if their demands remain unresolved.

Kishan, Laxman see fillip to TG economic development

Continued from P1

Of these, five key projects related to Telangana, along with Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka, were approved with an investment of Rs. 10,021 crore. These projects will develop a total of 540 km of railway line.

The Secunderabad-Ghatkesar-Kazipet route is like the lifeblood of the Telangana railway system. Implementing multi-tracking on this route will reduce train congestion and improve passenger services. Freight transport will be faster, directly benefiting Telangana

industries, farmers, traders, and youth. This decision reflects Prime Minister Modi's vision of a developed India and a developed Telangana. These projects, designed in line with the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, will strengthen connectivity among road, rail, industries and markets. This will help reduce transportation costs and make supply chains more efficient.

Dr Laxman said, "The Modi government at the Centre is not limited to words, but is setting the direction for the develop-

ment of the states with huge infrastructure investments. I am grateful to the Prime Minister and the Central Railways for further strengthening railway connectivity in line with the aspirations of the people of Telangana."

The project, targeted for completion by 2029-30, will connect Telangana with national freight and industrial corridors.

Earlier, Union Minister G Kishan Reddy welcomed the decision and said freight trains will also reach their destinations faster, saving fuel and reducing freight

charges. This multi-tracking railway line can transport an additional 9.83 million tonnes of freight per year. This will enable the transport of 7.06 million tonnes of coal, 0.73 million tonnes of iron ore, 0.65 million tonnes of food grains and 0.13 million tonnes of cement. The railway line, to be made available between Secunderabad and Kazipet, will also pave the way for better rail travel on the Vijayawada and Mumbai routes.

Thanking PM Modi and Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw for approving the

project, Kishan Reddy said he was happy about the approval for the construction of the multi-tracking railway line between Secunderabad and Kazipet. He said that after the formation of Telangana state, the railway budget allocations have increased 21 times over the last 12 years; with Rs. 36,286 crores being allocated to Telangana. In addition, he said Telangana currently has railway projects worth about Rs. 50,000 crores under construction, and a final location survey is underway for railway projects worth another Rs. 50,000 crores.

CM tells Cong MLAs aspiring for 2nd term

Continued from P1

Referring to the Census, the Chief Minister stressed that the Congress should mount pressure on the Centre to adopt the Telangana model and conduct a caste census alongside the general census. "The caste census conducted by Telangana is a role model for the country and it is the achievement of the state," he observed.

The Chief Minister took

serious note of the deletion of the votes in the SIR and asked all the legislators to protect the voting rights of the people. He pointed out that 15 crore adult voter names have gone missing across the country.

Thanking all the MLAs for their cooperation during these 1,000 days of governance, Revanth Reddy said that all the legislators should be present in the House during the debates.

DGCA orders drug test for all pilots

NEW DELHI: After the captain of an Air India flight that was involved in a sudden altitude loss incident last month tested positive for drug use, aviation safety regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) ordered all Indian airlines to conduct a one-time test for psychoactive substances on all their pilots by July next year, according to sources.

Indian airlines are estimated to have close to 14,000

pilots. Following the incident that involved a Phuket-Delhi flight, and before the DGCA ordered tests for all pilots across airlines, the Air India group had voluntarily initiated one-time random drug tests on the about 5,000 pilots employed by Air India and Air India Express.

Moreover, the draft of the new and likely more stringent norms on testing aviation personnel for psychoactive substance use is likely

to be related by the DGCA by month-end, according to Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu. Last month, Naidu had said that the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) suggested to DGCA that all pilots should undergo a dope test once a year, against the current regulation that requires 10% of the pilots to undergo random testing annually.

According to sources, while the DGCA was already

in the process of revising the regulations pertaining to testing of aviation personnel for psychoactive substances, the Air India incident led to calls for more stringent drug testing protocol and stricter disciplinary action in proven instances of drug abuse.

Even as consultations for revising the rules were on, the regulator decided to put all airline pilots through a one-time drug test over the course of nearly 12 months.

Court frames charges against Lalu, family under PMLA act

Continued from P1

The court also said that the land transferred at Patna is proceeds of crime. "The proceeds of crime were enjoyed by the Lalu Family." Special Judge Vishal Gogne directed that charges be framed against the accused persons under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

The court has directed the

accused persons to appear before the Rouse Avenue court on October 3 before Special Judge Prashant Kumar. The court has discharged the accused persons, namely: Gaurav Gupta, Nath Mal Kakrania, Rahul Yadav, Vijay Tripathi, Deoki Nandan Tulshyan, Rajiv Kumar Relan, Abhishek Finance Private Limited. While framing the charges,

the court said that Lalu Prasad Yadav, the then Railway Minister, fixed a tender of an IRCTC hotel in favour of his favourite company in lieu of a land Parcel. The Land at Patna was described as proceeds of crime by the ED. The court also said that it did not find that the investigation against Lalu Prasad Yadav was motivated by political vendetta.

TG PR ACT AMENDED

Continued from P1

Seethakka said that funds were not being received on time due to treasury delays. "The previous government discriminated against panchayats. We are amending the law to rectify this," she said.

The Minister said that panchayat elections were delayed due to issues regarding BC reservations. Full funding from the Centre for that period was not

received. "We are spending Rs 50 crore monthly for gram panchayats. The second instalment of Rs 619 crore for the 2025-26 year is yet to be received. We are paying salaries to multi-purpose workers on the first of the month. The Centre's new policies are impacting village development," she said.

The Minister also said that the government had to face 40 per cent burden

under the VB-Gram-G scheme, which was earlier just 10 per cent. She alleged that the central forest laws were creating obstacles in the construction of roads in forest areas, which is causing inconvenience to the people.

Replying to a question, the Minister said a decision regarding the cheque-signing authority for deputy sarpanches will be taken soon.

Telangana govt to make Musi money-spinner

Continued from P1

"Water availability in the Musi project and the demand for water for data centers, IT and industrial projects is under study. The price of water would be decided depending on the availability and demand in every season. How much revenue would be generated would be known only after the completion of the Musi first phase," the officials said.

‘Get off our roads, Mr Singh’

Continued from P1

The Sikh Coalition, a US-based civil rights organisation advocating for Sikh Americans, criticised the poster, saying it reinforces stereotypes about Sikh Americans and portrays members of the community as outsiders.

"Millions of Sikhs in the United States have the last name Singh, which means lion. We remain

fearless in identifying as Sikhs—even when our government portrays us as enemies," the organisation wrote in a post on X. Sikh Americans are also a significant presence in the US trucking industry. Industry advocacy groups have estimated that Sikh drivers make up a sizeable share of the country's long-haul truck-driving workforce.





W o m e n i a

WHAT TODAY'S WOMEN REALLY LOOK FOR

Saree

BEYOND DESIGN

DILEEP KUMAR GOLI

A saree purchase rarely begins and ends with whether the design is attractive. In our conversations with customers, women often ask practical questions first. Will the fabric feel heavy after a few hours? Is it easy to drape? Does it need special care? Can it be worn again after the wedding? These questions reveal what now shapes the purchase. Design may attract attention, but usefulness often decides what a woman takes home.

This is especially clear among women who want to wear sarees beyond major weddings. They are buying them for office celebrations, family lunches, religious occasions, festive dinners and smaller functions.

A beautiful saree that needs constant adjusting will not serve all these settings. Its weight, fall, softness and breathability matter. Even when choosing silk, customers pay attention to how comfortably they can carry it for several hours.

The consumer is also better informed. Terms such as "pure silk" or "traditional weave" are no longer enough on their own. Shoppers want clear information about the fabric, weaving style, zari, care requirements and price. When considering a Kanchi pattu or Mysore silk saree, they want to understand what distinguishes it from others.

guishes it and why that difference matters. This does not weaken the appeal of heritage. It allows women to appreciate the craft while knowing exactly what they are paying for.

Versatility also enters the decision. Many women consider the blouse, jewellery and future occasions before finalising a saree. They want to know whether it can be styled differently for a family wedding, a festival or a formal event. Versatility does not mean choosing something plain. It means selecting a saree that leaves room for personal styling and does not become limited to a single photograph or occasion.

The way women shop has changed as well. A saree may first catch their attention on Instagram, but the decision depends on accurate colours, close-up visuals and useful product details. Inside a store, customers value someone who understands the occasion, explains the options and respects the stated budget. Good service is not about presenting the largest number of sarees. It is about helping the customer make a choice she will remain satisfied with.

Perhaps the most important shift is that more women are choosing sarees for themselves. Family traditions and recommendations still carry meaning, but the final choice is increasingly personal. One woman may choose a classic silk because it reminds her of her mother. Another may pick an unexpected colour simply because it feels right on her. The saree is not being worn only to meet an expectation. It is being used to express individual taste.

For a saree brand, these changes affect everything from product selection to customer service. Visual appeal still opens the conversation, but comfort, authenticity, rewear value, styling freedom and honest guidance complete the purchase.

The new Indian saree consumer is not moving away from tradition. She simply expects it to fit the way she lives now. When a saree feels right, wears well and is explained honestly, she has a reason to return.

(The writer is a CEO, MISSAMMA)



Artistes from Hyderabad present 'Krishnanjali' at ISKCON Dwarka

Artists from Hyderabad, Telangana, presented a soulful Kuchipudi dance programme titled "Krishnanjali – An Offering to Lord Krishna through Kuchipudi Natyam" at ISKCON Dwarka, New Delhi, as part of the Divine Janmashtami celebrations. The presentation featured students of Jyothi Kalakshetra, Hyderabad, under the guidance and choreography of Jyothi Reddy, Natya Guru and Choreographer.

The programme brought together classical dance, devotion and spirituality, with the artists offering their prayers to Lord Sri Krishna through Kuchipudi. The presentation featured four compositions — Pushpanjali, Dashavataram, Swagatham Krishna and Tarangam.

The programme commenced with Pushpanjali, a traditional salutation offered to the Lord of Dance, Guro, musicians and audience. Presented in Ragam Nattai and Talam Adi, the piece was performed by Godi Anagha Devi.

The energetic Dashavataram depicted the ten incarnations of Lord Vishnu — Matsya, Kurma, Varaha, Narasimha, Vamana, Parasurama, Rama, Krishna, Buddha and Kalki. Presented in Ragam Mohana and Misra Chapu Talam, it was performed by P. Sri Vaishno Devi, Lalitha Sri Pinapala, Harshitha Kairamkonda, Yuvasre Phane Surya and Ishanee Khare from Gurgaon.

Swagatham Krishna, the popular Carnatic composition by Oothukkadu Venkata Subbaiyer, brought a joyful devotional mood to the programme. Presented in Ragam Mohana and Talam Adi, the piece was performed by Godi Vijetha Devi Sathish Reddy. The presentation concluded with Tarangam, a distinctive

Kuchipudi item in which dancers perform rhythmic sequences while dancing on the rim of a brass plate. Presented in Ragam Mohana and Talam Adi, Tarangam featured P. Sri Vaishno Devi, Lalitha Sri Pinapala, Harshitha Kairamkonda, Yuvasre Phane Surya and Ishanee Khare. Speaking on the presentation, Jyothi Reddy, Natya Guru and Choreographer, said, "Kuchipudi is not merely



a performing art; it is a path of devotion, discipline and connection with our cultural roots. Every time our dancers perform, it becomes an expression of deep devotion and a way of serving God through our cultural traditions. Presenting Krishnanjali at ISKCON Dwarka was a deeply spiritual experience for our students. We hope that such performances inspire the current generation as well as future generations to understand, respect and carry forward our rich cultural heritage."

Established in Hyderabad in 2018, the school of arts has grown from a small group of students to more than 150 students trained in Kuchipudi to professional standards. Jyothi Reddy has performed at several prestigious cultural and spiritual platforms in India and abroad and has received honours including the Nritya Ratna Award, Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Award and Shri Shakti Award, among other recognitions.

Godi Vijetha Devi Sathish Reddy, who performed Swagatham Krishna, said, "For me, performing Kuchipudi at ISKCON Dwarka was not simply a performance; it was an offering. The dancers are deeply inspired by the classical dance tradition and the cultural values underlying it. Every performance becomes an expression of our devotion and an opportunity to serve God through our culture."

Through such presentations, we hope to inspire the present generation and future generations to remain connected with our traditions, culture and Sanatana Dharma."

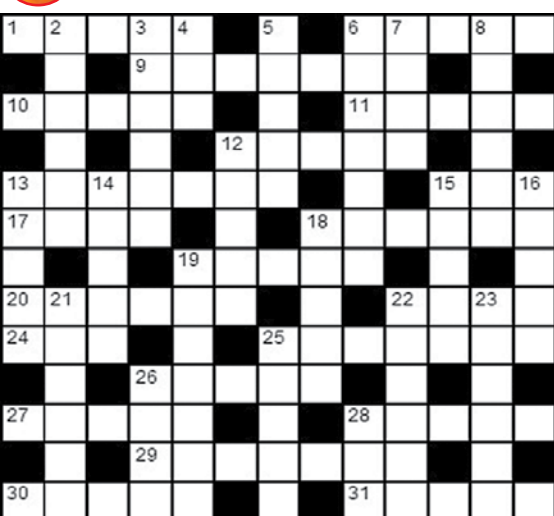
The presentation featured young dancers P. Sri Vaishno Devi, Lalitha Sri Pinapala, Harshitha Kairamkonda, Yuvasre Phane Surya, Ishanee Khare and Godi Anagha Devi, who came together to present their art in New Delhi. P. Sri Vaishno Devi, the great-granddaughter of the inspirational philanthropist G. Pulla Reddy, continues to pursue Kuchipudi with dedication and devotion.

The event reflected the collective efforts of the students, music orchestra, supporting families and dedicated technicians, who strive in their humble way to preserve and promote Sanatana Dharma, Indian traditions and cultural heritage. The performers, inspired by the spiritual foundation and cultural values of classical dance, view every performance as an expression of deep devotion and a meaningful way of serving God through culture.

Through their dedication to Kuchipudi, the young artists seek to keep India's spiritual and artistic traditions alive and make them meaningful for the present generation while inspiring future generations to respect, preserve and carry forward the country's rich cultural heritage.



CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Sheikhdom of song (5)
- 6 Teach (5)
- 9 Asylum seeker? (7)
- 10 Unsuitable (5)
- 11 Reduce by 50 per cent (5)
- 12 French composer (5)
- 13 Movie theatres (7)
- 15 599, in Roman numerals (3)
- 17 Homages (4)
- 18 Gambling house (6)
- 19 Macho guy (2-3)
- 20 Caught or ensnared (6)
- 24 Maritime letters (3)
- 25 Passed on (7)
- 26 Ready for battle (5)
- 27 Garment for nun (5)
- 28 Go well together (3,2)
- 29 Fiasco (7)
- 30 Nile dam site (5)
- 31 Russian mountains (5)

DOWN

- 2 Stale, rank (6)
- 3 Kickbacks (6)
- 4 Up to now (3)
- 5 Biblical traitor (5)
- 6 Capital of Iran (7)
- 7 Actual (4)
- 8 To no avail (2,4)
- 12 Ran swiftly (5)
- 13 Horn-shaped bone (5)
- 14 Cosy retreats? (5)
- 15 ___ daily: vacillate or dawdle? (5)
- 16 Was able (5)
- 18 Dressed like Dracula (5)
- 19 Cheer (7)
- 21 Compositions (6)
- 22 Simpler (6)
- 23 Antenna; of the air (6)
- 25 Summation (5)
- 26 Verdi heroine (4)
- 28 Sick-day cause (3)



Solution to September 10

SUDOKU



Solution to September 10

BIZ BRIEFS

iQOO unveils Z11xa 5G

iQOO has launched the Z11xa 5G in India, featuring a MediaTek Dimensity 7400-Turbo processor, 7,200mAh battery with 44W Flash-Charge and a 6.76-inch 120Hz FHD+ display. The smartphone offers a 50MP Sony main camera, 32MP SONY selfie camera, IP68/IP69 protection and OriginOS 6 based on Android 16. The device goes on sale from September 14 through Amazon, iQOO's website and retail outlets.

SBI Life's initiative

SBI Life Insurance, in partnership with the Paralympic Committee of India, felicitated India's para-athletes following their seven-medal haul at the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games, comprising three gold, two silver and two bronze medals. Amit Jhingran, MD, SBI Life Insurance, said: "The awe-inspiring stories of our para-athletes need to be told to the world. Every time a para-athlete wins, it is a win for the society, it speaks volumes about the inclusive cultural fabric of this great nation."

NephroPlus opens centre

NephroPlus has launched the NephroPlus International Dialysis Academy (NIDA) to train nursing graduates in India and the Philippines for specialised dialysis care and international careers. Its first nodal centre opened in Banjara Hills, Hyderabad. Rohit Singh, Group CEO, NephroPlus, said: "Skilled renal-care manpower is in short supply globally, and NIDA is built to address that gap. Through a structured curriculum of specialised training, hands-on clinical exposure, and coaching in soft skills and language."

PI Industries unveils product

PI Industries has launched CARVINT (Flometoquin 10% SC), a next-generation insecticide for controlling Thrips and Diamond Back Moth in chilli, cabbage and cauliflower. Saket Bhatnagar, CEO India Brands, PI Ag-Sciences, said: "Farmers today are navigating growing pest resistance, frequent spray requirements, shorter control duration and rising crop-management costs. CARVINT brings a differentiated mode of action that provides farmers with a new tool for effective and sustained pest management."

Amazon Pay expands portfolio

Amazon Pay and Kotak Mahindra Bank have announced the Amazon Pay Kotak Business Credit Card for sole proprietors and small business owners registered with Amazon Business. The card offers up to 5 per cent cashback on eligible Amazon Business purchases for Prime members, up to 48 days of interest-free credit and No Cost EMI options. It also provides cashback on bills, recharges and other spending, alongside AWS-related offers.

Brent crosses \$105 on Iran war, Saudi output slump

PROLONGED CONFLICT RAISES FRESH FEARS OF ENERGY-DRIVEN INFLATION

NEW DELHI

BRENT crude oil prices climbed above \$105 a barrel on Thursday, reaching their highest level since May 25, as renewed fighting between the US and Iran raised concerns over prolonged disruptions to global energy supplies. Strong Chinese buying and a sharp decline in Saudi Arabia's oil output added further momentum to the rally.

Brent crude futures were up 2.63 per cent at \$104 a barrel at 5:55 pm IST, extending a rally that pushed the global benchmark above the \$100 mark in the previous session for the first time since July. The latest surge has renewed fears that a prolonged conflict in the Middle East could fuel energy-driven inflation, with natural gas and diesel prices also rising sharply.

The conflict has intensified over the past week after



a period of relative calm, with little indication of an immediate de-escalation. A senior Iranian official said Tehran has no intention of backing down in the face of a US naval blockade and would escalate attacks if Washington continues striking Iranian territory.

US President Donald Trump has also indicated that the conflict could continue until after the November midterm elections, while warning that significant relief in gasoline prices may not come before

then. The comments have reinforced expectations that the conflict, now in its seventh month, could continue to exert pressure on energy markets.

Brent prices have risen about 30 per cent from lows recorded in early August after efforts to secure a permanent agreement between the US and Iran to halt attacks failed to materialise. Fighting resumed later in August, adding to concerns over the security of crude supplies from the Gulf region.

Rupee sinks deeper as oil shock returns

MUMBAI: The rupee depreciated 38 paise to close at 95.46 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, as Brent crude breached the USD 102 threshold, mounting concerns over the country's import cost trajectory.

Forex traders said the currency is currently facing opposing forces, with downside pressure driven by a resumption of foreign portfolio outflows, following positive flows in July and August and crude oil trading above USD 102 per barrel. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 95.15 against the US dollar, then lost ground to close at 95.46 (provisional) against the



American currency, registering a loss of 38 paise from its previous close. On Wednesday, the rupee slumped 34 paise to close at 95.08 against the American currency.

"The rupee has depreciated back towards 95.45, and it is important to understand that this is an oil-driven move rather than a dollar move, since the dollar itself is at multi-month lows," said Anindya Banerjee, Head of Commodity and Currency Research, Kotak Securities.

iPhones get sharply costlier in India, prices rise up to 41%

NEW DELHI

APPLE has raised the prices of its iPhone lineup in India, with increases of up to 40.6 per cent, amid rising memory costs, a weaker rupee and higher domestic production expenses.

The iPhone 17 256GB variant is now priced at Rs 99,900, up from Rs 82,900 earlier, an increase of Rs 17,000 or 20.5 per cent. The 512GB variant is priced at Rs 1,24,900, up Rs 22,000 or 21.4 per cent.

The iPhone 18 Pro starts at Rs 1,64,900, 22 per cent higher than the iPhone 17 Pro, while the iPhone 18 Pro Max starts at Rs 1,79,900, up 20 per cent.

The steepest increase is for the 1TB iPhone Air, whose price has risen 40.6 per cent to Rs 2,24,900 from Rs 1,59,900. The 256GB and 512GB iPhone Air variants have also become 25 per cent more expensive.

The iPhone 17e now starts at Rs 79,900, up 23.1 per cent, while the 128GB iPhone 16 has risen 28.6 per cent to Rs 89,900.

The price increases for Apple's Pro models are significantly higher in India than in several major markets. In the US, the iPhone 18 Pro and Pro Max prices have risen 9 per cent and 8 per cent, respectively.

According to Tarun Pathak, Research Director at Counterpoint Research, iPhone prices have increased 20-30 per cent in India, compared with a global average of 8-10 per cent. He attributed the increase to memory costs, rupee weakness and higher domestic production costs.

Pathak said the iPhone Duo could face a 20 per cent import duty because it is not locally assembled.

Prabhu Ram of CyberMedia Research said the Rs 2,99,900 iPhone Duo establishes an uber-premium tier above the Pro series and is likely to remain a halo product initially. Foldables currently account for less than 1 per cent of smartphone shipments.



Talent shortage, not funding, biggest hurdle for defence startups: Apollyon

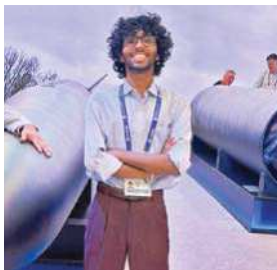
Hyderabad startup says specialised skills are harder to find than capital

SRIKANTH GODAVARTHI
HYDERABAD

INDIA'S rapidly expanding defence tech ecosystem may be attracting more capital and institutional support, but finding people capable of building highly specialised systems is emerging as a bigger challenge for young companies, according to Hyderabad-based defence startup Apollyon Dynamics.

"For us, capital has not been as big a challenge as hiring specialised talent," Apollyon Co-Founder Jayant Khatri said. "Building groundbreaking technology requires people with very specific skills, and finding that talent, especially for the defence space, is difficult because there is still a significant skill gap," he said.

The observation comes as Apollyon, founded in May 2025 by Khatri and Sourya Choudhary while they were completing their degrees at BITS Pilani Hyderabad, has moved rapidly from student



built prototypes to systems supporting the Indian Army. The startup says it secured its first deployment in Jammu within seven months of incorporation and its systems now support the Army at eight stations, including Chandimandir, Ranchi, Secunderabad and Arunachal Pradesh.

Its portfolio has also expanded from FPV drones and field support systems to more complex platforms, including the Ahuti electric interceptor and the Nightshade family of jet powered uncrewed aircraft.

That technological progression, however, has made specialised manpower increasingly critical. "Our biggest competitive edge is our team of young, hungry and ambitious builders who are willing to solve hard problems," Khatri said. But building such a workforce is not straightforward. Training engineers to work on highly specialised defence and aerospace systems takes considerable time, while the pool of people with experience across areas such as high performance propulsion, autonomous systems, embedded electronics and advanced airframes remains limited, he pointed out. "Training people to work on highly specialised systems also takes time, so building and retaining that team has been one of our biggest challenges, but also one of the most important things we have invested in early on," he said.

Khatri is currently in Poland attending MSPO, the International Defence Industry Exhibition in Kielce, one

of Europe's major defence industry events. The exhibition brings together defence companies, armed forces and technology providers from across the world, giving Indian startups an opportunity to engage with global players and study emerging technologies and potential partnerships.

For Apollyon, the international exposure comes as it looks to build capabilities beyond individual products and develop a larger technology and engineering base.

As funding and military demand improve, the ability to find, train and retain specialised engineering talent could determine how quickly startups move from promising prototypes to deployable systems.

For young companies working across drones, autonomous systems, propulsion and advanced aerospace platforms, access to specialised manpower could increasingly become as important as access to capital.

HANS BUSINESS
HYDERABAD

THE Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), in partnership with knowledge partner ANAROCK, hosted the conference "FICCI India Next Growth Frontier: Hyderabad 2035: India's Global Capability Capital" in Hyderabad on Thursday.

Talking about Hyderabad's Real Estate Footprint of GCC Expansion, industry leaders said that the city's rapid emergence as a major hub for GCCs is reshaping its real estate market, talent landscape and urban infrastructure.

VV Rama Raju, Chairman, FICCI Telangana State Council, emphasised the economic multiplier effect that GCCs exert on the region. Highlighting that Hyderabad now hosts over 500 GCCs employing more than 3,00,000 professionals—accounting for 20 per cent of India's GCC workforce—Rama Raju outlined how in-

GCCs fuel Hyderabad's next realty wave, says FICCI

City hosts 500-plus centres, with residential sales rising 12%

coming global investments directly fuel commercial leasing, residential demand, and retail growth.

Peush Jain, MD, ANAROCK, said: "That the city offers world-class infrastructure spanning over 1.4 billion square feet of development, positioning it among the top global investment destinations."

The conference also saw the release of the knowledge report "Hyderabad - The Rise of a Global Capability Powerhouse," which examines the city's expanding role



(L to R) Santhosh Kumar, Group Vice Chairman, Anarock, VV Rama Raju, Chairman, FICCI, Telangana State Council and Founder & MD, Gaja Engineering, SP Reddy, Chairman and MD, Terminus Group and Peush Jain, MD, Anarock at a media briefing in Hyderabad

as a destination for GCCs, technology-led investment and cross-sector economic growth.

Speaking at the event, SP Reddy, Chairman, Terminus Group, said: "Hyderabad recorded 5.2 million sq ft of commercial space absorption during the first half of 2026, with GCCs accounting for an estimated 40-45 per cent of the market. The momentum in the commercial sector has also supported residential demand, with sales rising 12 per cent year-on-year to about 23,700 units."

Govt cracks down on fake discounts and search manipulation

NEW DELHI

THE government has amended the Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules, 2020, to tighten norms on price transparency, sponsored listings, search result manipulation and dark patterns, the Department of Consumer Affairs said on Thursday.

The Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) (Amendment) Rules, 2026, will come into force from January 1, 2027.

Under the new rules, e-commerce entities must disclose both the reduced price and "prior price" whenever a discount is announced. The prior price will be the lowest price at which the product was offered during the 30 days preceding the discount.

Platforms will be barred from manipulating search results in ways that mislead



consumers or affect the relevance of results. Sponsored listings must carry clear and prominent disclosures.

E-commerce entities will also have to comply with the Guidelines for Prevention and Regulation of Dark Patterns, 2023, conduct an annual self-audit and display a certificate of compliance.

They must become partners in the National Consumer Helpline's convergence process. The NCH received 17,71,622 grievances in 2025, with 5,11,196, or about 29 per cent, related to e-commerce. Every entity must provide complainants a copy of complaints recorded by its grievance officer.

New-age economy poised to hit \$300 bn by FY31

NEW DELHI

INDIA'S new-age economy is projected to triple to USD 300 billion in revenue by financial year 2030-31, closely approaching the scale of the country's IT services sector, according to a report by Redseer Strategy Consultants.

A new-age economy is driven by AI, knowledge capital, and digital innovation. The combined revenue of domestic new-age companies is estimated to rise from USD 33 billion in FY22 to around USD 100 billion in FY26, before growing at 25 per cent annually to touch the USD 300-billion mark by FY31, the report noted.

According to Redseer, consumption-led sectors comprising consumer goods, retail, and leisure will remain the cornerstone of this expansion, growing at 25 per cent annually to reach USD 150 billion by FY31 and accounting for nearly half of the



overall market. Meanwhile, emerging technology sectors such as technology, media, and telecom (TMT), artificial intelligence (AI), and advanced manufacturing are projected to grow at 26 per cent annually.

On operational performance, the report highlighted that the collective profit pool turned positive in FY25, staging a turnaround to USD 1.4 billion. However, profitability remains heavily concentrated. "BFSI alone is 140 per cent of the FY25 pool; take it out and every other sector put together is still loss-making," the report stated, adding that a USD 300-billion top line by FY31 implies a total profit pool of USD 5-10 billion (2 to 3 per cent margin), compared

to 12-18 per cent for listed FMCG firms and 20-25 per cent for IT services. The report also pointed out that the time required for consumer goods brands to achieve scale has significantly compressed. Owing to the rapid expansion of direct-to-consumer (D2C) channels and quick commerce, the average time taken to reach Rs 100 crore in revenue fell from 6.8 years for brands in 2016 to 3.4 years for the 2020 cohort. Similarly, the time to hit Rs 500 crore halved from 7.9 years to 4 years. Redseer expects the number of new-age consumer brands with revenues above Rs 100 crore to surge from roughly 90 in FY22 and 230 in FY26 to approximately 500 by FY31. However, scaling beyond the "Rs 500-crore wall" remains a key hurdle due to the requirement of building deep offline distribution networks, modern trade capabilities, and working capital infrastructure.

Equity MF inflows jump 19% to ₹29,329 crore

NEW DELHI

EQUITY mutual fund schemes attracted Rs 29,329 crore in August, their highest net inflow in four months, as investors continued to favour mid- and small-cap funds despite market volatility.

According to data released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) on Thursday, equity inflows rose nearly 19 per cent from Rs 24,697 crore in July.

Retail participation through systematic investment plans (SIPs) also remained strong, with monthly contributions touching a record Rs 32,297 crore in August, compared with Rs 31,961 crore in July and Rs 28,265 crore in August 2025. Cumulative SIP collections in the first five months of the current financial year stood at around Rs 1.6 lakh crore.

The overall mutual fund industry, however, saw net inflows fall sharply to Rs 41,353 crore in August from Rs 2.36 lakh crore in July,



mainly due to a reversal in debt-oriented schemes.

Debt schemes recorded a net outflow of Rs 8,127 crore in August against an inflow of Rs 1.88 lakh crore in July.

Assets under management of the mutual fund industry rose 1.5 per cent to about Rs 87.08 lakh crore at the end of August from Rs 85.76 lakh crore in July. Small-cap funds attracted the highest equity inflows at Rs 7,973 crore, followed by mid-cap funds at Rs 6,989 crore and flexi-cap funds at Rs 5,059 crore. Large-cap funds, however, saw a net outflow of Rs 1,147 crore. "Since the market bottomed in March, mid- and small-caps have led the rally, while large caps have remained laggards," said Santhosh Joseph, CEO, Gernimate Investor Services.

AHF Junior Asia Cup 2026

Indian women demolish Pak 19-0, storm into semis

MOQI (CHINA): India produced one of the most emphatic victories of the 2026 Women's Junior Asia Cup, dismantling Pakistan 19-0 in their quarterfinal on Thursday to move within two wins of a third successive continental title.

The defending champions needed only seven minutes to break the deadlock, with Puja Sahoo finding the net. Roshni Aind doubled the advantage two minutes later, and what followed was a relentless Indian assault that left Pakistan struggling to contain the pace and frequency of attacks.



10-0 lead. There was no let-up after the restart. Madhu Sidar scored again in the 39th minute before Supriya opened her account a minute later. Malik then took centre stage, scoring in the 49th and 51st minutes to complete her hat-trick. Krishna Sharma and Binima Dhan added further goals as India continued to pile on the pressure. Supriya struck again in the 54th minute, while Roshni capped the extraordinary performance with her second goal in the final minute of the match.

The 19-goal haul came after India had already demonstrated their strength during the group stage, finishing top after victories over Japan, Malaysia and South Korea.

India will now await the winner of the South Korea-Malay-

sia quarterfinal for their semi-final clash. The result leaves the reigning champions just two victories away from a hat-trick of Junior Women's Asia Cup crowns, having lifted the trophy in 2023 and 2024.

For Pakistan, meanwhile, the quarterfinal turned into a one-sided contest almost from the outset, with India's sustained attacking pressure producing goals across all four quarters.

India's goals: Puja Sahoo (7'), Roshni Aind (9', 60+), Tanushree Dinesh Kadu (11'), Sukhveer Kaur (13'), Sanika Chandrakant Mane (13', 23'), Madhu Sidar (16', 39'), Geeta Yadav (18'), Tanuja Toppo (25'), Pooja Malik (27', 49', 51'), Purnima Yadav (33'), Supriya (40', 54'), Krishna Sharma (48'), Binima Dhan (55').

East Zone clinch Duleep Trophy after 13 years

Kishan, Quraishi shine; East Zone win on first innings as match drawn



CHENNAI: East Zone clinched the Duleep Trophy for the third time on Thursday after overcoming South Zone via first innings at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium. The triumph ended East Zone's 13-year drought, with its previous title coming in the 2012-13 season.

Resuming their second innings, East Zone rode on a maiden first-class century from Md Kounain Quraishi (116 not out off 190 balls) and Anukul Roy's 64 before declaring at 388/7 in 99.2 overs. Quraishi reached his century in the 96th over, while his seventh-wicket partnership with Roy extended to 150\.

South Zone were also penalised five runs for slow over-rate.

East Zone's title was built on a mammoth first-innings 708, featuring captain Is-han Kishan's 270 and Kumar

Kushagra's 101. Kishan added 80 in the second innings to finish with 350 runs in the match. Jharkhand talents Kushagra and Shikhar Mo-han, who scored 85 on debut, also played key roles.

South Zone pacer Mo-hammed Siraj bowled nine consecutive overs despite the result being virtually decided. After Kishan declared, celebrations erupted, with players dancing on the turf. Kishan and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi waved to spectators, with Sooryavanshi also joining the celebrations with a stump in hand.

BRIEF SCORES:

East Zone 708 and 388/7 in 99.2 overs (Md Kounain Quraishi 116, Ishan Kishan 80; MD Nidheesh 2-28, CV Milind 1-27) draw with South Zone 336 (Tilak Varma 99; Mukesh Kumar 3-62).

Services miss QF as Inter-Dept Hockey reaches knockouts

HYDERABAD: After six days and 40 matches, the 6th Hockey India Senior Men Inter-Department National Championships 2026 enters the knockout stage, with the quarterfinals scheduled at Gachibowli Hockey Stadium on Friday. Defending champions Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB), runners-up Comptroller & Auditor General of India (CAG), Food Corporation of India (FCI), Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB), Sports Authority of India (SAI), Punjab National Bank (PNB), All India Police Sports Control Board (AIPSCB) and Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) made the last eight. Services Sports Control Board, who had finished third last year, missed out despite winning three of four matches in Pool C, finishing level on nine points with AIPSCB and CBDT. AIPSCB topped with a +7 goal difference, CBDT were second at +6, while Services managed +4. Their 5-2 loss to CBDT proved costly. CBDT, who with two wins and two draws. CAG were unbeaten in Pool B with four wins, although two were narrow 5-4 victories. SAI finished second. RSPB also won all four matches, scoring 27 goals and conceding four. FCI advanced after another strong finish outside the top 10 last year, secured a quarterfinal berth. PSPB topped Pool A with three wins and a draw, while PNB advanced with two wins and two draws. CAG were unbeaten in Pool B with four wins, although two were narrow 5-4 victories. SAI finished second. RSPB also won all four matches, scoring 27 goals and conceding four. FCI advanced after another strong league campaign. The quarterfinals line-up: PSPB vs SA I, RSPB vs CBDT, CAG vs PNB and AIPSCB vs FCI.



Food Corporation of India and Canara Bank players in action

Brilliant Trophy Chess Tournament from tomorrow

HYDERABAD

BRILLIANT Chess Academy will organise the 244th Brilliant Trophy Chess Tournament on September 12 and 13 at Brilliant Grammar High School, Dil Sukhna-gar, Hyderabad.

The Open category will offer a total prize money of Rs.10,000 for the top 20 finishers. Special prizes will be awarded to the top two players in the Under-7, Under-9, Under-11, Under-13 and Under-15 age groups, separately for boys and girls.

Players must register at the venue before 1 p.m. on September 12. For details, contact J Subrahmanyam at 9247399717.

World Archery Para Series Stage III

India finish second with 15 medals including 4 gold

AHMEDABAD: Hosts India finished their campaign at the World Archery Para Series Stage III with the highest overall medal tally of 15 — four gold, three silver and eight bronze — but placed second behind the Czech Republic, who topped the standings with five golds. China finished third with two gold, six silver and five bronze medals.

The event served as an important international test for India ahead of the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Para Games, scheduled from October 18 to 24.

Paralympic champion Harvinder Singh led India's gold rush, winning the para recurve men's doubles with Vijay Sundi and mixed team gold with Bhawna. Shyam Sunder Swami and Toman Kumar won compound men's doubles gold, while world champion Sheetal Devi claimed compound women's individual gold; Sarita took bronze.



India's silvers came through Bhawna-Pooja, Tanvi Ingale and Swati Chaudhary-Adil Mohammed Nazir Ansari. Bronze winners included Yugal Garg, Swati, Sheetal-Toman, Toman, Bhawna, Swati-Vasundhara Teotia and Adil-Vinayak Breed. Swati and Adil each secured two medals, while Bhawna won three.

The W1 discipline is for athletes with severe impairments affecting both upper and lower limbs and the torso.

17th South Zone Shooting C'ship

Future City Police Inspector James wins bronze medal

HYDERABAD

FUTURE City Police Commissionerate Inspector B James Babu won a bronze medal in the Standard Pistol event at the 17th South Zone Shooting Championship – Rifle & Pistol 2026, held in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

His performance brought recognition to the Future City Police Commissionerate and the Police Department, high-

lighting his discipline, sustained practice and commitment to competitive shooting while continuing to discharge his professional responsibilities.

Inspector James Babu thanked Future City Police Commissioner Dr Tarun Joshi, IPS, for his continued encouragement, support and motivation towards sporting excellence among police personnel. He said the Commissioner's encouragement had inspired

him to pursue excellence both in policing and competitive shooting.

"I dedicate this achievement to the blessings of God and to the constant encouragement and support of my senior officers, colleagues, family and fellow shooters," James Babu said. He also expressed gratitude to Dr. Tarun Joshi for encouraging sporting talent and motivating police personnel to excel at national and international levels.



Commissioner of Police Dr. Tarun Joshi, IPS, felicitates Inspector B James Babu at the Future City Police Commissionerate office in Ranga Reddy district here on Thursday.

SC to hear plea against UP legislators' perks

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Thursday sought responses from the Uttar Pradesh government and others on a plea challenging the validity of certain provisions of a 1980 Act which provide for pension and other facilities to sitting and former MLAs and MLCs of the state.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta agreed to hear the plea which challenged a verdict of the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court in May this year. The high court had dismissed the plea challenging the constitutional validity of certain provisions of the Uttar Pradesh State Legislature (Members' Emoluments and Pension) Act, 1980.

The high court had noted that apparently these provisions confer upon sitting and former MLAs and MLCs a range of salary, allowances and other facilities, and further extend pension, family pension, free travel, medical facilities and other amenities to their spouse, family members and companion.

The top court issued notice on the petition challenging the high court verdict and posted it for hearing after four weeks. The petitioner 'Lok Prahari' had moved the high court contending that the state legislature has, in effect, made itself the "judge in its own cause" and showered benefits upon itself and its former members in a manner that is "manifestly arbitrary" and contrary to the basic constitutional idea that a public office is meant for public service and not for personal gain. "The core grievance of the writ petitioner is that all these provisions travel far beyond the limited power conferred by Article 195 of the Constitution of India, which speaks only of 'salary and allowances' to 'members' and makes no mention of pension, post-retirement benefits, facilities to family/companion or 'other facilities,'" the high court had noted. Article 195 of the Constitution deals with salaries and allowances of members of the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council of a state.

The high court had observed that the challenge mounted by the petitioner was essentially rooted in a policy disagreement rather than any demonstrable Constitutional infirmity.

Suicide of MPSC aspirant

It's a murder by system: Dipke

DHARASHIV: Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke on Thursday termed the suicide of MPSC aspirant Prathamesh Deshmukh as a "murder done by the system", and said the government should ensure that incidents like this do not happen again.

He also said that people were demanding reservation as the government has completely failed in providing quality education and jobs to the youth.

Deshmukh (28), who was preparing for the Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC) examinations allegedly died by suicide in Pune with a note left behind by him mentioning that he had a debt of around Rs 2.5 lakh. He was a native of Paranda in Dharashiv, and was staying in a rented accommodation in Navi Peth area while preparing for competitive exams.

Dipke on Thursday visited Khasapuri village in Dharashiv and met Deshmukh's grieving family members.

Talking to reporters later, Dipke said Deshmukh went to Pune with a dream to get a job and take his family out



of poverty. "He borrowed money from friends to meet his expenses. But due to paper leaks and delayed results, pressure mounted on students. This (Deshmukh's suicide) is system's fault and it is a murder done by the system," he alleged.

Deshmukh took the extreme step as he was fed up with the system, unemployment and financial condition of youth in rural areas, the CJP convenor said.

"Prathamesh stayed in Pune and used to have a meal only once a day due to his financial condition. According to his mother, Prathamesh used to say that he would come home in a government car, but unfortunately he was brought here in an ambulance yesterday. His father has already passed away,"

Dipke said.

The MPSC aspirants from the rural areas face a challenge of meeting their expenses in a city like Pune, he added.

"He (Deshmukh) had borrowed Rs 2 lakh to Rs 2.5 lakh from his friends...A youth had to end his life for this much amount. This is the condition of our youth in rural areas because there is no employment," he said.

"Prathamesh was preparing for MPSC exams and we all know what is happening in the MPSC. Exams are not conducted properly, the results are improper and paper leaks also take place. How will the youth from rural areas survive in a city like Pune? How will they pay the money required for library, food, rent and coaching? This

is a question that haunts the youth from rural areas," he said.

"Prathamesh left the village with a dream to become an officer, then how can he return without cracking the exams? For this, he did everything that he could. He stayed there (in Pune) for four years by curtailing his expenses. There are thousands of youths like him," he said.

Talking about the quota issue, Dipke claimed that since people have lost faith in the government they were asking for a constitutional remedy.

"The government cannot give good facilities. If they get good facilities, good schools and education and opportunities, why would anyone ask for reservation? People are asking for reservation because the government has completely failed in giving quality education and providing jobs. People have lost faith in the government so they are seeking constitutional remedies," he said.

Dipke also said the CJP earlier only supported the agitation by the MPSC aspirants, but now it will also get involved in the agitation.

Keralam minister calls for action to curb organ trade

'Practical decisions needed in transplant cases'

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Keralam Minister K Muraleedharan on Thursday said organ trading must be strictly prevented, but stressed that appeal committees should take practical decisions to protect patients' lives when transplantation applications are rejected.

In a Facebook post, the state Health minister said legal experts on the appeal committees should pay particular attention to the issue while examining applications for organ transplantation.

He was speaking after inaugurating 'Smriti Vandhanam 2026', organised by the Kerala State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation to remember deceased organ donors and honour their family members.

The minister honoured the families of 39 deceased donors who donated organs between August 2025 and August 2026.

"Organ trading must be strictly prevented. At the same time, when appeal committees reject applications, legal experts should ensure that the patient's life



is not put at risk and that practical decisions are taken to save the patient's life," he said.

Muraleedharan described the families of organ donors as an unparalleled example to society, saying they had come forward to help save other lives despite the immense grief caused by the loss of their loved ones.

"The pain of losing a loved one, especially a child, is unbearable. That families come forward to make such a sacrifice for another life even in such moments of intense grief is a noble act that must not go unrecognised by society," the minister added.

'Chhatron Ki Goonj' in Indore on Sept 19

NEW DELHI: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday announced that his fifth edition of the Chhatron ki Goonj initiative will be held in Madhya Pradesh's Indore on September 19 and asserted that it is essential to hear the voice of every student in the country to change the system.

Gandhi has held four Chhatron ki Goonj events in Kota, Dehradun, Prayagraj and Pune. The last one in

Pune on August 22 was for girl students.

In a post in Hindi on X, Gandhi said, "My dear students, youth and India's Gen Z, the entire country is watching with you as today a broken education system has extinguished the flame of your hopes and pushed your future into darkness."

"Through Chhatron ki Goonj, I am meeting you in different cities to understand your challenges. As part of

this campaign, on September 19, I will once again be among you in Indore," the leader of opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha said.

But to change this system, it is essential to hear the voice of every student in the country, their pain and their opinion, he said.

"Go to the link below and tell us — what is stopping you from achieving your dreams? You can also reach us by making a video.

"Your problems. Your suggestions. Together, we will bring hope back," Gandhi said and shared the link for feedback of students.

In a video along with the post, Gandhi said the idea behind the Chhatron ki Goonj programme is to listen to what the students and the country feel and to allow students to express themselves.

"The objective of the Chhatron ki Goonj programme is to keep before



the country your thoughts, expression and fears. And also raise the issues that our students want raised," he said in the video.

He urged students to convey what needs to be done to restore hope among students in India's education system.

Jailed Hindu leader gets parole for mother's funeral

DHAKA: Bangladesh authorities on Thursday granted five-hour parole to jailed Hindu rights leader Chinmoy Krishna Das to attend his mother's funeral, local media reported.

The Hindu monk was arrested in November 2024 on sedition charges for allegedly disrespecting the national flag, which sparked protests and communal tensions.

Chattogram District Deputy Commissioner (DC) Mohammad Zahidul Islam Mia ordered the Hindu



leader's release on Thursday afternoon following an application from his family, The Daily Star newspaper reported.

Chinmoy's mother, Sandhya Rani Dhar, 70, was undergoing treatment at a hos-

pital in Hathazari and died early morning on Thursday.

"Following an application by his brother over the death of his mother, we have passed an order to release Chinmoy Krishna from jail on parole for five hours in accordance with the law," the newspaper quoted DC Zahidul Islam Mia as saying.

Swatantra Gauranga Das Brahmachari, vice-president of ISKCON's Prabartak Sri Krishna Temple, confirmed the decision, bdnews24.com news portal reported.

9 L acres of freehold land to be opened for registration

- Revenue minister says registration for 9 lakh acres will be allowed; inquiry underway into irregularities in 4 lakh acres
- 22A cleanup gains pace with 28 lakh acres removed and fresh applications being cleared
- Blockchain reforms and Re-Survey 2.0 aimed at delivering accurate, tamper-proof land records

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THE coalition government is committed to finding a permanent solution to long-pending land disputes in Andhra Pradesh and ensuring full ownership rights to landholders, revenue minister Anagani Satya Prasad said.

Addressing the Collectors' Conference at the Secretariat here on Thursday, the minister said registration would be allowed for 9 lakh acres of freehold land that had been found compliant with the prescribed rules under the

previous government. However, a decision on another 4 lakh acres, where irregularities have been identified, would be taken after a detailed inquiry, he said.

The minister said 28 lakh acres had already been removed from the prohibited 22-A list.

The government had issued GO No. 444 to simplify the process of removing land from the 22-A list. Of the 28,790 acres for which applications had been received under the new procedure, 1,100 acres had already been removed from the prohibited list, while decisions on



Revenue minister A Satya Prasad greets Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu at the Collectors' Conference on Thursday

the remaining applications would be taken soon. Under GO No. 445, whenever private land is proposed to be included in the 22-A prohibited list, the concerned official would have to establish the nature and status of the land, he said.

The Minister warned that

strict action would be taken against officials who include private lands in the prohibited list in violation of the rules.

He said ownership rights had been restored to thousands of people in several long-pending cases, including Vatticherukuru,

Shettipalli, Pulladigunta, Kangundi, Avulapalli and Gootupalli, besides four areas in Konaseema district. In the Kaikaluru constituency, more than 2,000 acres in four villages had also been removed from the prohibited list following the initiative of the local MLA.

The minister said the government was implementing the 'Mee Bhoomi - Blockchain Technology' project to provide a permanent solution to land-related issues and directed Collectors to continuously monitor its implementation.

He also said Re-Survey 2.0 was being carried out efficiently to avoid the mistakes of the previous government.

While expressing satisfaction over growing public confidence in the Survey Department, he directed officials to ensure that the re-survey was conducted with 100 per cent accuracy.

Naidu's 'silent revolution' in irrigation: Keshav

- Handri-Neeva launch and Polavaram canal water release mark major irrigation gains, says the finance minister
- Drip irrigation cost slashed from Rs 16 to Rs 1.60 per metre, boosting horticulture in Rayalaseema

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AMARAVATI

FINANCE minister Payyavula Kesav said a 'silent revolution' was underway in the state's irrigation sector under the leadership of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, aimed at ensuring water security for every farmer and every family in the state.

Addressing the Collectors Conference on Thursday, Kesav said the Chief Minister's commitment to the irrigation sector had resulted in the launching of the Handri-Neeva project and the release



of water from the Polavaram Left Main Canal. Ministers and district Collectors gave a standing ovation to Chandrababu Naidu in recognition of his efforts towards strengthening irrigation infrastructure. Kesav said while the completion and launching of major irrigation projects were visible to everyone, the relentless efforts of the Chief Minister, who worked day and night to push forward several projects, often went unnoticed.

He said Chandrababu Naidu was the first to introduce drip irrigation in the State. The cost of drip irrigation, which was earlier around Rs 16 per metre, had now come down to Rs 1.60 per metre. This had made drip

irrigation more accessible to farmers and turned it into a major boon for horticulture in the Rayalaseema region, helping create greater wealth for farmers. The finance minister recalled that several political parties and individuals had initially opposed the Pattiseema Lift Irrigation Project. However, the project was now playing a crucial role in stabilising the Krishna delta ayacut. He said around 500 TMC ft of water had been diverted to the Krishna river through Pattiseema, equivalent to filling the Prakasam Barrage nearly 200 times.

Kesav said the Chief Minister's commitment to irrigation development had also received national recognition, with a leading English daily describing Chandrababu Naidu as a 'CEO CM' and a 'water man'. Thanking the ministers and collectors for the recognition, Chandrababu Naidu said it was the collective responsibility of everyone to ensure water security for all people and all regions of Andhra Pradesh.

State uses GST data for real-time economic tracking

- Manufacturing GVA estimated at ₹1.75 lakh cr, with 19.6% growth till July

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ANDHRA Pradesh is leveraging GST and commercial taxes data to develop a real-time mechanism to assess economic activity and estimate Gross Value Added (GVA) across key sectors, commercial taxes department chief commissioner Babu A said. Addressing the 8th Collectors' Conference, Babu said the GST-based assessment of manufacturing activity indicated 19.6 per cent year-on-year growth up to July, compared with about 18 per cent growth recorded up to the first quarter. The estimated manufacturing GVA stood at around Rs 1.75 lakh crore.

He said the GST-based estimate was closely aligned with the planning department's first advance estimates, which are based on sample surveys, with a variation of only about 0.6 percentage points. The close correlation demonstrated the potential of GST data for real-time economic assessment, he said.

The commercial taxes department has developed an AI-based analytical methodology to calculate GVA



Babu A

using GST data generated by manufacturing units. E-way bill data is also incorporated to improve accuracy by tracking the movement of goods into and out of the State.

The platform provides district-wise heat maps of manufacturing activity and enables collectors to drill down to individual manufacturing units, including their declared value and contribution to the sector.

Babu said GST returns, largely filed between the 18th and 20th of every month, could provide an early indication of economic activity in the preceding month, paving the way for monthly "now-casting" of economic growth. A similar methodology has been developed for the construction sector using GST data from around 65 relevant HSN categories, including cement, iron and steel. The estimated construction GVA was around Rs 1.25 lakh crore, against Rs 1.29 lakh crore estimated by the Planning Department, a variation of about 3.2 per cent.

Real-time assessments have

also been undertaken for trade, hotels and restaurants, real estate, communication and broadcasting, while work is underway to cover mining and electricity. Babu said GST and commercial taxes data would also help create a comprehensive database of MSMEs. Data relating to around 20.08 lakh MSMEs has been identified, including about 2.42 lakh in the GSTN system. To cover enterprises outside the GST network, the department is integrating GST information with electricity consumption data and NIC codes. The State Data Lake provides access to around 1.7 crore electricity connections, enabling officials to assess economic activity even among MSMEs not covered by GST turnover data.

He said around 1.21 lakh GST-linked MSMEs were currently inactive, with no reported turnover. District administrations would be able to identify such units and examine the reasons for their inactivity. The system will enable collectors to analyse activity down to the district, mandal and enterprise levels, helping identify businesses and sectors requiring intervention and potential revival. Babu said Andhra Pradesh's GST-based approach had also received appreciation at a national-level MSME coordination meeting in New Delhi.

Focus on infra projects, clear land acquisition

- Collectors told to clear land, legal and local hurdles on priority
- Ports, airports, highways and rail projects reviewed with firm deadlines
- Rs 1.18 lakh crore national highway projects and 42 railway projects in pipeline

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THE state government is focusing on completing major infrastructure projects within stipulated timelines to strengthen investment and economic growth, infrastructure and investments department secretary Kona Sasidhar said at the Collectors'



Conference on Thursday.

He directed collectors to prioritise land acquisition, land transfer, legal cases, local clearances and inter-departmental coordination to speed up project execution. Land acquisition and alienation covering 25,662 acres for ports, fishing harbours, fish landing centres and airports are

to be expedited. The government is developing greenfield ports, fishing harbours and shipbuilding facilities. The targeted completion dates are March 2027 for Ramayapatnam Port, May 2027 for Mulapeta, December 2027 for Machilipatnam and September 2028 for Kakinada Gateway.

Fishing harbours at Juvvaladinne, Uppada, Nizampatnam and Machilipatnam are targeted for completion between December 2026 and December 2027. Aviation projects are underway at Bhogapuram, Kurnool, Tirupati, Kadapa, Vijayawada and Rajamahendravaram, while proposals for several greenfield airports are at different stages. Eight water aerodrome sites and nine heliport locations have been identified. Collectors were asked to identify 5-10 acres for heliports in the remaining districts

and expedite acquisition of 670 acres for expansion of the Puttaparthi airstrip. National highway projects worth Rs 1,18,566 crore covering 1,408 km are in the pipeline. The government has also approved repairs covering 10,238 km of roads, while 78 Pushkaram works and 14 incomplete bridges are being taken up.

Sasidhar said 42 railway and multi-line projects covering 2,678 km, costing Rs 46,789 crore, were underway. Another 343 ROB or RUB projects involve Rs 13,305 crore.

Land acquisition remains pending for 91 national highway projects, 37 railway projects and 13 ROB/RUB projects. Collectors were directed to resolve these issues on priority and maintain project-wise records of pending issues, responsible officials and deadlines.

Govt sets Oct deadline to turn MoUs into projects

- 80% of PS-2025 MoUs and 75 per cent of SIPP projects targeted for grounding
- 17,469 acres of govt land pending handover to APIIC
- Data centres, IT, semiconductors and quantum technology get major push

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THE state government has set an October deadline to accelerate the conversion of

investment proposals into actual projects, directing collectors to personally monitor land availability, approvals and other bottlenecks.

At the Collectors' Conference, industries and commerce department nodal secretary N Yuvaraj said the government aimed to convert at least 80 per cent of the 463 MoUs signed under PS-2025 by the end of October. So far, 198 have been converted, while 172 are pending. The remaining proposals represent about Rs 5.54 lakh crore investment and 5.4 lakh jobs.

Similarly, the government is targeting 75 per cent grounding of 359 SIPP-

approved projects by October. Of these, 160 have commenced, while 109 are yet to be grounded. The pending projects involve around Rs 6.35 lakh crore investment and nearly two lakh jobs.

Yuvaraj said 88,678 acres had been requisitioned for industrial purposes since June 2024, but only 22,533 acres had been acquired. Of 30,223 acres of government land requisitioned, 17,469 acres were still awaiting handover to APIIC.

He directed collectors to expedite land acquisition, remove eligible lands from the 22-A prohibited list and complete mutations in APIIC's

name. Though 9,933 acres have been removed from 22-A, another 59,080 acres remain pending. Mutation has been completed for only 5,184 of the 49,074 acres for which requests were initiated. Collectors were also told to hold DIEPC meetings every fortnight to resolve pending NOCs, environmental clearances, building approvals and other hurdles.

ITE&C secretary Katamneni Bhaskar said AP is targeting 6.5 GW of data-centre capacity by 2030, requiring faster land and infrastructure support in Visakhapatnam, Anakapalli and Vizianagaram. Around 1,000 acres is

proposed for an IT Park in Visakhapatnam, while 100 acres is sought for IT and GCC parks.

The government is also pushing electronics, semiconductors and quantum technology. A 250-acre Quantum Hardware Park is proposed in or around Amaravati, while the Quantum Computing Centre is being readied to host the IBM machine by October 15. The state has 23.85 lakh MSMEs, with 138 of 175 proposed MSME parks approved and 22 already operational. Collectors were asked to ensure the remaining parks and investment projects are grounded on schedule.

DSC 2025 ROW

Jagan insists on Lokesh's resignation, CBI probe

- Alleges jobs were given to candidates who never wrote exams; demands CBI probe and Lokesh's exit
- Cites fake certificates, non-existent tournaments, and links to associations headed by Lokesh's relatives in jobs under sports quota
- Claims GOs were tweaked post-recruitment and APPSC exams stalled to hide similar irregularities

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AMARAVATI

YSRCP president Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Thursday renewed his demand for the resignation of education minister Nara Lokesh and a CBI probe into the alleged irregularities in DSC 2025, asserting that the recruitment process was riddled with unprecedented violations and that jobs were handed out to candidates who did not even write the examinations.

Addressing a press conference at the YSRCP central office in Tadepalli,

Jagan questioned the "conspicuous silence" of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Lokesh on the issues repeatedly raised by the opposition. He said fresh irregularities in the teacher recruitment process were surfacing "day after day," indicating a deeper malaise.

Jagan alleged that the government was deliberately weakening the investigation into the DSC scam and asked why the Chief Minister was "trying to protect his son." He accused the administration of "playing with the lives



YSRCP president Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy speaking to the media at party central office in Tadepalli on Thursday

and futures of unemployed youth" by allowing questionable practices to dictate recruitment.

Raising specific concerns, he asked why the preparation and supervision of DSC examination papers were entrusted to a single individual and why the government introduced GO No. 4 and GO No. 47. He questioned the rationale behind altering these GOs after the recruitment process concluded.

Jagan said 372 posts under the sports quota were filled without conducting any examination. According to him, GO No. 4 and GO No. 47 "opened the gates for irregularities," while GO Nos. 23, 25 and 56 were brought in later "to close those gates after the work was done."

He alleged that jobs were given away in violation of norms and claimed that the coalition government stalled APPSC exams

after the DSC controversy erupted, fearing exposure of similar practices. "Jobs were given based on participation certificates for tournaments that never took place," he said, calling DSC 2025 "a gem in Chandrababu's list of scams."

Jagan accused the government of misleading the legislature and said officials were "running out of words" to defend the recruitment process. He cited case-by-case examples, including 39 sports quota appointments allegedly based on fake certificates. He claimed certificates for judo events in Khammam and softball tournaments were fabricated, and that individuals linked to Lokesh's family headed the associations issuing them.

He also pointed to alleged irregularities in Kho-Kho certificates and cited cases from Kurnool and Kadapa districts where candidates reportedly secured jobs despite not meeting TET or reservation criteria.

21 new nutrition centres to boost malnutrition care in AP

- Health minister says new NRCs will add 175 beds, taking the total to 515 across 42 centres
- Six more 10-bed centres sanctioned for 2026-27, adding another 60 beds
- NRCs recorded over 98% recovery among severely malnourished children in recent years

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AMARAVATI

TWENTY-one new nutrition rehabilitation centres (NRCs) will be established across the state to provide specialised treatment and nutritional support to children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM), health minister Y Satya Kumar Yadav said.

In a statement here on Thursday, he said that the new centres will add 175 beds to the existing capacity.

With these facilities becoming operational in phases, the number of NRCs in the State will increase from 21 to 42, while the total bed strength will rise from 340 to 515.

Eight 10-bed NRCs are being established at Araku, Munchingiput and Chintapalli in Alluri Sitarama Raju district, Anakapalli, Bapatla, Nandyal, Sunnipenta and Narasaraopet in Palnadu district. Works have already been completed at Araku and Nandyal and the centres are expected to become operational soon.

Civil works at Munchingiput are under the tender process, while construction and other works are in progress at Chintapalli and Anakapalli.

Seven five-bed Integrated NRCs are also being established in tribal areas at Addateegala and Y. Ramavaram in the Polavaram region, and Salur, Palakonda, Badagiri, Kurupam and Chinamerangi in Parvathipuram Manyam district. Addateegala and Y. Ramavaram centres are

expected to be inaugurated shortly. In addition, six new 10-bed NRCs have been sanctioned for 2026-27 at Madanapalle, Chittoor, Rajamahendravaram, Machilipatnam, Hindupur and Tanuku, adding another 60 beds.

The government has allocated Rs 4.42 crore for NRC infrastructure, staff capacity building, ASHA incentives and maintenance during 2026-27. Another Rs 12.22 crore has been sanctioned annually towards human resources.

NRCs provide specialised medical care and nutritional support to children below five years suffering from SAM and associated medical complications. In 2024-25, 5,961 children were admitted and 5,878 recovered and were discharged, recording a recovery rate of 98.60 per cent. In 2025-26, 6,195 children were admitted and 6,168 recovered. From April to August 2026, 2,492 children were admitted and 2,462 recovered, registering a recovery rate of 98.80 per cent.



FATIMA SANA SHAIKH promotes regional cinema at J&K Film Festival

Actress Fatima Sana Shaikh speaks on the importance of regional cinema at the first International Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir 2026, held in Srinagar. The actress said that regional films are all about portraying the real life of that particular region and not the perception of it by someone else. As her mother is from Kashmir, the actress felt that visiting the Valley was special and that the region could soon become a popular film destination. Fatima also spoke lovingly of Dargah co-star Zaira Wasim.

The actor's September 2026 cover story for Lifestyle Asia India saw her pose in her latest designer outfits while she discussed her plans for the year. Since she has no films this year, fans are now waiting for her next project.

V Vijayendra Prasad unveils title poster of 'First Bench Premakatha'

The title poster of the upcoming Telugu film First Bench Premakatha has been unveiled by V. Vijayendra Prasad. The legendary writer and Rajya Sabha MP congratulated the team and wished them luck.

Presented by Vedula Balakameswari and produced under the banners of Mega Films and Sai Samhita Creations, the film is directed by Venkataramana S, the man behind Mercy Killing.

First Bench Premakatha narrates a love story between two toppers that takes a turn towards their studies, ambitions, and families. This film promises to take the audience through the exciting journey of young love, where the protagonist's romance had an adverse effect on their studies, ambitions, and parents.

The film's story is set in the challenging competitive



exam environment where the protagonist deals with the expectations of their parents, studies, love, and career. It promises to take the audience through the exciting journey of first love, first crush, and the dilem-

mas of Gen Z, dealing with the adverse effect of love on ambitions and parents.

Kollabathina Joshna Rani, Nakka Haribabu, and K. Ramesh Chandra are the producers, while Shrivakoti Bobby, Pathan Waleekhan,

and Kakarapalli Raju are the executive producers.

With an intriguing plot twist, the film aims to recreate the magic of first love while exploring the dilemma of love versus career and family.

'EYE Bomma' trailer released; promises a gripping social thriller

The trailer of EYE Bomma, an upcoming Telugu film starring Banoth Pawan, Gautham, Narmada and Satish, was unveiled at a grand gathering at Hyderabad today. Directed and produced by Vijay Raghunathabhatla under Sri Mallanna Creations, the film is set for an international theatrical release soon.

The film dwells on a modern-day social issue and narrates the story of a man who goes through various phases in life before taking up a sheath against society. The film also delves deep into his psyche, action and also the reason that leads to his conflict with the system.

Director Vijay revealed that he had finished the script overnight while the entire

film was shot in 15 days. He said the idea struck him while interacting with people about the EYE Bomma piracy website and wanted to probe deep into their activities and the reason behind their initiation.

Making his debut as the lead actor, Banoth Pawan says that the director provided him with a great platform after his tryst with the industry. While Gautham plays the role of DSP Vikram, Satish is also a part of the star cast.

Producer Kuruva Jamanna says that his love for movies motivated him to venture into film-making despite being from an agriculture family. Praising the trailer, guest of honor Rama Satyanarayana and producer Raja appreciated Vijay's work.



'Jai Gowriputra Ganesha' trailer speaks about student mental health

The audio and trailer of Jai Gowriputra Ganesha, the maiden production of Vatsalya Audio and Video Illustrations, were launched at a grand event in Preview Hall of Telugu Film Chamber in Hyderabad. Writer, director and producer Swami Srivatsalya Dharma Veera presided over the event that was attended by a few personalities of the film industry, political leaders and spiritual scholars.

The film speaks about the increasing academic stress among students and the importance of saving them from falling into the trap of suicide. Besides, the movie throws light on how the unhealthy race for exams, marks, home-work and positions will affect an overall growth of the new generation.

My 26 years of deep study and experience on Vedic Dharma Shastras inspired me to use this art form (movie) to preach ethical values and humanity to the younger generation. This movie also explains how Indian culture, traditions and values can be helpful to develop emotional wellbeing and healthy relationships, said Swami Srivatsalya Dharma Veera.

Telugu Film Producers Council Secretary Tummala Prasanna Kumar and Joint Secretary Tummalapalli Ramasatyanarayana appreciated the film's social message, while actor Gharshana Srinivas and Sri Daiwajna Sharma welcomed the initiative of promoting the Vedic values among the young generation. Starring Gharsana Srinivas, Karate Kalyani, Srimani, Maruthi Sakaram, Damaam Abhilash, Kavya Sri, Divyasri, Raja Ramakrishna Varma, Chandramukhi Chandrasekhar, Tiruveedhula Jayaram and others, the movie's team feels the film will help open up dialogues for parents, students and society.

'AH' glimpse builds suspense ahead of Oct 9 release

The makers of AH have created more hype over the upcoming thriller by releasing the first glimpse titled as 'Bloody Hunger'. The film stars Rahul Vijay and Archana Iyer and is set to release worldwide on October 9, 2026.

The Bloody Hunger glimpse, which does not have any dialogues, uses atmospheric visuals, rapid editing and a chilling background score to set the tone for the mysterious world. This video contains a lead-up to an investigation into the disappearance of young girls and a sinister force that seems to be operating.

Rahul Vijay is seen as a determined police officer investigating the case while Archana Iyer is seen in

intriguing glimpses that add to the mystery. The words "Ammayi, Adrushyam, Anveshana" provide the central theme of investigation for the film and the final glimpse leaves many questions unanswered.

Sri Charan Pakala's frightening background score enhances the suspense along with Monish Bhupathi Raju's cinematography while Abhinav V. Kunapareddy and Garry BH handle the editing.

Directed by Sai Baali and produced by Kanaka Rao Tonangi, Abhishek K and Garry BH, AH is the production venture of Star Box Stories and Ripple Slide Studios. The latest glimpse has made us more curious about the dark thriller.



'Missing Meghana' promotions gain momentum

The much-anticipated missing Meghana is all set to hit the theatre screens on September 18, and it is all set to release across 150 plus screens. Panchumarthi Naresh Babu is the producer of the film under the banner of First copy movies and KD & Co. The emotional thriller is directed by Vachaspathy.

The film stars Ram Karthik, Ammu Abhirami, Vaidika Senjalia, and Ankit Kooya in the lead roles alongside Goparaju Ramana, Vempa Kasi, Kaushik, Mahipal, Ruchita, Nalini, Srinivas, Azeem, and Pandu in the supporting roles.

The promotions of the film have gained tremendous attention, as the teaser and three songs launched till now garnered decent responses.

The songs are doing well online, and RR Dhruvan's music has received appreciation for the fresh feel. Apart from that, the camera work of Shyam K Naidu has also garnered attention.

The promotions of the film started with the director V.V. Vinayak launching the first look and title poster of the film. Later, the first song Pilla Pilla was unveiled by producer Suresh Babu, and the second song was revealed by Dil Raju, the producer of the film. Third song was unveiled by writer-producer Kona Venkat and Matcha Ravi.

Director Vachaspathy shared that the trailer of the film will be out soon, and Naresh is optimistic about the film's final version and business.

I poured my blood, sweat and tears into it: Udaya Bhanu about 'Panchanama'

The first-episode screening and press meet of the Telugu ZEE5 Original Panchanama took place at Prasad Labs, Hyderabad on September 9. The crime thriller is set to premier on 11 th September. The show promises to keep the audience engaged with its crime, mystery and emotional drama.

The thrilling series is directed by Mohan Srivatsa and stars Bharath Srinivasan as Jai Ram, Medha Reddy, Shivaji Raja, Surya Srinivas, Srijia, Radhika Preethi, Charan



Babu and Shiva Karthik Danda. Actress Udaya Bhanu while talking about

the ZEE5 series said that Panchanama is a project which goes beyond a

regular crime thriller. She further added that they have put in so much of their blood and sweat into the project because of the emotional content and her bond with the character.

Post the screening, the cast and crew met the media persons and interacted with them. The team discussed their experience while working on the show and talked about the various challenges of working on such a complex crime based series. Panchanama will stream on ZEE5 from 11 th September.

'Kaagitham Padavulu' trailer promises an unexpected experience

The trailer for the upcoming Telugu love story film "Kaagitham Padavulu," starring Vardhan and Krishnapriya, was released before its theatrical premiere on September 18. This movie was directed by MGR Thukaram and produced by Keerthana Naresh, T.R. Prasad Reddy, Venkatarama-julu and Gayathriamma Anjanappa under multiple banners.

Director MGR Thukaram expressed confidence in the content of the film and claimed that the spectators would be surprised by the climax. He also stated that they had worked hard and promised that the film would



provide an unexpected experience for the spectators. Vardhan asserted that the entire team had given their best, and he hoped that the viewers would en-

joy it. He also said that the experience of making the Kaagitham Padavulu was an unforgettable one, and he urged them to witness it on the big screen.

Furthermore, Krishnapriya called the film a good family entertainer and acknowledged the director for giving her a meaningful role. Anjanappa said that they remained committed to the story and made the film without any compromise on its quality. Keerthana also thanked the team for the incredible work and dedication, especially the director and Vardhan.

Their previous glimpse attracted the attention of many, which increases the anticipation for the romantic drama's release. Asian Suresh Entertainment has scheduled the release of Kaagitham Padavulu on September 18.