



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

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

Brent crosses \$105 on Iran war, Saudi output slump
BUSINESS 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. P11

Naidu's 'silent revolution' in irrigation: Keshav
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. P4

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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

MANJUL TOONS

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

Turn district resources into wealth, CM tells Collectors

District-wise growth data to be shared with Ministers, Collectors

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

CHIEF Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has directed the District Collectors to unlock the potential of their districts, effectively market local resources and accelerate economic growth to achieve the State's GSDP targets. Addressing the 8th Collectors' Conference on Thursday, the Chief Minister asked RTGS officials to provide district-wise growth data to Ministers and Collectors to help them identify opportunities and monitor targets. Officials said the Centre had fixed 2022-23 as the base year for assessing various economic parameters. The projected growth rate for 2026-27 at current prices is 13.44 per cent. During the first quarter, GVA growth stood at 14.19 per cent in agriculture and allied sectors, 14.81 per cent in industry and 12.70 per cent in services. Aquaculture recorded a particularly high growth of 31.77 per cent, with production reaching 6.61 lakh metric tonnes. Power generation increased from 24,248 million



▶ **359 SIPB projects worth Rs 13.85 lakh crore to be grounded faster**
▶ **MSM E parks, regional investment meets and infra projects get push**

units to 28,664 million units, while consumption rose 14.28 per cent. Industrial GVA stood at Rs 1,13,638 crore and services GVA at

Rs 1,60,107 crore during the quarter. GST revenue also increased by 18 per cent. The CM said 359 projects approved in 20 SIPB meet-

ings had the potential to bring Rs 13.85 lakh crore investment and 10.6 lakh jobs. Of these, 160 projects have already commenced, involving Rs 4.03 lakh crore investment and expected employment for 5.9 lakh people. Naidu directed the Collectors to give priority to grounding the remaining approved projects, finalise commencement dates and coordinate with Ministers and public representatives to remove bottlenecks. Officials also noted that Andhra Pradesh had become the first State to establish an Artificial Intelligence Task Force. **Continued on Page 7**

Naidu moots land bank portal to unlock unused govt land

Departments told to map idle land district-wise

HANS NEWS SERVICE

AMARAVATI: Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday directed Revenue officials to create a common Land Bank Portal containing details of all available government land

across Andhra Pradesh, seeking to end delays in identifying land for industrial and developmental projects. Addressing the Eighth Collectors' Conference, Chandrababu directed officials to identify government land lying unused for years

with various departments and bring its details onto the portal. The land should be mapped department-wise and district-wise, enabling any government department requiring land to access the database and seek allocation. **Continued on Page 7**

Bank strike today

Services likely to be hit for 4 days



▶ **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. 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 representa-

tive 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.

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 IRCTC 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**



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

PARIS SPACE SUMMIT

Be co-travellers in our space journey: Modi

Says India ready to partner with world in next space frontier

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. **Continued on Page 7**



AFTER AIR INDIA'S ODISHA INCIDENT...

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. **Continued on Page 7**

International air connectivity from Tirupati gets big push

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 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 intro-

▶ **CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER PITCHES FOR DIRECT TIRUPATI-KUWAIT FLIGHT**
▶ **VIRTUALLY INAUGURATES REGIONAL AIRLINE FLY91'S OPERATIONS TO TIRUPATI**

duced direct services linking Tirupati with Hyderabad, Vijayawada and Rajahmun-



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

dry. 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. **Continued on Page 7**

