



WOMENIA **What today's women really look for saree beyond design**
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**

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 usually think of depression, anxiety, addiction, loneliness or other clinically recognised conditions. **P6**

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

YOUNG HANS **AI and its integration with education: Building a future for students**
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. **P9**

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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 Shipbuilding 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

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 Ram Mohan 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**



ENDOWMENTS DEPARTMENT

SRI BUGGA RAMESWARA SWAMY TEMPLE

Kalvabugga (V), Orvakal (M), Kurnool District.

e-Procurement Tender

NIT.No. TTD-20022DY (GEN)/5/2025-EE-XV-SEC, Dt. 28.12.2025

E-Tenders are invited through the e-Procurement portal for the Laying of Cut Stone Flooring inside the Temple Prakaram. Interested bidders may visit the official website www.apereprocurement.gov.in for detailed information, eligibility criteria, and submission guidelines. **Executive Officer**

Govt. of Andhra Pradesh Endowment Department

SRI SEETHA RAMA SWAMY TEMPLE

Dharmavaram (Vi.), Vankuntapadu (M), SPSR Nellore Dt, AP

Rc.No: P/COE/1690/2026

Date: 04/08/2026

TENDER NOTICE

Tenders are invited in Sri Seetha Rama Swamy Temple, Dharmavaram(Vi), Vankuntapadu (M), SPSR Nellore Dt. For Reconstruction of Temple with CGF Funds. Interested Eligible Contractors may visit the Website "<https://tender.apereprocurement.gov.in>" for the detailed Information. **SD/- PERSON-IN-MANAGEMENT**

Govt. of Andhra Pradesh Endowment Department

SRI SEETHA RAMANJANEYA SWAMY TEMPLE

Janardhanapuram (Vi), Vinjamuru (M), SPSR Nellore Dt, AP

Rc.No: P/COE/1437/2026

Date: 10/07/2026

TENDER NOTICE

Tenders are invited in Sri Seetha Ramanjaneya Swamy Temple, Janardhanapuram(Vi), Vinjamuru (M), SPSR Nellore Dt. For Reconstruction of Temple with CGF Funds. Interested Eligible Contractors may visit the Website "<https://tender.apereprocurement.gov.in>" for the detailed Information. **SD/- PERSON-IN-MANAGEMENT**

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Tel No: +91 22 49116000

FINAL AUCTION CUM SALE NOTICE FOR GOLD ORNAMENTS

The borrower(s) (whose details are provided in the table herein below), in particular, and the public, in general, are hereby informed that the below mentioned accounts are overdue, and the borrowers/account holders have not responded/complied with the communication, and notice send by HDB Financial Services Limited (the "Company") requesting the borrower to clear his/her/their dues as per the documents in respect of the below mentioned loan signed/accepted by the borrower(s) [such documents, collectively "loan agreement"] and therefore defaulted in terms thereof. The Company has in exercise of its rights as a pledgee, decided to enforce the pledge and therefore hold a public auction of the gold ornaments pledged to the company as security for the loan for the purpose of selling the same and realizing/recovering the dues owned by the borrower(s) to the company. The auction will be conducted on/after **18-09-2026** at the below mentioned local branch of HDB Financial Services Limited from 11.00 am onwards on the date and branches mentioned in the below table:-

Loan No	Customer Name	Date of Loan	Overdue Amount ₹	Branch Name
80638147	Kandiboyina Jai Krishna	20-04-2026	12362	Bhimavaram
80269647	Mandala Yugendranaga Venkataakumar	07-04-2026	17929	Bhimavaram
79416903	Shaik Meera Sharif	07-03-2026	66038	Bhimavaram
79498436	V Praveena	10-03-2026	145479	Chittoor
79468949	C Sai Kumar	09-03-2026	53763	Chittoor
79380953	K Usharani	06-03-2026	24284	Chittoor
80555481	Patyala Madhubabu	17-04-2026	26033	Eluru
79782413	Mudhunuri Suvantha	20-03-2026	52872	Eluru
79609705	Gujjala Jyothi	14-03-2026	49408	Eluru
79984723	Chandra Sekhar Ragolu	27-03-2026	69259	Eluru
79418843	Medepalli Naresh Babu	07-03-2026	83191	Eluru
79309452	Medepalli Naresh Babu	03-03-2026	42179	Eluru
78833508	Pothunuru Vijay Kumar	17-02-2026	27244	Eluru
79896674	Shahukari Charan	24-03-2026	36088	Gajuwaka
79570041	Anapana Hymawathi	12-03-2026	112816	Gajuwaka
79975258	Dharmala Aparna	27-03-2026	17599	Gajuwaka
79222767	Budata Pooja	28-02-2026	39618	Gajuwaka
74382793	Kotcharla Venkatasai	30-11-2025	10868	Gajuwaka
80587920	Ramineni Venkatakrishna	18-04-2026	20891	Guntur
79876928	Lanka Gopi Reddy	24-03-2026	34493	Guntur
79010116	Shaik Siraj	21-02-2026	28527	Guntur-Gt Road
80551754	Ullagula Lakshmi	17-04-2026	48440	Guntur-Kothapeta
80260356	Dokka Kranthi Kiran	07-04-2026	19917	Guntur-Kothapeta
80089661	Animelaguthi Sai Mounika	31-03-2026	78626	Kadapa
79790604	Shaik Sultan	17-03-2026	14589	Kadapa
78494624	Mohammed Ahmedunnisha Begum	10-02-2026	76096	Kakinada
79130988	Behara Sunitha	24-02-2026	21790	Kakinada
73875164	Sabbithi Nageswara Rao	07-11-2025	41128	Kakinada
78197866	Shaik Zaheer	04-02-2026	33227	Kurnool
78115047	Saragonda Devanna	02-02-2026	5234	Kurnool
65167430	Dasari Pullamma	09-05-2025	183001	Kurnool
79704326	Vadugu Savitri	17-03-2026	98081	Machilipatnam
79478944	Ummaleti Sivaram Prasad	09-03-2026	40834	Mangalagiri
79589917	Chalamcharla Sriakshmi	13-03-2026	27570	Mangalagiri
79749337	Sanga Madhu	20-03-2026	26854	Nandyal
79464628	Ramesh Rajamuri	09-03-2026	12379	Nandyal
767178904	Pattan Karamallikhan	21-06-2025	46768	Nandyal
80424005	Duvuru Saraswathi	13-04-2026	36705	Nellore
79690916	Desamala Stalin	17-03-2026	19499	Nellore
79281501	Desamala Stalin	02-03-2026	25160	Nellore
80347984	Yamarthi Praveenkumar	10-04-2026	57830	Ongole
76542865	Gaddam Nirmala	13-01-2026	20464	Proddutur
74245746	Vanipenta Shaik Muzahid	25-11-2025	54886	Proddutur
80544936	Venikateswari Kothapalli	17-04-2026	39109	Rajamahendravaram
79878183	Polasa Nukaratnam	23-03-2026	76648	Rajamahendravaram
79873517	Gandepalli Devi	23-03-2026	35771	Rajamahendravaram
79541975	Bejavada Bhaskararao	17-03-2026	87717	Rajamahendravaram
79338461	Muppana Kantha Rao	05-03-2026	37991	Rajamahendravaram
79338582	Chintha Shanmukha Sivasailanth	05-03-2026	70731	Rajamahendravaram
79738713	Patruni Pavankumar	18-03-2026	147112	Srikakulam
80263805	Syed Khaleel Ahmed	07-04-2026	95675	Tenali
79824495	Gera Sowjanya	21-03-2026	30113	Tenali
79320061	Narisetty Adilakshmi	03-03-2026	194641	Tenali
74775428	Addanki Ramesh	19-12-2025	15333	Tenali
80553648	Karimbedu Radha	17-04-2026	49420	Tirupati
79899444	Koppolu Shobharani	24-03-2026	82185	Tirupati
78487589	K Sai Nadha	10-02-2026	13970	Tirupati
75142871	Kuncham Jayanthi	30-12-2025	26672	Tirupati
80556059	Shaik Galib	18-04-2026	14544	Vijayawada
79659127	Shaik Sharukh	16-03-2026	20453	Vijayawada
79357330	Mohammad Abdulazees	05-03-2026	60142	Vijayawada
79126341	Majji Saikumar	24-02-2026	36844	Vijayawada-Governorpet
79200308	Matta Sugunaroo	27-02-2026	36567	Vijayawada-Governorpet
78826023	Palagani Sambasivarao	17-02-2026	25236	Vijayawada-Governorpet
79871830	Koppati Naveen	23-03-2026	68766	Vijayawada-Governorpet
80137833	Pothula Vijaya Lakshmi	02-04-2026	54733	Vijayawada-Governorpet
79283410	B Srinivasareddy	02-03-2026	111148	Vijayawada-Governorpet
80425746	Thoolikonda Srinivasa	13-04-2026	56719	Vijayawada-Kanuru
79737171	Golla Vnkrishta Chaitanya	18-03-2026	102839	Vijayawada-Kanuru
80241707	Nagelli Agneskumari	06-04-2026	29109	Vijayawada-Kanuru
79563431	Vanguru Soma Lingeswararo	12-03-2026	40489	Vijayawada-Kanuru
79376268	Palle Prabhudass	06-03-2026	36635	Vijayawada-Kanuru
80425821	Shaik Arifa	13-04-2026	38280	Vijayawada-Kanuru
80646045	Chodavarapu Chittibabu	20-04-2026	25502	Visakhapatnam
79819061	Sadi Tarun Sai	21-03-2026	49833	Visakhapatnam
74806937	Palisetty Sai Santhosh	20-12-2025	13436	Visakhapatnam
80647448	K S Narayana	20-04-2026	49109	Vizag-Gopalapatnam
79464124	Pinninti Ramkumar	09-03-2026	97536	Vizianagaram
79872785	Kalla Sathyajyothi	23-03-2026	49798	Vizianagaram
79896901	Suneelkumar Rambha	20-02-2026	95143	Vizianagaram

The auction will be conducted on an "AS IS WHERE" and "AS IS WHAT IT" basis and the Company is not making and shall not make any representation or warranties as regards the quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments. It shall be the sole and absolute responsibility of the potential purchaser to verify, examine and satisfy themselves about the quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments prior to placing their bid and for such purpose it shall be open to potential purchasers to examine, at their sole cost and expense, and at the address set out herein above, the gold ornaments whether with or without expert advice 45 minutes prior to the time stipulated for the conduct of the auction. All the bid shall be subjected to such minimum reserve price as the company may deem fit to fix in this regards. The auction process and sale (if any) pursuant to such auction shall be subjected to such further terms and condition as the company may at sole discretion deem fit to impose.

If the borrower(s) mentioned above pays the amount due to the Company in terms of the loan agreement in his individual loan account in full before the auction as mentioned above, the pledged ornaments securing the said loan may be withdrawn from the said auction without further notice. Please note that it is the absolute discretionary power of the undersigned authorized officer of the company, either to postpone or to cancel the auction proceeding without prior notice and without assigning any reason thereof and to reject any or all the bids or offer without assigning any reason for the same.

Place : ANDHRA PRADESH

Date : 11-09-2026

Authorised Officer
(HDB Financial Services Ltd)



HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

CPI state secretary Gujjula Eswariah has urged Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu to order an independent inquiry into the tender process for the Bal Sanjeevani and Bal Sanjeevani Tribal nutrition schemes, alleging irregularities in awarding contracts and exclusion of women's self-help groups (SHGs).

In a letter to the Chief Minister on Thursday, Eswariah alleged that the tender process for supplying nutritional kits to pregnant women, lactating mothers and children through Anganwadi centres was not conducted in a manner that ensured fair competition and equal opportunities.

He said the state had divided 26 districts (before creating Markapuram and Polavaram districts) into four zones for the procurement of nutrition kits. According to him, 53,787 Anganwadi centres are covered under the programme and around 4.52 lakh kits are to be supplied every month, with an annual procurement value of about Rs.172.80 crore.

Eswariah alleged that the kit price had increased from Rs.241 to Rs.283.19 in the general zones and from Rs 350 to Rs 446 in the tribal zone. He claimed that the difference in rates could result in an estimated additional burden of around Rs 29.22 crore on the public exchequer, and sought an independent financial audit comparing the tender rates with previous rates, market prices and those prevailing in other States.

He also questioned the eligibility of agencies such as Kendriya Bhandar and NCCF, alleging that they did not have their own manufacturing facilities despite tender conditions requiring manufacturing capacity, food safety licences and production-related certifications. He asked the government to explain why agencies disqualified in earlier tenders were subsequently considered eligible. The CPI leader further alleged that the requirement to supply to thousands of delivery points favoured large contractors and prevented small and medium-sized local units and SHGs from participating. He said the Supreme Court and government guidelines emphasised the participation of SHGs in supplementary nutrition programmes and urged the State to give them greater priority.

Eswariah demanded cancellation of the existing contracts, scrapping of the zonal system and fresh tenders on a district-wise basis to promote local employment and wider competition. He also sought re-tendering at the earlier rates of Rs.241 and Rs.350 unless the government could substantiate the revised rates.

He urged the Chief Minister to examine the tender notification, government orders, eligibility criteria, qualification and disqualification records, contract awards, quality-testing reports and payment details. He sought action against officials and contractors if violations were established and called for permanent guidelines to ensure transparency, competition, quality and social responsibility in future child nutrition procurements.

Govt. of Andhra Pradesh Endowment Department

SRI SEETHA RAMALAYAM

Duttaluru (Vi & M), SPSR Nellore Dt, AP

Rc.No: P/COE/1641/2026

Date: 04/08/2026

TENDER NOTICE

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SEVA SANKALPA ABHIYAN

BJP to take Modi's 25-year public journey to people

- Month-long programmes across AP from Sept 17 to Oct 17
- Alliance coordination strengthened for forthcoming local body elections

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

BJP state president P V N Madhav said the party would organise a month-long 'Seva Sankalpa Abhiyan' across the state to take Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 25-year public life and his government's achievements in development and welfare to the people.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP state office in Vijayawada on Thursday, Madhav said a series of service and social programmes would be conducted from September 17 to October 17. He said the party would highlight



BJP state president P V N Madhav, along with party leaders, addressing a press conference at the party state office in Vijayawada on Thursday

the country's progress in digital economy, infrastructure, Make in India, Atmanirbhar Bharat, green hydrogen, quantum technology and artificial intelligence under Modi's leadership.

He said the campaign would begin on September 17 with large-scale blood donation camps, while an 'Aashirwad Deepam' programme would also be held in the evening. Painting and essay competi-

tions would be organised in schools and colleges on the theme of Viksit Bharat. Street plays and Burrakathas under 'Namo Seva' would explain welfare and development initiatives to the public.

Madhav said the party would honour Anganwadi and ASHA workers and organise medical camps, service activities, a 'Seva Jyothi Yatra', and 'Marpu Katha' programmes highlighting development-

led transformation. A large-scale palm plantation drive titled 'Palm Tree-Kalpavruksham' would also be taken up in Andhra Pradesh.

He said the campaign would explain the Centre's support for AP, including assistance to Polavaram and Amaravati, the Visakhapatnam South Coast Railway Zone, support to Visakhapatnam Steel Plant and investments in industrial corridors, green

hydrogen, green steel, semiconductors and AI.

On local body elections, Madhav said the BJP was preparing in coordination with the TDP and Jana Sena. Field teams had already assessed the party's strength in panchayats, MPTCs, ZPTCs, municipalities and corporations. Seat-sharing discussions were yet to be finalised, he said.

He added that the three alliance partners would soon meet again to chalk out a joint strategy.

A State office-bearers' meeting would be held in Guntur on Friday to review the Seva Sankalpa Abhiyan and election preparedness.

State media in-charge Kilari Dileep, MLC Pothula Sunitha, state office-in-charge Uppalapati Srinivas Raju, NTR district BJP president Adduri Sri Ram, and BJP state spokespersons Sheikh Baji and Jalli Madhusudan were among those who participated in the press conference.

Lok Adalat at 44 Benches tomorrow

RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM: A National Lok Adalat will be held on September 12 at 44 Benches across East Godavari, Kakinada, DR BR Ambedkar Konaseema and Polavaram districts, District Principal Judge and District Legal Services Authority chairman Junaid Ahmed Maulana said on Thursday. He said wide publicity was being given to the Lok Adalat through ministry and government department websites and digital platforms to create awareness among the public about its purpose, benefits and the types of disputes that could be settled through the forum.

The National Legal Services Authority has been undertaking various programmes under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, to promote access to justice and create awareness about legal services and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, he said. Lok Adalats play an important role in providing an accessible, speedy and inexpensive forum for settlement of disputes through mutual consent, he said. Cases that are suitable for settlement can be resolved in an amicable atmosphere, helping parties avoid prolonged litigation and expenses, he added. Legal services authorities were taking steps to educate people about the procedure and benefits of Lok Adalats and encourage them to make use of the facility.

Junaid Ahmed Maulana appealed to people to utilise the National Lok Adalat being conducted on September 12 and come forward to settle eligible disputes through mutual agreement.

AP races to unlock Central funds

- Chittoor topped with 87% utilisation while Vizianagaram was lowest at 52%
- Rs 9,986 crore in 'mother sanctions' and Rs 135 crore in SNA accounts under review
- Reforms to unlock Rs 3,525 crore under SASCI to be completed on priority

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

THE state government has launched a major exercise to improve utilisation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) funds, recover cancelled allocations and implement reforms needed to unlock additional Central incentives, as part of a broader financial restructuring exercise.

At a review with collectors, finance department principal secretary Piyush Kumar and secretary D Ronald Rose said 86 CSS schemes were being imple-

mented during 2026-27. Against a Central allocation of Rs 25,304 crore, the State had received Rs 10,552 crore so far. Including previous unspent balances and other adjustments, Rs 18,516 crore was currently available with implementation departments, of which Rs 8,694 crore (47 per cent) had been spent by September 7.

The panchayat raj and rural development department had the largest available pool at Rs 7,440 crore but had utilised only 38 per cent. Housing spent 26 per cent of its Rs 829

crore, while water resources utilised just 6 per cent of Rs 28 crore. In contrast, BC Welfare recorded 99 per cent utilisation, spending Rs 313 crore out of Rs 316 crore. District-wise performance also varied sharply. Chittoor topped with 87 per cent utilisation, followed by NTR and West Godavari at 85 per cent. Visakhapatnam recorded 59 per cent, while Vizianagaram was lowest at 52 per cent.

The government has identified Rs 135 crore lying unspent in SNA accounts and ordered tighter banking management. As many as 88 idle SNA accounts across 20 departments are to be closed immediately. Officials were also directed to pursue the Centre for re-release of Rs 116.98 crore in cancelled mother sanctions, including funds for PMAY-Urban, BC scholarships, NRLM-RSETI

and used-water management. AP is eligible for Rs 8,226 crore under SASCI 2026-27, of which Rs 3,486 crore has already been received. The government is implementing reforms to secure the remaining Rs 3,525 crore, including mining reforms, Telecom RoW integration, AgriStack digitisation, livestock data entry and SNA-SPARSH reforms.

The exercise could also unlock Rs 650 crore through public-health improvements and Rs 175 crore through the Compressed Bio-Gas policy. All prescribed SASCI reforms have been ordered to be completed by December 1, 2026, while departments must immediately release Central funds to districts and remit interest accrued in SNA accounts to the Centre through PFMS.

Mayor offers to solve problems in Islampet Peta

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NELLORE

MAYOR Devarakonda Sujatha Ashok assured residents of Islam Peta in Venkateswarapuram that steps would be taken to resolve their local issues.

As part of city tour, along with officials and party leaders she conducted a door-to-door visit in Islam Peta area of 53 Division on Thursday and interacted with residents to understand their problems. The Mayor instructed sanitation staff to maintain the division cleanly and to remove silt and waste



from drains regularly.

She appealed to residents to segregate wet and dry waste while handing it over during door-to-door garbage collection and cooperate

with the recycling process. She urged eligible residents to apply for old-age, widow and other pensions and avail themselves of government welfare benefits.

CM SETS DEADLINES TO SEE EVERY ELIGIBLE FAMILY GETS A HOUSE

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

CHIEF Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has directed officials to ensure that every eligible person in Andhra Pradesh gets a house or house site, with strict deadlines for beneficiary iden-

tification, site distribution and house construction. Reviewing housing issues at the 8th Collectors' Conference, the Chief Minister ordered officials to prepare a comprehensive action plan within 10 days covering house-site distribution, construction and regularisation of house plots.

Officials informed him that 1.43 lakh beneficiaries had been identified as eligible for housing, while another 1.26 lakh applications were under scrutiny. The verification process is expected to be completed by October

15. Land has been identified in 1,692 villages for providing house sites to around 18,000 beneficiaries. Chandrababu directed officials to complete the distribution of these house sites within one year and prepare a clear list of beneficiaries requiring new house sites. The Chief Minister also reviewed the progress of housing construction. Officials said 5.92 lakh houses had been completed so far, while another 5.32 lakh houses were under construction at various stages.

Chandrababu ordered that all houses under

construction be completed by March 2027 and handed over to beneficiaries. He stressed that there should be no delay at any stage, from identifying eligible beneficiaries and distributing house sites to completing construction.

District in-charge ministers were asked to take special responsibility and coordinate with district administrations. Officials were directed to monitor each stage against the prescribed timelines and give top priority to ensuring that every eligible family gets a house or house site.

Speaker Ayyanna to attend Commonwealth Parliamentary meet in SA

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

LEGISLATIVE Assembly Speaker Ch Ayyanna Patrudu will participate in the 69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) to be held in Cape Town, South Africa, from September 13 to 18. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference is a prestigious international forum that brings together Presiding Officers and parliamentary representatives from Commonwealth countries to deliberate on parliamentary democracy, effective legislative functioning, good governance and strengthening democratic institutions.

Ayyanna Patrudu will represent the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly at the conference and participate in various proceedings and deliberations. The event will provide an opportunity to exchange views and experiences with Presiding Officers and legislators from different Commonwealth jurisdictions and showcase the parliamentary traditions, practices and functioning of the Andhra Pradesh Legislature. Secretary General of the Andhra Pradesh Legislature Prasanna Kumar Suryadevara will also participate in the Conference of Secretaries, an integral part of the CPC. The participation of the Speaker and Secretary General will enable the Andhra Pradesh Legislature to engage with parliamentary institutions across the Commonwealth and exchange experiences in legislative procedures, parliamentary administration and institutional best practices.

INS Mysore arrives at Lumut, Malaysia, for 4th edition of exercise Samudra Lakshmana

- INS Mysore arrived at Lumut, Malaysia to participate in the 4th edition of the bilateral maritime exercise 'Samudra Laksamana' between the Indian Navy and the Royal Malaysian Navy
- The engagement aligns with the government of India's vision of MAHASAGAR and the ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation 2026
- The Indian Navy's sail training ship, INS Sudarshini, arrived at Livorno, Italy, as part of the ongoing transoceanic expedition 'Lokayan 2026'

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

AS part of the Indian Navy's Operational Deployment, INS Mysore arrived at Lumut, Malaysia, to participate in the 4th edition of the bilateral maritime exercise 'Samudra Laksamana' between the Indian Navy and the Royal Malaysian Navy.

The ship, which arrived on September 9 along with its crew, was warmly welcomed by personnel of the Royal Malaysian Navy and officials from the High Commission



INS Mysore arrives at Lumut, Malaysia, for the 4th edition of exercise Samudra Lakshmana

of India in Malaysia.

Exercise Samudra Lakshmana comprises professional engagements in harbour and at sea, including cross-deck visits, operational interactions and sporting engagements. These activities will provide opportunities for personnel of both navies to exchange professional experiences, enhance interoperability and foster greater mutual understanding.

Building upon the momentum generated by recent bilateral engagements, including the 12th India - Malaysia Sub Committee Meeting held on July 1, the visit underscores the strong and enduring maritime partnership between India and Malaysia and reflects the expanding scope of co-operation between the two navies, representing another important step in advancing

maritime cooperation and strengthening professional exchanges between the two countries.

The engagement is aligned with the government of India's vision of MAHASAGAR and the ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation 2026.

'Lokayan 2026'

Meanwhile, as part of the ongoing transoceanic expedition 'Lokayan 2026', the Indian Navy's sail training ship, INS Sudarshini, arrived at Livorno, Italy, on September 9. Sailing over 17,400 nautical miles across 10 countries during the deployment, the ship has been carrying forward India's maritime traditions and spirit of friendship across the seas.

En route to Livorno, INS Sudarshini conducted a passage exercise with the Italian



Indian Navy's sail training ship, INS Sudarshini, arrives at Livorno, Italy

Navy's sail training ship ITS Palinuro in the Mediterranean Sea. The joint evolution involved coordinated manoeuvring and sail-handling drills, providing an opportunity for the crews of the two sailing ships to interact and exchange professional expertise.

Livorno, home to the prestigious Italian Naval Academy (Accademia Navale), provides an opportunity for further professional engagement between the two Navies. During the port call, cross-deck visits and interactions between Indian trainees and Italian cadets will take place and the ship will remain open to visitors.

Special town planning open forum receives 267 grievances on day one

- Citizens attend the forum with documents relating to pending applications and issues and brought them to the notice of the concerned officials
- A total of 107 officers and staff, along with 61 Licensed Technical Persons (LTPs), participated in the programme

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

A two-day special town planning open forum, organised as a special initiative to expedite the resolution of pending APDPMS approvals/issues, TDR online pending issues and LRS pending issues within the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) limits, received an overwhelming response from the public on the day-one.

As per the directions of GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg, Additional Commissioner S S Varma, along with Chief City Planner A Prabhakar Rao conducted the special forum at the GVMC head office on Thursday.

A total of 267 petitioners from various parts of the city attended the forum and submitted their grievances. Of these, 63 grievances related to APDPMS,



People approaching officials at the special town planning open forum organised at the GVMC main office in Visakhapatnam on Thursday

191 to LRS and 13 to TDR. Citizens attended the forum with documents relating to their pending applications and issues and brought them to the notice of the concerned officials.

After thoroughly examining the grievances, the officials disposed of 83 applications on the day-one itself, including 40 under APDPMS, 35 under LRS and 8 under TDR. The Commissioner directed the concerned officials to examine the remaining applications and expedite necessary action for their disposal in accordance with the prescribed rules.

A total of 107 officers and staff, along with 61 Licensed Technical Persons (LTPs), participated in the programme. In addition, 83 LRS applications were submitted through LTPs. By bringing citizens, LTPs and concerned officials together, the forum facilitated scrutiny

of pending applications, identification of issues and faster processing toward their resolution.

The Commissioner clarified that the two-day special open forum is not intended for all general Town Planning issues, but is conducted exclusively for three specific categories: pending building approvals/issues under APDPMS, TDR online pending issues and LRS pending issues.

In view of the overwhelming public response, the special town planning open forum will continue on Friday (September 11) from 10 am to 5 pm at the GVMC head office, as scheduled, the Commissioner informed, appealing to people to make use of the platform effectively. City planner Dhanunjaya Reddy, deputy city planners, assistant city planners, other officials and staff participated in the programme.

CMRF cheques distributed to 10 beneficiaries



Beneficiaries who received CMRF cheques from Visakhapatnam Member of Parliament M. Sribharat in Visakhapatnam on Thursday

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

GOVERNMENT assistance provides much-needed relief to families facing difficult circumstances, said Visakhapatnam Member of Parliament M Sribharat. Distributing financial assistance cheques to beneficiaries sanctioned support under the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) at his office on Thursday, the MP stated that assistance extended through the Chief Minister's Relief Fund significantly helps families facing financial difficulties and unable to afford essential medical treatment.

He said efforts are being made to ensure that eligible beneficiaries receive the benefits of various government welfare schemes.

As many as 10 beneficiaries received financial assistance amounting to Rs 5,23,497 to support their medical treatment and related expenses.

The beneficiaries, including Y Vidha Vinshikar, K Santhosh Kumar, Narava Sharanya, K Eswara Rao, D Kantha, CH Rajeshwari, K Appayamma, Chinta Ramana, L Harshitha and R Sridevi, expressed gratitude for the financial assistance provided through the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

'AP has huge potential to emerge as world-class tourist destination'

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

UNION Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu on Thursday said that Andhra Pradesh has abundant natural, spiritual and cultural resources required to emerge as a world-class tourist destination.

Speaking at the 41st annual convention of the Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) in Visakhapatnam, Ram Mohan Naidu said the state is home to several remarkable tourist destinations with immense potential for development. He emphasised that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is giving special priority to the tourism sector and considering concrete steps to unlock the state's full tourism potential.

The Union Minister said air connectivity to Visakhapatnam and other major tourist destinations in Andhra Pradesh is further strengthened. He added that the gov-



Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu, Tourism Minister Kandula Durgesh, among others, at the inauguration of the 41st annual convention of the Indian Association of Tour Operators in Visakhapatnam on Thursday

ernment is working towards making tourist travel faster and more convenient by establishing new airports and introducing seaplane services.

Special Chief Secretary, Tourism and Culture Department S S Rawat said a comprehensive report containing statistics on the state's tourism resources, its growth, incentives and subsidies provided

to investors and infrastructure development was presented at the conference.

Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh said the tourism sector had been neglected in the previous government's tenure. However, after the coalition government came to power, innovative tourism initiatives such as wellness,

eco, adventure, helicopter and seaplane tourism have been accelerated, he underlined.

Durgesh mentioned that priority is given to developing world-class facilities at tourist destinations and stressed that active participation of tour operators and stakeholders in the travel trade is crucial for the sector's growth. Later, the minister unveiled the prestigious 'The Godavari Calls' poster of the AP Tourism Department. The initiative aims to bring spirituality, culture and heritage together on a common platform, similar to the Kumbh Mela.

Durgesh said the initiative includes details of the Godavari Pushkaram scheduled to be held in 2027 along with information on various tourist circuits. Representatives of IATO and tour operators who arrived from different parts of the country were felicitated by tourism department officials. An impressive cultural show was presented on the occasion.

An open forum to resolve grievances

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

AN open forum will be conducted at the Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region Development Authority (VMRDA) on September 11 to provide an opportunity for the public to bring their issues and grievances related to the organisation directly to the attention of the officials.

Under the supervision of VMRDA in-charge Commissioner Ketan Garg, the public will have

an opportunity to directly submit and discuss issues pertaining to all departments of VMRDA with the concerned officials.

The open forum will be held on Friday from 10 am to 2 pm at the conference hall on the 9th floor of the VMRDA office. VMRDA Metropolitan Commissioner Ketan Garg has appealed to the people in the VMRDA jurisdiction to make use of the opportunity and bring their issues to the notice of the concerned officials.



A view of the VMRDA Office in Visakhapatnam

Life coach, motivational speaker inspires students

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

AS part of the ongoing induction programme for first-year B.Tech students, an interactive session 'campus to career' was organised at Satya Institute of Technology and Management (SITAM) in Vizianagaram.

Life coach, motivational speaker, and author Uday Kumar Alajangi interacted with students and emphasised the importance of setting clear career goals from the beginning of their college journey and systematically developing the required skills to achieve them.

With over two decades of experience in the training and development field, Uday Kumar Alajangi advised students not to limit their college education to obtaining a degree but to develop skill sets covering technical knowledge, communication, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. He encouraged students to dedicate at least one hour a day to self-development, suggesting



Life coach Uday Kumar Alajangi with institution management and students at the interactive session organised at the campus in Vizianagaram.

a simple 20-20-20 approach: 20 minutes for improving English communication, 20 minutes for technical learning and another 20 minutes for reading, exploring AI or developing problem-solving abilities. He also stressed the importance of attending classes regularly, listening attentively, learning something new every day and continuously practising communication skills.

Encouraging students to develop a positive mindset,

Uday Kumar urged them to replace thoughts such as 'My English is weak' with, 'I am improving my English every day'.

He underlined the importance of self-improvement rather than comparing oneself with others and adopting the attitude of being a better version each day.

Later, SITAM director Majji Sasibhushana Rao, Principal DV Rama Murthy, faculty members and students felicitated Uday Kumar.

'World Suicide Prevention Day'

ZPHS Peddaboddepalli organises an awareness session



Students and the Headmaster of ZPHS Peddaboddepalli taking part in the awareness session organised at the campus on Thursday

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

MARKING the 'World Suicide Prevention Day', Zilla Parishad High School, Peddaboddepalli, conducted an awareness session on Thursday. During the session, Headmaster Gotteti Ravi emphasised the value of human life and stressed that suicide is never a solution to life's challenges. Engaging children of various classes, he highlighted the importance of developing emotional resilience, coping mechanisms during adolescence, and fostering hope.

Exhorting students to be

saviours, Ravi advised them to identify early warning signs, stay attentive to sensitive people around them, and inform family members and teachers if they see any warning signs of distress in their classmates. He stressed that such alerts aid in timely intervention and prevention of any extreme step.

Highlighting the helpline number 14416, the toll-free number for Tele-MANAS (tele mental health assistance and networking across states), the HM urged the students to seek assistance if any individual is experiencing distress and to save a life before it is too late.

Capacity-building training programmes conclude

- The training programmes under the 'Swamandhra @ 2047 vision' will play a crucial role in transforming AP into a developed state
- The programme provided officials with awareness of gross value added and gross domestic product calculation methods in key sectors

HANS NEWS SERVICE
ANAKAPALLI

ECONOMICS Professor Kothe Satyanarayana said that awareness and capacity-building training programmes under the 'Swamandhra @ 2047 vision' would play a crucial role in transforming Andhra Pradesh into a developed state with sustainable economic growth and leadership across all sectors by 2047.

Speaking at the concluding ceremony of the capacity-building training programmes organised for district, constituency and Mandal-level officials at the Collectorate meeting



Economics Professor Kothe Satyanarayana at the training session held in Anakapalli on Thursday

hall here on Thursday, Prof. Satyanarayana stated that the training programmes would serve as a foundation for achieving the vision's goals. He said the initiative would not only improve the speed and quality of government services but also create wider employment and livelihood opportunities for youth. The state would emerge stronger economically and socially through systematic planning and effective implementation of development programmes, he added.

The Economics Professor said that the training had been specifically designed to enable district-level officials to work more effectively towards achieving economic targets and development goals. Such training programmes would help strengthen the economic

system and put the state on the path of sustainable development, he informed.

He explained that meaningful development could be achieved only when financial resources at the district level were properly assessed and managed.

Officials were trained through various case studies on measuring key performance indicators and maintaining department-wise statistical records effectively. The programme provided officials with awareness of gross value added and gross domestic product calculation methods in key sectors, including agriculture, horticulture, sericulture, animal husbandry, manufacturing and services. Sessions covered important sectors such as health and education.

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE
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

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

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 SIPB projects targeted for grounding
- 17,469 acres of govt land pending handover to APIIC
- Data centres, IT, semiconductors and quantum technology get major push

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

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 SIPB-

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE
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

HANS NEWS SERVICE
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.

Orangutans’ DNA sampling put off by 10 days



HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR

THE proposed DNA sampling of five baby orangutans rescued from a forest in Baleshwar district has been postponed by at least 10 days as the animals are yet to fully stabilise emotionally in their new surroundings, officials said on Thursday.

The decision was taken by authorities of Nandankanan Zoological Park following the recommendation of the Centre for Wildlife Health (CWH) Committee, comprising veterinary experts from the Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT). State Forest and Environment Minister Ganesh Ram Singkhuntia, who is monitoring the orangutans’ health and wellbeing, said DNA sampling was essential to ascertain their origin.

“Conducting DNA tests

is part of the process to ascertain the origin of the orangutan genetics, species classification and their parents. It will also help the investigation into how the animals came to Odisha. They are not native to India,” the minister said.

The CWH Committee, which examined the orangutans’ condition on Wednesday, advised against conducting sampling immediately. “According to CWH advice, the animals need to be stabilised in the new environment and get accustomed to their caretakers and feed for 10 days. After that, bio-samples, including blood and oral swabs, will be collected for screening,” Nandankanan Zoological Park Director Sanath Kumar N said. All five orangutans are currently in good health, eating properly and remaining active, officials said. However, Singkhuntia said the ani-

Odisha won’t tolerate wildlife trafficking: CM

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR

CHIEF Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Thursday ordered a probe into the circumstances under which five baby orangutans were brought to the State, saying Odisha will not be allowed to become a transit route for illegal wildlife trafficking.

Majhi, who is on a five-day business tour of the UAE, expressed deep concern over the rescue of the five baby orangutans from a jungle in Baleshwar district on Tuesday, a statement issued by the Chief Minister’s Office said. Despite his busy schedule in Dubai, the Chief Minister has been closely monitoring developments in Odisha and has directed officials to ascertain how the animals reached Baleshwar and uncover the background of the incident, it said.

Majhi has also ordered an investigation into the route used to bring the rare ani-



mals to Odisha, how they entered the State, the people involved in their transportation and the purpose for which they were brought, according to the statement. “Odisha will never be allowed to serve as a transit route for the illegal trafficking of exotic wildlife. If any network is found to be involved in this illegal transport, it will be identified, and strict action will be taken in accordance with the law,” Majhi said.

The Chief Minister directed the authorities concerned to investigate the matter in coordination with the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) and other agencies of the Centre. He also directed officials to ensure that the rescued orangutans receive appropriate medical treatment, security and necessary care in accordance with established wildlife protection protocols while the investigation is underway.

CM meets UAE minister to discuss investments

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR

ODISHA Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Thursday met UAE Cabinet Member and Minister of Economy and Tourism Abdulla Bin Touq Al Marri in Dubai on the second day of the State’s three-day investor outreach programme (September 9–11).

According to an official statement, the discussions focused on strengthening economic and investment ties between Odisha and the UAE, with particular emphasis on exploring new investment opportunities in the State. Al Marri also serves as Chairman of the Council of International Investments.

During the interaction, the Chief Minister highlighted Odisha’s favourable business environment, strong industrial ecosystem and investment potential across key sectors, inviting UAE-based investors to explore opportunities and invest in the State.

Earlier on Wednesday, Chief Minister Majhi commenced the outreach in Abu Dhabi with a high-level roundtable involving senior leadership from International Holding



Company (IHC) and Adani Group. A major outcome was the signing of an MoU between the government of Odisha, IHC and the Adani Group to explore 14 new projects with an indicative investment of Rs 2,10,500 crore and employment potential for roughly 8,68,200 people.

The proposed portfolio spans downstream metals, slurry pipelines, critical minerals and rare earths, petrochemical derivatives, renewable energy equipment, healthcare, industrial infrastructure, tourism, skill development and sports infrastructure.

Additionally, a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed with the Indian Business and Professional Group (IBPG) to promote bilateral trade

and explore investment opportunities in Odisha.

The engagement also explored opportunities to increase exports of Odisha’s products, including spices such as turmeric and ginger, seafood and other products, while encouraging contract manufacturing for leading UAE brands.

The Chief Minister also engaged with Hazeem Sultan Al Suwaidi, CEO of Borouge, inviting the firm to explore a large-scale downstream chemicals complex linked to Indian Oil Corporation Limited’s proposed naphtha cracker at Paradip, followed by a roundtable with UAE-based investment institutions focused on institutional participation in Odisha’s infrastructure pipeline.

3 die of asphyxiation

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KORAPUT

THREE persons died of suspected asphyxiation after entering a septic tank to clean it in Rayagada district on Wednesday, police said. The incident took place in Tarpaguda in the Padmapur police station area.

The deceased were identified as Harishchandra Bir (46), Prakash Lima (47) and Alok Karad (45), all locals. One of them entered the tank first, following which the other two went inside one after another. They subsequently became unconscious, apparently due to lack of oxygen or toxic gases inside the tank,

police said. Fire services personnel later retrieved the bodies of the three victims from the tank. “The three prima facie appear to have died of asphyxiation after entering the septic tank. The exact cause of death will be known after postmortem,” Padmapur police station inspector-in-charge BD Pradhan said.

Odisha to receive heavy rainfall due to low pressure



HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR

THE IMD has forecast heavy rain in 22 districts of Odisha on Thursday under the influence of a low-pressure area in the Bay of Bengal. The weather office has issued a ‘red warning’ (take action) for Kalahandi and Kandhamala districts, predicting extremely heavy rainfall.

Under the influence of the upper air cyclonic circulation over northern Bay of Bengal and adjoining Bangladesh, a low-pressure area has been formed over the region at 5.30 am on Thursday, the India Meteorological Department said in a bulletin.

The IMD has issued an ‘orange warning’ (be prepared to take action) for Nabarangpur, Rayagada, Koraput, Gajapati and Ganjam districts for the day. Besides, heavy rainfall is expected in the districts of Baleshwar, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapada, Jagatsinghapur, Kataka, Kenjduhar, Mayurbhanj, Boudh, Nuapada, Balangir, Malkangiri, Puri, Khordha, and Nayagada during the day.

A ‘yellow warning’ (be aware) has been issued for these 15 districts for Thursday. In view of the warning issued by the weather office, the Mayurbhanj Collector ordered the closure

of all government and aided schools on Thursday as a precautionary measure, an official said. Private schools were asked to suspend their classes after 10 am, officials said. Forecasting similar weather conditions for the next two days, the IMD has issued a heavy rain warning for 10 districts for Friday and four districts for Saturday.

As sea conditions would remain very rough, the weather office has advised fishermen not to venture into the sea along the West Bengal-Odisha-Andhra Pradesh coast till September 11. Local cautionary signal No. III (LC-3) has been hoisted at all ports of Odisha.

Bijay carves BRICS leaders in chalk



SUNIL MOHAN PATNAIK
BRAHMAMUR

INDIAN miniature artist K Bijay Kumar Reddy has showcased extraordinary precision by recreating the leaders of the five BRICS countries in chalk miniatures, with each figure measuring just one centimetre in height. The leaders are Brazil President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, Russia President Vladimir Putin, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, China President Xi Jinping and South Africa President Cyril Ramaphosa. Reddy has also carved a BRICS logo measuring only 5 mm. The intricate work took nearly a month of continuous effort, demanding exceptional patience and precision. Professionally an Electrical Engineer with Tata Power, Reddy is a Guinness

World Records holder known for his miniature craftsmanship. He has received recognition from several government institutions and organisations.

Seeking to take Indian miniature art to the international stage, Reddy has written to the embassies of BRICS countries, offering his artwork as a symbol of friendship and cultural exchange. The High Commission of South Africa congratulated him on his Guinness achievement and requested him to prepare and send miniature chalk portraits of the BRICS leaders along with the BRICS logo. Reddy said his endeavour was aimed at promoting Indian miniature art, cultural friendship and international cooperation, demonstrating how even a few millimetres of art can convey a much larger message.

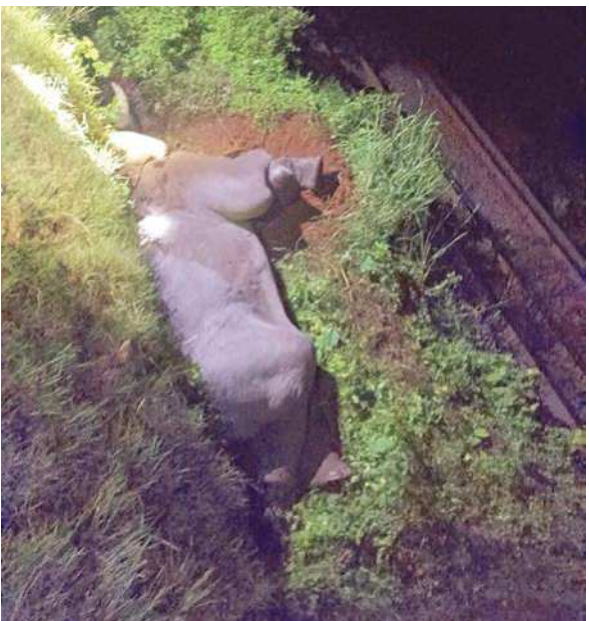
Jumbo dies after being hit by light engine

C B SINGH
RAYAGADA

A male elephant was killed by a train near Brundabadi village in Rayagada district’s Bissam Cuttack block on September 9 night. The incident has raised serious questions about how effectively the Forest department tracks elephant movements and communicates alerts to the railway system.

Forest officials are investigating the elephant’s death and performing a standard post-mortem examination. Meanwhile, serious questions have been raised about whether the elephant’s presence on the railway tracks was detected and reported to train authorities in time.

The local station master said a light engine passed through the area at around 10.45 pm with no prior elephant movement warnings from the Forest department. This lack of communication raises a critical question: Was there any advance indication that an elephant was approaching the tracks? Railway tracks near elephant



habitats are high-risk zones where preventing collisions requires constant field surveillance, identifying vulnerable areas, and quick coordination between forest and railway officials.

The Forest department’s press release omits whether the Brundabadi stretch was a known elephant corridor, if recent movements were re-

corded, or if railway authorities received warnings before the train passed. It is unclear if the department monitored night-time elephant movements along the track or if forest staff routinely alerted railway authorities. Advance warning is critical, as train crews have almost no time to react to animals on the tracks at night.

‘Operation Anweshan’

Odisha Police rescue 101 kids from 17 States

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR

ODISHA Police has rescued 101 children, including 47 girls, from 17 States during ‘Operation Anweshan’, a special drive conducted between August 28 and September 8, a senior officer said on Thursday.

Briefing reporters here, Additional Director General (ADG) and head of the Crime Against Women and

Children Wing (CAW&CW) of Odisha Police, S Shyni, said 17 teams were sent to 17 States where Odia children are generally found. “During the operation, 54 boys and 47 girls were traced,” Shyni said. The youngest child rescued was just three months old and was found in a shelter home with her minor mother. The children were rescued from Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand,

Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, New Delhi, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Of the 101 children, 83, including 46 boys and 37 girls, were traced from different Child Care Institutions (CCIs), while seven children -- six boys and a girl -- were traced from labour sites, Shyni said.

In addition, 11 children, including nine girls, who had been reported missing

and in whose cases FIRs were registered in Odisha, were traced during the operation, she said. According to officials, the highest number of children, 30, were traced from West Bengal, followed by Karnataka with 11 and Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu with 10 each. Of the 101 children, 100 have been repatriated to Odisha for their reintegration and further rehabilitation, Shyni said. One child had to be deborded

from a train midway after falling ill, she added.

Women & Child Development Commissioner-cum-Secretary Mrinalini Darswal proactively supported the police-led campaign, officials said. The operation demonstrated the sustained efforts of Odisha Police, its range teams, district police and other stakeholders to trace missing children beyond the State’s geographical boundaries and facilitate their safe



return and rehabilitation. The State government is utilising local District Child

Protection Units (DCPUs) and child welfare networks to properly run family back-

ground checks, verify guardians, and manage safe re-entries into their communities.

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.

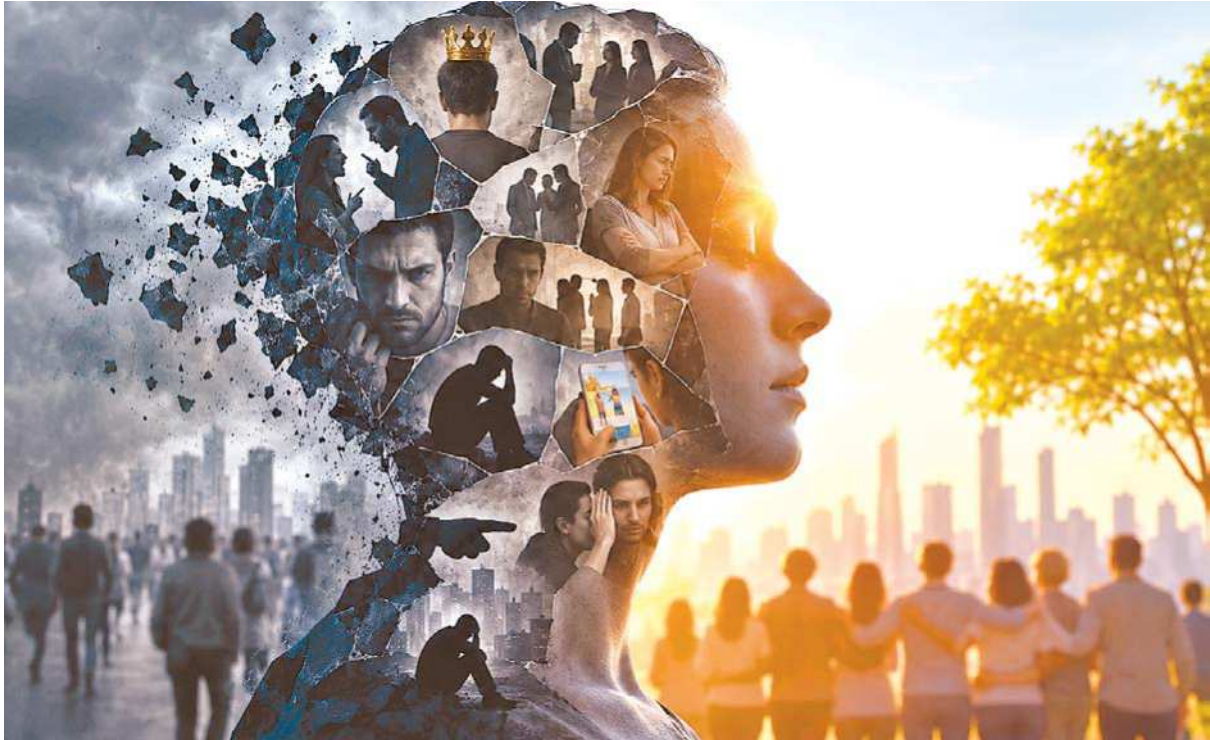
The result is a generation that is increasingly uncomfortable with another person’s success. Healthy competition can inspire us. Chronic jealousy destroys us. It makes us question the motives of successful people, diminish their achievements and sometimes even derive satisfaction from their failures. 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)

EL NINO THREAT

Chandrababu puts AP on war footing

- 54.9% rainfall deficit, reservoir storage down to 49 per cent; drinking water, fodder get top priority
- 36 irrigation projects to be fast-tracked; new paddy cultivation barred outside Godavari Delta
- Collectors told to prepare lists of insured crops and ensure farmers cultivate the crops

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

CHIEF Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has directed collectors and officials to prepare for the worsening impact of El Nino, with priority on preventing drinking water and fodder shortages, protecting crops and containing any rise in essential commodity prices.

Addressing the first day of the Collectors' Confer-

ence at the Secretariat on Thursday, Chandrababu said the government must ensure that neither farmers nor consumers bear the burden of the weather crisis. He ordered officials to create awareness among farmers about El Nino, assess future crop demand and promote less water-intensive crops such as pulses, onions and millets, besides encouraging multi-cropping and activating Rythu Bazaars.

He also stressed crop insurance awareness, directing collectors to prepare lists of insured crops and ensure farmers cultivate the crops covered by their policies so that they do not lose insurance benefits in the event of damage.

Water resources special chief secretary Shashi Bhushan Kumar said Andhra Pradesh had received only 206.7 mm rainfall against the normal 457.9 mm between June 1 and September 7, a 54.9 per cent deficit. Reservoir storage stood at 638 TMC, or 49 per cent, against



Agriculture special chief secretary B Rajasekhar at the collectors' conference

1,023 TMC during the same period last year.

The CM directed that available water be prioritised for drinking needs of people and livestock, followed by fodder and life-saving irrigation for perennial horticultural crops. New paddy cultivation should be prohibited outside the Godavari Delta, while semi-dry crops should depend on farm ponds and micro-irrigation. Pattiseema has so far diverted 39.5 TMC of Godavari water to the Krishna Delta. Chandrababu said the government would take strict action against canal water theft.

drababu said the government would take strict action against canal water theft.

The CM set a two-and-a-half years target for completing 36 priority irrigation projects to create 17 lakh acres of new command area and stabilise 33.4 lakh acres. He said early completion would be incentivised and ordered collectors to personally resolve land acquisition and rehabilitation issues. He also directed departments to prepare plans for uninterrupted drink-

ing water supply through the coming summer, fill tanks wherever possible and transport water from nearby sources to deficit areas. Jaladhara works, including trench excavation, should continue without interruption, while departments should coordinate groundwater recharge and tank-filling measures.

Agriculture special chief secretary B Rajasekhar said El Nino's impact could intensify by February 2027. Kharif cultivation stood at 22.82 lakh hectares, 74 per cent of normal, with a shift towards less water-intensive crops. An additional Rs 90 crore was sanctioned for seed contingency, while crop insurance coverage expanded to 16.92 lakh hectares.

Chandrababu said he would review the El Nino situation every week and undertake field visits, directing ministers, collectors and public representatives to remain active on the ground and ensure that the crisis does not translate into losses for farmers or consumers.

Low-pressure area to bring moderate to heavy rains in north Andhra

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

A low-pressure area has formed over the north Bay of Bengal and adjoining areas and is likely to bring moderate to heavy rainfall in the North Andhra districts over the next two days, said Prakar Jain, Managing Director of the Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA).

He said strong winds with speeds of 40-50 kmph and gusting up to 60 kmph were likely along the North Coastal Andhra coast. He advised people to remain alert and take necessary precautions. As the sea was likely to remain rough with high waves,

fishermen were advised not to venture into the sea.

On Friday, moderate thundershowers were likely at some places in Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Parvathipuram Manyam and Alluri Sitarama Raju districts.

Light to moderate thundershowers were expected at isolated places in Polavaram, Visakhapatnam, Anakapalli, Kakinada, Konaseema, West Godavari and Krishna districts. The remaining districts were likely to receive scattered light rainfall.

On Saturday, moderate thundershowers are likely at some places in Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Parvathipuram Manyam, Alluri Sita-

rama Raju and Polavaram districts.

Isolated light to moderate thundershowers are expected in Visakhapatnam, Anakapalli, Kakinada, Konaseema, East Godavari and West Godavari districts. Jain said heavy rainfall had already been recorded in parts of Anakapalli district by 5 p.m. on Thursday. Darlapudi received 37 mm of rainfall, while Nanginarapadu and Uduuru recorded 34.5 mm each. Paravada received 34.2 mm and Gandhavarum recorded 33.5 mm.

The APSDMA advised people in vulnerable areas to remain cautious and follow official weather and disaster-management advisories.

Bengaluru-bound bus catches fire, all 22 aboard safe

TIRUPATI

ALL 22 people aboard a Bengaluru-bound sleeper bus were safely evacuated after the vehicle caught fire near here in this district on Thursday, police said.

The bus, carrying 19 passengers and three staff members, was travelling from Repalle in Bapatla district to Bengaluru when the incident occurred.

"The Bengaluru-bound private sleeper bus travelling from Repalle in Bapatla district caught fire near Ojili, but all 22 people

on board, 19 passengers and three staff members, were safely evacuated and nobody was injured," an official said.

The bus, operated by a private travel company based in Ongole, had started from Repalle at around 6 pm on Wednesday.

When the bus reached Ojili, the driver noticed smoke and a burning smell coming from the engine at the front of the vehicle, the official said. He immediately alerted everyone and evacuated all the passengers and staff. All 19

passengers and three staff members got down safely and removed their luggage before the bus caught fire. The flames quickly spread through the vehicle, which had been parked on the side of the road. "We reached the spot with a fire engine, managed the traffic and brought the flames under control. Nobody was injured, and only the bus was burnt," he said. The bus was suspected to have caught fire due to a short circuit, he said, adding that officials inspected the spot to assess the incident. (PTI)

Naidu moots land bank portal to unlock unused govt land

Continued from P1

Naidu said a comprehensive picture of government land availability would emerge upon completion of the ongoing survey. Land scarcity, he stressed, should not become an obstacle to development. Officials should identify and reserve land requirements for industrial and other projects in advance rather than start searching only after projects are sanctioned.

The Chief Minister asked departments and collectors to prepare calendars with clear deadlines and utilise the Collectors' Conference for achieving measurable outcomes. Collectors, he said, should monitor all departmental development programmes in their districts, resolve inter-departmental issues, and take speedy decisions, instead of merely passing responsibility to others. Citing his own case as an example, Naidu said he plans his own schedule three months ahead, holding SIPB meetings every month, Cabinet meetings every fortnight, and Collectors' Conferences every three months, besides spending four days a month in the field interacting with people. He advised Collectors to similarly plan their schedules and take into account the priorities of the Union government. Referring to the social welfare front,

the Chief Minister directed officials to immediately issue orders extending benefits available to Scheduled Castes to the Budaga Jangam community, pending the decision on their SC status. He also directed officials to link skill-development programmes with industries and complete curriculum, equipment, and other requirements within 90 days. Reviewing housing schemes, Chandrababu called for speedy completion of already sanctioned houses and phased implementation of additional houses. He said Andhra Pradesh could receive sanction for another 1.5 lakh houses shortly. In view of prevailing El Nino conditions, the Chief Minister directed officials to expedite emergency drinking water works across the state. He asked departments to also prepare in advance for the plantation season to achieve the target of 50 per cent green cover, with 20 crore seeds and saplings to be kept ready. Officials were asked to promote less water-intensive varieties, prioritise water conservation, and encourage pre-monsoon dry sowing. The Chief Minister further directed officials to take up with the Union government the matter relating to the establishment of 905 smart kitchens across Andhra Pradesh.

Building owner locks tahsildar office over 2 years' unpaid rent

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HUZURNAGAR

A building owner locked the Tahsildar office in Palakeedumandal of Suryapet district on Thursday, alleging that the authorities had failed to pay the rent due to him for the past two years.

According to building owner Kasireddy Janardhan Reddy, the government is required to pay a monthly rent of Rs13,800 for the premises. However, he alleged that the rent had not been paid for the past two years. With no resolution despite repeatedly bringing the issue to the notice of officials, he finally locked the Tahsildar office.

Reddy stated two years would be completed on September 19 since the rent payments stopped.

He alleged that officials had assured him that the monthly rent would be paid



regularly, but the payments were not made.

He also claimed that the authorities had agreed to increase the rent by five per cent once every two years, but the promised revision had also not been implemented. Expressing frustration over the delay, the building owner said he had approached several people regarding the pending rent but received no satisfactory response. With no other option left, he said he was compelled to lock the Tahsildar office to draw attention to the issue.

Palakeedumandal of Huzurnagar constituency of Suryapet district was newly formed in Suryapet district in 2016. As the newly established mandal did not have a government building to accommodate its offices, the authorities have been operating various government offices from rented premises. The Tahsildar office has also been functioning from a rented building since then.

International air connectivity from Tirupati gets big push

Continued from P1

FLY91 founder, Managing Director and CEO Manoj Chacko said Tirupati was an important addition to the airline's network. He said the new routes were aimed at strengthening connections between regional centres and meeting the travel requirements of local communities. The airline's expansion follows its firm order for 40 ATR 72-600 aircraft from French manufacturer ATR, supporting its plans to widen regional air connectivity across the country. Meanwhile, the inaugural flight was welcomed at Tirupati airport with the customary water cannon salute by the Fire Department of Airports Authority of India. Airport Director D Boominathan and other dignitaries handed over the first boarding pass to a passenger followed by the cake cutting ceremony at Tirupati Airport.

DGCA ORDERS DRUG TEST FOR ALL PILOTS

Continued from P1

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.

An Air India Airbus A320 aircraft — VT-EXO — operating from Phuket to Delhi on August 4 encountered a sudden 300-feet altitude drop, causing injuries to 20 passengers and four cabin crew members, and 17 of the 24 had to be hospitalised. The aircraft had 137 passengers, six cabin crew members, and two pilots on board. In its preliminary

investigation report, Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) flagged a sudden and brief triple hydraulic failure and the 34-year-old pilot-in-command's non-negative drug test result.

The AAIB also issued a recommendation to regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to take actions deemed fit to prevent abuse of psychoactive substances, although it did not say whether or not the purported use of drugs by the pilot-in-command was directly linked to the incident.

Turn district resources into wealth, CM tells Collectors

Continued from P1

Officials said Andhra Pradesh has 23.85 lakh MSMEs across manufacturing, services and trade. Of 175 proposed MSME parks, 138 have been approved, with 22 operational and 116 under construction.

These parks are expected to attract Rs 2,036 crore and create 31,163 jobs.

Investment conferences will be held in Visakhapatnam, Kakinada, Amaravati, Anantapur and Tirupati, with regional meets planned in October and a partnership summit in November. Naidu also directed officials to notify existing helipads and link them with tourism, besides preparing proposals for night-landing facilities at district headquarters with Central approval. He ordered an action plan for Road Over Bridges and Road under Bridges and called for coordinated progress in development, investment and infrastructure across districts.

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 influential 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).

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.

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 up 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 produc-

ing 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 from 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 Jiankun 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.





Womenia

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

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

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 Shakthi 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."

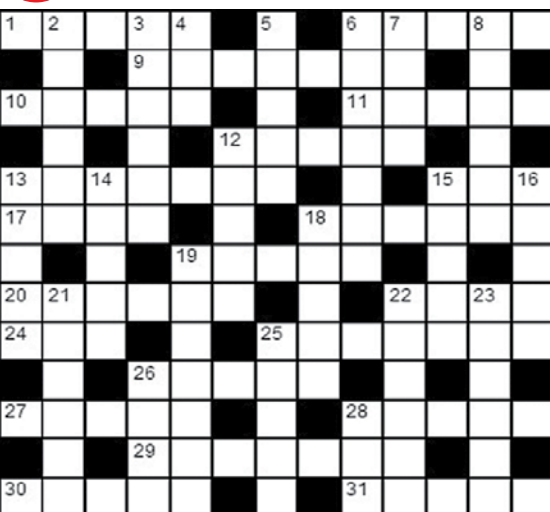
The presentation featured young dancers P. Sri Vaishno Devi, Lalitha Sri Pinapala, Harshitha Kairamkonda, Yuvasre Phane Surya, Ishanee Khare and Godi Anagha Devi, who came together to present their art in New Delhi. P. Sri Vaishno Devi, the great-granddaughter of the inspirational philanthropist G. Pulla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

- Sheikdom of song (5)
- Teach (5)
- Asylum seeker? (7)
- Unsuitable (5)
- Reduce by 50 per cent (5)
- French composer (5)
- Movie theatres (7)
- 599, in Roman numerals (3)
- Homages (4)
- Gambling house (6)
- Macho guy (2-3)
- Caught or ensnared (6)
- Airline from Lod (2,2)
- Maritime letters (3)
- Passed on (7)
- Ready for battle (5)
- Garment for nun (5)
- Go well together (3,2)
- Fiasco (7)
- Nile dam site (5)
- Russian mountains (5)

DOWN

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



Solution to September 10

SUDOKU



Solution to September 10



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)	
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	



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



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.



But honestly, we were just thinking to just bat on for the next three days. We had tried our best. If we have played for three days, we never knew we could have scored 700 runs; otherwise the match would have been drawn. But we have tried our best, but again credit goes to them. They have totally outplayed us.

- Tilak Varma, South Zone captain

Sports Nation

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.

India added four more goals in the next five minutes. Tanushree Dinesh Kadu and Sukhveer Kaur struck in the 11th and 13th minutes respectively, with Sanika Chandrakant Mane also scoring in the 13th minute. Madhu Sidar and Geeta Yadav then extended the advantage before Mane returned to score her second in the 23rd minute. Tanuja Toppo and Pooja Malik completed India's first-half scoring, while Purnima Yadav's 33rd-minute goal ensured the team went into the interval with a staggering



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



Food Corporation of India and Canara Bank players in action

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.

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.

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 Muralaeeharan 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.

Muralaeeharan 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.

"India's energy transition lies in building a diverse, balanced and resilient energy portfolio suited to its geography, resources and development needs. Renewable energy has emerged as a powerful instrument of energy security, economic growth, technological progress and employment generation."

-Shripad Yesso Naik, Union Minister of State for Power (New & Renewable Energy)

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 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.

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

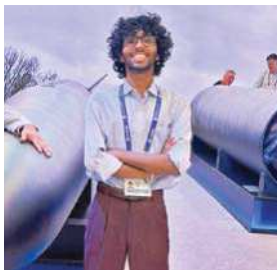
Hyderabad startup says specialised skills are harder to find than capital

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



Apollyon Co-Founder Jayant Khatri

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 pro-

gression, 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.

GCCs fuel Hyderabad's next realty wave, says FICCI

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

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-



(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

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

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.



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 Dargal 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 Tummalapalli 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 Gharshana 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.