

CHENNAI | BENGALURU | HYDERABAD | VIJAYAWADA | KOCHI

THE SOUTH INDIA TIMES

NATIONAL DAILY NEWSPAPER

Essence of the South

For Website Visit epaper.thesouthindiatimes.com www.thesouthindiatimes.com [/thesouthindiatimes.yahoo.in](https://thesouthindiatimes.yahoo.in)

Sitharaman calls for startups to reach rural India

Jaipur, Aug 13: Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday stressed that startup services should not remain confined to major cities and must reach rural and remote areas as well.

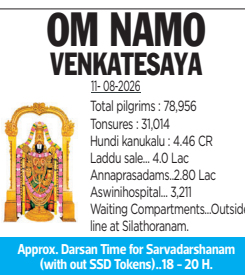
Ebola outbreak on track to be deadliest ever, WHO chief says

WORLD | PAGE



DANGAL GIRL IS UNSTOPPABLE ON COVER MAGAZINE

CINEMA | PAGE



IN SHORT

CJI Surya Kant flags massive backlog in consumer forums

New Delhi : Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant on Thursday expressed concern over the mounting backlog of cases in consumer commissions across the country, observing that prolonged delays have defeated the very purpose for which these forums were created. Hearing a matter related to the functioning of consumer dispute redressal bodies, the CJI questioned the efficiency of consumer commissions after taking note of a media report highlighting a case that had remained pending since 2019 and was listed only once in 2022, with no hearing thereafter.

Strong evidence suggests syndicate in NEET paper leak: Court

New Delhi: A Delhi court, while taking cognisance of CBI's charge sheet in the NEET paper leak case, has said there is "overwhelming incriminating material" suggesting that the 13 accused formed a syndicate to leak and circulate the question paper for illegal monetary gain.

In the order, made available on Thursday, August 13, the court said, "It is prima facie clear from the overwhelming incriminating material collected by the CBI through an extensive investigation that all the aforementioned accused persons, in one manner or the other, formed part of the NEET (UG) 2026 Exam leak syndicate and each one of them have played an active role in dissemination and circulation of the aforesaid exam question paper of all three subjects (Physics, Chemistry and Biology)."

It said that it appeared that alleged kingpin PV Kulkarni was fully aware that there was no practice of frisking of the subject experts at the designated place. Therefore, he took advantage of the situation and took along with him the chits or short notes prepared by him discreetly while doing the translation work for his subject (chemistry). "Further, it is clear from the record that all these three experts (Kulkarni, Manisha



Sanjay Havaldar for physics and Manisha Gurunath Mandhare for biology) had given their written undertaking before they were engaged for this work that they will not share any part of the NEET (UG) 2026 exam-related material with anyone in any manner," the court said. It said violation of the undertaking shows that these accused persons have committed the criminal breach of trust with the National Testing Agency (NTA) authority, which engaged them for translation of NEET (UG) 2026 Exam question paper of their respective subjects.

"Besides, by their aforesaid act, they have also prima facie committed criminal misconduct (by a public servant) in terms of Section 13 of the Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act," the court said. It said it is also clear from the record that all these three subject experts, in active conspiracy with other co-accused persons to obtain the illegal monetary gain, sold the exam-related material (the leaked questions of their respective subjects) to the co-accused persons as well as several candidates "in the guise of providing coaching to them."

'Hugging world leaders is not foreign policy': Rahul Gandhi targets PM Modi

New Delhi (TSIT): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday mocked Prime Minister Narendra Modi's foreign policy, questioning what he described as an excessive focus on personal ties with world leaders.

Taking a swipe at his widely noted hugs with foreign leaders, Rahul Gandhi said that diplomacy could not be reduced to "hugging other leaders" and added that India's foreign policy must be driven by national interest. The Congress leader stressed that India's Prime Minister must work in the national interest rather than merely befriend foreign leaders. Referring to the conflict involving Iran, he claimed that had India's leadership seized the opportunity, it could have mediated.

"Instead, Pakistan stepped in, leaving PM Modi wondering how it had happened."

The Congress leader also claimed to be receiving information from within the Prime Minister's own office. Rahul Gandhi was addressing a plenary session of Congress here. Commenting on China, Rahul Gandhi alleged that Beijing had barred Indian patrols in



Arunachal Pradesh and that the "bravado" of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi had completely deflated. He accused the Union government of calling newspapers and media outlets to prevent the story from being published or broadcast.

Recalling the Galwan clash, Rahul Gandhi said the Prime Minister had claimed that China had not taken even an inch of Indian territory, while the Army maintained that the land had been seized. "What message did this send to China? During discussions, the Chinese side countered by saying we were mistaken because our own Prime Minister had stated no land was lost.

'Har Ghar Tiranga' strengthens patriotic spirit: Shah

New Delhi (TSIT): Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign is strengthening the sentiment of patriotism and pride in the hearts of Indians. He said the initiative has emerged as a powerful expression of national unity and love for the country, encouraging citizens to proudly display the Tricolour and participate in Independence Day celebrations. Shah called upon people to join the campaign enthusiastically and honour the National Flag while remembering the sacrifices of freedom fighters who dedicated their lives to India's independence. He said the collective participation of citizens reflects the nation's unity and reinforces a shared sense of responsibility towards the country. The campaign is being observed as part of the celebrations leading up to India's 80th Independence Day.



Naidu Orders Feasibility Study of Pumped Storage Projects at 130 Reservoirs



Visakhapatnam (TSIT): Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has directed officials to prepare comprehensive plans to expand power generation capacity in Andhra Pradesh in line with rising electricity demand and ensure affordable power supply to consumers. During a review meeting of the Energy Department at the State Secretariat on Thursday, Naidu ordered a detailed feasibility and economic viability study for setting up pumped storage energy projects at 130 reservoirs across the State, including a proposed project at Polavaram. The Chief Minister noted that prevailing dry conditions could affect power generation at several reservoirs and projects and

directed officials to take advance measures to prevent disruptions. With industrialisation accelerating and electricity consumption expected to double every six years, he called for long-term plans to increase generation capacity while reducing transmission and distribution losses. Naidu also stressed the need to substantially expand solar power generation. Officials were directed to ensure six lakh solar connections under the PM Surya Ghar scheme by September, expedite another three lakh non-Surya Ghar connections and seek Centre's approval for an additional 10 lakh connections. Under PM-KUSUM, the State should achieve its existing target and seek another 2,000 MW capacity

from the Centre. He called for integration of solar, wind and pumped storage resources to ensure reliable and affordable power. The average power purchase cost should be reduced to Rs. 4.60 per unit this year and Rs. 4 per unit by 2029, he said. The Chief Minister also proposed a performance-based rating system for the State's six power utilities and directed officials to strengthen their operational and financial performance. Officials informed him that power purchase optimisation had saved Rs. 234 crore, while prompt payment rebates resulted in another Rs. 100 crore in savings. Naidu directed officials to reduce the utilities' debt burden, negotiate lower interest rates and restrict borrowing to asset creation and capital investments. He also appreciated the use of Digital Twin and Asset Health Index systems for digitally monitoring power infrastructure and enabling timely repairs and replacements.

CM VIJAY TO LEAD CHENNAI INVESTOR SUMMIT; RS 67,452 CRORE MOUS ON CARDS

Chennai (TSIT): The Tamil Nadu government will host the Vetri Tamil Nadu Investors' Summit in Chennai on Thursday as part of its ambitious drive to attract industrial investments worth more than Rs 1 lakh crore within its first 100 days in office. Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay will preside over the summit in Guindy. Senior government officials, leading industrialists, investors and representatives of major companies are expected to participate. During the event, the state government will sign memoranda of understanding with 97 companies. The proposed projects are expected to bring investments totalling Rs 67,452 crore to Tamil Nadu and generate 1,06,998 employment opportunities across various sectors. The summit comes as the TVK government completes 96 days in office. Since assuming power, the government has introduced a series of administrative reforms while placing industrial development, employment generation and investment promotion among its principal priorities.



Hindus, Muslims are my 2 eyes CM Revanth

People's Government committed to minority empowerment CM urges youth to acquire skills for jobs in Germany, Japan

Hyderabad, TSIT: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday said Hindus and Muslims were like "two eyes" for him and asserted that the People's Government was committed to the empowerment and welfare of minorities in Telangana.

Addressing the Minorities Excellence Summit in Hyderabad, the Chief Minister urged people to remain vigilant during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and ensure that no eligible voter's name was deleted.

Revanth Reddy called upon Congress workers to visit every household, verify voter details and protect the voting rights of eligible citizens. "Everyone must become a Revanth



Reddy and safeguard the right to vote," he said.

The Chief Minister said the Congress Government was committed to protecting the 4 per cent reservation for minorities and claimed that its effective implementation had helped minority youth secure opportu-

nities, including Group-I and Group-II posts. Highlighting minority representation and encouragement to sportspersons, he referred to the induction of former Indian cricket captain Mohammed Azharuddin into the State Cabinet, the Group-I-level govern-

ment job and 3-crore cash incentive given to world boxing champion Nikhat Zareen, and the appointment of cricketer Mohammed Siraj as a DSP.

Revanth Reddy particularly urged minority youth to acquire professional and technical skills along with education to tap employment opportunities in Germany and Japan. He said the State Government had established a Skills University to prepare Telangana youth for emerging global job opportunities.

Chief Minister thanked the Muslim community for its support and said his Government would continue to accord priority to the educational, economic and social advancement of minorities.

ASSAM FLOOD SITUATION IMPROVES AS NUMBER OF AFFECTED DIPS TO 77,000

GUWAHATI (TSIT): The flood situation in Assam improved on Thursday as the number of affected people dipped to over 77,000 people in four districts, an official bulletin said. According to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), more than 77,500 people remained affected in Golaghat, Jorhat, Nagaon and Sivasagar districts. Golaghat was the worst-hit district with nearly 35,000 people affected, followed by Nagaon (20,000) and Sivasagar (13,000).



No ship can safely pass Hormuz without our permission: Iranian army

Tehran (TSIT): Iran's main military command, Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, on Thursday stated that no vessel can safely transit the Strait of Hormuz without the permission of Iran, local media reported.

"The false American claims that ships are passing through the Strait of Hormuz normally are nothing more than lies and falsehoods," the spokesman of the headquarters stated, Iran's state-controlled Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) reported. "It is announced that



the Strait of Hormuz, as in the past, is under the complete management and control of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and no commercial ship or tanker will be able to safely transit through this strait without the permission and supervision of the powerful Iranian armed forces," he added.

Earlier in the day, Iran's Foreign Minister

Sayed Abbas Aragchi said that the US has miscalculated the war on Iran.

"The US has long miscalculated due to intelligence failures. Case in point: The war on Iran. Now, an even bigger miscalculation on the Strait of Hormuz. Worse than fake news is fake intelligence. Be careful," he stated on X.

Sukhbir Singh Badal attacked near Hazur Sahib Gurdwara in Nanded, rushed to hospital

Nanded (TSIT) Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president and former Punjab Deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Singh Badal was attacked near Mata Sahib Gurdwara at the Takht Sri Hazur Sahib complex in Nanded on Thursday. He was subsequently rushed to a private hospital in the city for medical treatment. Badal paid a visit to the historic Mata Sahib Gurdwara at the Takht Sri Hazur Sahib complex earlier in the day along with his family to pay obeisance at the revered Sikh shrine.

His wife and SAD MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal was also accompanying him when the incident took place.

According to initial information, a security personnel deployed with



Badal was also injured during the incident. Visuals emerging after the attack showed Badal walking with a saffron cloth wrapped around his right hand. The exact circumstances of the attack and the nature of his injuries were not immediately clear.

Police and security personnel rushed to the spot following the incident and initiated an investigation. Further details regarding the identity and motive of the attacker are awaited.

The incident is particularly significant as Badal had survived attack outside the Golden Temple in Amritsar on December 4, 2024. In that incident, a gunman attempted to shoot him while he was performing a religious duty, but Badal escaped unharmred after the attacker was overpowered. Takht Sri Hazur Sahib, one of the five Takhts, or principal seats of authority, in Sikhism, holds immense religious significance for the Sikh community.

India Bio Energy and Tech (IBET) Expo 2026, held at the India Expo Centre and Mart, Greater Noida.



Noida : S.E. Sudheendra, Chairman, Karnataka State Bioenergy Development Board (KSDBB), Government of Karnataka, addressed gatherings at the India Bio Energy and Tech (IBET) Expo 2026, held at the India Expo Centre and Mart, Greater Noida. The three-day expo has drawn over 150 exhibitors and thousands of visitors from across the country.

Speaking at the Uttar Pradesh New & Renewable Energy Development Agency (UPNEDA) pavilion, Chairman Sudheendra congratulated the organisers and

the Government of Uttar Pradesh for successfully hosting the expo, noting the scale and quality of participation as a reflection of the growing national momentum behind bioenergy. He underlined the strategic importance of bioenergy — particularly Compressed Biogas (CBG) — in India's clean energy transition and rural economic development.

He also spoke of the strong support the sector continues to receive in Karnataka, noting the current Chief Minister's keen interest in advancing bioenergy initiatives in the state, and acknowledged the encouragement extended by the former Chief Minister in laying the foundation for this focus. Chairman Sudheendra extended a formal invitation to stakeholders and exhibitors present at IBET Expo 2026 to visit Karnataka and explore partnership and investment opportunities in the state's bioenergy ecosystem, wishing the programme continued success.

BJP-RSS ideology is backward and divisive towards Dalits

Bengaluru: The incident in Haldwani (Uttarakhand) has exposed the awkward and divisive attitude of BJP-RSS ideology, said MLC Ramesh Babu. In a press release, he said that the "cleansing" operation carried out at Ramlila Maidan in Haldwani after Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge addressed a public meeting is extremely worrying and condemnable. He said that this incident is a testament to the politics of revenge and hatred being followed by the BJP and the Sangh Parivar against Kharge.

On August 8, a public meeting of Congress National President Mallikarjun Kharge was held in Haldwani. Later, a "cleansing" havan was held at the same place by an organization of the BJP/Sangh Parivar. Kharge himself raised this issue in the Rajya Sabha, highlighting that such an act is highly objectionable and shameful. Now the BJP leaders have also said that the matter

should be investigated.

Mallikarjun Kharge is the elected President of the Indian National Congress and one of the country's most senior leaders and parliamentary figures. Notably, he belongs to a historically oppressed community and has been fighting for social justice, equality and constitutional rights for decades. A "purification" ritual was conducted at a particular place because Kharge addressed a public meeting. It sends a very alarming message of social exclusion and caste prejudice. In a modern constitutional democracy, no one can be considered "impure" because of their caste, birth or social background.

It is the firm stand of the Congress party that Hinduism and the spiritual heritage of India cannot be equated with caste discrimination or untouchability. The Constitution of India abolished untouchability and guaranteed the right to equality and respect for every citizen.

Big Bang Boom Solutions Delivers Indigenous Fire Fighting Foam to the Indian Navy, Marking a Key Defence Capability



Bengaluru : Big Bang Boom Solutions (BBBS), an Indian deep-tech defence enterprise, today announced the successful development and delivery of its AgniQuell High Expanding Fire Fighting Foam to the Indian Navy's Material Organisation (MO). The delivery follows a rigorous development procedure funded by an iDEX Challenge floated by Indian Navy in association with Defence Innovation Organization (DIO) to provide an indigenous solution to the critical requirement.

Engineered for High-Risk Defence and Industrial Applications

Modern naval, defence, and heavy industrial assets demand rapid, zero-compromise emergency response capabilities.

Developed entirely through indigenous R&D, AgniQuell addresses critical vulnerabilities in high-risk zones where conventional firefighting methods fall short. Featuring an industry-leading expansion capability of up to 1:1000, AgniQuell transforms a compact volume of foam concentrate into a massive, oxygen-starving blanket of fire-suppression

foam within seconds.

"Securing and executing this order for the Indian Navy validates the maturity and reliability of our indigenous engineering," said Dr. Shivaraman R, Co-founder & CTO, Big Bang Boom Solutions. "AgniQuell was built from the ground up to protect critical infrastructure while reducing dependency on foreign technology.

H.D. Kumaraswamy tries to please Narendra Modi by hiding his family's land purchase issue



Bengaluru: KPCC General Secretary S. Manohar has alleged that H.D. Kumaraswamy is trying to please Narendra Modi by hiding his family's land purchase issue in Bidadi area.

In a press release, he said, H.D. Kumaraswamy has previously criticized Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP government and has criticized Narendra Modi as anti-farmer. However, today, he is working as a minister in the same Narendra Modi-led central government and has sarcastically said that he should now clarify his stance on the policies of the central government that he criticized earlier.

H.D. Kumaraswamy is a Union Minister today, and despite having the opportunity and responsibility to influence the Central

Government, first clarify what kind of pressure he will bring to the injustice being done to Karnataka in the Cauvery water issue and what his contribution is in the Cauvery issue, he said.

The Cauvery river water sharing issue is a very sensitive issue related to the lives of Karnataka's farmers, drinking water and the interests of the state. In such a situation, it is the responsibility of every public representative to effectively raise his voice for the rights of Karnataka and the interests of farmers at the Central Government level, without being limited to political accusations and recriminations, he said.

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has been continuously raising his voice on the injustice being done to Karnataka by the Centre, the rights of the state, and the problems of farmers, and it is the duty and responsibility of the Chief Minister to draw the attention of the Central Government to the interests of the state, he said.

The case of your brother's son, the lustful Prajwal Revanna, who ruined the lives of hundreds of innocent girls, is now continuing in prison, and urged Kumaraswamy to first apologize to the people of the state.

Become responsible citizens who abide by the laws of the country: Bangalore University Law College Principal Prof. V. sudhesh



Bengaluru : Every student should understand the values, rights and duties of the Constitution and become responsible citizens who respect and abide by the laws of the country, said Prof. V. Sudhesh, Principal of University Law College, Bangalore University.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony organized by the UG and PG departments of Vasavi Jnanpith First Grade College, Vijayanagar, he said, "Degree is not a certificate; it is the beginning of your responsibility. Education should not only help you get a job, but also help you build a better society.

Artificial intelligence is growing rapidly, and AI platforms should be used effectively to expand knowledge, learn new skills and make your education more effective."

Vasavi Group of Educational Institutions Secretary and Educationist. D.R. Vijayasarithi said that after graduation, students should contribute to the progress of society along with their personal success. They should make a good career through good education and achieve pride. Greater emphasis has been placed on the employment opportunities of students and more than 20 companies are

providing employment opportunities. Along with education, we are continuously working towards developing the necessary skills, he said.

A total of 320 students from various undergraduate and postgraduate departments were conferred degrees at the ceremony. In addition, students who performed exceptionally well in various departments and talented students who secured top rankings were honored. Padma V., Principal of Vasavi Jnanpith First Grade College, Dr. Rangaswamy, Principal of Vasavi Jnanpith Evening College and others were present.

Har Ghar Tiranga campaign launched: Work to foster patriotism continues – Dr. Chinnappa



Chandapura: As part of the 80th Independence Day celebrations, the "Har Ghar Tiranga" national flag distribution program was launched on Thursday in collaboration with Chinmaya Seva Sanstha and Bangalore Enterprises, Chandapur.

Speaking after inaugurating the program, senior journalist C.R. Vijay Kumar said that every Indian should remember the sacrifices and martyrdom of the freedom fighters. He said that it is the duty of every citizen to develop respect for the national flag, national anthem and the Constitution.

The "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign being held across the country today is not limited to just hoisting the flag, but is a symbol of the unity, integrity and patriotism of the country. He called for expressing patriotism by hoisting the national flag on the houses.

Dr. Chinnappa Y., recipient of the National Youth Award of the Government of India. Chikkahagade said that Chinmaya Seva Sanstha has been conducting social, educational and national activities for many years. He said that

the national flag distribution program is being organized every year with the aim of instilling patriotism, social responsibility and love for the country among the youth.

Owner of Bangalore Enterprises and State Youth Award winner K. Mahesh said that the national flag is a symbol of the country's honor. Every citizen should respect the flag code and pay respect to the national flag. He said that his organization will continue to support programs that instill a sense of patriotism in the youth community.

The program was attended by Bhagat Singh Sena State President Ballur Babu, Nava Balyodaya Karanji Seva Sanstha President Balegaranahalli Satish, Manjunath of Nanna Bangalore Pati, law student Priyanka Gandhi, C. Vinodhini and many other dignitaries. On this occasion, national flags were distributed free of cost to the public, youth and students. Those who participated in the program expressed their determination to celebrate Independence Day meaningfully.

Tourism Secretary Directs Action Plan for 'Clean & Green Hampi' Campaign



Bengaluru: Tourism Department Secretary Dr. Ram Prasath Manohar, IAS, has directed the Hampi Development Authority and Vijayanagara Deputy Commissioner to prepare a comprehensive action plan for the 'Clean & Green Hampi' campaign aimed at making the World Heritage Site cleaner, greener and more visitor-friendly. The directions were issued during a video conference held to review cleanliness, visitor infrastructure and environmental conservation measures at Hampi, following instructions from Energy and Tourism Minister K. J. George.

Dr. Manohar stressed that maintaining the cleanliness of Hampi cannot be the responsibility of government departments alone and called for active participation from tourists and the public. Officials were directed to design awareness programmes encouraging visitors to contribute to the clean-

liness campaign.

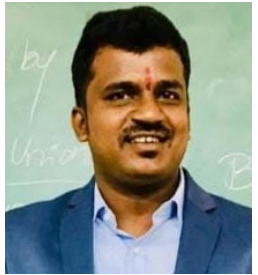
The Hampi Development Authority was also instructed to initiate the tender process for appointing a comprehensive agency to oversee cleanliness and maintenance across the heritage site.

Officials were further directed to initiate measures to ban plastic within HWHAMA limits. The Vijayanagara Deputy Commissioner and HWHAMA Chairman were asked to ensure regular cleaning and maintenance of the toilet complex near Virupaksha Temple. A proposal for constructing a new toilet complex under the Hampi Nook Project was also sought to meet growing visitor requirements.

Minister K. J. George said conservation and cleanliness of Hampi are key priorities and emphasised preserving its heritage significance while developing it as a clean, green and visitor-friendly destination.

LECTURER MADHUKUMAR S AWARDED PH.D

R A M A N A G A R A : Madhukumar S., Lecturer in the Department of Social Work at the Bengaluru University Ramanagara Postgraduate Centre, has been awarded a Ph.D. by Davangere University. Madhukumar



pursued his doctoral research under the guidance of Dr. Shivalingappa B.P., Professor at Davangere University. His research was based on the topic "Scholastic Related Problems Among Children in Karnataka: A Social Work Study." He submitted his doctoral thesis on the subject, following which Davangere University conferred the Ph.D. degree on him. The Head of the Department of Social Work, faculty members and students of the Ramanagara Postgraduate Centre congratulated Madhukumar S. on his academic achievement and wished him success in his future endeavours.

Soult Dialogues Brings 50+ Business Leaders Together in Bengaluru to Explore Legacy Readiness as a Workplace Priority

BENGALURU : Soult, India's only digital life vault, successfully hosted Soult Dialogues: Legacy Readiness, Protecting What Matters on 6 August 2026 at JW Marriott Bengaluru.

The invite only leadership forum brought together more than 50 CEOs, CFOs, CHROs, and senior professionals from law, banking, insurance and family advisory backgrounds for an evening dedicated to a subject most workplaces still avoid: legacy readiness.

The evening began with opening remarks from Naveen Bhargadwaj, Group CEO of Trescon, who made the conversation personal before it turned to data and frameworks, setting the tone for a night built around honest, participative conversation. Trescon itself is among the early adopters of Soult, having rolled it out as an employee benefit across its Indian offices. A live pulse check followed, gauging legal and practical preparedness among attendees. A thought leadership panel titled Beyond Wealth: Protecting What We Build for the People We Leave Behind was moderated by Fouzan Rahim, Marketing



Director at Soult, and brought together Shaishavi Kadakia, Partner at Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas, Ankur Paliwal, Associate Director at Kotak Private, and Ravi Ranganathan, Founder and Insurance Advisor at Allins Insurance, to unpack why financial preparedness has to extend beyond wealth creation to ensuring continuity for the people left behind.

Discussions through the evening moved across the three pillars of legacy readiness that Soult has been championing: financial continuity, covering assets, investments and banking relationships; knowledge continuity, covering passwords, legal documents and healthcare preferences; and personal

continuity, covering family values, memories and personal wishes. Guided table discussions, branded The Legacy Conversations, pushed attendees to reflect on succession planning, digital assets and the information that today exists only in their own heads, and to share what their families would actually struggle to locate if something happened tomorrow.

The programme built deliberately from awareness to ownership. A closing reflection segment asked attendees why legacy readiness continues to be postponed and who is best placed to help people start the conversation before it becomes urgent, opening the door to a broader discussion on whether legacy readiness

belongs inside employee wellbeing programmes alongside financial and mental health benefits. The session closed with The Soult Story, where Mohammed Saleem, Co-Founder and CEO, and Sanketh Kandlikar, Founder and CTO, connected the evening's conversations back to why Soult was built in the first place.

No product or partnership announcements were made at the event. The evening was positioned, and delivered, purely as a thought leadership forum aimed at building awareness around legacy readiness and succession planning as a workplace priority, ahead of any commercial conversation.

"Soult Dialogues was

never about presenting a product. It was about giving people permission to have a conversation they keep postponing. Seeing 50 plus leaders openly discuss what their families would struggle to find or access tells us this conversation was overdue in the workplace. Bengaluru was the starting point. We are now taking Soult itself to the GCC in September, because the gap between how much people build and how little they prepare their families for is not unique to India."

Mohammed Saleem, Co-Founder and CEO, Soult

Building on the response in Bengaluru, Soult will expand into the GCC region in September 2026, bringing the Digital Life Vault to a market with its own complex, cross border succession and estate challenges.

About Soult

Soult is India's only digital life vault, helping families organise, protect and securely pass on their most important information. The platform enables users to store financial assets, legal documents, personal identification, passwords, emergency instructions and treasured memories in one encrypted location.

TN Assembly: CM Vijay and Udhayanidhi Stalin united against delimitation

NDA bloc opposes resolution on delimitation moved by CM, DMDK stays neutral; all back 33% for women

CHENNAI (TSIT): Ending days of suspense over the DMK's stand on delimitation, contained within which is the speculation over the Dravidian major's future relationship with the Centre-ruling BJP, Leader of Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin on Wednesday supported Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay's resolution urging the Union government to retain the existing strength of 543 Lok Sabha seats and implement 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha without linking it to the delimitation exercise.

Supporting the resolution while reiterating the DMK's position that if delimitation was undertaken to implement women's reservation, Udhayanidhi said it should be based on the 1971 Census. "If there



is any change in Tamil Nadu's proportion of MPs, its representation should not fall below 7.18 per cent," he said. He also accused the TVK

and its allies of changing their stand from supporting fair delimitation to opposing the exercise. Eventually, even as all parties sup-

ported women's reservation but differed on the means and methods to implement it, the Assembly adopted the resolution by voice vote, with the DMK, CPM, CPI, Congress, VCK and IUML supporting it, while the AIADMK, BJP, PMK, and DMDK opposed it.

Moving the resolution, Vijay said legislation providing for onethird reservation for women in Parliament and State Assemblies had already been enacted, but its implementation had been delayed.

"Delaying women's reservation by linking it with the census and delimitation amounts to denying women their political rights. Women's reservation should not be postponed or merged with the census and delimitation exercise," he said.



Chief Minister distributed appointment orders to candidates selected for various positions in companies at the Vetri Tamil Nadu Investors Conclave in Chennai...

Special category MBBS, BDS counselling begins offline in Tamil Nadu

CHENNAI: Special category counselling for admission to MBBS and BDS courses began in person on Thursday, with candidates under the 7.5% reservation for government school students, sports quota, children of ex-servicemen and persons with disabilities attending the counselling. A total of 72,633 applications were received for MBBS and BDS admissions. Of these, 4,860 applications were under the 7.5% reservation for government school students, 468 under the sports quota, 524 from children of ex-servicemen and 212 from persons with disabilities.

After scrutiny, 3,625 applications under the 7.5% government school reservation were accepted. As part of Thursday's counselling, call letters were issued to candidates under the government school quota based on their rank and NEET scores. In the general cate-



gory, candidates who scored between 599 and 469 marks and those who scored between 468 and 433 marks were called for counselling.

Candidates belonging to the SC, SCA and ST categories under the government school quota were also called based on their respective ranks.

The special category counselling is being con-

ducted offline, with candidates required to attend the venue according to the schedule mentioned in their call letters. Meanwhile, general online counselling for MBBS and BDS courses began at noon on Thursday. Eligible candidates can register, pay the counselling fee and fill in their preferred colleges and courses until 5 pm on August 19.

Tamil Nadu Fisheries Minister Srinath to visit Delhi over fishermen arrests by Sri Lankan Navy

CHENNAI: Amid the arrest of nine fishermen from Rameswaram by the Sri Lankan Navy, Tamil Nadu Fisheries Minister Srinath on Thursday said that he will visit Delhi next week to take up the issue with the Union Minister of External Affairs, S Jaishankar, and the Union Minister of Fisheries, Rajiv Ranjan Singh.

Speaking to reporters at the Thoothukudi Airport, he stated that talks regarding the Tamil Nadu fishermen's issue are ongoing and that he has discussed the matter with the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. He further added, "Next week, we will go to Delhi and meet the Union Minister of External



Affairs and the Union Minister of Fisheries to discuss measures to prevent the arrest of Tamil Nadu fishermen. A positive outcome will be reached soon." The Minister also mentioned that various beneficial schemes for fishermen will be included in the demand for grants for the

Fisheries Department. He stated that several schemes aimed at benefiting fishermen have been evaluated, and discussions have been held with the Chief Minister and the Finance Minister regarding them. "Many good schemes will be included in the demand for grants to fully benefit fishermen in a suitable manner," Minister Srinath said.

On the demand of Thoothukudi mechanized boat fishermen to grant permission for deep-sea fishing, the Minister responded that this request too has been included in the Fisheries Department's demand for grants, and an announcement regarding it will be made during the session.

Teacher held for allegedly beating 10 female students in TN govt school

TENKASI: A case has been registered against a 44-year-old government school teacher for allegedly beating 10 Class 10 female students with a cane, leaving them with severe hand injuries and unable to write their exams, police said on Thursday.

The incident took place at a Government Higher Secondary School in V K Pudur near Surandai in Tenkasi district on July 20. According to police, the accused, identified as Thenmaria Suganthi, was conducting a Class 11 session when she became enraged by noise emanating from an adjacent Class 10 room. She subsequently entered the classroom and severely caned the students. Around 10 students sus-



tained severe injuries to their hands and required immediate medical attention. The injured students were treated at the V K Pudur Government Hospital and local private facilities. Pavithra, one of the students was transferred to the Tenkasi Government Hospital, where she remained an inpatient for three days, officials said.

Due to persistent swelling in their hands, the injured students were unable to attend school or appear for their exams.

AIIMS Mangalagiri Organises Walkathon and Flash Mob to Raise Awareness on Organ Donation

(By Ch Purnachandra Rao)
Mangalagiri, (Amaravati)
August.13.

On the occasion of World Organ Donation Day 2026, the Office of the Medical Superintendent and the Department of Hospital Administration, AIIMS Mangalagiri, jointly organised a Walkathon and Flash Mob today to create awareness among patients, attendants, healthcare professionals, students and the general public about the importance of organ donation.

The Walkathon commenced at 6:00 AM from the IPD-OPD Junction and culminated at the Auditorium of AIIMS Mangalagiri. Prof. (Dr.) Ahanthem Santa Singh, Hon'ble Executive Director, AIIMS Mangalagiri, actively participated in the walkathon along with esteemed Deans, faculty members, residents, nursing officers, students and other staff members.



The walkathon witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and staff, who raised awareness through slogans and informative placards. The placards highlighted the

Jeevandan pledge, the process of voluntary organ donation, and common myths and misconceptions surrounding organ donation, thereby conveying the importance of making informed decisions and encouraging more people to pledge their organs for donation.

The initiative highlighted the critical need for greater awareness about organ donation and encouraged members of society to come forward and contribute towards saving lives through the noble act of organ donation. The enthusiastic participation of the AIIMS Mangalagiri community reflected its commitment to promoting public awareness on important health and social causes.

As part of the awareness activities, a Flash Mob was organised at 12:00 PM at the IPD-OPD Junction by undergraduate

students of AIIMS Mangalagiri. The energetic performance drew the attention of patients, attendants and the general public, effectively conveying the message of organ donation. Resident doctors complemented the performance with an interactive awareness talk, engaging the audience and sensitising them on voluntary organ donation, the Jeevandan pledge, and common myths and misconceptions associated with organ donation. Combined initiative reinforced the message that the noble act of organ donation can help save and transform multiple lives.

As part of the observance, a Continued Medical Education (CME) programme was also organised by the Departments of Medical Gastroenterology and Surgical Gastroenterology at AIIMS Mangalagiri. The programme brought together approximately 200 medical professionals and featured sessions by two external resource experts along with internal faculty members. The CME focused on enhancing awareness and knowledge among healthcare professionals on various aspects of organ donation and transplantation, while facilitating knowledge-sharing and professional learning in the field.

Monsoon skin troubles: Why oily skin may still lack hydration

New Delhi: Monsoon weather often leaves the skin sticky, sweaty and oily, but an oily appearance does not necessarily mean the skin is properly hydrated, skincare experts caution. According to skincare specialist Shaily Mehrotra, high humidity can slow water evaporation from the skin, but it does not guarantee adequate hydration. Humidity, sweat and excess sebum can together contribute to clogged pores, breakouts and sensitivity during the rainy season. Humid conditions can cause sweat and sebum to remain on the skin for longer. When they mix with dirt, makeup, pollution and other impurities, the combination may increase the risk of clogged pores and acne, particularly among people with oily or acne-prone skin.

However, oil and hydration are not the same. Sebum forms a protective layer on the skin, while hydration refers to the presence of water in the skin. As a result, a person can have an oily surface while still experiencing tightness, sensitivity or dehydration underneath. Experts also caution against repeatedly washing the face to deal with the sticky feeling caused by monsoon humidity.

EASTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 02 of 2026-27/BGP.
Date: 11.08.2026. Tender Notice for re-tendering is invited by Dy. Chief Engineer/Con/II/Bhagalpur, Eastern Railway, Near Issachak P.S. Behind Police Line, At & PO - Bhagalpur-812001 for the following work: **Name of Work:** Tender No. BGP02of2026-27 (Open)(Two packet system) :- Construction of new Loco Trip Inspection Facility in existing washing line at Bhagalpur and capacity augmentation for air brake testing & painting by extension of WRS-V towards South end in workshop Jamalpur in the jurisdiction of Dy.CE/Con/Bhagalpur. **Tender Value:** ₹ 19,11,12,753.09. **Cost of Tender Documents (Rs.):** Nil. **Earnest Money (Rs.):** ₹ 38,22,300.00. **Completion Period:** 12 (Twelve Months). **Date of Closing:** 03.09.2026 at 15.00 Hrs. The tender Document and other details can be obtained from the website www.ireps.gov.in. The bidding for the tender is to be submitted through e-tendering on above website. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any manual offer if received shall not be accepted and will be summarily rejected. CON-31/2026-27
Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in
Follow us at : @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

ICIICI Home Finance
Corporate Office: ICIICI Home Finance Company Limited, ICIICI HFC Tower, Andheri - Kurla Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400059, India
Branch Office: 1st Floor, Door No. 66, G.G Towers, Kumaran Road, Opposite Town Hall, Tirupur- 641601.
[See proviso to rule 8(i)] Notice for sale of immovable assets

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of ICIICI Home Finance Company Ltd., will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Legal Heirs. Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price/ Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction	One Day Before Auction Date	SARFAESI Stage
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)
1.	P Sadish Kumar (Borrower) B Ashwini (Co-Borrower) Loan No. LHTIR00001455096 LHTIR00001455097	Rs No. 121/1, Site No. 77, Sastha Garden, Chennimalai Road, Karattupalayam, Sirukkalanchi, Tiruppur- 638751 Tiruppur Tamil Nadu	Rs. 30,45,521/- August 05, 2026	Rs. 30,47,301/- August 05, 2026 Rs. 3,04,730/-	August 24, 2026 11:00 AM To 03:00 PM	August 31, 2026 02:00 PM To 03:00 PM	August 29, 2026 Before 05:00 PM	Symbolic Possession
2.	Subburaj (Borrower) Thangam, (Co-Borrower) Loan No. LHTIR00001644770 LHTIR00001644804	S.F. No.266/2 New S.F. No. 266/2A Site No.20, Sri Sai Nagar, Alagumalai Village Tirupur- 640601 Tamil Nadu	Rs. 15,39,686/- August 05, 2026	Rs. 11,29,788/- August 05, 2026 Rs. 1,12,979/-	August 24, 2026 11:00 AM To 03:00 PM	August 31, 2026 02:00 PM To 03:00 PM	August 29, 2026 Before 05:00 PM	Symbolic Possession

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link- <https://BidDeal.in>) of our auction agency ValueTrust Capital Services Private Limited. The Mortgages/ notice are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till August 29, 2026 before 05:00 PM else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule. The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) RTGS/ Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICIICI Home Finance Company Limited Branch Office Address mentioned on top of the article on or before August 29, 2026 before 04:00 PM. The Prospective Bidder(s) must also submit signed copy of Registration Form & Bid Terms and Conditions form at ICIICI Home Finance Company Limited Branch Office Address mentioned on top of the article on or before August 29, 2026 before 05:00 PM. Earnest Money Deposit Demand Draft (DD) should be from a Nationalized/ Scheduled Bank in favor of "ICIICI Home Finance Company Ltd.- Auction" payable at the branch office address mentioned on top of the article.
For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of bids, kindly contact ICIICI Home Finance Company Limited on 9920807300 or Value Trust Centralised HelpDesk No. 6200-22-6200.
The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit <https://www.iciicifh.com>.
Date: August 14, 2026
Place: Tiruppur
Authorized Officer, "ICIICI Home Finance Company Limited",
CIN Number:- U65922MH1999PLC120106

Phoenix ARC Limited
(formerly known as Phoenix ARC Private Limited)
Regd. Office: 3rd Floor, Wallace Tower 138-140/B/1, Crossing of Sahar Road and Western Express Highway Vile Parle (East) Mumbai-400 057 Tel: 022- 6849 2450. Fax: 022- 6741 2313
CIN: U67190MH2007PLC188303 Email: info@phoenixarc.co.in Website: www.phoenixarc.co.in

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION CUM SALE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Asset(s) under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and to the borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors in particular, that the under mentioned property mortgaged to Phoenix ARC Private Limited (formerly known as Phoenix ARC Private Limited) pursuant to assignment of debt by Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited (Earlier Known as Aspire Home Finance Corporation Limited - Assignor) will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS, AS IS WHATEVER THERE IS AND WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS", by way of "online e-auction" for recovery of dues and further interest, charges and costs etc. as detailed below in terms of the provisions of SARFAESI Act read with Rules 8 & 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002) through website : www.phoenixarc.co.in as per the details given below

Date and time of E-Auction 08-09-2026 11:00 Am to 02:00 Pm (with unlimited extensions of 15 minute each) Last date of EMD Deposit: 07-09-2026			
Borrower(s) /Co-Borrower (s)/ Guarantor(s) / Loan Account	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the Immovable property	Reserve Price, EMD & Last date of Submission of EMD
LAN: LXMAD00217-180066491 Branch: Madurai Borrower: Siva Boomiraj Co-Borrower: Boomiraj K	20-04-2021 For Rs: 5,66,896/- (Rupees Five Lakh Sixty Six Thousand Eight Hundred & Ninety Six Only)	Old Natham, S No. - 940/2B, New Natham, S No. - 1908/28, R P Pallapatti Village, Vedasandar Taluk, Near Vellaiyan House, District - Dindigul, Tamil Nadu - 624706	Reserve Price: Rs.102400/- (One Lakh Two Thousand Four Hundred Only) EMD: Rs. 10240/- (Ten Thousand Two Hundred & Forty Only)
LAN: LXSAL00417-180064522 Branch: Salem Borrower: Rajendrababu Mathi Co-Borrower: Kavitha Rajendrababu	18-01-2019 For Rs: 2,79,889/- (Rupees Two Lakh Seventy Nine Thousand Six Hundred & Eighty Five Only)	Old S F No: 41/10 New S F No: 182/5 Potturam Village, Omalur Sub Reg Salem West Reg Omalur Tk Dt Salem - 636309 Near Pachiamman Kovil, Pachiamman Kovil Street 636309 Salem Tamil Nadu	Reserve Price: Rs.46800/- (Four Lakh Sixty Thousand Eight Hundred Only) EMD: Rs. 4680/- (Forty Six Thousand & Eighty Only)

1. The Auction is conducted as per the further Terms and Conditions of the Bid document and as per the procedure set out therein. Bidders may visit to the Web Portal: <https://www.auctionbazaar.com/> of our e-Auction Service Provider, **M/s. ARCA EMART PRIVATE LIMITED** for bidding information & support, the details of the secured asset put up for e-Auction and the Bid Form which will be submitted online. The interested buyers may go through the auction terms & conditions and process on the same portal and may contact to **Rajasekaran K 9025136986 / Arunagumkar V-967797577/ Senthilkumar A N 9789244810, Sathesh Iyengar 9833801159** details available in the above mentioned Web Portal and may contact their Centralised Help Desk: + 91 83709 69696, E-mail ID: contact@auctionbazaar.com. 2. All the intending purchasers/ bidders are required to register their name in the portal mentioned above as <https://www.auctionbazaar.com/> and get user ID and password free of cost to participate in the e-auction on the date and time as mentioned aforesaid. 3. For participating in the e-auction, intending purchasers/ bidders will have to submit the details of payment of refundable Earnest Money Deposit of 10% of the Reserve Price of the Secured asset along with copies of the PAN/CARD, Board Resolutions in case of Company and Address Proof on or before the Last date for submission of EMD mentioned above. Intending purchasers/bidders are required to submit separate EMDs for each of the Items/Properties detailed herein above. 4. At any stage of the auction, the Authorized Officer may accept/reject/modify/cancel the bid/offer or post-pone the auction without assigning any reason thereof and without any prior notice. 5. The successful purchaser/bidder shall bear any statutory dues, taxes, fees payable, applicable GST on the purchase consideration, stamp duty, registration fees, etc. that is required to be paid in order to get the secured asset conveyed/delivered in his/her/its favour as per the applicable law. 6. The intending bidders should make their own independent enquiries regarding encumbrances, title of secured asset put on auction and claims/rights/dues affecting the secured assets, including statutory dues, etc. prior to submitting their bid. The auction advertisement does not constitute and will not constitute any commitment or any representation of Phoenix. The authorized officer of Phoenix shall not be responsible in any way for any third-party claims/rights/dues. 7. The prospective/intending bidder shall furnish an undertaking that he/she is not dis-qualified as per provisions of Sec.29 (A) of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code,2016 and failure to furnish such undertaking along with the KYC documents, shall automatically disqualify or he/she bid will be rejected.
Place : Tamil Nadu
Date : 14.08.2026

Sd/-, Authorized Officer,
Phoenix ARC Limited
(formerly known as Phoenix ARC Private Limited)

EDITORIAL

The BJP's Politics of the 'Ideal' Citizen

A fifteen-year-old girl sits before her phone camera and records an apology to the prime minister for the abusive language she used during the student protests following the police action at Delhi's Jantar Mantar. It is an unusual image. A protest begins with a grievance. It should end with the state answering for its actions. Increasingly, it ends with protesters answering for themselves. Prime minister Narendra Modi responded through a series of Instagram reels, describing the language directed at him and his late mother as a "cultural shock". The PM urged the society to guide such young people rather than condemn them. A protest over education and allegations of police violence has become a debate about the protesters themselves.

The sequence has become one of the most effective political scripts of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The first move is to classify the protester. In his Instagram reels, the prime minister described the students as "misguided youth". Soon afterwards, social media accounts such as Bharat with RSS followed; asking if those gathered at Jantar Mantar were really students, or anti-social elements masquerading as protesters. Their civility, legitimacy and even identity has come under scrutiny. The protest had not changed, people protesting it had. Before their demands could be addressed, they first had to be identified. During the farmers' movement, the distinction was named. Modi separated the andolan kari from the "andolanjevi" – the legitimate protester from the parasitic one. The other described those who, in the PM's telling, had turned protest into a profession by attaching themselves to every agitation. The distinction made legitimacy part of the debate itself. Before the government defended the farm laws, the farmers first had to establish that they were genuine protesters. The protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) took the pattern a step further. There is an irony here that would have been amusing had it not been so politically consequential. A movement that sought to debate the meaning of citizenship gradually found itself defending its own. Somewhere between the Constitution and the television studio, the question quietly changed. Instead of asking whether the law was constitutionally defensible, public attention increasingly turned to the people opposing it. Modi's remark that those indulging in violence could be recognised "by their clothes" crystallised that shift. The constitutional arguments against the Act did not disappear. They simply had to compete with another question: who exactly was claiming the Constitution's protection? The Constitution begins with a simple premise: citizens possess rights because they are citizens. The anti-CAA movement increasingly confronted a different proposition. Before constitutional arguments could be heard, the identities of those advancing them acquired political significance. The script does not stop at identity. It also questions political agency. Democratic protest assumes that citizens act because they choose to. Allegations of funding, hidden organisers or political handlers reverse that assumption. During the anti-CAA movement, the women of Shaheen Bagh were repeatedly portrayed as paid, funded or mobilised by hidden actors. BJP IT Cell chief Amit Malviya circulated a video alleging that women were being paid to participate, a claim later challenged by the protesters and debunked by independent fact-checkers.

INDIAN PARLIAMENT AND THE PERILS OF EMPTY 'SWAGGER'

The Indian Parliament has settled into a disturbing rhythm. The founding fathers of the Constitution had crafted it for debates that are focused on the welfare of the electors, and legislation that is filtered through the wisdom of each and every elected MP. Thursday sharp at 11 am, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla walked up to his chair. The now-familiar crescendo, of Opposition MPs unleashing their lung power to disrupt the last six-seven hours of the proceedings, rose. Birla didn't ask them to sit. He didn't tell them to calm down. He asked everyone to stand up for the National Song. For a few minutes, the serenity of Vande Mataram echoed inside the House. And then the Speaker adjourned the House sine die, bringing the curtain down on the Monsoon Session of Parliament about seven hours before the scheduled end. The 250-odd sq. feet, transparent-vinyl-walled porta-cabin 'media hut' in Parliament is placed at exactly the same radial distance from the old Parliament building's Gate No. 1 (past entry point for MPs) and the Makar Dwar, the entry point in the new building. It provides a ring-side view of how things have transitioned and degenerated over time. For the 29th day, or the 19th sitting of the Houses, watching the MPs troop out without doing much work reminded me of what Senator Gracchus said in Director Ridley Scott's epic adventure drama, Gladiator. Gracchus had provided a cynical view of Roman politics by telling someone that the "beating heart of Rome is not the marble of the Senate; it's the sand of the Colosseum". Each day of the now virtually-bombed and annihilated-by-disruptions Monsoon Session this year, MPs from both sides of the political fence emerged from the Makar Dwar like gladiators from the Colosseum, claiming victory. But it takes a bit of sitting back and think-



ing to deduce that all parties and groupings across the various divides have been managing to have their way, and that there is only one loser: the voter. Reconfirming that distraction through spectacle is more effective than political accountability and performance. The Congressmen's Newfound Swagger Ask any journalist covering the monsoon session of Parliament what the key takeaway of the session is, and they will tell you that in the second half of the month-long session, the stand-out element has been the Leader of Opposition, Rahul Gandhi, walking with the swagger of a winner inside or outside Parliament. This swagger has rubbed off on most Congressmen. They admit that this was in stark contrast to the session's earlier half, as not them, but the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) had stolen the headlines. The satirical platform achieved what had been mission impossible for the entire Opposition for 12 long years of the NDA rule. The Gen Z anger made the BJP leadership sack a minister right in the middle of

a Parliament session. The Congress had initially stayed away from the protests. And thus, couldn't claim victory for Dharmendra Pradhan's ouster. Rahul Gandhi entered the arena late with a foiled sit-in outside the Prime Minister's residence. Then he shifted the goalpost. For the Congressmen, that shift brought a note of triumph - and the swagger. The CJP's trophy was Pradhan's resignation. But Rahul Gandhi and the Congress needed a more visible hit. So he picked the pellet-hit protesters, the crack-down on the protesters, Delhi Police's fumbles, and Union Home Minister Amit Shah's silence on these to build a "missing" narrative. He wanted Shah to tell the House who ordered the crackdown. The government dug its heels in. Its gladiators laid down the rules for a statement by Shah. No dialogue till there is disruption. The remnants of the depleted INDIA bloc, after the DMK's exit and the TMC's desertions, realised the potential of the manufactured deadlock. The target was Shah - the man anointed by the BJP as

'Chanakya', the man who cracked the Article 370 code and decimated the Naxal threat. As the monsoon session ends, Rahul Gandhi is being credited by his party as the leader who made Shah squirm. A senior Congress leader bursting with pride told me, "Shah's aura is gone". That's the trophy with which the Opposition departed from the session. But The Government Hasn't Lost Either The latest monsoon session is an outing the government would perhaps like to forget. On day one, it had swarms of protesters battling on the streets to reach Parliament. Within days, it had to ease out Pradhan. Its attempts to stitch the numbers for the reintroduction of the Delimitation bill have not reached fruition. Its FCRA bill has faced internal dissent, external protests, and nudges from global superpowers. But does the government qualify to be a loser if the Opposition won? The answer is buried in the session track. In modern conventions, the Opposition can be called a winner if a key government legislation is

defeated or a session is a washout and no legislation is passed. Put these parameters on paper, juxtapose the statistics from the session, and the picture gets muddled. The victor-loser lines blur. Understated Wins Although the government is not walking with a winner's swagger, it has its own collection of trophies from this session. The monsoon session of Parliament may have stayed log-jammed by the Opposition, but it was not a complete washout. The big-ticket FCRA or the Delimitation Bills may not have seen daylight, but the government managed to push through some 20-odd bills or legislation despite the din. Almost every bill listed for introduction at the start of the session was passed. Sample this. The theme of the session was crafting a new political recipe to seduce the 'Generation Z'. With the coveted demography in focus, the Opposition couldn't disrupt the passing of the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill. By bringing stricter rules

against exam paper leaks, the government offered an olive branch to Gen Z. Since the Opposition was under public scrutiny, the Bill saw 11 hours of debate in the Lok Sabha and 7 hours and 14 minutes in the Rajya Sabha. The government managed to pass the Bill for renaming Kerala as 'Keralam'. The Opposition couldn't stop the BJP's pet project, The Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, which stems from declarations made in the Constituent Assembly by Dr Rajendra Prasad on January 24, 1950, stating that Vande Mataram holds a status equal to Jana Gana Mana. Then there is the shortage of judges in the Supreme Court; the government's Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Act, 2026, which increases the sanctioned strength of the Supreme Court of India from 34 to 38 judges (including the Chief Justice of India), sailed through. But Who Lost - And How? The government took four days after the July 20 protests to ease out Pradhan. The Opposition claimed it had a reason to disrupt the proceedings. Then, in a clever pivot, Rahul Gandhi asked Amit Shah to respond. On the penultimate day, the Home Minister spoke. He dared the Opposition to submit a letter to the Speaker for a debate by 2 pm. "I am ready to answer the Opposition's questions on the police action." But the Opposition rejected Shah's proposal and said it was not interested in the Home Minister's "lectures". There are reasons why the issue never got resolved. The Opposition wasn't interested in a Shah response, as it would have diluted the "weak-Home-Minister" campaign it had constructed so carefully. The government, in turn, was hesitant to field the Home Minister all these days as it knew that once Shah spoke, the Opposition's next demand would be an apology by the Prime Minister.

China's PLA Is Entering A Dangerous New Phase, And India Can't Afford To Look Away

Amid tumultuous times and a looming modernisation deadline, August 1 this year marked 99 years since the founding of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA). As the final year in the run-up to the PLA's centenary goals commences, three problems stand out as unresolved. These are the slow speed of "intelligentisation", the persistence of "official airs" and military graft, and an inability to prioritise quality over quantity. The West's sustained technology-denial efforts against Beijing, and the curbs placed on its defence state-owned enterprises (SOEs) by a growing roster of American lists, only add to the headwinds. At the outset, it is important to understand the 2027 timeline. It is not more than a capability milestone, part of a "new three-step strategy": basically complete informatisation and enter the advanced stage of intelligentisation by 2027, achieve basic realisation of defence modernisation by 2035, and become a world-class military by 2049. Hence, it is notable that while operationally, an invasion of Taiwan is possible tomorrow, the PLA's sustained strategy of consistent modernisation and militarisation is the threat to look out for and prepare for, especially for decision-makers sitting in Washington and Delhi. So what were the key signals emergent from the varied meetings, commentaries, and lectures that set the stage for the anniversary? The first was the emphasis on political building, framed as the foundation governing the "direction and fundamental character" of modernisation. The



second was combat effectiveness, described, as always, the fundamental standard for testing it. The third was the Integrated National Strategic System and Capabilities theory - which can be understood as a modern successor to 'Military-Civil Fusion' - presented as the only route to achieving it. Together, these point to a framework likely to structure every military work report until the 21st Party Congress in October 2027. They also confirm that 'political building', which loosely means creating a more red, more loyal army, comes ahead of combat preparedness. The candour over quality is more remarkable still. A Collective Study Session held by the highest CPC decision-making body, the Politburo, just before the anniversary, highlighted that development without quality is useless, however much of it is done, and that some of it becomes a "burden" and "hindrance" to the armed forces. This is the Party conceding, however obliquely, that parts of the past decade's modernisation and reform budget were

wasted, or worse. The correction prescribed is "high efficiency, low cost, and sustainable development", which fundamentally shifts the focus away from quantitative growth to qualitative improvement. The era of throwing money at the problem has hence been formally declared over. On discipline, Xi instructed the force to fold political rectification into daily life and make it a regular practice. The corresponding PLA Daily commentary of August 1 articulated that more sharply, and explained that there are no unrestrained special people. Conceptually, this moves the conversation a step past bribery towards the condemnation of privilege itself. It was likened to the "invisible arsenic" that is infamous for poisoning groundwater and going undetected. In a system that has just purged the man long described as Xi's closest military aide and childhood friend - former Central Military Commission Vice Chairman Zhang Youxia - the new reality expressed is that no one is beyond cleansing. Finally, in

terms of tactical modernisation, the elevation of "intelligentisation" from one leg of that sequence to the decisive one, came along obvious lines. To this end, a Xinhua explainer from August 3 argued that whoever builds an intelligent military system first will hold the initiative on the future battlefield. Warfare, it contends, has entered a stage where algorithms determine victory and detection equals destruction. An illustrative example is the fibre-optic-enabled first-person-view drone, costing a few thousand dollars and capable of destroying armour worth millions. Unmanned and intelligent forces, it insists, must be treated as the main force and protagonist - given a fixed place in organisational structure, used as simulated adversaries in training, and pushed to the last mile in tactics. Hence, a four-level architecture of perception, decision-making, operations and institutional support, with human-machine collaborative decision-making as the endpoint (for now), becomes evident.

Modi Spoke of Education at a Vivekananda Memorial. He Forgot the Girls' School Demolished to Build It.

"Friends, Swami Vivekananda believed that educating the youth was the ultimate foundation for nation-building." Prime Minister Narendra Modi said these words recently in Mysuru while inaugurating the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Youth Centre, built by the Ramakrishna Ashrama on Narayana Shastri Road, in the heart of the city. It is a place steeped in Vivekananda's Mysuru connection. The memorial stands adjoining the historic Niranjana Mutt, where Swami Vivekananda is recorded to have stayed during his visit to Mysuru in November 1892. Spread across about 36,591 square feet, the new memorial is meant to preserve his memory, his ideas and his vision for generations to come. But there was a history beneath those words that remained unspoken. He did not mention that the memorial stands on the very ground where a 140-year-old school once stood, a school that was among the earliest institutions in Asia established specifically for the education of girls. He did not mention that this was the Maharani's school, established under the patronage of Maharani Kempananjammani Devi of Mysuru at a time when sending a girl to school was itself a radical act. He did not mention the thousands of girls who had passed through its doors, carrying books in their hands and dreams in their hearts. He did not mention the protests, the petitions, the legal battle, the citizens who stood in the streets, the former students who refused to let their school disappear quietly. He did not mention that



when the question arose of building a memorial to Vivekananda on that very land, Mysoreans did not say, "No memorial." They said, "Let the memorial come. But let the school live too." After all, this was never a battle between a school and Vivekananda. And Modi certainly did not mention the night when the school was finally brought down under heavy police protection in 2022. By morning, the walls were gone. What disappeared that night was a chapter of Mysuru's educational history; a place where generations of girls had learned to read, to think, to dream and perhaps to believe that they could shape their own future. Today, a memorial stands there in Vivekananda's name. But beneath it lies a school. And beneath that school lie generations of dreams. As a Mysorean, I carry a very personal sense of grief about what happened. And as the daughter of Rajasekhar Koti, the founder-editor of Andolana newspaper, I cannot think about the NTM School without remembering the people who fought, struggled and stood their

ground to save it. Perhaps that is why this story feels so personal for me. It is personal. When I hear the word "education" being spoken from the very place where a historic school once stood, I remember my father and the children he refused to let disappear along with their school. And whenever I think of the long struggle to save that school, one particular morning comes back to me. It was an ordinary morning, like any other. I was busy getting my children ready for school and attending to household work. It was around 8.30 am when I received a call from Appaji. "Papu, I'm near your house. Come outside." I was surprised. He rarely came to my house at that hour. When I stepped out, I saw his Qualis parked in the apartment parking lot. What caught my attention was that the car was filled with schoolchildren. "Appaji, who are all these children?" I asked. "They are children from NTM School," he told me. Their parents, frightened by everything that was happening around the school, had stopped sending them to classes. Appaji feared that if the number of students fell, the

authorities would use that as a reason to merge or eventually shut down the school. So he had gone from house to house, met the parents and assured them, "Send your children to school. I will take responsibility for getting them there safely and bringing them back home." That morning was the first day he had taken on that responsibility. The children lived around my neighbourhood. He had gone to their homes, picked them up and was taking them to school when he stopped at my house. From that day on, they began calling him affectionately, "Driver Uncle". Every morning, he picked them up from their homes and took them to school. Every evening, after classes, he brought them back safely. A few days later, he arranged a school vehicle at his own expense. For him, it was crucial to keep children connected to a school that was slowly being pushed towards extinction. It was his way of saying, "You cannot save a school by saving only its walls. You save it by making sure its children continue to walk through its doors." Until the end of his life, Appaji continued that responsibility.

Gold rates fall to Rs 1.57 lakh per 10g after seven-day gain

New Delhi: Gold snapped a seven-session rally on Thursday, August 13, with prices declining by Rs 2,800 to Rs 1,57,000 per 10 grams in the national capital as traders booked profits after a recent surge. The yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at Rs 1,59,800 per 10 grams on Wednesday, August 12. Silver also bore the brunt of the sell-off, tumbling Rs 6,000 to Rs 2,40,000 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes), according to the All India Sarafa Association. The white metal had settled at Rs 2,46,000 per kg in the preceding session. Gold trades lower Gold traded lower on Thursday, with investors booking profits as the softer US inflation outcome had already been largely priced into bullion during the recent rally, said Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst – Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities. The retreat was echoed in the international markets. Spot gold was trading 0.43



per cent lower at USD 4,389.67 per ounce, while spot silver declined marginally to USD 65.03 per ounce. Spot gold was trading lower at USD 4,380 per ounce in overseas markets due to profit booking. Traders booked profits as the much-awaited US July Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation data came in line with the forecast, said Praveen Singh, Head of Commodities at Mirae Asset ShareKhan. Crude oil prices edge lower as differing claims arise over Hormuz Crude oil prices edged lower amid conflicting claims over the Strait of

Hormuz, while the dollar index remained steady, he added. Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst – Commodities at HDFC Securities, said that with the CPI trigger now behind the market, investors' attention has shifted to the US producer price index (PPI) for further clues on inflation and the Federal Reserve's policy path. "A lower PPI reading could strengthen hopes for a more relaxed approach from the Fed and boost prices for precious metals, while a higher-than-expected result could raise worries about ongoing inflation and lead to selling," he added.

Crypto becomes Gen Z's gateway to investing in India: Report

New Delhi: India's Gen Z is entering financial markets earlier and increasingly using cryptocurrency as a gateway to investing, while showing a preference for diversified portfolios and a willingness to stay invested through market volatility, data from crypto exchange WazirX showed. Nearly 44.4 per cent of Gen Z investors on the platform began their investment journey through crypto, suggesting that a large share of young investors are entering financial markets through digital assets rather than adding crypto to established portfolios. The median age of Gen Z investors on WazirX is 25, while the generation accounted for 72 per cent of all new investors on the platform in the first half of 2026. Gen Z also made up 32.1 per cent of active traders, the company said. The trend is spreading beyond India's largest cities. Nearly 80 per cent of WazirX's Gen Z users come from outside the country's top 10 cities, highlighting the growing participation of investors from Tier-2 and Tier-3 centres. Mumbai and Delhi continue to have the highest individual concentration of users. The data also challenges the perception that young crypto investors are primarily chasing



speculative assets. Gen Z users allocate 25 per cent of their portfolios to established "blue-chip" cryptocurrencies, 16 per cent to memecoins and 59 per cent to utility-focused categories including decentralised finance, Layer-2 ecosystems and payment tokens. The figures indicate that while memecoins remain part of the investment mix, the majority of Gen Z holdings are concentrated in categories WazirX associates with utility, liquidity and longer-term potential. Young investors are also showing a willingness to buy during market downturns rather than retreating from

crypto, according to WazirX. About 52.8 per cent of Gen Z investors buy during mild market corrections, while 43.7 per cent continue buying even on the worst trading days. Their average investment size remains nearly unchanged during major market declines compared with normal trading days, the exchange said. The data suggests that some young investors are increasingly treating market corrections as opportunities to accumulate assets, while using rallies to rebalance portfolios or realise gains. WazirX's findings come as its broader user base also becomes

increasingly concentrated outside India's major metropolitan areas. In a July report, the exchange said more than 82 per cent of its users came from non-metro cities. The Gen Z investor base on WazirX is also dominated by relatively young and lower-income participants. Nearly 79.6 per cent have annual incomes between Rs 1 lakh and Rs 5 lakh. Students account for 40 per cent of Gen Z users, followed by salaried professionals at 33 per cent and self-employed users at 27 per cent, according to the company. The findings suggest that crypto is being incorporated into investment strategies relatively early in the financial lives of many young Indians, rather than being used solely by investors who have already accumulated substantial wealth. "Gen Z is proving that wealth creation isn't about where you come from or how much you start with, but finding the right opportunities, doing your research, and starting early. Young Indians were investing in crypto earlier, but they're doing so with discipline, curiosity, and a long-term mindset now. That's the foundation of India's next financial revolution," WazirX founder Nischal Shetty said.

ICICI PRU IPROTECT SMART HER LAUNCHED TO SUPPORT INDIAN WOMEN AT EVERY STAGE OF THEIR FINANCIAL JOURNEY

Mumbai, 13 August 2026: ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has launched ICICI Pru iProtect Smart Her, a comprehensive Term Plan designed specifically for women. The product has been developed to address women's evolving protection and wellness needs by combining life insurance with health and wellness benefits. ICICI Pru iProtect Smart Her offers a thoughtfully curated set of benefits, designed to empower and support women during the moments that shape their lives. A 15% lifetime premium discount, women-specific health management & wellness services, and flexibility of a pregnancy break feature, enabling them to better manage their premium commitments during an important life stage. Furthermore, the product offers Child Education Care through increasing income payout option for 10 years. With this option, the death benefit is paid out to the nominee as income which increases every year by 10% p.a. for 10 years. Commenting on the launch, Mr. Vikas Gupta, Chief Product Officer, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, said, "Indian women play multiple roles. As a result, their financial planning requirements are different

and continues to evolve across different stages of life. ICICI Pru iProtect Smart Her has been designed to provide comprehensive protection while addressing their unique healthcare and wellness needs. By combining life insurance with meaningful health management services and greater flexibility through features such as the pregnancy break benefit and lifetime premium discount, we offer a solution that helps women secure both their financial future and overall wellbeing." The product includes women-specific health management services that includes access to teleconsultations across multiple specialties, annual health check-ups, health risk assessments, wellness content, pharmacy and diagnostic discounts, and other healthcare benefits. Overall, the product offers benefits worth up to ₹92,100 which includes women-specific health and wellness benefits worth up to ₹25,000 providing enhanced value for women customers. The launch of ICICI Pru iProtect Smart Her is supported by the Company's digital capabilities, enabling customers to enjoy a seamless purchase journey, convenient self-service options and a hassle-free claims process.

TELANGANA HC UPHOLDS CANCELLATION OF PATANJALI'S PALM OIL ZONE

Hyderabad: The Telangana High Court upheld the state government's decision to cancel an oil palm factory zone in Suryapet district allotted to Patanjali Foods Limited, holding that the company failed to set up a processing unit within the agreed timeframe despite repeated extensions. A division bench of Chief Justice Apareesh Kumar Singh and Justice GM Mohiuddin dismissed Patanjali's appeal against an earlier single-judge ruling that had upheld the cancellation. The court also found the company's performance in meeting plantation targets in the zone unsatisfactory, with only about 14 per cent of the proposed area actually covered. "Admittedly, the appellant failed to establish the processing unit within the stipulated period and continued to remain in default despite repeated opportunities and extensions afforded by the respondents," the court observed, holding that the company could not expect the allotment to continue indefinitely in the face of its own admitted failure to meet its obligations. Background of dispute Patanjali has been engaged in oil palm cultivation in the state since 2009, initially through MAC Oil Palm Limited, which was later



merged into the company. In 2017, it signed a second memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the state government. Under that agreement, the company was required to set up an oil palm processing unit within 24 months and to identify and finalise a site for it within two years of receiving the final allotment order. The company was later allotted additional areas in Nalgonda and Suryapet districts, and in June 2021 gave a sworn undertaking to abide by the MOA's terms for those extended areas, an affidavit that expressly acknowledged that failing to comply could result in forfeiture of its deposit and cancellation of the factory zone. Authorities issued a first show-cause notice in December 2022, alleging the company had missed its plantation targets and failed to build the required processing mill. Further notices

followed in December 2023 and October 2024. Patanjali blamed the delays on a shortage of planting material, deficit rainfall and price fluctuations. It said in early 2025 that it had bought 16.24 acres in Nalgonda district for the mill. The state cancelled the Suryapet factory zone through a government order dated March 15, 2025, and re-allotted the zone to another party the same day. Patanjali challenged both orders. Patanjali's arguments rejected Before the division bench, Patanjali argued that the MOA permitted cancellation only where a company failed to furnish information and documents sought by the Commissioner of Horticulture and that failing to build a processing mill within 24 months did not by itself justify cancellation. It relied on a separate clause requiring companies that have not yet begun process-

ing to keep buying Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFB) from farmers at government-notified rates and transport them to the nearest processing unit at their own cost. This requirement, it said, was met by procuring FFBs from Suryapet farmers and processing them at its unit in Andhra Pradesh. The court rejected this, holding that the two clauses operate in "distinct fields" – one protects farmers by ensuring their produce continues to be bought while a mill is pending, while the other provides for regulatory consequences when a company fails to show it is taking effective steps to meet its obligations. "The requirement of furnishing information and documents is not an end in itself but serves the purpose of enabling the Commissioner to satisfy himself that the occupier is taking effective steps towards fulfilment of the obligations," the bench said, holding that all the clauses had to be read together as part of an "integrated contractual framework." Patanjali also argued that time was not of the essence in the contract, pointing to the state having allowed it to continue operating past the deadline and issuing repeated notices instead of cancelling outright.

L&T BAGS MEGA ORDER TO BUILD INDIA'S LARGEST AI FACILITY



New Delhi: Infrastructure major Larsen & Toubro (L&T) on Thursday, August 13, said it has secured an order ranging between Rs 10,000 and Rs 15,000 crore to build the country's largest single-cluster artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure facility, marking the company's foray into the AI Factory business. Through its AI infrastructure arm, LTN Compute, and L&T's AI and data centre business, Vyoma.AI, L&T will set up an NVIDIA B300-based AI Factory at its Chennai data centre campus to power the AI-native cloud platform of the US-based Together AI. The AI Factory will power the AI-native cloud platform for large-scale inference, fine-tuning and training workloads, strengthening India's AI infrastructure ecosystem while supporting global innovation, L&T said in a statement. L&T has not revealed the exact value of the order. However, under

its order classification, a 'mega order' ranges between Rs 10,000 and 15,000 crore. Vyoma's Chennai data centre campus, conceived as a gigawatt-scale AI infrastructure site, has been designed with Phase 1 capacity of 250 MW and power infrastructure readiness of 150 MVA, laying a scalable foundation for future AI Factory expansion. The integrated AI Factory, with a capacity of 10,000 NVIDIA B300 GPUs, will be hosted at Vyoma's Chennai data centre, the statement added. The platform combines hyperscale data centre infrastructure, accelerated computing, high-performance networking, ultra-low-latency interconnects, high-throughput parallel storage and AI infrastructure operations, enabling customers to seamlessly deploy and scale AI workloads through a unified, end-to-end AI infrastructure stack.

Indriya announces Krithi Shetty as Brand Ambassador for Southern Markets; unveils Varalakshmi campaign

Hyderabad, August 2026: Indriya, Aditya Birla Jewellery, today announced actor Krithi Shetty as its Brand Ambassador, ahead of the festive season. Krithi brings with her a deep cultural connect with regions of AP, Telangana and Karnataka while she is a youth icon at an overall level. Marking this milestone, Krithi also takes centre stage as the face of Indriya's Varalakshmi campaign, a celebration of one of the most significant festive occasions across the South and the beginning of the festive season. Rooted in the themes of prosperity, devotion and togetherness, the campaign honours Goddess Lakshmi in every home while bringing alive Indriya's festive jewellery collection inspired by cherished traditions and contemporary design. Inspired by the traditions and symbolism that define the festive season, Indriya's temple jewellery collection reimagines heritage-inspired artistry through a contemporary lens, celebrating iconic design elements such as intricate nakkashi craftsmanship, Goddess Lakshmi



motifs, blooming lotuses, graceful peacocks, kasu-inspired elements and temple-inspired detailing. Crafted in rich antique gold finishes and accented with vibrant coloured stones, the collection spans statement necklaces, earrings, bangles, armlets, kamarbandhs and rings, bringing together timeless craftsmanship, contemporary silhouettes and versatile styling for every festive celebration. At the heart of the campaign is a new brand film featuring Krithi Shetty, set against the backdrop of festive preparations for Varalakshmi. The film

captures a heartfelt moment as Krithi chooses a gold necklace for her mother-in-law, a gesture of love, gratitude and admiration for the woman who enriches her life in countless ways. Capturing the emotions, rituals and shared moments that make the festive season so memorable, the film brings alive the thought of gifting gold to the one who is truly golden. Shantiswarup Panda, Head of Marketing & Visual Merchandising, Indriya, said, "Varalakshmi marks the beginning of one of the most culturally significant periods for us across the

Southern markets where jewellery is deeply intertwined with celebrations, family traditions and expressions of faith. As a brand, we wanted this campaign to reflect that authenticity rather than simply celebrate the occasion. Krithi has already built a strong affinity with audiences through her association with Indriya, and this campaign allows us to deepen that connection in a way that feels both culturally rooted and refreshingly contemporary. Through our festive collection and the campaign that brings it to life, we hope to inspire a new generation of consumers to celebrate traditions with jewellery that honours heritage while embracing modern design." Krithi Shetty said, "Traditions and cultural values have always been an integral part of my upbringing, and festivals continue to hold a special place in my life. They are a time for family, gratitude and togetherness, and this campaign beautifully captures that spirit. What I love about Indriya is the way it embraces culture not just as inspiration, but as a part of its story."

Mobavenue AI Tech Q1 FY2027 Revenue Up 56.9%, EBITDA Up 77%, Margins Expand 240 bps and Profit Nearly Doubles

Mumbai, August 2026: Mobavenue AI Tech Limited (BSE: 539682), a global AI-powered advertising and consumer growth technology company, today reported a 56.9% rise in revenue to ₹728 mn for the quarter ended 30th June 2026. Profit after tax nearly doubled to ₹117 mn and EBITDA rose 77% to ₹154mn, at a margin of 21.2%. Profit grew far faster than revenue as the software-led model added scale without a matching rise in cost. The quarter also saw the launch of the Mobavenue Neural Engine, the AI layer that will run across the Company's AI-powered AdTech & consumer operating system.

Financial Performance

Particulars (Rs. in million)
Q1 FY2027 and Q1 FY2026 figures above are unaudited and consolidated. Q4 FY2026 figures are unaudited quarterly figures derived from the audited annual results for FY2026. Growth came from strong demand from direct advertisers in fast-growing sectors such as Quick



Commerce, BFSI, Fintech and Retail, and from global clients won through the Company's reseller and agency channel. Direct clients accounted for 65.2% of revenue. International markets contributed 20.7%, up from 11.5% in FY2026, with India at 79.3%. Revenue grew faster than data and operating costs, lifting margins at both the EBITDA and profit level.

Sequentially, EBITDA margin remained flat at 21.2%, while PAT margin rose 270 basis points to 16.1%, helped in part by higher other income of ₹22mn.

AI AT THE CORE

The Mobavenue Neural Engine is a single AI layer that runs across the entire advertising process, from planning and execution to creative and reporting. It

allows a marketer to go from a campaign plan to a live campaign in under 59 seconds. It will be progressively embedded across the Company's platforms over the coming quarters, improving decisions and results across its A3 framework of Awareness, Acquisition and Activation.

What sets the model apart is ownership. Mobavenue built its platform stack in-house and does not rely on third-party advertising platforms, so the intelligence sits inside the infrastructure rather than on top of it. The system processes over 1.3 bn consented consumer and campaign signals every day and makes each bid decision in under 15 milliseconds, against an industry DSP decisioning benchmark of around 50 milliseconds. Its models retrain on more than 50 terabytes of behavioural and contextual data in about an hour, compared with the 10 to 12 hours it took earlier. More signals improve the models, better models deliver better outcomes, and better outcomes attract more advertiser spend.

"THE THOUGHT OF PLAYING FOR INDIA PUMPS ME UP": CWG 2026 GOLD MEDALIST BOXER SAKSHI CHAUDHARY

Commonwealth Games gold medalist Sakshi Chaudhary said that she has already shifted her attention to the Asian Games 2026, with the Indian boxer determined to build on her impressive campaign in Glasgow and challenge for another major international title. Sakshi produced a dominant performance in the women's 51kg boxing category at the Commonwealth Games, defeating England's Ruby White 5-0 in the final to claim the gold medal. The Indian remained unbeaten throughout the competition and maintained a perfect 5-0 unanimous-decision record from the pre-quarterfinals through to the final. Her gold medal-winning performance in Glasgow was built on sharp movement, composed defence, accurate combinations and intelligent tactical adjustments. Against White in the final, Sakshi controlled the con-



test from the opening bell and secured a unanimous victory, with the judges' scorecards reading 30-27, 29-28, 30-27, 30-26 and 30-27. The triumph has given Sakshi further confidence ahead of the Asian Games, which are scheduled to begin in Japan on September 19. "Winning a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games is a dream come true moment for me. And now my complete focus is on the Asian Games. These are the platforms that I have always aimed at, and I want to give the best of my abilities,"

Sakshi said. The boxer added that representing India remains her biggest source of motivation and helps her push herself to improve with every bout. "I play for my country. This constant thought pumps me up and gives me the strength and courage to do better than the last match I played," she added. Sakshi said she would immediately begin preparations for the Asian Games and use the lessons from her Commonwealth Games campaign to further sharpen her game.

"HE MOTIVATES US":

Lovlina Borgohain Expresses Delight At Meeting PM Narendra Modi

Indian boxer Lovlina Borgohain, who won a silver medal at the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, expressed her happiness at meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and opened up about receiving praise for her stand concerning the Indian map at a restaurant in Glasgow. She also expressed sadness over the floods in Assam. Borgohain met PM Modi during her interaction with India's medal winners at his residence. Speaking to ANI, Borgohain said she was happy to meet PM Modi again and lauded his personal encouragement and support for athletes. She said it was her sixth meeting with him and noted that athletes today are fortunate to have such opportunities, unlike in earlier generations. "After the Commonwealth Games, I came back home and went to meet the flood victims here. At that time, an invitation for a meeting with PM sir also came, so I had to go there quickly. And I felt very good meeting him, like every time. I met him for the sixth time. I also met him during the Olympics, every Commonwealth



Games, Asian Games. I meet him every time. So it feels very good, the way he motivates us and supports us. Athletes of earlier times would never have thought they could meet the Prime Minister. But we are very lucky that we are able to meet him. After every competition, he talks to us so personally," she said. PM Modi also asked Borgohain about the incident at a Glasgow restaurant, where she had objected to a distorted Indian map after noticing it during her visit.

Borgohain said PM Modi praised her for her stand, adding that his appreciation and recognition of her efforts to help flood victims made her feel proud and happy. "He also gave me a lot of praise on the India map issue at the Glasgow restaurant. I felt very good about that. He also said that I came from there and came to meet the flood victims. And he said very good things about me, so I am feeling very happy because when the Prime Minister of the country says good

things about you, it is a very different feeling. It feels very good," she said. Borgohain met Assam flood-affected victims in Golaghat on August 8 and expressed concern over the prevailing situation, describing the destruction as severe. Borgohain said she was deeply saddened by videos of the Assam floods while she was in Glasgow and tried to help in whatever way she could. She praised the support from the government and others but expressed concern over the devastation and urged that the crisis end soon so affected people could rebuild their lives. "I was in Glasgow, and when I was watching videos from there, I was feeling very bad. We cannot tell how bad we feel because it is not easy for anyone to see their own people in this state. So I tried, from there, whatever was possible for me. Because this is such a big problem, we don't know when it will be solved either. So many people are coming and helping; it feels like our CM sir is involved in it day and night. So one thing that feels good is that everyone has support.

SVIS Scores Triple Success, Qualifies Three Teams for CBSE National Volleyball Championship

Tirupati, August 2026: Sri Vidyanikethan International School (SVIS), Tirupati, founded by Dr. M. Mohan Babu, renowned actor, educationist, and Founder-Chairman of the Sri Vidyanikethan Educational Trust, has achieved a remarkable milestone by qualifying three volleyball teams for the CBSE National Volleyball Championship. Following their championship-winning performances at the Andhra Pradesh-Telangana Zone (CBSE Cluster VII), the U-17 Boys, U-19 Boys, and U-19 Girls teams will now represent the Andhra Pradesh-Telangana Cluster at the national championship. The CBSE Cluster VII Volleyball Championship was held across two venues, with the U-17 Boys and U-19 Boys competitions hosted in Gadwal, while the U-19 Girls competition took place in Anantapur. The tournament brought together leading CBSE schools from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, with teams



competing for a place at the national championship. Guided by Dr. Suman, Director of Physical Education, and Head Coach Mr. Ajit, the three SVIS volleyball teams displayed exceptional skill, teamwork, and determination throughout the tournament, earning qualification for the prestigious CBSE National Championships. The SVIS

Boys Volleyball Teams will compete in the CBSE National Boys Volleyball Championship, to be held in October at Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh. The SVIS Girls Volleyball Team has qualified for the CBSE National Girls Volleyball Championship, scheduled to be held in October at Ludhiana, Punjab. Commenting on the achievement,

Vinay Maheshwari, ED and Trustee, SVIS, said, "Qualifying three teams for the CBSE National Volleyball Championship is a proud moment for the entire Sri Vidyanikethan family. This achievement reflects the dedication and discipline of our students, the relentless efforts of our coaches, and the unwavering support of our parents and faculty. At SVIS, we believe sports play a vital role in shaping leadership, teamwork, and resilience, and we are delighted to see our students excel on such a prestigious platform. We wish our teams every success as they represent the Andhra Pradesh-Telangana Cluster at the national championship." Equipped with modern classrooms, advanced laboratories, world-class sports infrastructure, and experiential learning facilities, SVIS provides an environment that nurtures academic excellence and holistic development.

Neeraj Chopra, Pullela Gopichand Launch Indian School Of Coaching Excellence

Javelin ace Neeraj Chopra and badminton great Pullela Gopichand on Thursday launched the Indian School of Coaching Excellence, an initiative aimed at strengthening India's coaching landscape and sports ecosystem. ISCE will focus on developing world-class coaches through multidisciplinary coach-development programmes. The programmes will integrate areas such as physical literacy, sports science, sports education, technology, and career development, equipping coaches with the knowledge and skills needed to meet the evolving demands of high-performance sport. "It (ISCE) will serve as a collaborative knowledge-sharing platform, working closely with government bodies, SAI, sports federations, associations, high-perform-



ance centres, academic institutions, and the private sector to advance coaching excellence across India," said a release. Chopra, who recently won a silver medal at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, said coaches play an integral role in every athlete's journey and stressed the need for a robust ecosystem to develop and nurture quality coaches in the country. "I

firmly believe that every athlete's journey is shaped by the guidance and nurturing of his/her coach, not only as a sportsperson but also as an individual. Hence, in order to create the next generation of sports heroes in India, it is extremely important that our coaches have access to world-class education, mentorship, and the latest knowledge in sports science and athlete development.

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S CRICKET STAR ASHLEIGH GARDNER BREAKS SILENCE AMID EXPLOSIVE AFFAIR CLAIMS

Australia women's cricket team vice-captain Ashleigh Gardner finally reacted to the controversy surrounding her separation from estranged wife Monica Wright. Wright alleged that Gardner had an affair with teammate Georgia Vull and that ultimately led to their separation. Wright went on to slam Cricket Australia (CA) for not taking action against Gardner and allowing her to hold a leadership position in the team. Gardner took to social media to thank CA for the support and said that her separation with Wright is a personal matter. She added that she will not be making any further public statements about the subject. "While my separation from my wife is a personal matter, I understand my current relationship status needed to be addressed by Cricket Australia given my



position as vice-captain. I am grateful that the CA Board has chosen to support my continued leadership. I look forward to playing a strong role as a leader and providing the best possible support for my teammates in the season to come. I am grateful for the time Monica and shared and sorry for the pain this has caused. I wish her nothing but happiness and success in the future. I won't be making any further

public comment on this matter at this time and ask that the privacy of those involved is respected," Gardner posted on her Instagram story. Earlier, Wright demanded the authorities to strip Gardner of the vice-captaincy role. "I think if you're privileged enough to represent your country and be seen as a role model, there's a responsibility to hold yourself to a high moral standard.

INDIA PULL OUT OF ASEAN CUP TO PRIORITISE BRAZIL FRIENDLY

India have withdrawn from the inaugural FIFA ASEAN Cup, opting to prioritise their high-profile international friendly against five-time world champions Brazil in October. All India Football Federation (AIFF) deputy secretary general M Satyanarayanan said on Thursday. India's withdrawal from the upcoming tournament also means they will miss the opportunity to face some of Southeast Asia's leading sides in a FIFA-sanctioned competition. "We have pulled out of the FIFA ASEAN Cup since we can't play both Brazil and FIFA ASEAN Cup," Satyanarayanan told PTI. The inaugural tournament was conceived as a new international competition for teams from the ASEAN



region, with India invited as one of the non-ASEAN participants. India had initially accepted FIFA's invitation to participate in the new tournament and were subsequently drawn in Division 1 Group A alongside Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. The competition is scheduled to be played during the September 21-October 6 FIFA international win-

dow. However, India's commitment to play Brazil on October 3 at Kolkata's Salt Lake Stadium created a scheduling clash. The AIFF had earlier explored the possibility of fielding a separate or developmental squad in the ASEAN Cup, but has now opted to withdraw altogether and use the international window for friendlies. The match against Brazil was officially announced last month.

Fearless Madjo, 17, ends eight-month wait with eye-catching Villa debut



After eight months in limbo, the outcome was worth the wait for Brian Madjo. Aston Villa may have lost the Uefa Super Cup 2-1 to Paris St-Germain in Salzburg on Wednesday but the striker made an impressive impact after finally getting the chance to showcase his talent. After initially joining from Metz in January, the 17-year-old ended the frustration which has built during his 212-day wait for competitive action with a grand entrance. An England Under-17 international, the bruising forward will naturally grab more headlines if he maintains the level he found in Austria against the back-to-back Champions League winners. Villa were barred from registering the teenager by Fifa until they won an appeal through the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) at the start of this month. He was unleashed against PSG -

and quickly repaid the faith shown by boss Unai Emery. Villa had fought since the start of the year to register the 6ft 4in Madjo following his £10m arrival from Metz. Under-18 players cannot complete international transfers, but the club argued that since Madjo was born in London he should be exempt - despite having three caps for Luxembourg in friendlies. Since those games, he accepted an England Under-17 call up last year and has four goals in nine appearances, scoring on his debut against Venezuela. With England searching for their next No.9 once Harry Kane eventually retires, Madjo could force himself into the conversation in the coming years. Fifa does allow some exemptions for minor players to make moves, including if a 16 or 17-year-old transfers within the European Union - something the UK is no longer part of.

Hodgkinson into 800m final and Werro through despite nasty fall

Keely Hodgkinson's bid for European gold continued as she stormed into the final of the women's 800m - moments after rival Audrey Werro suffered a dramatic fall that put her place in Friday's showpiece in doubt. Werro - who ran the fastest time for 43 years earlier this season - led from the start in the first semi-final, but crashed to the floor on the final bend in Birmingham. The Swiss 22-year-old got back to her feet a moment later and finished the race in last place, grimacing and clutching her chest. However, Werro will

race against Hodgkinson in a highly anticipated final following a successful appeal, with footage showing France's Anaïs Bourgoïn had hit Werro's right foot with her left hand. An earlier angle had appeared to show Werro clipping her own leg before falling. There was less drama in the second semi-final, with Hodgkinson safely crossing the line first in one minute 57.38 seconds. The Olympic champion led from the start and held off the fast-improving Femke Broeders-Bol - a two-time world 400m hurdles champion who chose to switch

events this season - to advance. Asked if she had seen Werro's fall before her race, Hodgkinson told BBC TV: "I heard an 'ooh' [from the crowd] which is never a good sign. I don't know what it looked like." Speaking before Werro's appeal, Hodgkinson added: "Obviously it's a real shame and I hope she's OK. 'I hope she's in the final tomorrow [Friday], that'd be a really exciting race." The women's 800m has become the must-watch event of the championships because of the expected three-way battle between Hodgkinson, Werro and Broeders-Bol.



“I WAS IN TEARS AFTER WATCHING AGADHA. – KAMAKSHI BHASKARLA

Everyone is familiar with Kamakshi Bhaskarla's choice of films and stories, as well as the success she has been achieving. Known for taking up content-driven projects, Kamakshi Bhaskarla is now gearing up for the release of Agadha, which is set to hit the screens tomorrow (August 14). The film is produced by Kashi Visalakshi Balusu under the Sri Adi Varaha Productions banner, presented by Ajay KR, and directed by M.S. Raju. Alongside Kamakshi Bhaskarla, the film features Shravan Reddy, Ulka Gupta, Jovika Vijaykumar, Bhanu Chander, Shiju, Vanitha Vijayakumar, Roshan Basheer, Shreya Rani Reddy, Viva Raghava, Robert Master, Arna Muller and Kanakavva in key roles.

Ahead of the film's release on Friday, Kamakshi Bhaskarla interacted with the media. Here are some highlights from her conversation.

Shyam Prasad Reddy compared you with Anushka. How do you feel about it?

I felt very happy that such a senior producer compared me with Anushka. Being compared to Anushka garu by someone like him makes me feel even more responsible (laughs).

Tell us about the costumes in Agadha.

Everything in Agadha can be attributed to Raju garu's vision. He wanted everything to look different from the very beginning. I initially found it a little difficult to carry myself in

that kind of saree. Tell us about the action sequences in Agadha.

We conducted workshops and rehearsals well in advance for the action sequences in Agadha. Of course, minor difficulties on set are natural. But the entire team worked together very hard, and that helped us achieve a great output.

What were the challenges you faced during your journey with Agadha?

It took me some time to transform myself for the role of Mahadevi. I had to put Kamakshi aside and even set aside my own principles to completely adapt myself to the character, and that was challenging. Mahadevi is a character that is born out of divine grace. I read books on Buddhism and learned about black

magic. I studied every mudra and understood the character's mannerisms and behaviour before portraying her. I took great care to ensure that Kamakshi should not be visible anywhere in the film.

How did you feel when you received a call from M.S. Raju garu?

I really like M.S. Raju garu's films. Among his movies, Manasantha Nuvve is an all-time favourite of mine. So, when he called me for Agadha, I was extremely happy. He told me that he had watched my film Polimera. Every artist in his films comes across as very powerful, and I really admire that quality. You became emotional while recalling your nine-year journey when talking about female-centric films. Why did you get so emotional?



Everyone liked the content of 'Hushar Pittalu'. - Producer Venkat Yadav



Ansh and Vasavi Ganesan starrer 'Hushar Pittalu' is a youthful entertainer. Produced by Venkat Yadav under the banner of Rudra

Kranthi Pictures, presented by Padma Amma and BVG Studios, the film is directed by Bikshu. The film is being released on a grand scale on August 15 by leading pro-

duction houses Asian Suresh Films. In this context, a pre-release event was organized on Thursday. Beckem Venugopal was the chief guest for this event.

KHUSHI KAPOOR'S FAIRYTALE LOOK STEALS THE SHOW

Khushi Kapoor, days after her sister Janhvi Kapoor secured similar protection, has now been granted relief by the Delhi High Court against obscene content and unauthorised merchandise using her identity. Justice Jyoti Singh passed the directions while hearing Kapoor's suit seeking protection of her personality and publicity rights, with the court ordering the removal of allegedly obscene and pornographic content concerning the actress from social media platforms, along with content linked to unauthorised merchandise sales using her personality attributes. On the fashion front, Khushi recently turned heads in a blush-pink shimmery lehenga set featuring a heavily embellished bustier blouse, a matching sheer cape sleeve, and a floral-embroidered skirt, finished off with a quirky rose-shaped potli bag, proving her style game is as strong as ever, court battles notwithstanding.



Masthugundira Yavvaram song from Nenu Ready released in grand style

Young hero Havish is all set to entertain audiences with a full-fledged entertainer directed by hit filmmaker Trinadha Rao Nakkina. The film has already generated considerable interest among moviegoers.

Presented by Satyanarayana Koneru and produced by Nikhila Koneru, the film features Kavya Thapar as the female lead opposite Havish. Following the positive response to the promotional posters, two songs, and other promotional content released so far, the makers unveiled the much-awaited song "Masthugundira Yavvaram" on Thursday at Kaloji Kala Kshethram, Hanamkonda, with Warangal MLA Sri Nayani Rajender Reddy launching the song.

A high-energy romantic entertainer, the song has been penned by Kasarla Shyam. The catchy tune, energetic beats, beautiful visuals, and the chemistry between Havish and Kavya Thapar add to the song's appeal. In particular, the Telangana slang lyrics beginning with "Masthugundira Yavvaram..." are expected to strike a chord with the youth. Director Trinadha Rao Nakkina presents Havish in a brand-new look while bringing his signature family-entertaining style to the film. The makers revealed that the movie gives equal



importance to comedy, romance, and engaging elements designed to appeal to family audiences.

Meanwhile, the songs "Konchem Konchem Kothaga" and "Merupule Merupule" have already created a sensation on social media. The songs have crossed 50 million views and received an overwhelming response from audiences. Bollywood sensation Nargis Fakhri added glamour to one of the songs, which has also received tremendous appreciation on social media.

With the team consistently coming up with innovative promotional content and raising expectations around the film, the latest release of "Masthugundira Yavvaram" has created even more buzz among audiences.

Mass Maharaja Ravi Teja, Shiva Nirvana, Mythri Movie Makers' Irumudi Telugu-Tamil Trailer Released

Mass Maharaja Ravi Teja's much-awaited film Irumudi is steadily building anticipation ahead of its theatrical release on August 21st. Directed by Shiva Nirvana and produced by Mythri Movie Makers, the film has already generated considerable interest with its glimpse and songs, offering audiences a peek into its world and characters. The makers have now taken the excitement a notch higher with the theatrical trailer, which was unveiled today in Telugu and Tamil languages.

For the first time, the trailer gives a clear picture of the film's core storyline. Ravi Teja plays a middle-class family man who takes great care of his wife and daughter. His affection, however, extends beyond his own fam-



ily, as he treats every girl in his village like his own daughter. When something happens to any of them, his protective instinct turns into uncontrollable aggres-

sion. His biggest weakness is his addiction to alcohol. At the same time, he wears the Ayyappa mala every year, transforming into a completely different and peace-

ful person during that period. When a series of girls are mysteriously killed in the village, the central question is whether he can put an end to the violence.

DANGAL GIRL IS UNSTOPPABLE ON COVER MAGAZINE

Fatima Sana Shaikh, who rose to fame with her performance in Dangal, is currently missing from the big screen this year. After a busy 2025 that saw her in multiple Bollywood projects, the actress has taken a step back from film releases in 2026. But that hasn't stopped her from staying in the spotlight. The actress recently graced the cover of Femina magazine, and her photoshoot has taken social media by storm. Fatima was seen in a striking lime green ruffled dress with her hair left open in soft waves, giving off a bold yet effortless vibe. The shoot's theme, "Keeping It Real," perfectly captured her personality. The shoot wrapped up with a sleek black strapless mini, proving Fatima can pull off both playful and sultry with equal ease. No new film

this year, but going by this cover, Fatima Sana Shaikh clearly hasn't taken a single day off from being a style icon. Shaikh revealed that her struggles began during the shooting of Dangal, when she had to gain significant weight for her role. She trained intensely — three hours a day — and consumed roughly 2,500-3,000 calories daily to bulk up. But once the film ended, her routine collapsed — her food intake stayed high, but she was no longer burning as many calories. That sudden shift became emotionally destabilizing. Over time, for Fatima, food turned into a coping mechanism. She described it as her "comfort space," where she could eat continuously for hours. She admitted she "operates in extremes" — one day she would binge, the next she would starve.

