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NATIONAL | NEWS

President Murmu to honour 21 higher education teachers on Teachers' Day

WORLD | NEWS

US envoy walks back his comments on Golan Heights that contradicted Trump's position



CINEMA | NEWS

Ravi Teja thanks audience for Irumudi blockbuster success



SCAN FOR E-PAPER



OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

23-08-2026
Total pilgrims: 81,553
Tonsures: 34,483
Hanul kamahala: 4,17 CR
Ladies sala: 3,05 Lac
Annaprasadam: 2,08 Lac
Ammal hospital: 3,092
Present Situation on 24-08-2026:
Waiting Compartments:-17

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam
(with out SSD Tokens): 8-10 H.

Short Takes

Rs 4 lac bounty PLA militant arrested in Manipur

Imphal: Assam Rifles and Manipur Police have apprehended a senior militant of the outlawed People's Liberation Army (PLA), carrying a Rs 4 lakh bounty, in a joint counter-insurgency operation in Manipur, officials said on Sunday. A defence spokesperson said self-styled PLA Captain Thiyam Boycha Singh alias Balin, 28, was arrested from Ushoipokpi in Thoubal district on Saturday night. The operation was launched following intelligence developed by the Assam Rifles indicating the militant's presence in Bishnupur district. Security forces subsequently conducted a targeted search operation on Saturday evening and intercepted the suspected PLA cadre.

US proposes hike in H-1B visa, to affect Indians

Washington (TSIT) The US on Monday proposed a USD 1,03,265 fee for all H-1B visa cap-subject applications, including those eligible for the advanced degree exemption, the Department of Homeland Security said. The new proposal from the DHS came a month after a federal appeals court rejected a plea to stay a district judge's order overturning the Trump administration plan to charge a USD 1,00,000 fee for H-1B visa applications. "...DHS proposes to implement the USD 1,03,265 amount as a separate, additional H-1B fee rather than combining it with the existing H-1B petition fee," according to a notice published in the Federal Register. It said the fee would apply only to H-1B cap-subject petitions, including those eligible for the advanced degree exemption, but not to cap-exempt filings.

Four-member Hindu family found dead in locked Rangpur

Dhaka, Aug 23: A retired Hindu school teacher, his wife, daughter and 12-year-old son were found dead inside their locked home in Rangpur city, in circumstances that have prompted a police investigation. The bodies were recovered around 11.30 p.m. on Saturday from a house in the Daspara (Machhuapara) area. Rangpur Metropolitan Kotwali Police Station Officer-in-Charge Nazmul Kader said police entered the locked house and recovered the bodies, according to The Daily Star.

CM Revanth slams centre over denial of US visit

Hyderabad, TSIT Bureau:

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the Centre's refusal to grant clearance for his proposed visit to the United States, alleging political discrimination against Telangana. Addressing a press conference at the State Secretariat, Revanth Reddy demanded that the Centre disclose the "political reasons" for denying permission for the US leg of his proposed foreign tour. He said clearance was granted for his visit to England, while the US trip was not approved despite the State government providing details of the proposed programmes.

The Chief Minister compared the decision with the Centre's approval for Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel's US and Canada visit for investment-related programmes and alleged that Telangana was being treated differently. Revanth Reddy said denying permission to Telangana's Chief Minister was against the federal spirit and an insult to the people of the State. He alleged that the Centre feared Telangana could overtake Gujarat in attracting investments. He said Telangana MPs



would raise the issue in Parliament and asserted that the denial would not affect the State's development agenda. He announced that the Telangana Global Summit 2026 would be held on December 8 and 9 under Invest Telangana to attract investments in sectors including education and sports.

"The Centre may block our tour, but it cannot stop Telangana from achieving its development goals," he said.

Modi urges private sector to make India global space hub

New Delhi (TSIT): Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said India has the potential to emerge as a global leader in the space sector and called on private companies to build an ecosystem capable of attracting international talent, investment and innovation. Modi made the remarks during an interaction with chief executive officers and founders of 20 private space companies. The meeting was held on Friday, with details released on Sunday, which is observed as National Space Day to commemorate the successful soft landing of the Vikram lander during the Chandrayaan-3 mission.

Modi said India could become a global hub for space startups by leveraging its cost competitiveness, large domestic talent pool and growing private-sector capabilities. "We must create such an aura that people all over the world feel that if they want to build their life, they should come to Hindustan. Join some Indian start-up. Join some Indian space agency," he said.

India opened its space sector to private participation in 2020, allowing companies and startups to participate across areas including satellites, launch sys-



tems and space applications. The Indian Space Policy 2023 further expanded private participation across the space value chain. According to government figures, the number of private space startups in India has increased from just one in 2014 to 440 currently.

Modi told the entrepreneurs that the government had sought to create an environment of trust and consistency to encourage private companies to take risks and invest in new areas.

"My view has always been that whatever decisions we take, we must remain consistent in them... so that anyone who wants to take a risk can have confidence," he said. The global space industry is estimated to be worth around \$600 billion, while India's current share stands at about \$9 billion.

interaction.

The companies outlined plans for developing advanced space technologies, including robotic spacecraft capable of removing defunct satellites from orbit, docking and refuelling systems aimed at creating space-based fuel stations, and technologies for manufacturing pharmaceuticals in space and bringing them back to Earth.

Skyroot Aerospace, which conducted India's first private rocket launch in July, described the achievement as the beginning of its plans to increase launch frequency and expand its operations. Modi said successful breakthroughs by Indian space startups would attract global attention and encourage further investment in the sector. The CEOs also discussed applications of space technology beyond rocket launches, including global ground-station networks, advanced propulsion systems and satellite-based solutions for agriculture and other sectors. They highlighted increasing international contracts, growing investor confidence and expanding opportunities in overseas markets, supported by government measures to promote exports and open up India's space sector.

CJP announces peaceful march in Delhi on Sep 5 over Centre's unfulfilled promises

New Delhi (TSIT) : The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) on Monday announced a peaceful protest march in the national capital on September 5, accusing the Centre of failing to honour commitments made to young people on July 25.

In a statement, the CJP said it would mobilise young people for a peaceful march from India Gate to the new Delhi Police Headquarters. The protest will be led by the families of deceased NEET victims and victims of alleged police brutality. "CJP announces youth mobilisation on September 5th, with a peaceful march from India Gate to Delhi Police Headquarters, led by families of deceased NEET victims and victims of police brutality, over the Government's failure to honour its July 25 commitments," it said in the statement.



"The National Working Committee of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) convened today to review the Government of India and BJP/NDA ruled states' compliance with the solemn commitments made to the young people of this country on 25 July 2026, on the basis of

which the nationwide youth protests were withdrawn in good faith. Members of the Committee expressed serious doubts over whether the Government intends to honour its word at all."

The party alleged that, instead of implementing the commit-

ments made a month ago, the government had delayed action and avoided providing clear assurances.

"For a month now, instead of implementing what was solemnly promised, the Government has played delay games, hidden behind technicalities, and avoided giving clear commitments even before the Supreme Court of India," the CJP said. Referring to the Supreme Court proceedings on August 18, the party said the court had repeatedly asked the Union Government to provide a list of FIRs registered across the country so that it could consider quashing them collectively. "Yet, the Government refused to give a clear commitment to do so. The written assurance from the Government to the CJP is also due," it added.

Naidu Unveils India's First Non-GMO Popcorn Hybrid Seed



Amaravati (TSIT): Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Monday said agriculture must be transformed from a means of livelihood into a powerful economic sector by turning farmers into entrepreneurs and promoting value addition.

Speaking at an event organised by Gourmet Popcornika at Musunuru near Nuzvid, Naidu, along with Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan, launched what was described as India's first non-GMO popcorn hybrid seed.

Naidu said Gourmet had helped reduce India's dependence on imported popcorn

and saved more than \$125 million in foreign exchange over 11 years. The company, established in 2014, works with 17,500 farmers across eight states, cultivating popcorn on about 40,000 acres and supplying 3,400 cinema theatres.

He stressed the need to process, brand and export agricultural and aqua products to increase farmers' incomes. Only about 10% of the State's aqua exports are currently processed, he said, adding that increasing this to 60-70% could generate employment and boost foreign exchange earnings.

Indian scientists develop 'smart' cancer drug that targets tumour cells



New Delhi (TSIT) : Indian scientists have developed a new smart cancer drug candidate designed to become active primarily inside cancer cells, offering a potentially more targeted approach to cancer treatment and reducing the risk of damage to healthy cells.

The research has been led by Dr Asis Bala of the Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST), an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, in collaboration with Dr K.P. Bhabak of the Indian Institute of

Technology Guwahati.

The drug candidate, named RK-251, is designed to remain relatively inactive in normal tissues and become activated inside cancer cells, according to reports. Conventional cancer treatments can affect healthy cells along with tumour cells, often resulting in significant side effects. The new approach seeks to overcome this limitation by using a biological difference between cancerous and healthy cells as a trigger for drug activation, the report noted.

Cancer cells typically generate higher levels of reactive oxygen species (ROS), molecules that can cause cellular damage but can also be exploited for targeted drug delivery. When RK-251 enters a cancer cell, the elevated ROS levels are designed to trigger activation of the compound, releasing NBDHEX, a potent anticancer agent.

SVIR Special Intensive Revision
25th June, 2026 onwards

Election Commission of India is conducting Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls from 25th June, 2026 onwards to include eligible citizens, and to ensure no ineligible citizen is included in the Electoral Rolls

Check your name in the Draft Electoral Rolls Published on 17.08.2026.

If you don't find your name in the electoral rolls Contact: Booth Level Officer (BLO)/AERO/ERO

Period of filing Claims & Objections: 17.08.2026 to 16.09.2026

Use Form-6
If you are completing 18 yrs. of age by 1st October, 2026, and not registered as a voter in any Assembly constituency. Apply with latest Photo, Age proof etc., & submit declaration form (New Enrollment)

Use Form-7
In case of Objections such as Dead Voters / Duplicate Voters etc., (Deletions)

Use Form-8
If you want to correct your detail, Mobile Number Update, Change of address / Voter ID card (Corrections)

Publication of Final Electoral Rolls: 19-10-2026

Website: <https://voters.eci.gov.in/> / <https://ecinet.eci.gov.in/> / <https://www.eci.gov.in>

For more details contact: Booth Level Officer (BLO)/ AERO/ERO

For further details call **1950** 10.30am - 5pm. Toll Free

Your Vote -Your Responsibility. Update your details in the ELECTORAL ROLLS - Contribute to a robust voter list.

India's First Non-GMO Popcorn Maize Hybrid Seed Launched



TSIT, Visakhapatnam Governor of Andhra Pradesh S. Abdul Nazeer, Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and other dignitaries participated in the launch of India's first high-quality Non-GMO popcorn maize hybrid

seed, developed by Gourmet Popcornica, at Musunuru on Monday. Speaking on the occasion, Governor Abdul Nazeer said agriculture is the mainstay of India's economy and farmers are the backbone of the country. He appreciated Gourmet Popcornica for

developing high-quality popcorn hybrids suited to Indian conditions and supporting thousands of farmers. The Governor expressed confidence that Gourmet Popcornica would emerge as a global Indian brand on the lines of Araku Coffee in the future.

PAVITRA GARLANDS OFFERED in tirumala



Tirumala, 24 August 2026: The three-day annual Pavitrotsavams entered its second day on Monday at Tirumala.

Sacred and colourful Pavitra Malas (Garlands) were offered to the presiding and utsava deities as part of the observance. Historical background

Also known as Sarva Doshopansamana Utsavam (Sin-free festival), Pavitrotsavams were prevalent during the 15th-16th centuries and were reinstated by the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) in 1962.

These utsavams are purification rites and are also described by names such as Dosha Nivarana, Sarva Yagna Phalapradha, Sarva Kamapradha and Sarva Tustikara festival.

Significance of Pavitra Garlands:

The Pavitra Malas are woven out of pure silk threads in black (dark blue), green, yellow, red and white.

These sacred threads are prepared from a high-grade cotton variety.

Rituals performed: Early in the morning, Snapana Tirumanjanam was performed to the utsava deities of Sri Malayappa Swamy, Sridevi and Bhudevi. Following the abhishekam, the Pavitra Malas were adorned on the utsava deities.

Both the Senior and Junior Pontiffs of Tirumala, TTD Executive Officer Sri Muddada Ravi Chandra, Additional EO Sri Ch. Venkaiah Chowdary, Deputy EO Sri Lokanatham, temple staff and devotees were present during the ceremonies

Dinakar Seeks GST Relief for Subabul and Eucalyptus Farmers



TSIT, Visakhapatnam Andhra Pradesh Twenty Point Programme Chairman Lanka Dinakar has urged the Union Government to provide GST relief to farmers cultivating Subabul and Eucalyptus as agro-forestry crops on agricultural

lands. In separate representations to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Union Ministers Piyush Goyal, Dinakar highlighted the difficulties faced by agro-forestry farmers due to the existing GST regime. He said Subabul and

Eucalyptus are mainly supplied as raw material to paper and pulp industries and are cultivated largely by small and marginal farmers.

Dinakar sought nil-rate GST treatment for the crops as agricultural produce. As an interim measure, he urged the Centre to reduce GST from 18 per cent to 5 per cent and constitute a committee comprising farmers, FPOs, industry and government representatives to examine the issue. He said appropriate GST relief would help protect farmer incomes, promote agro-forestry, strengthen domestic raw-material supplies and reduce dependence on imported wood by the paper industry. He appealed to the Centre to consider the issue on priority and place it before the GST Council.

Amaravati Championship-2026 State-Level Competitions Begin with Grandeur at Tirupati Venue

Tirupati, August 24:** The Amaravati Championship-2026 state-level sports competitions were inaugurated with grandeur on Monday at the NTR Stadium in Tirupati and will continue until August 27, said Sports and Transport Minister Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy.

With the message that the government stands as a strong support to sportspersons and that elevating the prestige of the state is the responsibility of the athletes, the Amaravati Championship-2026 state-level competitions commenced in an enthusiastic atmosphere.

The competitions that began on Monday at Tirupati were attended by State Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha, Revenue Minister and Tirupati District In-charge Minister Anagani Satya Prasad, Rajya Sabha Member Sana Satish, MLAs Balli Kalyana Chakravarthy, Kancharla Srikanth and Ram Bhupal Reddy, SAAP Chairman Animini Ravi Naidu, MLAs of Tirupati, Chandragiri, Sathyavedu, Srikalahasti, Sullurpeta, Puthalapattu, Gudur, Kodur and Chittoor - Arani Srinivasulu, Pulivarthi Nani, Adimulam, Bojjala Sudheer Reddy, Nelavala Vijayasri, Murali Mohan, Pasam Sunil, Arava Sridhar and Gurajala Jaganmohan - District Collector Dr. S. Venkateswar, District SP L. Subbarayudu, and other public representatives and officials. Also present were Yadava Corporation Chairman Narasimha Yadav, Clean and Green Beautification Chairman Sugunamma, State Handicrafts Development Corporation Chairman Pasupuleti Hari Prasad, TTD Board Members Panabaka Lakshmi and Banu Prakash, Vanne Kula Kshatriya Chairman C.R. Rajan, various corporation chairmen, Joint Collector R. Govinda Rao, Municipal Commissioner M. Jayakrishna, hockey player Rajani, sportspersons from 26 districts, their parents, coaches, staff, alliance gov-



ernment public representatives and others.

The prestigious multi-sports championship programme taken up by the Andhra Pradesh Government for the development of sports has created a new record. With a large number of students participating in these competitions held across the state, it has officially secured a place in the Asia Book of Records.

Speaking on the occasion, the Sports and Transport Minister said that the Amaravati Championship is being organised with prestige in the state in accordance with the vision of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu. Approximately more than 2,07,000 sportspersons participated in the preliminary competitions held in 175 Assembly constituencies. About 84,000 competed at the district level, and 9,911 talented sportspersons were selected for the state-level competitions. Competitions are being held in 12 sports disciplines in the Under-17 and Under-23 categories. The objective is to identify talented sportspersons at school, intermediate, degree and university levels. Sportspersons who perform excellently in these competitions will be given prize money of Rs.92 lakh along with recognition and incentives. With the cooperation

of the Central Government, Rs.75 crore was allocated in 2025 for the development of sports grounds in the state, and this year funds of approximately Rs.200-250 crore are expected. The government is ready to massively develop sports infrastructure in the state over the next three years. The sports quota reservation has been increased from 2% to 3%, and 382 sports quota posts have been filled through DSC, providing opportunities for teacher jobs, the Minister informed.

Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha said it was a matter of great happiness to inaugurate the Amaravati Championship in the presence of thousands of students and sportspersons at Tirupati. The efforts of SAAP in identifying the sporting talent hidden in the soil of schools and rural areas of the state and bringing them to the state level are commendable. In a situation where sports are being neglected, such competitions are essential to foster sporting spirit among students. Parents should encourage their children to participate in sports, and Physical Education Teachers play a key role in taking students from the village level to the state level. Sports teach discipline; qualities such as punctuality, dietary discipline, commitment and persever-

ance develop in sportspersons. Discipline is essential to reach high positions in IAS, IPS, business or any other field in life. She expressed the hope that at least 10 to 20 per cent of the sportspersons would progress to Olympic level with inspiration from Tirupati. Even if not everyone wins medals, participation and progressing with competitive spirit itself is a great success. She recalled that as part of the priority given by the government to sports, the sports quota job reservation has been increased from 2% to 3%. She called upon students to excel in both studies and sports.

Tirupati District In-charge Minister said that the alliance government is moving forward with the goal of "sports with education - education with jobs." Sports provide physical fitness as well as mental happiness. There is a need to identify the talent hidden in rural areas and take it to national and international levels. The government is taking steps to identify village-level talent through the establishment of sports complexes and sports schools in the state and mould sportspersons to excel at the international level. The government is providing incentives to sportspersons who perform well in Olympics, Asian Games and national-level competitions. The government will also stand by the families of sportspersons, she said.

SAAP Chairman Ravi Naidu said that in the past Tirupati was associated only with the darshan of Lord Sri Venkateswara, but now steps are being taken to make Tirupati a sports hub. Programmes such as the development of Gollavanikunta sports complex, NTR Indoor Stadium at the women's university, renovation of SV University grounds and development of Srinivasa Sports Complex have been taken up. Sportspersons from 175 Assembly constituencies participated in Amaravati Championship-2026 and reached the state level after crossing various stages.

Value-Based Education Key to Building Better Society: TTD Official



Tirupati, August 24: TTD Hindu Dharma Prachara Parishad (DPP) Secretary Dr. Medasani Mohan said value-based education is essential for developing responsible citizens and a better society.

Speaking at the inauguration of the four-day "Sadgamaya" programme at Sri Govindaraja Swamy High School in Tirupati on Monday, Dr. Mohan said

the initiative aims to promote moral values, good conduct, spiritual awareness and knowledge of Sanatana Dharma among students.

He said students would be introduced to teachings from the Vedas, Upanishads, epics, Puranas and Bhagavad Gita, besides the lives of great personalities. The programme seeks to culti-

vate discipline, self-confidence, devotion, truthfulness, patriotism and respect for Indian culture.

Students will learn moral verses, Subhashitas and selected poems and understand their relevance in daily life. Dr. Mohan said the activities would also strengthen memory, concentration, communication skills and moral character.

The programme is being conducted from August 24 to 27 for Classes 8 to 10 students across seven TTD schools in Tirupati and Tirumala. A total of 1,678 students are participating daily from 9 a.m. to 4.45 p.m. Vedic blessings, quizzes and distribution of prizes and educational materials are also part of the programme.

Modernised Chittoor Cooperative Sugar Factory Kalyana Mandapam inaugurated by MP Duggumalla prasaad Rao and MLA Gurujala jagan mohan

Chittoor (TSIT) The modernised Kalyana Mandapam under the auspices of the Chittoor Cooperative Sugar Factory at Doddipalli in Chittoor was inaugurated on Monday by Chittoor Member of Parliament Daggumalla Prasad Rao and Chittoor MLA Gurajala Jaganmohan as the chief guests.

Upon their arrival, the committee members of the Chittoor Cooperative Sugar Factory accorded a warm welcome to the MP and MLA with a poorna kumbham.

Speaking on the occasion at a meeting organised in the Kalyana Mandapam, Chittoor MP Daggumalla Prasad Rao said the modernised Kalyana Mandapam would provide convenient facilities for the



people of Chittoor and surrounding areas to conduct marriages and other auspicious events. He stated that when the Kalyana Mandapam was inspected earlier, officials had made recommendations regarding its condition. In that background, steps were taken not only to protect the institution's assets but

also to appoint the necessary staff for the maintenance of the Kalyana Mandapam. He explained that the programme was taken up with the intention of utilising the income generated by modernising and bringing the Kalyana Mandapam back into use, at least for the payment of staff salaries.

Don't Withhold Student Certificates Over Fee Dues

Hyderabad: A delegation led by RTI Activist Implementation Committee National Chairman Dr. Chanti Mudiraj met Telangana State Council of Higher Education Chairman Prof. V. Balakista Reddy and submitted a representation seeking action against colleges withholding students' original certificates over pending fee reimbursement. The delegation said some colleges were withholding marks memos, degree and provisional certificates and transfer certificates, citing delays in government fee reimbursement.

Dr. Mudiraj said students should not be held responsible for financial disputes between colleges and the government, as withholding certificates could affect their employment, higher education and competitive examination opportunities.

The committee urged the authorities to issue statewide directions for immediate release of certificates and investigate colleges violating the rules.

Sudhakar Reappointed Congress 58th Division President

Hanamkonda, TSIT: Tallapalli Sudhakar has been reappointed as Congress Party president of the 58th Division.

Thanking the party leadership for reposing confidence in him, Sudhakar said he would work with dedication to strengthen the Congress at the grassroots level and take government welfare schemes closer to the people.

He expressed gratitude to TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud, Warangal West MLA Naini Rajender Reddy, Hanamkonda Congress president Inagala Venkat Ram Reddy and other senior leaders and party workers for their support.

Sudhakar said he would take all party workers along and continue to work on people's issues in the division.



Indian EVMs not connected to internet, Bluetooth or Wi-Fi: CEC Gyanesh Kumar

Lucknow (TSIT) Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar on Monday said Indian electronic voting machines (EVMs) are manufactured by public sector companies and do not have internet, Bluetooth, or Wi-Fi connectivity.

During his two-day visit to Lucknow, Kumar interacted with students at the historic Colvin Taluqdars' College and discussed India's democratic system, the electoral process, the reliability of EVMs, and the importance of young voters, according to an official statement.

In response to questions about EVMs, the CEC emphasised that the machines used in India are produced by public sector companies and are not connected to the internet or any wireless technologies. He advised students to verify the sources and authenticity of information before accepting or sharing it, particularly in today's social

media landscape. "Before accepting any information, it is essential to check its source and verify its authenticity," Kumar stated.

Reflecting on his own student days in 1979, he shared fond memories of his teachers and school, highlighting their significant role in shaping his journey. Recalling the period when he was preparing to go to the United States, Kumar said his mother's wish and his attachment to the motherland motivated him to stay in India and pursue public service.

He subsequently cleared the civil services examination and began his administrative career in the Kerala cadre of the Indian Administrative Service. He said his journey in public service eventually led him to the role of Chief Election Commissioner in the world's largest democracy.

Highlighting the scale of India's electoral exercise, Kumar said the



country has around 100 crore voters and conducting elections for such a vast electorate was itself a massive task. Kumar stated that a large number of officials and employees work to ensure the electoral process runs smoothly.

He encouraged young people to actively engage in the democratic process and referred to Article 326 of the Constitution while urging students who have reached the age of 18 to register as voters. The commission provides voter registration facilities through its digital platforms, he said. Kumar also implored young people to not only become voters themselves but also to encourage their family members and peers to participate in elections. "Young people are the most important force behind the democratic future of the country. If they participate in the electoral process with awareness, democracy will become stronger," he said.

SRM University-AP Empowers 1,673 Government School Students



Amaravati: SRM University-AP celebrated Founder's Day by distributing educational kits to 1,673 Class 10 students from 25 government Zilla Parishad and municipal schools in the Mangalagiri constituency. The initiative marked the 88th birth anniversary of the university's Founder Chancellor, Dr.T.R. Paarivendhar, and aimed to support students in their academic journey and Class 10 examination preparation.

The distribution programme was held at the SRM University-AP campus in the presence of Vice Chancellor Prof. Ch. Satish Kumar, Registrar Dr Vinayak Kalluri and other university officials. The educational kits

contained essential learning materials and academic resources. The university's NSS team facilitated transportation and coordinated the participation of the students.

The initiative reflects SRM University-AP's commitment to supporting government schools and strengthening educational opportunities in the surrounding community. Through such programmes, the university aims to encourage students to pursue higher education and future career opportunities.

The Founder's Day celebrations highlighted the institution's focus on education, social responsibility and community engagement.

No Need to Panic Over 22-A Lands Minister Ponguleti srinivas Reddy

Hyderabad, August 24: Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy on Monday urged people not to believe what he described as false propaganda over the Section 22-A prohibited properties list, asserting that the government was taking fast-track measures to resolve genuine grievances.

Addressing a press conference at the State Secretariat, the Minister rejected allegations that lakhs of acres had been newly brought under the prohibited list. He said the government was ready to place complete records before the public, detailing how much land was under Section 22-A, the category of each parcel and the reasons for its inclusion.

Ponguleti said nearly 98 per cent of genuine registrations among eligible booked slots had already been cleared. Genuine 22-A grievances were being examined on a fast-



track basis and could be resolved within 24 to 36 hours after verification.

He said the government's objective was to protect both legitimate private property rights and valuable government land. Where genuine private properties had been wrongly included in the prohibited list, the errors would be corrected, he assured.

Citing Jubilee Hills Survey No. 403, the Minister said only two plots were actually affected, but the entire survey number had at one stage

been reflected in the prohibited list while records were uploaded. The mistake was subsequently rectified.

Ponguleti also cited cases in Sangareddy, Medchal-Malkajgiri and Rangareddy districts to explain why government, assigned, Bhoodan and other disputed lands had to remain protected from unauthorised transactions.

He warned of stringent action against those attempting to register government lands using fake Government Orders,

bogus memos, forged certificates or fabricated signatures of officials. Criminal cases would be registered wherever such fraud was detected, he said.

The Minister said the government would soon take a policy decision to address long-pending Urban Land Ceiling (ULC) issues. Bhoodan-related disputes would be examined on a case-by-case basis. He also expressed readiness for an SIT probe into alleged irregularities concerning CS-7 and CS-14 lands.

Centralized Kitchen Launched to Serve Breakfast to 40,052 Students



Manthani, August 24 (TSIT): Minister for IT, Industries and Commerce Duddilla Sridhar Babu inaugurated a state-of-the-art centralized community kitchen at Manthani to provide nutritious breakfast to 40,052 government school students.

The kitchen, established by Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation India (HKMCF India) with CSR support from Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), will serve students across 694 government schools and 17 junior colleges in Peddapalli and Bhupalpally districts.

The facility is equipped with automated systems for

preparing idlis, dosas, puris, sambar and other meals, besides a milk processing unit. It can prepare thousands of meals daily while maintaining hygiene and quality standards. The kitchen also has RO, biogas, boiler and waste-treatment facilities.

Sridhar Babu praised HKMCF India for its service initiatives and appreciated SCCL's CSR support. He said providing nutritious food would improve children's health, development and learning outcomes.

The Minister and dignitaries also flagged off vehicles for breakfast distribution and served meals to schoolchildren.

Two-Year-Old Girl Suffering from Severe Epilepsy gets a new lease of Life with the advanced Brain Surgery at Yashoda Hospitals-Secunderabad

Hyderabad, August 24, 2026: Two year old Baby Vagdevi from Bhongir, the daughter of Saidulu and Maheshwari who had been suffering from severe seizures almost every day since the age of six months, has become seizure-free following advanced epilepsy surgery at Yashoda Hospitals, Secunderabad. The child had been experiencing seizures despite being treated with multiple anti-seizure medications for nearly a year. Along with recurrent seizures, she had also developed delays in speech, physical and cognitive development.



As part of the comprehensive pre-surgical evaluation, brain MRI and PET-CT scans revealed a small lesion (an area of abnormal tissue) in the left temporal region, close to the amygdala and hippocampus, which was identified as the likely cause of the seizures. A specialised paediatric neuro team comprising a paediatric neurologist, neurosurgeon and neuroanaesthesiologist jointly managed the case.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. N. Varsha Monica Reddy, Senior Paediatric Neurologist, Yashoda Hospitals, Secunderabad, said, "The child had been suffering from severe seizures almost every day since she was six months old. Despite being treated with multiple anti-seizure medications, her seizures could not be brought under control. After the child was brought to Yashoda Hospitals on July 26, com-

prehensive pre-surgical investigations were carried out to accurately identify the area of the brain responsible for the seizures, which was crucial in planning the treatment.

Timely and appropriate treatment is very important for children with epilepsy that is not controlled with medications. The brain has a high degree of neuroplasticity during childhood, and once seizures are controlled, there is a greater possibility of improvement in speech, learning abilities, and overall physical and cognitive development.

Therefore, if seizures are not controlled with medications, parents should not delay in consulting epilepsy specialists," said Dr. N. Varsha Monica Reddy.

Dr. R. Ayyadurai, Senior Neurosurgeon, Yashoda Hospitals, Secunderabad, said, "As part of the surgery, an anterior temporal lobectomy was performed along with successful removal of the lesion, an area of abnormal tissue

responsible for the seizures. During the surgery, brain activity was continuously monitored using intra-operative electrocorticography (ECoG) and intra-operative neuromonitoring (IONM). This enabled us to remove the abnormal tissue responsible for the seizures while protecting the critical areas involved in normal brain function. The post-operative EEG showed that the abnormal electrical brain activity observed earlier was no longer present, which was a positive outcome of the treatment. The child recovered well after surgery and, with no further seizures, was discharged from the hospital within a week. For children with drug-resistant epilepsy, advanced imaging, comprehensive pre-surgical evaluation, multidisciplinary coordination, modern surgical techniques and neuromonitoring can provide an opportunity to achieve better treatment outcomes," said Dr. R. Ayyadurai.

BJP Slams Government Over Parakala Hospital

Parakala, August 24 (TSIT): BJP leaders at a Parakala Assembly-level workshop on electoral roll revision alleged that the newly inaugurated government hospital in Parakala was not functioning properly and demanded that the government fulfil its promises.

tate Executive Committee member Dr. Pagadala Kaliprasad Rao alleged that the hospital was inaugurated in haste and urged the government to complete pending development works in the con-



stituency. The BJP leaders also demanded immediate release of pending fee reimbursement dues. Expressing solidarity with Telangana BJP president N. Ramchander Rao's 48-hour hunger strike, they said delays in reimbursement were affecting students and urged the

government to clear all dues. The workshop focused on the second phase of the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls. Leaders said the BJP would continue raising public issues and intensify its agitation until the fee reimbursement dues were cleared.



Sri Sai Swastha Wellness Center celebrates treating 15,000 patients in 16 months with a cake-cutting and fruit distribution event in Mahabubnagar.

Young Innovators from Andhra Pradesh Enter Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Top 40

Andhra Pradesh – August 24, 2026: From exploring ways to make specialised healthcare easier to access to enabling visually impaired swimmers to train with greater independence, four young innovators from Andhra Pradesh have made it to the national Top 40 of Samsung Solve for Tomorrow.

Kotipalli Siva Sankar, Shaik Nehaal Khasim, Pasupuleti Ruthvik and Kolla Venkata Siva Surya are among a new generation of young Indians looking at challenges around them and asking a simple question: can technology help solve them?

Samsung Solve for Tomorrow is Samsung's flagship CSR innovation programme for young people aged 14 to 22. Through design thinking, mentorship and hands-on learning, the programme enables young innovators



from across India to identify real-world challenges and develop potential solutions, helping them take ideas from the early stages towards prototypes.

Three Solutions, Four Young Innovators

For Kotipalli Siva Sankar and Shaik Nehaal Khasim from Guntur, the challenge is access to information around specialised healthcare. Their solution explores how technology could help international patients

more easily discover specialised healthcare options in India.

The proposed platform looks at differences in the cost of procedures such as knee replacement, cancer surgery and spine surgery in India and overseas, while exploring how patients could be connected with JCI-accredited hospitals with relevant expertise and capacity. Their approach focuses on making information about potential healthcare pro-

viders easier for patients to access when exploring treatment options across countries.

Pasupuleti Ruthvik, 21, from Chittoor, is developing a technology-led solution to help visually impaired swimmers recognise when they are approaching the end of a swimming pool. While coaches may currently use a tapping stick to provide swimmers with a physical cue, his solution explores how technology could provide this information and potentially help swimmers train with greater safety and independence. In Visakhapatnam, 16-year-old Kolla Venkata Siva Surya is exploring a solution to address veering — the unintended sideways drift that can make it difficult for visually impaired swimmers to maintain a straight path while swimming. His approach looks at how technology could

help swimmers better understand their movement and maintain direction, with the aim of supporting a more inclusive sporting experience.

Three solutions. Four young innovators. And challenges spanning healthcare access and inclusive sports.

Their achievement comes as India's innovation map itself is expanding. More than half of the national Top 40 teams in this year's Samsung Solve for Tomorrow are from Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, highlighting how young innovators from different corners of the country are bringing fresh perspectives to real-world challenges.

For Andhra Pradesh, the presence of young innovators from Guntur, Chittoor and Visakhapatnam among the national Top 40 reflects this growing breadth of

Editorial

HYDERABAD
TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2026

The hidden cost of compassion: women trapped in caregiver fatigue

In the middle of June heat, Nallammal Thamizhselvan, 40, was getting ready for farm work. Her days usually start much before everyone else in her family wakes up. She has to be on the farm by 6 am and all the household chores have to be done before that. Every day, before she sets off, she leaves one instruction with her two daughters: “Appavukku edhavadhuna udanea phone panunga (call me immediately if anything happens to your dad).” Her husband, Thamizhselvan, has been living for decades with schizophrenia and is also prone to epileptic seizures.

This constant fear of a crisis means that Nallammal has to be available at all times to deal with medical emergencies. She routinely turns down any farm work that needs her to travel more than 3 km. In the 17 years of their marriage, she has been his only caregiver and she is exhausted by the responsibility. “I can’t leave him. But, I need to sleep at least one night peacefully in my life without anxieties,” she says. She is the primary earner in her family but there are few jobs for her in her village, Kothakottai, situated in Alangudi Taluk of Tamil Nadu’s Pudukottai district. It is an arid region where agriculture depends largely on rainfall. This means that farm work is erratic – one day, Nallammal would be cleaning the field, the next she would be plucking chillies or pounding tamarind, sometimes she reaps greens.

Eight hours of hard work earns her just Rs 170. Women farm workers earn no more than Rs 200 in this region, half what the men can demand. If Thamizhselvan needs hospitalisation or medicines, she has to borrow from her neighbours. This has left her family in a state of constant precarity. The family also bears the stigma of mental illness and the isolation this brings, as we detail later. The caregiver burden for mental health is all consuming – it is physical, psychological, emotional, social, and financial, show our interviews with women. Chronic stress, declining personal well-being, exhaustion, and low energy experienced by spouses are often referred to as spousal caregiver fatigue. And this fatigue can last years given the failure of early detection of mental illness. Till three years ago, Nallammal had no help from any quarter, not even from her own or her husband’s family. Nallammal’s entire life is planned around Thamizhselvan’s needs – adapting, calculating, overextended, overexploited, and of course, uncompensated because carework is assumed of a wife. Seventeen years of marriage have deepened Nallammal’s time poverty. It was her encounter with WORD (Women’s Organisation and Rural Development), an NGO that works in partnership with Carers Worldwide India to support unpaid carers, that lifted her and her family out of precarity. WORD has been working in around 80 villages of Pudukottai district spread over Thiruvarangulam and Pudukottai to provide support to carers of persons with mental health issues. It offers monetary support to carers and also guides them on how they can access mental health care at government hospitals. When Nallammal became a part of the network, she got a loan of Rs 5000 to buy goats for her husband to rear. The network of support also gave her the courage to take on better-paying work as a catering assistant at weddings outside the village.

Delimitation goes beyond just votes.

It is also about India’s economic future

The debate around delimitation has been vociferous given the government’s plan to address the issue head on by expanding the number of seats in parliament proportionately while the opposition has countered it with their own concerns of demography, electoral map redistribution and other implications. Yet the underlying essence of the story — why delimitation matters as a concept — seems to be missing. Besides the constitutional obligation for delimitation, what is its economic rationale? The current governance structure in India is in need of reform. There is an urgent need for representation aligned with India’s economic geography and a pre-condition for the responsive, accountable governance that sustained economic success requires. When political representation systematically diverges from where value is created, the result is a persistent misallocation of public capital.

India’s urban areas, particularly its metros, are key engines of agglomeration and productivity growth yet they remain highly under-represented in the electoral map. For instance, India’s urban population is expected to grow from 410 million in 2014 to 814 million by 2050. India is projected to add 416 million urban dwellers by 2050 — more than any other country in the world. Urban India makes up roughly 37 per cent of the country’s population, yet the largest, most heavily urban constituencies such as Malkajgiri, Bangalore North, the Delhi-NCR seats, at 30-38 lakh elector, carry the same



single vote in Parliament as constituencies a fraction of their size such as Lakshadweep with just about 50,000 electors. Urban voters are therefore structurally underweighted.

This leads to a situation where urban economic issues are not represented adequately and are given less electoral weight by politicians. Furthermore, since the urban population is more educated and demands greater accountability on economic issues such as housing, transit, and municipal finance that directly affect productivity, the case for increasing their political voice is an important shift in the economic story of India.

Another important economic factor that warrants change is the importance of decentralized governance. Ironically, even though delimitation might shift some political weight towards the more populated parts of the country, it might also ensure that decentralized governance takes place more effectively. Greater public representatives per capita can mean that local issues get more attention.

Why representation matters for growth

Many developed countries such as the United States and Japan all pair large populations with empowered subnational units that deliver local public goods and compete to attract capital, and ensure effective business governance due to greater attention to issues raised by society. This could be an important factor in boosting ease of businesses especially in constituencies which have excessively large populations.

The empirical literature is clear that quality of governance, which correlates highly with per capita of public representatives at the state and central level, and political stability are significant determinants of sovereign risk premia (Bekaert et al.; the sovereign-spreads literature). As such, providing incentives for long term investment, channeling growth for more inclusive goals — which can be achieved effectively by credible and effective governance from the district level to the central administration — ensure that risks for investing in the country for foreign

investors is being reduced. This also will ensure greater accountability among politicians and eventually lead to more refined political class. Therefore, it can play an important role in reducing long term risk premia for investors investing in the country.

Lastly, the aggregate impact at the level of the central government could be better and might lead to data systems that allow improved fiscal planning and alignment with the states. For instance, does it make sense for us to measure inflation of today using a basket of goods that were used in the 1970s? Similarly, how does it make sense to use the political representation from the 1970 census as a benchmark for electoral representation — the core of data driven public policy making — in 2026? Greater representation per capita along with better governance would ensure that more accurate population and boundary data feed into resource allocation, welfare targeting, and planning. Better data can further reduce leakage and mis-

matches in how funds reach people. Therefore, all of this could lead to better state and central fiscal planning and coordination due to more effective representation of the people’s wishes.

Several of the structural reforms that economists have been urging governments to do could be addressed through the redesign of the governance pillars of the country. This provides an important opportunity for transparency and reforms for the delimitation exercise to engage with so as to ensure structural governance reforms are implemented by design and not necessarily by stealth and through legislative arduousness. These provide an important opportunity to ensure economic growth is accelerated through ease of governance at scale across the country.

An exercise built on consensus

Yet, given the importance of such a reform, it must be a consensus driven initiative which most of the political class is in agreement with. There are various challenges including issues of north-south divide, population-based representation, reservations from some affected states among others. These issues should be sorted through diplomatic efforts and a collective spirit for the larger cause of the nation. Postponing the exercise due to its complexity and the need to make hard decisions is not doing justice to the aspirations of the youngest population in the world. The debates should be about how effective and inclusive the design of delimitation should be rather than questioning the importance of the exercise itself.

Single at an Indian wedding? Prepare to be matched, judged and monitored

■ At Indian weddings, somewhere between the pheras and the paneer tikka, singles slip into corners and quiet rooms, scripting their own meet-cutes on someone else’s big day.

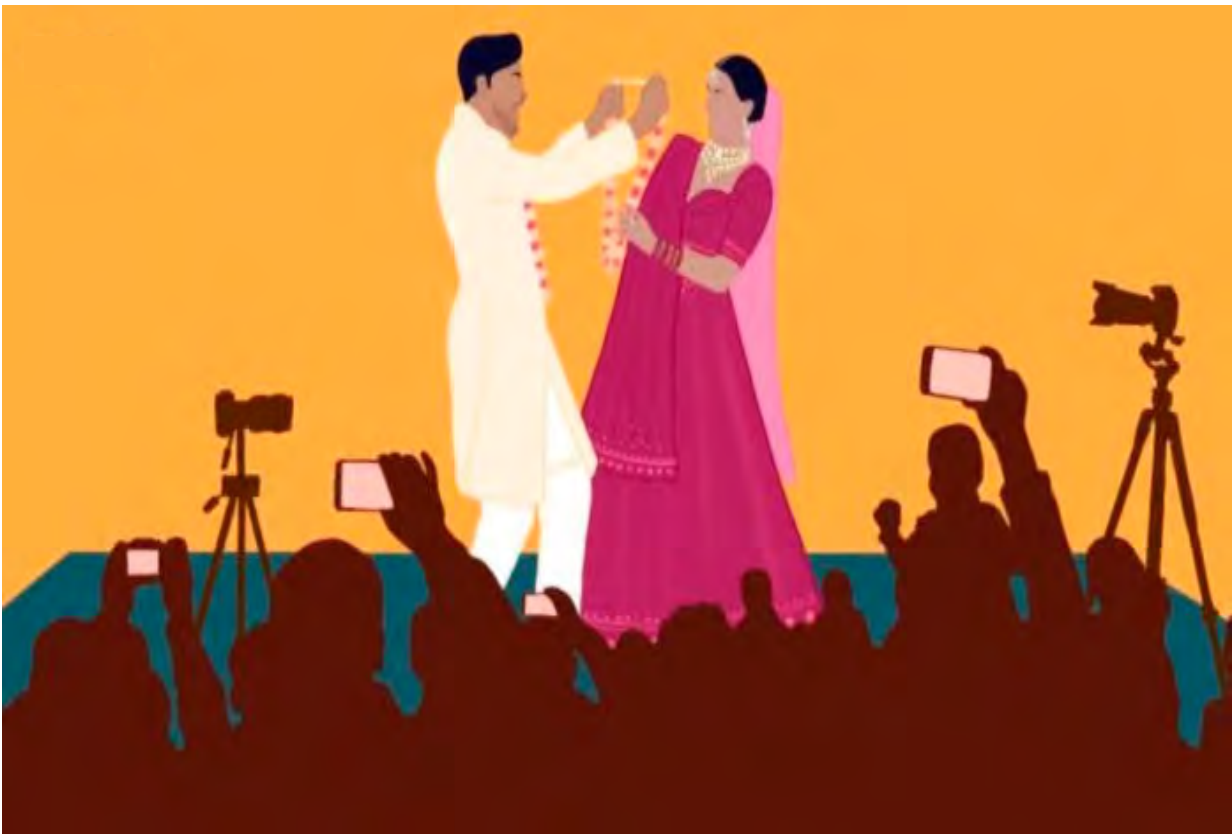
Weddings are the oldest dating sites. The bride and groom take the stage, and the dance floor becomes a breeding ground for new love stories—or, for the less romantically inclined, one-night stands. Somewhere between the pheras and the paneer tikka, singles slip into corners and quiet rooms, scripting their own meet-cutes on someone else’s big day.

And bridesmaids don’t even have to catch the bouquet: the Sima Aunties are perfectly capable of walking up to you, placing the proverbial baton in your hand and announcing, with terrifying certainty, that you’re next.

I have been waiting for my moment on the sidelines of the mandap since I was 16. It was my cousin’s wedding, and I was wearing the first Anarkali suit of my life. As the bride and groom went round and round the fire, I sat very still, wearing a soft, conspicuous smile for anyone who cared to notice. My older cousins did. They made sure I never heard the end of it.

Now, as I hit past the “right age”, they are extremely concerned about my marriage prospects. Well, whose fault is it? If it is mine, then I don’t want to hear about it. That’s why I have stopped attending weddings of family members. It feels like a tender lamb entering the cave of hawks—nobody lets you flirt with men, and everybody wants to know why you are not married.

Weddings are where the unmarried are put on display, whether they like it or not. For



better or worse, Indian shaadis don’t have a designated singles table, but the metaphorical one is always there. Mothers crack open their finest saris for their daughters and send them into these great matrimonial fairs. Aunties keep an eye out for eligible boys, collect intelligence on salaries, family backgrounds and these days they also find out Instagram handles.

And then there are the women who have already crossed the invisible deadline: the bride’s sister who suddenly discovers an urgent reason to be in the

kitchen whenever an aunty comes looking, because she knows the conversation will inevitably end with, “Beta, aapka number kab aa raha hai?” When can we see you on the chopping block?

A bride’s sister at one grand Indore wedding spent the entire event on her toes. There were 5,000 errands to run and too many relatives to pamper. Chachaji needed scissors to trim his nose hair, Buaji needed rasgullas packed for the neighbours back home, and every passing guest seemed to develop an

urgent need for chai immediately after finishing their last cup. All manageable. What she could not manage were the interrogations about when she planned to “settle down”.

“I have a boyfriend. We’ll get married two Decembers from now,” she told anyone who asked. Given that the grooms-men were available for a chat, shots and twerk on the dance floor, she knew she wasn’t exactly lying. She was manifesting.

The handsome, eligible bachelors came through for the weekend, slipping her flowers and

booze. Did any of them ask for her hand in marriage? No. But they posed for cosy selfies with her, and those pictures did the trick. An ex watching her Instagram stories straightened up and slid into her DMs, asking to meet. It has been two Decembers since, and there is still no wedding on the cards, but at least they are together.

Being pretty at a wedding rarely goes to waste. Sometimes, it even reels a man back in. Good for the weekend

It’s not easy to show up solo to weddings. Watching the happy couple look deep into each other’s eyes and celebrate in front of everyone they love can make even the cynics tear up—with equal parts joy and sadness. It makes you want something: love, romance, a quick hookup, anything. The guests are too drunk on whiskey to pretend otherwise.

I, for one, have ugly-cried watching my best friends lock it down with the loves of their lives. There’s a chance I want what they have, or at least that’s how it feels in the moment. Since none of the relatives conducting surveillance around the venue is mine, I am blissfully anonymous. I am free to feel, laugh and party like an animal.

Sakshi Shivdasani, the host of the Moment of Silence podcast, is also a veteran in attending weddings of friends. Her co-host Naina Bhasin jokes that it is only kind of vacation she’s been having. These weddings must be a certain kind of colourful because Shivdesani now wants to ban grooms-men and bridesmaids from having sex.

Apparently, they are doing too much of it. The singles performing thumkas on the dance floor want to be looked at, pursued, hit on. So, it happens.

A friend from Mangalore has collected an impressive roster of grooms-men simply by attending weddings. They will probably be watching her Instagram stories for years to come. The sweet boy she was paired with at a Catholic wedding was not her type, but made for excellent company nonetheless. He may have misread the situation, because he left promising to visit her in London. Another eager boy at another wedding offered to take her on a long drive in Dubai.

Every time she needed a napkin or a refill, they were ready to help on their knees. She could easily make bad boys good for a weekend. We should all learn her ways because she can also dodge her relatives by appearing too wobbly with spiked juice in her system.

Now that another friend has sent out invitations for her December wedding, I am back in the ethnic-wear section of Myntra. I must bring my A-game. There will be a beach nearby, a free supply of beer and, if the wedding gods are kind, a healthy population of financially stable men.

Don’t get me wrong: I am perfectly happy to play the tail to my soon-to-be-bride friend, patting the sweat off her face, fixing her outfit and being there for her on the biggest day of her life. But I also know that standing next to a bride comes with its own kind of visibility. And I intend to make the most of it.

Karnataka SIR: 1.5 lac voters in Dakshina Kannada to receive notices

Mangaluru, Aug 24: As part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls being undertaken across Karnataka, the draft electoral roll for Dakshina Kannada district has been published with 16,46,387 voters.

As many as 1,50,153 voters whose names have not appeared in the draft roll due to reasons including non-mapping, changes in names or parents' names, discrepancies in age and other issues will receive notices through Booth Level Officers (BLOs).

Dakshina Kannada deputy commissioner Darshan H V shared details of the district's draft electoral roll during a press conference held at Praja Soudha in Padil on Monday.

The notice distribution process will begin on August 24 and continue until September 23. During this period, voters left out of the draft roll will have an opportunity to submit claims and objections. The notice will mention the date, time and venue of the hearing, while BLOs will deliver the notices to the respective voters' residences.

If a voter is unable to appear before the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) or Assistant Electoral Registration Officer (AERO) within the stipulated period, an additional opportunity will be provided. However, fail-



ure to appear even during the extended period may result in deletion of the name from the electoral roll, the DC said.

Voters attending the hearing must bring the required documents and fill in the prescribed form. Documents can also be uploaded online, but physical appearance before the ERO or AERO will be mandatory, Darshan clarified. According to the SIR guidelines, individuals born before July 1, 1987, must provide documents establishing their date and/or place of birth. Those born between July 1, 1987, and December 2, 2004, must provide documents establishing their own date or place of birth, along with documents establishing the date or place of birth of either their father or mother.

As of June 16, 2026, Dakshina Kannada had 18,03,766 registered voters, and enumeration forms were distributed to all of them. Of these, 16,46,387 forms (91.27%) have been digitised, while 1,57,379 voters (8.73%) have been marked under the ASDD category.

The district's ASDD-marked cases include 82,988 voters who have permanently migrated, 45,318 deceased voters, 15,395 voters whose names are registered elsewhere and 2,554 cases classified under other categories.

At present, one Electoral Registration Officer and one Assistant Electoral Registration Officer are functioning for each Assembly constituency in Dakshina Kannada. A proposal has been submitted to the

Election Commission for the appointment of 154 additional Assistant Electoral Registration Officers in the district. Approval is expected within the next couple of days, the DC said.

Darshan also clarified that receiving a notice does not mean that a voter's name will automatically be deleted from the electoral roll.

"Even if a voter was present in the electoral roll up to June 2026, the name may have been left out of the draft roll during mapping with the 2002 electoral roll, due to changes in names or other reasons. Voters need not panic. After verifying the required documents, necessary steps will be taken to include eligible voters in the final electoral roll," he said.

Karnataka advances Eid Milad holiday to Aug 25 in Udupi, Dakshina Kannada districts

Mangaluru/Udupi, Aug 24: The Government of Karnataka has advanced the Eid Milad public holiday in Udupi and Dakshina Kannada districts to August 25 instead of August 26, 2026.

The State Government had earlier declared August 26 as a general public holiday across Karnataka on the occasion of Eid Milad. However, based on requests from the Deputy Commissioners of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi, the Government has directed that the holiday be observed on August 25 in the two districts, considering the local circumstances.

A strong demand had earlier been made by Dakshina Kannada district in-charge minister U T Khader to advance the holiday by a day. The demand came amid representations seeking that the Eid Milad holiday be



changed from August 26 to August 25 in the two coastal districts.

The additional secretary of the Karnataka Government has now directed the deputy commissioners of Udupi and Dakshina Kannada districts to take necessary action to observe August 25 as the Eid Milad holiday in their respective districts.

The Government order,

issued by the secretary, Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms, refers to letters submitted by the deputy commissioners of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts on August 20 seeking the change in the holiday date.

The order states that the deputy commissioners may take a decision at their respective levels, in accordance with the rules

and considering the local situation, to declare August 25 instead of August 26 as the general public holiday for Eid Milad. The decision means that government offices and other institutions covered by the public holiday notification in Udupi and Dakshina Kannada will observe the Eid Milad holiday on August 25 instead of August 26.

Supplementary budget estimates proposal of Rs 7042.69 crore under the Karnataka Appropriation Bill for the year 2026-27 in Legislature

Bengaluru : In both houses of the legislature, approval was granted for the first installment proposal of supplementary budget estimates amounting to Rs 7042.69 crore under the Karnataka Appropriation Bill for the year 2026-27.

Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar tabled the proposal in both houses of the state legislature on Monday. Out of this, Rs 4324.35 crore is revenue expenditure, and Rs 2718.35 crore is capital expenditure.



dition. This proposal includes a total grant of Rs 289 crore—at Rs 1 crore each per rural assembly constituency under Jaladhare—to provide drink-

ing water to people suffering from drought, as well as the release of Rs 1,000 crore in infrastructure capital for road development in Bengaluru city.

The supplementary estimates proposal presented by the Chief Minister includes Rs 2,918 crore for the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar scheme, Rs 781 crore for Bharat Jodo Youth Clubs, Rs 708 crore under the AMRUT scheme, Rs 193.61 crore for

government motor vehicle tax equity share modification for Road Transport Corporations, Rs 152.72 crore for the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission, Rs 93 crore for the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Rural), Rs 91 crore for Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam, Rs 96 crore grant for KKRTC bus purchases, and Rs 738 crore for other projects, all of which received approval in both houses.

Opposition Leader R. Ashoka: Day-night dharna in the House demanding Minister B. Nagendra's resignation

Bill that will cause destruction of Lalbagh and Sankey Lake gardens in Bengaluru and increase pollution

Bengaluru : Opposition Leader R. Ashoka said they will stage a day-night dharna in the House demanding the resignation of Minister B. Nagendra. Speaking in the Legislative Assembly, he said: "For the sake of one minister, you are destroying the entire House and preventing discussion on issues such as drought, NICE and others. We have been continuously fighting on this matter. First, the minister's resignation must be obtained and then opportunity given for discussion. The state government still has the chance. The speeches of Opposition members are not being shown in the Assembly video. The Information Department Commissioner has no self-respect. I am warning the Information Department on this. Demanding that the money belonging to Dalits be returned and that Minister Nagendra resign, we will stage a day-night dharna."

Destruction of gardens

Later, speaking to reporters, he said: "The entire government is standing with Minister B. Nagendra because the Congress party has a share in the Valmiki Development Corporation scam. Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has met industrialist Gautam Adani. For him, a law is being brought to grab 5% of the garden space for the tunnel road project. Through this, Bengaluru is being turned into a polluted city. The gardens of Lalbagh, Sankey Tank and Cubbon Park are being destroyed. Bengaluru will change from Garden City to a polluted city and become like Delhi. Before bringing such a law, they should have thought about the health of the city's children. In the city, one in every 10 people is found to have asthma. Congress, which called Adani a BJP agent, has now rolled out the red carpet for him." He added: "People have already risen in anger against the NICE toll. There should have been discussion among the people about the 5% land use in the gardens. The BJP is also ready to discuss this. But the government is not giving an opportunity for discussion on this. Mainly, we need to discuss the drought.

Godavari, The House of Heritage Experiences, Brings Five Distinct Hospitality Experiences Under One Roof in Bengaluru

Bengaluru : Godavari, The House of Heritage Experiences, is set to open in Bengaluru, on August 24, 2026, bringing together authentic pure-vegetarian cuisine, celebrations, accommodation, and rooftop dining through five distinct hospitality experiences inspired by the culinary and cultural traditions of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Maharashtra.

The multi-level destination will be inaugurated by renowned Kannada film icon Dr. Shivarajkumar, who will grace the event as the Chief Guest. The celebrations will begin with a traditional Pooja and Blessing Ceremony at 9:30 AM, followed by the Grand Launch at 11:00 AM and lunch.

The destination will feature Godavari Café on the ground floor, offering familiar regional flavours in a welcoming setting, and Godavari Signature Dining on the first floor, presenting the culinary



traditions of the three regions through contemporary hospitality. The second floor will house Godavari Celebrations, designed for weddings, family occasions, cultural gatherings, and corporate events.

The third and fourth floors will feature Godavari Stays, offering comfortable accommodation rooted in traditional hospitality, while the roof-

top will host Godavari Sky, an elevated dining experience designed for relaxed evenings and celebrations.

Dr. Chetan Kumar Mehta, Chairman of Godavari, said, "Godavari has been envisioned as a destination where generations can come together—to dine, celebrate, stay and create meaningful memories. It represents our commitment to preserving

heritage while presenting it through contemporary hospitality."

Mr. K. Surya Prabhakar, Founder and Managing Partner of Godavari, shared, "Godavari brings the authentic pure-vegetarian flavours of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra to Bengaluru. Every floor has been thoughtfully created to offer a distinct experience, united by genuine food and heartfelt hospitality."

Godavari has been envisioned as a destination where families and communities can come together to dine, celebrate, stay, and create meaningful memories. The concept brings regional vegetarian traditions into a contemporary hospitality setting while retaining the warmth and character of heritage-led dining.

With five distinct experiences under one roof, Godavari brings together regional culinary traditions and contemporary hospitality to create a destination for generations to connect and celebrate.

Congress leaders Released a satirical video on allegations of corruption involving the Centre, State and JD(S), corruption



Bengaluru: To counter BJP's allegations and create public awareness about the allegations of corruption against BJP and JD(S) leaders, a special satirical video was released near Congress Bhavan. Congress questions Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy and BJP leaders in Karnataka that "Did the money allegedly generated through corruption during BJP rule reach the PM CARES Fund or BJP's Central Office?"

Congress leaders alleged that, it is extremely unfortunate that BJP leaders, who themselves are facing allegations in several corruption cases, are unnecessarily raising corruption issues in the Legislative Assembly and disrupting its proceedings by entering the well of the House.

The BJP itself a party facing allegations of corruption and several scandals. Yet, its leaders are now staging protests in the Vidhana Soudha. This is nothing but a political drama aimed at diverting public attention from allegations of corruption against BJP leaders and concealing the failures of the Central Government. It is also an attempt to obstruct Congress from bringing the failures of the Union Government before the people. Unable to tolerate the people-centric and development-oriented governance of the Congress-led Karnataka Government, Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy and BJP Opposition leaders have been continuously making baseless allegations against the State Government.

Kumaraswamy Alleges NICE Land Scam, Vows to Release Documents

Bengaluru : Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy has made a serious allegation that Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar is allegedly seeking to take over the NICE company through benami entities. "According to the information available to me, the Chief Minister himself is trying to acquire NICE through benami companies. Is there one law for farmers and another for the Chief Minister in this State? A conspiracy is being hatched to grab thousands of acres of land in the name of the BMIC project. I will come before the people next week with documents and reveal the details," Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy said.

Addressing students and youth at the JD(S) office, he alleged that the present Chief Minister was directly involved in the irregularities surrounding the NICE project.

"This Chief Minister is the mastermind of what could be the big-



gest land grab in the country," he alleged. "Let the Chief Minister tell the people who is taking over NICE" Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy alleged that the Chief Minister was personally involved in the transactions surrounding the NICE project.

"Sitting on the third floor of Vidhana Soudha, the Chief Minister has entered into these transactions directly. If he has the courage, let Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar tell the people who is taking over NICE. Who is acquiring the project? I have information about who is involved in these transactions through benami companies. Let the Chief Minister come clean before the people of Karnataka," he challenged.

"NICE could be the biggest land scam in the country" Calling for greater public awareness and mobilisation, Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy said the NICE project represented an unprecedented land scam.

"The NICE project could be the biggest land scam in the country. It is a classic case of a 'scam for a scheme'. The entire State must rise against these irregularities. Young people and students must question what is happening," he said. He also questioned the alleged links between the Chief Minister and the NICE promoter.

"What is the relationship between this Chief Minister and the NICE project? What understanding does he have with NICE? What are his links and business dealings with the company's owners? If he has the courage, let him answer these questions before the people. I have no hesitation in speaking the truth," he said.

"Government has remained silent despite FWA violations" Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy alleged that the State Government had remained silent despite serious violations in the NICE Road project.

"The Framework Agreement has been violated in its entirety. Yet this Government has openly supported NICE," he alleged. He pointed out that two decades had passed since farmers' land was acquired, while compensation remained unpaid. "Twenty years have passed since farmers' land was acquired, yet they are still waiting for compensation. At the same time, NICE has freely sold off the very land taken from farmers. Under the agreement.

56,99,660 Voters in SIR Draft Electoral Roll: Maheshwar Rao

Bengaluru : A total of 56,99,660 voters have been included in the draft electoral roll prepared as part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Bengaluru city, stated District Election Officer and Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao.

Addressing the media after the publication of the draft electoral roll as part of the Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls-2026, he said that, as per the directions of the Election Commission of India, the draft electoral roll was published today. It contains 27,69,866 male voters, 29,29,092 female voters and 702 other and transgender voters, taking the total to 56,99,660 voters. Claims and objections can be filed for one



month:

Following the publication of the draft electoral roll, claims and objections can be filed from today until September 23. The process of issuing

notices and disposing of claims and objections will be carried out from today until October 22. The final electoral roll will be published on October 27, 2026, he stated.

CM VIJAY ANNOUNCES TWO NEW SOPS WORTH RS 10,000 CRORE FOR WOMEN



CHENNAI: The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay on Monday announced two new schemes under Rule 110 in the Assembly, focusing on women centric — Annapoorni Super Six and Vettri Payanam.

Explaining the Annapoorni Super Six Scheme, the Chief Minister said beneficiaries would receive the cost of three LPG cylinders every year under a reimbursement model.

"Under this scheme, around 1.30 crore families with an annual income of not more than Rs 2.5 lakh will benefit. The new scheme will be implemented from the ensuing Pongal festival in January 2026. The government will allocate Rs 4,000 crore for this scheme," the Chief Minister said. During the election campaign, TVK leader and now Chief Minister Vijay had announced the Annapoorni

Super Six Scheme. Under the scheme, every family would receive six LPG cylinders free of cost every year.

However, the TVK-led government has now announced the scheme with an income criterion. Chief Minister Vijay said that owing to the Gulf War, there had been a severe shortage of gas cylinders over the past four months. "Due to this, people are suffering from steep increases in gas cylinder prices. To avoid this hardship, the government is going to implement the Annapoorni Super Six Scheme," he said. Another major announcement for women and transgender persons was the extension of free bus travel. Under the name Vettri Payanam, women will be allowed to travel on Express, Limited Stop Service (LSS) and Deluxe buses, in addition to the existing scheme, from October 2, which marks the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

"Under the extended scheme, women can travel on ordinary-fare muffissil buses operating between districts and in hill areas. Women can travel without any limitations and there will be no income ceiling. The scheme will cost the government Rs 6,000 crore annually," the Chief Minister said.

Change in TN turned into 'bitter disappointment': DMK chief Stalin



CHENNAI: DMK President M K Stalin on Monday criticised the state of affairs in Tamil Nadu, saying a "change" brought about in the state has turned into "bitter disappointment". He was apparently referring to the people voting for the TVK in the April 2026 assembly elections, following which the party formed its maiden government.

Urging the public, particularly the youth, to understand the for-

ces responsible for the current situation, Stalin called on people to "think deeply and act wisely" in the coming times to usher in change. "A change occurred in Tamil Nadu, but as party Deputy General Secretary A Raja pointed out earlier, that change has turned into disappointment. A mistake committed by lakhs of people is today troubling crores of people. This situation must

change," Stalin said, adding that the younger generation needs to realise who created the conditions that enabled social progress.

Stalin made these remarks while addressing a family wedding in the city. The DMK chief presided over the marriage of Dr Ilakkiya, granddaughter of veteran film producer and his close relative Amirtham, with Dr Giridhara.

While noting that he did not wish to turn a family function into a political platform, Stalin remarked that the family comprised generations of doctors because of past welfare policies and social justice movements, a legacy he claimed today's youth often overlook.

Parandur airport: Stalin slams CM Vijay, says 'TN's interests can't be 'mortgaged for petty political considerations'

CHENNAI: DMK President MK Stalin on Monday hit out at Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay for dropping the Parandur greenfield airport project after the completion of the land acquisition process and said Tamil Nadu's interests cannot be "mortgaged for petty political considerations."

Terming the rejection of the project proposal, conceived during the DMK regime, as a massive disappointment, the former CM said the decision is an irreversible setback for Tamil Nadu's growth.

"The announcement made today by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to drop the Parandur International Airport project will set the state's development back by several years. Tamil Nadu's interests cannot be mortgaged for petty political considerations," the DMK chief said in a statement here.



The decision to drop Parandur airport project is a devastating blow to employment dreams of TN's youth, he added. Referring to the statement on Parandur by CM Vijay in the Assembly under Rule 110 which disallows any discussion, he said "shutting out" opportunity for debate is deeply troubling. Abandoning Parandur airport project could affect industrial growth, says Thangam Thennarasu

Tamil Nadu leads the country across sectors, from electronics exports to automobiles. A world-class airport in its capital is not merely desirable, but absolutely essential.

"Rejecting such a vital project is not change. It is a massive disappointment. The site was carefully selected after evaluating all available alternatives, and the land acquisition process has been almost completed. With several stages of pre-

paratory work and approvals already completed, we had drawn up plans to ensure that construction could begin at a rapid pace once we returned to office."

If the new government now starts all over again, identifies another location and goes through the entire process before work can even begin, "Tamil Nadu's growth trajectory itself will drop," Stalin said.

Under the Dravidian model government, Tamil Nadu became the first port of call for investors, he claimed. "This decision threatens to push the state to the bottom of the table. The Chief Minister's announcement is nothing short of a jackpot for competing States." Without industrial growth, economic targets of one trillion USD or 1.5 trillion USD are simply impossible to achieve. Taken without foresight, planning or con-

sultation, this decision by the TVK government is a "devastating blow" to the employment dreams of Tamil Nadu's youth, the DMK chief added. Leader of Opposition, Udhyanidhi Stalin, also slammed the government over the move.

The DMK leader said that his party-led government had initiated the project considering the growing air passenger number and future needs. The airport project was approved by the Airports Authority of India and Union Civil Aviation Ministry. The DMK government invested huge sums towards providing three times compensation to landowners and resettlement. "After all this, if the project is being dropped for petty political reasons, it will lead to big financial loss to the government," he said in a post on 'X'.

TN Minister Aadhav seeks MLAs' inputs on safety audit to rebuild shaky schools



CHENNAI: PWD Minister Aadhav Arjuna on Monday said that a stability assessment of around 6,620 educational institutions maintained by the PWD would be conducted. During the debate on demands for grants for the School Education Department, he said schools and colleges would be classified

into three categories after the PWD completed the assessment. "If a school building gets a red card, it will be sealed, and no one can use it. If it falls under the yellow category, it requires immediate attention, and the department will take the necessary action. If the building gets a green signal, it can be used for

the next five years without any hindrance," Aadhav said.

Seeking the support of MLAs, he said the government would provide the assessment reports of the buildings to all MLAs, who could conduct field visits and submit their feedback to the government.

"Maintenance work is a major issue in educational institutions. It will be rectified, and it is the government's duty," Aadhav said.

Following this, School Education Minister Rajmohan said the initiative aimed to ensure the safety of school buildings. "We are working closely on this issue," Rajmohan said. Tamil Nadu has 6,279 higher and higher secondary schools, 177 arts colleges, 11 engineering colleges, 55 polytechnic colleges, and 98 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs).

Sparks fly as ruling, opposition trade barbs over alliances

CHENNAI: The Assembly on Monday (August 24) witnessed heated exchanges between the ruling TVK and Opposition DMK over coalition leverage and political identity, with both attributing the Congress to the survival and strength of the other. PWD Minister Aadhav Arjuna's remarks that if the DMK did not have a 23-party alliance, it would not have won even 10 seats, had a strong hit back from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition KN Nehru, asking the ruling party to form government on its own, instead of surviving on the support of erstwhile allies of the DMK.

A debate in the Assembly on Monday over social justice and representation of marginalised communities swiftly turned into a political slugfest over the role of allies in the DMK's electoral victories, with TVK Minister

Aadhav Arjuna asserting that the ruling party had won the 2026 election on its own while DMK leaders credited their alliance partners for helping them secure power in the past. Participating in the debate on the demands for grants for the Higher Education and School Education departments, DMK MLA Govi Chezhiyan highlighted what he described as the party's long record of advancing social justice and political representation. Citing the 1967 Assembly election, Chezhiyan said the DMK had defeated the heir of the Ramanathapuram royal family, Raja Shanmuga Rajeswara Sethupathi, by fielding Thangappan, who came from an ordinary background. He also claimed that the DMK had the distinction of fielding a Scheduled Caste worker in a general constituency in Coimbatore.

Severe gum disease linked to early kidney damage: Study

Hamburg, Jul 2: Severe gum disease, or periodontitis, may be linked to reduced kidney function and early signs of chronic kidney disease (CKD), according to a large population-based study conducted by researchers in Germany.

The study, led by researchers at the University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, found that people with severe periodontitis were more likely to have reduced kidney function and elevated levels of albumin in the urine, a key marker of kidney damage, even in the early stages of CKD. The findings, published in the International Journal of Oral Science on Apr 6, 2026, suggest that oral health could play a significant role in overall health and may serve as an early indicator of kidney disease. The researchers analysed data from 6,179 participants enrolled in the Hamburg City Health Study. All participants underwent detailed dental examinations, with gum disease classified according to the 2017 American Academy of Periodontology/European Federation of Periodontology



staging system.

Kidney function was assessed using estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) and urinary albumin-to-creatinine ratio (uACR). Blood samples were also analysed for inflammatory markers, including high-sensitivity C-reactive protein (hsCRP) and interleukin-6 (IL-6).

The study found that the prevalence of severe periodontitis increased from 14 per cent among participants with normal kidney function to 36 per cent among those with moderately reduced kidney function. Greater tooth loss and more severe damage



to the tissues supporting the teeth were also associated with worsening kidney health. The association remained significant even after adjusting for factors such as age, sex, diabetes and smoking, indicating that the link was independent of these common risk factors.

Researchers found that systemic inflammation explained part of the relationship. Higher levels of hsCRP and IL-6 were associated with both severe gum disease and poorer kidney function. However, inflammation accounted for only part of the observed association, suggesting that other

biological mechanisms, including bacterial spread from infected gums, endothelial dysfunction, oxidative stress and metabolic changes, may also contribute.

Lead researcher Dr Christian Schmidt-Laubert said the study aimed to examine the relationship between periodontitis and early markers of kidney dysfunction while exploring the role of systemic inflammation.

Senior author Prof Dr Ghazal Aarabi said the findings highlight oral health as a potential window into kidney health and could help guide future screening strategies and research into whether treating gum disease can slow the progression of kidney disease. The researchers concluded that severe periodontitis is independently associated with reduced kidney function and increased albuminuria even in the early stages of CKD, reinforcing the growing evidence that oral health and overall systemic health are closely connected.

MRI shows promise as radiation-free tool for monitoring pulmonary sarcoidosis

New Delhi, Jul 3: Low-field MRI could emerge as a radiation-free alternative for monitoring patients with pulmonary sarcoidosis by assessing both structural lung changes and regional lung function, according to a new prospective study. Researchers said that while chest CT remains the gold standard for detecting structural abnormalities, low-field MRI provides additional functional information that correlates with pulmonary function tests, making it a promising option for long-term follow-up in selected patients.

Sarcoidosis is an inflammatory disease characterised by the formation of granulomas that can affect multiple organs, with the lungs being the most commonly involved. In some cases, the disease may

combined structural imaging with functional proton MRI to assess regional ventilation and perfusion, using chest CT as the reference standard.

MRI demonstrated the highest sensitivity in detecting lung consolidations at 86 per cent. It showed moderate sensitivity for identifying nodules (67 per cent) and ground-glass opacities (70 per cent), while its performance was lower for reticulations (29 per cent) and traction bronchiectasis (27 per cent) compared to CT. The study also reported moderate agreement between readers and between MRI and CT findings.

Functional MRI revealed significantly higher ventilation defect percentage (VDP), perfusion defect percentage (QDP)



progress to irreversible pulmonary fibrosis. Since many patients require repeated imaging, reducing exposure to ionising radiation is an important consideration, particularly among younger individuals. The study evaluated the feasibility and diagnostic performance of 0.55-T low-field lung MRI in 15 patients with pulmonary sarcoidosis and compared the findings with 30 healthy volunteers. Researchers

and ventilation-perfusion overlap (VQO) in patients with pulmonary sarcoidosis than in healthy volunteers. The functional measurements also showed a strong association with lung function tests. Ventilation defect percentage was strongly correlated with the residual volume to total lung capacity (RV/TLC) ratio, while perfusion defect percentage correlated with forced expiratory.

Royal Stag BoomBox Season 4 concludes with grand Hyderabad finale

Hyderabad, 24 August 2026: Celebrating its philosophy of 'Living It Large', Seagram's Royal Stag brought the much anticipated fourth and final edition of Royal Stag BoomBox to Gachibowli Stadium, Hyderabad. Building on the success of previous editions, Season 4 brought together the best of music, gaming, art and culture in one immersive experience, culminating in a high-energy finale that brought thousands of fans together for an unforgettable celebration of sound, spectacle and the unmistakable spirit of Generation Large.

Gachibowli Stadium transformed into a multi-sensory playground, featuring vibrant installations, immersive art displays, curated food experiences and interactive zones that went far beyond just music. The evening began with an electric face-off between gaming sensation Payal Dhare and a fan, who battled through a series of gaming rounds to clinch the win and earn the chance to play alongside her. This was followed by a dynamic opening set by DJ Sahil Gulati, who set the tone for the evening with his infectious beats and high-energy performance. The momentum continued with playback singer Nikhita Gandhi, whose powerful vocals and contemporary sound brought some of her much-loved Bollywood numbers to the stage. LV Revanth followed with an energetic performance, showcasing



his versatility and connecting with the audience through a dynamic mix of his popular tracks. The night reached its peak with global hip-hop icon French Montana, who took over the stage with his signature sound and international anthems, turning the stadium into a roaring celebration. Bringing together diverse sounds and experiences, the Hyderabad finale perfectly captured the spirit of Royal Stag BoomBox and gave Generation Large a spectacular closing chapter to Season 4.

Royal Stag Boombox has evolved into far more than a music festival, it's a cultural platform that captures the pulse of contemporary India and the unmistakable energy of Generation Large," said Debasree Dasgupta, Chief Marketing Officer, Pernod Ricard India. "Music and live experiences are powerful engines of connection; they create shared

moments and enable true conviviality. With Season 4, we're taking that experience to the next level, blending the soul of Bollywood with the raw, pulsating beats of Hip-Hop, and expanding into gaming, art and immersive cultural expressions. This isn't just entertainment. It's a bold expression of what it means to Live It Large - creating experiences that feel relevant, dynamic and deeply resonant with today's youth across the country."

Bollywood Popstar Nikhita Gandhi added, "What makes Royal Stag BoomBox stand out is the way it blends different genres and languages so seamlessly. Performing in Hyderabad was extra special because I got to connect with my Telugu fans and listeners as well! The audience's energy and the immersive setup made it a complete experience, not just a concert." Indian singer LV Revanth said,

"Royal Stag BoomBox brings together so many different sounds and experiences on one platform, and that is what makes it truly exciting. Performing in Hyderabad and seeing the audience connect with the music was an incredible experience. The energy throughout the evening was infectious, and I'm thrilled to have been part of the Season 4 finale."

American rapper and songwriter French Montana said, "The energy at Royal Stag BoomBox was incredible. It was amazing to see the crowd connect with hip-hop and bring that energy right back to the stage. India has such a passionate music audience, and being part of the finale in Hyderabad was a special experience. Much love to everyone who came out and made it a night to remember."

DJ Sahil Gulati said, "Royal Stag BoomBox is where sound met spectacle. As a DJ, creating that build-up and watching thousands move to the same rhythm in Hyderabad was an unmatched feeling. Season 4 promised next-level production and energy, and I was thrilled to set the tone for an unforgettable night." Indian gaming content creator Payal Dhare shared, "Royal Stag BoomBox breaking the barrier between music and gaming is such a powerful move. Being part of Season 4 and bringing a live gaming face-off to the stage is incredibly exciting."

SriLankan Airlines Back in Full Force in the Middle East with Kuwait Service Resumption

Colombo – SriLankan Airlines is back in full force in the Middle East with the resumption of six weekly flights to Kuwait from 8 August 2026, completing the restoration of its network across the region and once again offering passengers the convenience of a consistent flight schedule. SriLankan's Middle East network spans Riyadh, Dammam, Dubai, Doha and Kuwait, with carefully timed schedules offering passengers seamless connections via Colombo between the Middle East and southern Indian cities, including Chennai, Tiruchirappalli, Thiruvananthapuram, Madurai and Cochin, in under 90 minutes.

Dimuthu Tennakoon, Head of Commercial at SriLankan Airlines, stated, "As an airline that has been connecting passengers to the Middle East for over 40 years, including our loyal passengers in South India who have relied on our services throughout that time, we are delighted to announce our full return to the region. This milestone marks not only the restoration of convenient connectivity, but also the



return of the dependable service and warm Sri Lankan hospitality that have made us a preferred carrier for travellers across South Asia."

Fawzan Fareid, Regional Manager India, Bangladesh and Nepal at SriLankan Airlines, added, "Our Middle East network has long been a vital part of our service to customers in South India. While the past few months presented significant challenges for our Middle East operations, we remained resilient by strengthening other markets and staying committed to serving our customers across India. As we restore our full Middle East network, we are excited to build on this momen-

tum with renewed confidence and continue delivering the seamless connectivity, dependable service and warm SriLankan hospitality that our passengers value."

With 90 weekly flights between India and Colombo, serving Chennai, Mumbai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Kochi, Thiruvananthapuram, Madurai and Tiruchirappalli, SriLankan proudly counts India as its largest market. Travellers can enjoy the warmth of SriLankan hospitality from the moment they step onboard, complemented by the airline's award-winning menu featuring both vegetarian and non-vegetarian meals, including regional

favourites. A wide selection of the latest Tamil, Malayalam, Telugu and Hindi movies on the airline's inflight entertainment system ensures an enjoyable journey all the way to their destination.

SriLankan Airlines also offers generous baggage allowances for customers travelling between South India and the Middle East. Economy Class passengers are entitled to 8 kg of cabin baggage and 30 kg of checked baggage. Those requiring additional baggage can conveniently purchase extra allowance through SriLankan's value-for-money prepaid baggage option.

SriLankan Airlines connects passengers to 130 destinations across 63 countries through its own services and codeshare partnerships, while operating direct services to 33 destinations worldwide. Its network spans Europe, Australia, the Middle East, the Indian Subcontinent, Southeast Asia and the Far East. The airline operates an all-Airbus fleet comprising state-of-the-art A330-200/300 and A320/321 aircraft. For more information and bookings, visit www.srilankan.com or follow us on social media.

Stock markets end lower amid simmering geopolitical tensions, elevated crude oil prices

MUMBAI: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty ended lower on Monday as persistent geopolitical tensions and elevated crude oil prices hampered risk appetite. Investors remained cautious ahead of fresh US

sanctions on Iran, experts said. No sugar shortage in India, prices to ease in coming days following govt's measures: ISMA

Despite a positive beginning, the 30-share BSE Sensex failed to carry forward the

momentum and declined 171.72 points, or 0.22 per cent, to settle at 77,369.11. During the day, it dropped 339.17 points, or 0.43 per cent, to 77,201.66. The 50-share NSE Nifty slipped 32.95 points, or 0.14 per cent, to end at

24,219.05. Among the 30 Sensex firms, Adani Ports, Bharat Electronics, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, Trent, Axis Bank, State Bank of India, and Tata Consultancy Services were among the laggards.

Escorts Kubota introduces MU4502 and MU5002 with industry-first 8 Year Transferable Warranty



Escorts Kubota Limited has introduced two new tractor models, the Kubota MU4502 at 45 horsepower (HP) and the Kubota MU5002 at 50 HP. They strengthen the company's premium utility tractor portfolio in the 41-50 HP category, one of the largest and fastest-growing segments in the Indian tractor market. Both models carry an industry-first 8 Year transferable warranty, reflecting the company's high confidence in the build quality and working life of these products.

Both tractors are powered by the proven Kubota KQP4 Japanese engine. They are equipped with an advanced 12F + 4R Multi-Speed Synchronesh Gearbox that lets farmers pick the ideal speed for every job, from heavy tillage to haulage, so they can work faster, cover more ground and finish operations in less time. Pompa Lift with DSS (Dual Stabilizer Spring) Technology keeps implements steady and maintains a consistent working depth even on uneven ground, giving more uniform results. Escorts Kubota operates three tractor brands in India, Farmtrac, Powertrac and Kubota, catering to entry-premium, value and premium segments respectively. The new MU4502 and MU5002 sit within the premium Kubota brand. With these two additions, the MU

range now includes the MU4201, MU4501, MU4502, MU5002 and MU5502, offering farmers a comprehensive premium utility portfolio.

The new MU4502 and MU5002 have been engineered for modern Indian farmers looking for higher productivity, comfort and multi-application performance. The tractors feature Kubota's global design, inspired by the strength and agility of a bull, with full LED lighting for better visibility and a premium appearance. The fully covered flat-deck platform, premium bucket seat, suspended pedals, double-acting power steering and ergonomically placed controls keep operators comfortable through long working hours, and balancer shaft technology keeps vibration down.

As a true multi-utility platform, the new models work with almost all primary and secondary tillage and farming implements, including super seeders, seed drills, potato planters, mini round balers and cultivators. The tractors handle major crops such as paddy, wheat, maize, pulses and soyabean, and take on haulage and commercial tasks as well. A reverse power take-off (PTO) supports specialised applications such as rotavators and straw reapers. Both models suit landholdings of 5 acres and above, and Escorts

Kubota has launched them as a pan-India offering.

Commenting on the launch, Nikhil Nanda, Chairman and Managing Director, Escorts Kubota Limited said, "The 41-50 HP category is one of the largest and most important segments in the Indian tractor market, and the new MU4502 and MU5002 strengthen our position in it with a more complete premium utility offering. Aimed at progressive farmers, existing tractor owners looking to upgrade, contract farming operators and custom hiring businesses across diverse cropping patterns and farming practices, these tractors reflect our strategy of focusing on the segments that matter most to India's farmers."

Akira Kato, Deputy Managing Director, Escorts Kubota Limited said, "The MU4502 and MU5002 carry the strength of Kubota's Japanese engineering, built for performance and durability over a long working life. The proven KQP4 engine, matched with a 12F + 4R Multi-Speed Synchronesh Gearbox and Pompa Lift with DSS Technology, is designed to keep running costs low and deliver dependable performance season after season. Living up to our promise of 'Dum Bhi, Bharosa Bhi', our commitment is to bring Kubota's global engineering standards to Indian farms, and to build machines that continue to earn their place on the farm year after year." Rajan Chugh, Chief Officer, Tractor Division said, "With the MU4502 and MU5002, we are shifting the focus from horsepower to earning power. These 4WD tractors help farmers do more work in every hour, earn more from every acre."

Haier India launches F17 washing machine series with AI Wash technology



New Delhi: Haier Appliances India has launched the next-generation F17 Washing Machine series, introducing India's only range featuring a tilted touch screen with AI Wash technology. The new series aims to redefine premium laundry care by combining intelligent automation, advanced hygiene features and user-friendly design for modern Indian households. The highlight of the Haier F17 series is its Smart Flip TFT Screen, which can be adjusted to three viewing angles — 15, 20 and 25 degrees. The innovative design allows users to operate the machine comfortably without bending down, making it convenient

for people of different ages and heights.

The washing machine features AI Wash technology, which intelligently analyses each laundry load and automatically recommends the most suitable washing programme based on fabric type, load weight and stain levels. The system is designed to

handle common stains such as milk, mud, coffee and sweat, ensuring effective cleaning while reducing the need for manual settings. The F17 series also comes equipped with Essence Wash technology, which pre-mixes detergent into an active cleaning solution before spraying it directly onto fabrics for improved cleaning efficiency. The machine includes a dedicated Stain Removal Wash function with 24 specialised modes to address different types of stains, including oil, coffee, milk and sweat.

For enhanced hygiene, the Steam Wash function uses high-temperature steam to help eliminate bacteria and mites from fabrics. The Smart Dosing feature automatically calculates and dispenses the required amount of detergent according to the laundry load, helping reduce wastage and improving wash performance.

Commenting on the launch, Haier Appliances India CEO NS Satish said the F17 series focuses on

meaningful innovation by improving how consumers interact with home appliances. He highlighted that the tilted smart screen reflects Haier's approach of making technology more natural, convenient and relevant to everyday lifestyles.

The Haier F17 Washing Machine series represents the company's continued focus on intelligent home solutions, offering advanced features, improved convenience and a premium laundry experience. Through this launch, Haier aims to strengthen its presence in India's growing smart appliance market while addressing evolving consumer needs.

Skoda Auto India unveils new Slavia with advanced features



Mumbai: Škoda Auto India has unveiled the new Slavia, marking the next chapter in the brand's sedan journey with enhanced design, advanced technology, improved comfort and segment-first features. The updated sedan was showcased alongside the return of two iconic models — the Octavia RS and the all-new Superb — highlighting Škoda's continued focus on premium sedans in the Indian market.

The new Slavia comes with refreshed styling, including all-new LED headlamps and taillamps with sequential turn indicators, new alloy wheel designs and updated interior themes. The sedan also introduces an eight-speed torque converter automatic transmission paired with the 1.0 TSI

engine, making it the first sedan in its segment to offer this combination. Customers can also choose the six-speed manual with the 1.0 TSI or the seven-speed DSG automatic with the 1.5 TSI engine.

A major highlight of the new Slavia is its enhanced comfort package, featuring a segment-first Rear Seat Massage function. The car

also gets a 360-degree Area View camera system, Park Pilot with front parking sensors and a next-generation infotainment system equipped with AI Companion powered by Google Cloud, along with wireless Android Auto and Apple CarPlay connectivity. Built on the MQB-A0-IN platform developed for Indian conditions, the

Slavia continues to offer European engineering, driving dynamics and practicality. The sedan will be available with multiple variants, including the sporty Monte Carlo trim from launch. Pre-bookings for the new Slavia are open, with the brand offering a range of colour options and new shades including Arctic Silver and

US envoy walks back his comments on Golan Heights that contradicted Trump's position

BEIRUT: The US special envoy to Syria and ambassador to Turkiye on Sunday walked back his comments from two days ago that Israel "still" occupies the Golan Heights in violation of UN resolutions, remarks that went against US President Donald Trump's position on the disputed territory. Israel captured the Golan Heights from Syria in the 1967 Mideast war and annexed it in 1981. The United Nations and most of the international community consider the territory occupied Syrian land and does not recognise Israel's annexation of it. US envoy walks back his comments on Golan Heights that contradicted Trump's position

In 2019, Trump recognised Israeli sovereignty over the territory, reversing decades of US policy. Ambassador Tom Barrack on Friday said that Israel "still" occupies the territory in an interview with Lebanese-Australian entrepreneur Mario Nawfal. Barrack now says that is a description of the territory's historical status, "not an endorsement of the United Nations' position" on the Golan.

"United States policy on the Golan was set by President Trump in 2019 and is unchanged," he said in a statement to The Associated Press on Sunday. He said he intended to explain why he does not anticipate annexation in Lebanon, where Israeli



forces are occupying parts of the south after the latest Israel-Hezbollah war, and to argue that negotiated agreements, rather than territorial maps, are more durable and that he had cited the Golan as an example that "territory taken by force remains contested for generations."

In the Friday interview, Barrack had also criticised Israel's strikes on an airbase in northern Syria earlier last week. Israeli officials said the strikes intended to prevent Turkiye from establishing a presence at the base.

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz defended the strikes, saying on X on Sunday that critics who initially called it "unnecessary and politically motivated" changed their position after the government said they were based on "clear intelligence" and at the recommendation of the Israeli army. He added that Israel would not allow Turkiye "to establish itself

in Syria and threaten Israeli security."

The strikes last Tuesday have highlighted growing tensions between Israel and Turkiye over Ankara's increased influence in Syria following the fall of Bashar Assad. Turkiye and Syria have denied that Turkish forces were due to be deployed at the Abu Duhur base.

Barrack's comments on the Golan also sparked a backlash in Washington. Florida Republican Sen. Rick Scott wrote on X that the ambassador appears to have "forgotten" Trump's recognition of Israeli sovereignty over the territory.

Barrack went further on the defensive on Sunday, responding to criticism of his assessment of ongoing negotiations between Israel and Lebanon over Israeli withdrawal and the disarmament of the militant group.

He had said "there are two people missing from that (negotiating) table –

Hezbollah and Iran." That remark prompted speculation Barrack meant Tehran and Hezbollah should join the US-backed negotiations.

On Sunday, Barrack stressed that the US does not negotiate with Hezbollah, but said he was pointing out that "the weapons in question are supplied and financed by Iran," which complicates negotiations over their fate.

"I was describing the difficulty of the problem, not proposing a new table," Barrack told the AP. "Hezbollah is a designated foreign terrorist organisation. We do not negotiate with it, and nothing I said suggests otherwise." He also defended his remarks questioning who would replace Tehran's financial support for Shiite communities in southern Lebanon, saying that raising those questions was "not conferring standing on anyone."

Fast-growing wildfire near US Nevada-California border injures 6, forces 42,000 to evacuate



Los Angeles, Aug 24 : Authorities said that at least six people were injured and 42,000 were ordered to evacuate as a fast-growing wildfire spread rapidly toward Reno, a city in northwestern Nevada near the Nevada-California border.

The Hawk Fire, which began Saturday, has grown to more than 13,000 acres (about 53 square kilometers) so far and remained completely uncontained, fire officials said at a news conference Sunday, reports Xinhua news agency.

Officials added that the injured included three

civilians and three first responders, and an additional 45,000 people were in the evacuation warning zone. They also confirmed that several structures have been destroyed in the fire. About 10,000 customers were without power in Washoe County on Sunday. Reno is the county seat and most populous city of Washoe County.

Officials said that extreme fire behavior has been observed, with wind-driven fire making significant runs through light, flashy fuels. Nevada Governor Joe Lombardo declared a state of emergency for Washoe County

on Saturday night."This is an active and rapidly evolving situation, and I urge everyone in the affected areas to remain vigilant and follow the direction of local officials," Lombardo said in a statement. "The state is fully engaged, and we are working alongside local authorities and first responders to deploy every available resource to protect lives, safeguard communities, and keep Nevadans out of harm's way."The governor warned again Sunday morning on social media that the fire is still "a rapidly evolving situation."

"Stay vigilant and keep

yourself informed if you are in the affected areas," the governor said.

Earlier in July, a wildfire burning in US Southern California exploded to nearly 2,700 acres (about 10.9 square kilometers) Saturday, forcing evacuations amid dangerous heat wave. The blaze, dubbed the Summit fire, was reported at about 1 p.m. Friday local time in Llano, a small community near the Los Angeles and San Bernardino county line. It has been zero contained as of Saturday morning, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Imran's party demands immediate cardiac care for him at Shifa International Hospital



ISLAMABAD: Former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan's party has condemned what it called the "continued failure" of authorities at a state-run hospital after the CT Coronary Angiography (CTA) was not conducted on him despite cardiologists complaining about potential risks of cardiac complications. In a statement on Sunday, Central Secretary Information of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Sheikh Waqas Akram, said the authorities had failed to provide 73-year-old Khan with a medically recommended diagnostic test despite the availability of a functional CT scanner at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), Dawn newspaper reported. Khan was taken to PIMS on Friday for an eye procedure and other diagnostic examinations. Doctors reportedly recommended a CTA of the heart, but hospital officials said the required facility was unavailable. He was subsequently returned to Adiala jail without undergoing the test. The party condemned what it called the "continued failure" of authorities and demanded that the test should be immediately conducted at Shifa International Hospital. "This cannot be dismissed as an isolated administrative lapse; it reflects a deeply troubling pattern," Akram said.

French-Saudi partnership seeks to promote stability

On the occasion of his visit to France, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. This visit takes place in a meaningful year, as France and Saudi Arabia celebrate the centenary of the establishment of their diplomatic relations. A century of dialogue, friendship, and cooperation has created a relationship built on trust, mutual respect, and a shared willingness to look to the future.

This relationship has become a genuine strategic partnership.

The visit of President Emmanuel Macron to Saudi Arabia in December 2024 was a milestone. It gave fresh momentum to our cooperation and reflected the ambition to make it global. The crown prince's visit to Paris is another opportunity to take new initiatives in the context of the first meeting of the French-Saudi Strategic Partnership Council.

This council provides a framework for stronger cooperation in diplomacy, security and defense, investment, energy, culture, technology, and education. It also reflects the increasingly close political dialogue between France and Saudi Arabia at a time of profound changes in the world and the Middle East. Our two countries share one clear principle:

Lasting stability can only be rooted in the sovereignty of states, the respect of international law, and the pursuit of political solutions. The crown prince's visit to Paris reflects the increasingly close political dialogue between France and Saudi Arabia at a time of profound changes in the world and the Middle East.

Patrick Maisonnave

We both share the objective of peace and stability for the region. Defending freedom of navigation embodies this common stance. Attacks on vessels and threats to maritime traffic in the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea are unacceptable. Restoring normal navigation, free of unlawful restrictions, tolls or interference, is essential for the Gulf and the global economy. France and Saudi Arabia have worked closely together to restore a political horizon and make the two-state solution a concrete objective rather than a distant aspiration. We believe it is the only path to end the tragedy of the Palestinian people which remains at the heart of our concerns. These efforts were embodied by the New York Declaration of July 2025, which displayed the leading role our countries play when they unite their forces.

Across the region, our countries remain equally committed to political solutions. In Yemen, we support UN efforts toward an inclusive settlement and we condemn Houthi attacks on Saudi territory and international shipping. In Sudan, we call for an end to the conflict and foreign interference, while preserving the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity. In Syria, we support unity, stability, and economic recovery, including through practical initiatives such as the new Saudi-Syrian-French business council. Last, but not least, we are cooperating to find a durable solution for the benefit of the Lebanese people, which can only be achieved by strengthening the state, disarming nonstate actors, and dismissing external interference.

Our partnership, however, is not only defined by regional crises. It is, first and foremost, a partnership for growth and prosperity

France and Saudi Arabia have worked closely together to restore a political horizon and make the two-state solution a concrete objective rather than a distant aspiration.

Patrick Maisonnave

Bilateral trade reached €3 billion (SR36 billion) in 2025, reflecting the strength and diversity of

our economic relationship. Vision 2030 has opened new opportunities in defense, infrastructure, energy, tourism, culture, transport, healthcare, and technology. I commend the dedication of French companies to the Kingdom's transformation. Thanks to their continuously growing investments, they have become a major employer for the Saudi youth.

The Riyadh Expo 2030 will offer another exceptional opportunity. France will be proud to participate and intends to make its commitment a major moment in our bilateral relationship, mobilizing French companies, institutions, expertise, and creativity on the way to the event and during this amazing moment to come.

Political trust between our two countries and personal confidence between the French president and Saudi crown prince have made these outstanding results possible. I am especially proud that the French Republic and the Kingdom have become strong allies acting together wherever regional and international challenges are at stake. As we mark 100 years of diplomatic relations, France and Saudi Arabia are not only celebrating where they come from. We are also looking ahead. Challenges are great, indeed.

WASHINGTON: US forces have struck another vessel in the eastern Pacific, killing two people the Pentagon says were trafficking drugs. The US Southern Command announced the strike in a social media post early Monday. The death toll from the Trump administration's campaign of bombing boats off Latin America's Caribbean coast and in the eastern Pacific now exceeds 210 after more than 60 strikes.

US envoy walks back his comments on Golan Heights that contradicted Trump's position

The Joint Task Force Western Hemisphere "executed a lethal kinetic strike on a low-profile vessel operating along established narco-trafficking routes in the Eastern Pacific." Intelligence confirmed the vessel was carrying illegal drugs, the

US strikes another boat in eastern Pacific, killing two, Pentagon says



statement said.

"We are committed to imposing total systemic friction on narco-terrorists – disrupting their operations, dismantling their leadership, and eliminating cartel terror across the region," said Gen. Francis Donovan, who leads US Southern Command.

The latest strike comes days after Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth announced that the US would extend its offensive to land across multiple Latin American countries. The secretary said during a visit to Panama that Colombia, Guatemala and Honduras had agreed to allow the US to carry out joint military operations against criminal groups on their soil. Guatemala denied reaching such an agreement. Ecuador launched similar missions with the US in March.

Iran warns of harsh response to anticipated US sanctions

DUBAI: Iran warned that US sanctions set to be announced would not bring peace to the region. Meanwhile, Israeli and Syrian officials met less than a week after Israeli strikes in Syria. US envoy walks back his comments on Golan Heights that contradicted Trump's position

US envoy walks back his comments on Golan Heights that contradicted

Eastern Libya executes 10 convicted on terrorism charges, sparking rights outcry

CAIRO: Authorities in eastern Libya said they executed 10 people after their conviction by military courts on terrorism-related charges. The executions, announced Sunday, triggered condemnations by rights groups in the North African country that is divided between rival administrations, each backed by a set of militias and foreign governments. US envoy walks back his comments on Golan Heights that contradicted Trump's position

US envoy walks back his comments on Golan Heights that contradicted



Trump's position

The office of the military prosecutor in eastern Libya said the 10 people were executed by firing squad after yearslong tri-

als. The office is overseen by the self-styled Libyan National Army, which is commanded by powerful Gen. Khalifa Hifter and controls the eastern and

southern parts of Libya. The people were convicted of charges ranging from joint terrorist groups to assassinations of military personnel and civilians, the office said in a statement.

The statement didn't provide further details about the charges, and when or where the executions took place, but said they were executed after "all legal procedures" were concluded.

Local media reported that the executions took place in the notorious Qarnada military prison in the northeastern town of Shahat, and that their

families were notified to receive their bodies from a hospital in the city of Benghazi.

Rights groups condemned the executions and questioned the trials. The National Institution for Human Rights in Libya said military trial of civilians "raises fundamental questions concerning jurisdiction, judicial independence, and guarantees of a fair trial."

The group called for Libya's chief prosecutor and judicial authorities to investigate the executions and all procedures taken through their trials.

2nd Test: Jurel’s ton, Pant’s fifty, bowlers help India seize control against SL

Colombo, Aug 24 : Dhruv Jurel hit an unbeaten 115 while Rishabh Pant smashed a rollicking 63 before Prasidh Krishna and Manav Suthar struck late in fading light as India asserted total dominance over Sri Lanka on Day Two of the second Test at the Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC) Ground in Colombo on Monday.

Having declared their first innings at 503/9 after a rain delay of two hours and ten minutes in the final session, Sri Lanka were reduced to a precarious 8/2 in just three overs. India crossing the 500-run mark was possible thanks to wicketkeeper-batter Dhruv Jurel hitting an unbeaten and rock-solid 115 off 177 balls – his second Test century and first in the island nation, while Rishabh Pant hit a rollicking 63. In fading light, Suthar finished with figures of 1-6 from his lone over, while Krishna took 1-1 as Sri Lanka now trail India by 495 runs with eight wickets remaining in their first innings. India entered Day Two looking to build upon their firm foundation, but Sri Lanka made an early breakthrough with the second new ball.

Fast bowler Asitha Fernando surprised debutant Saransh Jain with a sharp bouncer from round the wicket, extracting a leading edge that was safely taken by gully. The early setback brought Pant to the crease, after he retired hurt on three due to a blow to his left wrist. Pant was immediately targeted with a barrage of short-pitched bowling by the Sri Lankan seamers. But Pant soon began batting in his usual destructive style. A short ball down leg from Lahiru Kumara was pulled by Pant over the stadium roof, even damaging a solar panel as a replacement ball was sought.

Tested thoroughly by Kumara and Fernando, Pant took two painful hits to his right shoulder that required medical treatment. However, he countered using paddle sweeps, decisive footwork, and aggressive strokes to unsettle the opposition.

Alongside a solid Jurel, who relied on crisp drives, flicks, and authoritative pulls against spinners Prabath Jayasuriya and Keshara Nuwantha, India wrested complete control. Both batters reached their half-centuries smoothly – Pant thump-



ing a pull to square leg for his 21st Test fifty, while Jurel pulled through mid-wicket to bring up his third half-century, as the duo took India to safety at lunch. But Sri Lanka struck on the very first delivery after lunch when Pant hit Nuwantha straight to long-off and departed for an entertaining 63 off 89 balls. Jurel quickly re-established authority alongside Manav Suthar, who proved to be an able partner by handling

the host side's short-ball tactics with composure and stepping down the pitch to loft Nuwantha over the mid-off boundary.

The pair added 39 runs to take India past the 450-mark before Jayasuriya broke through by drawing Suthar (18) into pushing outside off-stump and extracting a thin edge which was safely pouched by wicketkeeper Niroshan Dickwella.

With Mohammed Siraj con-

tent to defend at the other end, Jurel smartly farmed the strike, deploying a fine reverse sweep off Sonal Dinusha to move into the 80s. As dark clouds gathered ominously overhead, Jurel flicked a full toss from Fernando through mid-wicket to reach 95. High winds, darkening skies, and heavy rain subsequently forced an early tea break, as a lengthy interruption of two hours and ten minutes occurred.

play resumed under cleared skies and a little bit of sunshine, Jurel took his time against Sri Lanka's tight close-in fielders. After playing out a maiden over from Jayasuriya, Jurel reached his second Test century, and his first in Sri Lankan conditions, by driving Fernando over the bowler's head and diving full length to complete a risky single. Jurel celebrated by raising his sleeve to display a tattoo reading "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan".

his century secured, Jurel shifted gears immediately by launching Fernando over long-on for six. Jayasuriya ended Siraj's 29-ball stay by trapping him plumb LBW with a slider. Prasidh Krishna then joined Jurel, who pulled Fernando over deep backward square leg for another six.

Krishna added the final touches by scything a low full-toss through cover for a boundary to push India past the 500-mark. After that, skipper Shubman Gill immediately declared the innings and called the batters back to have a crack at the Sri Lankan batting order in the toughest time to bat.

India handed the new ball to Siraj, who conceded just one

run in a tight opening over. Krishna struck with his second ball in the next over, dropping one back of a length outside off that straightened sharply off the deck. Lahiru Udara was squared up and edged the ball to gully, where Yashasvi Jaiswal took a sharp diving catch to send him packing for one. With light deteriorating rapidly, India introduced Suthar, who on the final ball of the third over, fired in a flatter delivery that skidded through to trap nightwatcher Jayasuriya lbw.

decision was upheld on review via umpire's call, prompting a frustrated Jayasuriya to fling his gloves away upon reaching the dressing room as umpires officially halted play for the day, as India put themselves in a commanding position on day two.

Brief scores:

India 503/9 decl in 138 overs (Devdutt Padikkal 117, Dhruv Jurel 115 not out; Asitha Fernando 4-106, Prabath Jayasuriya 2-132) lead Sri Lanka 8/2 in three overs (Kamil Mishara five not out; Prasidh Krishna 1-1, Manav Suthar 1-6) by 495 runs

Chess: India's GM Pranesh M wins Kanizsa Open title in Hungary



Mumbai, Aug 24 : India's 19-year-old Grandmaster Pranesh M emerged as the champion in the prestigious Kanizsa Open 2026 in Nagykanizsa, Hungary, securing the Group A title with a superb performance. In the ninth and final round of the tournament on Sunday, Pranesh defeated Vadim Petrovskiy of Germany with white pieces. Pranesh has a rating of 2673 and is ranked 44th in the latest FIDE Rankings of August 2026.

Pranesh, who hails from Karaikudi in Tamil Nadu, finished with seven points from nine rounds, sharing the top spot with three other players. He claimed the title on a better tie-break with Or Bronstein of Israel, Andrei Volokitin of Ukraine, and India's Karthik Venkataraman, finishing second to fourth in that order.

Karthik Venkataraman could have won the title outright but was held to a draw in the final round by Volokitin as they both fin-

ished with seven points. Bronstein jumped into a share of the top spot by beating compatriot IM Benny Aizenberg in the ninth round.

The Indian Embassy in Hungary hailed Pranesh for winning the title.

"Meet the new Indian Chess Champion!! Pranesh M. 'Huge Congratulations! to Indian Grandmaster Pranesh M on his brilliant victory at the prestigious Kanizsa Open 2026 in Nagykanizsa, Hungary!' the Embassy wrote in a post on its official handle. "After a thrilling 9th round, Pranesh secured the top spot in one of Central Europe's most competitive open tournaments.

"We are incredibly proud to see Indian talent shining so brightly on the global stage. Hungary ?????? continues to be a happy hunting ground for Indian Chess. Wishing him continued success in his chess journey!" said the post.

PSG coach says players must defend rapid attacks better after two games without a win

PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain coach Luis Enrique urged his players to be more "attentive" to rapid attacks after failing to win two games in a row. PSG salvaged a 2-2 draw at Rennes on Sunday thanks to two late goals from substitute Ferran Torres on his club debut. That draw followed a 1-0 defeat to Lens in the Trophée des Champions, the French Super Cup.

"(Transitional play) was one of our strengths over the past three seasons, being attentive to that," PSG coach Luis Enrique said after the Rennes game. "There are certain positions where you need to be sure your position is covered by another player. If you're a

little bit distracted, you can have problems." Both Rennes goals were scored on quick breaks and PSG's transitional play was also exposed when Lens scored the week before. With so many players involved in the World Cup, PSG's players barely had any pre-season training before beating Aston Villa 2-1 in the UEFA Super Cup on Aug. 12. "I think it depends on the physical shape of the players," Luis Enrique said, reflecting further on the Rennes goals. Some PSG players looked a bit jaded against Rennes, with Ballon d'Or winner Ousmane Dembélé who starred for France at the World Cup replaced at halftime.



India's women hockey team players warm up ahead of a match against Australia during the FIH Women's Hockey World Cup, in Amstelveen, Netherlands.

Ibrahim Zadran to lead Afghanistan against India in T20I series

KABUL: Ibrahim Zadran was on Monday named Afghanistan captain for their upcoming three-match T20I series against India, with the opener taking charge in his first assignment as the team's full-time T20I skipper.

The series will be played at the Feroz Shah Kotla in New Delhi from September 13 to 17 and is Afghanistan's "home series".

Jurel's hundred gives India command over SL in 2nd Test

Afghanistan have also welcomed back veteran fast bowler Naveen-ul-Haq, who returns to the national setup after recover-



ing from a stress fracture in his right shoulder. The injury had ruled him out of Afghanistan's

T20I series against the West Indies and the T20 World Cup 2026. Naveen's comeback bol-

sters a pace attack that also features Fazal Haq Farooqi, Abdullah Ahmadzai and all-rounder Azmatullah Omarzai.

Afghanistan have opted for a full-strength squad, with experienced all-rounder Gulbadin Naib also returning to add depth to the middle order and provide another bowling option.

Rashid Khan will lead an experienced spin-bowling group that also includes Noor Ahmad and Nangyal Kharoti, while senior all-rounder Mohammad Nabi adds further experience and balance.

Uncapped wicketkeeper-batter Noor Rahman has been included as the second wicket-keeper alongside Rahmanullah Gurbaz following his performances in domestic cricket, the Shpageeza Cricket League and at A-team level.

ACB CEO Naseeb Khan said the board had focused on selecting a well-balanced and fully prepared squad for the series.

"The Afghanistan Cricket Board has always made every effort to select a well-balanced and fully prepared squad for all relevant competitions.

Era of sustained dominance is over: men's singles enters genuinely open era



NEW DELHI: Men's singles has entered an unusually open phase, with a deepening pool of contenders making sustained dominance increasingly difficult to imagine, according to several leading players, including new World Badminton champion Alex Lanier of France and world No. 7 Victor Lai.

The evidence is not just in the names at the top of the

rankings but in the uncertainty surrounding almost every major tournament. The gap between the established elite and the chasing pack has narrowed considerably, while the physical demands of the modern men's game have made consistency across an entire season increasingly difficult. "It's a tough question, but I definitely feel that this is a different period," said Lanier when

asked whether it is possible to achieve the kind of domination that the old guards such as Lee Chong Wei, Lin Dan or Viktor Axelsen once achieved. "There are more tournaments nowadays, and there are also more good players. We can lose from the first round, and the intensity in the opening round is already very high. "At the World Championships here, that depth has been particularly evident, with India's Ayush Shetty, ranked world No. 22, stunning defending champion and world No. 1 Shi in the opening round or Denmark's World No 26 Rasmus Gemke beating All England champion Lin Chun-Yi and Indonesia's World No 3 Jonatan Christie. Lanier, who became the first Frenchman to win the men's singles title at the World Championships.

Champions League fairytale team Bodø/Glimt close to return as 7 playoffs decide full 36-team lineup

GENEVA: The Champions League's Cinderella club Bodø/Glimt is one game away from returning to the 36-team main draw being made Thursday alongside the wealthy giants of European soccer like title holder Paris Saint-Germain, Real Madrid and Bayern Munich. With the final seven Champions League entries to be decided in playoffs this week, the Norwegian fishing town team holds a 3-1 lead hosting Dutch debutant NEC Nijmegen at its Arctic Circle home on Tuesday. Jurel's hundred gives India command over SL in 2nd Test

Norway could have two teams advance as domestic champion Viking hosts Dinamo Zagreb on Wednesday with the teams tied at 2-2. The Croatian champion wasted an early two-goal lead in the first leg last Tuesday. The Champions League draw ceremony starts at 6



p.m. local time (1600 GMT) Thursday in Monaco, when the local team will be preparing to kick off about 10 minutes' drive away in the Conference League playoffs.

Monaco defending a 3-2 first-leg lead over Gornik Zabrze is among

36 playoff second legs this week in the second-tier Europa League and third-tier Conference League to finalize lineups for those draws being made Friday.

After winning games against Manchester City, Atletico Madrid

and Inter Milan in last season's Champions League, Bodø/Glimt started this time in qualifying needing to advance through two rounds in August. Glimt has scored three goals in each of its three games so far, first eliminating Union Saint-Gilloise 6-5 on aggregate score. Almost its entire squad was retained with just one big-money exit, selling Denmark forward Kasper Høgh to Celtic for a reported 11 million pounds (\$15 million). Høgh and Celtic also are in action Tuesday, taking a 3-0 first-leg lead to Austria against LASK. Israel's champion Hapoel Beer-Sheva has a 2-1 lead going to Azerbaijan to face Sabah, a club which was created just nine years ago. Lyon, now owned by U.S. investor Michele Kang, hosts Fenerbahçe on Wednesday tied at 1-1.



Ravi Teja thanks audience for Irumudi blockbuster success

Mass Maharaja Ravi Teja expressed his gratitude to audiences for the overwhelming response to his latest film Irumudi, stating that the love and appreciation from viewers brought tears of joy to his eyes. The makers organised a blockbuster press meet to celebrate the film's success. Directed by Shiva Nirvana and produced by Mythri Movie Makers, Irumudi was released on August 21 and has been receiving a strong response from audiences, along with impressive box-office collections. Speaking at the event, Ravi Teja thanked the

entire team behind the film and praised director Shiva Nirvana for selecting talented artistes and bringing out memorable performances. He appreciated the work of actors Komaram, Bhargav, Kishore, Ramesh Indra and the students' team, saying their performances added strength to the film. Ravi Teja also praised the technical team, including Sai Suresh for his natural artwork, cinematographer Vishnu for his fast and effective work, and the production team for maintaining high standards. He appreciated the choreography by Baba Bhaskar, Shekhar Master and Shiva Nirvana, while

also praising action choreographers Ram-Lakshman and Real Satish for creating impactful sequences. The actor highlighted GV Prakash's music as one of the major strengths of the film, saying the emotional background score played a key role in connecting with audiences. He recalled that even his daughter Moksha became emotional while watching the film. Ravi Teja said he was extremely happy to see the audience returning to theatres for Irumudi, especially those who had watched his films two decades ago. He added that the emotional reactions

shared by viewers on social media and other platforms were unforgettable. He thanked producers Ravi and Naveen for their support and expressed his desire to continue working with them. Ravi Teja also appreciated director Shiva Nirvana's dedication and simplicity despite the film's success. He praised actress Priya Bhavani Shankar and child artiste Nakshatra for their performances, while thanking the direction team, production unit and everyone associated with the film for making Irumudi a memorable success.

Akshaye Khanna unveiled as Shukracharya in Mahakali glimpse

The wait is over as the makers of Mahakali, RKD Studios and Prasanth Varma, have officially unveiled the first glimpse of the much-awaited Indian Historical spectacle. Following the announcement that sparked intrigue and curiosity among audiences, fans have been eagerly awaiting the glimpse. Titled #Shukracharya's WarCry, the glimpse also comes with a release date announcement, with Mahakali set to hit theatres on January 8, 2027. The glimpse sets the stage for a powerful battle between Dharma and Adharma, as the forces of the divine find themselves locked in a conflict far greater than a mere clash between good and evil. Led by Shukracharya, the formidable guru of the Asuras, the battle hints at a larger war that could determine the fate of an entire world. With its ominous tone, powerful imagery of impending conflict, the glimpse signals that "the end begins," setting the stage for the epic battle that will unfold in Mahakali. The highlight of the glimpse is undoubtedly Akshaye Khanna, who appears in a fierce and unrecognisable avatar as Shukracharya. Seen with an intense gaze and commanding screen presence, the actor brings an unmistakable gravitas to the character. Following the massive intrigue generated by his first look, the glimpse offers audiences their first real taste of his portrayal, further amplifying curiosity around the powerful Asura guru and his role in the battle between Dharma and Adharma. The glimpse also offers a first expansive look into the grand visual world of Mahakali, with striking imagery, elaborate world-building and impressive visual effects coming together to create a larger-than-life cinematic experience. Sriya Reddy makes a powerful appearance, adding another layer of



intrigue to the unfolding story with the scale and detailing of the visuals that hint at the ambitious world that the makers have created. With Hanu-Man establishing the foundation of the PVCU - PURANA VEERA CHITRA UDYAM and demonstrating the filmmaker's ability to transform Indian Itihasa into a visually spectacular big-screen experience, Mahakali now looks to take that vision forward on an even more ambitious scale. The 2-minute-and-55-second glimpse offers the first window

into Prasanth Varma's larger cinematic vision, hinting at a universe that continues to grow in scale, storytelling and spectacle. Presented by RK Duggal and produced by Riwarz Ramesh Duggal under the RKD Studios banner, Mahakali is directed by Puja Aparna Kolluru and serves as the next installment in the Cinematic Universe. The film also stars Bhoomi Shetty, Rohit Saraf and several other prominent actors alongside Akshaye Khanna and Sriya Reddy.

Maa Ramudu Andarivadu set for Sep 4 release

The upcoming Telugu film Maa Ramudu Andarivadu is gearing up for its theatrical release on September 4. Produced by Anumula Lakshmana Rao and Pallakonda Sriramulu under the Anumula Productions banner, the film combines family emotions, social themes, action, romance and mythological elements into an engaging narrative. Directed by Yaddanapudi Michael, the film has completed its production activities and comes with a runtime of 122 minutes. The makers have described it as an emotionally rich story that highlights values of justice, courage and social responsibility. Set against the backdrop of contemporary rural Andhra Pradesh, Maa Ramudu Andarivadu follows the journey of a young man who returns to his hometown to fulfil his late father's dream of building a better future for the villagers. However, his mission leads him into a conflict with a powerful and corrupt political leader who exploits the people for personal benefit. Inspired by the ideals of Lord Rama, the protagonist takes a stand against injustice and

transforms his personal struggle into a larger movement for social change. The film explores how he overcomes political pressure, personal challenges and sacrifices while fighting to restore hope and dignity among the villagers. A unique highlight of the film is the mythological narration by Lord Hanuman, who guides humanity even in the present Kali Yuga. Through Hanuman's narration, the film presents the story of Lord Rama and his journey of righteousness. Veteran actor Tanikella Bharani has lent his voice to the character of Hanuman, adding depth and emotional strength to the sequences. The film promises impressive visual effects, particularly in the Ramayana narration portions featuring CGI elements. Music has been composed by Manish Kumar, while Bolla Venkatesh has provided the background score. The movie features five songs rendered by singers including Nazeer Uddin, Geetha Madhuri, Ramya Behara, Nalgonda Gaddar and Manish Kumar. The makers are expected to announce further updates regarding the film ahead of its release.



Jagamae Sangeetham

to stream on Prime Video from Sep 4

Prime Video is all set to premiere the Telugu musical drama series Jagamae Sangeetham on September 4. Featuring acclaimed actors Prakash Raj, Meka Srikanth and Madhubala in key roles, the series explores the themes of music, family, legacy and self-discovery through the world of Carnatic music. Directed by Palnati Surya Pratap and produced by Sushmita Konidela, the series brings together traditional musical elements with a contemporary storytelling approach. Music composer Vishal Chandrasekar has created the soundtrack, which forms a crucial part of

the narrative by capturing the emotions, struggles and aspirations of the characters. The story follows Balu, a young musician determined to continue the musical legacy of his grandfather Sastry. While trying to uphold his family's traditions, Balu faces conflicts, unresolved secrets and expectations that challenge his personal journey. As he searches for his own identity, he must find a balance between respecting his heritage and creating a unique artistic path. The series presents the emotional bond between generations and highlights the importance of preserving cultural traditions while embracing change. Through

music, relationships and personal struggles, Jagamae Sangeetham portrays the journey of an individual discovering his passion and purpose. The show also features Akshay Lagusani, Sushmita Shetty and several other actors in supporting roles, strengthening the family-oriented storyline. With a blend of classical music, emotional drama and themes of self-discovery, the series aims to offer viewers a meaningful entertainment experience. Jagamae Sangeetham will stream exclusively on Prime Video from September 4 in Telugu with English subtitles, along with a Tamil dubbed version.



Shivalayam movie launched with traditional pooja ceremony

The upcoming Telugu devotional film Shivalayam was officially launched with a grand pooja ceremony at the Telugu Film Chamber in Hyderabad. The film aims to present a blend of spirituality, devotion and emotional storytelling on the big screen. Featuring Achanta Mahesh, who is known for his role in Rangasthalam, and Kanchana Deepti Reddy as the lead pair, Shivalayam is being directed and produced by Venkat Reddy Nandi. The makers expressed confidence that the film will offer audiences a unique devotional experience with a strong emotional narrative. The launch ceremony was conducted in a traditional manner in the presence of divine idols. Several members of the film fraternity, artistes, well-wishers and supporters attended the event and extended their best wishes to the entire team for the successful completion of the project. The first shot of the film was inaugurated by Dill Ramesh, who switched on the camera, while Garshana Srinivas performed the clap ceremony. Prominent agriculturist Kallem Narasimha Reddy also attended the occasion and conveyed his wishes to the cast and crew. The makers stated that Shivalayam will focus on themes of faith, devotion and human emotions while showcasing the cultural and spiritual values associated with Indian traditions. With a devotional backdrop and a talented team behind the project, the film is expected to attract the attention of Telugu cinema audiences.