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NATIONAL | NEWS

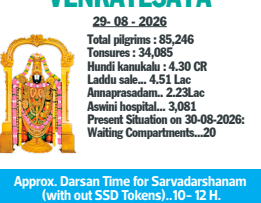
PM Modi urges

citizens to join 'Nasha Mukti Yuva' campaign to build drug-free India

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Short Takes

Dalit teen dies by
suicide after being
humiliated at school

Madurai (TSIT): A government school headmistress (HM) in Usilampatti in this district has been booked for abetment after a Dalit girl seeking admission in the institution died by suicide due to alleged humiliation at the hands of the accused. The HM also allegedly made a casteist slur at the deceased. The 16-year-old girl's relatives have been protesting, demanding action against the Government Model Secondary School headmistress who allegedly rebuked and made a casteist slur against the girl for asking her mother not to stand with folded hands in front of her.

INDIA HANDS OVER
FOURTH CONSIGNMENT
OF RELIEF MATERIALS
TO FLOOD-HIT NEPAL

Kathmandu (TSIT): India has handed over relief materials for flood victims in Nepal brought by its fourth flight carrying relief supplies. "The fourth flight carrying 11 tonnes of relief supplies has arrived in Nepal, with the materials handed over to the concerned authorities as part of ongoing support following the devastating floods," the Indian External Affairs Ministry said. The consignment includes a tunnel technical team equipped with search-and-rescue equipment, as well as a team of forensic experts for DNA analysis. The relief supplies include blankets, sleeping bags, tarpaulins, plastic sheets and hygiene kits.

Mobile phones may get
cheaper as GST
Council mulls tax cut

New Delhi: The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council may consider reducing the 18 per cent tax on mobile phones at its September 12 meeting. The proposed rate cut comes amid a slowdown in mobile handset demand. The Council is scheduled to meet after a gap of 374 days. Unlike its previous meeting, which focused largely on GST rate rationalisation, the upcoming session is expected to give greater attention to easing compliance for businesses. GST compliance reforms likely to dominate meeting. Besides the mobile phone tax proposal, the Council is expected to examine several issues linked to GST compliance and input tax credit. One major concern is the inverted duty structure, where the GST paid on inputs is higher than the tax charged on the final product.

Congress govt restored democracy,
welfare in Telangana: Uttam

HYDERABAD (TSIT):

Telangana Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Sunday said the Congress government's completion of 1,000 days marked a milestone in restoring democratic governance, expanding welfare and accelerating development in the State.

In a statement, Uttam Kumar alleged that governance during the previous 10-year BRS regime was concentrated in one family and said the Congress government had made the administration more accessible to people through direct consultations, Praja Vani and Assembly debates.

He highlighted welfare measures including free RTC bus travel for women, free electricity up to 200 units under Gruha Jyothi, LPG cylinders at Rs 500, enhanced Rajiv AarogyaSri coverage up to Rs 10 lakh, fine rice distribution and Indiramma housing assistance of Rs 5 lakh.

Uttam Kumar said crop loans of up to Rs 2 lakh had been waived for around 25 lakh farmers, while Rythu Bharosa assistance had been increased to Rs



Uttam Kumar said crop loans of up to Rs 2 lakh had been waived for around 25 lakh farmers, while Rythu Bharosa assistance had been increased to Rs 12,000 per acre.

12,000 per acre. Paddy procurement and bonuses for fine varieties had also strengthened the rural economy, he claimed.

He said nearly 70,000 government jobs had been filled and several development initiatives, including Young India Skills University, Advanced Technology Centres, integrated residential schools, irrigation

projects, roads and urban infrastructure, were progressing.

Despite the financial burden inherited from the previous BRS government, the Congress government had protected welfare expenditure and increased productive capital investment, Uttam Kumar claimed.

He said the first 1,000 days had demonstrated the government's commitment to social justice, food security, women's empowerment, farmer welfare and sustainable development, and vowed to continue the efforts with greater determination.

FM Sitharaman addresses vibrant
Indian diaspora in US, meets top CEOs

CHICAGO (TSIT):

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman interacted and addressed the vibrant Indian diaspora community in the US at the Consulate General of India's office here, an official statement said on Sunday.

FM Sitharaman lauded the diaspora's role as a formidable force that enhances India's soft power, global standing, and bilateral relationships.

She emphasised India's potential to serve not only as a major market but also as a global hub for developing, testing and manufacturing autonomous defence systems, leveraging its technology



capabilities, skilled workforce and growing innovation ecosystem. She met Mark S. Hoplamazian, President and CEO, Hyatt, in Chicago. The discussions covered Hyatt's continued commitment to India and opportunities to further expand its presence as the country's tourism and hospitality sector enters a new phase of growth, according to a Finance Ministry statement.

Uzbekistan honours PM Modi with highest state award

TASHKENT (TSIT):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with Uzbekistan's highest honour, the 'Oliy Darajali Do'stlik' Order, by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev in Tashkent on Sunday, in recognition of his contribution to strengthening India-Uzbekistan relations.

The honour adds to the growing list of international awards received by Modi from countries and organisations across the world. He has received more than 30 prestigious international honours, including state decorations and other recognitions. Earlier in July, Indonesian President Prabowo



Subianto conferred Indonesia's highest honour, the 'Bintang Adipurna of the Republic of Indonesia', on Modi.

During his visit to Tashkent,

Modi also held delegation-level talks with President Mirziyoyev. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, Foreign Secretary Vikram

Misri, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Secretary (West) Sibi George and other senior officials were present at the meeting. The Prime Minister was accorded a ceremonial welcome after arriving in Tashkent. President Mirziyoyev personally received him, with the two leaders exchanging warm greetings before the formal talks. Modi also witnessed a special yoga session featuring 52 practitioners from Uzbekistan. The session highlighted the growing popularity of yoga in the Central Asian country and added a cultural dimension to his diplomatic engagements.

High-speed rail corridors will
transform Telangana: Min Kishan Reddy

HYDERABAD (TSIT):

Union Minister G Kishan Reddy on Sunday, August 30, said the proposed high-speed rail corridors linking Hyderabad with Bengaluru, Chennai and Pune would be game-changers for Telangana.

The projects would accelerate industrialisation, improve connectivity and help ease traffic congestion in Hyderabad, he said. Reddy, who inspected Vikarabad Railway Station near here, said the Rail Manufacturing Unit at Kazipet was nearing completion and would soon be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The union minister of Coal said the indigenous railway safety sys-



tems KAVACH and KAVACH 2.0 were being implemented in Telangana for the first time.

Five Vande Bharat trains are currently operating from Hyderabad, further improving rail connectivity, he said. Highlighting the NDA government's initiatives to modernise the railway network in Telangana, Reddy said redevelopment works were underway at Vikarabad railway station at Rs 27

crore. As part of the Centre's efforts to strengthen railway infrastructure across Telangana, 40 railway stations are being redeveloped. Vikarabad, Tandur, Nampally, Secunderabad, Moulali and Charlapalli are among the stations being upgraded to international standards, he said.

Telangana's railway infrastructure was witnessing rapid development under the Modi government, with major projects worth thousands of crores progressing across the state, Reddy said. He added that doubling, tripling and quadrupling of railway lines was underway, while 100 per cent electrification of railway lines in Telangana had been completed.

Tamil govt plans to sell onions at
subsidised rates through ration shops

CHENNAI (TSIT):

The Tamil Nadu cooperative sector is preparing to sell onions at subsidised prices through ration shops after a rise in retail rates placed pressure on household budgets across the state.

Onions, a staple used in kitchens, have become more expensive over the past few weeks. Large onions, which were available for about Rs 30 a kg at the end of last month, are now being sold at nearly Rs 60 a kg in many retail markets. Prices of small onions, or shallots, have risen steeply, climbing from around Rs 40-50 a kg last month to nearly Rs 70 a kg.

The increase has affected consumers already coping with higher prices of several essential vege-



tables. With market rates continuing to remain firm, the cooperative sector has decided to intervene by procuring onions in bulk and supplying them through the public distribution system at prices substantially below prevailing retail levels. As part of the initiative, the state has approached the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India, commonly known as NAFED, seeking an allocation of 70,000 kg of onions.

Bhagwat's Hindu-Muslim
remarks spark political row

New Delhi (TSIT): Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat's recent remarks on Hindu-Muslim unity in New York have triggered political reactions, with BJP leaders backing his assertion of inclusivity while Opposition parties questioned his position and commitment to equality and plurality in India. BJP National Spokesperson RP Singh said Hinduism was inherently inclusive and could not be confined to a particular sect, religion or mode of worship. "Hindu is inclusive. 'Hindu' is not the name of a sect, nor the name of a religion, nor can 'Hindu' be tied to a specific mode of worship.



India emerges as key exporter of petrol to Russia

NEW DELHI (TSIT):

India has emerged as a key exporter of petrol to Russia, with shipments touching nearly 1 million barrels over the past two months as widespread Ukrainian drone attacks have crippled the country's refineries, forcing Moscow to take recourse

to imports to meet domestic demand, according to a report by ship-tracking data and energy analytics firm Vortexa.

Russia's seaborne gasoline imports surged to a record 470,000 tonnes in August, with long queues of cars at local filling stations reflecting the shortage of fuel amid the shutdown in

refineries due to Ukraine's drone attacks deep into Russian territory. The report states that Russia's domestic fuel production dropped by as much as 70 per cent. This has also forced Russia to ban exports of petrol and diesel to tackle the acute shortage.

Vortexa said as many as 32 attacks were carried out



on Russian refineries during July and August, averaging roughly one every two days. Indian refiners were among important suppliers along with Turkey and Morocco to help Russia meet the shortfall in domestic production of fuels. Trade sources said much of India's supply came from

Nayara Energy's refinery at Vadinar on the Gujarat coast, in which Russian oil major Rosneft has a share.

As global refining capacity faces uncertainty, India is expanding its position as the world's third-largest refiner, with capacity rising from 272 MMTPA towards 300 MMTPA, Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas

Hardeep Singh Puri said earlier this month. Meanwhile, India has diversified its sources for the import of crude oil to 41 countries compared with 27 earlier, following the breakout of the Iran war and closure of the Strait of Hormuz, through which 20 per cent of the world's oil and gas exports transits during normal times.

CM Revanth gov't completes 1,000 days

Hyderabad, TSIT Bureau: The Telangana government led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is set to complete 1,000 days in office on September 1, marking the milestone with a report card highlighting welfare, social justice, economic growth, employment and infrastructure development. The government said Telangana's per capita income rose to Rs.4,18,931 in 2025-26, while the State continued to attract investments in IT, artificial intelligence, Global Capability Centres and life sciences. Agriculture remained a key priority, with farm loans of up to Rs.2 lakh



waived for more than 25 lakh farming families. Over Rs.36,000 crore was provided under Rythu Bharosa, while around Rs.1.68 lakh crore was spent on agriculture and farmer welfare during the past 32 months. The State also procured a record 81.12 lakh metric tonnes of paddy during the last Yasangi season.

Women-focused welfare schemes included more than 335 crore free RTC bus journeys under Mahalakshmi. Over 53 lakh families benefited from free electricity of up to 200 units under Gruha Jyothi, while around 43 lakh families received LPG cylinders at Rs.500. The government issued more than 15 lakh new ration cards and expanded Public Distribution System coverage to around 3.38 crore people, besides introducing fine rice for ration cardholders. On employment, the government said more than 72,000 government appointments had been made. Mega DSC

recruitment resulted in the appointment of 10,006 teachers, while the Young India Skills University and Advanced Technology Centres were launched to strengthen youth employability. In healthcare, Aarogya Sri coverage was increased to Rs.10 lakh. A new 2,000-bed Osmania General Hospital and three TMS super-specialty hospitals are under development. The Chief Minister's Relief Fund provided Rs.2,526.12 crore to more than 5.18 lakh people between December 2023 and August 2026. Social justice measures included a comprehensive caste survey, SC sub-categorisation and legislation providing 42 per cent reservation for BCs. The government also highlighted major infrastructure projects, including the Regional Ring Road, Hyderabad Metro Phase-II, HAM roads, Musi rejuvenation and airport development. Looking ahead, the Telangana Rising-2047 vision targets a \$1-trillion economy by 2034 and a \$3-trillion economy by 2047, with Bharat Future City, AI City, data centres, Metro Phase-II, the Musi project and new universities forming key pillars of the development roadmap.

With the objective of encouraging youth to stay away from drugs and contribute towards building a healthy and drug-free society, the Nagar Kurnool District Athletic Association organised a "2K RUN - SAY NO TO DRUGS" programme in Kalwakurthy town. MLA Kasireddy Narayan Reddy attended the programme as the chief guest. The 2K run began at Hyderabad Chowrasta, proceeded up to the MPDO office and successfully concluded back at Hyderabad Chowrasta. A large number of youth and students participated enthusiastically in the event, spreading awareness against drug abuse and conveying the message of a drug-free society. Students from the Lakshya Athletic Centre,

Building a Drug-Free Society: Grand 2K Run Held in Kalwakurthy

The South India Times // Nagarkurnool
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Nagar Kurnool, showcased impressive performances in the run. Ganesh and Anil emerged as winners and were honoured with certificates of appreciation by MLA Kasireddy Narayan Reddy.

Illegal sand mining allegations stir Ismailkhanpet

Sangareddy, August 30 (TSIT): Allegations of rampant illegal sand mining and transportation in Ismailkhanpet have raised concerns among villagers, who have urged the district administration to take immediate action against the alleged illegal trade in sand from Nakkavagu. According to local residents, sand is being excavated and transported from Nakkavagu on a large scale, allegedly in violation of regulations. They claimed that despite monitoring by the Revenue and Mining departments, illegal transportation continues in the area, potentially causing significant revenue losses to the government. Villagers questioned why stringent



action has not been taken against those allegedly involved in the activity. They also urged officials to verify whether the vehicles transporting sand possess valid permits and whether the required royalty payments are being made. There are also unverified local allegations that some vehicles allegedly caught transporting sand illegally are being released after payments are made.

Sound and light show inaugurated at Alampur

Jogulamba Gadwal, August 30 (TSIT): A state-of-the-art multimedia Sound and Light Show showcasing the spiritual, historical and cultural heritage of the renowned Alampur temple town was inaugurated by Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy on Sunday evening. The facility has been developed at a cost of 4.60 crore under the PRASAD scheme of the Union Ministry of Tourism. The project aims to highlight the unique heritage and religious significance of Alampur, popularly known as Dakshina Kashi (Kashi of the South). On his arrival in Alampur, Kishan Reddy was warmly welcomed by public representatives and district officials, who presented him with bouquets. The Union



Minister, along with other dignitaries, unveiled a commemorative plaque marking the completion of the project. He later inaugurated the Sound and Light Show by cutting a ribbon and witnessed the multimedia presentation along with public representatives, officials and members of

the public. The show uses a combination of visuals, sound and lighting to present the rich spiritual, historical and cultural legacy of the Alampur temple complex. The initiative is expected to provide visitors with an engaging experience while creating greater awareness of the town's heritage. Before the formal inauguration, Oggur artists performed an Oggur Katha depicting the history, significance and cultural heritage of the Alampur temples. The performance received appreciation from the audience. Nagarkurnool MP Mallu Ravi, Mahabubnagar MP D.K. Aruna, Alampur MLA Vijayudu, former MLA Sampath Kumar, Special Chief

Secretary of the Youth Advancement, Tourism and Culture Department Vani Prasad, Telangana Tourism Development Corporation Managing Director Gauthami, District Collector Rizwan Basha Shaik and Superintendent of Police T. Srinivas Rao attended the programme. Additional Collector Narsing Rao, Tourism Regional Director Venkatesh, ED Upender Reddy, District Tourism Officer Ramalingeswara Goud, Alampur Market Yard Chairman Doddappa, Municipal Chairman Jayaramudu, Municipal Commissioner Rajesh and other officials, public representatives and local leaders were also present.

Cancel Azamabad land allocation immediately: Harish Rao

Hyderabad, Aug 30 (TSIT) Former Telangana Minister T Harish Rao on Sunday alleged that the Congress government was handing over Oilfield land at Azamabad to private parties at a throwaway price and demanded immediate cancellation of the allocation. In a letter to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, Harish Rao claimed that 3.23 guntas of Oilfield land at RTC Cross Roads, Azamabad, valued at around Rs 500 crore, was being allotted to private entities for Rs 87 crore, despite Oilfield being ready to purchase the land. He alleged that the government was ignoring court verdicts and protecting private interests for commissions, while imposing restrictions on the properties of common people under the '22A' provisions. Harish Rao demanded that the allocation be cancelled and freehold rights over the land be granted to Oilfield. He warned that the BRS would launch a major agitation if public assets continued to be handed over to private parties.

Reddy leaders seek support for September 8 hunger strike



Jagtiala, August 30 (TSIT): Reddy community representatives have called upon members to participate in large numbers in a protest hunger strike scheduled for September 8 at Indira Park in Hyderabad, demanding the continuation of Rythu Bima and other welfare measures. The protest is being organised under the aegis of state-level Reddy associations. The representatives said the Rythu Bima scheme provides crucial financial support to the families of farmers who die prematurely and demanded that the government continue the

scheme. They also called for the immediate establishment of a Reddy Corporation with a Rs.1,000 crore fund and appointment of its governing body. Another key demand was that the 15 acres of land allotted at Budvel in Hyderabad for a Reddy hostel be retained at the same location. The representatives further demanded effective implementation of Economically Weaker Section (EWS) reservations across all departments. A poster announcing the September 8 hunger strike was unveiled at the Reddy Function Hall office in Dharmapuri by

representatives who gathered from various mandals under the aegis of the Jagtiala District Reddy Aikya Vedika. Speaking on the occasion, the representatives appealed to members of the community to extend their support and participate in the protest in large numbers to make it successful. They said the demands were aimed at securing welfare measures and ensuring effective implementation of existing provisions for the community. State vice-president of Reddy Aikya Vedika Nerella Bhooma Reddy, district president Gaddam Chandrashekar Reddy, Reddy Jana Sankshema Sangham district president Koppera Venkata Reddy, Anneda Manohar Reddy, Kothapeta Ganga Reddy, Guda Ramesh Reddy, Katipelli Muneendar Reddy, Baddam Linga Reddy, Edamala Satish Reddy, Edamala Ram Reddy, Gaddam Deepak Reddy and others participated in the poster unveiling programme.

Cong Failed to Deliver 6 Guarantees: BRS Leader Nagam Shashidhar Reddy

The South India Times // Nagar Kurnool BRS leader Nagam Shashidhar Reddy criticised the Congress government, alleging that it had completely failed to implement the six guarantees promised to the people. He accused the government of showing negligence in fulfilling its election assurances. Speaking at a media conference held at his



residence in Nagar Kurnool district headquarters, Shashidhar Reddy said the situation had once again reached a

stage where people would have to launch agitations to get their problems resolved. He stated that along with

the general public, employees were also taking to the streets and staging protests over their unresolved issues. Questioning the government over its promise to provide 24-hour free electricity to farmers, he asked what had happened to the assurance. He alleged that farmers and the general public were facing severe difficulties due to power cuts in the State.

CPI opposes granite quarry in Regonda

Husnabad, August 30 (TSIT): CPI Akkannapet Mandal Secretary Kommula Bhaskar has urged the government to withhold permission for a proposed granite quarry in Regonda revenue village of Akkannapet Mandal in Siddipet district, warning that the project could severely affect agricultural lands, crops and the lives of local residents. Bhaskar said the proposal involves granite mining across 5.10 hectares in Survey No. 897, with officials planning to extract around 13,011.84 cubic metres of granite from the site. He pointed out that a public hearing conducted by



officials had recorded opposition from the majority of participants. Of the 22 people who expressed their views, 19 opposed the proposed quarry, he said. Bhaskar urged the authorities to respect the public opinion and stop the approval process. CPI district executive

committee members Yedala Vanesh and Jeripothula Janardhan said the proposed quarry would create serious difficulties for farmers who depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. They expressed concern that blasting operations could damage standing crops

and nearby houses, while the movement of heavy vehicles could affect village roads and create safety risks. They also warned that dust generated by mining and transportation activities could adversely affect agricultural fields and the surrounding environment. The leaders said the presence of villages and farmlands close to the proposed quarry made it necessary for officials to carefully assess its potential impact before granting any permission. Bhaskar said protecting farmers' lands and livelihoods should be given priority over mining activities. He maintained

that permissions should not be granted by ignoring the concerns raised during the public consultation. The CPI leaders warned that if the government proceeds with granting quarry permission despite the reported opposition from villagers, the party would mobilise farmers and residents and launch a major agitation. They said the CPI was prepared to undertake further protests to safeguard farmers' interests, protect agricultural lands and prevent possible environmental damage from the proposed quarry.

NTPC Ramagundam's EMG Department hosts initiatives on 'Waste Management and Recycling'

Peddapalli, Aug 30 (TSIT): The Environmental Management Group (EMG) of NTPC Ramagundam on Sunday held a Waste Segregation Awareness Programme aimed at the waste collection workers in the Township. This session focused on the significance of properly sorting waste, safe handling techniques, and the scientific methods for disposal. The workers were educated on the critical need for maintaining segregation throughout the collection and transportation processes, ensuring that recyclable materials are appropriately channelled. Additionally, the EMG Department, in collaboration with DRCC,



Gowthami Nagar, facilitated a program titled "Waste to Value - Earn from Waste" for the residents of the Township. Community members were invited to bring their sorted recyclable materials, such as paper, cardboard, plastic, metals, and glass, for collection and recycling. The initiative sought to foster awareness about source segregation, promote recycling practices, and highlight the economic benefits of recyclable waste. Furthermore, the EMG Department conducted a training session for the waste collection workers to underscore the necessity of proper segregation, handling, collection, and disposal methods in a manner that is both scientifically sound and environmentally responsible.

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Prajavani Programme to be held at District Collectorate Today

Warangal, August 30, TSIT : District Collector Dr. Satya Sharada stated in a press release that the Prajavani programme will be conducted at the District Collectorate on Monday from 10:00 AM onwards. The District Collector stated that district-level officers will conduct Prajavani at the district level, Revenue Divisional Officers at the revenue division level, and mandal-level officers at the mandal level. She directed the officials to examine the applica-



tions received from the public during the Prajavani programme and resolve them promptly. The District Collector urged the people to make use of this opportunity.

Hyderabad Collector Dr Priyanka Ala Inspects NEET-PG 2026 Exam Centre

Hyderabad, TSIT: Hyderabad District Collector Dr Priyanka Ala on Sunday inspected a NEET-PG 2026 examination centre at Innovision Technologies in Secunderabad and reviewed the arrangements made for the smooth conduct of the examination. The Collector inspected infrastructure and security arrangements at the centre, including jammers, deployment of flying and sitting squads and frisking of candidates. She also reviewed facilities such as drinking water, emergency medicines, sanitation, uninterrupted power supply and power backup. Officials informed the Collector that of the 170 candidates allotted to the centre, 163 appeared for the examination while seven were absent. Dr Priyanka Ala directed officials and examina-



tion staff to remain vigilant until the completion of the examination and ensure strict adherence to the guidelines prescribed by the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS). The Collector said the NEET-PG 2026 examination was successfully completed across four centres in Hyderabad district, with 965 of the 990 registered candidates appearing for the examination, while 25 were absent, recording an attendance of 97.47 per cent. Centre Head Vishnuchandra Linga, DT Sridhar Reddy and other officials were present during the inspection.

Universal Newborn Eye Screening Essential to Prevent Avoidable Blindness

Vijayawada (TSIT) Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP), a sight-threatening condition affecting premature and low-birth-weight babies, can lead to irreversible vision loss if not detected and treated in time, experts from LV Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI) said. Babies born before 34 weeks of gestation or weighing less than 2 kilograms should undergo a comprehensive eye examination by a trained ophthalmologist within 20-30 days of birth. Babies born after 34 weeks or weighing more than 2 kilograms but having an unstable clinical condition, prolonged oxygen therapy or severe illness should also be screened for ROP. Early detection and timely treatment through laser therapy or anti-VEGF injections can prevent the progression of the disease and help save the child's vision. Under the Rashtriya Bal



Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), the government also recommends the '30-Day Rule', under which an initial retinal exami-

nation should be conducted within 20-30 days of birth, or earlier in extremely low-birth-weight babies.LVPEI-Newborn

Eye Health Alliance (NEHA), in collaboration with Tata Trusts, has undertaken the Newborn Blindness Prevention Eye Screening Strategy (N-BLESS) project to improve awareness, strengthen the newborn eye-health ecosystem and promote timely ROP screening. As part of the N-BLESS project, more than 2,100 premature babies have been screened so far, with 41 babies receiving treatment for ROP. Another 14 babies were treated for other newborn eye conditions, while more than 810 healthcare staff were trained under the initiative. Experts urged parents, neonatologists and Special Newborn Care Unit (SNCU) staff to prioritise ROP screening within the first 30 days of life. They also stressed the importance of universal newborn eye screening by trained healthcare workers within 24 hours of birth.

Indian Bank Approves Rs.1,020 Crore Loans for Retail, Agriculture and MSME Sectors

TSIT Visakhapatnam.

Indian Bank has approved loans worth a total of Rs.1,020 crore for the retail, agriculture and MSME (RAM) sectors at a Mega Credit Camp organised in Visakhapatnam under the aegis of the Hyderabad Field General Manager's Office (FGMO). The approvals include Rs.512 crore for the MSME sector, Rs.351 crore for retail and Rs.157 crore for agriculture. Bank officials said the initiative reflected Indian Bank's commitment to providing timely and convenient credit facilities to entrepreneurs, individual borrowers, farmers and those engaged in allied agricultural activities. They said the bank was expanding its operations to support inclusive economic development in line with the objectives of Viksit Bharat.

Indian Bank Managing Director and CEO Binod Kumar said the bank was committed to further strengthening credit support to the retail, agriculture and



MSME sectors, which play a crucial role in entrepreneurship, livelihoods and inclusive economic growth. He said the bank's focus was on understanding customer requirements and providing timely financial solutions suited to their needs. The Mega Credit Camp aimed to expand the bank's reach, improve access to credit and strengthen services to customers across key economic sectors. Through focused lending

initiatives and customer outreach programmes, Indian Bank would continue to strengthen its position as a trusted financial partner for individuals, farmers and entrepreneurs, he said. Hyderabad FGMO Field General Manager M. Sriramachandra Babu, along with zonal heads and MCB heads from various zones under the Hyderabad FGMO, participated in the programme.

Telugu Diaspora Must Stay Rooted in Language and Culture, Says Minister Kondapalli

TSIT, Visakhapatnam, Telugu people settled abroad should never forget their roots, language and cultural heritage, even as they achieve success on the global stage, said Minister for MSMEs, Rural Poverty Alleviation and Non-Resident Telugu Affairs Kondapalli Srinivas. He was the chief guest representing the Andhra Pradesh government at the inaugural session of the Asia Pacific Telugu Federation (APTF) Conference-2026 held in Penang, Malaysia, on Sunday. Describing the formation of APTF as a historic initiative to bring Telugu associations from Malaysia, Singapore, Australia, Indonesia and other countries onto a common platform, the Minister said the younger generation should grow as global citizens while remaining united by their Telugu identity. He called upon the Telugu diaspora worldwide to become partners in the Swarna Andhra-2047 vision being pursued by the Andhra Pradesh government under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu

Naidu. He said the emotional bond with the motherland should now be transformed into a meaningful partnership in development. Every Telugu household abroad should serve as a small



Telugu learning centre, while global mentorship and startup networks should be created for Telugu youth, he suggested.

The Minister urged Telugu entrepreneurs with international experience to invest in Andhra Pradesh and create employment opportunities for local youth. He assured that

APNRTS would continue to serve as a strong bridge for resolving the concerns of the Telugu diaspora and connecting their skills and expertise with the development needs of the State.

Referring to the cultural performances at the conference, he said the North Andhra-style Kolatam Bhajana presented by young Malaysian Telugu artists had impressed him greatly. He appreciated the Telugu community in Malaysia for preserving its cultural heritage despite generations having passed and families having migrated abroad decades ago. The participation of Telugu youth in learning Kuchipudi and folk arts through the Malaysia Telugu Academy and enthusiastically presenting traditional Kolatam was inspiring, he said.

APTF Interim President Dr. S. Venkata Pratap, Organising Committee Chairman S. Satya Sudhakaram, Interim General Secretary S. Shiva Surya Narayana, Tollywood actor and writer Tanikella Bharani, along with representatives and dignitaries from several countries, attended the conference.

Visakhapatnam's Marikavalasa Centre of Excellence to Shape Bright Future of Tribal Students

TSIT, Visakhapatnam : The Andhra Pradesh government has established a prestigious Centre of Excellence (COE) at Marikavalasa with the objective of identifying and nurturing the talent of tribal students and enabling them to secure top ranks in national-level competitive examinations, said M. Gauthami, Secretary of the Andhra Pradesh Tribal Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Society (APTWREIS). During her visit to the Centre at the Marikavalasa Boys' Residential School campus on Sunday, she inspected the classrooms and interacted with students. Addressing the media later, she said the government had taken a historic decision to provide intensive coaching to Intermediate students studying in tribal residential institutions for national-level entrance examinations such as IIT-JEE and NEET. She said the Tribal Welfare Department had been sanctioned an additional COE on the lines of those operated by the BC and Social Welfare departments. Through a transparent RFP process, Physics Wallah, one of the leading educational institutions in the country, was selected to provide intensive coaching through expert faculty, and classes have already com-



menced.Gauthami said Marikavalasa was selected considering Visakhapatnam's position as an educational hub and the transportation and other facilities available to students from the North Andhra agency as well as plain areas. A total of 600 students—300 boys and 300 girls—selected on merit are being provided high-quality intensive training for Plus One and Plus Two. She clarified that students who were previously studying at the Marikavalasa school were shifted safely to the nearby

girls' campus, Krishna Puram, Sabbavaram SOEs and their respective residential institutions, based on their requests, using buses under the supervision of teachers. Parents were informed in advance and students were given a farewell before being shifted, she said, dismissing reports that the campus was vacated overnight. She added that a co-education system was being introduced, similar to the EMRS model, to develop students' confidence and personality in line with future cor-

porate and professional environments. At the same time, separate dormitories and classrooms have been arranged for boys and girls, along with additional CCTV cameras, separate wardens and enhanced security. Gauthami interacted with students on the campus and urged tribal students to make full use of the opportunity, excel in IIT-JEE and NEET, and bring recognition to their families, community and the State. Principal Appala Raju participated in the programme.

Development of Rural Rayalaseema Gains Momentum



TSIT, Visakhapatnam : The Andhra Pradesh government is implementing a special development vision for Rayalaseema under the leadership of Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, with a focus on strengthening rural infrastructure, water conservation, agriculture, drinking water supply and livelihoods. More than Rs.8,022 crore worth of development works have been taken up across the region during the last two years. Under various programmes, over 23,000 road works have been undertaken at an estimated cost of Rs.4,523 crore, while 5,238 km of BT and CC roads have been completed. Water conservation initiatives, including thousands of farm ponds and recharge structures, have brought more than 50,000 additional acres under cultivation. Around 15,000 mini Gokulams have also been constructed to support dairy farmers, while horticulture development under the rural employment guarantee programme has benefited more than 28,000 farmers across nearly 62,000 acres. The government is also developing 13 urban forests at a cost of Rs.26 crore to increase green cover in Rayalaseema towns. Water security has been accorded special priority, with Rs.2,782 crore worth of JJM-Amarajeevi Jaladhara works progressing across the region. The Pulivendula Multi-Village Water Scheme is being completed with an investment of Rs.280 crore, while the Done Multi-Village Scheme, taken up at a cost of Rs.132 crore, is expected to provide drinking water to around 3.5 lakh people. The Rs.2,370-crore Chittoor Mega Water Grid is also progressing and is expected to meet the drinking water needs of more than 25 lakh people over the next 30 years. In addition, the Forest Department has established a Kunkie elephant conservation centre at Musalamadugu to address

Employees' Rights Struggle Is Not Political Agenda: APJAC Amaravati



Vijayawada, August 30, 2026: APJAC Amaravati leaders have strongly rejected allegations that their proposed agitation over employees' issues has a political agenda, asserting that their sole objective is to secure the legitimate rights and pending benefits of government employees. Addressing a press conference at the Revenue Bhavan in Vijayawada on Sunday, APJAC Amaravati Chairman Bopparaju Venkateswarlu, Secretary General Palishetty Damodara Rao, and other state leaders said they were hurt by the recent comments made by a Minister against their organisation and condemned the allegations. The leaders said the association was only reminding the government of the promises made to employees and seeking their implementation. "Questioning the government on employees' rights and asking it to honour its promises cannot be described as insulting or

humiliating the government," they said.

Bopparaju said APJAC Amaravati had consistently focused on employees' welfare irrespective of which political party was in power. He recalled that several employees' issues were resolved during the previous Telugu Desam government between 2014 and 2019 without the need for major agitations, and the association had even published a book thanking the then Chief Minister for resolving those issues.

He also referred to the joint employees' movement during 2022-23 and said APJAC Amaravati had subsequently undertaken a 92-day independent agitation after assurances given during discussions were not implemented. Several issues were eventually resolved through negotiations, he claimed.

The APJAC leaders said discussions between employees' organisations and the government had continued for nearly 40 days,

but there had been no clear outcome.

They said that after the association's state executive meeting on June 7, 2026, agitation-preparation meetings were planned from Srikakulam. However, following an appeal from the Revenue Minister, the leaders were called back for discussions on July 10 and 11. A Joint Staff Council meeting involving various employees' associations was also held on July 22, followed by meetings at the Secretariat on August 2 and August 16, they said. Despite these discussions, the government did not provide clarity on the decisions taken, the leaders claimed. They said the association had ultimately conducted its state-level conference on August 28 as there was no further communication from the government. The leaders demanded that the government clearly state which decisions taken during the discussions would be implemented, how many pending issues would be resolved and within what timeframe.

Veligonda Project to Bring New Hope to Drought-Hit Farmers

TSIT, Visakhapatnam : The Poola Subbaiah Veligonda Project will usher in a new era of prosperity for farmers in the drought-prone regions of Prakasam, Markapuram, Nellore and YSR Kadapa districts, State Agriculture Minister K. Atchannaidu said. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu will dedicate the prestigious project to the nation, marking a historic milestone in the State's irrigation sector. The project has been designed to divert 43.53 TMC of Krishna floodwaters from the Srisaillam reservoir through the Nallamala hills and provide irrigation to 4,47,300 acres. Of this, 3,08,700 acres in Markapuram, 27,400 acres in Prakasam, 27,200 acres in YSR Kadapa and



84,000 acres in Nellore districts are expected to benefit. The project will also provide drinking water to nearly 23 lakh people, including 15.25 lakh people in 30 mandals across four districts and residents of 1,657 habitations in seven constituencies of western Prakasam. The filling of the Nallamala Sagar reservoir and flow of water into canals and tanks is expected to improve groundwater levels and transform agriculture in the upland areas.

Atchannaidu said Veligonda was not merely an irrigation project but a lifeline for farmers and drought-affected communities that had faced water scarcity and migration for decades. He recalled that Chandrababu Naidu had laid the foundation stone for the project in 1996 and said his leadership in dedicating the same project to the people nearly three decades later was a rare and historic moment. After the coalition government assumed office, pending works were accelerated on a priority basis. The remaining 4,924-km boring work of Tunnel-2 was completed in 23 months, while

nearly Rs.2,402 crore worth of works were completed in 26 months. The two major tunnels, with a combined length of about 18.8 km through the Nallamala hills, will carry Krishna floodwaters to Nallamala Sagar during flood periods. From there, water will be distributed through the Teegaleru, Gottipadu and Eastern Main canals. The project is expected to fill tanks, raise groundwater levels, revive borewells, increase crop production and create rural employment, thereby reducing distress migration. The dedication of Veligonda, he said, marks the beginning of a new chapter of hope and economic security for farmers and families in the drought-prone regions.

DRONE-BASED MEDICAL SERVICES BRING HEALTHCARE CLOSER TO TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

TSIT, Visakhapatnam : Drone-based medical transportation services introduced for remote tribal areas of Alluri Sitarama Raju district are delivering encouraging results by bringing healthcare closer to people living in hilly and forested regions. Launched in January 2026 as the first such initiative in the State, the system has completed more than 1,800 trips using four drones, covering over 71,000 kilometres. More than 2,200 medical samples, including 596 sickle-cell samples, have been



transported, enabling over 9,000 diagnostic tests and benefiting more than 24,500 patients, Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav said.

The drone network connects Paderu Government General Hospital with Lohutgedda, Tajangi, Sunkarametta, Bhimavaram and Ananthagiri PHCs, as well as Munchingiputtu CHC, Chintapalli and Araku Area Hospital. The service is helping overcome difficulties caused by mountainous terrain, dense forests and poor road connectivity, while saving patients considerable travel time, expenses and loss of working days.

Apart from medical samples, the drones are being used to transport essential medicines, vaccines and other medical supplies to remote health centres. On August 29, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu launched the transportation of medical reports, vaccines and medicines by drone from Gannela PHC to R.K. Nagar village. Following the Chief Minister's directions, the services will be expanded further, Minister Satya Kumar said. Commissioner of Health and Family Welfare Chakradhar Babu said the faster movement of samples to laboratories was helping ensure timely test results and reduce delays in treatment.

PM Modi urges citizens to join 'Nasha Mukta Yuva' campaign to build drug-free India

New Delhi, Aug 30 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said that the 'Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat' campaign is currently gaining momentum across the country to eradicate substance abuse and build a drug-free India by 2047.He also called on the public to participate in the campaign in large numbers by making content for social media, short plays, songs, etc, to make people aware of the campaign.Speaking during the 137th episode of his monthly radio programme, 'Mann Ki Baat', PM Modi said, "The 'Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat' campaign is currently



gaining momentum across the country. The goal is clear -- drug-free youth, drug-free India. Many people, particularly our youth, have become a large part of this. After all, this is our collective resolve towards their health, happiness and bright future in India."

"Addiction does not affect just one person, but the consequences are felt by the entire family and society," he added.

The Prime Minister

praised people who raise awareness against drugs and come forward to help those who are dealing with addiction.

He also urged people to make slogans and songs to make people aware of the drug-free India campaign.

"Can you come up with slogans for the 'Nasha Mukta Bharat' campaign? Can our young musicians make songs that contain the message of a drug-free life? Can students and theatre groups write heart-touching short plays that address the dangers of drugs as well as show a way to break free from them? There is no dearth of excellent content creators in our country. I urge them to make content in different languages that can help society in this direction," PM Modi said.

"Many times, a creative effort is more effective than a formal campaign. Come, let us play our role in keeping India's youth away from drugs, free from drugs," he added.

Earlier on August 2, the Prime Minister had virtually launched the 'Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan' as a nationwide movement. The campaign connected over 28,000 locations nationwide with the participation of more than 1 crore youth.

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Chidambaram calls exam malpractice law 'useless', slams Centre over bills

New Delhi, Aug 30: Congress leader P Chidambaram on Saturday criticised the BJP-led Centre over the recently passed Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026, calling it a "useless law" and alleging that several bills were passed in Parliament without meaningful debate.



Speaking at an event on the recently concluded monsoon session of Parliament, Chidambaram said the new legislation merely prescribed punishments for unfair practices instead of effectively preventing them.

He questioned whether the law would stop malpractice in public examinations, pointing out that examinations had continued to be cancelled in several states even after the legislation was passed. "Just yesterday, a public examination was cancelled. The day before yesterday, another public examination was cancelled. In Maharashtra, two public examinations were cancelled. In Rajasthan, one public examination was cancelled," he said.

Chidambaram alleged that examinations were also being cancelled in

Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, arguing that the law had failed to address the underlying problem. He said the legislation should instead have been titled a bill prescribing punishments, likening its approach to "locking the stable after the horse has bolted".

Chidambaram also criticised the functioning of Parliament during the monsoon session, alleging that there was virtually no debate on the 12 bills passed by both Houses. "Although a list was released claiming that 12 bills were passed, not a single one was passed following discussion," he alleged. Comparing Parliament with the Tamil Nadu Assembly, he said ministers, the Leader of the Opposition, the Deputy Leader

of the Opposition and other members were allowed to speak in the state legislature, while the Speaker issued rulings on matters raised by members. "Watching this makes one feel that being a Member of the State Assembly -- Tamil Nadu -- is far better than being a Member of Parliament," he said. He alleged that in Parliament, the Leader of the Opposition was not permitted to speak, ministers did not answer questions and members were not given adequate opportunities to participate in proceedings. Chidambaram also criticised the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026, which he described as one of two "mischievous" bills among the 12 passed during the session.



PM pays floral tribute to former Prime Minister Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri at Shastri Memorial in Tashkent, Uzbekistan...

Nagendra resignation reshapes Karnataka Cabinet arithmetic

Bengaluru: The resignation of B Nagendra from the Karnataka Cabinet has reopened the political arithmetic for filling two vacant ministerial berths, with the ruling Congress weighing caste, regional and gender equations amid renewed Opposition pressure over the Valmiki corporation issue.

Nagendra resigned from the Council of Ministers amid the controversy surrounding the alleged illegal transfer of funds from the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation. His exit has created a fresh vacancy for Scheduled Tribe representation and eased one of the



hurdles before Chief Minister DK Shivakumar as the Congress works on a Cabinet reshuffle.

With two berths vacant, discussions within the party are focusing on three broad considerations -- women's representation, regional balance and the demand to retain adequate representa-

tion for the Scheduled Tribe community.

The name of Annapurna Tukaram has emerged in the discussions, particularly in the context of Ballari representation, though there are reportedly differences among local Congress leaders over her induction. Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar is also being considered under the women's quota. Another formula being discussed is to accommodate Basavaraj Shivanna, which could also help address competing political equations within the Congress. At the same time, MLA M Krishnappa is understood to be unhappy over being left out of the ministerial exercise.

Haryana Police cracked down on drug trafficking; Three held with poppy husk, heroin & charas

Panchkula (TSIT) Haryana Police have intensified their crack-down on narcotics, arresting three persons in separate operations in Sirsa and Jhajjar and recovering 9.73 kg of poppy husk, 6.099 grams of heroin and 1.035 kg of charas, police said.A Haryana Police spokesman said two of the arrests has been made by CIA Ellenabad in Sirsa district as part of the special anti-drug campaign being carried out under the supervision of Superintendent of Police Deepak Saharan.

In the first case, a CIA Ellenabad team was patrolling and checking in the Rori area when it noticed a woman sitting along the roadside with a plastic sack. Police said she allegedly attempted to leave after noticing the police

vehicle.She was searched in the presence of a woman police official and a gazetted officer as per procedure, leading to the recovery of 9 kg 730 grams of poppy husk.

The accused has been identified as Manpreet Kaur, wife of Gurjeevan Singh, a resident of Rori in Sirsa district. A case under the NDPS Act has been registered at Rori police station. She has been produced before a court and sent to judicial custody.

In another operation, CIA Ellenabad arrested Ramandeep alias Gaura, a resident of Ward No. 7, Rania, from the Nuanuana Road area and allegedly recovered 6 grams and 99 milligrams of heroin from him.Police said the suspect allegedly tried to turn back after seeing the police team. He was intercepted

and searched in the presence of a gazetted officer. A case under the NDPS Act has been registered at Rania police station.

Police said the accused will be produced before a court for remand to ascertain the source of the heroin, its intended recipients and possible links to a wider drug network.

Meanwhile, in a separate crackdown in Jhajjar Police Commissionerate, a CIA Jhajjar team arrested a Himachal Pradesh resident and recovered 1 kg 35 grams of charas from his possession.

The operation was conducted under the directions of DCP Crime Shubham Singh after police received information about a person allegedly looking to sell narcotics on the Jhajjar-Gurugram road.

Odisha govt orders salary deduction for non-payment of court-ordered maintenance

Bhubaneswar, Aug 30 (UNI) The Government employees in Odisha who default on paying court-ordered maintenance or alimony to their wives or children will now have the amount deducted directly from their salaries, with Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi issuing a directive in this regard.

The decision follows repeated complaints received during the Chief Minister's grievance hearings from women and children who have been denied maintenance despite court orders.

On average, two to three such cases are reportedly brought to the grievance cell during each hearing.

Taking a serious view of the issue, Majhi on Sunday directed the government to ensure that court-mandated maintenance is recovered from the salaries of defaulting employees and paid directly to the beneficiaries.

Under guidelines issued by the State Government, once a court order directing payment of maintenance or alimony is received, the departmental Drawing and Disbursing Officer (DDO) concerned will deduct the specified amount from the employee's monthly salary.

The amount will then be transferred electronically to the bank account of the employee's wife or children.It was "not acceptable" for a government employee to defy a court order and deny financial support to his wife and children, Chief Minister Majhi said in a statement.The government has also decided to integrate court-ordered maintenance payments with the Human Resources Management System (HRMS) to make the process automated and more effective. The move intends to ensure timely compliance with court orders and provide financial relief to women and children who have been deprived of maintenance.



Tashkent, Aug 30 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday visited the Mahatma Gandhi Centre at the Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies. PM Modi interacted with Indologists and students at the centre, and also signed the visitors' book. Earlier in the day, PM Modi paid tribute to former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri at the Shastri Memorial here.

Lal Bahadur Shastri served as India's Prime Minister from June 9, 1964 to January 11, 1966. He coined the popular national slogan "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan". In a post on X, PM Modi stated, "Paid homage to former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri Ji in Tashkent. We remember a towering statesman

whose unwavering commitment to the nation continues to inspire generations."

PM Modi held delegation-level talks with Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev at the Presidential Palace in Tashkent and reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral ties.

The talks focussed on expanding cooperation in the areas of trade and investment, infrastructure, critical minerals, mining, defence and security, innovation, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, health, information technology, digital public infrastructure including UPI and education, among others, according to the statement released by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

PM Modi was conferred with Uzbekistan's highest honour, "Oliy Darajali Do'stlik" Order by President Mirziyoyev for his contribution to strengthening friendship between the two countries.

The two leaders also jointly planted a tree at the Presidential Palace in Tashkent under India's 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' initiative and Uzbekistan's 'Yashil Makon' green efforts.

Prior to the talks, PM Modi was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the Presidential Palace in Tashkent.

PM Modi also witnessed a special yoga session featuring 52 practitioners from Uzbekistan during his visit to the Central Asian nation.

PM Modi is on a two-day State visit to Uzbekistan. In a special gesture, President Mirziyoyev welcomed PM Modi on his arrival at the airport in Tashkent. After concluding his engagements in Uzbekistan, PM Modi will travel to Kyrgyzstan for a two-day visit, where he is scheduled to attend the 26th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit and the Opening Ceremony of the 6th World Nomad Games.

Kumaraswamy slams Rahul Gandhi's silence over KPSC recruitment scam

Bengaluru, Aug 30 : Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel, H.D. Kumaraswamy, on Sunday launched a scathing attack on the Congress government over the alleged irregularities in Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) recruitments, questioning Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi's silence on the issue. The statements have assumed significance in the backdrop of arrest of IAS officer Gyanendra Kumar in connection with the KPSC recruitment scam.

"Rahul Gandhi ji, where are you? Your KPSC is rotting. You travel across the

country engaging with students and youngsters. When will you come to Bengaluru and hold talks with the victims of the KPSC irregularities? Let us see," Kumaraswamy said. Addressing the media at the Janata Dal-Secular Headquarters, J.P. Bhavan, in Bengaluru, Union Minister Kumaraswamy questioned the Karnataka government's commitment to cleaning up the recruitment system.

"Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge speaks about the RSS every morning, but apparently cannot spot the mess in his own department.



Candidates who did not deserve to be selected have allegedly been given appointments through compromised examinations. Is your (Congress) government really capable of cleaning up KPSC?" he asked.Kumaraswamy

alleged that the state government had previously brought in a person with a controversial record in the Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) and appointed him as KPSC Chairman in the name of reform."You once claimed that you would clean up the system and then brought a person who had already faced allegations of wrongdoing in BDA and made him the KPSC Chairman. Under his tenure, posts were allegedly put up for sale for crores of rupees. Today you boast that you will fill 75,000 government vacancies. Will those appointments also be made through such

irregularities?" he asked."Where is Rahul Gandhi? Bring him to Bengaluru once. Let him sit with the youngsters and engage with them on KPSC. Then the truth will come out," Kumaraswamy said.The Union Minister again challenged Rahul Gandhi to come to Bengaluru and interact directly with young people affected by the recruitment controversies.

"It is painful to even speak about the irregularities that have taken place during your (Karnataka) government. You are afraid to even open your mouth about the alleged irregularities in the recruitment of Assistant

Executive Engineers-Grade I in the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department," he said. Kumaraswamy alleged that question papers were taken to resorts and provided to candidates who had allegedly paid money. "Question papers were allegedly taken to resorts and given to candidates who paid money. They were even trained on how to write the answers. And Rahul Gandhi, your leader, travels across the country giving speeches and engaging with students. Bring him to Bengaluru once. Let him sit face-to-face with youngsters and discuss the KPSC irregularities," the Union Minister said.

EDITORIAL

FOUND HUMANITY AMID RUINS

It was the beginning of October 2023. The hills of Manipur were beginning to grow cold and the conflict that had erupted months earlier showed no sign of ending. There was no network, no certainty, and very little hope. Our hometown, which is 36 kilometres from Imphal, had been deeply affected by the violence. By night, gunshots and distant explosions became our lullaby. By day, the sound of helicopters cutting through the sky announced another uncertain morning.

Everywhere I looked, I saw people gathered in clusters. Families sat outside temporary shelters. Elderly men stared into the distance. Mothers held restless children close to their chests. They were homeless, displaced, exhausted. Yet, they gathered each day with a quiet faith that somewhere, somehow, someone in Delhi would do something magical to stop the war that had entered our homes. Conflict has a way of shrinking life. People stop talking about dreams and begin talking about survival. The future becomes a luxury. The next meal becomes a concern. Warm clothes become valuable. A blanket becomes precious. Yet, in those dark months, I learned something remarkable. Sometimes the smallest things carry the greatest weight. I remember the arrival of humanitarian aid. The trucks would come carrying supplies sent by organisations, churches, NGOs, and ordinary people from different parts of India. Word spread quickly. Before long, queues would begin to form. Men, women, and children waited patiently under the sun, holding bags and sacks, hoping there would be enough. The items being distributed were ordinary things. Blankets, soap, sugar, rice and toothpaste etc. They were daily necessities that most people rarely think twice about.

But I remember watching people receive them as if they were treasures. Not because the items themselves were extraordinary, but because of what they represented. Someone remembered us. Someone, hundreds, even thousands, of kilometres away, had heard about our suffering and decided that it mattered. A bar of soap could not end a conflict. A packet of sugar could not rebuild a burned village. A blanket could not erase grief but for many families standing in those queues, those small items carried a message more powerful than their practical value.

I remember an elderly woman carefully folding a newly received blanket before placing it inside her bag. I remember children smiling over biscuits distributed alongside relief supplies. I remember volunteers apologising when supplies ran short, as though they were personally responsible for a tragedy far bigger than themselves. The aid brought necessities, but it also brought dignity. It reminded people that beyond the hills and roadblocks, beyond the headlines and political debates, there were strangers who cared. Another small thing that left an immense impression on me was the arrival of volunteer doctors. At that time, healthcare had become difficult to access. Travel was dangerous and hospitals felt far away. Many people lived with untreated illnesses and injuries. Anxiety and fear had become constant companions. Then doctors began arriving – some through humanitarian organisations, some through churches and volunteer groups. Others simply offered their time and expertise because they believed they should. I still remember seeing them move from one patient to another in crowded camps and makeshift clinics.

Modi Receives Uzbekistan’s Highest Honour, India-Uzbekistan Ties Elevated

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday (August 30, 2026) was conferred with Uzbekistan's 'Oliy Darajali Do'stlik' Order, the country's highest honour, from Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev in Tashkent. "Honoured to receive the 'Oliy Darajali Do'stlik' Order. I dedicate this to the enduring bond between India and Uzbekistan," Modi said in a post after the award ceremony. Modi is on a two-day official visit to the country. Elevation of bilateral ties, \$5 billion trade target During the bilateral visit, India and Uzbekistan agreed to upgrade their bilateral relationship to a comprehensive strategic partnership, the Union external affairs ministry said. The two countries have also established a long-term framework for uranium supplies and set a target to increase bilateral trade to \$5 billion by 2030. The decisions were taken during Modi's meeting with Mirziyoyev in Tashkent on Sunday. "The talks focussed on expanding cooperation in the areas of trade and investment, infrastructure, critical minerals, mining, defence and security, innovation, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, health, information technology, digital public infrastructure including UPI and education, among others. They set a target of \$5 billion of bilateral trade by 2030," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a statement. The elevation of ties reflected the expanding scope of cooperation between the two countries, Jaiswal added. "Both leaders witnessed the exchange of several MoUs and agreements covering a wide range of areas, including mining, culture, education, tourism, ayurveda, among others. A Letter of Intent for the restoration and conservation of the Buddhist sites of Fayaz Tepa and Kara Tepa in Uzbekistan was also agreed upon," Jaiswal said.



Long term Uranium supply, other MoUs exchanged During the meeting, Modi said the two countries would work towards a long-term uranium supply arrangement. The two sides also agreed to create a Coordination Council headed by their foreign ministers. The existing joint commission will similarly be upgraded from the level of secretaries to ministers. "Both sides will jointly organise a business summit featuring business leaders from both nations. We will also establish a long-term arrangement for the supply of uranium," Modi said. Several agreements and memoranda of understanding were exchanged during the meeting. They cover areas including mining, culture, education, tourism and ayurveda. Background Modi arrived in Tashkent on Saturday. He met Mirziyoyev for dinner after his arrival, with the two sides discussing cooperation in areas including trade, tourism, health, energy and

defence. Modi also visited the Yangi Uzbekistan Monument with the Uzbek president and laid a wreath there. He also attended a yoga event organised by people in Uzbekistan. The visit is the first leg of Modi's four-day Central Asia trip. He is scheduled to travel to Bishkek for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation leaders' summit from August 31 to September 1. Prime Minister today paid floral tributes at the Shastri Memorial in Tashkent. This year marks the 60th anniversary of the passing away of the former Prime Minister in Tashkent in 1965. The memorial is situated on a street named after Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri. The life and legacy of the former Prime Minister is fondly remembered in Tashkent. In addition to the memorial and the street, there is a local school and the Indian Cultural Centre in Tashkent named after him. After offering respects at the Shastri Memorial, Prime Minister visited the Tashkent State

University of Oriental Studies. At the university, Prime Minister Modi was received by the Prime Minister of Uzbekistan and the rector. He interacted with the Indologists and scholars pursuing academic interests at the Mahatma Gandhi Centre of the university. The university has an impressive record of teaching Hindi language and other Indian subjects. During his State Visit, Prime Minister announced Lal Bahadur Shastri Scholarship for Hindi language for Uzbek students. This year marks the 80th year of Hindi teaching at the university. Given the close cultural affinities between the two countries, there is admirable interest among the Uzbek students to learn Hindi. There are over 3000 words which are common between Uzbek and Hindi languages. At the invitation of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, His Excellency Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the Prime Minister of the Republic of

India, His Excellency Mr. Narendra Modi, paid a State Visit to the Republic of Uzbekistan from 29 to 30 August 2026. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks in a warm, friendly and constructive atmosphere. The Leaders conducted a comprehensive review of the current state and future prospects of the Uzbekistan-India bilateral relations, exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest, and identified priority areas for further practical cooperation. The Leaders expressed satisfaction with the strong level of collaboration between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of India. They noted that the relationship is firmly anchored in longstanding bonds of friendship, as well as deep historical and cultural affinities between the two nations. Reaffirming their shared resolve, the Leaders underscored their commitment to further deepening

bilateral ties and elevating cooperation to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership that advances the core interests of both nations. The Leaders welcomed the close alignment of their positions and the growing importance of Central Asia. Amid a complex geopolitical situation, they stressed the need for a free, open and rules-based international order. Building on their multilateral cooperation, Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and bilateral agreements, they reaffirmed their commitment to long-term, mutually beneficial cooperation for both peoples and future generations, agreeing to deepen political dialogue and the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership across trade, economy and investment, transport connectivity, digital transformation (IT, AI, space, cybersecurity), energy transition, critical minerals, food security, health-care, pharmaceuticals and education.

'Haryanvi Literature-Art Confluence' organized in the memory of Manumukt 'Manav'

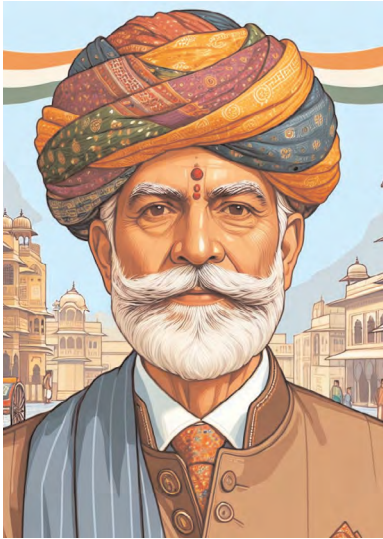
The book 'My soil, my letters' was released



DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH

(The book 'Mhari Matti, Mhare Akhar', edited by Bhiwani's writer and columnist Dr. Satyawan Saurabh and Dr. Priyanka Saurabh and dedicated to Dr. Manumukt 'Manav', was released by the guests on the stage. This first short story collection in Haryanvi dialect contains three short stories each by thirty-three short story writers, totaling ninety-nine short stories, including one from Auckland (New Zealand), twenty-seven from Haryana, three from Rajasthan, and one each from Chandigarh and Punjab. Reviews of the released book were presented by Sushilkumar 'Naveen' (Tosham) and Satyaveer Nahadia (Rewari).)

Narnaul. A "Haryanvi Sahitya-Kala Sangam" was organized today at the international cultural center, "Manumukt Bhawan," located in the local HUDA Sector, under the joint aegis of the Manumukt "Manav" Memorial Trust, Narnaul, and the Haryana Kala Parishad, Kurukshetra. Following a prayer song presented by Industry Extension Officer Dr. Sunil Bhardwaj, the event, under the inspiring guidance of Chief Trustee Dr. Ramniwas "Manav" and the able direction of Dr. Pankaj Gaur, was presided over by Dr. Manoj Kumar Garg, Vice Chancellor of Singhania University, Paseri Badi (Rajasthan) and former Indian Administrative Service officer. Mahesh Joshi, Vice



President of the Haryana Kala Parishad, was the chief guest, and Padmashree Dr. Santram Deswal, a senior litterateur and educationist from Sonipat, was the special guest. All the distinguished guests paid tribute to the late Manumukt "Manav" and praised the important literary, cultural, and social work being undertaken by the Trust in his memory. Disclosing this, Trustee Dr. Kanta Bharti reported that more than two dozen literary figures from across the country participated in this event, organized to mark the 13th death anniversary of the late Indian Police Service officer, Dr. Manumukt 'Manav'. On this occasion, the book 'Mhari Matti, Mhare Akhar', edited by Bhiwani-based literary figure and columnist Dr. Satyawan Saurabh and Dr. Priyanka Saurabh and dedicated to Dr. Manumukt 'Manav', was released by the guests on stage. This first short story collection in the Haryanvi dialect includes three short stories each by thirty-three short story writers, totaling ninety-nine short stories, including one from Auckland (New Zealand), twenty-seven from Haryana, three from Rajasthan, and one each from Chandigarh and

Punjab. Sushilkumar 'Naveen' (Tosham) and Satyaveer Nahadia (Rewari) presented reviews of the released book. In the second phase of the event, Sanjay Pathak (Jaitpur), Pravendra Pandit (Alwar), Prof. Poets such as Jyoti Raj (Sonipat), Rajpal Yadav 'Raj' (Gurugram), Dr. Mukut Agarwal and Dalbir Singh 'Phool' (Rewari), and Dr. Jitendra Bhardwaj and Oshin Shukla 'Sakshi' (Narnaul) recited poetry, which was widely appreciated. At the end of the program, the Trust honored all participating writers, including the president, chief guest, and special guest, with robes, mementos, and certificates of honor, and bestowed the 'Dr. Manumukt 'Manav' Memorial Award. *Notable presence of these:* In this special function which lasted for about two and a half hours, apart from litterateurs like Krishna Kumar 'Nirman' (Karnal), Dr. Rajkala Deswal (Sonipat), Dr. Suresh Vashisht and Krishna Jaimini (Gurugram), Rajpal Singh Gullia (Jhajjar), Bhoop Singh Bharti, Dr. Dharamveer Yadav and Savita 'Aruna' (Rewari), Amar Chand Bainiwal (Fatehabad), Dr. Satyapal Sharma and Ashok Vashisht (Hisar), Bhupendra Godara and Suman Godara (Siwani Mandi), Harmahendra Yadav of Toronto (Canada), Dr. Pawan Tripathi, Vice Chancellor of Singhania University, Pacheri Bari (Rajasthan), Chief Financial Officer Sunil Kumar Sobti and Sanjeev Grover, Ground Water Officer Rakesh Kumar of Dadri, CMGGA Prakhar Sachan of Narnaul, former AGM Amarjeet Yadav, former Block Education Officer Mukesh Kumar, Dr. Jitendra Bhardwaj, Suresh Chand Sharma, Banwari Lal Sharma, Krishna Kumar Sharma, Advocate, Baldev Singh were present. The presence of dignitaries like Chahal, Mohammad Shafi, Satyaveer Chaudhary, Dr. Pushpalatha Bhardwaj, Dr. Sharmila Yadav, Dr. Vandana Kumari etc. was noteworthy.

China To Pak To America, The Growing Dilemmas Of The 'General'

Pete Hegseth's removal of General Randy George as US Army Chief of Staff appears to have begun with an unauthorized helicopter flypast over the musician Kid Rock's home in Tennessee. George wanted the Army to investigate possible safety violations. Hegseth ordered the matter dropped and George was removed soon afterwards. The episode is part of a wider turmoil in the Army's senior leadership. Notably the number of serving four-star generals has fallen in the middle of a war. Civil military relations theoretician Samuel Huntington's Objective Civilian Control model, that the United States has adopted, proposes firm political dominance but with military leadership's autonomy in military expertise. Political leaders decide national objectives; the military advises and executes lawful policy. The arrangement works best when professional alignment refrains from seeking personal or political loyalty. Recent civil military turmoil in the United States, China and Pakistan can be understood through two lenses. First, political alignment, which requires the military to achieve the objectives set by legitimate authority. Second, operational effectiveness, which requires it to retain the leadership, experience and institutional confidence needed to fight. Trouble begins when tighter control erodes effectiveness, or when effectiveness is pursued through arrangements that upset the political balance itself. The War On



'Political Correctness' In America The second Trump administration is attempting a substantial transformation of American military culture. Hegseth has promoted a warrior ethos and greater emphasis on combat effectiveness. Simultaneously, he has attacked what he regards as political correctness in the military. This transformation is important because cultural change has been imposed through repeated intervention with the senior leadership of the services. And more critically because that intervention is now producing operational penalties. It also matters because of when it is happening. The United States has been at war with Iran since 28 February. The forty days of active fighting ended in a ceasefire in April, but the Strait of Hormuz remains closed. The blockade is still being enforced and strikes continue. Three carrier strike groups and three

Army divisions are committed in the largest Middle Eastern deployment since 2003. Armies normally ensure stability of senior appointments once a war begins. This one is being trampled in the middle of one. The first cost is capability. Cheap drones, long-range precision weapons and electronic warfare are forcing a rethink of established concepts. George had raised an Unmanned Assault Battalion within the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Italy to prototype a tactical unmanned systems unit drawing on Ukrainian experience. Its soldiers rotated through Kyiv and trained against Ukrainian operators playing the adversary force. General Christopher LaNeve, Hegseth's former senior military aide and now acting Chief of Staff, is closing this forward-thinking endeavour under a back-to-basics approach. General Chris Donahue, the European commander who

backed it, was removed in July. The US Army is dismantling its main platform for learning the decade's most consequential tactical lesson. The second cost is civilian casualties. Last year, Hegseth offered commanders three options for the Pentagon's Civilian Harm Mitigation and Response programme: cut maximum staff while keeping it operational, retain a small central office, or abolish it. Nine commands chose the first and two rejected all three, asking that it be preserved intact. Hegseth gutted it anyway. American operations have since killed hundreds of noncombatants, according to a ProPublica investigation. Now senior Pentagon official Elbridge Colby has proposed restoring about a third of the capability. Both these penalties are intensified by a third: command continuity. Repeated removals affect those who remain: without any explicit loyalty test.

Narendra Modi and Minister Nirmala Sitharaman committed daylight robbery by waiving loans: S. Manohar

Bengaluru: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman committed daylight robbery by waiving Subhash Chandra's loans.

KPCC General Secretary S Manohar has demanded that Modi should immediately apologize to the people of the country with a sense of morality and inform the people about the money received in the corruption scam.

Speaking in protest conducted by Congress, he alleged that the Centre and the Finance Department are looting the money of the citizens of the country by waiving only 99.97% of the loans of about 22,006 thousand



crores received by Subhash Chandra, the founder of Zee Company, in his financial transactions and in the form of loans. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has joined hands with the owners of private companies to loot

public money in this way in the country and paved the way for the loot of public tax money by private companies. He said that the credit of waiving 99.97% of loans in the history of the country goes to Prime Minister

Narendra Modi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is taking money from corruption and using it for political elections by joining hands with the owners of private companies. The central government should immediately clarify to the people of the country about the corruption in its finance department and allege that the central government is looting people's money with the malicious intention of waiving loans to private companies.

KPCC General Secretaries Sudhakar Rao, Aditya, Umesh, Puttaraju, Kushal Gowda, Madhava Hanooor, Sainaveen, Kishore, Praveen, Shahin Sharif participated in this protest.

Development in the State Completely Stalled: Basavaraj Bommai Unleashes Attack



Mandya (Srirangapatna): Former Chief Minister and MP Basavaraj Bommai launched a scathing attack on the ruling Congress government, alleging that development works across Karnataka have come to a complete standstill.

Speaking at a large gathering organized by BJP leader Sachidananda to distribute Bagina to women on the occasion of the Gowri-Ganesha festival in the Srirangapatna assembly constituency, Bommai expressed grave concern over the state's progress and the current political situation in Mandya district.

Recalling the achievements of his tenure, Bommai noted that he had the privilege of serving the KRS Dam—built by the Maharajas—by automating and modernizing its crest gates. He highlighted that his government modernized 14 reservoirs, including Ramaswamy, Madhava Mantri, Hemagiri, Mandagiri, and Chamaraja canals, thereby stabilizing an ayacut area of 94,000 acres. He also remembered sanctioning Rs.100 crore and releasing Rs.50 crore to revive Mandya's iconic MySugar factory.

Criticizing the current administration, Bommai stated that development has completely halted due to a lack of funds even for minor road repairs. He accused the government of failing in Cauvery water management, adding that it hurts to watch the administration sacrifice the interests of local farmers by releasing water to Tamil Nadu. Asserting that providing money under guarantee schemes alone is insufficient, he emphasized the critical need to safeguard women's honor and security. He charged that corruption has surged.

Over 1,700 Cyclists Come Together at Embassy Manyata for the 11th Edition of Embassy Pedal for the Planet



Bengaluru : Embassy Office Parks REIT , India's first listed REIT and the largest office REIT in Asia by area, hosted the 11th edition of Embassy Pedal for the Planet at Embassy Manyata in Bengaluru.

The event saw over 1,700 cyclists from Bengaluru and beyond come together for one of the city's largest cycling events. Professional riders, amateur cycling enthusiasts, families and children took part in a morning that celebrated cycling, fitness, sustainable mobility and community.

Now in its 11th edition, Pedal for the Planet has grown into a signature Embassy initiative and a city-wide platform that encourages people to embrace cycling, active lifestyles and more sustainable ways of moving around the city.

Amit Shetty, Chief Executive Officer of Embassy REIT, said, "Pedal for the Planet has grown over the years into an event that belongs to Bengaluru. It is wonderful to see so many people from across the city come together for the 11th edition. Cycling is one of the simplest ways to bring together fitness, community and sustainable mobility, while encouraging everyday choices that can collectively make our cities healthier and more sustainable. The enthusiasm we see year after year reflects the energy of this community, and we are proud to continue building this platform and creating a positive impact beyond our workplaces."

As one of India's landmark business parks, Embassy Manyata provided a fitting backdrop for the event. Home to over 150,000 employees, the park combines world-class workplaces with strong connectivity and a growing mix of amenities and experiences. Increasingly evolving beyond a workplace into a vibrant destination to connect, unwind and engage, Embassy Manyata offered an ideal setting for cyclists from across the city to come together.

The 2026 edition featured four ride categories for cyclists across age groups and experience levels - the 40 km Pro-Elite Ride, 25 km Amateur Ride, 15 km Fun Ride - Open and 2 km Fun Ride - Kids. The Pro-Elite and Amateur categories included separate races for men and women, while the Fun Rides offered a more relaxed cycling experience. Beyond the rides, the morning brought together wellness activities, entertainment, community experiences and awards, creating a lively celebration for participants and their families.

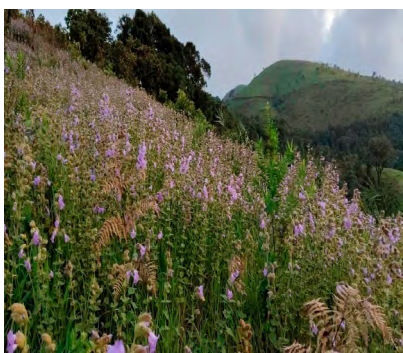
Sustainability remained at the heart of Pedal for the Planet 2026. One tree was pledged for every registration, alongside a no single-use plastic policy, responsible waste management practices and an electric scooter leading the races. Extending the impact beyond the event itself, all proceeds supported non-profit initiatives focused on the education of underprivileged children and the improvement of local schools.

Blue World of Neelakurinji in the Hills of Kudremukh; Special Flowers Attract Trekking and Nature Enthusiasts

Bengaluru : Adding a distinctive charm to the natural beauty of the Western Ghats, rare blue-violet flowers resembling Neelakurinji have bloomed along some trekking trails in the Kudremukh region of Chikkamagaluru district, attracting the attention of trekking enthusiasts and nature tourists.

While these flowers were seen in greater abundance in some of the hill regions of Kudremukh during 2022-23, they have appeared in limited numbers this time. The blue-violet blooms scattered across the green hills are adding a unique attraction to the natural landscape of Kudremukh.

Kudremukh is an important biodiversity region of the Western Ghats and is known for trekking, nature observation and eco-tourism. The Kudremukh National Park has several



trekking trails, while its grasslands, Shola forests, waterfalls and rich biodiversity offer visitors a distinctive nature experience.

The Blue World of Neelakurinji Neelakurinji is popularly known for its rare blooms that transform the hills

of the Western Ghats into shades of blue and violet. The blooming of these flowers is part of a unique ecological cycle. The Tourism Department has appealed to visitors coming to witness the flowers not to pluck them, damage the plants or litter the surroundings, and to help preserve the natural environment. Karnataka Tourism has also identified Kudremukh as a destination for nature- and environment-based tourism. While leveraging such natural phenomena as tourism opportunities, "environmental conservation must remain the foremost priority".

Trekking and tourism activities in ecologically sensitive areas such as Kudremukh must be undertaken in accordance with the rules and permissions of the concerned Forest Department and local administration.

Koustubha' Pramod Shetty First Look Release

Bengaluru: Actor Pramod Shetty is celebrating his birthday. On this occasion, the 'Koustubha' team has wished him well by releasing Shetty's new police look.

Pramod Shetty is sure to join the list of popular Kannada lead actors through his role in the film Kaustubha. The film's director Siddu Vajrappa himself has expressed such a hope. Pramod Shetty, who has already played many supporting, villainous and lead roles, has a new look for Kaustubha.

Since this is a detective story, it is difficult to leave out any elements. But the hero Pramod Shetty is of the opinion that neither the police role nor the climax of the film is different. Accordingly, he has changed a

lot in himself. Pramod, who used to display humor in his roles till now, is a police officer named 'Chanakya' here. He is handling a serious role to suit the weight of the role. He has also lost weight. He has lost 27 kg from the body he built for the role of 'Laughing Buddha'.

There are four major fights in Kaustubha. Therefore, it can be said with confidence that this is the first commercial film in which Pramod Shetty is the hero.

This is the second film for director Sidhu Vajrappa. Sidhu Vajrappa attracted attention last year by directing the experimental film Rautha. He has prepared the story and has been waiting for approval to make the next film with Pramod Shetty in the lead. Talking about the film,



there will be a film within a film. This film will mainly talk about the relationship between politics and the cinema industry. Already 60 percent of the shooting has been completed. With a lot of time and complete preparations, the film is planned to be released next year. A special song has been prepared for the hero's

entry in the film Kaustubha. It is said that another song will be sung by Real Star Upendra. Dos Mod, who previously composed music for Vidyapati, is the music director of this film. There are three songs, one of which has been composed by the director himself. Prashanth Bagur has penned the other song.

The cast includes veteran actor and director T.S. Nagabharana, Ravi Shankar Gowda, television actress Vidya, and Kaddi Pudi Chandru.

The cast is a big one, including Nataraj of 'Rama Rama Re' fame. Arvind Raj has edited the film and Dilip M. Raj has produced the film. Rajesh Dhanapal has invested in Kaustubha, which is being produced under AVK Productions.

Proper chewing may boost brain alertness, say experts



Bengaluru, May 19: Health experts say that properly chewing food may do more than aid digestion, as it could also help improve brain stimulation, alertness and concentration. According to Dr Harish Hovale Bheemrao, Consultant Neurology at Fortis Hospital, chewing activates several nerves and muscles connected to the brain. "When we chew food properly, the jaw muscles and nerves send signals to different areas of the brain. This process may help increase blood flow and improve alertness for a short period of time," he explained.

Dr Bheemrao said some studies have linked chewing

with better attention, concentration and memory-related functions. He noted that the brain requires continuous oxygen-rich blood flow and sensory stimulation to remain active, and chewing may act as a mild trigger for these processes. "That is one of the reasons some people feel more alert while chewing gum or eating slowly, rather than rushing through meals," he added.

A study published in the journal BioMed Research International stated that chewing directly stimulates the brain and may enhance alertness, sustained attention and cognitive processing. Researchers noted that

the rhythmic muscle action involved in chewing increases blood flow to the head and oxygenates important brain networks.

Experts further explained that chewing is not only a digestive activity but also a neurosensory process that activates areas of the brain linked to awareness and cognition. Ms Karthigai Selvi, CF Dietician at Gleneagles BGS Hospitals, said proper chewing begins digestion in the mouth itself. "When food is chewed properly, it breaks down into smaller particles and mixes well with saliva, which contains digestive enzymes. This helps the body absorb nutrients more effectively," she said. She added that improved nutrient absorption may indirectly support energy levels, concentration and overall brain performance. Experts also highlighted the growing understanding of the gut-brain connection, where digestive health may influence mood, focus and mental wellbeing. Doctors warned that modern fast-eating habits, often caused by stress, work pressure and excessive screen exposure, may negatively affect both digestion and mindfulness. "When you chew slowly, you become more aware of hunger and fullness signals. This supports both physical health and mental wellbeing," Selvi said. Dr Bheemrao also noted that distractions during meals could reduce mindful eating and indirectly contribute to stress and poor focus over time. Experts further suggested that chewing may help reduce stress in some individuals.

"There is growing curiosity about how oral activity links with stress reduction and brain performance. Chewing might help reduce stress responses in certain people because it can lower tension and help the body move toward a calmer state," Dr Bheemrao explained.

BENGALURU: SOFTWARE ENGINEER DIES AFTER FALLING FROM SEVENTH FLOOR, YOUTH CRITICALLY INJURED

Bengaluru: A young woman died and a man sustained serious injuries after the two reportedly fell from the seventh floor of a building in Whitefield, Bengaluru. The deceased has been identified as Janani, who was reportedly working as a software engineer. Manikya Velu, who was also involved in the incident, suffered serious injuries and is undergoing treatment at a private hospital.

The incident occurred in Whitefield under the jurisdiction of the Whitefield police. Police personnel



visited the spot and conducted an inspection following the incident. The exact circumstances that led to the fall remain unclear. Police are investigating the incident and are gathering information to establish what happened before the two fell from the building.

The incident has raised questions about the circumstances surrounding the deaths and injuries. Investigators are expected to examine available evidence, including statements from witnesses and other relevant information, as part of the probe. The body of Janani was taken for further procedures following the incident. Police said the precise reason for the incident has not yet been established and further investigation is underway.

Zuari Infraworld presents, Zuari Kinetics Premium Villa Plots in partnership with SSK & ARSCH



Bengaluru: For building your dream home, Zuari Kinetics proudly presents 'Zuari Kinetics Premium All Plots', a project with a serene atmosphere, state-of-the-art infrastructure and all the amenities, has now been launched. Key features of the project:

Spacious plots: Premium sites designed as per your needs.

State-of-the-art infrastructure: Wide concrete/asphalt roads, underground electricity and drainage system.

All the amenities: 24/7 security, clubhouse, swimming pool, children's playground and landscaped gardens.

Good connectivity: Easy access to major highways, schools, hospitals and commercial centers

Good news for Bangalore news for the garden city, Shashikumar of RSVP and SLV Construction Company in Bangalore has launched all the premium plots of 'Juvuri Kinetics' for the public today (Sunday, August 30).

Juvuri Kinetics Premium Plots have spacious plots based on lifestyle and wide roads and green spaces, world-class amenities.

Playgrounds suitable for all ages including football, cricket, ball riding will encourage sports promotion and will help in health protection.

Shashikumar said on this occasion that the public can create a unique legacy by booking their plots for safe investment and a bright future.

Tamil Nadu government denies reports of scrapping entrance exam coaching



CHENNAI: The Tamil Nadu Information Integrity Desk has dismissed as false reports that special coaching for higher education entrance examinations provided to Class XII students under the Social Justice Department has been discontinued.

The clarification followed a claim by a DMK functionary that the programme had been stopped. The Desk said the claim was completely false.

The Social Justice

Department said special coaching for 19 higher education entrance examinations, including IIT, JEE and NEET, was continuing.

“Special coaching for 19 types of higher education entrance examinations, including IIT, JEE and NEET, has not been stopped,” it said. According to the department, 187 students secured admission to higher educational institutions through the programme last year. So far this year, 357 students

have secured admission to institutions including IITM in Noida, NIT Andhra Pradesh, NIFT campuses in Chennai and Bengaluru, and FDDI in Chennai.

The department said the programme would continue and be expanded to all Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare higher secondary schools. The Information Integrity Desk urged the public not to circulate false information about the initiative.

Tamil Nadu: Weavers stage kanji thotti protest



VIRUDHUNAGAR: Over 300 weavers participated in a kanji thotti protest led by the CITU, opposite the Punal Veli Weavers Cooperative Society near Rajapalayam.

The weavers condemned the State government and the Handlooms department for allegedly leaving them without work for the past four months and demanded that the wage for producing a saree in eight hours be fixed at Rs 500.

Friend throws chilli powder at DMK man, stabs him to death in Coimbatore

They also demanded Rs 40,000 each as relief for the families of weavers who have been without work for four months and sought employment through the year. As talks with officials led by Handlooms department district deputy director Palanikumar failed, the weavers continued their protest by preparing and drinking kanji.

Three dead after autorickshaw rams into truck near Periyapalayam



CHENNAI: Three persons from the same family were killed and three others sustained grievous injuries after the autorickshaw they were travelling in rammed into a truck near Periyapalayam in Thiruvallur district on Sunday (August 30) morning. The deceased were identified as Radha, 65, her daughter Poongodi, 39, and her grandsons Gokul, 11, and Dhanalakshmi, 10. The injured included autorickshaw driver Lokanathan, 42, Poongodi's relative Prashanth, 15, and another passenger.

According to police, Lokanathan, a resident of Kodungaiyur in Chennai, was driving the autorickshaw carrying his wife Poongodi, their 10-year-old daughter Dhanalakshmi, his mother-in-law Radha and relatives Gokul and Prashanth. They were travelling to the Arulmigu Bhavani Amman Temple

in Periyapalayam on Friday night.

When the autorickshaw was near the MTC Nagar bus stop at Panapakkam village on the Chennai-Periyapalayam highway, it collided with an unidentified lorry travelling ahead. The passengers suffered severe injuries in the accident. Police personnel from Periyapalayam police station rushed to the spot and rescued five people who were injured. They were taken by 108 ambulance to the Periyapalayam government primary health centre. Radha died at the

scene. Gokul, a Class 6 student, and Poongodi died while undergoing treatment at the health centre.

The injured were given first aid and later shifted to Tiruvallur Government Hospital for further treatment. Dhanalakshmi, a Class 5 student, later died while undergoing treatment at the hospital.

Police sent the bodies of the four deceased for post-mortem examination at Tiruvallur Government Hospital. A case has been registered and police are searching for the unidentified vehicle involved in the accident.

VCK questions omission of Periyar, Ambedkar from Tamil Nadu government policy note

TIRUCHY: VCK president and MP Thol Thirumavalavan on Sunday questioned whether there was an ulterior motive behind the omission of references to BR Ambedkar and 'Periyar' EV Ramasamy from the Tamil Nadu government's policy note on Backward Classes welfare.

peaking to reporters at Tiruchirappalli airport, Thirumavalavan said the omission has raised serious questions and called upon the officials and ministers concerned to provide a proper explanation.

Friend throws chilli powder at DMK man, stabs him to death in Coimbatore

He said the government must investigate how the lapse occurred and take steps to ensure that such mistakes are not repeated in future policy documents. The VCK leader also



stressed that the Tamil Nadu government had several responsibilities towards Dalits, including strengthening measures to protect them and considering special legislation for their welfare and safety.

Thirumavalavan said his party expected the government to fulfil these commitments and would continue to press for effective action.

The controversy erupted after references to former

Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, Periyar, Ambedkar and the Justice Party were found missing from the Backward Classes and Most Backward Classes Welfare Department's policy note for 2026-27, which was tabled in the Assembly on Thursday. The previous DMK government's policy note had prominently mentioned these leaders and their contributions to the social justice and reservation movements. The latest

document also reportedly omitted references to the Communal Government Order, Periyar's agitations, the Mandal Commission and the introduction of 27 per cent reservation for Other Backward Classes in Union government jobs and admissions to educational institutions.

The DMK accused the TVK government of deliberately erasing crucial chapters from Tamil Nadu's social justice history. DMK legal wing joint secretary I. Paranthaman alleged that the omission amounted to a historic betrayal in a state regarded as the cradle of social justice and a powerful voice for oppressed communities. He claimed that the contributions of the Justice Party and prominent social justice leaders had been removed as part of a calculated effort.

Tamil Nadu government plans to sell onions at subsidised rates through ration shops

CHENNAI: The Tamil Nadu cooperative sector is preparing to sell onions at subsidised prices through ration shops after a rise in retail rates placed pressure on household budgets across the state.

Onions, a staple used in kitchens, have become more expensive over the past few weeks. Large onions, which were available for about Rs 30 a kg at the end of last month, are now being sold at nearly Rs 60 a kg in many retail markets. Prices of small onions, or shallots, have risen steeply, climbing from around Rs 40-50 a kg last month to nearly Rs 70 a kg. Friend throws chilli powder at DMK man, stabs him to death in Coimbatore

The increase has affected consumers already coping with higher prices of several essential vegetables. With market rates continuing to remain firm, the cooperative sector has



decided to intervene by procuring onions in bulk and supplying them through the public distribution system at prices substantially below prevailing retail levels.

As part of the initiative, the state has approached the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India, commonly known as NAFED, seeking an allocation of 70,000 kg of onions. The request follows the Union

government's move to make onions available to consumers at affordable prices through retail channels. Once the consignment is received from the Central agency, the onions will be distributed to ration shops across Tamil Nadu.

They are expected to be sold for between Rs 30 and Rs 40 per kg, providing consumers with relief of up to Rs 30 per kg compared to prices in the open

market. Officials said the first consignment would help assess demand before further quantities are sought. Details regarding the number of ration outlets covered, purchase limits for individual cardholders and the date on which sales will begin are expected to be announced after supplies reach the state.

The proposed intervention is intended to provide immediate relief to families and curb the impact of the sudden price surge.

Cooperative outlets and ration shops have previously been used by the government to sell essential commodities at controlled prices whenever supply shortages or seasonal fluctuations caused retail prices to rise sharply. Authorities are expected to monitor onion prices and availability in wholesale and retail markets while the subsidised sales programme is rolled out.

Stay active and safe during cold-weather exercise

Navigate the challenges of cold-weather exercise with confidence and success. With proper preparation and mindfulness, you'll not only stay safe and healthy but also reap the countless benefits of outdoor activity during the winter season. So layer up, step outside, and embrace the opportunity to thrive in the chill! Here are essential guidelines by Gunjita Singhal, Co-founder and CMO at Roadies Gym, to maximize your cold-weather exercise wellness, allowing you to thrive in the frosty outdoors while safeguarding your health and performance for maximizing your cold-weather exercise wellness:

Dress In layers: To combat the cold effectively, adopt a layered clothing strategy. Begin with a moisture-wicking base layer to keep sweat away from your skin, then add an insulating layer for warmth, and finally, add a wind-proof and waterproof outer layer to shield against the elements. This layering system enables you to adjust your clothing to match your activity level and the prevailing weather conditions.

Protect Your Extremities: Shield vulnerable areas such as your hands, feet, and ears from the biting cold by wearing gloves, thick socks, a hat, and a scarf or face mask. Remember, while your body works to keep your core warm, these extremities can be left exposed and susceptible to frostbite or discomfort.

Warm-Up Indoors: Before venturing into the frosty outdoors, kickstart your circulation and prepare your muscles with a 5-10 minute warm-up session indoors. Engage in dynamic stretches or a brief cardio routine to elevate your body temperature and prime your body for the challenges ahead.

Stay Hydrated: Despite the chill, it's crucial to maintain proper hydration levels during cold-weather workouts. Cold air can deceive your senses, leading you to underestimate your fluid needs. Drink water before, during, and after your workout to replenish lost fluids and support optimal performance.

Modify Your Workout Routine: Remain flexible with your workout routine, adapting your intensity and duration according to the prevailing weather conditions. If faced with extreme cold or hazardous conditions, it's perfectly acceptable to shorten your session or modify your activities to prioritize safety.

Listen to Your Body: Pay close attention to your body's signals, especially in the face of potential dangers like frostbite or hypothermia. If you experience symptoms such as numbness, shivering, or fatigue, heed these warning signs and seek shelter.

Stay Motivated: Combat the winter blues by seeking support from a workout buddy or participating in a fitness challenge. By fostering a sense of accountability and camaraderie, you can maintain your motivation and consistency throughout the colder months.

Focus on Flexibility: Counteract the tendency for muscles to stiffen in cold weather by integrating ample stretching into your routine. Enhance your flexibility to reduce the risk of injury and promote better overall performance during your workouts.

Researchers study how a chatbot can teach kids supportive self-talk

Researchers at the University of Washington created a new web app aimed to help children develop skills like self-awareness and emotional management. In Self-Talk with Superhero Zip, a chatbot guided pairs of siblings through lessons. The UW team found that, after speaking with the app for a week, most children could explain the concept of supportive self-talk (the things people say to themselves either audibly or mentally) and apply it in their daily lives.

And kids who'd engaged in negative self-talk before the study were able to turn that habit positive. The UW team published its findings in June at the 2023 Interaction Design and Children conference.

The app is still a prototype and is not yet publicly available.

The UW team saw a few reasons to develop an educational chatbot. Positive self-talk has shown a range of benefits for kids, from improved sport performance to increased self-esteem and lower risk of depression.

And previous studies have shown children can learn various tasks and abilities from chatbots. Yet little research explores how chatbots can help kids effectively acquire socio-



emotional skills. "There is room to design child-centric experiences with a chatbot that provide fun and educational practice opportunities without invasive data harvesting that compromises children's privacy," said senior author Alexis Hiniker, an associate professor in the UW Information School.

"Over the last few decades, television programs like 'Sesame Street,' 'Mister Rogers,'

and 'Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood' have shown that it is possible for TV to help kids cultivate socioemotional skills. We asked: Can we make a space where kids can practice these skills in an interactive app? We wanted to create something useful and fun -- a 'Sesame Street' experience for a smart speaker."

The UW researchers began with two prototype ideas with

the goal to teach socioemotional skills broadly. After testing, they narrowed the scope, focusing on a superhero named Zip and the aim of teaching supportive self-talk. They decided to test the app on siblings, since research shows that children are more engaged when they use technology with another person. Ten pairs of Seattle-area siblings participated in the study. For a week, they opened the app and met an interactive narrator who told them stories about Zip and asked them to reflect on Zip's encounters with other characters, including a supervillain. During and after the study, kids described applying positive self-talk; several mentioned using it when they were upset or angry.

By the end of the study, all five kids who said they used negative self-talk before had replaced it with positive self-talk. Having the children work with their siblings supported learning in some cases, but some parents found the kids struggling to take turns while using the app.

The length of these effects isn't clear, researchers note. The study just spanned one week and the tendency for survey participants to respond in ways that make them look good

could lead kids to speak positively about the app's effects. Future research may include longer studies in more natural settings. "Our goal is to make the app accessible to a wider audience in the future," said lead author Chris (Yue) Fu, a UW doctoral student in the iSchool. "We're exploring the integration of large language models -- the systems that power tech like ChatGPT -- into our prototype and we plan to work with content creators to adapt existing socioemotional learning materials into our system."

The hope is that these will facilitate more prolonged and effective interventions." Other authors are Mingrui Zhang, a research scientist at Meta Reality Labs who graduated from the UW iSchool; Lynn K Nguyen, a UW research assistant in the iSchool; Yifan Lin, a UW masters student and UW doctoral student Rebecca Michelson, both in the human centered design and engineering department; and Tala June Tayebi, a masters student at the University of Southern California who did undergraduate work at the UW iSchool.

This research was funded by the Jacobs Foundation and the Canadian Institute for Advanced Researchers.

Sugar Prices Remain Firm Across India Despite Measures To Check Rise

Sugar prices remained elevated across India on Sunday despite a series of measures aimed at improving domestic availability and containing the price rise, with retail rates staying above Rs 60 per kg in most markets, according to a report. The all-India average retail price of sugar climbed to Rs 64.24 per kg on August 30, from Rs 63.12 a week earlier, marking a 1.77% increase, news agency PTI reported, citing the consumer affairs ministry data. The average price is now around 30% higher than a month ago and 38.63% above year-ago levels. Retail prices varied widely across markets, with the maximum recorded at Rs 74 per kg and the minimum at Rs 40 per kg. Sugar was selling at Rs 62 per kg in Delhi, Rs 66 in Mumbai, Rs 63 in Chennai and Rs 68 in Ranchi. Wholesale prices also remained firm at Rs 59.73 per kg, compared with Rs 58.66 a week earlier. Wholesale rates have risen



about 31% over the past month and 38.63% from a year earlier. The price pressure persists even though ex-mill sugar prices have fallen nearly 20% after the government allowed duty-free imports of 10 lakh tonnes of raw sugar. Industry sources said a Rs 2-3 per kg difference between ex-mill and wholesale prices, and Rs 7-8 per kg between ex-mill and retail rates, is generally considered normal. Besides allowing imports, the gov-

ernment has tightened stockholding limits for bulk consumers and dealers, and had earlier prohibited sugar exports. The Centre has accused mills of pushing up prices, maintaining that domestic stocks are adequate. However, sugar production for the 2025-26 marketing year is estimated at 306 lakh tonnes, lower than the earlier projection of 343 lakh tonnes, while annual domestic consumption is estimated at 280-285 lakh tonnes.

Trade Setup For Aug 31: Next Nifty Hurdle Near 24,400; Analysts Flag Bearish Bias Despite Rebound



The NSE Nifty 50 is likely to remain in a cautious and range-bound setup at the start of the new week, with technical indicators continuing to point towards a bearish bias despite Friday's pullback. Analysts believe the index needs to reclaim key moving averages and overcome immediate resistance levels before a meaningful recovery can take shape. "Today's pullback, however, has not altered the broader technical setup. The index remains below all key moving averages, indicating a bearish bias. The upward-sloping trendline supports near 24,090 and the previous swing low at 24,025 remain intact. Until these levels are decisively breached, bulls are unlikely to give up. On the higher side, the recent swing high of 24,378 is likely to offer immediate resistance to

Nifty," said Nandish Shah, deputy vice president at HDFC Securities. On the upside, 24,378 remains the key hurdle. A sustained move above this level could improve market sentiment and provide confirmation that the recent rebound is gaining strength. "From a technical perspective, Nifty continues to trade below its 20-day and 50-day EMAs, keeping the short-term structure cautious. The daily RSI remains neutral near the 50 mark, indicating a lack of strong directional momentum. Meanwhile, the rising ADX from lower levels suggests that volatility could gradually increase, although the absence of a decisive breakout continues to point towards a range-bound setup," said Sudeep Shah, head of technical and derivatives research at SBI Securities.

MOBILE PHONES MAY GET CHEAPER AS GST COUNCIL MULLS TAX CUT

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council may consider reducing the 18 per cent tax on mobile phones at its September 12 meeting. The proposed rate cut comes amid a slowdown in mobile handset demand. The Council is scheduled to meet after a gap of 374 days. Unlike its previous meeting, which focused largely on GST rate rationalisation, the upcoming session is expected to give greater attention to easing compliance for businesses. GST compliance reforms likely to dominate meeting Besides the mobile phone tax proposal, the Council is expected to examine several issues linked to GST compliance and input tax credit. One major concern is the inverted duty structure, where the GST paid on inputs is higher than the tax charged on the final product. The Council may also consider measures to protect genuine buyers who lose input tax credit when suppliers subsequently fail to pay their tax liabilities. Another proposal involves greater automation in GST administration. Refund processing could move towards a risk-based automated system using GSTN and e-invoicing data. Compensation Cess also on agenda The accumulated Compensation Cess may also require attention. The



September 12 GST Council meeting is therefore expected to consider both the mobile phone GST rate and wider changes aimed at simplifying compliance, unlocking working capital and reducing recurring tax disputes. While the council's previous session focused heavily on tax rate rationalization, this upcoming meeting is expected to prioritize easing compliance burdens for businesses. Rate adjustments remain on the table, most notably a proposed reduction of the GST on mobile handsets from 18 per cent to a lower bracket, though the official agenda has not yet been circulated. One of the biggest structural concerns is the inverted

INDIA EMERGES AS KEY PETROL SUPPLIER TO RUSSIA



hit a record high as the conflict in the Gulf squeezes supply from other sources. India imported more than 2.6 million barrels per day of Russian crude in June and July, up from a low of 1 million bpd in February and accounting for more than half of the country's crude imports. It's likely that fuel exported to Russia may have

been made from Russian crude. Russia, one of the largest crude exporters, has to import gasoline after Ukrainian drone attacks on its energy infrastructure led to up to 70 per cent drop in domestic production. This has triggered a fuel supply crunch that has forced Moscow to import petroleum products while continuing to

impose restrictions on fuel sales across the country. India, Turkey, and Morocco supplied gasoline to Russia in August, as Moscow grappled with a growing mismatch between domestic fuel supply and demand. Russia in July extended its full export ban on gasoline for both producers and non-producers through the end of January

2027. Its diesel export ban was extended through September 1, 2026. Around 55 per cent, or about 260,000 tonnes, of Russia's imported gasoline in August arrived on sanctioned tonnage, Vortexa said. "All India-origin gasoline cargoes Russia imported in August were carried on sanctioned fleets and involved dark ship-to-ship (STS) transfers in the Mediterranean," it said. Overall, around 40 per cent of Russia's August gasoline imports moved via ship-to-ship transfers, with the majority conducted in the dark, with vessels switching off their automatic identification system (AIS) signals. While gasoline imports have surged, Russian diesel exports remain severely constrained by the export ban, refinery damage and disruptions at fuel terminals. Vortexa said 32 attacks were carried out on Russian refineries during July and August, roughly one every other day.

THINK TANK GTRI CALLS FOR REVIEW OF QUALITY CONTROL ORDERS



Economic think tank GTRI on Sunday called for review of quality control orders (QCOs) to ensure that these norms protect consumers without becoming import restrictions or licensing barriers. Mandatory quality certification under these orders raises costs, hurts MSMEs and makes goods more expensive, the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said. It added that if other countries adopt similar orders, Indian exporters could be forced to obtain separate country-specific certifications even when their products already meet recognised international standards, and bear huge travelling and per-diem costs for visiting officers, licensing, renewal and testing fees. This would raise export costs, delay shipments and create new barriers to trade, GTRI Founder Ajay Srivastava said. "A top-level review is needed to ensure

that QCOs protect consumers without becoming import restrictions or licensing barriers. Without wider reform, the system risks weakening MSMEs, raising prices and discouraging the manufacturing investment that Make in India seeks to attract," he said. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal recently stated in Tokyo that India would develop a framework to ease or waive mandatory quality certification for high-technology industries. The announcement followed concerns raised by Japanese companies about India's Quality Control Order system. "The proposed relief for high-technology industries is welcome. But India needs a broader review of its QCO regime, which is raising costs for manufacturers, disrupting supply chains and discouraging investment," he said.

Star Health strengthens Virtual Doctor Consultations and Home Health Care in AP

Andhra Pradesh, August 2026: With the ongoing monsoon season in Andhra Pradesh, a significant rise in seasonal infectious diseases, including dengue, viral fevers, respiratory infections such as H1N1, and flood-linked illnesses such as leptospirosis. As families navigate these seasonal health risks, timely medical consultation and early intervention remain critical, Star Health and Allied Insurance Company Limited (NSE: STARHEALTH, BSE: 543412), one of India's leading standalone health insurance companies, is stepping up its monsoon healthcare outreach in the state. Star Health's FY26 data for Andhra Pradesh recorded a 13x increase in Home Health Care utilisation in FY26 compared with FY25. The state saw the highest number of Home Health Care cases for dengue, viral fever and lower respiratory tract infection. Alongside this growth, the company has seen strong demand for its Virtual Doctor Consultation service across the state, with a growing number of customers choosing it as their first point of medical consultation. The outreach focuses on early investigation and timely medical advice by connecting policyholders to 'Talk to Star' and Home Health Care support, while enabling the general public to access free 24/7 Virtual Doctor Consultations through the Star Health Customer app.



Commenting on the initiative, Mr. Srinivas KBB, Business Head, Star Health Insurance, said: "This year, we are seeing growing attention around respiratory infections such as H1N1 in addition to dengue and viral fever. Many patients initially dismiss symptoms as a common cold or seasonal fever. Early access to a doctor can help families make informed decisions and seek the right care pathway sooner. Behind every monsoon infection is a family managing uncertainty, disrupted routines and concern for a loved one. The 13x increase in Home Health Care utilisation across Andhra Pradesh during FY26 highlights the growing demand for timely support

that is easier to access, particularly for children, senior citizens and patients who may find hospital visits difficult. Our responsibility goes beyond arranging treatment. We want patients and caregivers to feel informed, supported and confident about the next step in their care. Through 'Talk to Star', policyholders can receive guidance on Home Health Care or planned hospitalization, while the public can access free 24/7 Virtual Doctor Consultations through the Star Health Customer app. Our focus this monsoon is to help people seek advice early, receive appropriate care and recover with less stress and disruption."

■ LOWER COSTS AND RAIN-READY CARE: THE CASE FOR HOME HEALTH CARE
Data from the National Statistical Office's 80th round survey on household health expenditure, released in 2026, highlights the financial burden of illness and hospitalisation on households. In Andhra Pradesh, the average cost of hospitalisation was ₹740,720 in rural areas and ₹45,629 in urban areas, while the overall average stood at ₹42,517 per hospitalisation. Healthcare expenses remain high across the board, leaving many individuals and families to cover a significant proportion of these costs out of pocket. All the more reason why prevention and early detection is important.

1 IN 8 NEW CARS IN TELANGANA IS ELECTRIC THANKS TO TAX WAIVER

Hyderabad: Electric cars outpaced electric two-wheelers in Telangana through 2025-26, accounting for more than 10 per cent of new car sales every single month and touching over 15 per cent at their peak, according to an analysis by the Transport Department. Electric cars held a double-digit market share in every month of the financial year, while electric two-wheelers stayed in single digits for much of the first half, pointing to growing acceptance of electric vehicles in the passenger car segment. 12.5 pc of new cars are electric Across the year, electric cars made up 12.5 per cent of the state's new car market, well ahead of the 8.9 per cent share held by electric two-wheelers and the 8.8 per cent share across all vehicle categories. Of roughly 1.50 lakh new car registrations in the state, 18,853 were electric, meaning that nearly one in every eight cars sold in Telangana ran on electricity. Over the same period,



the state registered 53,354 electric two-wheelers. The gap between the two segments was at its widest in August, when electric cars accounted for 15.2 per cent of new car registrations against 8.8 per cent for two-wheelers. The Transport Department's analysis draws on 10.3 lakh vehicle registration records covering all fuel types and vehicle classes between April 1, 2025, and March 31, 2026. Tax waiver drove 20 pc jump Much of the momentum is being credited to the state government's decision to scrap the cap on its elec-

tric vehicles (EV) tax exemption, after which registrations rose by around 20 per cent. Average monthly EV registrations climbed from about 6,333 before the exemption to 7,592 through 2025-26. Introduced on November 16, 2024, the policy gives eligible EVs registered in Telangana a full waiver of road tax and registration fees, with no ceiling on the number of vehicles covered. It applies to electric two-wheelers, private cars, commercial passenger vehicles, auto-rickshaws, light goods carriers, tractors and certain

buses, and runs until December 31, 2026. Monthly figures show the market building steadily through the year, peaking at 10,705 registrations in October 2025 during the festive season, and holding between 8,000 and 9,000 vehicles a month for much of the period that followed, comfortably above the pre-exemption baseline. Commercial EVs responded fastest The growth was not confined to private vehicles. Commercial EVs, including autos, cabs, goods carriers and buses, showed the quickest initial response, with monthly registrations rising 17 per cent immediately after the exemption came into force before settling at around 800 vehicles a month over the financial year. Across all categories, more than 91,000 electric vehicles were registered in the state during the year, with over Rs 6,000 crore invested in the sector, translating to roughly one in every 11 vehicles sold in Telangana now being electric.



At least 37 dead and hundreds evacuated after strike on Kyiv weapons depot

FORMER ECUADORIAN PRESIDENT IMPRISONED FOR CORRUPTION

A former president of Ecuador has been sentenced to five years in prison after being found guilty of taking bribes. Lenin Moreno insisted he had not taken money from a Chinese firm which secured a contract to build a hydroelectric plant in the Latin American nation. The 73-year-old will serve his sentence under house arrest due to his age and disability, and has already indicated his intention to appeal against the verdict after a court in the capital, Quito, found him and 19 others guilty of corruption. Moreno, who was president between 2017 and 2021, is the third former Ecuadorian leader to be sentenced for corruption. Prosecutors alleged that that Sinohydro, which is owned by the Chinese state, paid a total of \$76.1m (£56.2m) through shell companies to people involved in the deal to



secure the construction of the Coca Codo Sinclair hydroelectric dam. Among those handed prison sentences were Moreno's wife, daughter and brother, as well as former plant managers, Sinohydro representatives

and a Chinese ambassador to Ecuador. While Moreno himself was alleged to have received very little from the scheme, prosecutors said family members received tens of thousands of dollars. Those convicted

of bribery will have to repay three times what they were given, while Moreno was barred from public office. He denied involvement in the alleged bribery scheme and instead blamed another former president, Rafael Correa, under whom he served as vice-president and who was sentenced to eight years in prison in a separate bribery case in 2020. Moreno argued that Correa had signed off on the Coca Codo Sinclair project, and that he had launched an investigation into issues with the construction when he had assumed the presidency. The Ecuadorian government launched legal proceedings against Sinohydro in 2021 due to cracks appearing in the dam and other technical failures. It reached a \$400m settlement with the firm's owner earlier this year.

NEPAL SAYS 'INTENSIFYING' EFFORTS TO FREE HUNDREDS BELIEVED TRAPPED IN HYDROPOWER TUNNELS



Sixteen-year-old Yunisha - a pupil at the school - says her and her friends survived "by just 10 seconds". Her mother, Sabina Shrestha, recalled the worry and relief she felt once her daughter returned home - three days later. In the capital Kathmandu, a five-year-old girl rescued on Friday (two days after devastating flash floods) was reunited with her parents in hospital. Staff at the Teaching Hospital in Kathmandu say the girl, identified as Manisha, is in a stable condition. The scale of destruction in Nepal continues to come into focus, five days on. Police say more than 790 people have been killed by the floods. Elsewhere, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority says at least 2,502 people are still missing. Rescue efforts are under way near Nepal's Trishuli-3A hydropower site, with crew pumping air into a tunnel where workers are believed to be trapped. The PM's office says a team

of 90 - including armed forces, police and rescuers with trained dogs - were deployed. But so far, they have "received no response from inside". In Tibet 16 people are confirmed dead and 546 others are missing, according to Chinese state broadcaster CCTV. Officials in Shigatse say rescue teams are not finding anyone alive, the BBC's China correspondent writes. China annexed Tibet in the 1950s and their strict control of the region makes it difficult for us to know what is happening on the ground. A bus carrying people rescued after the flood in Rasuwa crashed in Danda, east of Nawalparasi, according to Nepal's National News Committee. The bus was travelling the capital Kathmandu to Bardiya, in south-west Nepal. Thirty-two of the 38 passengers were injured, the outlet adds. Of those, 27 have already been discharged after being treated, and five remain in hospital, says Deputy

Superintendent of Police Anil Pandit of the Nawalpur East District Police Office. Night has fallen in Nepal but people continue to look through lists of survivors, using torches on their phones as they desperately seek information about loved ones. Rescue and relief efforts have continued throughout the day. But as the death toll rises, police have also been seen transporting bodies to a mass burial site. Meanwhile, some have been pictured returning to their homes to inspect the damage. The prime minister's office in Nepal says tunnel rescue efforts have been "intensified" at the Trishuli-3A hydropower site, including "blasting operations". Writing on X, it says a joint team of 90 people has been deployed, including armed forces, police, and rescuers with trained dogs. A 2x3ft hole (0.6x0.9m) was created in the crown of the tunnel earlier, with rescuers descending on ropes.

CANADA INSTALLS LARGE LAKE ONTARIO SIGN IN LATEST JAB AT US



Ontario Premier Doug Ford has hit back at Donald Trump by installing a large sign on Canada's shoreline with the message: "Lake Ontario. Now and Always." The US president signed an executive order on Thursday seeking to change its name to Lake America and has shared a series of AI-generated videos about the lake that straddles both countries. "Long before President Trump, this lake was called Lake Ontario. Long after President Trump is gone, it will still be called Lake Ontario," Ford said. The war of words was triggered after trade talks collapsed, with the US imposing new 50% tariffs on \$20bn (£28bn) of Canadian goods.

Canada will implement "dollar for dollar" counter-tariffs next month. Trump said the decree was effective immediately as he signed the order to rename it Lake America. While he has broad discretion over how the US recognises landmarks, other countries are not required to follow. On Saturday, Google said it had changed the name on its maps for users in the US. "Since we update Google Maps to reflect name changes in official government sources, those in Canada will continue to see 'Lake Ontario' and those outside of the US and Canada will see both names," the tech firm said in a blog post.

ICELAND VOTES AGAINST RESTARTING EU MEMBERSHIP TALKS

Iceland has voted against resuming talks on joining the European Union 13 years after they were broken off. Public broadcaster RUV reported that 52.8% of the more than 225,000 people who voted had rejected the government's proposal, while 47.2% had backed it. Some 12,600 votes separated them. Prime Minister Kristrún Frostadóttir's centre-left government promised to hold a referendum by 2027, but brought it forward because of international tensions, including US President Donald Trump's threats against Greenland. However, debate in this island nation of almost 400,000 people centred more on its fishing industry rather than security concerns. With some 270,000 people eligible to vote, RUV reported the turnout of 82.5% was the highest in any Icelandic election since 2009. Already part of the EU's single market and Schengen border-free zone, full EU membership would bring Iceland into the customs union and eventually



the eurozone currency union. Iceland began its application to join the EU in 2009 in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis and the collapse of Iceland's banking system. Its application was already well advanced when a eurosceptic government came to power in 2013 and put those talks on hold. Fishing rights were the biggest obstacle to Icelandic accession then - as they remain today. Iceland fought successfully to protect its fisheries from foreign fishermen during the Cod Wars with the UK in the 1970s, and the country's fish and

marine industries still account for almost 40% of its exports. Many No voters feared EU membership would mean ceding some control of these lucrative fishing grounds under the bloc's policies, which control how much a member state can catch. The referendum campaign fuelled debate about Iceland's place in the world, Kristrún said after casting her ballot in the capital on Saturday. She told a news conference on Sunday afternoon that the issue of EU membership would not be revisited while her government was in office. One of

her ministers denied that the result had been a setback for the government, pointing to the high turnout for the vote. There was a significant geographical divide in which way people voted, with the capital, Reykjavik, backing EU accession talks and rural areas being more in against them. The question on the ballot was: "Should Iceland resume accession negotiations with the European Union?" A Yes vote would not have been a final decision on joining the EU, but a move towards an accession agreement, which would then have to be approved by a second referendum. Equally, the No vote does not rule out the chance of Iceland resuming talks at some point in the future. While economic concerns dominated the referendum campaigns, security issues also featured. Iceland is a founder member of Nato but has no military and relies on its allies for defence. Being a part of the EU would have granted it full access to the bloc's joint defence infrastructure.

Manhunt after shooting at Swiss rave kills woman, 22, and injures five



A manhunt is under way after a 22-year-old woman was killed and five others injured in a shooting at a rave in Switzerland. The woman died at the scene in Aarau, police said. Four men and a woman, aged between 24 and 27, were in hospital with injuries "ranging from minor to severe". Sources have confirmed to BBC News that the victim was an Italian national. The Italian Embassy in Bern and the Consulate in Zurich were monitoring the situation, they added. At a news conference on Sunday afternoon, police spokesman Bernhard Graser reiterated

the force had "no information about the perpetrator(s) or their motive". They were not believed to be in Aarau anymore, he added. Organisers and performers said the shooting happened at a techno rave being held at a horse racing track in the town, which is located some 46km (29 miles) west of Zurich. The force said it had received an initial report of shots fired at the Schachen race track at around 02:30 local time (00:30 GMT). A DJ, who was due to perform until the scheduled end of the event at 02:00, said the incident occurred "straight after our set".



Seven killed and 23 missing after boat capsizes off northern Cyprus

WHATSAPP CHAT USED TO SEND CASH FOR CRIME AND EXTREMISM

A WhatsApp group chat was used to send hundreds of millions of euros in cash around the world, funding organised crime and extremism with no paper trail, an investigation by European broadcasters has found. The 532-member group chat, called "Traders of Greater Europe", was used to arrange cash transfers across borders for their clients, including to British cities such as Birmingham and London. In one case, payments from Brussels went to militants from the Islamic State group (IS) in Syria. The European Broadcasting Union (EBU) investigative journalism network, which includes the BBC, also found wider evidence of similar cash transfer systems being used in people smuggling and drug

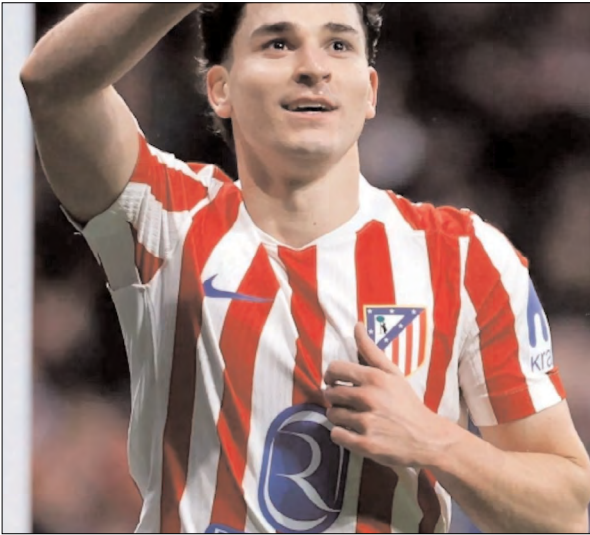


trafficking. The group chat, which contained more than 82,000 messages sent between late February and December 2022, was first uncovered by Belgian investigating magistrate Vincent Guerra. An investigating magistrate is a judge who examines evidence in complex cases before trial and makes a recommendation about whether they should proceed. Guerra said the number of transactions was "staggering" and the network covered "the entire planet". The case began as an investigation into terror financing, but "it became just a drop in the ocean of transactions", he said. Members of the group chat sent messages in Arabic to each other to set up cash payments using the ancient hawala transfer system.

Hawala involves a network of trusted money brokers who can arrange for funds to be sent around the world without any electronic record or physical transport of bank notes. The system involves an agreement between two brokers, known as hawaladars, in different locations. One of the hawaladars is paid a sum of cash and the other agrees to supply the same sum, minus commission, to the recipient. The hawaladars agree to settle up all their transactions between themselves at a later date. Hawala transfers are frequently used for legitimate purposes, such as immigrant workers sending funds home to support their families in countries with limited access to banks.

Julian Alvarez Returns To Atletico Madrid Team Training After Illness

Wantaway Atletico Madrid striker Julian Alvarez returned to group training on Sunday after recovering from the illness that kept him out of training earlier this week and Saturday's 3-1 La Liga win over Sevilla. With two days remaining before the transfer window closes at midnight Tuesday, the Argentina international is back with the squad as Barcelona continue to pursue his signature. Atletico have repeatedly ruled out negotiating Alvarez's departure to Barcelona, with director of football Mateu Alemany reiterating the club's firm stance on Saturday. "The club has been very clear and very firm," Alemany told Movistar. "The plan is very clear," he continued. "(Alvarez) had a few days when he wasn't feeling well, he already trained (by himself on Friday), and we hope he'll reintegrate with us quickly and be



available, I hope, for the next league match." Chief executive Miguel Angel Gil Marin said Thursday that Atletico would "not negotiate with Barcelona under any circumstances", a position backed by the club's board. Spanish media have reported that a move to England could provide an alternative, although that option is not

believed to appeal to 2022 World Cup winner Alvarez, who said this summer he would like to leave Atletico. Alvarez was jeered by the club's own supporters last weekend when he came on against Villarreal as a substitute, and he walked off down the tunnel by himself while his team-mates applauded Atletico's fans.

TREESA-GAYATRI RISE TO WORLD NO.27 AFTER WORLDS BRONZE

Treesa Jolly, Gayatri Gopichand Get Big Rankings Boost After Historic Bronze At Badminton World Championships The Indian women's star pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand have received a major boost in the world rankings after their bronze medal win in the recently concluded BWF World Championships. The star doubles pair has jumped 12 spots from No.39 to reach World No.27 as per the latest rankings update. This follows after Treesa and Gayatri clinched the only medal for India at the home Worlds. The duo made their way to the semifinals and became the first Indian women's doubles pair to win a medal at the Championships since Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa won a bronze in



2011. The two now have 44,192 points to their name as they made a big jump in the latest rankings update. They were ranked World No.39 in the previous week's update with 33,692 points. On their way to the medal, Treesa and Gayatri stunned

fourth-seeded Chinese pair of Jia Yi Fan and Zhang Shu Xian in the quarterfinals, a brilliant come-from-behind win that saw them recover from a game down to clinch the contest 16-21, 21-15, 21-13. The two had a chance to beat the World No.1 and defend-

ing champions Liu Sheng Shu and Tan Ning in the final when they were a game up but lost the rest two games to take the bronze, which was India's only medal at the Worlds. With their historic bronze, India kept their streak of winning at least one

medal at the Worlds since 2011. Meanwhile, there was a major shake-up in the top 10 of the men's singles rankings. Indonesian shuttler Jonatan Christie has become the new World No.1 as he scaled two spots from third after his round-of-16 finish. Last week's World No.1 Shi Yuqi lost five places after his first-round defeat to India's Ayush Shetty as he now sits at No.6. Kunlavut Vitidsarn and Anders Antonsen also dropped a place each from No.2 and No.4, respectively. Christo Popov jumped three places to reach No.2, while Chou Tien Chen is up by two places to stand fourth as per the latest rankings update. New World champion Alex Lanier has climbed three places to stand No.7, while India's Lakshya Sen is up one place to No.13 and Ayush Shetty climbed two places to reach No.20.

Pakistan Cricket Board Takes Huge Call Amid Controversy Over Imran Khan's Sons' Interview: Report

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has advised its players involved in the Test series against England not to comment on the issue of Imran Khan's imprisonment. This was after British media attempted to bait some of them into making comments on World Cup-winning skipper Imran's imprisonment back in the country. The issue gained momentum following Sky Sports' interview with Imran's sons, aired during the lunch interval on the second day of the second Test at the Lords. Pakistan head coach Sarfaraz Ahmed was also asked whether the players had seen the interview of Imran's sons Kassim and Suleman to Mike Atherton. Sarfaraz told the reporter at a media conference that the



players were having lunch and didn't watch it. "No we don't know anything about it, we were having lunch," he said when poked by a reporter about reports that the PCB had threatened to not send the team out after

lunch if Sky Sports aired the interview. There has been a sudden surge in the international media involving cricketers of other countries, demanding better health care for Imran Khan who is imprisoned in

Adiala Jail. Former teammate and captain, Javed Miandad also made an impassioned plea for the authorities to release Imran as he described him as a very honest person. A PCB source said the Board

was obviously not happy with the Sky Interview as it was political in nature but because of a reception for the team on September 2 by Prince Charles and the existing diplomatic relations with the United Kingdom, they avoided prolonging the issue and decided to carry on playing the series. Pakistan lost the first Test by an innings and 103 runs. The third Test is scheduled to begin in Birmingham on September 9. The 73-year-old Imran has been lodged at Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi since 2023 after being convicted in corruption cases. His continued detention and reported health concerns have triggered criticism from his family and several former international cricketers.

'Captain' Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Scripts History In Duleep Trophy At Age Of 15

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi experienced a new high at the tender age of 15 as he took charge as captain of the East Zone team during their Duleep Trophy semifinal match against Central Zone in Bengaluru on Sunday. The young batter, who had been appointed vice-captain ahead of the tournament, had to step up into the leadership role after regular skipper Ishan Kishan suffered a hand injury. The unexpected turn of events occurred during the 19th over of Central Zone's first innings. Kishan took a hard hit to his right wrist while keeping wickets. After receiving immediate treatment on the field from team physios, Kishan was forced to walk off for further medical assessment and was later seen on the sidelines with his wrist



heavily strapped. With Kishan off the field, Kumar Kushagra took over the wicketkeeping duties, while the captaincy was handed to Sooryavanshi. Taking charge of a senior First-Class team at just 15 years old marks a major historic milestone this early in his career. Sooryavanshi's original appointment as vice-captain had generated discussion among domestic crick-

et fans, but East Zone selectors stood firmly by their decision, clarifying that the move was meant to groom the teenager for long-term development rather than short-term leadership needs. Having made his First-Class debut in early 2024, Sooryavanshi is playing in only his second Duleep Trophy match and tenth First-Class game overall. Despite being the youngest player on the field, Sooryavanshi was tasked with managing a side filled with experienced international and domestic players like Mohammed Shami, Mukesh Kumar, and Abhimanyu Easwaran. It was a rare occasion to see a player of his age being given the task of managing East Zone's bowling attack, which pushed Central Zone to 81/3 by the lunch break.

HEAVYWEIGHT ITAUMA HANDED HARSH WORLD-TITLE LESSON

Moses Itauma was still a schoolboy when he would turn up at boxing gyms in his uniform and give seasoned professionals a hiding. On Saturday night at the O2 Arena, the 21-year-old was finally given an education, as the Briton ran out of gas and the granite experience of Filip Hrgovic carried the Croatian to the vacant IBF heavyweight title. The referee waved off the fight as Itauma's corner threw in the towel in the ninth round. But for long spells, Itauma was the quicker, sharper and more assured fighter, repeatedly finding Hrgovic with the left hand and showing exactly why so many inside boxing believe he has the tools to reach the very top.



AM Green IGPL Takes Events To New And Exciting Venues For 2nd Half Of The Schedule

The second half of the AM Green IGPL 2026 Season 2 is all set to tee off in six weeks after a hugely successful first half during which the Tour had six events, five of which were in Africa and one in India. Of the next nine events, eight will be in India after the second half kicks off in the UAE at the Al Hamra Golf Course in Ras Khaimah, UAE. The AM Green IGPL Invitational 2026 presented by Vimtra Chennai Lions GC will be held from September 23 to 25, 2026 with a purse. The AM Green IGPL, which features some of the top active Indian stars, will then travel across India, from Delhi to Hyderabad to Pune to Vizag and Ahmedabad. Two venues, for the AM Green IGPL Invitational 2026 presented by Atri Mumbai Garudas GC (Nov 24-26, 2026) and AM Green IGPL Invitational



2026 presented by GolfKonnekt Bengaluru Stallions (Dec 1-3, 2026) are yet to finalised. "We have been very particular about the choice of venues and they have been done after consulting the franchisees and the players. We also want to promote the sport and build a fan base at these venues. Many of our players have played at these courses and their recommendations

have been taken into consideration," said Uttam Singh Mundy, CEO of the AM Green IGPL. The venues are also where the franchises would like to host their events. Vimtra Chennai Lions GC have decided to present their event at the well-known Al Hamra GC, Ras al Khaimah, UAE from September 23-25. Al Hamra GC has hosted European Tour Challenge Tour events.

"THIS IS SUCH A MESS": TEARFUL ROGER FEDERER BREAKS DOWN DURING TENNIS HALL OF FAME SPEECH



It is common to see Roger Federer get emotional on the court, but it was rare to see him so vulnerable with a microphone in his hand. The 20-time Grand Slam champion gave a tearful speech during his induction into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport, Rhode Island. Following a moving introduction by his wife, Mirka, the 45-year-old sports legend broke down several times during his nearly 30-minute speech. He spoke about his love for tennis and thanked the people who supported his journey. Federer started with a warm smile and joked about how hard it was to speak right after Mirka. "Oh man," he said. "This is a tough act to follow. I don't know if you have been practising secretly... I was a little stressed, to be honest." However, his composure did not last long. As he spoke about his childhood idol, Stefan Edberg, tears began to stream down his face. He had to pause and reassure the laughing audience that these were happy tears. The

emotions grew even stronger when he spoke about his family and team, especially Mirka, who backed him throughout a career that included 103 ATP titles and 310 weeks as World No. 1. Overcome with emotion, he paused to collect himself. "Now the Mirka part... Oh gosh, this is such a mess," he said. "I need tissues and sunglasses and everything to protect me right now." He also thanked the ball kids, remembering his own early days in Basel: "I see you. I thank you. I was you." Reflecting on his historic achievements, including eight Wimbledon titles and five straight US Open trophies, Federer shared that fame was never his main goal. Instead, he simply wanted to spend his life doing what he loved alongside great people. He closed his speech with a comforting message for fans. "As you can tell, I'm still writing my love letter to tennis," he said, promising that while his playing days are over, his connection to the sport will last forever.

INDIA'S KUSH MAINI COMPLETES 2-DAY TEST WITH ALPINE F1 TEAM AHEAD OF FORMULA 2 RETURN



Indian racer Kush Maini has completed another Formula 1 testing programme with the BWT Alpine F1 Team, covering around 200 laps and approximately 850 kilometres over two days at the Red Bull Ring in Austria. The BWT Alpine F1 Team Reserve Driver's latest outing in Formula 1 machinery comes after an earlier test at Zandvoort and provides another boost ahead of his return to FIA Formula 2 action in Monza following the summer break. Maini began the programme in a TPC (Testing Previous Car) machine, completing 82 laps

on the opening day in changing weather conditions. The Indian driver ran on wet, intermediate and soft tyres as a wet morning gradually gave way to drier conditions later in the day. He continued his programme on the second day in a 2025-specification car, the same machinery he drove during the official Young Driver Test in Abu Dhabi last December. With dry conditions allowing for extensive running, Maini completed more than 500 kilometres on the second day, taking his total mileage across the two-day test to around 850 kilo-

metres. The test forms part of Alpine's young driver programme, with Maini continuing to gain experience in Formula 1 machinery as a member of the Alpine Academy. The 2026 F1 outing also comes at an encouraging point in Maini's Formula 2 campaign. The Indian driver currently sits sixth in the FIA Formula 2 Drivers' Championship after claiming two podium finishes in his last three races. That run of form has kept Maini in contention for what could become the best-ever championship finish by an Indian driver in the category, with

the latest F1 test serving as valuable preparation and a confidence boost ahead of the resumption of the season. Maini will return to competitive action at Monza, where he will resume his Formula 2 championship challenge. Kush Maini, BWT Alpine F1 Team Reserve Driver, said: "Always unreal to get behind a F1 car, no matter how many times it's been. We maximised the run plan and gained loads of mileage and experience. I'm hoping the data & performance from this test helps the team move forward in their championship campaign in 2026.

RAJ TARUN’S NEW MOVIE TITLED “TORTOISE”; FIRST LOOK POSTER RELEASED



The identity of the young hero seen sleepwalking had been going viral on social media until yesterday, creating a lot of curiosity among movie lovers. Bringing an end to the suspense, the makers have now revealed who the young hero is and what his upcoming film is. The young hero seen sleepwalking is Raj Tarun, and his new movie has been titled “Tortoise,” the makers announced today. Along with the title announcement, they also unveiled the film’s first look poster. Amrutha Chowdary, Avasarala Srinivas, and Dhanya Balakrishna are playing other key roles in the movie. “Tortoise” is being produced by Vijai Chowdary, Sasidhar Nalla, and Ramiseti Rambabu under the banners of SK Golden Arts, Prashvitha Entertainment, and NVL Creations. Directed by Rithwik Kumar, the film is said to be an intense action thriller that blends suspense and drama. Manasa Kumar and Santhosh Emmadi are serving as co-producers. The first look poster released along with the title announcement has created considerable interest around the film. In the poster, Raj Tarun is seen sitting beside a dead body, with bloodstains on him, while a knife lies next to him. The intriguing visual suggests that Raj Tarun is portraying an intense and distinctive character unlike anything he has attempted in his career so far. The makers are expected to reveal more updates about

KANAKA DURGA JOINS Z5 TELUGU’S POST-THEATRICAL SLATE

Birla Studios & Temple Town Pictures’ Much-awaited Faith Drama - Kanaka Durga Announced by Z5 Telugu in Its Massive Post-Theatrical Film Slate! Birla Studios & Temple Town Pictures’ much-awaited faith drama, Kanaka Durga, is a part of Z5 Telugu’s massive post-theatrical film slate. Kanaka Durga marks an exciting creative collaboration that brings together a powerful story rooted in the enduring power of divinity. The film stars Allari Naresh and Kajal Choudhary in the lead, with Pradeep Maddali at the helm as director and BVS Ravi as the writer. Kanaka Durga is a Thaman S musical. Set against a world where devotion, action, emotion and music all come together, Kanaka Durga draws inspiration from the divine energy and spiritual significance of the all-powerful Goddess Kanaka Durga. The film aims to create a stirring cinematic experience that celebrates devotion while delivering a compelling story for contemporary audiences. Currently filming, Kanaka Durga is presented by Birla Studios and is being produced by Temple Town Pictures.



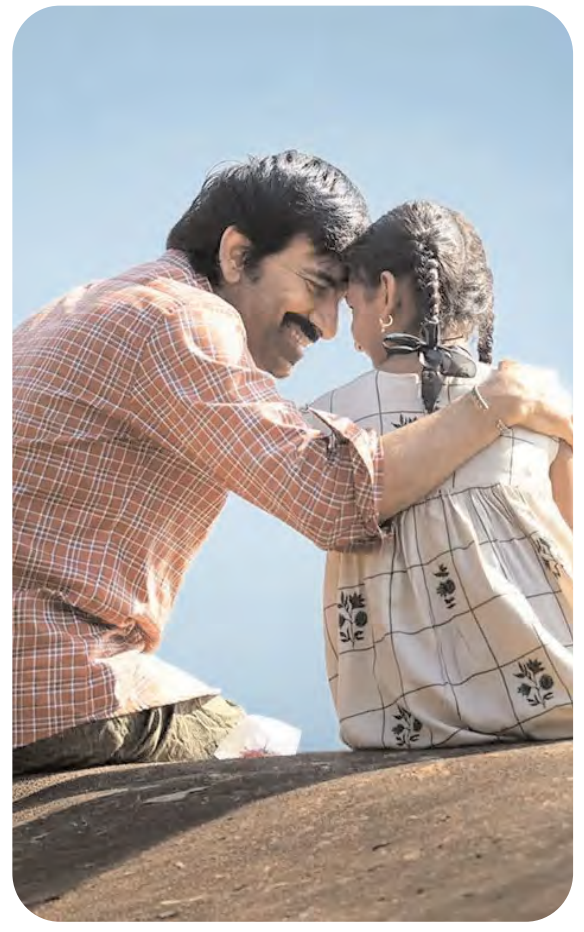
Telugu Zee 5 Accelerates Growth with a Bold New Wave of Originals and Blockbuster Entertainment

-From NBK111, Vrushakarma and January 12 Vidudhala to Panchanama and Jayammu Nishchayammu Ra 2, Telugu Zee 5 brings together bold, homegrown stories that speak to the heart of South India. At Zee 5, the belief is simple: India’s entertainment future will be shaped by the strength of its many languages and the creators who continue to push creative boundaries. Today, Telugu Zee 5 is taking its content offering to the next level with an expansive slate that spans iconic franchises, original series, marquee films, strategic partnerships, and a wider range of



entertainment experiences than ever before. With one of the industry’s most loyal and discerning audiences, Telugu entertainment has consistently struck a balance between cultural authenticity and creative innovation. This unique blend has paved the way for a rich and diverse storytelling ecosystem, fostering stories that resonate deeply with audiences while continually redefining the conventions of popular entertainment. Telugu Zee 5’s new slate is strengthened by collaborations with some of the industry’s most established names, including Vyjayanthi Movies, Sukumar Writings, Sri Venkateswara Cine Chitra (SVCC), Prime Show Entertainment, Shine Screens, Vriddhi Cinemas, Manam Enterprises LLP, Birla Studios, Temple Town Pictures, Udaya Bhanu Productions and Sri Chakra Movies LLP.

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ARUNACHALA CREATIONS, HARSH ROSHAN NEXT THELLA KAAGITHAM IS ALL SET FOR WORLDWIDE RELEASE ON OCTOBER 2ND



Young and talented actor Harsh Roshan is all set to begin an exciting new chapter in his career with his next film Thella Kaagitham under the Arunachala Creations banner. Backed by producer Krishna Kommalapati, the project comes after the actor’s impressive success with acclaimed films like Court and Band Melam. Making his directorial debut with this venture is Ramesh Bandreddi, who is expected to bring a fresh perspective to the romantic entertainer with a strong focus on emotions, romance, and relatable storytelling. The film has been generating considerable buzz among movie lovers. Thella Kaagitham is described as a heartwarming musical love story that revolves around youthful emotions and memorable relationships. For this musical love story, music director Vijai Bulganin brings the narrative to life with his soulful tunes. The first single, “Chilaka,” has become a huge chartbuster, trending everywhere and creating a strong buzz. Everyone is now eager to witness this musical love tale. Today, the makers announced the much-awaited release date.

Thella Kaagitham is all set for a grand release on October 2nd. The release date poster has impressed everyone, with Harsh Roshan and Nakshatra looking great together.

Dheeraj Mogilineni Launches ‘Summer Holidays’ School Song



Making Summer Holidays with children has given me immense happiness and satisfaction as a producer”: producer Dheeraj Mogilineni at the School Song launch event

Producer and distributor Dheeraj Mogilineni has earned a reputation for delivering content-driven films to audiences. Under his banner, Dheeraj Mogilineni Entertainments, he is currently producing a children’s film titled Summer Holidays. Summer Holidays is being directed by Srikar, who has crafted a beautiful story that takes audiences back to the nostalgic memories of childhood. Master Rohan, Master Arun, and Baby Khushi play key roles in the film. The movie is gearing up for a grand theatrical release soon. The School Song from the film was launched at an event held in Hyderabad today. The event was attended by the film’s cast and crew and was conducted in a lively and festive atmosphere.

HEBAH PATEL GOES BOLD IN BLACK



Hebah Patel, who has quietly clocked a decade in the industry, dropped a fresh set of pictures that’s got fans talking. She served understated elegance in a black georgette sari with intricate white floral embroidery sprawled across it, paired with a simple black blouse, a pearl choker, and soft curls, proof that sometimes minimal styling makes the loudest statement. Despite a decade-long innings, Hebah has largely stuck to smaller films and cameo appearances rather than bagging big-ticket roles. That said, she isn’t slowing down, she has Aadya, a Tamil film that’s already completed, and Rudra Kaala, a Kannada film currently in production, lined up next. Her notable films include Eedo Rakam Aado Rakam, Ekkadiki Pothavu Chinnavaada, Andhagadu, 24 Kisses, and Orey Bujjiga.



SHRADDHA DAS ENTERS SAREE SEASON IN STYLE



Shraddha Das, who has shared screen space with top heroes like Allu Arjun, Venkatesh, and Ram Pothineni in memorable cameos over the years, seems to have officially entered “saree season”, and she’s making sure to do it in style. In her latest pictures, she’s draped in a stunning pastel pink and rust ombre saree featuring an abstract tie-dye pattern with subtle gold foil detailing running through the fabric, giving it a textured, artistic finish. She paired it with a matching structured blouse, letting the saree’s play of colors, from soft blush to deep terracotta, take center stage. Ruby-studded jewellery, including a statement choker and matching earrings, added just the right pop of color against the muted palette, while her soft wavy hair and dewy makeup rounded off the effortlessly chic look. While Shraddha hasn’t landed a big lead role in a while, having largely stayed in the cameo and supporting space in recent times, she continues to keep her fashion game strong and stay relevant with fans through her style updates.

