

States Focus



RESEARCH SHOULD SOLVE REAL PROBLEMS: VP RADHAKRISHNAN

Calling upon researchers and innovators of Panjab University, Vice President CP Radhakrishnan on Friday stressed that research should solve real problems and make an impact on society. Radhakrishnan visited PU and inaugurated the upgraded advanced instrumentation facility at the Sophisticated Analytical Instrumentation Facility/Central Instrumentation Laboratory (SAIF/CIL). He also inaugurated the PU Technology Innovation Forum (PU TIF), formerly BioNEST, which provides an integrated platform for pre-incubation, incubation and post-incubation. While referring to the inauguration of the advanced instrumentation facility, the vice president asserted that any research should make an impact on society. (PTI)



END CASTE SYSTEM, WILL GIVE UP RESERVATIONS: ATHAWALE

Union Minister Ramdas Athawale on Friday asserted that reservations were a constitutional right, and said that the beneficiaries were ready to give up quotas if casteism was eradicated from society. Addressing reporters, the Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment said Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Castes (OBCs) together enjoy 49.5% reservations, while Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), with an annual income of less than ₹8 lakh, get a 10% quota. "If the caste system is eradicated, we are ready to give up reservations," the Republican Party of India (Athawale) president said. He said the reservations were introduced for SCs and STs when the Constitution was adopted on January 26, 1950, and later the benefits were extended to OBC and EWS categories. (PTI)

NIA links US, Ukrainian suspects to Myanmar aircraft attack

New Delhi

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) told a Delhi court that American citizen Matthew Aaron Van Dyke and six Ukrainian nationals arrested in March were involved in a drone attack on a civilian plane in Myanmar. The agency also claimed the group was planning terror activities in India and asked for permission to question two of the accused in Tihar Jail. Special Judge Prashant Sharma at Patiala House Courts approved the request. The court said that interrogation is a normal part of an investigation and that courts should not usually interfere while an investigation is ongoing.

The NIA wanted to question Van Dyke and Ukrainian national Kaminskyi Viktor, who are both in Tihar Jail. All seven men were arrested on March 13, 2026. Van Dyke was stopped at Kolkata airport, while the six Ukrainians, Hurba Petro, Slyviak Taras, Ivan Sukmanovskiy, Stefankiv Marian, Honcharuk Maksim, and Kaminskyi Viktor, were detained at airports in Lucknow and Delhi. They appeared before the special



NIA court at Patiala House and were charged under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. They have been in Tihar Jail since early April. In its August 19 application, the NIA said the central Government had credible information that some Ukrainian and US nationals were involved in a drone attack on a civilian plane in Myanmar. The agency connected this information to the same network it was already investigating in the March case. The NIA said that 14 Ukrainian nationals entered India on tourist visas at different times and flew to Guwahati. They then travelled to Mizoram without the special permits required for foreigners to visit the State's protected and restricted areas. The agency said the group then entered Myanmar illegally to give planned training in drone warfare, drone operations, assembly, and jamming technology to ethnic armed groups in Myanmar who are fighting the country's military Government. The NIA also said that Van Dyke and the Ukrainians they arrested contacted these groups and joined the training activities. The agency also claimed that these groups were connected to insurgent organisations in Northeast India. The accused have been charged under Section 18 of the UAPA, which covers conspiracy to commit a terrorist act, among other charges. The agency told the court that data from devices seized from the accused included images, videos, and voice samples it called "incriminating." The NIA said this material needed to be shown to the arrested

men and checked against their statements. The NIA said it needed to question Van Dyke and Kaminskyi to get information about other suspects, described as masterminds in Myanmar, and to confront them with facts given by witnesses. The court approved the request on August 31. Questioning inside Tihar Jail was allowed as part of the ongoing investigation. A Ukrainian translator was assigned to help during Kaminskyi's questioning. The defence opposed further interrogation at this point, saying the request lacked sufficient legal or factual support. The court rejected this argument, saying that no law or judgment prevented it from allowing the NIA to question the accused in jail. The March arrests happened after the group allegedly travelled through Assam and Mizoram as tourists. The NIA argues that the group's journey went beyond what is allowed for tourists and that the accused used Indian territory to reach Myanmar without the required documents for restricted border areas. Van Dyke and the six Ukrainians are still in Tihar Jail while the NIA continues its probe.

BJP hits at Rahul's patriarchy remark



BJP MP Bansuri Swaraj

New Delhi

The BJP on Friday attacked Rahul Gandhi, saying "smash the prospects of women" is the real mindset of the Congress leader and his party's Governments. "For Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi, the slogan 'smash the patriarchy' is nothing but empty words and political rhetoric," BJP MP Bansuri Swaraj told reporters. This came a day after Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy sacked Forest Minister Konda Surekha from the Council of Ministers with immediate effect amid a row over some remarks made against him and others by the woman leader's daughter. Surekha, on her part, claimed she did nothing wrong and accused the chief minister of doing "blackmail politics". Reacting to the development, Swaraj said, "Just yesterday, in Telangana, we witnessed how a senior leader from his (Rahul Gandhi's) own party, the Congress, was humiliated and dropped from the Cabinet by the Congress Government in the State." Surekha has levelled "extremely serious" allegations against the Congress Government and the Telangana chief minister, she said. "I want to ask why

Rahul Gandhi remains silent regarding these accusations of injustice and blackmail? Perhaps it is because, for him, 'smash the patriarchy' is merely an election slogan, nothing more than political rhetoric," she added. Swaraj alleged that in reality, the mindset of Gandhi, the Congress and its Governments is to "smash the prospects of women if they are progressive." "You may have observed that in Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka – the states governed by the Congress – not a single woman was deemed worthy of being entrusted with the responsibility of a ministerial post," the BJP leader added. Addressing an event in Pune on August 22, Gandhi had lashed out at the "Manusmriti mindset" and urged girl students to "smash patriarchy", while also taking a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his remark that he was shocked to hear girls using abusive language during the recent protest at Jantar Mantar. Interacting with girl students at his 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' outreach programme here, Gandhi said women belong to themselves and not to their fathers, husbands or sons, and termed as shameful the Manusmriti's prescription that a woman should remain under the authority of male relatives at every stage of her life.

Tribal students' fight for identity: Rahul Gandhi

New Delhi

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday said the fight of tribal students from Maharashtra is not just for education, employment, hostels, and food, but it is also for their existence and Adivasi identity. The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha shared on X a video of his interaction with tribal students on Wednesday during his visit



to Nashik. In a post in Hindi on X accompanying the video,

Gandhi said, "'We are Adivasis; RSS-BJP want to turn us into Vanvasis'. The fight of tribal students from Nashik and Maharashtra is not just for education, employment, hostels, and food-it's also for their existence and Adivasi identity." It was a pleasure to meet these brave students, who stood firm against the Maharashtra Government, raised their voice for their rights, and achieved victory, Gandhi said. "Promised the students, we, the Congress, and I stand with them in every fight for their rights," he said. Gandhi had met the delegation of tribal students, including those who were on a hunger strike to press for their demands, during his visit to Nashik in Maharashtra on Wednesday. The students were protesting over a range of issues, including the condition of ashram schools meant for tribals.

West Bengal Govt to set up 1,000 RSS-run schools

Kolkata

The Suvendu Adhikari Government wants to set up at least 1000 schools – affiliated to Vidya Bharati Akhil Bharatiya Siksha Sansthan, the educational wing of RSS – in Bengal. Besides, his Government is also likely to merge the entire education departments of the State into one, thus bringing the Madarsa education system under one umbrella, sources said. The Bengal Chief Minister urged the Vidya Bharati to open schools in every district and municipal areas so as to impart nationalistic and patriotic culture among the students. Asking the Sansthan to open more schools in districts like Murshidabad and South 24 Parganas, the Chief Minister said that these districts needed to develop more patriotic feeling among the students through these schools to counter the anti-national activities that had been taking place in these



West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari

areas. Vidya Bharati presently runs little more than 300 schools in West Bengal. Murshidabad district, which has about 68 per cent Muslim population, had witnessed massive communal riots last year, forcing several thousand people to flee to the neighbouring Malda district. The then Mamata Banerjee Government had come under severe criticism from the opposition for allowing the Hindu population to be attacked, with the police looking the other way. Criticising the previous Government the Chief Minister also expressed his views about running separate edu-

cational institutions by the minorities' department thus bringing the Madarsa education under a single umbrella with the mainstream schools. Incidentally, the budgetary allocation for the Madarsa boards had already been slashed by about 40 per cent this year. Standing by the ideology that his Government represented the Chief Minister said, "we have come to power with a particular ideology which speaks about 'one Constitution, one symbol, one leader' as professed by Shyama Prasad Mukherjee... so there should be a single system (of educa-

tion) for all the universities and higher education... One system for one university and another system for another university does not work." Reacting to Adhikari's statement, senior Trinamool Congress leader Kunal Ghosh said that the BJP was planning to subvert the Constitutional provisions earmarked for the minority institutions. "If there are separate educational institutions, they are not illegal because they have been provisioned by the Constitution of India, which guarantees minorities' right to follow, practice and profess their own religions and run their own religious institutions along with educational set-up... This Government is trying to create a communal divide to suit its political agenda." Incidentally former Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharya too had once questioned the secret activities inside the unaffiliated Madarsas of the State saying many of them were breeding grounds for antinationalist forces.

Kishor demands white paper on Ram temple

Gayaji (Bihar)

Jan Suraaj Party founder Prashant Kishor on Friday urged the Narendra Modi Government at the Centre to bring out a 'white paper' on alleged financial irregularities in Ayodhya's Ram Temple and "fix accountability". Speaking to reporters in the central Bihar town of Gayaji, Kishor also waded into the controversy over GDP figures, alleging that hardships suffered by the people belied the claims of a high growth rate by the Government. The I-PAC founder, who had started off as a poll strategist handling Modi's election campaign in 2014, was asked about the appointment of Air Marshal (Retd) Jeetendra Mishra as the CEO of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust. The Indian Air Force veteran's appointment as the first CEO of the trust comes in the wake of allegations of massive corruption in the management of the temple, the construction of which, after decades-long legal battle, is touted by the Modi Government as one of its major achievements. "What will merely appointing a CEO achieve if the people who were previously involved in managing the affairs are let off the hook? Allegations of corruption have hurt the religious sentiments of the people. The Government must bring out a white paper on the financial irregularities that have taken place," Kishor said.



The Bankipur MLA was also asked about the raging debate that has been triggered by averments of former Union finance secretary Shrawan Kumar Garg on GDP figures. "The questions on projected GDP figures have been raised by a specialist. And this is not the first time that the Government's claims of GDP growth rate have been disputed," he said. "The fact remains – a majority of the country's population is facing extreme hardships in their day-to-day lives. Abject poverty and joblessness fly in the face of the Government's claims that we are one of the fastest growing economies and the third-largest in the world. Unless the living standards of the people improve, questions will be raised on the Government's claims," the opposition legislator said. Kishor, who has firmly ruled out the possibility of an alliance with mainstream parties like the Congress, also asserted that "the Jan Suraaj Party is committed to bringing a fundamental change in the way politics is done in Bihar".

SIR legal but not fair: Ex-election commissioner Ashok Lavasa

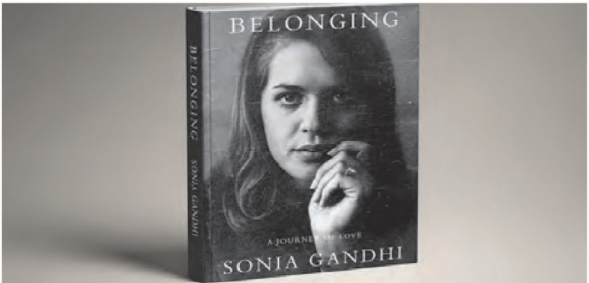
New Delhi

Former election commissioner Ashok Lavasa has described the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls as an unfair procedure being imposed on millions of people. He said while the judiciary has validated the exercise and the Government has termed it legal, the question is whether it is fair. "Of course it is legal. But is it fair? That is the question. Because that is what justice is all about," Lavasa said while delivering the Jagdeep Singh Chhokar Memorial Lecture organised by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) on Thursday. He described the SIR exercise as an unfair procedure imposed on millions of citizens and said "might is right" was an outdated concept.

HarperCollins to publish Sonia Gandhi's memoir on November 10

New Delhi

HarperCollins India on Friday said it will publish Congress leader Sonia Gandhi's memoir "Belonging: A Journey of Love" in India on November 10, ending the uncertainty over the book's domestic publication following an "impasse" between the author's representatives and Penguin Random House India. "One of the most anticipated political memoirs of our time, Belonging is a dramatic and deeply personal story of love, identity, duty and belonging, and offers a rare insider's view of India's journey," HarperCollins India said in a statement.



HarperCollins India's announcement follows a controversy involving Penguin Random House India (PRHI), which was initially keen to publish the memoir but subsequently said it would not be the Indian publisher. The controversy began amid reports of differences between the publisher and the author's

representatives over editorial changes to the manuscript. With HarperCollins India now set to publish the memoir domestically, the book will be available in India alongside its international release on November 10 by Alfred A Knopf, an imprint of Penguin Random House.

Bihar's dharti pakad, who contested polls against Indira and Atal, dies

Bhagalpur

Nagarmal Bajoria, a Bihar businessman known for contesting nearly 300 elections, has died at the ripe age of 97, his family said on Friday. According to close family members, the Bhagalpur resident, who boasted of having challenged former prime ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi on their home turfs of Rae Bareilly and Amethi, respectively, breathed his last at a hospital in Patna on Thursday, following prolonged illness. His body was brought to Bhagalpur, where last rites were performed on Friday. Hailing from western Punjab, which now falls in Pakistan, Bajoria was among the millions of refugees who fled their homes during the horrific communal violence that marked the Partition.



Nagarmal Bajoria

After settling down in the east Bihar town, which in those days was known for a thriving textile industry, Bajoria is said to have decided to make himself count in the nascent republic

by becoming the proverbial perennial candidate, thereby earning the epithet "dharti pakad". He contested close to 300 elections, insisting every time that he wanted to raise

public awareness that polls were about the people and not power," said Gaurav, a grandson of Bajoria. Gaurav recalled his grandfather contesting the 2005 Bihar Assembly polls, when the RJD was voted out of power, "donning clothes on which anti-corruption slogans were printed, and an old wristwatch proudly claimed to date back to the times of Mahatma Gandhi. "My grandfather never joined a political party and first contested a municipal election in 1960. Of course, he came to be known across the country nine years later when he filed nomination papers for the Presidential poll, which was won by VV Giri," Gaurav said. Apart from the Gandhis, other prominent leaders against whom Bajoria contested included former prime minister Atal Bihari

Vajpayee, his deputy Lal Krishna Advani and former president Pranab Mukherji. Old residents recall Bajoria "making headlines by hitting the campaign trail with placards inscribed with names of well-known politicians placed around the necks of donkeys. He was also known to distribute dry fruits among the people." Age eventually caught up with Bajoria, whose last widely discussed electoral venture was filing nomination papers for the 2012 Presidential election. "His refrain used to be – it is not I who loses elections, it is the people who are losing every time. He wanted to contest the 2024 Lok Sabha polls from more than one seat, with Patna Sahib and Rae Bareilly being his preferred constituencies. But failing health came in the way," Gaurav said.



EDITORIAL

All eyes on RBI: Will it cut rates to prop up growth?

The Union Budget 2025-26 has finally met the long-awaited demand of the middle class, pinned down as it is by a persistent inflation, particularly of food items, and stagnancy in wages despite a record surge in the after-tax profits of corporates. FM Nirmala Sitharaman did not waver at the outgo of Rs 1 lakh crore due to tax exemption for up to Rs 12 lakh, saying the tax base itself is small and reposes trust in the middle class loosening their purse strings to boost private consumption – a critical factor amid RBI lowering GDP forecast to 6.6% from 7.2%, and govt lowering it to 6.4%. Even as the dust has settled and analysts are poring over allocations for critical sectors, the euphoria among the middle class is spilling over and all eyes are now on the Reserve Bank of India if it will also cheer them by easing interest rates. The next RBI Monetary Policy Committee meeting is scheduled from February 5 to 7. There are keen expectations from the common man and the industry alike for lower rates. Following a budget booster to private consumption, in view of slackness in investments by industry and businesses, people feel enthused about the new RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra recognising the need to support growth rather than status quo for fear of stoking inflation further. They feel the onus is on the RBI to further stimulate the demand generation. Also Read - Govt creating new Income Tax Act for tech-driven taxpayers, scrapping convoluted older law

In recent weeks, the RBI undertook certain measures to infuse liquidity in the system, despite the inflation ruling above its target (4% with +/- 2%). For more than four years, it has shunned easing the repo rate from 6.5%. The repo is the rate that the RBI lends to commercial banks. RBI also uses cash reserve ratio or CRR, the percentage of a bank's deposits that it must keep in reserves with the RBI. By raising or lowering the CRR, the central bank affects liquidity in the economy. In December 2024, the RBI slashed the CRR by 50 basis points to 4% to infuse ₹1.16 lakh crore into the banking system. Also Read - Budget caters to every section of society: CM

It is true that interest rate cuts won't increase disposable incomes of consumers, unlike fewer taxes or more direct benefit transfers; but, they will lead to more investments and less unemployment. A cut in repo rate will lead to lower loan interest rates, paving way for more borrowing and spending in the economy. But there are as many sceptics as hopefuls. They point out that with the inflation not showing any signs of abatement, the central bank may not be willing to risk making borrowing any less expensive for banks. If done, it will increase money supply in the system, making it difficult to cool down inflation. They are pouring water on high expectations of interest rate cuts in wake of record depreciation in the rupee value, by as much as 3%, due to external pressures and a slowing economy. Even then, there is still room for moderate rate cuts, contend the hopefuls.

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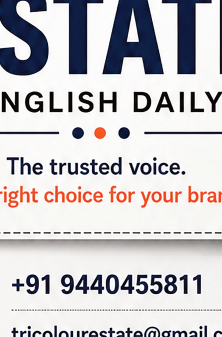
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Farah Khan Gave Up on Teaching Dance to Junaid Khan During 'Loveyapa' Shoot: Here's Why



Junaid Khan, who is all set to make his debut in the romantic drama Loveyapa alongside Khushi Kapoor, recently shared a funny incident about his dance training with Farah Khan. During an appearance on Bharti Singh and Harssh Limbachiyaa's YouTube channel, Junaid revealed that Farah Khan canceled his dance sequence in the film after seeing his performance. Also Read - Abhishek Bachchan: A Journey of Resilience and Versatility Junaid recalled, "Farah ma'am canceled our dance. During rehearsals, her assistants taught us the steps. But when she saw me perform, she decided to keep only Khushi's dance and canceled my part. She asked me to perform in front of her, watched me, and said, 'Tujhse nahi hoga, tu chalke aa. Khushi se dance hoga, tu baithke dekh isko' (You won't be able to do it, just walk over. Khushi will dance, you just sit and watch)." Also Read - Larissa Bonesi Reacts to Aryan Khan's The Bads of Bollywood Announcement, Calls Him "Number 1" Admitting that he's "very bad at dancing," Junaid shared that he struggled with a Garba dance sequence in the film, despite practicing for 10 weeks, four hours daily. "I'm so thin in the film – it's all Vaibhavi ma'am's (choreographer Vaibhavi Merchant's) magic. Shweta ma'am cut everything from that song. I wasn't looking good in it, but she didn't keep even one mid-shot of mine. She only kept wide-to-close shots, and that's why I looked good." Also Read - Ananya Panday excels in Megaformer class Farah Khan choreographed the romantic song Rehna Kol for Loveyapa, in which Khushi Kapoor performs a separate dance sequence while Junaid mostly admires her in the music video. Directed by Advait Chandan, Loveyapa is a Hindi remake of the Tamil film Love Today (2022). The film is set to release on February 7 and follows the love story of Baani (Khushi Kapoor) and Gucci (Junaid Khan), who face challenges in their relationship after the bride's father forces them to swap their phones for 24 hours.

Rasha Thadani bonds with mom Raveena Tandon during 'shaadi season'



Mumbai: Rasha Thadani recently shared a heartwarming moment with her mother, actress Raveena Tandon, during the ongoing 'shaadi season.' The duo was seen enjoying quality time together, bonding over the festive spirit of weddings. Taking to her Instagram handle, Rasha posted several photos from the wedding, where she posed alongside her mother, grandmother, and other family members. Also Read - US tariff fears hit courses In some of the images, Rasha flaunts her radiant smile while posing with her doting mom, Raveena. In a solo shot, she looks stunning in a shimmering golden saree, styled with a bindi and bangles. Sharing the post, Rasha simply wrote, "Shaadi season."

World Cancer Day 2026: Sonali Bendre, Manisha Koirala, Other Bollywood Actors Who Conquered the Disease



Hyderabad: World Cancer Day is celebrated on February 4 every year to raise awareness about the disease, its prevention, benefits of early detection and treatment. The global initiative is led by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) to inform, educate, and unite people to fight this disease. The cause saw massive support from celebrities who through their stories of fighting the disease gave hope to millions. From Sonali Bendre, Sanjay Dutt to Mahima Chaudhry, many Bollywood celebrities emerged as real-life warriors fighting cancer with determination and resilience. Their journeys serve as a testament to their undying spirit, giving many a ray of hope in the testing times. These actors chose their social media to share their stories to enlighten people and remind them that they are not alone. Let us have a look at Bollywood actors who braved cancer and opened up about their journeys serving as inspirations. The Hum Sath Sath Hain actor was diagnosed with cancer in 2018. The actor dropped updates about her treatment on her social media handle, wherein she informed that she underwent treatment in New York City for stage 4 metastatic cancer. Despite doctors telling her she had only a 30 percent survival chance, Bendre remained optimistic. She revealed her family and friends' support helped her pull through the toughest time of undergoing chemo. With her positive outlook, the actor fought cancer, having successfully overcome the disease in 2021. Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt's life turned upside down after he was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer in 2020. Feeling breathless, he was rushed to a hospital where he was informed of non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) in his body. The Munna Bhai MBBS actor underwent treatment in Mumbai and was declared cancer-free in 2021. Mann actor Manisha Koirala was 42 years old

when she discovered she was struggling with ovarian cancer in 2012. The actor refused to back down and stayed positive throughout her cancer battle. The actor underwent surgery and chemotherapy outside of India and was finally able to come out stronger. She even wrote down her experiences with the disease in a memoir titled How Cancer Gave Me a New Life. Her journey has been nothing short of an inspiration. Mahima Chaudhry. Actor Mahima Chaudhry, known for her roles in Pardes and Dhadkan, was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2022. The actor's fans were left shocked after they learned about her cancer battle from Anupam Kher's social media post. After undergoing chemotherapy and several rounds of treatment, Chaudhry was able to defeat cancer. She has since been vocal about her treatment journey, the lows she faced, and how she found the strength to come out cancer-free. Veteran actor and member of Parliament Kirron Kher was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, a type of blood cancer. Her son Sikander shared the actor's health updates with her fans via his social media handle. Recently, Kirron revealed that she kept up with her professional commitments despite her struggle with cancer. Apart from the aforementioned actors, several other Bollywood personalities including Lisa Ray, Rakesh Roshan, Anurag Basu, and Tahira Kashyap, have also battled cancer and emerged stronger. Their stories are a reminder that early detection and willpower can help overcome cancer. Shahid Kapoor and Pooja Hegde's much-anticipated film Deva, directed by Malayalam filmmaker Rosshan Andrews in his Hindi debut, opened on January 31 to mixed reviews. Despite the buzz, the film showed only a slight improvement in its second day of earnings. Deva collected ₹11.37 crore over its opening weekend, with ₹5.5 crore on Day 1 and an estimated ₹5.87 crore on Day 2, according to Sacnilk. Also Read - Deva Review: Shahid Kapoor's Mass Appeal Steals the Show in this Reworked Version of Mumbai Police The movie, which follows ACP Dev Ambre (played by Shahid Kapoor), a hot-headed cop who loses his memory while investigating a murder, managed to secure a 5.84% occupancy for morning shows, 11.28% in the afternoon, and 14.20% in the evening on its second day. Though the action drama faced stiff competition from Sky Force, it still earned ₹10.31 crore gross on its opening day, with ₹6.82 crore from domestic collections and ₹3.49 crore from overseas markets. On its second day, the film grossed ₹6.60 crore in India and ₹10.10 crore worldwide, as per trade reports. Also Read - Shahid Kapoor Showcases U&I's Latest Offerings in Dynamic Digital Ad Film Deva is an adaptation of Rosshan Andrews' 2013 Malayalam film Mumbai Police, with several key changes, particularly in the film's climax. Pooja Hegde stars as Dev's girlfriend, Divya Sathaye, a journalist who is central to the plot. While the film has received mixed reviews, Shahid Kapoor's performance has garnered praise for his portrayal of the complex lead character. Also Read - 'Deva' director keeps climax a mystery for actors to enhance suspense Ahead of the release, Shahid Kapoor shared a heartfelt message on social media, reflecting on the intense effort that went into making the film. He described Deva as a culmination of a year's worth of hard work, with his heart, soul, and years of experience infused into the project. "My heart, my soul. My work, my dedication. My love for acting. My affection for my audience. My years of experience, my inner creative child—everything is in this DEVA," Shahid wrote. As Deva continues its box-office journey, it will be interesting to see how it performs during the rest of the weekend amidst the ongoing competition. Bollywood actor Sonam Kapoor paid a heartfelt tribute to late fashion designer Rohit Bal on Saturday at Le Meridien in Gurugram.

Larissa Bonesi Reacts to Aryan Khan's The Bads of Bollywood Announcement, Calls Him "Number 1"



Shah Rukh Khan recently revealed an exciting teaser for his son Aryan Khan's Bollywood debut with the upcoming web series The Bads of Bollywood*, set to release on Netflix in 2025. Aryan Khan's rumored girlfriend Larissa Bonesi wasted no time showing her support for him on social media, calling him "number 1." On February 3, 2025, Aryan's father, Shah Rukh Khan, introduced the teaser with a light-hearted video where Aryan directs him, showcasing a humorous interaction between the two. Shah Rukh captioned the post, saying: "Picture toh saalon se baki hai par show toh ab shuru hoga. Witness Aryan Khan's take on Bollywood... The Bads of Bollywood*, coming soon." Also Read - Abhishek Bachchan: A Journey of Resilience and Versatility In response to the announcement of The Bads of Bollywood**, Larissa Bonesi's reaction on Instagram was nothing short of enthusiastic. She re-shared the teaser on her Instagram Stories, writing, "Thaaat's fire! The Bads of Bollywood*—the most awaited show in the whole world. By the beast, the genius, and the number one, Aryan Khan." Larissa's support for Aryan Khan is evident in her post, where she affectionately calls him "the number one" and continues to hype up his upcoming project. This reaction adds to the growing buzz surrounding Aryan's Bollywood debut in 2025, marking a significant step in his career after years of anticipation. Also Read - Farah Khan Gave Up on Teaching Dance to Junaid Khan During 'Loveyapa' Shoot: Here's Why At Netflix's Next event, Shah Rukh Khan expressed his pride in his children's ventures—Aryan stepping into direction and Suhana beginning her

acting career. He shared a heartfelt wish that the Indian audience would show them both the same love and support he has received throughout his career hoping that even "50% of that love" would be enough for them. Also Read - Ananya Panday excels in Megaformer class The Bads of Bollywood* is set to be a captivating journey into Bollywood's chaotic world focusing on the story of an ambitious outsider and his friends navigating the industry's ups and downs. The series promises a blend of humor, drama, and glamour, with celebrity reactions to Aryan Khan's project already fueling the excitement for its 2025 release. The series will feature special appearances by top stars from the Indian film industry, adding to the allure of Aryan Khan's web series latest update. With Larissa Bonesi's unwavering support and the widespread anticipation, Aryan Khan's The Bads of Bollywood** is undoubtedly one of the most awaited projects in the Indian entertainment industry this year. Pop sensation Charli XCX is at the top of her game. At the 2025 Grammy ceremony, Charli took home three Grammy Awards: Best Dance Pop Recording for Von Dutch Best Electronic/Dance Album for Brat, and Best Recording Package as the art director of the album's visual aesthetic. Talking of Brat, the album was one of the most talked about records of the year, receiving a total of eight Grammy nominations. The album got nominated in two of the most vouched-for categories Album of the Year and Best Pop Solo Performance. Before creating this major milestone in her musical career, the singer showcased her immense talent at the 2025 Grammys with her debut performance. She delivered an electrifying gig at the venue Cryptic.com Arena prior to the show. Charli had the audience tapping their feet joining her on the beats of the song 360, a Grammy-nominated song from her album titled Brat. Charli has been active in the music industry for more than a decade now. She has with time only proved her mettle. Her standout moment came after she made an X post in support of 2024 Presidential candidate Kamala Harris. In the summer of 2024, referring to her album, she humorously posted "Kamala IS brat" on X. The tweet gained traction with her album coming into focus. But did you know, the pop icon has Indian roots? Charli, born as Charlotte Emma Aitchison is half Indian from her mother's side. Born to a half-Gujarati Indian mother, Shameera, and a Scottish father, Jon Aitchison, the different worlds shaped her perspective heavily. Her mother grew up in Uganda but had to leave the country with her family in the 1970s after then-President Idi Amin ordered the expulsion of the Asian population. Opening up to an international magazine, she said: "I grew up in two half-lives, I suppose, adding, "When I would go and visit my mum's family, I felt very Indian. It was all the classic scenes of my nani and bappa cooking with Bollywood films playing in the background and every body speaking in Gujarati." However, her world at home with her father's side of the family was mostly white. This difference in cultures left the singer feeling like an outsider in both worlds, a sentiment familiar to many mixed-race individuals. "I never quite felt like I fit into either world," she concluded. Two images from two tweets have been marked as 'copyright infringements' Basis which my X account is locked / disabled, I can't access it and permanent suspension has been approved by your teams," she wrote. The actor, known for films such as "Nil Battey Sannata", "Tanu Weds Manu" franchise, and "Veere Di Wedding", had then shared a screenshot of the "email" she received from the team of X on Instagram and criticised the decision as "ridiculous" and "untenable". The next day, in an Instagram post, Bhasker said the email that was sent "claiming suspension was fake". "When I clicked those links my account got hacked... This is the fake email ID... Real email from X. And it's super scary because the fake link took me to a proper ditto lookalike site of X with the logo and everything and I even filled out an appeal form that asked for govt. ID !!!"





Uttam Seeks Chhattisgarh NOC for Sammakka Sarakka Barrage

Located across the Godavari at Tupakulagudem in Kannadigudem mandal of Mulugu district, the barrage is 1,143 metres long and has 59 radial gates. It has a designed storage capacity of 6.94 TMC at a full reservoir level of ~83 metres. The project envisages diversion of 46.96 TMC of Godavari water for irrigation requirements.

Its principal objective is to stabilise 4.40 lakh acres under Stage II of the Sriram Sagar Project «SRSP», where water supply from the original source has been inadequate, and serve a new ayacut of 30,000 acres under the Ramappa-Pakhal Link Canal. It also envisages stabilisation of part of the Devadula Lift Irrigation Scheme's ayacut and meeting drinking-water needs of villages along the route.

The proposed SRSP Stage II benefits cover 2,34,199 acres in Suryapet, 96,494 acres in Mahabubabad, 85,774 acres in Khammam, 22,422 acres in Warangal and 1,111 acres in Jangaon. The additional Ramappa-Pakhal ayacut comprises 8,000 acres in Mulugu and 22,000 acres in the Narasampet constituency of Warangal district.

The project originated in the P.V. Narasimha Rao Kanthapally Sujala Sravanthi Scheme, approved in 2009 in undivided Andhra Pradesh. Following Telangana's formation, the barrage location was shifted to Tupakulagudem through re-engineering. Administrative approval followed in 2017, and the barrage was renamed Sammakka Sagar in 2020. Revised administrative approval was accorded in December 2024.

Environmental clearance was obtained in 2020, and the detailed project report was submitted to the Central Water Commission «CWC» in August 2021.

Several technical clearances have since been obtained. However, appraisal of inter-State matters remains pending for want of Chhattisgarh's NOC, making its early issuance important for advancing the remaining clearance process.

Telangana has already paid 988.30 lakh, equivalent to 9.883 crore, to Chhattisgarh's Water Resources Department in Bijapur for a study of backwater effects. The payment was made on April 29, 2026. In its communication dated August 7, 2026, the department reported completion of DGPS surveys relating to full reservoir and high flood levels, while LiDAR drone surveys and field-data collection were underway.

The Delhi meeting follows Uttam Kumar Reddy's earlier discussions with the Chhattisgarh Chief Minister in Raipur on September 22, 2025, and Hyderabad on June 11, 2026. Telangana has also conveyed its willingness to deposit compensation funds in advance, based on assessment under applicable rules. The Minister's renewed request seeks timely resolution through co-operation between the two States, while addressing the compensation concerns of affected families and enabling the project's intended benefits to reach farmers.

The State's approach links irrigation development with fulfilment of its responsibility towards those whose land and homes would be affected. The request underlines the importance of securing dependable irrigation supplies across the project's beneficiary districts.



TEDxGITAM highlights 'resilience and growth'

I HYDERABAD

TEDxGITAM Hyderabad, an independently organised TED event hosted by GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, brought together around 100 participants on September 4 under the theme "Resilience & Growth." The event featured diverse voices and perspectives on navigating challenges, embracing change and achieving meaningful personal and professional growth.

Air Marshal Nanesyeshwar Tiwari emphasised the power of a strong and disciplined

mind, encouraging participants to step beyond their comfort zones and embrace the unfamiliar. He also underlined the importance of health and happiness as essential components of a fulfilling life. Filmmaker B. V. Nandini Reddy shared her journey from her college days to becoming a successful film director, reflecting on the hurdles, failures and uncertainties she encountered along the way. She urged young people to learn from failure, remain open to confusion and take away only what is useful from

the advice of others.

MihikaBhanot spoke about resilience, empathy and the courage to act despite fear. She encouraged participants to begin rather than wait for the perfect moment, take ownership of their choices and never give up. In keeping with TED's mission of "ideas worth spreading," TEDxGITAM Hyderabad created a platform for meaningful dialogue and fresh perspectives, inspiring participants to embrace challenges, learn from experience and pursue continuous growth.

A TEACHER'S ETERNAL GIFT

He asked instead that 5 September be observed as Teachers' Day, a day dedicated to every educator who shapes young minds. "Instead of celebrating my birthday," he said, "it would be my proud privilege if September 5 is observed as Teachers' Day." From that moment the nation has done so. Each year the day becomes a living tribute not only to one extraordinary teacher but to the entire profession he held sacred.

Dr. Radhakrishnan's philosophy rested on the conviction that truth is one, though sages speak of it in many ways. He defended the spiritual heritage

of India against misunderstanding while remaining open to the insights of other traditions. He saw education as a lifelong process that forms character, trains citizens for democracy and awakens the best in human nature. Those ideas continue to guide classrooms and educational policy alike. He received the Bharat Ratna in 1954 and many international honours, including the Templeton Prize near the end of his life. He passed away on 17 April 1975 in Madras.

Decades later his presence is still felt whenever a teacher enters a classroom with patience and purpose, or whenever a student discovers the

quiet power of ideas. On this birthday, as flowers are offered and tributes spoken, the nation remembers a son of Telugu soil who rose from modest circumstances in Tiruttani to the highest office of the land. He never forgot the classroom. In asking that his own birth be remembered through the service of teachers, he gave India a gift that renews itself every year. That gift remains his most enduring and touching legacy—a reminder that true greatness lies in lifting others, in honouring the light of knowledge, and in living with humility even when the world places a crown upon one's head.

KIMS doctors avoid liver transplant by treating Budd-Chiari syndrome

I HYDERABAD

A 30-year-old patient from Vizag who had been advised a liver transplant after suffering from recurrent accumulation of fluid in the abdomen for nearly a year has avoided major transplant surgery following the correct diagnosis and minimally invasive treatment at KIMS Hospitals, Konadapur. Investigations, including advanced vascular imaging, revealed that the underlying problem was chronic Budd-Chiari syndrome, a rare vascular disorder in which the veins draining blood from the liver become severely narrowed or blocked.



The evaluation showed complete occlusion of the major hepatic veins, resulting in obstruction to the normal outflow of blood from the liver. A blood clot was also detected

in an accessory left hepatic vein, which was providing an alternative route for hepatic venous drainage. The procedure successfully re-established venous drainage from

the liver without the need for major surgery. Following the procedure, the patient recovered well and was discharged on medication under medical supervision. At a follow-up examination one month later, the recurrent abdominal fluid accumulation had resolved completely.

Dr. Mahesh Kumar Thummu, Interventional Radiologist, KIMS Hospitals, Konadapur, who was part of the treating team, said that Budd-Chiari syndrome can sometimes be difficult to identify because its clinical presentation may resemble that of common forms of liver cirrhosis.

India's Q1 FY27 GDP growth-investment-led recovery indicated

I HYDERABAD

India's economy delivered a stronger-than-expected performance in the first quarter of FY27, with real GDP growth accelerating to 7.8m year-on-year, comfortably above the Reserve Bank of India's 7.0m forecast. Nominal GDP expanded 10.3m reflecting robust economic momentum alongside relatively contained inflation. The most significant feature of the quarter was the strengthening of investment-led growth.

Gross Fixed Capital Formation «GFCF» grew by an impressive 11.9m raising its share of nominal GDP to 34.4m compared with 33.1m a year earlier. This points to sustained public and private capital expenditure and provides a stronger foundation for medium-term growth. Domestic consumption re-



mained resilient, with Private Final Consumption Expenditure rising 7.1m

Urban demand remained firm, while rural consumption showed signs of recovery. Government consumption grew at a more moderate 4.3m consistent with continued fiscal prudence. On the supply side, real Gross Value Added «GVA» increased 8.2m Financial, real estate and professional services led the expansion with 12.1m growth, followed by manufacturing at 9.2m and

electricity, gas and utilities at 8.9m

Construction also strengthened, supported by infrastructure and real-estate investment. However, mining contracted 2.4m highlighting continued weakness in parts of the primary sector. External trade provided additional support, with real exports growing 12m while real imports declined marginally. Strong demand for capital goods further underscored the investment cycle.

The adoption of double-deflation methodology under the updated 2022-23 GDP base year is another important development, improving the measurement of real manufacturing value addition amid volatile input prices. Despite risks from global commodity volatility, geopolitical tensions and uneven monsoons, India's strong investment cycle, resilient consumption, healthier banking sector and continued fiscal consolidation provide a constructive foundation. While growth is expected to normalize toward 6.9m for FY27, the Q1 performance strengthens the country's medium-term macroeconomic and sovereign credit outlook.

- Brickwork Ratings
India Pvt Ltd.
Author: Abhishek Kumar Das

Revanth Inspects Hakimpeta Edn Hub

He emphasised that the multiple buildings and facilities must progress in a synchronised manner so that the hub becomes fully functional as a cohesive educational ecosystem rather than a collection of isolated projects.

The Chief Minister specifically instructed continuous monitoring of construction quality and technical standards. He told officials to conduct regular inspections at every stage, address any deviations promptly, and maintain high benchmarks in materials, workmanship and engineering specifications. Quality, he stressed, cannot be compromised in projects that will serve generations of students and patients. Particular attention was paid to rainwater management and site sustainability.

Revanth Reddy advised the setting up of water harvesting wells to prevent water stagnation during the monsoon season. He directed officials to prepare comprehensive plans for capturing rainwater and utilising it for landscaping and green cover across the campus. Such measures, he noted, would not only address drainage issues but also promote



water conservation and create a pleasant, environmentally responsible learning environment. The inspection comes amid the government's push to accelerate infrastructure works in Kodangal and Vikarabad. Local MLAs and senior officials from multiple departments, including the district administration, were present during the review. The Chief Minister has previously indicated that projects of this scale require strict timelines and personal oversight to prevent delays.

The Education Hub forms part of Telangana's larger effort to revitalise public education and professional training. The state has been investing significantly in Young India Integrated Residential Schools, skill development institutions, and medical education expansion.

Officials have been tasked with ensuring that land-related issues, including the allotment of plots to farmers who surrendered land for the project, are resolved without further delay so that construction faces no impediments.

By combining academic institutions with a substantial hospital facility, the Hakimpeta campus is positioned to offer integrated learning and practical training opportunities, particularly in health sciences. The 430-bed hospital is expected to support clinical exposure for nursing, physiotherapy and paramedical students while also serving the healthcare needs of the surrounding rural population. Revanth Reddy's focus on coordination, quality control and sustainable design reflects the administration's

stated goal of creating durable, future-ready public infrastructure. Officials have been asked to submit regular progress reports and resolve bottlenecks at the earliest.

The Chief Minister's personal involvement in reviewing the site signals that the Hakimpeta Education Hub remains a priority developmental project for the region. As works continue, the emphasis on rainwater harvesting and landscaping is expected to make the campus resilient to seasonal weather challenges common in the Deccan region.

Once operational, the hub is anticipated to contribute to decentralising quality higher and professional education, reducing the need for students from Vikarabad and nearby districts to migrate to Hyderabad for medical, nursing and related courses. The inspection concluded with directions for accelerated yet carefully supervised execution, ensuring that the Young India Integrated Residential School, medical and paramedical colleges, 430-bed hospital and supporting facilities come up as a model of coordinated public investment in education and health.

CHILDREN'S LIFE AT STAKE?

Although the tender is described as having been awarded through competition, the combination of elevated rates relative to the market and the absence of detailed specifications for loose items has led many to conclude that the process requires fresh examination. Voices tracking welfare schemes have urged the PMU to cancel the existing supply order and invite new tenders under tighter conditions that prioritise value for money and clear quality parameters. Should the present order continue unchanged, both the government and NACOF risk facing public criticism over quality shortfalls and allegations of inflated pricing.

The scale of the programme—covering seven lakh students—amplifies the stakes. Any perception of excess expenditure or compromised materials could undermine confidence in welfare delivery mechanisms. Those pressing for a review emphasise that the primary consideration must remain the larger public interest. High accepted rates that diverge sharply from market realities, coupled with incomplete specifications, create avoidable risks for the students who are the intended beneficiaries. A prompt re-examination of the decision, followed by a transparent re-tendering exercise if necessary, would help restore assurance that public funds are being deployed efficiently and that the health of vulner-

able children is not placed under strain. The matter has drawn attention precisely because the quantities involved are substantial and the commodities form part of the basic support provided to welfare students.

Market-linked pricing was expected to keep costs aligned with wholesale levels, yet the accepted figures show consistent and sizeable gaps. Independent verification of both price and quality standards is therefore being demanded as a minimum corrective step. Officials associated with the PMU have not publicly detailed the rationale behind the accepted base prices or the evaluation criteria applied to the tender. In the absence of such clarification, the published differentials continue to

fuel concern. Stakeholders monitoring the welfare of students have stressed that any continuation of the present arrangement without address of the rate and specification issues would leave the programme open to sustained scrutiny. The core demand remains straightforward: protect both the public purse and the well-being of seven lakh students by ensuring that procurement rates reflect genuine market conditions and that quality controls are unambiguous and enforceable. Cancellation of the current order and a fresh competitive process under revised conditions would, according to those following the developments, serve those dual objectives more effectively than persistence with the existing terms.



'Leesa' completes shoot, to release in November

I HYDERABAD

The shooting of the upcoming film 'Leesa' featuring Ananya Nagalla in the lead role has been completed and the film is scheduled for a November release. Produced by Venkat Duggireddy and Ramakrishna Ila under the banners of Om Sairam Arts and ITRAHS Entertainment, 'Leesa' is being directed by debutant Jawahar Pawar. Popular cinematographer Sateesh Reddy Masam is handling the camera work, while also serving as the screenplay writer and co-producer. Sreedhar Gade, the director of 'SR Kalyanamadapam', is taking care of the editing.

Mani Sharma is composing the music for the film, which is expected to be one of its major strengths. The director and producers mentioned that the post-production work is currently progressing at a brisk pace. They said that 'Lisa' is based on a novel concept that has never been presented on the Indian screen before, and expressed their confidence that it will entertain audiences.

Dr. Moopen family picks up additional stake in Aster DM quality care

I HYDERABAD

Union «Mauritius» Holdings Ltd, owned and promoted by Dr. Azad Moopen and family, has acquired 46.09 lakh

equity shares of Aster DM Quality Care Limited, representing approximately

0.57m of the company's paid-up equity share capital, from TPG-backed Centella Mauritius Holdings Limited. With the recent purchase of additional stake, the Moopen family now has

increased shareholding in Aster DM Quality Care Ltd to 24.58m. The shares were acquired on September 2, 2026, at a price of Rs 760 per share,

for an aggregate consideration of approximately Rs 350.34 crore.

The acquisition further strengthens the promoter family's ownership interest in Dr. Moopen-led

Aster DM Quality Care and underscores the Moopen family's commitment to the company's long-term growth.



Telugu film industry revival spurs reform push

I HYDERABAD

The Telugu film industry has witnessed a notable revival over the past two months, with increased theatrical footfalls and strong performances from content-driven, small and medium-budget films. The resurgence has renewed optimism among independent filmmakers and producers, highlighting the continued importance of theatrical cinema.

Against this backdrop, a producers' panel-progressive panel—supported by K Ashok Kumar, Damu and Mythri Ravi has unveiled a reform-focused manifesto aimed at strengthening the industry and supporting new entrants. Key proposals include cashless medical insurance of up

to Rs 5 lakh for eligible producers and a Rs 50 lakh annual emergency medical fund for members facing critical health crises.

The panel also plans to convert around 306 annual memberships into lifetime memberships, establish a single-window helpdesk for debut producers and create incubation support for promising content. Other priorities of the panel include women's safety, regular dialogue with labor unions, greater transparency, monthly member updates, anti-piracy measures, and efforts to reduce VPF and multiplex-related costs. The manifesto also calls for regulating online ticketing convenience fees and excessive food and beverage prices at multiplexes.