

ISRO chief reassures staff over privatisation concerns

■ Bengaluru

Days after some Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) employees raised concerns about privatisation, its chairman V Narayanan on Monday said the space agency remains a Government organisation and dismissed apprehensions. He said the ISRO is working with private companies and startups to expand India's space ecosystem.

His reaction came after nine employee associations at the ISRO wrote to the Chairman on September 4, seeking official clarification on the proposed transfer of its manufacturing and operational functions to private entities.

Speaking to reporters after the inaugural ceremony of the ninth edition of the Bengaluru Space Expo (BSX) here, Narayanan said India's space programme is about 64-65 years old, and that at present



ISRO Chairman V Narayanan with Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE) Chairman Pawan Goenka during the inaugural session of 9th Bengaluru Space Expo 2026, in Bengaluru, Karnataka, Monday

there are 56 space assets in the sky serving the common man of the country, but the need is huge

numbers. Recalling that since the space sector reforms were rolled out six years ago, he said, "We are

supposed to hand-hold the private sector, startup companies, and grow the space ecosystem."

"In fact, whenever a PSLV or a GSLV is lifting off, almost 80 per cent budget is invested in Indian industries. A total of 450 industries are working for us," he said.

On the concerns raised by the employee associations, Narayanan said, "So, surely, my colleagues, whatever they have, is a genuine concern. It is our responsibility to clarify." He clarified that the ISRO is not privatised and remains a Government organisation.

"We are working — it's a Government investment, and we are working there. But the only thing is, we now (have) so many activities. The space ecosystem in the country has to grow and the space economy has to grow," he said.

Responding to a question about different voices within ISRO raising concerns, Narayanan said, "We are

20,000 employees...we will address the employees." He further added that ISRO has a system and it regularly talks to its employees. When asked about scientists resigning from ISRO, he said the space agency has 20,000 employees with over 8,000 scientists. "In the last five-six years, if you take the statistics, somewhere around 150 people per year have resigned. This is normal in any organisation," he said.

He also clarified that the space agency had no shortage of budget and said whatever ISRO needs, the Government has been allotting it.

Meanwhile, speaking to reporters here, Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE) Chairman Pawan Goenka said that everything that they are doing is consistent with the space policy.

Referring to the space policy, he said that the role of IN-SPACE and

NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) is very clearly defined, and there is not even an iota of digression from what is in the Indian space policy. So all the technology transfer that we are doing is as per Indian space policy.

He reiterated the ISRO chief's assertion that the organisation's projects were progressing fully as planned, with no disruption, slow-down, budgetary constraints or shortage of manpower.

He clarified that it is not ISRO versus industry. Instead, it is ISRO and industry taking on the world. "Right now, we are an about USD 8 billion space economy. We are targeting \$44 billion by 2033. That cannot be done with ISRO alone; it cannot be done with industry alone. It has to be industry and ISRO together. ISRO will be supporting in a very big way, as it has been doing in the last several years, and it will continue to support," Goenka added.

Mizoram electoral rolls see 78,442 deletions



■ Aizawl

Mizoram's electoral rolls underwent a significant change during the SIR exercise, with 78,442 names deleted and 39,243 new electors added, taking the state's final voter count to 8.35 lakh, a senior official said on Monday.

The final roll also recorded the state's first third gender elector, alongside 4 lakh males and 4.32 lakh female voters, according to State Chief Electoral Officer @Garima Gupta.

The SIR was launched across all districts on May 20, alongside 15 states and two Union Territories covered in the third phase of the nationwide revision exercise.

Before the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), the state had 8.75 lakh registered electors, all of whom were provided enumeration forms, Gupta said. Of these, 8,28,906 forms were collected, while 46,162 remained uncollected and the voters' names were subsequently deleted, she said.

"The draft electoral rolls published on July 4 contained 8,28,906 electors.

During the claims and objections period, which ended on 2 September, 32,280 more names were removed while 39,243 voters were added, resulting in a net increase of 6,963 electors or 0.84 per cent from the draft rolls, in the final rolls," Gupta told a news conference.

Congress questions delay in proroguing Monsoon Session

■ New Delhi

The Congress on Monday questioned the delay in proroguing Parliament's Monsoon Session, wondering if the home minister is still scrambling for his "super-tainted" two-thirds majority to get the delimitation bills passed.

"Today is exactly 25 days since Parliament was adjourned sine die. But it has still NOT been prorogued," Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X.

"Normally prorogation takes place 3-4 days after adjournment sine die. But the gap for the Monsoon Session in 2015 was 28 days. That session had been washed out almost entirely over the Lalit Modi issue, but the Modi Government kept the session alive, hoping to bulldoze the GST bills through.



Jairam Ramesh

It needed a two-thirds majority in the Rajya Sabha which it did not have. "As it turned out, the Modi Government was forced to consult more meaningfully with the Opposition and pass the Bills much later," he said. Ramesh said, "The 2026 Monsoon Session has been kept on ventilator because the Home Minister is still scrambling around for his super-tainted two-thirds majority in the Lok Sabha to get the Delimitation Bills

passed. How much longer before he accepts the reality that his politics of threats and intimidation have reached its limit?" "How much longer before he accepts the reality that his politics of threats and intimidation have reached its limit?" the Congress leader said.

The Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha were adjourned sine die on August 13.

During the Budget Session on April 17, the Modi Government faced a setback as the Constitution Amendment Bill, involving delimitation for the implementation of the women's reservation in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies, was defeated in the Lower House. Of the 528 MPs who voted in Lok Sabha, 298 voted in support, while 230 opposed it. The bill required 352 votes for a two-thirds majority.

CPI(M) demands immediate halt to privatisation of ISRO

■ New Delhi

The CPI(M) on Monday demanded an immediate halt to what it termed the "privatisation" of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), alleging that the move could compromise national security and create dependence on private players in strategically-important areas.

"The Communist Party of India (Marxist) denounces the privatisation of ISRO and demands its immediate halt," the party's Politburo said in a statement.

It said the ISRO's contributions to defence, agriculture, disaster management, weather forecasting and remote sensing are "strategically important for India's economy and security."

"Privatising such a critical, self-reliant institution would create unwanted dependence on the private sector in matters of vital national importance," the party said. The CPI(M) also questioned



recent remarks by IN-SPACE chairman Pawan Goenka that the ISRO would no longer manufacture launch vehicles.

"Pawan Goenka's comments that ISRO will no longer manufacture launch vehicles reveals a sinister design of handing over space research infrastructure built over seven decades by dedicated Indian scientists to private players," it said.

The party claimed that the shift is part of the Indian Space Policy 2023, which opened the space sector to

private players and offered liberal concessions to foreign investment.

It alleged that the policy is being pursued "in the deceptive name of cost-effectiveness in launch operations".

The CPI(M) referred to a report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment, Forests and Climate Change presented in March, saying it had expressed "serious concern over the transfer of public assets to private entities, without transparency or

accountability". The party further criticised the clarification issued by the ISRO in response to concerns raised by the Joint Action Committee of ISRO Staff Associations in its letter to the chief of the space agency.

"ISRO's clarification issued in response to concerns raised by the Joint Action Committee of ISRO Staff Associations through their joint letter to the ISRO chief attempts to defend the policy. However, it fails to address the core anxiety that national security may be compromised," the CPI(M) said.

The party said it stands with the scientists, technologists and staff seeking the strengthening of the ISRO.

"The CPI(M) stands for the protection of the country's strategic interests and with the scientists, technologists and staff who are demanding the strengthening of ISRO. It opposes all the attempts to privatise such a crucial institution," it said.

Karnataka rejects Kasturirangan report on Western Ghats

■ Shivamogga

Karnataka Minister Madhu Bangarappa on Monday said the state Government would not allow implementation of the Kasturirangan report under any circumstances and assured people in Malnad that their land, agriculture and livelihoods would be protected.

The Kasturirangan Committee had recommended declaring 37 per cent of the Western Ghats, covering around 60,000 sq km across six states (Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu), as an Eco-Sensitive Area to balance environmental conservation with development.

"The Kasturirangan report will not be allowed to be implemented under any cir-



Madhu Bangarappa

cumstances. Our Government is committed to protecting every household in Malnad," Bangarappa said while addressing a Congress padayatra and protest in Thirithahalli, demanding that the report be scrapped.

The padayatra, led by former minister Kimmene Ratnakar, began at Binthala and culminated at the Shanthaveri

Gopalagowda Rangamandira. Congress workers raised slogans against the BJP and the union Government during the procession. Bangarappa, who holds the School Education and Literacy portfolio, said the Congress had consistently opposed the Kasturirangan report and recalled that a Cabinet sub-committee was constituted on the issue during Siddaramaiah's tenure as chief minister after he entered the Assembly for the first time in 2013. "Based on the recommendations of the committee, the report was rejected outright. The Congress party has opposed the Kasturirangan report from the beginning," he said. The issue was not merely about opposing a notification but about protecting the land, agriculture, livelihoods and future of Malnad, he said.

"The Western Ghats are our pride and environmental protection is necessary. But in the name of environmental protection, we cannot accept any measure that puts the people of Malnad, who live in harmony with the environment, into difficulty," Bangarappa said.

Farmers across Shivamogga and neighbouring Malnad districts are seeking a physical survey and the exclusion of human settlements and cultivated land from the proposed ESA boundaries.

Turning his criticism on the BJP, Bangarappa questioned its leaders' participation in discussions on the issue, asking whether Shivamogga MP B Y Raghavendra and then Udipi-Chikkamagaluru MP Shobha Karandlaje had attended a crucial meeting convened by

the Centre on August 11, 2016.

"Today, the BJP is making big statements on this issue. But did Raghavendra and Shobha attend that meeting?" he asked. Bangarappa said Karnataka had rejected the Kasturirangan report several times and the Legislative Assembly had passed a resolution against it and sent it to the Centre. "Despite this, the BJP Government at the Centre has been issuing notifications repeatedly. Now, the draft notification has been issued for the seventh time, which has caused anger," he said.

He said 139 villages in Thirithahalli taluk had figured in the first six draft notifications, while the latest draft proposed increasing the number to 154. "What is local BJP MLA Araga Janendra doing on this issue?" he asked.

Union Govt has to be part of NRC exercise in Manipur: Konthoujam

■ Imphal

Manipur Home Minister Govindas Konthoujam on Monday said the state Government alone cannot update the NRC, and the Centre has to be part of the exercise.

Responding to a query by Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader K Meghachandra Singh at the assembly, Konthoujam said, "The National Register of Citizens (NRC) cannot be conducted solely and willingly by the state Government. The Government of India has to be part of the exercise." He said the resolutions adopted by the state Assembly for NRC updation have been conveyed to the Centre.

"Following the resolutions taken by the state Assembly, the Manipur State Population Commission was formed. NRC cannot be easily done. It was conducted in Assam but could not be successfully put up in the public domain and was left in cold storage and before the court," he said.

"The NRC exercise needs to be conducted properly, and the state Government is treating it cautiously so that it does not turn out like the one in Assam," he added.

On the base year for the NRC, a demand that has



Manipur Home Minister Govindas Konthoujam

been consistently raised by civil society organisations, Konthoujam said, "We have been clear that the base year would be 1951."

Rejecting allegations that the Manipur State Population Commission was not functioning, he said, "It is working."

During the discussion, Meghachandra also said, "Without a base year, a legal framework cannot be made. The base year 1951 should be reflected in the resolutions of the Assembly."

To another query by Congress MLA K Ranjit Singh on the attacks at border villages in Kamjong district in May, Konthoujam said police are investigating the attacks on three border villages in Kamjong district by armed militants.

On May 7, armed militants attacked Z Choro, Namlee and Wanglee villages in Kamjong district bordering Myanmar.

Konthoujam said one person was injured and 23 houses were burnt in the attack. He said the state Government has assessed the damage in all three villages and the losses have been estimated at over Rs 5 crore, Konthoujam said, adding that reconstruction of the houses has already begun. Asked whether Myanmar-based rebel group KNF(B) was involved in the attack and arson, the minister said the investigation was still underway.

"It would be too early to comment on whether the militant group was involved or not," he said.

BJP wins 44, Congress 16 in Rajasthan civic polls



■ Jaipur

Seventy-seven candidates, including 37 women, have been elected unopposed in Rajasthan's urban local body polls, with the ruling BJP accounting for 44 of the victories and the Congress 16, according to election officials.

Among the unopposed winners, 37 are women. The Congress's Sofia (22) from Ramgarh Shekhawati Nagar Palika in Sikar district is the youngest of the winning candidates. She is followed by her party colleague Mona Bano from Basani Nagar Palika in Nagaur district.

Declare Bihar floods a national disaster: Tejashwi to PM

■ Patna

Leader of the opposition in the Bihar Assembly, Tejashwi Yadav, on Monday wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi demanding declaration of the state's floods as a "National disaster" and immediate financial assistance of ₹5,000 crore to the State to tackle the situation.

In his letter, Yadav alleged that the "financially bank-



rupt" Bihar Government "persistently failed in taking response, mitigation and adaptation measures" and

was "indifferent" to helping flood victims.

Fed by heavy rainfall, rivers have swelled and inundated 13 districts of Bihar, affecting 27 lakh people, officials said. So far in September, the state received 69.1 mm of rain, which is 55 per cent above normal. Describing flood relief and rescue arrangements made by the NDA Government in the state as "grossly inadequate," Yadav

claimed that the Bihar ministers and the ruling alliance's Union ministers and MPs elected from Bihar appeared "helpless, ineffective and incapable" in the wake of the disaster.

"They have neither been able to get the Centre to declare the severe floods a national disaster nor have they been able to strongly demand a special relief and assistance package for Bihar," he said.

58 lakh records to be displayed, camps for Maratha caste certificates : Patil

■ Mumbai

Maharashtra Minister Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil on Monday said 58 lakh records traced by the retired Justice Shinde Committee will be displayed in gram panchayats, and camps will be organised from September 10 to 17 to help Marathas complete documentation for caste certificates.

Vikhe Patil, who heads the state Government's Maratha reservation sub-committee, directed divisional commissioners and district collectors



Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil

to ensure proper coordination and take the issues concerning reservation seriously. The minister was review-

ing the implementation of decisions taken on the Maratha reservation issue during a virtual meeting with collectors and sub-divisional officers from Dharashiv, Beed, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Parbhani, Hingoli, Latur and Jalna districts of Marathwada.

He reviewed district-wise data on caste verification certificates issued, Kunbi records traced and applications received. The collectors also presented details of the action taken and implementation measures undertaken so far. Vikhe Patil said the

Parbhani district collectorate had published the records it had found, and directed other districts to take similar action and publish details on their websites.

He said that 58 lakh records traced by the retired Justice Shinde Committee will be displayed in gram panchayats, and directed the administrators to make proper arrangements for camps from September 10 to 17 to help Marathas complete the requirements for certificates. Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Vikhe Patil said the state Government

would follow the law while issuing certificates.

"No one is above the law. Certificates will be issued only by following genealogical records and legal rules," he said. Around 3.5 lakh Kunbi certificates have been distributed in Marathwada, he said, adding that the rules would be strictly adhered to while issuing certificates to eligible beneficiaries.

He further said that the Government would hold discussions with Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange, who is on a hunger strike in Jalna. The Government was

taking steps to provide reservation to the Maratha community without affecting the reservation of any other community, he asserted.

"If some people are deliberately using the language of agitation to oppose Maratha reservation, it is wrong and an attempt to unnecessarily create social tension," Vikhe Patil said.

Responding to Jarange's allegation that the Government was only making assurances on Maratha reservation, the minister said that action had been taken on most of the

demands raised during the previous agitation and efforts were underway to find a way forward on the remaining demands.

The Government has always been ready to discuss the reservation issue with Jarange, he said, reiterating that its stand was to provide reservation to the Maratha community without affecting the quota of any other community.

The issue would be resolved within the legal framework and keeping the interests of all communities in mind, Vikhe Patil said.

EDITORIAL

The same old story plays out in Tamil Nadu

Hate politics, especially objectionable comments made against the Hindu faith, is an exercise which has been a regular feature of Dravidian politics over many decades in Tamil Nadu. Vulgar, euphemistic language leaving no scope for imagination has repeatedly been used on public platforms with a calculated design to demean opponents and hurting their self-esteem. The sad part is that over time, the public of the State, including its women, seem to have got desensitized to such bilge. One can say for sure it is a trademark which is wholly owned by the oldest regional party of south India, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK). Also Read - PM's Bihar speech a testament to India's strength, sobriety Added to this is the ever-present trail of corruption and unbridled misuse of power which has cropped up almost all the time whenever the party has been in power. The recent cases of Senthil Balaji and K Ponmudi, the ministers who have been censured by the highest courts of the land are one of the much-debated ones in recent times. With a year to go for polls, a reviving opposition party AIADMK attempting to shed its inertia and hoping to turn the tables with the support of the BJP, the DMK has stumbled on, moving from one year to the other, continuing its cat fights with the Governor, R N Ravi and shooting its arrows at the Centre for its 'step-motherly' treatment. Also Read - Vance's visit raises hopes of improved US-India relations Unable to play its own tune against the harsh and sobering judgment of the High Court, the party had to bow down to the judicial pronouncement and seek the scalp of Ponmudi, who embarrassed the DMK no end with his comments on the two sects of Hindu religion and demeaning women too in the process. A so-called secular ambience prevails in this state, hailed as the gateway to the South not too long ago. Which very evidently means, an excessive and unjustified attack on the majority community, putting the believers and their faith under the microscope, using half-baked and repulsive language to ridicule them. Also Read - Of BJP, scams and linguistic pride Like how all cadre-based parties have had to combat the changing times and ideological positions challenged by real politics on the field, the DMK too has had to battle rising desertions from its fold but had built a solid base for itself over time to keep itself afloat. It also helped that there was no other real opposition from the national parties, who were forced to piggyback on either of the two regional parties for their existence and presence at both the state and national level. Also Read - Pahalgam massacre: India must respond strongly but not recklessly Having based their political existence on the twin theories of 'social justice' and 'rationalism', the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, which is a splinter of the mother party, Dravida Kazhagam is now a pale shadow of what it was when it ascended to power for the first time in 1967.

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A hand-drawn illustration of a hand writing on a notepad, with a newspaper clipping titled 'TRICOLLOUR ESTATE' and a pen resting on it. The newspaper clipping features a city skyline and the text 'THE NEWS THAT MATTERS'. The background is a light beige color with a subtle texture.

Sensex, Nifty End Higher After Volatile Trade As India Avenges Pahalgam Attack

Mumbai: Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty closed higher in a volatile session on Wednesday as India launched missile strikes on terrorist hide-outs in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir. After gyrating between gains and losses during the day, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 105.71 points or 0.13 per cent higher at 80,746.78. The index opened sharply down by 692 points and fell further to hit a day's low of 79,937.48 in early trade. However, buying in private banks and select auto shares such as Tata Motors helped the barometer recover most of the losses and hit a high of 80,844.63 later. The 50-issue Nifty of NSE advanced by 34.80 points or 0.14 per cent to settle at 24,414.40. Nifty moved between a high of 24,449.60 and a low of 24,220 during the session. India and the UK on Tuesday sealed an ambitious free trade deal along with a double contribution convention with Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying that the landmark pacts will catalyse trade, investment, growth and job creation in both the economies. Modi made the announcement on the agreements after a phone conversation with his British counterpart Keir Starmer. Omaha: Billionaire Warren Buffett shocked an arena full of shareholders Saturday by announcing that he will retire at the end of the year, bringing the curtain down on a six-decade run leading Berkshire Hathaway that made him the most influential investor in the world. Buffett said he will recommend to Berkshire Hathaway's board on Sunday that Vice Chairman Greg Abel should replace him. "I think the time has arrived where Greg should become the chief executive officer of the company at year end," Buffett said. Abel has been Buffett's designated successor for years, and he already manages all of Berkshire's noninsurance businesses. But it was always assumed that he would not take over until after Buffett's death. Previously the 94-year-old Buffett always said he had no plans to retire. Buffett announced the news at the end of a five-hour question and answer period without tak-



ing any questions about it. He said the only board members who knew this was coming were his two children, Howard and Susie Buffett. Abel, who was sitting next to Buffett on stage, had no warning. Abel returned an hour later without Buffett to conduct the company's formal business meeting, and he responded to the news. "I just want to say I couldn't be more humbled and honored to be part of Berkshire as we go forward," Abel said. Many investors have said they believe Abel will do a good job running Berkshire, but it remains to be seen how good he will be at investing Berkshire's cash. Buffett endorsed him Saturday by pledging to keep his fortune invested in the company. "I have no intention — zero — of selling one share of Berkshire Hathaway. I will give it away eventually," Buffett said. "The decision to keep every share is an economic decision because I think the prospects of Berkshire will be better under Greg's management than mine." Thousands of investors in the Omaha arena gave Buffett a prolonged standing ovation after his announcement in recognition of his 60 years leading the company. Markets regulator Sebi on Monday directed brokers to collect all other margins, except value at risk (VaR) and Extreme Loss Margin (ELM), by the T+1 settlement day. The decision has been taken due to the shift from T+2 to T+1 settlement cycle. Trading members or clearing members are required to mandatorily collect upfront VaR margins and ELM from their clients. Earlier, they had time till 'T+2' working days to collect margins (except VaR margins and ELM) from their clients. "With effect from January 27, 2023, the settlement cycle has been reduced from T+2 to T+1 across all scrips in the cash market." In this regard, based on representation received from the Brokers' Industry Standards Forum (ISF) and to ensure a more robust risk management framework,

CCEA Approves Revised SHAKTI Scheme For Allocation Of Coal To Power Plants



New Delhi: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on Wednesday approved the revised Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala Transparently n India (SHAKTI) for allocation of coal to the power sector to help them meet ong-term and short-term coal requirement. The approval was given by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a move aimed at simplification of the linkage process. The CCEA "has approved grant of fresh coal linkages to thermal power plants of central sector/state sector/independent power producers (IPPs)," the coal ministry said in a statement. The combined market valuation of seven of the top-10 valued firms surged by Rs 2.31 lakh crore (Rs 2,31,177.3 crore) in a holiday-shortened last week, with Reliance Industries emerging as the biggest gainer amid a largely optimistic trend in equities. While Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Infosys and ITC emerged as the gainers in the top-10 pack, Tata Consultancy Services, Bajaj Finance, and Hindustan Unilever faced losses in their valuation. Last week, the BSE benchmark jumped 1,289.46 points or 1.62 per cent. Equity markets were closed on rursday for 'Maharashtra Day'. The market valuation of Reliance Industries jumped Rs 1,64,959.62 crore to Rs 19,24,235.76 crore. Bharti Airtel's valuation surged by Rs 20,755.67 crore to Rs 10,56,029.91 crore. ICICI Bank added Rs 19,381.9 crore to Rs 10,20,200.69 crore in its valuation. Benchmark BSE Sensex soared by 1,006 points to close above 80,000 level on Monday as a sharp rally in Reliance Industries and private banks, and foreign fund inflows helped stock markets cut short two days of fall amid India-Pakistan border tensions. The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 1,005.84 points or 1.27 per cent to settle at 80,218.37 with 23 of its constituents ending with gains and seven in the red. During the day, it surged 1,109.35 points or 1.40 per cent to 80,321.88. The NSE Nifty rallied 289.15 points or 1.20 per cent to close at 24,328.50. Reliance Industries surged by 5.27 per cent to emerge as the biggest gainer among Sensex stocks. The oil-to-retail behemoth reported a 2.4 per cent rise in March quarter net profit beating street estimates. Mahindra & Mahindra spurted 2.29 per cent after the auto major announced a Rs 555-crore acquisition of SML Isuzu and said that the buyout was a strong strategic fit for the company that would put it in a strong position. SML

Isuzu Ltd shares, on the other hand, tanked 10 per cent. Sun Pharma, Tata Steel, State Bank of India, Axis Bank, Tata Motors, Larsen & Toubro and ICICI Bank were also among the Sensex gainers. HCL Tech, UltraTech Cement, Nestle and Hindustan Unilever were among the laggards. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 2,952.33 crore on Friday, according to exchange data. Foreign investors have infused Rs 17,425 crore in the country's equity markets last week, supported by a combination of favourable global cues and strong domestic macroeconomic fundamentals. This came following a net investment of Rs 8,500 crore in the preceding holiday-truncated week ended April 18. "The domestic market recouped from the losses incurred during the last two days of the previous week, which stemmed from the border tensions. "While sustained buying from FIIs and better results from RIL also boosted the investor sentiment. A weakening dollar and inflationary pressure in the US may attract FIIs into the domestic market," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said. In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi index and Tokyo's Nikkei 225 settled in the positive territory while Shanghai SSE Composite and Hong Kong's Hang Seng ended lower. European markets were trading higher. US markets ended with gains on Friday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.19 per cent to USD 66.74 a barrel. The BSE barometer Sensex tanked 588.90 points or 0.74 per cent to settle at 79,212.53 on Friday. Falling for the second day, the Nifty tumbled 207.35 points or 0.86 per cent to 24,039.35. The tourism sector in Kashmir has received a body blow following the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, with tour operators saying the incident shook the confidence of tourists, leading to mass cancellation of bookings. Terrorists killed 26 civilians, including 25 tourists and a local ponywalla, on April 22 in a targeted attack in Baisaran meadows, around 7 km from the main Pahalgam town. The dastardly attack shook the nation as it was reported that victims were shot at point-blank range after the gunmen confirmed they were not Muslim. Following the attack, tourists left Kashmir en masse, with airlines running special flights to fly them out, given that the highway was also shut for the first few days after the attack. iving details of how they aim to reduce the impact of the terror attack on J&K tourism, Patil said they plan to allow visitors

Pahalgam Attack: Pakistan Shuts Ports For Indian Ships After New Delhi Bans Imports From Islamabad



New Delhi: Pakistan has banned the use of its ports by Indian flag carriers, hours after New Delhi imposed fresh punitive measures, including a ban on import of goods and entry of Pakistani ships into its ports, against Islamabad. India on Saturday imposed a ban on the import of goods coming from or transiting through Pakistan and also the entry of Pakistani ships into its ports even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the country is committed to take "firm and decisive" action against terrorists and their backers. Pakistan late Saturday ordered that any "Indian flag carriers shall not be allowed to visit any Pakistani port", Dawn, a Pakistani newspaper reported. "In view of the recent development of maritime situation with neighbouring country, Pakistan in order to safeguard maritime sovereignty, economic interest and national security enforces following measures with immediate effect: Indian flag carriers shall not be allowed to visit any Pakistani port, Pakistani flag carriers shall not visit any Indian port (and) any exemption or dispensation shall be examined and decided on case to case basis," the newspaper reported. The Dawn newspaper had quoted an order issued late Saturday by Pakistan's Ministry of Maritime Affairs' Ports and Shipping Wing. Ties between the two neighbouring countries plummeted following the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people, mostly tourists. The App Store ecosystem in India facilitated Rs 44,447 crore (\$5.31 billion) in developer billings and sales in 2024, a new Apple study showed on Monday. The study was conducted by Professor Viswanath Pingali from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. In one of its most important findings, the study showed that more than 94 per cent of that commerce accrued solely to developers and businesses of all sizes, without any commission paid to Apple. And over the last five years, the global earnings of India-based developers have tripled, underscoring the tremendous business opportunity and global reach the App Store provides, the company said in a statement. "The App Store has been an economic miracle for developers in India and all around the world, and we're thrilled to support their work," said Tim Cook, Apple's CEO. "This study underlines the power of India's incredibly vibrant app economy. And we're committed to keep investing in the success of developers of all sizes as they build apps that make an important impact and enrich people's lives." The study by Professor Pingali takes a closer look at the key drivers shaping the App Store ecosystem in India, including increased app usage in sectors like food delivery, travel, gaming and entertainment. In 2024 alone, App Store developers generated Rs 38,906 crores (\$4.65 billion) in total billings and sales from the sale of physical goods and services, Rs 3,014 crores (\$352.9 million) from in-app advertising, and Rs 2,527 crores (\$302 million) from digital goods and services. Since its launch more than fifteen years ago, developers have more ways than ever to monetise their apps and build successful businesses on the App Store, resulting in a healthy and dynamic ecosystem.

'Didn't Enjoy Bank Job, So Quit It': Haryana's 'Harley Davidson Milkman' Upgrades To Audi

Faridabad: Young Amit Bhadana was all settled in his life after getting a well-paying job in a bank right after completing his graduation. But Bhadana's passion for high-end motorcycles and cars coupled with his knack for milk business run by the family prompted him to quit the job and start delivering milk door-to-door on a motorcycle. Years down the line, Bhadana has become a household name in Haryana's Faridabad where he now delivers milk in an Audi car every morning leaving his customers and passersby in awe. Bhadana, a resident of Mohabbatabad village in Faridabad, is no less than a celebrity today as he goes selling milk in an Audi car worth crores of rupees. Many times, his customers stand at the door even before he arrives because

they want to capture him with the Audi car with their phone cameras. Bhadana said that he was fond of bikes and cars since his childhood. He said that after securing a job at a bank, he was not able to pursue his hobby which upset him. "Milk business was already running in the family. I decided to make my passion a profession and fulfill it along with the family business," Bhadana recalled. Bhadana said that once he had made up his mind, he left the well-paid job in the bank. He bought a Harley Davidson bike and started delivering milk to people's homes. While his hobby of riding high-end bikes was being fulfilled, the business kept flourishing. As the business grew manifold, Bhadana bought an Audi car worth around Rs 1 crore to transport milk. Bhadana, who is active on social media, uploaded a video showing him transporting milk on a bike. The video was warmly received by netizens on Instagram and has garnered over 3 million views making Bhadana an instant star. Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded in early trade on Friday amid continuous foreign fund inflows and a rally in global markets, but failed to carry forward the winning momentum and were later trading lower dragged lower by Axis Bank. The 30-share BSE benchmark gauge climbed 329.23 points to 80,130.66 in early trade. The NSE Nifty rallied 118.75 points to 24,365.45. Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded in early trade on Friday amid continuous foreign fund inflows and a rally in global markets, but failed to carry forward the winning momentum and were later trading lower dragged lower by Axis Bank.

The Agent Revolution

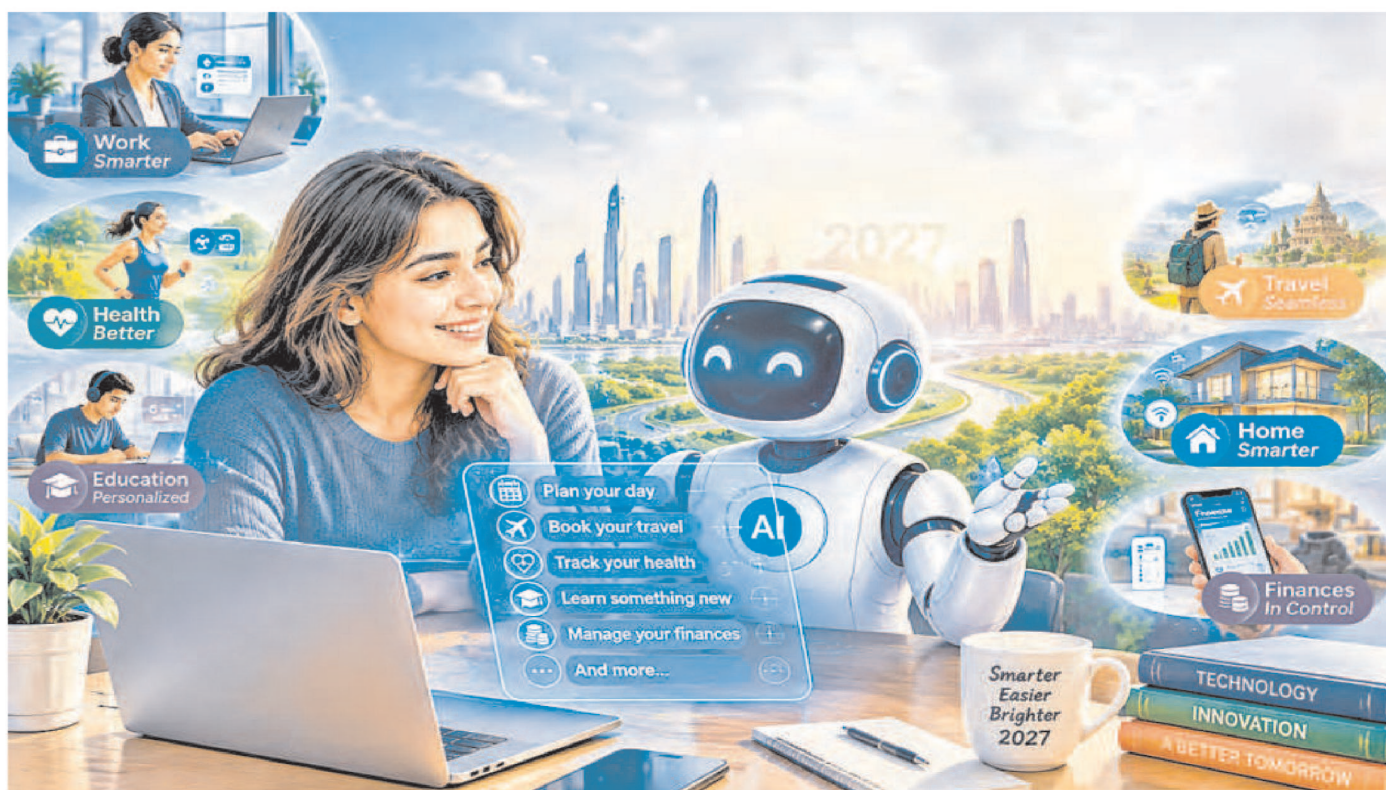
Personal AI Assistants to Reshape 2027?

HYDERABAD

As 2025 comes to a close, artificial intelligence had already delivered two standout consumer breakthroughs: highly accelerated software development and natural voice interfaces that made interacting with machines feel almost effortless. Those advances, impressive as they were, now look like early signals of a far larger shift. By the end of 2026, industry observers and technology executives expect the arrival of super-capable personal AI agents—software entities that handle the full range of tasks people currently perform on phones and computers with a level of reliability and initiative that feels irresistible.

These agents will not simply respond to commands. They will manage calendars, process emails, book travel, reconcile expenses, research options, draft communications, and execute multi-step workflows across applications with minimal supervision. The experience will feel less like using software and more like directing a highly competent digital colleague who already knows one's preferences, constraints, and priorities. Platform makers are preparing the ground.

Apple is expected to announce formal operating-system



tem access for trusted third-party agents, mirroring the earlier decision to allow external apps to manage calling and spam filtering. That opening would let carefully vetted agents operate with deeper system privileges while preserving Apple's emphasis on privacy and security. On the Android side, competitive pressure is likely to force a parallel move: opening the platform so that third-party

agents can operate at the same depth and integration level currently reserved for Google's own Gemini system. Without such parity, Android risks ceding the next major interface layer to closed ecosystems.

The practical effect will be profound. When 2027 arrives, many ordinary users—people who never considered themselves early adopters—will rely on personal agents in

much the same way that a smaller cohort first embraced smartphones in the early 2010s. What was once a niche productivity tool for technologists will become everyday infrastructure. Non-specialists will experience noticeable gains in output and reduced friction in daily digital life. Checking multiple apps, switching contexts, and manually transferring information will begin to feel archaic. Busi-

nesses will follow a familiar historical pattern. Just as organizations once built intranets for internal operations and websites or mobile apps for customer engagement, they will rush to deploy specialized agents. Customer-service agents, sales-support agents, procurement agents, and compliance agents will become standard offerings.

Elon Musk predicts "Age of Abundance"

Elon Musk believes artificial intelligence and robots will transform the world very quickly. He says AI is advancing so fast that it will soon handle most digital work — anything done on computers, such as writing software, analysing data, or creating content. He has predicted that by the end of next year, AI could do nearly all of this digital work better than humans.

For physical jobs, Musk points to humanoid robots (like Tesla's Optimus). He expects hundreds of millions or even a billion such robots within about ten years. Each robot could be several times more productive than a human worker. Together, these robots could produce more goods and services than all people on Earth combined. Because of this, Musk thinks traditional jobs will change dramatically.

He has said that in 10 to 20 years, work may be-



come optional — something people do for enjoyment, like a hobby or sport, rather than a necessity to survive. People will no longer need to work full-time just to earn a living. Instead, society could enter an "age of abundance" where AI and robots create so much wealth that basic needs (food, housing, healthcare, transport) become widely available. He also predicts the global economy could grow much faster — possibly doubling in size within five to seven years — because machines will produce far more than humans can today.

El Niño, KCR's failures behind Telangana water woes: Uttam

HYDERABAD

Telangana Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Monday attributed the State's present water scarcity to a combination of El Niño conditions and failures of the previous BRS government in the irrigation sector.

Speaking to journalists in the Assembly lobbies, Uttam said El Niño had affected rainfall and water availability, while the previous government's failure to complete key irrigation projects despite spending about Rs.1.81 lakh crore had made Telangana more vulnerable to water stress.

"The farmers of Telangana are facing difficulties because of two factors — Mr El Niño and Mr KCR," he said.

The Minister alleged that several projects pending since the formation of Telangana, including Kalwakurthy, Netampadu, Koilsagar, Bheema and the SLBC tunnel, remained incomplete despite substantial expenditure during the BRS's decade in power.

He was particularly critical of the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme, claiming that around Rs.27,500 crore had been spent without creating the required irriga-



tion potential through the distributory network. He also questioned the shifting of the project's source from Jurala to Srisailem, arguing that the former was entirely within Telangana and could have reduced interstate complications.

Uttam said the Congress government had finalised the water source for the Dindi project and sanctioned around Rs.1,800 crore to take it forward. He also alleged that the previous government had failed to secure necessary environmental clearances for several major projects.

On Kaleshwaram, Uttam criticised former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao's

proposed mass mobilisation, asking what the BRS intended to showcase when the Medigadda barrage had suffered serious structural damage. He said the Congress government was undertaking investigations and rehabilitation measures with the assistance of national and international experts, including measures involving diaphragm walls and improvements to stilling-basin arrangements.

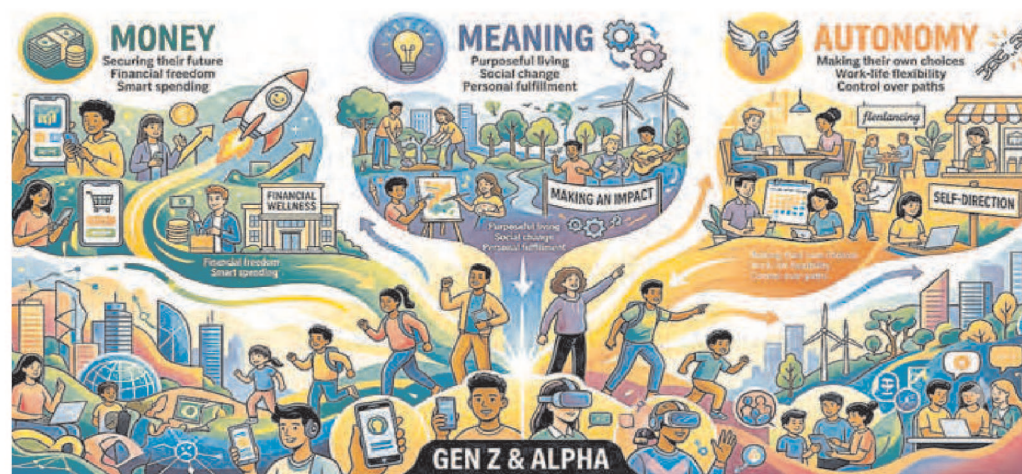
The Minister said the government was also carefully conserving available reservoir stocks to meet irrigation and drinking-water requirements through the summer.

Money, Meaning and Autonomy Drive Gen Z, Alpha

HYDERABAD

In a rapidly transforming India, Generation Z and the emerging Generation Alpha are redefining the rules of success, motivation and daily life. Born roughly between 1997 and 2012, Gen Z forms the bulk of the young workforce and university population. Gen Alpha, born from around 2010 onward, is still largely in school but already shaping family decisions and digital culture. Surveys and studies from Deloitte, Randstad India and others reveal a generation that balances pragmatic financial needs with a strong desire for purpose, flexibility, learning and personal well-being — while their younger siblings prioritise autonomy, joy and early financial curiosity in a highly structured world. For India's Gen Z, the "trifecta" of money, meaning and well-being sits at the heart of career choices.

Deloitte's recent Gen Z and Millennial surveys in India show that financial security remains foundational. Without it, many report lower well-being and less sense that their work is meaningful. Better pay ranks as a top re-



attention factor, cited by about 37 per cent in a Randstad India study, ahead of traditional perks. Salary is also a leading consideration when choosing careers, according to India Today's Mood of the Nation findings, though job security and work-life balance follow closely. Yet money alone is insufficient. Nearly all Indian Gen Z respondents in Deloitte data — as high as 99 per cent in the latest figures — say a sense of purpose is important for job satisfaction.

Many are willing to reject employers or projects that clash with their values. Some studies indicate a willingness

among a significant share to accept lower pay for more meaningful roles. Continuous learning ranks equally high: 94 per cent of Indian Gen Zs highlight on-the-job learning as the most helpful tool for career growth, outpacing global peers. Real-world experience is valued far above pure classroom theory. Work-life balance and flexibility have become non-negotiable. Randstad's "Gen Z Workplace Blueprint" found flexible hours 25 per cent and work-life balance 22 per cent — as stronger motivators than extra leave or similar benefits.

Many prefer a full-time job combined with a side hustle

for autonomy and diversified income. Only a small minority plan lifelong loyalty to one employer; a substantial share expect to move within a year, driven by low pay, misaligned values or poor culture. Leadership interest is high in principle, but few list rapid corporate climbing as their primary goal — steady progress with sustainable workloads is preferred. Mental health awareness runs deep. Prioritising well-being over relentless stress, many Gen Z Indians consciously break from old

ing worth through over work.

Support Congress to Defeat Modi: CM Revanth Reddy

CONSPIRACY TO DELETE ONE CRORE VOTES IN TELANGANA

EC FUNCTIONING AT BJP'S BEHEST



HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday described Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the most dangerous person for the country and appealed to Communist parties to join the Congress in defeating the BJP government at the Centre. Addressing a memorial meeting for Comrade Sarampalli Malla Reddy, he alleged a systematic conspiracy by the BJP to delete anti-BJP votes in Telangana under the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls. Revanth Reddy claimed the BJP had failed to win public trust through democratic means and was therefore targeting Scheduled Castes, Scheduled

Tribes and minorities by removing their names from voter lists.

He accused the party of replicating its West Bengal strategy by deleting votes booth by booth and alleged a plot to erase one crore votes in the state with the help of private agencies conducting surveys. The Chief Minister criticised the Election Commission for functioning at the BJP's behest and questioned the silence of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi on the issue. Appealing for unity, he said the defeat of Modi would also be a victory for the Communists, who must safeguard the voting rights of the poor. "We should be united and fight against Modi in the country.

Elections and fundamental rights of the poor are different aspects," he stated. Praising the Left's long struggle for the poor, Revanth Reddy noted that the Congress had enacted the Minimum Wages Act, distributed 24.56 lakh acres of assigned land (including 10 lakh acres to Adivasis) and implemented the Employment Guarantee Act and Food Security Act in response to Communist demands. He recalled Malla Reddy's rise from a remote area to the national stage and his dedication to farmers, calling his death an irreparable loss. The government would address farmers' issues keeping in mind Malla Reddy's writings and would decide on a memorial after

consultations.

Later in the Legislative Assembly, Revanth Reddy strongly condemned alleged disrespectful remarks by BRS members against Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar. He described the incident as an insult to the Speaker, the House, the four crore people of Telangana and democratic traditions. Demanding that BRS working president K. Chandrashekar Rao apologise, that the member concerned resign and that the legislator's membership be terminated, the Chief Minister stressed that all members are equal before the Speaker.