



# THE Hans India



**WOMENIA** **How to protect skin during Diwali festivities**  
The glow of Diwali lights, the sparkle of decorations, and the excitement of the festivities can all lead to a lot of skin exposure, leading our skin to undergo heavy cleaning products, smoke, and a lot of rituals. **P8**

**EDIT** **19(1)(a) expression-Fear of weaponization haunts media fraternity**  
The fear of laws being used to suppress free speech—a phenomenon known as the “chilling effect”—is a growing global concern. Authorities and powerful private entities may weaponize vague or disproportionate laws. **P6**

**CITY/REGION** **Panic grips SVU, Vedic campuses after fresh leopard sightings**  
As wildlife experts had cautioned a couple of months ago when a leopard was trapped on Sri Venkateswara University (SVU) campus, the problem appears far from over. They had warned that the captured leopard might not be the only. **P3**

**CM sets stage for global CII summit in Vizag**  
Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu called on officials to turn the upcoming CII Partnership Summit in Visakhapatnam into a global showcase for Andhra Pradesh's brand and investment potential. **P4**

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## WINDOWS



### SC orders CBI probe into Karur stampede

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Monday ordered a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the September 27, 2025 Karur stampede in Tamil Nadu, which claimed 41 lives during a rally organised by actor-turned-politician Vijay's party, the Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK). A Bench of Justices J K Maheshwari and N V Anjaria said an independent investigation was necessary “to allay concerns and ensure impartiality.” It also constituted a three-member monitoring committee, chaired by former Supreme Court judge Justice Ajay Rastogi, to supervise the progress of the CBI probe. “Looking at the facts, the issue has a bearing on the fundamental rights of the citizens. The directions are to hand over the investigation to the CBI. In order to allay the concern of parties, we propose to set up a three-member committee. We have requested Justice Ajay Rastogi to head the committee,” the Bench orally remarked while pronouncing the interim order.

### TN revokes licence for Coldrif syrup, shuts down firm



**CHENNAI:** The Tamil Nadu government on Monday ordered the shutdown of Sresan Pharmaceuticals, the manufacturer of the adulterated cough syrup Coldrif, and completely revoked its manufacturing licence. The state Drug Control Department officials had found 48.6 per cent of Diethylene Glycol (DEG), a toxic substance in the cough syrup during an inspection. This medicine is linked to the death of children in Madhya Pradesh. Department officials also found that the company lacked proper good manufacturing practices (GMP) and good laboratory practices (GLP), and they recorded over 300 critical and major violations. The company's owner, G Ranganathan, was recently arrested by a Special Investigation Team from Madhya Pradesh. Earlier in the day, the Enforcement Directorate conducted raids at the premises of Sresan Pharmaceuticals and the residences of some officials in connection with a case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

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## CRDA COMPLEX OPENS

# No hurdles to development of 'self-financing' Amaravati: CM

Not spending even a single pie from the exchequer, says Naidu

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
AMARAVATI

CHIEF Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu on Monday inaugurated the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) complex, marking what he described as the “formal beginning of Amaravati's capital development journey” and reaffirming that there are “no hurdles to the capital's progress”.

The just-inaugurated seven-storey CRDA building (G+7), constructed at Maipadu Gate, is the first completed structure in the Amaravati capital region after the restart of Amaravati works, following the formation of the TDP-led NDA government in June 2024.

Designed to house the CRDA, Amaravati Development Corporation Limited, and all the wings of the Municipal Department



Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu meets PM Narendra Modi along with Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu and others in New Delhi on Monday

under one roof, the complex has been awarded the Net Zero Energy (Design) certification by the Indian Green Building Council for its sustainable and energy-efficient features.

Naidu, accompanied by farmers who had given up their land for the capital under the land pooling scheme, inspected the new complex and reviewed its facilities. “For anything

we need land, you have to remember that. We don't build a capital in the sky, we cannot build,” the CM said, while thanking and congratulating the farmers. He observed that they were the reason for the inauguration of the CRDA building on Monday.

Until now, AP has pooled 54,000 acres for Naidu's dream project Amaravati.

**Continued on Page 7**

### CM invites PM to 'Super GST' event, CII Summit

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
AMARAVATI

CHIEF Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Monday and invited him to attend the 'Super GST – Super Savings' programme in Kurnool as well as the CII Partnership Summit 2025 scheduled for November 14 and 15 in Visakhapatnam. In his handle on X, Naidu posted: “It was an honour to meet the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.

**Continued on Page 7**



### 3 economists share Nobel for explaining sustained growth

**STOCKHOLM:** THE 2025 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences has been awarded to Joel Mokyr of Northwestern University (US), Philippe Aghion of the Collège de France and INSEAD (France), and Peter Howitt of Brown University (US) for their pioneering work explaining how innovation drives sustained economic growth.

**Continued on Page 7**

# 'Historic dawn of a new Middle East'

Trump urges Israel Parliament to seize chance for peace

JERUSALEM

US President Donald Trump has told cheering Israeli lawmakers that “the long and painful nightmare is finally over”, after helping to broker a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in Gaza.

During the first such address by a US president since 2008, Trump said the day would mark “the moment that everything began to change and change very much for the better” in the Middle East. He told Israeli lawmakers that their country had no more to achieve on the battlefield and must work toward peace in the Middle East. Trump's address to the Israeli Parliament, the Knesset, comes on the day that the last 20 living hostages held in the Palestinian enclave were released by Hamas.

Israel is releasing 250 Palestinian prisoners and more than 1,700 other Palestinians detained during the two-year military operations in Gaza. During a whirlwind trip to the region, Trump will also attend a peace summit in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, alongside Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and other world leaders.

**Continued on Page 7**



US President Donald Trump addressing the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, next to Amir Ohana, Speaker of the Israeli Knesset, in Jerusalem on Monday

## 'War in Gaza is over'

Says Trump as Israel, Hamas swap hostages

JERUSALEM: Anticipation is building across Israel, the Gaza Strip, and the West Bank today as Israel and Hamas began a hostage-prisoner swap in a breakthrough US-brokered ceasefire deal, with President Donald Trump declaring the war is “over”. “The war is over, you understand that. This is going to be a very special time. Everybody's cheering at one time. That's never happened before. It's an honor to be involved - and we're

going to have an amazing time,” said Trump, who is headed to the Middle East to celebrate the ceasefire and hostage deal. He added, “Everybody is happy, whether it's Jewish, Muslims, or Arabs. This is the first time they've ever seen that everybody is unified. We are going to Egypt after Israel, and we are going to meet all of the leaders of the very powerful and big countries, and very rich countries, and others, and they're all into this deal.”

## MODI PLEDGES SUPPORT TO TRUMP'S GAZA PLAN

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday welcomed the historic Gaza peace deal and the release of all hostages held for over two years, calling it a testament to the courage of their families and the concerted efforts of global leaders.



In a post on X, PM Modi said: “We welcome the release of all hostages after over two years of captivity. Their freedom stands as a tribute to the courage of their families, the unwavering peace efforts of President Trump and the strong resolve of Prime Minister Netanyahu. We support President Trump's sincere efforts to bring peace to the region.”



**After 'MR PM...' GIFT FOR MODI...**  
**Trump doubles down on India, Pak truce claim**  
**Asserts 200% tariff threat stopped war** **P7**

# Heavy rains likely in coastal AP, Rayalaseema

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
VIJAYAWADA

COASTAL Andhra Pradesh and adjoining areas are experiencing surface cyclonic circulation extending up to 0.9 km above sea level, according to Prakhar Jain, Managing Director of the State Disaster Management Authority. He said another surface circulation has been observed over the southwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining southern Tamil Nadu coast.

These conditions are expected to bring moderate

to heavy rains with thunderstorms on Tuesday in several districts, including Eluru, Krishna, NDR, Nellore, Kurnool, Anantapur, and Tirupati. Light to moderate rains with thunderstorms are likely in Alluri, Kona-seema, East Godavari, West Godavari, Guntur, Bapatla, Palnadu, Prakasam, Nandyal, Sri Sathya Sai, Kadapa, Annamayya, and Chittoor districts. Authorities have advised the public to remain vigilant and avoid standing under trees or near large hoardings during heavy rains

and thunderstorms.

On Monday, heavy rains lashed Vijayawada, inundating low-lying areas and affecting normal life. Significant rains were recorded also on Monday evening across various locations: Lingapalem (Eluru) – 74.2 mm, Chintalapudi – 68.7 mm, Bapatla – 62.5 mm, Puligumma (Vizianagaram) – 61 mm, and Uyyuru (Krishna) – 60.2 mm. Residents have been urged to stay alert, follow local weather advisories, and exercise caution in low-lying areas prone to flooding.

## 'This is breathtaking'

NASA astronaut shares stunning picture of Mount Everest taken from space

MOUNT Everest, the planet's tallest peak, sits proudly in Nepal as part of the majestic Himalayan Mountain range that stretches across several nations. Recently, space enthusiasts and nature lovers were treated to a mesmerising view of the mountain unlike any seen before — from the edge of space itself. NASA astronaut Don Pettit shared a remarkable photograph on his X account, taken from the International Space Station (ISS). The image showcases the snow-covered summit of Mount Everest surrounded by Nepal's dramatic terrain, offering a humbling reminder of Earth's beauty from above.



## BIG COURT SETBACK FOR RJD AHEAD OF POLLS

# Lalu, Rabri, Tejashwi to face trial in IRCTC scam

NEW DELHI

IN a major legal setback to RJD supremo Lalu Prasad Yadav, a Delhi court on Monday ordered the framing of charges against the former Bihar Chief Minister, his wife Rabri Devi, and their son Tejashwi Yadav in the IRCTC scam case.

In the order, which came just weeks ahead of the Bihar Assembly elections, the court noted that the senior leader had “engaged in conspiracy” and “abused



his position” as a public servant. The court directed that Lalu Yadav be charged with criminal misconduct by a public servant and criminal conspiracy to com-

mit cheating, while Rabri Devi and Tejashwi Yadav will face charges of cheating and conspiracy to commit cheating. The case will go to trial as all the accused have

pleaded not guilty.

The case, investigated by the CBI, pertains to alleged corruption in the allotment of maintenance work contracts for two IRCTC hotels -- BNR Ranchi and BNR Puri. The CBI has alleged that the contracts were favourably awarded to a private firm, Sujata Hotel, owned by Vijay and Vinay Kochar.

The chargesheet claimed that Lalu Yadav received approximately three acres of prime land in Patna through a benami company.

**Continued on Page 7**

# Telugu states eye ₹19,000-cr mkt borrowings in Dec qtr

## RELYING ON LOANS

▶ TG govt borrowed Rs 33,415.15 cr till Aug, 62% of budget target

▶ AP govt mopped up Rs 55,901.43 cr, 70% of budget target

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

BOTH the Telugu States - Telangana and Andhra Pradesh - gearing up to raise over Rs 19,000 crore by auctioning government

securities during December quarter. Telangana is planning to raise Rs 9,000 crore by selling the state government securities in the open market auction during the October-December quarter, according to an Indicative Calendar of Market borrowings by the TG government. Further, Andhra Pradesh is also planning to raise another Rs 10,000 crore by selling state government securities in the open market auction during the October-December quarter, according to an Indicative Calendar of Market borrowings by the AP



government. Andhra Pradesh already raised Rs 1,900 crore via bonds auction in the open market on October 7.

According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) calendar,

Telangana is likely to raise Rs 2,000 crore in October, a similar amount in November and Rs 5,000 crore in December.

Up to August 31, the

Telangana government's borrowings stood at Rs 33,415.15 crore, (nearly 62 per cent) as against the estimated little over Rs 54,000 crore in annual budget. Last month, the

state raised Rs 15,500 crore via bonds auction in the open market. The state government presented Rs 2,738.33 crore revenue surplus in its 2025-26 budget. However, at the end of July there was a deficit of Rs 11,051.95 crore. The fiscal deficit was targeted at Rs 54,009.74 crore during FY26, while the figure stood at Rs 33,415.15 crore by the end of August.

According to the Reserve Bank of India calendar, Andhra Pradesh is likely to raise Rs 5,000 crore on November 4 and a similar amount on November 25. Up

to August 31, the state government's borrowings stood at Rs 55,901.43 crore (nearly 70 per cent) as against the estimated Rs 79,926.89 crore in the budget. Last month, the state raised Rs 7,000 crore via bonds auction in the open market. Though the state government presented Rs 33,185.97 crore revenue deficit in its 2025-26 budget, at the end of August, the deficit went up to Rs 41,635.63 crore. The fiscal deficit was targeted at Rs 79,926.90 crore during FY26 while the figure stood at Rs 55,016.84 crore by the end of August.



## Rama Rao elected to Red Cross national managing body

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
VIJAYAWADA

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH  
RWS & Sanitation Department**  
Expression of Interest (EOI)

Eoi No.01/RWS&S/CE-II/2025, Dt.10.10.2025  
Invites Expression of Interest (Eoi) for the work "Design & Construction of Grey Water Treatment Units (GWTUs) in the identified Gram Panchayats across Andhra Pradesh". Schedules can be downloaded from e-platform from 14.10.2025, 10AM onwards. Details can be had from the e-Procurement platform. Ph.9100120566, Sd/- Chief Engineer III, RWS&S, Vijayawada  
DIPR R.O.No. 17763/CL/ADVT/1/1/2021-22 Dt: 13-10-2025

ANDHRA Pradesh State Branch of the Indian Red Cross Society chairman Y D Rama Rao has been elected to the national managing body of the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS). The apex body functions



under the chairmanship of JP Nadda, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, according to a communiqué from the office of IRCS here on Monday.

Twelve members were selected from among the 28 state and Union Territory branches of the IRCS for a two-year term.

Rama Rao's election marks recognition of his long-standing commitment and leadership in humanitarian service.

A veteran Red Cross leader, Rama Rao earlier served as chairman of the Kakinada District Branch, where he led several impactful humanitarian and community welfare initiatives, significantly strengthening the Red Cross movement in the region.

For his exemplary service, he was honoured with the President's Gold Medal in 2018-19.

His inclusion in the national managing body is expected to further bolster Red Cross initiatives across South India, particularly in Andhra Pradesh, enhancing the organisation's outreach and community service efforts.

## Kandula Durgesh to attend national tourism meet

- Durgesh will represent Andhra Pradesh at a national tourism conference in Udaipur on Oct 14-15.
- The event will discuss the development of 50 world-class tourist destinations and performance-based incentives for tourism.
- Durgesh will present AP's proposals on infrastructure, branding, and eco-tourism, aligning with Union Budget 2025-26 initiatives

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

TOURISM, culture and cinematography minister Kandula Durgesh will represent the state at a two-day national conference to be held in Udaipur, Rajasthan on October 14 and 15.

The event will focus on discussions related to the National Mission for the Devel-

opment of 50 World-Class Tourist Destinations and the introduction of performance-based incentives to promote excellence in tourism management.

According to the minister's office, the Union minister for tourism and culture, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, will inaugurate the conference, which will be attended by tourism ministers from



all states and Union Territories.

Minister Durgesh expressed his happiness over his selection for this prestigious meet. He said that he will present AP's vision and proposals regarding the implementation of key announcements made in the Union Budget 2025-26 for tourism development. He is also expected to highlight

the State's strategies for infrastructure strengthening, destination branding, and rural and eco-tourism promotion.

Under the National Mission framework, the Centre aims to develop major tourist destinations across various states in a challenge mode with active participation from state governments, he added. Durgesh will detail Andhra Pradesh's proposals, including comprehensive plans to improve connectivity, amenities, and global competitiveness of selected destinations in the State.

The conference will serve as a platform to share best practices, explore public-private partnerships, and align state and central tourism policies to create sustainable, high-quality tourism experiences across India.

## UTF distributes free NMMS study material

RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

THE United Teachers Federation (UTF) distributed free study material to students appearing for the National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship (NMMS) examination in the district. At a programme held at the UTF office in Rajamahendravaram, district president P Jayakar and general secretary A Shareef released

the NMMS study material and distributed it to Mandal-level representatives for onward delivery to students.

They said the material was being supplied free of cost to all districts in the State through a trust established by former MLC of Krishna, Gun-tur teachers' constituency, KS Lakshmana Rao, in memory of his parents. The leaders said that these books are prepared



UTF district leaders distributing free study material to students appearing for the National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship examination in the district through its Mandal representatives

by experienced educators, and many students who used them in the past had succeeded in securing the scholarship.

State committee member Rupas Rao, district vice-pres-

ident M Vijaya Gowri, district secretary K Ramesh, and Mandal representatives Anil Kumar, Vijay Babu, G Padma, G Rajashekar, and P Raju participated in the programme.

## Kollu launches Bandaru Bonaza fest, hails GST relief

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
MACHILIPATNAM

MINISTER for Mines & Geology and Excise Kollu Ravindra stated that the Central Government's decision regarding GST reforms will play a crucial role in advancing the country's economy. He highlighted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman have announced unprecedented tax cuts that will directly benefit the common man.

As part of the Super GST - Super Savings initiative, the Krishna district administration, in collaboration with the Commercial Taxes Department, organised the Bandaru Bonanza Shopping Festival at the Zilla Parishad Convention Hall in Machilipatnam.

On Monday, Minister Ravindra, along with APSRTC Chairman Konakalla Narayana Rao and Krishna District Collector DK Balaji, inaugurated the shopping festival.

During the event, the dignitaries visited various stalls and interacted with traders to discuss the discount percentages being offered following the reduction in GST. They engaged with business owners, traders, and consumers to enquire about the benefits of the GST 2.0 reforms. In his speech, Minister Ravindra described this initiative as a revolutionary step aimed at transforming the nation's economy and enhancing people's purchasing power. He explained that in the past, multiple tax systems, including VAT, Central Tax, and State Tax, had burdened consumers; however, the introduction of GST has simplified this structure.

Additionally, he emphasised that the new Super GST initiative seeks to return increased national income to the people.

Ravindra pointed out that the GST on life-saving medicines has been



Minister Kollu Ravindra, along with APSRTC Chairman Konakalla Narayana Rao and Krishna District Collector DK Balaji inaugurating Bandaru Bonanza Shopping Festival in Machilipatnam on Monday

reduced from 12% to 0%, making medical equipment and health insurance completely tax-free.

He further mentioned that agricultural machinery, such as tractors and drones, will now be available at significantly lower prices, benefiting farmers. Additionally, the reduction of GST on cars from 28% to 18% will make car ownership more affordable for the middle class.

APSRTC Chairman Konakalla Narayana Rao commented that the bold

decision taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi would help financially strengthen the country. Under the leadership of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, they are promoting these reforms to benefit all residents of the state. Collector DK Balaji praised the reforms for promoting transparency among traders and strengthening the economy. He noted that special awareness programmes are being conducted across the state to educate citizens about these benefits.

**यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Union Bank of India**  
REGIONAL OFFICE: TIRUPATI  
S.V. University Campus, Tirupati - 517502. Ph: 9321823026

**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**  
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged / charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/ physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Union Bank of India (secured creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s)& Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder:

**Khadi Colony Branch(25711), D.NO. 18- 1-710, Kens Grand Residency, Ramachandra Nagar, Tirupati -517507.Ph: 8356825711**

**Name of the Borrower & Guarantor/s:** 1. Borrower(s): Ms. Jallipalli Venkata Samrajyam, D/o, J. Venkateswarlu, Flat No. 402, CPR WINDSOR Apartments, Ward No.22, Block No.6, Akkarampalli Village, Tirupati - 517507 Guarantor: Mr. U.Jagdish Raj, S/o U Ramachandra, 13-6-600/44/159/B4, Peddakapu veeidhi, Hanuman Temple, Tirupati, Tirupati District - 517501

**Amount due - Rs.22,51,191.06 as on 30-09-2025 with further interest, cost & expenses**

**Description of the Property :** All that part and parcel of Residential flat belonging to Ms. J V Samrajyam situated at Flat no.402(D.No.22-6-78/B/CPRWA/402), 4th floor, in S.No. 117/2B/1A(Old S.No. 117/2), Plinth area- 1670 sq.ft.(including common area), along with undivided share of 73.03 sq.yds. "CPR WINDSOR Apartments", Ward no.22, Block No.6 , Tirupati-Karakambadi Main Road, No.9, Akkarampalli Village Accounts, Tirupati Urban Mandal, Tirupati Municipal Corporation, Tirupati District. **Apartment bounded by East:** Land belongs to Adam Chenchu Reddy, West: Land belongs to V.G. Jayachandra Naidu, North: Tirupathi-Karakambadi Main Road, South: Land belongs to Adam Chenchu Reddy. **Fiat bounded by East:** Common Corridor, West: Open to sky, North: Open to sky, South: Open to sky.

**Reserve Price: Rs.82,32,000.00 EMD : 10% of Reserve Price Bid Increment : Rs.82,320.00**

**Chittoor-Vijayawada Branch(35960), Sundarayyar Street, Opp. Apollo Hospital, Chittoor- 517001 Cell: 9137535960**

**Name of the Borrower & Guarantor/s:** 1. Borrower(s): 1(1) Mr.A.Saraswathamma, 1(2).Mr.A.Vinod Kumar, Both are residing at D.No.13-468/5, Prasanth Nagar, Thenabanda Road, Chittoor - 517002 Guarantor: Mr.D.Pradeep Reddy, D.No.2-52, Obanapalli, Patrapalli Post, Chittoor - 517004

**Amount due - Rs.4,84,283.38 as on 31-08-2025 with further interest, cost & expenses**

**Description of the Property :** All that part and parcel of Residential land and building belonging to G.Saraswathi @ A.Saraswathamma bearing D.No.13-468/5, extent - 1250 Sq.ft. (Actual - 1057.50 sq.ft.), in sy.No.524, 13th ward, Prasanth Nagar, Thenabanda Road, Chittoor Village accounts, Chittoor Municipality, Chittoor Sub-district, Chittoor District, bounded by East: Site of Ravi bearing D.No.13-468, West: Site of S.V.Ramana bearing D.No.13-463, North: Road, South: 12 feet wide Road.

**Reserve Price: Rs.28,67,000.00 EMD : 10% of Reserve Price Bid Increment : Rs.28670.00**

**Date and time of e-auction : 30.10.2025, 12.00 Noon to 5.00 P.M.**  
with 10 minutes unlimited auto extension . For detailed terms and condition of the sale, Registration and Login and Bidding Rules visit <https://baanknet.com> and <https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/auction-property/view-auction-property.aspx>

**Place: Tirupati, Date:08.10.2025 Sd/- Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India**

**THE GAZETTE OF INDIA  
EXTRAORDINARY  
PART-II, Section-3, Sub-section (ii)  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS  
New Delhi, the 26th September, 2025  
NOTIFICATION**

**S.O. 4394(E).**—In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building (widening to six lane with paved shoulder), maintenance, management and operation of **NH216** in the stretch of land from **Km. 82.300 to Km. 87.223 (Machavaram to Sultannagaram Gollapalem section)** in the district of KRISHNA in the state of ANDHRA PRADESH, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.

Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section(1) of section 3C of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the **Competent Authority, namely, Joint Collector, Krishna** in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of the land covered under this notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority.

**SCHEDULE**

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling **NH216** in the stretch of land from **Km. 82.300 to Km. 87.223 (Machavaram to Sultannagaram Gollapalem section)** in the district of KRISHNA in the state of ANDHRA PRADESH

[F.No. 37014/8/2013-NHDP-IVA/3A]  
Sd/- SHAIKH AMINKHAN, Director  
Sd/- Competent Authority (LA) & Joint Collector, KRISHNA

District: KRISHNA  
Publication date: 26-09-2025

## PPP more dangerous than privatisation: CPM

- CPM State Secretary Srinivasa Rao informs that the party will soon launch broad platform to protect govt medical colleges
- "Once the PPP model is implemented, even hospital beds attached to govt medical colleges will come under private management"

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

CPM State Secretary V Srinivasa Rao has warned that the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model being followed by the State Government for managing medical colleges is more dangerous than outright privatisation. He announced that the party would soon launch a broad platform to protect government medical colleges.

Speaking at a press conference at the Rajahmundry Press Club on Monday, Rao demanded that the 2023 CBI report, which exposed large-scale irregularities in private medical colleges across the country, be made public.



CPM State Secretary V Srinivasa Rao addressing a press conference in Rajamahendravaram on Monday

Questioning the government's decision to halt the construction of medical colleges after 2024A, he said that the previous government had built six medical colleges in three years. He urged the present government to prove its efficiency by completing 12 colleges in the next three years.

The CPM leader alleged that the cost of a medical seat in the convener quota, which was earlier around Rs 15,000, is now expected to shoot up to Rs 12 lakh, becoming a huge burden on common people.

He warned that once the PPP model is implemented, even the hospital beds attached to government medical colleges would come un-

der private management.

Refuting the government's claims of creating 4.75 lakh jobs, he said the figure was far from reality.

He pointed out that 5,000 contract workers had lost their jobs at Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, and IT giant TCS, which had acquired government land at a low cost, had recently laid off 20,000 employees.

He demanded the government to immediately fill the 2.5 lakh vacant posts in various departments to provide hope to unemployed youth.

CPM district secretary T Arun, district committee members B Pavan, Juvvala Rambabu, B Poornima Raju, and I Subrahmanyam were also present.



## New APSPDCL chife advocates smart meters, quality power supply

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
TIRUPATI

SIVA Sankar Lotheti has officially taken charge as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Andhra Pradesh Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (APSPDCL) on Monday, succeeding K Santhosh Rao.

Addressing the media after assuming charge, Siva Sankar underlined the importance of smart meters, a technology widely adopted across the globe. He highlighted that smart meters offer multiple benefits, including accurate billing and precise tracking of electricity consumption. Additionally, they help curb pilferage, and the CMD stressed the need to dispel any misconceptions about these meters, particularly among farmers with agricultural connections.

Speaking on the Revamped Distribution Sector



APSPDCL CMD Siva Sankar Lotheti addressing the media in Tirupati on Monday

Scheme (RDSS), he stated that the initiative would be accelerated to enhance the quality and reliability of power supply for consumers. Ensuring uninterrupted, high-quality electricity for all remains the company's primary goal. He also underscored the importance of advancing the PM Surya Ghar Yojana programme.

The CMD further called for the effective implementation of all central and state government projects, aimed at proactively addressing consumer concerns. Siva Sankar made it clear that comprehensive reviews across all departments will be conducted to assess the current situation and plan future strategies efficiently.

## Bhumi pooja for ayurvedic hospital held in Sri City

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
SRI CITY

BHUMI Pooja was performed for Sri Tulasi Ayurvedic Hospital in Sri City on Monday by its Managing Director Dr N Siva Prasad.

With an initial investment of Rs 75 lakh, the hospital will begin with 10 inpatient beds and specialised outpatient services. Speaking at the event, Sri City CSR Director Nireesha Sannareddy said that Sri Tulasi Ayurvedic Hospital has the potential to become a regional Panchakarma Wellness Center. Sri City's natural ecosystem offers a unique setting for holistic healing.

Dr Siva Prasad stated that the hospital, expected to be operational by next Ugadi, will cater to the healthcare needs of local communities while advancing the national vision of 'Swastha Bharat'. Developed in phases, the facility will offer specialised treatments in Panchakarma, Prasuti Tantra (Obstetrics & Gynaecology), and Kaya-



Bhumi Pooja being performed for the construction of Ayurvedic Hospital in Sri City on Monday

chikitsa (General Medicine). Blending traditional Ayurvedic wisdom with modern healthcare practices, Sri Tulasi Ayurvedic Hospital aims to create a centre of holistic wellness in Sri City. The event was attended by Customer Relations Vice President C Ramesh Kumar.

## PGRS WITNES HEAVY CROWDS

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
NELLORE

THE SR Sankaran Hall at the Collectorate was packed with petitioners from across the district to submit their representations during Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) conducted on Monday.

Though PGRS is being conducted in divisional and mandal headquarters, people from remote villages like Udayagiri, Seetharamapuram, Kandukur, Kavali, Rapur, Kaluvai, Atmakur,

which are 90 km away, are approaching district headquarters.

According to sources, about 1,000 people attended the PGRS held on Monday and most of their petitions were related to revenue issues like encroachment of lands, house sites, 10-1 Adangal and welfare schemes like Talliki Vandanam, pensions, Deepam-2, ration cards etc.

The same situation was witnessed at Umesh Chandra Conference Hall, where police department organised the PGRS.



A woman along with her son explaining her grievance to district Collector Himanshu Shukla during the PGRS in Nellore on Monday

## Awareness programme held on GST 2.0 reforms

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
NELLORE

VIKRAMA Simhapuri University (VSU) and commercial department have jointly organised a programme on GST 2.0 Reforms at the campus here on Monday.

University Vice-Chancellor Prof Allam Srinivasa Rao, chief guest, emphasised the importance of students gaining awareness of taxation policies. He said, "The GST 2.0 reforms will steer India's economy towards greater



VSU Vice-Chancellor Allam Srinivasa Rao speaking at an awareness programme at the campus in Nellore on Monday

transparency. These reforms aim to simplify business environment. Participation in such practical discussions helps students enhance their

research perspective and financial understanding". Registrar Dr K Suneetha and Principal Prof Ch Vijaya of VSU College, Nellore; Prof Ch Srinivasa Rao, Principal, VSU College, Kavali; Dr Sai Sravanthi and officers from Commercial Tax department and others participated.

## Nellore KIMS saves 13-year-old boy

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
NELLORE

DOCTORS of KIMS, Nellore, saved a boy, who was in critical condition after bitten by a scorpion. According to sources, 13-year-old Patti Abhilash from Pamulu Metta village, Tada mandal, Tirupati district, was stung by a scorpion and was in severe pain and fatigue as the venom was spreading throughout his body. He was admitted to ICU and treated by Cardiologist Dr H Nagaraja Rao, Pediatric Intensivist Dr R Murarjee, Pediatrician Dr Bhargav, HOD-Intensivist Dr V Jagadish and Intensivist B Pallavi. As the patient's entire body was poisoned, he had fits and cardiac arrest, so CPR was performed and restarted.



Doctors of KIMS, Nellore

The critically ill patient was kept under observation for 48 hours and later shifted to ward. KIMS Executive Director T Girinayudu,

Chief Operating Officer Dr S Satish Kumar, Medical Coordinator Dr Sridhar Reddy congratulated the medical team.

## 'Har Ghar Swadeshi – Ghar Ghar Swadeshi' workshop held

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
TIRUPATI

THE workshop on Atmanirbhar Bharat was held here on Monday, headed by BJP district president Samanchi Srinivas.

Speaking on the occasion, Samanchi Srinivas said India's indigenous technology, used in Operation Sindhur successfully, had surprised and countered Pakistan proving the importance of Make in India initiative.

State general secretary Na-

gothu Ramesh Naidu and State vice-president Ashok Raju, the chief guests at the workshop, said that Atmanirbhar Bharat programme, which started on September 25 will continue till December 25 and later will be taken up as a continuous national movement.

Ramesh Naidu said that Atmanirbhar Bharat is a self-reliant India that grows with its own strength. To face global challenges and extreme comments by leaders like Trump, India must rely on its own products, language, and cul-

tural values, he added.

Coastal Andhra in-charge of Atmanirbhar Bharat Ashok Raju gave a PowerPoint presentation on the activities to be carried out under this campaign and guided the participants on the way forward.

State spokesperson Jalli Madhusudan, TTD Board Member G Bhanu Prakash Reddy, State OBC Morcha president Gopi Srinivas, general secretaries BD Balaji and Munikrishnaiah, district convener Dr Naresh and others were present.



Participants at a workshop on Atmanirbhar Bharat in Tirupati on Monday

# Panic grips SVU, Vedic campuses after fresh leopard sightings

- Students, faculty, and residents living in fear as the big cat continues to roam near hostels and staff quarters
- Calls grow for a 10-foot iron fence along Alipiri –Cherlopalli corridor to curb human-wildlife conflict

PRADEEP VENNELAKANTI  
TIRUPATI

AS wildlife experts had cautioned a couple of months ago when a leopard was trapped on Sri Venkateswara University (SVU) campus, the problem appears far from over. They had warned that the captured leopard might not be the only one roaming the area, and their words have now proven prophetic. Fresh sightings of a leopard around SV University and Sri Venkateswara Vedic University campuses have once again triggered panic among students, faculty, and residents, who are living in con-



A flex banner on the SV University campus warning students and staff about leopard movements

stant fear.

On Sunday night, inmates of SV Vedic University campus, which adjoins SVU premises, reported spotting a leopard. Similar sightings have been reported in recent days from different parts of SVU campus as well. In response, both universities — along with the nearby SV Veterinary University — have put up cautionary flex banners warning of leopard movements and urging people to stay vigilant.

SV University Vice-Chancellor Prof T Narasinga Rao personally inspected the

areas where the big cat has been seen most frequently. During his visit on Saturday, he instructed university officials to promptly inform Forest Department about any new sightings and to advise residents of staff quarters and hostels to remain cautious, especially at night.

The Forest Department has already set up four cages on the campuses, one of which successfully trapped a leopard in August. Officials say that leopards typically avoid human contact, but the growing availability of unattended food waste in and around ur-

ban areas is attracting them. Open garbage piles, leftovers from roadside eateries across the Alipiri – Zoo Park road, and poor waste management have created easy feeding grounds, drawing wild animals dangerously close to populated zones.

SV University has in many ways turned into a makeshift wildlife zone. Apart from the leopards, the campus is home to stray dogs, pigs, and even deer, creating an uneasy co-existence between wildlife and humans. Residents of the Prakash Nagar staff quarters have expressed frustration

over the unchecked animal presence, particularly the dozens of stray pigs and dogs wandering around.

Morning walkers often encounter large groups of dogs, some of which are sustained by people feeding them biscuits. "There are around 20 deer on the campus — so naturally, leopards come looking for their prey," remarked one morning walker.

Wildlife experts and university administrators are now calling for a more permanent solution to prevent further human-wildlife encounters. They have proposed building a 10-foot-high iron fence along the Alipiri–Cherlopalli corridor to restrict the movement of wild animals into campus areas. They also stress the need for improved waste management systems and the removal of stray animals from the university grounds. Some have suggested setting up a secured deer park within the campus or relocating the animals to the nearby Sri Venkateswara Zoological Park.

## Donations pour into TTD Trusts

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
TIRUMALA

VARIOUS Trusts of TTD had received huge donations to a tune of Rs 1.05 crore on Monday. Four donors have donated to various trusts of TTD.

ADO Foundation, an NGO from Hyderabad, had donated Rs 75 lakh to SV Pranadana Trust, while M Rakesh Reddy from Bangalore had donated Rs 10 lakh to TTD BIRRD Trust.

Simhadri Venkata Sivaprasad from Guntur had donated Rs 10 lakh to SV Annaprasa-



ADO Foundation representatives with TTD Chairman BR Naidu in Tirumala on Monday

dam Trust and K Giridhar Kumar from Tirupati has donated Rs 10 lakh to SV Vidyadana Trust on Sunday night.

The donors handed over

DDs for the said amount to TTD Chairman BR Naidu and Additional EO Ch Venkaiah Chowdary at camp office in Tirumala.

## 'Utilise benefits of Super GST 2.0 reduction'

TIRUPATI

MUNICIPAL Corporation Deputy Commissioner Amaraiah appealed to the public to make best use of the benefits from the new Super GST 2.0 reduction announced by the Central and State governments. As part of an awareness campaign, Municipal Corporation and GST officials took out a scooter rally from Corporation office to Town Club junction here on Monday. The rally aimed to explain the key benefits of the new GST structure.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Amaraiah said that under the

guidance of Commissioner N Mourya, the Municipal Corporation is organising more awareness programmes about Super GST 2.0, which will continue till October 19. Pamphlets are being distributed door-to-door, and special competitions are being held in schools and colleges to promote GST awareness among students. Under Super GST 2.0, tax rates have been reduced, 28% slab was reduced to 18%, and 12% slab to 5%. Some essential items have also been brought under 0% tax category. He urged people to take full advantage of the benefits provided by this new initiative.



Officials of municipal corporation taking out a scooter rally in Tirupati on Monday

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1. RAJU ROSIGALLA THIMMA RAJU (Old Name) S/o Rosigalla Pedda Thimmaiah, R/o 4/447-A, Santhi Nagar, Yeraguntla Town, YSR Kadapa dist-516309,AP, I have changed my name As ROSIGALLA THIMMA RAJU (New Name) S/o Rosigalla Pedda Thimmaiah for all purposes. (TH\_33100)

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
1. SYED SABDAR HUSSAIN (old name) S/o SYED SAHEB R/o 7/467, Mochampeta Kadapa, YSR district, 516001 A.P. I changed my name to SHAIK SABDAR HUSSAIN Henceforth, I will be Known as SHAIK SABDAR HUSSAIN (TH\_33100)

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**CHANGE OF NAME**  
1. AVISA DURGA PRAMEELA W/o VIJAYA BABU, in my husband Passport my name wrongly entered is DURGAMMA AVISA (Old name), Residing at D.No. 7-3-8, Ramamandiram Veedhi, Kovur (Vi) & (M), SPSSR Nellore Dt- 524137, AP. Hereby declare that I have changed my name as AVISA DURGA PRAMEELA (New Name) (TH\_MADAN)

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# CM sets stage for global CII summit in Vizag

- Aims to make the CII Partnership Summit in Visakhapatnam on Nov 14–15 a global platform to showcase the state's investment potential
- The summit, themed 'Technology, Trust, Trade – Navigating the Geo-Economic Order,' will feature 13 sessions across sectors like defence, biotech and clean energy, with 29 commerce ministers, 13 Union ministers and 80 international CEOs expected to attend
- CM directs officials to beautify Visakhapatnam and invites PM and global business leaders, while IT minister Lokesh leads global outreach through international roadshows

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
VIJAYAWADA

CHIEF Minister N Chandrababu Naidu called on officials to turn the upcoming CII Partnership Summit in Visakhapatnam into a global showcase for Andhra Pradesh's brand and investment potential.

At a high-level review meeting at the Secretariat on Monday, Naidu said the No-

vember 14–15 event should project Andhra Pradesh as a leading destination for innovation, technology and industry. He announced plans to invite Prime Minister Narendra Modi, global business leaders, and top CEOs to the summit.

"The summit must strengthen global trust, drive trade partnerships, and highlight the state's role in the global tech trans-



Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu chairs a review meeting on the CII Partnership Summit in Visakhapatnam, at the Secretariat on Monday

formation," Naidu said. He directed officials to ensure Visakhapatnam is beautified ahead of the event, describing the city as "the face of modern Andhra Pradesh."

This will be the fourth time Andhra Pradesh hosts the prestigious CII Partnership Summit. The earlier editions in 2016, 2017, and 2018 were also held in Visakhapatnam.

The 2025 summit, themed 'Technology, Trust, Trade – Navigating the Geo-Economic Order' will feature 13 sessions covering sectors like defence, aerospace, biotechnology, healthcare, logistics, clean energy and smart manufacturing.

As many as 29 commerce ministers, 13 Union ministers, 80 international CEOs, and delegates from over 40

countries are expected to attend.

IT and HRD minister Nara Lokesh has been leading global outreach efforts, organizing roadshows in several countries to attract foreign delegates and investors. Ministers N Lokesh and P Narayana, chief secretary K Vijayanand, and CII director general Chandrajit Banerjee participated.



A view of Rushikonda project in Visakhapatnam

## After a long wait, Rushikonda palace to be put to use!

- Views of public, experts and businessmen to be considered for utilising the facility
- For a long time, the Rushikonda structure could not be put to use for various reasons
- The power consumed by the seven blocks of the palace is costing lakhs per month

VASU POTNURU  
VISAKHAPATNAM

THE palatial Rushikonda palace, designed and built by the then Jagan Mohan Reddy government, is going to be put to use soon.

After a long wait, the NDA government is set to collect feedback and opinions from people, seeking how to utilise the seven blocks of the project, built at a cost of Rs.500 crore.

By logging on to the official website of the Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation, people can share their opinions and suggest how best the project, kept idle for quite a long time, could be made viable.

On October 17, a meeting with stakeholders of the hospitality sector is scheduled in Vijayawada. Converting the Rushikonda palace into a business model is said to be one of the points of discussion during the meeting.

Considering the opinions collected from the public, experts and businessmen, the NDA government is going to make a decision on the utilisation of the blocks in the premises.

For the past few years, the Rushikonda palace turned out to be a big puzzle for the NDA government as it did



Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan and Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar looking at the damaged false ceiling that fell on the floor during their recent visit to Rushikonda palace in Visakhapatnam

not come to a conclusion on how to make it into a revenue-generating model. Even if it was kept idle, the government has been incurring exorbitant bills in the form of power expenses and maintenance cost.

Another major challenge the government has been facing is the damage of the project blocks with parts of false ceiling giving away along with water leaks in the building. After the NDA government came to power, it formed a committee to analyse how to make use of the Rushikonda palace.

Even as the committee members met and discussed the agenda ahead, no concrete decision was made regarding this direction in the meetings. In the recent meeting held at the Secretariat, the spotlight was again on the utilisation of the Rushikonda project. Two months back when Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan paid a visit to Rushikonda palace as part of his programme 'Senatho Senani', he did suggest that the project could be converted into a revenue-generating one like a MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and

Exhibitions) hub or a venue for destination weddings.

After going through various blocks of the palace, the Deputy Chief Minister expressed concern over the extravagance of the palace and the exorbitant amount that went behind its construction, violating environmental norms.

While going through the blocks, Pawan Kalyan noticed that part of the false ceilings were off and in other areas, water leaks were spotted. He directed the officials concerned to look into the repair works with immediate effect to prevent further damage to the building.

Even the power consumed by the seven blocks, including Vijayanagara block, comprising three units, Vengi block consisting of two units, Gajapathi block and Kalinga block, is costing lakhs per month for the government.

However, with the exercise to collect public opinion followed by the stakeholders' meeting of the hospitality sector scheduled next, the move to convert the palatial building into an income-generating project gains momentum.

## World-class sports city coming up in Amaravati: Home minister

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
GUNTUR

HOME minister Vangalapudi Anitha announced that the state government, under the leadership of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, is developing an international-standard Sports City in Amaravati to promote sports and fitness. She said the government is committed to nurturing athletic excellence, ensuring police welfare, and achieving global sporting recognition for Andhra Pradesh.

Speaking after inaugurating the 2nd All India Police Weightlifting Cluster 2025–26 competitions at the APSP 6th Battalion on Monday, the minister said the Police Weightlifting Cluster reflects the strength, discipline, and teamwork of the police personnel. She added that the event would serve as a model platform for future national and international sports competitions.

"The spirit of Amaravati's Sports City begins here," she remarked, highlighting the government's vision for a strong sporting culture.



Home minister V Anitha receiving a guard of honour from police at APSP 6th Battalion, Mangalagiri, on Monday. DGP Harish Kumar Gupta is also seen.

Expressing happiness over the inclusion of Yoga alongside weightlifting and powerlifting, Anitha said it symbolizes India's age-old culture of balance and wellness. She also recalled the state's recent achievement of entering the Guinness World Records for organizing the 'Yogandhra' event in Visakhapatnam, which saw participation from over 3.2 lakh people.

Director general of police (DGP) Harish Kumar Gupta formally declared the national tournament open. A total of 32 teams from various states,

Union Territories, and Central police organisations took part in the march-past.

Around 1,010 athletes are competing in weightlifting, powerlifting and Yoga events. The weightlifting and powerlifting contests are being held at Acharya Nagarjuna University (ANU), Guntur, while the Yoga competitions are taking place at Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT), Amaravati.

IG (welfare & sports) K V Mohan Rao and DIG Anburajan also attended the programme.

## 27 nurses shortlisted for employment in Qatar

- APSSDC and OMCAP, with 2COMS, hold recruitment interviews for nurses for Doha Care Services, Qatar
- Of 61 candidates, 27 nurses have been shortlisted for a two-year contract in Doha, earning QAR 5,250 monthly (approx. Rs 1.2 lakh)
- The initiative highlights state's focus on global career opportunities and skill development for professionals

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
TADEPALLI

THE Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC) and the Overseas Manpower Company Andhra Pradesh (OMCAP) in collaboration with 2COMS, conducted recruitment interviews at the OMCAP office here on Monday for registered nurses aspiring to work with Doha Care Services WLL Qatar.

A total of 61 candidates participated in the selection process, of which 27 registered nurses were shortlisted



for overseas employment. The selected candidates will be placed in Doha, Qatar, under a two-year contract with a monthly salary of QAR 5,250 (approximately Rs 1.2 lakh).

Manohar Devapatla, executive director of APSSDC and general manager of OMCAP, congratulated the shortlisted candidates and commended their professionalism and preparedness. He emphasised that such international recruitment initiatives not only open global career pathways for nursing professionals from Andhra Pradesh but also strengthen the state's commitment to enhancing skill development and global employability.

The collaborative recruitment effort reflects the state's continued focus on facilitating overseas employment opportunities and expanding career horizons for skilled professionals across sectors.

## Srikalahasti MLA refutes viral video claims, demands full probe

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
TIRUPATI

SRICALAHASTI MLA Bojjala Sudhir Reddy dismissed allegations made in a viral selfie video reportedly recorded by the late driver of former Jana Sena leader Vinutha Kota, calling the video suspicious and politically motivated.

Addressing the media in New Delhi on Monday, Sudhir strongly refuted the claims and said he would meet the Tirupati superintendent of police to request an immediate comprehensive probe into the matter. He questioned the timing of the video's appearance, pointing out that it surfaced nearly four months after the driver's death. Recalling his past political contests, Sudhir said that in the 2019 Assembly elections, he, Vinutha Kota, and Biyyapu Madhusudan Reddy had contested from Srikalahasti. "Vinutha lost her deposit after polling just 5,000 votes, while I secured around 71,000 votes but still lost to the YSRCP wave that year," he said. "In 2024, as the NDA alliance candidate, I won by a margin of 45,000 votes. It is absurd to claim that I paid Rs 20 lakh to her driver for information when Vinutha was never a serious contender after 2019."

Sudhir also cited findings from the Chennai police investigation, which, according to him, established that Vinutha, her husband Chandrababu, and three associates had allegedly kidnapped and



Srikalahasti MLA B Sudhir Reddy speaking to the media in New Delhi on Monday

tortured the driver, identified as Ch Srinivasulu alias Rayudu, leading to his death. The group was reportedly caught while attempting to dump the body in the Cooum river, he said.

"After being released on conditional bail, Vinutha has now circulated Rayudu's selfie video and her own clip to mislead the public and seek sympathy," Sudhir alleged. He expressed doubts that Rayudu may have been coerced into recording the video under pressure. "I am open to any form of inquiry into this case," he added.

It may be recalled that Rayudu's body was found in the Cooum river near Chennai in July.

The Seven Hills Police arrested Vinutha, her husband, and three others — Siva Kumar, Sheik Thasan, and Gopi — in connection with the murder. All five were later released on conditional bail.

The sudden emergence of the unverified selfie video on social media has once again ignited controversy, reviving tensions around the case and prompting renewed calls for investigation.

## FAKE LIQUOR

# Jogi Ramesh behind plot to tarnish govt, says kingpin

- A viral video of prime accused Addepalli Janardhan Rao alleges that former minister and YSRCP leader Ramesh oversaw the fake liquor network and ordered its revival to tarnish the current govt's image
- States that the excise raids were triggered by leaks from Ramesh's associates, aimed at discrediting the TDP rule
- Excise officials arrest another suspect, Chaitanya Babu, while confirming that 22 people have been named and 14 arrested so far in the Mulakalacheruvu fake liquor case

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
TIRUPATI/VIJAYAWADA

THE ongoing probe into the fake liquor racket in Mulakalacheruvu, Annamayya district, took a dramatic twist on Monday after a video allegedly featuring the prime accused, Addepalli Janardhan Rao, went viral on social media. In the clip, Rao levelled serious accusations against former minister and YSRCP leader Jogi Ramesh, claiming the illegal liquor network operated under his watch.

In the video, Janardhan



Former minister RK Roja leading a rally in Nagari on Monday

Rao alleged that the manufacture of counterfeit liquor began during the tenure of the previous government under Ramesh's supervision. He claimed that in April this year, Ramesh allegedly instructed him to restart the operation to malign the image of the current government. According to Rao, the initial setup was planned in Ibrahimpatnam, but the location was later shifted to the Thamballapalle constituency on Ramesh's directions.

Rao further claimed that arrangements for the equipment and premises were made under other names, and once preparations were complete, he was sent abroad. He alleged that the excise department raids were triggered by leaks from Ramesh's associates, aimed at discrediting the TDP government. He also maintained that his

brother, Addepalli Jagan Mohan Rao, was wrongly framed, and clarified that suspended TD leader D Jayachandra Reddy, who was recently named as one of the accused, had no role in the case.

Also, excise officials arrested another suspect, Chaitanya Babu, an employee of Andhra Wines in Pedda Thippa Samudram mandal, who was produced before the Thamballapalle court. Authorities said 22 people have been named in the case so far, with 14 arrests made as the investigation continues.

Meanwhile, in the wake of the controversy, YSRCP leaders and activists staged large-scale protests in Nagari and Chandragiri on Monday, raising slogans against the ruling coalition. Speaking at the rally in Nagari, former minister RK Roja condemned the

rising deaths linked to spurious liquor. She demanded a CBI investigation into the manufacture and distribution of fake liquor, alleging that the mafia thrived under the coalition government's protection. She later submitted a memorandum to the Nagari Excise Circle Inspector, urging immediate action to prevent further casualties among innocent citizens.

In Chandragiri, YSRCP leader Chevireddy Mohith Reddy also demanded that the entire case be handed over to the CBI, pointing out that many of those caught in the Mulakalacheruvu racket were allegedly linked to the ruling TDP. He, along with local leaders, women, and party workers, presented a petition to Excise officials calling for a deeper probe into the nexus behind the fake liquor network.

## YSRCP stages statewide stir against spurious liquor

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
VIJAYAWADA

YSRCP staged statewide protests on Monday against the alleged sale of spurious liquor. The agitation sought to expose what the party termed as corruption in the coalition government's liquor policies and the alleged involvement of ruling TDP leaders in the illicit liquor trade.

"We have launched a statewide protest today against the rampant sale of spurious liquor across Andhra Pradesh," the YSRCP said in a press release. Former Rajahmundry MP Margani Barath alleged that Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu had turned Andhra Pradesh into a "den for the liquor mafia," claiming that fake liquor factories were operating like small-

scale industries.

He further alleged that spurious liquor was being sold at cheaper prices to earn crores of rupees, putting the lives of the poor at risk. According to the opposition party, demonstrations were held in front of excise department offices across constituencies, where petitions were submitted to prohibition and excise officials.

The YSRCP demanded a thorough investigation into all bars, liquor shops, and belt (illegal) outlets, and urged a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe to identify those behind the spurious liquor network. The party also sought compensation for victims' families, immediate cancellation of licenses of illegal outlets, and strict enforcement against liquor sales near schools and public places.



YSRCP activists stage a protest against alleged sale of spurious liquor in Pulivendula on Monday



# Deshpande mocks Cong govt's guarantee schemes; CM seeks clarification

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
KARWAR

SENIOR Congress leader and veteran MLA R.V. Deshpande took a sarcastic dig at his own party's much-publicized guarantee schemes, saying that if he were the Chief Minister, he would not have implemented such populist programs. Speaking at an event in Dandeli, the Haliyal MLA humorously commented on the government's welfare initiatives, triggering loud laughter from the audience. "Our Congress govern-

ment has launched too many guarantee schemes in the name of helping the poor. Women are given ₹2,000 each month, and with the free bus scheme, every KSRTC bus is now filled with women. Wherever you see — in buses or temples — there are only women. These days, it's hard to find even four men traveling in a government bus," Deshpande quipped, prompting laughter from those present.

Taking the jibe further, Deshpande mocked Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's



spree of welfare programs, saying, "These are all Siddaramaiah's creations — Gruha Lakshmi, Gruha Jyothi, and Anna Bhagya schemes. Under Anna Bhagya, 10 kg of rice is given free, and now instead of the extra 5 kg rice, they are planning to give Indira food kits containing items like toor dal and groceries. People are selling those kits in the market!" he said with a smirk.

Deshpande's remarks caused a wave of laughter among the attendees, as he continued, "I myself don't know what all Siddaramaiah

is doing. We are very close to him, but still, even we don't understand his plans."

MLA R.V. Deshpande received a call from Chief Minister Siddaramaiah seeking clarification. According to sources, Deshpande will travel from Hubballi to Bengaluru tonight at 8 PM to meet the CM, with the discussion expected either tonight or tomorrow.

Clarifying his position through a media release, Deshpande stated, "My remarks were misunderstood. In the Dandeli meeting, I did not speak against the

guarantee schemes. On the contrary, I have praised the state government's initiatives. I acknowledged that experienced leaders like Siddaramaiah have introduced these welfare programs for the benefit of the poor, which reflects their capability."

He further emphasized, "My comments were never intended to criticize the schemes or the CM's people-centric governance. I did not imply that the guarantee schemes have caused financial strain to the government. It is unfortunate

that my words were misinterpreted." The call from the CM underscores the sensitivity of statements made by party legislators, particularly on high-visibility programs like the guarantee schemes, which have been highlighted as a cornerstone of the government's welfare agenda.

Deshpande's clarification is seen as an effort to maintain party unity and avoid any political friction ahead of ongoing discussions within the Congress regarding welfare policies and their implementation.

## NAMMA METRO CORRIDOR 'CASUALTIES'

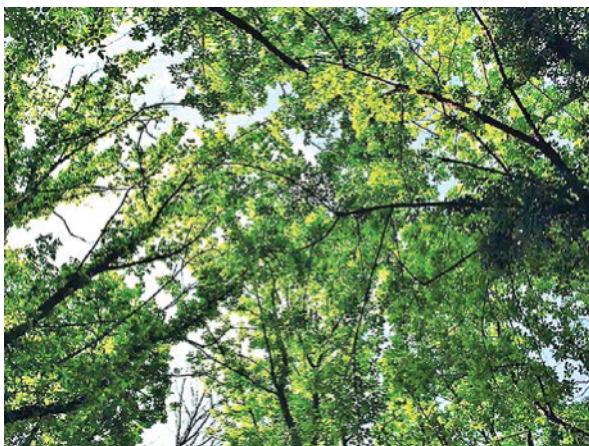
# 1,092 trees to be axed from JP Nagar to Hebbal Kempapura

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU

UNDER Phase 3 of the Namma Metro project, construction of the new metro line from JP Nagar 4th Phase to Hebbal Kempapura will result in the felling of over a thousand trees. The BMRCCL (Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited) has now received official approval to cut 1,092 trees for this corridor.

The project, spanning 44.65 km, includes two main routes — JP Nagar 4th Phase to Hebbal Kempapura (Corridor 1) and Hosahalli to Kadabagere (Corridor 2). As per the Detailed Project Report (DPR), an estimated 11,137 trees were likely to be affected. However, officials have decided to remove only those directly obstructing the metro line and stations, while relocating the rest.

Bengaluru has already lost



thousands of trees to various infrastructure works such as flyovers, suburban rail projects, and road widening. As the city expands rapidly, its green cover continues to decline year after year.

The 10.88 km stretch from JP Nagar 4th Phase to Mysuru Road will feature a double-decker flyover carrying both vehicles and metro trains. Stations will come

up at JP Nagar 4th Phase, JP Nagar 5th Phase, JP Nagar, Kadirenahalli, Kamakya Junction, Hosakerehalli, Dwarakanagar, and Mysuru Road.

Traffic congestion along the Outer Ring Road has crossed limits, making travel difficult for commuters. The new metro line aims to ease congestion and improve mobility. The Rs15,617 crore

project is progressing steadily, with land acquisition already underway. Of the total stretch, 37.121 km will have a double-decker structure.

BMRCCL has submitted a proposal to the BBMP Forest Division seeking permission to clear 2,184 trees that obstruct the metro alignment, stations, and adjoining road works. After field inspection, the Forest Expert Committee suggested minor route adjustments, allowing 686 trees to be retained. Approval has now been granted to cut 1,092 trees and transplant 406 elsewhere.

Additionally, permission has been sought to remove 2,175 trees between Mysuru Road and Kanteerava Studio for related infrastructure works.

Tree Species Affected  
The trees to be removed include Honge, Tabebuia, Eucalyptus, Gulmohar, Cherry, Wild Almond, Mahogany,

Coconut, Ashoka, Kadamba, Neem, Banyan, Jackfruit, Akasha Mallige, Nerale, Silk Cotton, Champa, Teak, Kanagale, Bilvapatre, and Silver Oak species.

Relocated trees will be replanted at designated spaces in KSRP Housing Complex (Marathahalli), Koramangala 1st Block, and HSR Layout, managed by the BBMP Forest Division, with all expenses borne by BMRCCL.

For every tree cut or relocated, ten saplings will be planted as compensation. All tree-felling and planting activities are under the direct supervision of the Karnataka High Court. The BMRCCL will submit a compliance affidavit before beginning any tree cutting.

"Trees will be removed only after the court's approval," confirmed GK Sudarshan, Deputy Conservator of Forests, BBMP Forest Division.

# 'Celebrate festivals in an eco-friendly way'



HANS NEWS SERVICE  
MANGALURU

AS the festive season approaches, the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) has urged citizens to celebrate responsibly, promoting eco-friendly practices such as using clay Ganapati idols and green fireworks.

Chairman Narendra Swamy highlighted that traditional celebrations, while culturally significant, often generate significant environmental pollution, especially

through synthetic idols and chemical-laden firecrackers. The board is advocating for the use of biodegradable materials and environmentally safe products, stressing the importance of preserving water bodies and reducing air pollution.

Swamy encouraged communities and local organisers to adopt sustainable practices during Ganesh Chaturthi and other festivals, citing successful examples of "green" celebrations in urban and rural areas. Schools, religious

institutions, and social organisations have been called upon to create awareness campaigns to educate citizens about eco-conscious festival planning. The KSPCB has also launched a campaign across social media platforms, providing guidelines on safe idol immersion and promoting eco-friendly alternatives to reduce post-festival waste. Swamy noted that embracing these practices will protect the environment while keeping cultural traditions alive for future generations.

## Dharmasthala case

# SIT grills Chinnayya's wife, sister in mass burial probe

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
MANGALURU

THE probe into the controversial Dharmasthala mass burials case intensified on Monday, with the Special Investigation Team (SIT) questioning Mallika, the complainant-witness and second wife of deceased Chinnayya, along with his sister Ratna.

Both were summoned to the SIT office in Beltangady to clarify financial transactions and family-level details that could help piece together missing links in the investigation. Sources said activists from the Sowjanya Movement had informed the SIT that Mallika was present when her husband visited activist



Mahesh Shetty Thimarody.

The SIT is examining whether video clips showing Chinnayya's conversations in Thimarody's

presence—which appear to differ from his statements in court—suggest manipulation or suppression of evidence. The latest

round of questioning aims to verify such discrepancies and establish the veracity of statements made by the witnesses.



## Cong leaders insulting RSS to please Rahul, minority voters: MLA Kamath

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
MANGALURU

BJP MLA Vedavyas Kamath here today, criticised Congress leaders Priyank Kharge and B.K. Hariprasad for demanding a ban on Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) activities, accusing them of trying to please Rahul Gandhi and appease Muslim voters. "Priyank Kharge holds a ministerial post due to his father's name, not merit," Kamath said. Defending the RSS, he urged critics to attend its shakhas and witness how volunteers dedicate themselves to the nation. Recalling history, he said even Nehru praised RSS volunteers during the 1962 war, and Indira Gandhi paid homage in Parliament to the organisation's second chief, Gururaj Golwalkar. Kamath added that RSS volunteers are always at the forefront during natural disasters like floods or earthquakes.

## Liquor sales dip sharply in K'taka after consecutive price hikes

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU

KARNATAKA has witnessed a sharp decline in liquor sales following multiple price hikes implemented by the Congress government over the past year. According to half-yearly data from the Excise Department, liquor sales in the state have failed to recover and have dropped significantly compared to the previous two years.

Between April and September 2023, around 352.83 lakh boxes of IML (Indian Made Liquor) were sold. This figure dropped to 345.76 lakh boxes in the same period in 2024, and further to 342.93 lakh boxes in 2025 — a decline of 2.83 lakh boxes from last year. Retailers estimate that overall liquor sales have fallen by 15 to 20 percent compared to the previous year.



Beer sales have also taken a severe hit. During April–September 2024, 242.73 lakh boxes of beer were sold, while the same period in 2025 saw sales fall to 195.27 lakh boxes, marking a reduction of 47.46 lakh boxes or 19.55 percent.

Dealers report that beer sales have been consistently declining every month. Beer lovers, too, have expressed frustration over the steep price increase. "Earlier, we could enjoy three beers at a time, but now we can afford only one," said a regular drinker named Upendra, adding that a beer should be priced at ₹100.

## Forum South BLR Fest 2025 unveils world's largest 40ft Gramophone

BENGALURU: The city's most anticipated festive celebration, Forum South BLR Fest, returns for its 3rd edition with the exciting theme "Back to the Future." The highlight of this year's celebration is the unveiling of the world's largest 40ft walk-through gramophone. From its towering horn to intricate design motifs, the installation reimagines the gramophone as an immersive retro-futuristic wonderland—where nostalgia blends seamlessly with imagination. Built over 15 days by a team of 20 skilled artisans, the installation required 3,500 man-hours of craftsmanship and attention to detail. The gramophone celebrates the cultural revolutions of the '70s, '80s, and '90s, evoking memories of mixtapes, family gatherings, and timeless conversations that music inspired across generations.

## On CM change speculation

# High command may seek MLAs' opinion, hints Parameshwara

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU

AMID growing speculation over a possible change in leadership in Karnataka, Home Minister Dr. G. Parameshwara on Sunday stated that the Congress high command may once again seek the opinion of MLAs if it considers replacing the Chief Minister. However, he also indicated that the high command could choose not to consult them, depending on its decision.

Speaking to reporters near his Sadashivanagar residence, Parameshwara reacted to Deputy Chief Minister D.K.



Shivakumar's recent statement that the selection of the Chief Minister is entirely a decision of the high command and not of the MLAs. "It is true that the high command has the final say, but MLAs' opinions also matter. After the party wins, the leader is chosen based on legislators' support. The high command usually sends observers to collect their opinions and prepare a report," he said.

Recalling past developments, he pointed out that even Siddaramaiah's first appointment as Chief Minister in 2013 was based on the MLAs' opinions gathered by the observers. "The same pro-

cess can be followed this time as well, or the high command can decide without seeking opinions. It is entirely up to them," he added.

When asked about his own aspirations for the top post, Parameshwara subtly confirmed his interest while maintaining loyalty to the party.

"I had said it casually — everyone can aspire to be Chief Minister. Whoever the high command chooses, we will stand by that decision. D.K. Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah are in the first line, and we are in the second line. That's all," he said, indirectly acknowledging his ambi-

tion. On the controversy surrounding Minister Priyank Kharge's letter demanding a ban on RSS activities in government premises, Parameshwara said he was unaware of the letter but assured it would be examined if it comes before his department. "If such a proposal reaches us, we will examine its pros and cons before making any decision," he remarked.

Defending his presence at an ABVP event, Parameshwara clarified, "I did not participate in the program; I only folded my hands in respect when the procession passed by. Is it wrong to pay respect to Abbakka? I had already

clarified this earlier."

Responding to R.V. Deshpande's claim that development has slowed under the Congress government, Parameshwara countered, "The Chief Minister has visited every district, laying foundation stones worth thousands of crores, including ₹3,000 crore projects in Tumakuru. Even guarantees have proper funding. How can one say development is stagnant?" he said.

His remarks once again highlight the simmering tension within the Congress over leadership ambitions while the high command continues to maintain a guarded silence.



# Didi shocks nation, lets down girls in WB

SOMETHING seems to be seriously wrong with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. Notorious for her virulent verbal attacks on her adversaries right from the time she shot to fame on the political firmament by spitting venom at CPM, she has periodically drawn flak for the manner she plays her cards, especially when her utterances result in severe backlash from all quarters, including the public. Driven to the wall, she has invariably reacted with customary ‘I have been wrongly quoted’ or ‘deliberately distorted’ pretexts. It is a different thing altogether that no one is buying her ‘lame’ excuses. Quite ironically, she seems unaware that pointing an ac-

cusing finger at opposition leaders is quite different from reacting to heinous crimes like rape-murder and gang-rapes happening in her own state. Her sordid comments after a 23-year-old second-year MBBS student at a private medical college in Durgapur was gang-raped around midnight on Sunday, is not only condemnable but hugely deplorable. Her reaction “How was she out at 12.30 am?”, has left outraged sections in the nation aghast because of her typical senseless blabber, which is unbecoming of a Chief Minister and a woman to boot.

It is ironic that not only has she defended herself by stating that she was quoted “out of context”, and

adding that the Bengal Police were taking all steps to track down the culprits, the Chief Minister has unabashedly shifted the blame on to the management of the private medical college where the victim, a Odisha native, is a student. Blaming the college for the “culture at night” that prevails, Banerjee quipped, “They (girl students) should not be allowed to come out. They must protect themselves. It is a forest area.” Predictably, it has drawn criticism from all political parties, with the BJP accusing the Chief Minister of ‘victim shaming’. Not one to take the blame, she tried to turn the tables by hitting out at the BJP government in Odisha, and brought up rape cases

in the neighbouring state, Manipur, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Wanting to know what action those state administrations have taken against the perpetrators, Banerjee has exposed the double standards she employs. “Shameless @MamataOfficial a blot on womanhood, even more for being a CM. After RG Kar and Sandeshkhali, now this horrific case and instead of justice, she blames the victim!” is how BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia has reacted in a post on X.

This is not the first time that women have been advised against going out at night by the Bengal government. The barbaric rape and murder of a doctor at Kolkata’s R.G.

Kar Medical College on August 9, 2024 saw the government issuing such guidelines and calling upon management to reduce night duty for women. “In Bengal we have zero tolerance (against such crimes), and I will appeal to the boys and girls who come to study here not to venture out at night. This is because the police are not aware of who is coming out of hostels and when?” Does she mean that girls from her own state are less vulnerable or is it that they get more protection. It is a ridiculous argument. Fear was writ large in the reaction of the father of the student. “They could kill her here any moment. That’s why we want to take her back to Odisha. Trust has been lost. We don’t want her to stay in Bengal.” Miss Banerjee should know that there is no smoke without fire.



## Mamata's utterances unbecoming of a woman

IN the aftermath of the shocking incident of a 23-year-old LMBS student's gang rape in West Bengal's Durgapur, the insensitive and irresponsible comments by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who tried to shift the blame on the student, and questioned the rationale for coming out of the campus in the midnight was baffling. This amounts to encouraging anti-social elements and soft-peddalling of those involved in the crime, who are on the prowl to outrage the modesty of unsuspecting women. The State has become a den for rapes and political murders under the TMC government. Mamata Banerjee being a woman herself has failed to fathom the sensitivity of the situation and is oblivious of the agony of the victim and her anguished family. The state is perennially in the news for all the wrong reasons with the active connivance of Mamata Banerjee and her Trinamool Congress party.

K R Venkata Narasimhan, Madurai

## Mamata must resign

WEST BENGAL Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is behaving as if she is not accountable for the safety and security of the people of her State. This is evidenced in the wake of the midnight gang-rape of a medical college student in Durgapur and her disgusting reaction to the incident. Wondering why the student had come out at such a time was a lame explanation and unbecoming of a Chief Minister. She should emulate the efficiency with which Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is handling and rounding up anti-social and rowdy elements. It is time Banerjee resigns as the state's Chief minister owning moral responsibility for heinous crime.

S Lakshmi, Hyderabad

## A beacon of sustainability

I wish to applaud the Sri Varaha Lakshmi Narasimha temple in Simhachalam for its exemplary commitment to environmental sustainability. This ancient shrine has set a remarkable precedent by seamlessly integrating eco-conscious practices into its sacred rituals. The temple's initiatives, such as adopting renewable energy, efficient waste management, and water conservation, are truly commendable. The introduction of electric buses and rainwater harvesting systems demonstrates a significant step towards reducing its carbon footprint. The strict ban on single-use plastics and promotion of biodegradable alternatives are practices that can be emulated by other religious institutions. Under the visionary leadership of Trust Chairman Ashok Gajapathi Raju, Simhachalam has become a model for sustainable pilgrimage infrastructure. His mantra, “Conserving nature is the true offering to the divine”, resonates deeply in today's environmentally conscious world. By working together, we can ensure a greener future for the future generations.

Raju Kolluru, Kakinada

## Approach Afghan issue cautiously

THIS has reference to your editorial ‘Pak’s idiotic ‘strategic depth’ policy is killing its own soldiers’. When the US troops left Afghanistan in August 2021, there was jubilation in the military and political circles of Pakistan that they had another Islamist ally to fight against the ‘kafirs’ in the world, with a distinct and unmissable focus on India. The PAF helped liberate one of the provinces, Taloqon, tucked away in the mountains and impregnable, to make the job easy for the Taliban. The tables are turned against such strategic doctrine dreamt by Pakistan. India under any regime in Afghanistan has been helping that country, whenever natural calamities struck on purely humanitarian considerations. However, there is a need for India to evolve a cautious approach, since a country believing in ‘sharia’ - not believing in women’s right for education and social justice, can be enigmatic.

K V Raghuram, Wayanad

## Streamline RTI Act on a priority basis

IT has been 20 years since the RTI Act was enacted on October 12, 2005. In these two decades it has emerged as one of independent India’s most powerful tools for promoting transparency and accountability in governance. Citizens across the country have used it to expose corruption, ensure timely delivery of public services, and make government institutions more responsive. However, despite these successes, several challenges threaten the enduring effectiveness of this landmark law - increasing delays in responses by Public Information Officers, misuse of exemption clauses, harassment of RTI applicants, and lack of awareness among the rural population are eroding its intended impact. Furthermore, recent attempts to dilute certain provisions, such as the tenure and autonomy of Information Commissioners, raise concerns about weakening its enforcement. It is imperative that both the government and civil society work together to strengthen RTI implementation through better infrastructure, protection for whistleblowers, and public awareness campaigns. Only then can the spirit of transparency envisioned in the Act be truly realized.

Sajid Farooq, Kurnool AP

thehansreader@gmail.com



## 1,092 trees to be axed from JP Nagar to Hebbal Kempapura

BENGALURU: Under Phase 3 of the Namma Metro project, construction of the new metro line from JP Nagar 4th Phase to Hebbal Kempapura will result in the felling of over a thousand trees. The BMRL (Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited) has now received official approval to cut 1,092 trees for this corridor. The project, spanning 44.65 km, includes two main routes — JP Nagar 4th Phase to Hebbal Kempapura (Corridor 1) and Hosahalli to Kadabagere (Corridor 2). As per the Detailed Project Report (DPR), an estimated 11,137 trees were likely to be affected. However, officials have decided to remove only those directly obstructing the metro line and stations, while relocating the rest.

Bengaluru has already lost thousands of trees to various infrastructure works such as flyovers, suburban rail projects, and road widening. As the city expands rapidly, its green cover continues to decline year after year. The 10.88 km stretch from JP Nagar 4th Phase to Mysuru Road will feature a double-decker flyover carrying both vehicles and metro trains. Stations will come up at JP Nagar 4th Phase, JP Nagar 5th Phase, JP Nagar, Kadirenahalli, Kamakya Junction, Hosakerehalli, Dwarakanagar, and Mysuru Road.

Read more at <https://epaper.thehansindia.com>



DR MADABHUSHI SRIDHAR ACHARYULU

THE fear of laws being used to suppress free speech—a phenomenon known as the “chilling effect”—is a growing global concern. Authorities and powerful private entities may weaponize vague or disproportionate laws to intimidate journalists, activists, and ordinary citizens who express critical or dissenting views.

It is weaponizing the law. It can be a more constant, haunting fear that is always present, even if the specific event isn’t around the corner but near about. Critics fear the government could use the law’s vague provisions to selectively target media organizations that are critical, sometimes even penal provisions of Act, especially the DPDP Act, 2023.

In 2023, amendments to India’s IT rules granting the government power to establish fact-checking units to censor online content were struck down by a court. Critics argued the rule gave the government excessive power to control speech related to its affairs.

Fear of legal repercussions causes individuals to self-censor and refrain from expressing legitimate views, stifling public debate and the “marketplace of ideas” essential for a healthy democracy. The intimidation

of the press and civil society by weaponizing the law weakens public scrutiny and accountability, potentially allowing governments to become unaccountable to their citizens and mark erosion of human rights. The suppression of free expression often facilitates further human rights abuses by removing one of the most effective tools for exposing wrongdoing.

The Act allows the central government to exempt its agencies from key provisions in the interest of India’s sovereignty, security, and public order. Critics contend these exemptions are broad, vague, and lack safeguards, potentially enabling mass state surveillance.

While celebrating two decades of Right to Information (RTI), the fear of abuse of freedom of speech and expression when rules are implemented in Section 44(3) of the DPDP Act, as especially section 44(3) amended Section 8(1) (j) of the RTI Act. The amendment removes this public interest test, potentially preventing information about public servants involved in wrongdoing from being disclosed, thereby impacting the Data law.

Journalists argue that the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act as it stands, could severely impact press freedom by criminalising routine reporting, requiring consent for news coverage, and threatening source confidentiality. The ill consequences are explained by Justice A P Shah.

Significant Data Fiduciary (SDF) status: Media organizations that handle large datasets, like electoral rolls, could be designated as “Significant Data Fiduciaries,” facing increased regulatory scrutiny and burdens. Prob-



**Journalists argue that the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act as it stands, could severely impact press freedom by criminalising routine reporting, requiring consent for news coverage, and threatening source confidentiality. The ill consequences are explained by Justice A P Shah.**

lem is why should the Government ignore ‘exemption to expression? Reasons are:

In the 2018, 2019, and 2021 versions of the data protection bill, exemptions were provided for journalistic purposes. The Justice Srikrishna Committee Report on Data Protection (2018) and the 2012 Group of Experts on Privacy headed by Justice AP Shah had also recommended exemptions for journalistic purposes. Why was the journalistic exemption removed from the final version of the DPDP Bill, which was enacted in August 2023?

If in the opinion of the ministry, no explicit exemption for journalistic purposes is required as the law does not to apply to journalistic work, which are the specific sections of the DPDP Act, 2023, that safeguard rights of entities and individuals and exempt them from ob-

ligations of data fiduciary if they are processing personal information for journalistic purposes? Please provide a list of such sections and an explanation on how they protect journalistic work.

Since the enactment of the RTI Act in 2005, information accessed under the law has become a crucial source for journalists and media. There are innumerable examples of important journalistic work in public interest which are based on records accessed under the RTI Act. Why was Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act amended through the DPDP Act to expand the scope of information exempt from disclosure?

Similarly, if in the opinion of the ministry, the right to access information under the RTI Act remains unchanged despite the changes made to Section 8(1)(j) through the DPDP Act be-

# Pain specialists highlight barriers in awareness, access, and training

RUSANMED, an initiative by Rusan Healthcare, has released the findings of its latest independent survey on pain management in India, shedding light on the pressing challenges and systemic gaps that continue to impede effective pain care delivery in the country.

Conducted this year, the survey reached out to 1,000 medical professionals, of which 746 doctors responded, marking a significant rise from 350 respondents in 2024.

The participation spanned across multiple pain specialities, such as anaesthesia, pain and palliative care, orthopaedics, gynaecology, neurology, and surgery, providing a well-rounded understanding of the current state of pain care.

The survey is aimed at understanding from the medical community’s perspective, the barriers, unmet needs, and possible pathways to strengthen pain management in India.

Nearly 44 per cent of the respondents strongly agreed that pain management needs to be recognised and formalised as a dedicated medical speciality within

the healthcare system. Lack of awareness, limited education, and the absence of specialised pain clinics were seen as the primary obstacles to achieving effective pain care. Around 44.4 per cent of doctors identified lack of awareness and education as the biggest barrier, while 34.6 per cent cited lack of specialised pain clinics as a major concern. Around 46.6 percent of respondents highlighted the need for structured education and training programmes, establishment of comprehensive pain management centres, public awareness initiatives, and evidence-based clinical guidelines. Also highlighted was the delayed health-seeking behaviour at the patient level. About 47.3 per cent of doctors said patients often delay getting assessed for their pain.

Access to pain management services in rural and underserved regions remains severely limited. More than half the respondents (52.3 per cent) felt that such services were mostly unavailable or inadequate, while 30.8 per cent stated that services were only partially available. The top three



gaps identified were lack of trained healthcare professionals (52.8 per cent), insufficient patient awareness (48 per cent), and absence of dedicated pain clinics (43 percent). This has resulted in a growing trend of patient migration to urban centres for pain relief.

The survey also brought to light a critical concern — the lack of awareness and access to appropriate pain management options, which often leads patients to resort to self-medication. A significant number of patients attempt to manage pain on their own before consulting a doctor.

The most common choices include over-the-counter oral analgesics (69.6 per cent), pain balms or topical

applications (49.3 per cent), and herbal or home remedies (39.1 per cent).

Interestingly, telemedicine has emerged as a potential solution to address rural pain management gaps. About 41.3 per cent of respondents rated it as effective and another 20.1 per cent as very effective in extending pain care access to underserved areas. The survey also revealed that multimodal therapy (47.6 per cent) and patient education and counselling (36.7 per cent) were considered the most successful pain management strategies by participating doctors. To enhance access and awareness in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, the top suggestions included local training programmes for

**Interestingly, telemedicine has emerged as a potential solution to address rural pain management gaps. To enhance access and awareness in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, the top suggestions included local training programmes for general physicians, establishing regional pain clinics and government support for affordable pain medications**

general physicians, establishing regional pain clinics and government support for affordable pain medications.

Despite the growing need, several doctors are refraining from pursuing pain management as a speciality. The reasons cited include lack of formal training opportunities, perceived low financial viability and limited institutional support in managing chronic pain cases. Commenting on the survey findings, Malavika Kaur Saxena, CMO at Rusan Healthcare, said, “Through this one-of-a-kind nationwide survey by RusanMed, we sought to capture the real voices of doctors across India and highlight the systemic challenges they face in addressing pain. We hope these insights will spark dialogue among policymakers,

healthcare providers, and stakeholders to bring pain management to the forefront of India’s healthcare agenda. Our commitment is to continue enabling knowledge, driving awareness, and fostering collaborations that can improve access and outcomes for patients everywhere.”

Notably, the representation was geographically diverse with 42.1 per cent of respondents from Tier 2 cities, 40.1 per cent from Tier 1 cities, 14.6 percent from Tier 3 towns, and 6.4 per cent from rural and underserved regions.

The majority had between five to ten years of clinical experience (33.9 per cent), followed by those with 11 to 20 years (23.9 per cent) and less than five years (23.3 per cent).



# Jogi denies links with fake liquor, offers to take lie detector test

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
VIJAYAWADA

FORMER minister Jogi Ramesh denied any involvement in the alleged spurious liquor case and criticised TDP chief and Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu for what he described as a politically motivated investigation. Addressing the media here on Monday, Ramesh alleged that the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe was being used to target political opponents.

He said there was no evidence



linking him to the case and challenged the Chief Minister to prove otherwise. Ramesh stated that he

was willing to take a lie detector test or swear before Lord Venkateswara along with his family to affirm his innocence, and urged Naidu to do the same.

This denial comes in the wake of a viral video of prime accused in the case Addepalli Janardhana Rao who alleged that YSRCP leader Jogi Ramesh orchestrated the racket in order to tarnish image of the TDP-led coalition government in the state.

The former minister further alleged that the accused in the case,

Janardhan Rao, was coerced while in custody to make false statements implicating YSRCP leaders. He claimed that the remand report did not mention his name and accused the government of using fabricated evidence.

Ramesh said attempts were being made to divert public attention through false cases and political propaganda.

He maintained that he was not afraid of any inquiry and was prepared to face any legal or public test to establish the truth.

# Viswanathan takes charge as I &PR director

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
VIJAYAWADA

KS Viswanathan took charge as the director of the information and public relations (I&PR) department of Andhra Pradesh on Monday at the state I&PR office located in the NTR Administration Block here.

Following the government's transfer of the previous director, Himanshu Shukla, as district collector of Nellore, the department's additional charge was tem-



porarily assigned to Prakar Jain.

Subsequently, the government issued orders appointing Viswanathan, who

was serving as commissioner of the Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region Development Authority (VMRDA), as the new director of the I&PR department.

An IAS officer known for his administrative efficiency, Viswanathan earlier served in several key capacities, including assistant collector of Anantapur, sub-collector of Narasapuram, and joint collector of Prakasam and Visakhapatnam districts.

## Mega medical camp organised in Ongole

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
ONGOLE

Dr Nidamanuri Surya Kalyan Chakravarti Viksit Bharat Trust conducted a Mega Medical Camp in collaboration with KIMS Hospital and QIS College of Engineering and Technology at QISCET here on Monday.

BJP Cells' co-convenor in the state and founder of Dr NSKC Viksit Bharat Trust, Dr Nidamanuri Surya Kalyan Chakravarti, said that they are organising the medical camp inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Viksit Bharat vision, emphasising education and health-



BJP state Cells' co-convenor and founder of Dr NSKC Viksit Bharat Trust, Dr Nidamanuri Surya Kalyan Chakravarti inspecting the medical camp in Ongole on Monday

care. He said that the camp is part of his contributions to social welfare, and explained that they previously conduct-

ed a successful medical camp in Sarvereddipalam. The trust representatives said that approximately 700

drivers, workers, teachers, and students received free medical services, including blood pressure, diabetes, cardiac, and eye examinations. They said that required medicines were distributed free of cost, while the KIMS Hospital offered a 50 percent discount on follow-up tests for camp attendees.

KIMS Ongole staff, Dr Ramanjanyulu, Dr M Varshita, General Manager Amarnath, Camp Coordinator Praveen, and QISCET Principal Dr YV Hanumantha Rao, Students Dean Dr Vasubabu, and NSS Dean Dr Navaneeth Krishnan participated in the camp.

## 6-day faculty development programme begins

Sponsored by AICTE's ATAL Academy the event aims to bridge academia and industry

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
VIJAYAWADA

A six-day Faculty Development Programme (FDP), sponsored by AICTE's ATAL Academy, began on Monday at Vikas Group of Institutions, Nunnna, Vijayawada Rural, NTR district.

Themed 'Recent Trends in Usage of Smart Materials & Advanced Manufacturing Techniques in Relevance to Industry 5.0,' the event aims to bridge academia and industry. Prof Mamilla Ravi Shankar, Head of Mechanical Engineering at IIT Tirupati, inaugurated the programme as chief guest.

He highlighted the importance of FDPs in keeping faculty updated with industrial advancements, emphasizing



Prof Mamilla Ravi Shankar delivering his keynote address at the FPD of Vikas Group of Institutions near Vijayawada on Monday

additive manufacturing's transformative potential in modern production and its future impact on the manufacturing sector.

FDP coordinator Dr Ch Kishore Reddy noted that 50 faculty members from 21 institutions across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are participating. Over six days, seven experts from prestigious organizations, including IIT Tirupati, NIT Andhra Pradesh, ISRO, DRDO, NSEL, HCL Technologies, and APSCHE, will deliver lectures on advanced materials and manufacturing trends. Principal Dr PS Srinivas praised Dr Challa Kishore Reddy and Gurumurthy for securing AICTE approval and sponsorship. Naredla Satyanarayana Reddy, Secretary of Vikas Group, felicitated Prof Mamilla Ravi Shankar. Department heads and faculty attended the inaugural session, marking a strong start to the programme.

AFTER 'MR PM...' GIFT FOR MODI...

# Trump doubles down on India-Pak truce claim

NEW DELHI

Asserts 200% tariff threat stopped the war

IT was the 50th time, said some who've been keeping count, when US President Donald Trump claimed yet again that he got an India-Pakistan war, potentially nuclear, stopped back in May. He was on his way to Israel as part of his intervention for a ceasefire in Gaza.

For Trump it was in line with the theme of the day — his peacemaking efforts — but it showed yet again his varied stances on India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The tariff threat redux comes just a couple of days after Trump sent Modi a framed photo of the two of them with a handwritten message: "Mr Prime Minister, you are great!"

Trump made the India-Pakistan remark while speaking to reporters as he took a flight on Sunday. The question was about China's stance against the recent 100 per cent additional tariffs he's put on the country. He replied: "We are taking in hundreds of billions of dollars, not only from China, from other countries. We become a wealthy country again. And the tariffs have given us diplomatic strength. They've given us negotiating strength."

And then he meandered into India and Pakistan.

"I settled a few of the wars just based on tariffs. As an example, with India and with Pakistan, I said, 'If you guys want to fight a war — and you have nuclear weapons! — I'm going to put big tariffs on you both, like 100%, 150, and 200%.' (They said:) 'No, no, no, don't do that.' I said, 'I'm putting tariffs.' I had that thing settled in 24 hours. If I didn't have tariffs, you could have never settled that war," he added.

India has been firm in its stance — though measured in tone — in denying any third-party mediation affecting its ceasefire decision in Operation Sindoor, which it carried out in response to a terror attack in Kashmir.

But Trump has kept up with the claim as it was also one of his pitches for the Nobel Peace Prize, which he did not get. Reports suggested India's refusal to play ball on this angered him and was a factor in his decision to put 50% tariffs despite repeatedly calling PM Modi his "great" and "personal" friend.

Even at the UN in September, Trump referred to India and China as "primary funders" of Russia's war in

Ukraine — half of the tariffs on India are termed "penalty" or "sanctions" for Delhi's oil deals with Moscow. He also repeated his ceasefire claim, part of his claim of having ended several wars.

The same month, Trump called Modi up to wish him a happy 75th birthday. The two leaders also exchanged some mutual admiration on social media days before that.

PM Modi has avoided confrontation and responded via diplomatic progress and by promoting "swadeshi" (made-in-India) goods.

September began with Trump bursting out against Modi's meetings with Russia's Vladimir Putin and China's Xi Jinping in Tianjin during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit. He said, "We've lost India and Russia to China."

October was slightly different. Modi praised Trump's Gaza peace plan in a phone call. US ambassador-designate Sergio Gor met Modi on Saturday, October 11, and he carried with him the framed photo of the two leaders, with Trump's handwritten message and signatures on it.

Two days later, Trump has renewed his ceasefire mediation claim.

## 'Historic dawn of a new Middle East'

Continued from P1

After hearing politicians' chants of "Trump, Trump, Trump" in the Knesset, the American President suggested the region was experiencing "the historic dawn of a new Middle East".

It echoed the words he used when Israel signed landmark deals with several Arab states during his first presidency.

"At last, not only for Israelis but also Palestinians, the long and painful nightmare is finally over," Trump said. The ceasefire that he helped to broker was "the most challenging breakthrough of them all, the most challenging breakthrough maybe ever", Trump added. He indicated that ending the war between Russia and Ukraine would be his next focus.

## CM invites PM to 'Super GST' event, CII Summit

Continued from P1

On behalf of the people of Andhra Pradesh, I congratulated him on completing 25 years in public service as Head of Government and expressed our appreciation for his leadership behind the transformative and people-centric Next Gen GST reforms."

Naidu said the upcoming Kurnool event would cel-

ebate the public's enthusiasm for the Next Gen GST reforms, describing it as a "forward-looking initiative aimed at boosting transparency and savings". Naidu added that he invited the Prime Minister to preside over the CII Partnership Summit, which will bring together global business leaders, policy thinkers, and industry ministers to show-

case Andhra Pradesh's growing role in technology, trade, and innovation.

Naidu and Lokesh are set to attend the Andhra Pradesh government's agreement on Tuesday with Google in Delhi, where the MoU for the Google AI Hub will be signed, a move expected to strengthen the State's digital innovation ecosystem.

## Intel indicates Maoist collapse imminent well ahead of 2026 deadline

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah has set a deadline of March 2026 for the end of the Maoist movement in India.

While there are a couple of months to go for this deadline, security officials are confident that the menace may end before it.

A clear sign that the movement is on the decline can be seen from the letter written by the 70-year-old Mallojula Venugopal Rao alias Sonu, who is a top Maoist leader. He publicly sought the cessation

of armed struggle to save the CPI-Maoist. While it is unclear whether he has support from all the ranks regarding this offer, one message is clear, and that is the end of the movement which began in 1967 is set to end soon.

Rao, from his underground base, had apologised to all those who are part of the movement and said that it is time to change according to the circumstances. The Narendra Modi government has, however, stuck to its stand that there will be no negotia-

tions. Union Home Minister Shah, who is overseeing these operations, says that the only option is to surrender or be killed in an encounter. An official, who is part of devising the strategy against Maoists, said that when the letter from Rao first surfaced, there were discussions about how to go forward.

However, the government was clear that such tactics have been used in the past, and this time around, the security forces are not going to bite the bait.

During earlier times, Maoists would call for talks with the government when they suffered setbacks.

## No hurdles to development of 'self-financing' Amaravati: CM

Continued from P1

Of this, 34,281 acres were pooled from 29,881 farmers belonging to 29 villages. Most of those who had parted with their land are Dalits.

At a review later, he directed the officials concerned to expedite the completion of all pending Amaravati buildings within scheduled timelines.

Reiterating his government's commitment to the farmers, Naidu recalled Amaravati's origins after the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh. "The state was divided without a capital. We envisioned Amaravati as a people's capital. Farmers showed us the way through the successful land pooling model—an example to the world," he said.

Unlike Amaravati, Naidu asserted, Hyderabad was endowed with a lot of government land when the (undivided AP) capital was being built and noted that the Cyberabad area did not develop during the Nizam's reign. He said that area was used as a grazing ground for horses. "So many government lands in that place and many people left Hyderabad for Pakistan and left their lands also. I took all of them and brick by brick developed them. I have that experience," he said, recalling

his earlier stints as CM of undivided Andhra Pradesh.

Crediting Amaravati farmers, Naidu said when he didn't know what to do, they showed him the way forward and exhorted that any project he took up had "never failed."

According to the CM, Amaravati made history for the first time in the world for which everybody pooled land. He expressed happiness that the CRDA building has started and called it just the beginning, adding that government and private buildings will come up in the future.

The TDP supremo promised to cooperate with Amaravati farmers in all ways until they realize the fruits of their sacrifice and reminded them that he witnessed their difficulties and the campaigns they had carried out. "I will not forget you. If I forget you, it is tantamount to forgetting the sacrifice you made. Will remember you and your sacrifice. I am not saying it is over. We just started today. The beginning of our journey," he told the farmers.

Characterizing the inauguration of the CRDA building as "the beginning of the capital's rebirth", Naidu lauded the women farmers for their perseverance during the previous govern-

ment's tenure. "Farmers will soon reap the fruits of their struggle—double respect and double benefits," he assured.

Outlining his vision, Naidu pledged to develop Amaravati into a "Quantum Valley", inspired by Hyderabad's HI-TEC City. "When we began HI-TEC City, land cost Rs 1 lakh per acre; today it is Rs 177 crore. Amaravati will witness similar growth. We are building it on a self-financing model, with no obstacles to progress," he said.

Calling Amaravati "a self-financing project", Naidu highlighted that he is not spending even a single pie from the exchequer. "I am telling one thing to all the critics, you always criticise. I did not spend even Re 1 of government money in Hyderabad. I built building after building with my smartness and automatically taxes rose," he said.

Back in May, Naidu had informed the Finance Commission that Amaravati needs Rs 77,249 crore for its construction, a city with a focus on sustainability, innovation and inclusive growth. Out of this, he had said that Rs 31,000 crore was secured from the World Bank, HUDCO and KfW (German development bank) while another Rs 47,000 crore was needed

for Amaravati. As the government is poised to procure more land for the greenfield capital city, Naidu drove home the message that if Amaravati stops where it is now then it will end up as a small city.

Highlighting growing FDI inflows into Visakhapatnam and the upcoming Google Data Center, Naidu said, "The future belongs to quantum, data, and AI sectors. Amaravati will emerge as the focal point of administration and innovation."

Naidu concluded by emphasising the importance of political stability, saying: "The NDA government's continuity, with the support of Pawan Kalyan and the BJP, is crucial for Andhra Pradesh's progress. My only focus is the people and their future."

Underscoring the importance of the NDA government being in power in the future, he said India will become the number one economy by 2047 and Andhra Pradesh its engine.

Union Minister Dr. Pemmasani Chandrasekhar, Minister Dr. P. Narayana, MLAs T. Sravan Kumar, Kolikapudi Srinivasa Rao, Dhulipala Narendra, Chief Secretary K. Vijayanand, and other senior officials attended the ceremony.

## 3 economists share Nobel for explaining sustained growth

Continued from P1

Announcing the winners on Monday, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said one half of the prize was awarded to Mokyr "for having identified the prerequisites for sustained growth through technological progress", while the other half was shared by Aghion and Howitt "for the theory of sustained growth through creative destruction."

"Over the last two centuries, for the first time in history, the world has seen sustained economic growth. This has lifted vast numbers of people out of poverty and laid the foundation of our prosperity. This year's laureates in the Economic Sciences, Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion and Peter Howitt, explain how innovation provides the impetus for further progress," the Academy said in a statement.

Mokyr, a historian of economic thought, used historical evidence to uncover why sustained growth became possible. His research showed that for innovation to continue in a self-sustaining cycle, it is not enough to know that something works, societies must also understand why it works. Before the Industrial Revolution, such scientific explanations were often lacking, preventing cumulative progress. Mokyr also highlighted the importance of openness to new ideas and societal acceptance of change. Aghion and Howitt, meanwhile, developed a mathematical model in 1992 describing the process of "creative destruction", where new technologies and products replace older ones, spurring innovation but also rendering established firms obsolete. Their model illustrated how progress, while

creative, is also inherently disruptive. The Academy said their combined work demonstrates that economic growth depends on managing the conflicts created by innovation. Otherwise, vested interests may block progress, it noted. "The laureates' work shows that economic growth cannot be taken for granted. We must uphold the mechanisms that underlie creative destruction, so that we do not fall back into stagnation," said John Hassler, Chair of the Committee for the Prize in Economic Sciences. Last year, the Nobel Prize in Economics went to US-based economists Daron Acemoglu and Simon Johnson of MIT, and James A Robinson of the University of Chicago, for their research on how institutions shape national prosperity and explain why some countries are rich while others remain poor.



# How to protect skin during Diwali festivities

DR APOORVA RAGAGAVAN

THE glow of Diwali lights, the sparkle of decorations, and the excitement of the festivities can all lead to a lot of skin exposure, leading our skin to undergo heavy cleaning products, smoke, and a lot of rituals that stress the skin barrier. In that rush, skinnimalism, which is a simple, planned way to take care of your skin, can help protect it. Dermatologists are telling people to cut back on extra steps to keep their skin barrier healthy and strong.

Here is a skin guide provided on how to keep your skin healthy during the Diwali celebrations, with tips on ingredients, routines, and how to recover.

### Prioritise the skin barrier before the festivities

Weeks before the celebration, start prepping your skin to build resilience for the impending strain. Use a mild, pH-balanced cleanser and a non-comedogenic moisturizer with ceramides or hyaluronic acid. If your skin allows tolerance to sunscreen, add a broad-spectrum SPF 30–50 in the morning skincare routine. Keep it simple; don't layer on a bunch of new actives all together, at once.

Hydrating procedures

such as mesotherapy or skin boosters can be discussed with a dermatologist. For instance, Profilllo, which is an injectable bioremodelling treatment based on hyaluronic acid, renowned for increasing skin hydration and reducing skin laxity, can be slotted in ahead of time to boost skin's resilience without interfering with minimalism on the festival days.

### Simplify festive day routine

On festive days, keeping your skincare routine simple works best. Begin with a gentle, fragrance-free cleanser to remove overnight oil and impurities. Next, apply a lightweight antioxidant serum containing vitamin C or niacinamide to protect your skin from free radicals caused by pollution and fire-cracker smoke. Follow this with a sunscreen that offers high SPF to shield your skin from UV rays during daytime activities. Finish with a non-greasy moisturizer to lock in hydration without feeling heavy.

If you choose to wear makeup, keep it minimal. Use breathable, non-comedogenic products that won't clog your pores. Apply coverage only where needed instead of layering multiple products, as overloading your skin with too many layers can weaken



As the festival of lights approaches, our skin often faces extra stress from pollution, makeup, and long celebrations. This Diwali, embrace skinnimalism — a mindful, minimal approach to skincare that protects your natural glow. Here's a dermatologist-approved guide to keep your skin healthy, radiant, and resilient before, during, and after the festivities

the skin barrier and increase the chance of breakouts and irritation. The goal is to let your skin breathe while maintaining a fresh, radiant look.

### Mitigate environmental assaults

During Diwali, the air often becomes saturated with smoke, dust, and fine particles. Protecting the skin from these environmental stressors requires conscious care. Using soft cotton or silk fabrics

to cover exposed areas such as the face and neck can reduce direct contact with pollutants. After returning home, washing the face with lukewarm water and a mild cleanser helps remove soot, residue, and particulate matter that settle on the skin throughout the evening.

It is best to avoid harsh exfoliants, scrubs, or chemical peels during this period, as they can make the skin more sensitive to environmental

damage. Maintaining internal hydration also plays a significant role. Drinking enough water and consuming antioxidant-rich foods like fruits and leafy greens helps the skin recover from external stress.

### Restore and repair after celebrations

Once the festivities wind down, a recovery routine becomes essential to restore balance. Begin with a gentle double cleanse if makeup or sunscreen was heavily used, followed by a soothing serum or a barrier-repair moisturizer containing ingredients like panthenol, Centella asiatica, or colloidal oatmeal. These calm inflammation and support healing. Strong actives such as retinoids or exfoliating acids should be temporarily paused until the skin feels normal again.

If the skin feels tight or dehydrated, applying a light sleeping mask or an occlusive layer on dry patches can help lock in moisture overnight. Monitoring how the skin responds over the next few days ensures that any irritation or sensitivity is addressed promptly before reintroducing more potent skincare ingredients.

### Rejuvenate post-festival

After your skin has had time to recover from the celebra-

tions, you can slowly start using active skincare ingredients again. This is also a good moment to consider professional treatments with a dermatologist. Options like light peels, hydrating facials, or skin boosters such as Profilllo can help refresh dull skin and bring back its smoothness and firmness.

When chosen wisely, these treatments fit well with a simple skincare approach, and they give noticeable results without putting too much strain on your skin.

### Conclusion

Diwali is supposed to brighten up your mood and not put a strain on your skin. Sticking to a straightforward and regular skincare routine really does the trick. Your skin will still be tough against all the dirt, lack of sleep, and more than usual makeup. Concentrate on taking care of the skin barrier, following the basics, and letting your skin heal so that the shine doesn't leave even during the celebrations. If you follow all of this routine, this Diwali, your skin will be full of life and need little attention afterwards, glowing in itself, the festival of lights.

(The writer is a Chief Consultant Dermatologist, CH33 Clinic, Chennai)

## Meenakshi Seshadri calls for safe Diwali celebrations, says light 'lamps, candles'

VETERAN actress Meenakshi Seshadri has shared a heartfelt message ahead of Diwali, urging everyone to celebrate the festival of lights with happiness and responsibility.

Meenakshi, who is all set to celebrate her second Diwali in Mumbai post returning from the US, took to Instagram, where she shared a video of herself stating that she is looking forward to the festival of lights. In the clip, she is heard saying in Hindi: "Diwali is just around the corner, and I would like to share a small message with you. Yes, we should celebrate this festival with a lot of happiness, but at the same time, be careful. While bursting crackers, do not give big bombs into the hands of small children."

"And do not light firecrackers in cars, buildings, or any place where there is a risk of fire. And, if possible, light lamps, candles, etc. I am really looking forward to this Diwali. This will be my second Diwali in Mumbai after returning from the USA. So, prepare for Diwali in advance," she added. For the caption, she wrote: "Diwali is around the corner. Waiting in anticipation for this beautiful festival of lights. #diwali #celebrate #festival."



Talking about Meenakshi, she became one of Hindi cinema's leading actresses in the 1980s and 1990s. She made her debut with the film Painter Babu in 1983 and her second film Hero catapulted her to instant stardom.

Meenakshi gained stardom with her work in films such as "Aandhi-Toofan", "Meri Jung", "Swati", "Dacait", "In-aam Dus Hazaar", "Shahenshah", "Awaargi", "Ghar Ho To Aisa", "Damini" and "Ghatak". A documentary was made about her life, titled Meenakshi Accept Her Wings.

She was last seen in "Ghatak: Lethal" in 1996 Hindi-language action thriller film directed by Rajkumar Santosh, starring Sunny Deol, Meenakshi Seshadri, Amrith Puri, and Danny Denzongpa. It was the highest-grossing Bollywood film in terms of domestic Box office collection and second highest grossing overall in terms of worldwide collection that year.

## Here's how mom-to-be Parineeti satisfied her Chinese food cravings in a healthy way

ACTRESS Parineeti Chopra, who is expecting her first baby, is making sure her pregnancy cravings are both delicious and nutritious.

Recently, the 'Kesari' actress indulged in a plate of healthy homemade Chinese food. Taking to her Instagram stories, the mom-to-be gave a glimpse of her Chinese cravings as she posted an image of vegetable rice with Chilli Paneer. Alongside the image, she wrote, "Ghar ka healthy Chinese food. No bad stuff!!!"

Meanwhile, Parineeti Chopra recently celebrated her first Karwa Chauth with husband Raghav Chadha. The 'Ishaqzaade' actress observed the traditional fast for her husband, whom she fondly called the love of her life. The photos offered a glimpse into the intimate celebration. In one frame, the actress was seen performing the customary ritual of sighting her husband through a sieve, while Raghav held a pooja thali. Another candid moment captured the couple sitting together and sharing a warm exchange, beautifully reflecting the essence of their first Karwa Chauth as parents-to-be.

Sharing photos, Parineeti wrote, "My chaand, the love of my life! Happy Karwa Chauth." The actress also offered personal glimpses from the celebration. In one, she showed off her adorable baby bump while dressed in a pastel pink and yellow outfit. Another story featured a close-up of a pair of cus-



tomised juttis, beautifully inscribed with the initials "P" and "R" along with their wedding date, September 24, 2023.

Parineeti and Raghav announced their pregnancy in August this year, with the actress revealing that they are expecting their first child by the end of 2025. For the unversed, the couple tied the knot in an intimate ceremony in Udaipur, Rajasthan, in September 2023. The celebration was attended by close family members, friends, and several political dignitaries. The duo had reportedly dated for several months before making their relationship official earlier that same year.

## Sanjukta Dutta weaves Assam's ethors

THE show opened with a soulful tribute to the legendary Assamese icon Zubeen Garg, featuring an ethereal saree painted & handwoven with his portrait and immortal lyrics

The Live Strains of a Violin performance by Sunita Bhuyan, dedicated to the birth centenary of the legendary musical maestro Bhupen Hazarika

As the lights dimmed and the music rose, designer Sanjukta Dutta transported the audience into the poetic realm of twilight with her new collection 'Gadhuli - The Twilight' at Lakmé Fashion Week. Drawing from the enigmatic hour when day softly surrenders to night, Sanjukta's collection unfolded like a cinematic dream in black and maroon which was deep, sensual, and timeless.

The show opened with a soulful tribute to the legendary Assamese icon Zubeen Garg, featuring an ethereal saree painted & handwoven with his portrait and immortal lyrics. The ensemble was both an homage and a statement that displayed a convergence of music, memory, and textile art that stirred the heart and honoured the cul-

DESIGNER SANJUKTA DUTTA'S 'GADHULI' WEAVES ASSAM'S SOUL INTO COUTURE AT LAKME FASHION WEEK, ACTRESS NEELAM KOTHARI WALKS IN HER COLLECTION



tural beat of Assam.

Adding to the emotional depth of the presentation, the runway resonated with the live strains of a violin performance by Sunita Bhuyan, dedicated to the birth centenary of the legendary musical maestro Bhupen Hazarika.

Sharing her inspiration behind the collection, Sanjukta Dutta said, "Gadhuli is a magical feeling that lies in-between when light meets shadow. It reminds me of



my homeland. Assam, where tradition and nature exist in perfect balance. Through this collection, I wanted to weave that same harmony of strength and softness, legacy and evolution." The show reached its crescendo as Bollywood actor Neelam Kothari walked the runway as the showstopper, radiating elegance that epitomized the soul of twilight. Speaking about her experience, Neelam Kothari shared, "Walking for



Sanjukta was an honour. Her work has a soul; every thread tells a story. Wearing 'Gadhuli' felt like carrying a piece of Assamese heritage wrapped in poetry and power."

In 'Gadhuli,' Sanjukta reinterpreted the mekhela chador, the quintessential Assamese attire, through a modern lens, pairing heritage weaves with bold, contemporary silhouettes. From sarees and elegant dhotis to structured skirts and graceful anarkalis, each

piece resonated with intricate craftsmanship and emotional storytelling. The interplay of textures, motifs, and meticulous detailing captured the duality of twilight showcasing its strength and stillness, its mystery and grace. With 'Gadhuli,' Sanjukta Dutta once again proves that fashion can be a bridge between past and present, art and emotion, Assam and the world. Twilight, after all, is not an ending, but a beautiful becoming.

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13 Sloth (8)

14 Insurance payment (7)

15 Distorted, biased or bent (6)

17 Vulgarly, indecency (9)

21 Bishop's jurisdiction (3)

22 Mineral source (3)

23 \_\_ culpa : an admission of guilt (3)

26 Face or confront boldly; dare (5,2,2)

27 American colloquially speaking? (6)

28 Quasi (7)

32 Gary \_\_ : became the youngest ever chess champion by defeating Karpov in 1985? (8)

34 One of the rivers of Hades (4)

35 Joker (3)

36 Pinched or bit (6)

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## MILIND SOMAN'S WIFE ANKITA REFLECTS ON OVERCOMING HER FEARS AS SHE COMPLETES IRONMAN SWIM

MILIND Soman's wife, Ankita Konwar, recently shared an inspiring note about conquering her fears and completing a 3.8 km Ironman swim.

Reflecting on her journey, she revealed how she once feared the very waters she now glides through with confidence. Expressing gratitude to her coach for unwavering support and patience, Ankita credited the experience with teaching her resilience, trust, and strength — both in swimming and in life. Taking to Instagram handle, Konwar shared a series of her photos and wrote, "A year and a half ago, I was afraid to float. Now, I glide through the same waters that once terrified me, all 3.8 kms of them. It's true when they say, you don't need to prove the world wrong, prove the one person right, who believes in you."

"Thank you, coach, for your patience, stroke after stroke, your faith against my doubts, and the countless hours you kept showing up for me, lending me your courage when I lacked mine. It turned my fears

into rhythm, and doubts into strength." Ankita Konwar added, "You didn't just teach me how to swim, but also how to trust my strength, breathe through chaos, and believe in my power. This Ironman swim was mine, but the calm in every stroke was yours. Your voice will always remain my guiding light. Thank you for making my resilience stronger and determination deeper Here's

to many more adventures together because guess what, we are just getting started!!!" A few days ago, Ankita became the first Assamese woman to complete an Ironman. Milind Soman congratulated his better half with a heartfelt note. He wrote, "Ankita Konwar from India, you are an IRONMAN!!!! Magic words on the magic carpet (Smiling emoji) so incredibly proud of you, my love! So, Estonia 70.3 was the perfect warm up, and Ironman Barcelona, your first full Ironman was fun fun fun with our friends @arjunkawle & @dhirenbontra (Smiling emoji) And I hear you are the first Assamese woman to complete a full Ironman!! wow!!! (sic)." Soman added, "So happy we could do it together (red heart emoji) My second Ironman, 10 years after my first, and more than half an hour faster, so happy, 60 is the new 50 (tough out emoji) what an incredible event and life experience, truly epitomises the saying #anything is possible! Thank you @ironmantri @ironmantrispain... Thank you @carlesiturbé."



K'taka unveils global call for collaboration in quantum technologies at Geneva Summit

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU

KARNATAKA has invited international collaboration in developing quantum technologies as part of its ambitious plan to build a \$20-billion quantum economy by 2035 and position Bengaluru as a world leader in this transformative field.

Speaking at the Swissnex Quantum Summit 2025 at Campus Biotech in

Geneva, State Minister for Minor Irrigation, Science and Technology N. S. Boseraju urged global partners — including research institutions, innovators, and industries — to join hands with Karnataka in advancing the quantum ecosystem.

“Karnataka believes in collaborative innovation and open partnerships,” said Boseraju, outlining the State’s comprehensive roadmap aligned with

India’s National Quantum Mission (NQM), a ₹6,000-crore initiative of the Union Government.

He noted that Bengaluru already leads India’s quantum push, with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) hosting a Quantum Research Park that supports 55 projects and 13 startups while training over 1,000 professionals annually. The State has allocated an additional ₹48 crore



to expand these efforts. Boseraju also recalled the success of the Quantum India Summit 2025 held in Bengaluru earlier this year, which drew over 2,000 researchers and entrepreneurs, including Nobel laureates.

The State Government, led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM D. K. Shivakumar, has since announced ₹1,000 crore for quantum development and land for

the proposed “Q-City” — a dedicated campus for research, manufacturing, and incubation. Unveiling a concept video of Q-City’s first phase, Boseraju said it will serve as a global hub integrating R&D, hardware production, and innovation labs.

International delegates at the Geneva event expressed keen interest, reaffirming Karnataka’s growing stature in the global quantum landscape.

Ban on RSS activities in govt premises under review: CM

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BAGALKOT

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah has directed the Chief Secretary to examine the possibility of banning RSS activities in government-owned premises, taking into account the precedent set by the Tamil Nadu government.

Speaking to reporters in Bagalkot, the Chief Minister said the issue had come up after Minister Priyanka Kharge wrote to the government urging a ban. “The RSS has been using government premises for its activities. Tamil Nadu has already prohibited this, and we will review similar action in Karnataka,” he said.

Former PM Deve Gowda’s Health Improving Siddaramaiah also provided an update on the health of former Prime

Minister H. D. Deve Gowda, saying that his condition is improving and that he is likely to be discharged from the hospital within two days.

Addressing speculation about political changes, the Chief Minister clarified that today’s dinner meeting has no connection to the upcoming cabinet reshuffle. “Decisions on cabinet changes depend on the views of senior leaders and legislators, along with the approval of the party high command. There’s nothing special about today’s gathering, and no major political shake-up is expected in November,” Siddaramaiah stated.

Responding to reports about a meeting between MLA Munirathna and Deputy CM D. K. Shivakumar, the Chief Minister said, “Shivakumar organised

the ‘Bengaluru Nadige’ event at J. P. Park, similar to the one at Lalbagh. Munirathna could have expressed his views on stage but chose not to. I don’t know whether he was formally invited or not. Personally, I do not believe in any superstitions or rituals.”

Siddaramaiah assured that the Krishna Upper Basin Project will receive adequate funding and will be completed within the next four years. When asked about granting ministerial posts to members of the Valmiki community, Siddaramaiah said that while one MLA had resigned voluntarily, the government did not remove anyone. “During the upcoming cabinet reshuffle, the possibility of giving representation to the Valmiki community will be considered,” he added.



Two arrested for raping woman under pretext of giving a lift

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
CHIKKABALLAPUR:

IN a shocking incident, a young woman was allegedly raped by two men on the outskirts of Manchenahalli in Chikkaballapur district. The accused, identified as Sikandar Baba and Janardhanachari, both residents of Chikkaballapur, have been arrested by the police. The survivor is currently receiving care and counseling at a women’s rehabilitation center.

According to the police, the incident took place when the woman had come to Chikkaballapur town in search of work. Later, while she was walking back toward Manchenahalli, one of the accused, Sikandar, approached her and offered to drop her off on his bike. Believing him, the woman got onto the vehicle. However, instead of taking her home, Sikandar allegedly took her to a secluded area and sexually assaulted her.

After committing the crime, Sikandar reportedly called his friend Ja-



nardhanachari to the spot, and together they allegedly raped the woman again in the same isolated location. The accused also stole the gold earrings the victim was wearing and later sold them.

After the assault, the duo abandoned the traumatized woman near a petrol bunk and fled the scene. Locals noticed her sitting in distress and immediately took her to the women’s police station in Chikkaballapur.

Based on her complaint, police registered a case under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code pertaining to rape and robbery. With the help of CCTV footage and technical evidence, the police were able to trace and arrest both accused within a short time. The incident has sparked outrage in the area, with locals demanding strict punishment for the culprits and stronger safety measures for women traveling alone.

Samprada Hospital launches advanced bone marrow transplant unit

SAMMPRADA Hospital, one of Bengaluru’s leading centers for cancer and criticalcare, has announced the launch of its state-of-the-art Bone Marrow Transplant(BMT) Unit, aimed at making world-class cancer treatment accessible and affordable to patients from across India. The launch was graced by Tejasvi Surya, MP, Bengaluru South Constituency, who attended as the Chief Guest, and Ravi Subramanya L.A., , Basavanagudi, MLA who was the Guest of Honour. Both leaders lauded the hospital’s initiative in expanding access to advanced cancer care and commended Sammprada Hospital for its commitment to making life-saving treatments like bone marrow transplant affordable for all sections of society.

Medical treatment of children  
City pediatrician warns against over-the-counter medicines



HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU

FOLLOWING reports of over ten child deaths in northern states linked to cough syrup consumption, doctors in the city have urged parents to exercise caution when administering medicines to children.

Dr. Varshini P, a renowned pediatrician at Vasavi Hospitals, emphasised that parents should avoid buying cough syrups and other medications over the counter. “Medicines should not be given without a doctor’s prescription. Correct dosage is critical, as it depends on the child’s age and weight. Even a small mistake can lead to serious complications,” she said.

Highlighting the risks of allergies and side effects, Dr. Varshini explained that some medications can trigger gastrointestinal issues, rashes, or breathing difficulties. She also warned against the overuse of antibiotics, noting that improper consumption can contribute to drug resistance, making infections harder to treat when genuinely required.

On neonatal safety, Dr. Varshini stressed that certain medications commonly used by adults, such as aspirin and cough syrups, can be toxic and potentially life-threatening for children. She urged parents to first identify the underlying cause of symptoms and seek medical guidance before administering any treatment.

Greater B’luru Authority presents ₹7,977 Cr interim budget estimate

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU

THE Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has presented an interim budget estimate of ₹7,977 crore for the five newly formed city corporations. The budget, covering the period from September 2025 to March 2026, marks the first financial framework under the restructured civic administration. Each of the new corporations will independently prepare and manage its own detailed budget.



According to the GBA’s estimates, the total receipts for the six-month period are expected to be ₹7,977.8 crore, with an expenditure projection of ₹7,972.6 crore. Among the allocations, the East Corporation will receive ₹1,766 crore, the West ₹1,710.6 crore, the North ₹1,599.6 crore, the Central ₹1,478.4 crore, and the South ₹1,423.2 crore.

Public works have been given top priority, with ₹2,497.8 crore earmarked for related projects, followed by ₹2,071.9 crore for urban development and regulation, and ₹403.4 crore for solid waste management.

“This is only an indicative estimate. Based on this, the corporations can project their revenues and decide where and how to spend,” said GBA Special Commissioner (Finance) Harish Kumar. He added that each corporation must finalize its independent budget by the end of December and obtain approval from the GBA Administrator. The corporations will not be permitted to alter previously approved tenders sanctioned by the erstwhile BBMP or the state government.

The GBA has also taken over ₹613 crore that previously belonged to the BBMP and redistributed it among the five new corporations for operational expenses. This amount is not a new government grant but a reallocation of existing funds. Among the allocations, the West Corporation received the highest share of ₹156 crore, while the East Corporation was allotted ₹108 crore.

However, the corporations are currently facing a financial crunch. North Corporation Commissioner Pomma-

la Sunil said a major portion of the budget will go toward salaries, pending bills, and maintenance costs, leaving little room for new projects. “We must now focus on improving revenue generation,” he added.

South Corporation Commissioner Ramesh K.N. echoed similar concerns, emphasizing that expenditure plans would be drawn up only after strengthening revenue sources. For now, he said, providing better roads and infrastructure remains their immediate priority.

Kerala man duped of ₹44.8 lakh in Mangaluru honeytrap

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
MANGALURU

A 53-year-old man from Kerala, identified as Muhammad Ashraf Thavarakadan, who works in Saudi Arabia, has reportedly fallen victim to a honeytrap scam during his visit to Mangaluru in September 2024. According to police, Ashraf had come to the city for a marriage proposal when a group, including Bashir and Safia, allegedly lured him under the pretext of meeting a prospective bride. The accused reportedly took his photos and videos and later threatened to leak them online unless he paid money.

Fearing defamation, Ashraf allegedly transferred ₹44.80 lakh to the group. Based on his complaint, Vitla Police have registered a case (Crime No.145/2025) under Sections 318(4), 308(2), 115(2), 351(2), read with 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023. An investigation is underway to trace the accused and recover the extorted money.

Thousands flock to Kukke Subrahmanya temple; Management lauded for arrangements

SUBRAHMANYA  
(DAKSHINA KANNADA)

THE renowned Kukke Subrahmanya Temple, one of South India’s most visited serpent shrines and Karnataka’s highest revenue-generating temple under the Muzrai Department, witnessed an unprecedented rush of devotees on Sunday.

Taking advantage of

school holidays following the caste census and the extended second-Saturday weekend, thousands of devotees from across the region arrived for darshan of Lord Subrahmanya. Both the Kukke Subrahmanya Road railway station and the KSRTC bus terminus were packed with devotees, with all trains and buses arriving at full capacity.

Despite the massive influx, temple authorities ensured a smooth flow of devotees. Parking areas overflowed, forcing vehicles to be parked along the roadside, yet the crowd was managed efficiently with the support of temple staff, security personnel, and local police.

The temple’s anna prasada (free meal)

service ran seamlessly, and pilgrims also performed holy dips in the sacred Kumaradhara River, adding to the temple town’s spiritual vibrancy.

Accommodation facilities in and around Subrahmanya were fully booked from Saturday, including private lodges, as pilgrims thronged the temple town. Yet, the arrangements for lodging,

meals, and darshan were handled effectively, turning the visit into a memorable experience for many. Temple Management Committee president Harish S. Injadi noted that the government recently revised temple service charges by about 40 percent from September 1 to offset increased material and maintenance costs.





# India 58 runs away from clean sweep

## Bowlers made to toil as West Indies stretch 2nd Test to day 5

KUSHAN SARKAR  
NEW DELHI

THE Indian bowling attack faced a stern test of character on an unresponsive sub-continental track but came out trumps, leaving the hosts on the cusp of a 2-0 clean sweep over a fighting West Indies on the fourth day of the second Test here on Monday.

The Indians need another 58 runs on the final day to win the game after reaching 63 for 1 at stumps in pursuit of 121.

Jasprit Bumrah (3/44 in 17.5 overs), Kuldeep Yadav (3/104 in 29 overs), Ravindra Jadeja (1/102 in 33 overs), Mohammed Siraj (2/43 in 15 overs) and Washington Sundar (1/80 in 23 overs) toiled hard for more than 118.5 overs in the second innings.

They eventually bowled out the West Indies for 390, leaving the home team with a target of 121 to chase in 18 overs left on



the fourth evening.

KL Rahul (25 batting) and Sai Sudharsan (30 batting) looked comfortable but didn't take too many risks after Yashasvi Jaiswal (8) holed out in the deep.

This was after Siraj struck a decisive blow with the second new ball before Kuldeep Yadav ran through the lower-middle order as Indian bowlers found their mojo in the post-lunch session on day four.

John Campbell (115 off 199 balls) and Shai Hope (103 off 214 balls) added 177 runs for the third wicket to show the Caribbean team's stomach for fight but the Indian bowling unit's patience paid off once the second new ball came into operation post lunch.

But Jayden Seales (32) and Justin Greaves (50 not out) added 79 for the final wicket to take the match into day five.

The only consolation from

this match for the West Indies would be two centuries that forced India to bat for the second time.

It was a sincere bowling effort as Kuldeep, Jasprit Bumrah, Siraj and Jadeja all played their part with timely dismissals.

The Indian bowling unit can take heart from the fact that they had to bowl for long across two innings in conditions which were not conducive for either spin or pace.

The dead pitch at the Feroz Shah Kotla didn't show any signs of wear and tear even well into the fourth day. (PTI)

### BRIEF SCORES:

India 518/5 dec and 63/1 in 18 overs (B Sai Sudharsan 30 not out, KL Rahul 25 not out; Jomel Warrican 1-15) trail West Indies 248 and 390 in 118.5 overs (John Campbell 115, Shai Hope 103; Jasprit Bumrah 3-44, Kuldeep Yadav 3-104) by 58 runs

## BWF World Jr C'ships

# India make strong start in individual events

## Lalthazuala, Vennala register easy wins

GUWAHATI

LALTHAZUALA Hmar and Vennala K registered convincing victories in their respective matches as Indian shuttlers began their individual campaigns in the BWF World Junior Championships with an all-win record here on Monday.

Having helped the team bag a historic bronze medal in the team championships, the seeded Indian players had a bye in the opening round, while the others had to get their campaign going before the bigger challenges at the National Centre of Excellence. Lalthazuala was the first Indian in action and the Mizoram shuttler needed just 14 minutes to pack off Ugan-



da's Denis Mukasa 15-4, 15-4. Later in the day, Gnana Dattu TT took time to overcome his nerves before beating Milan Mesterhazy of Hungary 5-15, 15-7, 15-7 in boys' singles, while Asian junior championships bronze medallist Vennala hammered Ireland's Siofra Flynn 15-1, 15-6 in girls' singles opening round. Dattu, who did not play

a single match in the team event, was the only Indian player to struggle on the opening day and the 17-year-old blamed his nerves for the wild start. The Hyderabad-born shuttler made too many errors in the opening game and looked completely out of sorts.

But he took control of the match in the second game

and dominated the proceedings thereafter.

"This is my first World Juniors and I was clearly nervous in the first game. Additionally, this is the second time that I was facing a European player and it took me time to understand their style of play. "But once I went to the better side in the second game, I was confident that I can win this match," said Dattu, who will face Joaquim Mendonca of Brazil in the second round.

The seeded players will begin their campaign on Tuesday and all Indian eyes will be on the girls' singles stars -- top seed Tanvi Sharma, eighth seed Unnati Hooda and the experienced Rakshit Sree. (PTI)

## ICC Women's ODI World Cup

# Nadine guides SA to 3-wkt win over Bangladesh

VISAKHAPATNAM

Nadine de Klerk demonstrated icy-cool demeanour under pressure and shepherded South Africa to a three-wicket win over Bangladesh in a thrilling Women's World Cup match here on Monday. Set 233, premier all-rounders Marizanne Kapp (56 off 71 balls) and Chloe Tryon (62 off 69 balls) struck vital fifties to help South Africa mount a remarkable fightback after they were tottering at 78 for five in the 23rd over, with an 85-run stand for the sixth wicket.

In the end, South Africa completed the task with three balls to spare. After their dismissals, Nadine de Klerk, who was dropped by Shorna Akter at long-off in the penultimate over, finished the job with a four and a six to remain unbeaten on 37 off 29

balls. De Klerk had also played a match winning knock against India. The dew was a problem for the Bangladesh spinners, who joined the party after young Shorna's blistering 35-ball 51 not out lifted Bangladesh to 232 for six after a slow start. Before the 18-year-old Shorna stepped on the accelerator, Sharmin Akter (50 off 77 balls) and captain Nigar Sultana (32 off 42) added 77 runs for the third wicket to anchor the Bangladesh innings.

### BRIEF SCORES:

Bangladesh: 232 for 6 in 50 overs (Shorna Akter 51 not out, Sharmin Akter 50; Nonkululeko Mlaba 2/42) lost to South Africa: 235 for 7 in 49.3 overs (Chloe Tryon 62, Marizanne Kapp 56, Nadine de Klerk 37 not out; Nahida Akter 2/44) by three wickets.



ICC WOMEN'S WC TABLE						
Team	M	W	L	PT	NRR	
AUS-W	4	3	0	7	1.353	
ENG-W	3	3	0	6	1.864	
SA-W	4	3	1	6	-0.618	
IND-W	4	2	2	4	0.682	
NZ-W	3	1	2	2	-0.245	
BAN-W	4	1	3	2	-0.263	
SL-W	3	0	2	1	-1.526	
PAK-W	3	0	3	0	-1.887	

# Assam Police invite eminent personalities to discuss Garg's post-mortem report

GUWAHATI

THE Assam Police on Monday said it has invited a few eminent members of the civil society to discuss the final post-mortem report, including the outcome of viscera analysis, of singer Zubeen Garg, who died in Singapore last month.

Speaking to reporters,

CID's Special DGP Munna Prasad Gupta said the report "will not be made public" but will be discussed with eminent people. "It is wrong that we are going to make the final post-mortem report public. We have invited a few eminent members of the civil society tomorrow at 4 pm. We will give them an update and show it to them," he said.

Gupta, however, did not mention the names of the eminent personalities whom the police have invited.

He stressed that the final post-mortem report, including the viscera analysis, will be presented before the court in due course of time.

The celebrated singer died under mysterious circumstances on September 19

while swimming in the sea. He had gone to Singapore to attend the 4th edition of the North East India Festival.

A Special Investigation Team (SIT) under the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the state police is currently probing the case after more than 60 FIRs were lodged across Assam.

Chief Minister Himanta

Biswa Sarma on Sunday said investigators have found a "definite angle" after they received the viscera report.

After Garg's second post-mortem examination at Gauhati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH), the viscera sample was sent to the Central Forensic Laboratory (CFL) in Delhi for a detailed examination. (PTI)



## Bihar Assembly Polls

# SBSP to contest 153 seats, says BJP top brass forewarned

BALLIA (UP)

IN a move seemingly driven by disappointment over not being allocated a seat in the upcoming Bihar polls, the SBSP, a member of the NDA, announced on Monday that it will contest 153 seats in the state.

Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) National General Secretary Arvind Rajbhar made the announcement, stating that the party will reveal its candidates for the Bihar elections at a press conference in Patna on Tuesday.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of an event in Ballia, Arvind Rajbhar said, "The SBSP will contest 153 seats in Bihar. The party has been expanding its organisation in Bihar for the last 19 years and demonstrating its strength through various programmes. Our effort was to strengthen the NDA in Bihar as well, as we are with the NDA in Uttar Pradesh."

Rajbhar claimed that the Bihar unit of the BJP provided a negative report regarding the strength of the SBSP, which resulted in the NDA denying them any seats.

"We have been voicing our



concerns for a long time. On May 1, 2025, we informed Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP national president JP Nadda. On May 5, we held a rally in Bihar and communicated to senior BJP leaders that if an alliance with the NDA was finalised, we would contest together; if not, we would contest alone," he explained.

He added that the party waited until Sunday for the matter to be finalised.

"We did not want to make a mistake on our part, so we waited for the decision of the NDA's top leadership. Now, we have decided that the SBSP will contest 153 seats in Bihar," Rajbhar said.

When asked about potential alliances with other parties, Rajbhar mentioned that there have been efforts made since Sunday. "We received an offer from the Rashtriya Janata Dal to contest five seats, but we have rejected it," he said, adding that he had also spoken with Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren and Tej Pratap Yadav.

In response to a question, Rajbhar clarified that the SBSP will remain aligned with the NDA in Uttar Pradesh and emphasised that they were not focused on defeating or winning against anyone in Bihar. "We will gather our votes regardless of who wins or loses," he added.

## Durgapur rape case

# Two more held; all five accused now in custody

KOLKATA

THE West Bengal Police on Monday arrested two more persons in connection with the alleged gang rape of a medical student in Durgapur, taking the total number of apprehensions in the case to five, a senior officer said.

The 23-year-old woman hailing from Jaleswar in Odisha's Balasore district was gang-raped on Friday night when she went outside the private medical college with a friend to have dinner.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Abhisekh Gupta of the Asansol-Durgapur Police Commissionerate told PTI, "Two more arrests have been made. With these, all five accused have been taken into custody based on the complaint filed by the woman."



Three persons were arrested on Sunday for their alleged involvement in the 'gang rape' of the student.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee described the incident as "shocking" and said her government has 'zero tolerance' for such crimes.

However, she also urged women

not to venture out alone late at night, a remark that drew sharp criticism from opposition parties and women's rights groups.

Leader of the Opposition in the state assembly, Suwendu Adhikari, alleged that at least one of the arrested accused is a Trinamool Congress

## RAJ THACKERAY WANTS CONG ON BOARD: RAUT

MUMBAI: The MNS wants the Congress should be taken along, Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut on Monday said, indicating that the Raj Thackeray-led party could be a part of the Opposition Maha Aghadi.

Raut's remarks came amid a buzz of cousins Raj Thackeray and Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray joining hands for the upcoming local body polls in the state, though it is still unclear if the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) head will be

part of the larger Opposition alliance.

Responding to a question on whether Raj Thackeray is ready to be part of the Maha Vikas Aghadi, Raut told reporters, "Even Raj Thackeray desires that the Congress, which is a constituent of the MVA, should be taken along. This is his stand."

"But this does not mean any decision has been taken on this," the Rajya Sabha member stressed.

Raut said he has spoken to AICC general secretary K C Venugopal on



"certain issues" and will also talk to Rahul Gandhi, leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha.

(TMC) worker.

Reacting to the claim, TMC spokesperson Debanshu Bhattacharya said, "Even if he is a party worker, it must be appreciated that the TMC has zero tolerance for crimes. Had this incident occurred in a BJP-ruled state, the accused would have been garlanded instead."

The incident has also triggered sharp reactions from neighbouring Odisha, with Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi urging his West Bengal counterpart to ensure the strictest punishment for the culprits.

Odisha State Commission for Women (OSCW) chairperson Sovana Mohanty will also reach West Bengal during the day and she would speak to the survivor and check her health condition, and meet her parents and hold discussions with the local police. (PTI)

Uddhav Thackeray will also talk to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, he said.

A section of state Congress leaders has, however, opposed any move to join hands with the MNS, especially ahead of the upcoming Bihar assembly polls.

Everyone has a place in state politics. The way Shiv Sena (UBT) has, MNS also has a place, so does Sharad Pawar-led NCP (SP) and the Left parties, Raut said.



**-Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Agri Minister**

Value Gold, a gold trading brand, has forayed into Andhra Pradesh with opening of multiple branches in Vizag, Vijayawada, and Kurnool. Abhishek Chanda, Director, Value Gold, said: "We are thrilled to bring Value Gold's trusted services to AP. Over the past two years, we have proudly served more than 10,000 happy customers across Telangana, and this expansion is a natural next step in our growth journey."

“Tariff escalation concerns—particularly after the U.S. President’s statement on the possibility of imposing an additional 100% duty on Chinese goods—triggered risk aversion across global equities, which in turn dampened domestic sentiment,” Ajit Mishra – SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd said.





## Chiranjeevi meets Hyderabad CP Sajjanar

**M**EGASTAR Chiranjeevi paid a courtesy call on Hyderabad Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar. He met Sajjanar, presented him with a bouquet of flowers, and wished him well on his recent assumption of office as Hyderabad CP.

Chiranjeevi and Sajjanar share a good rapport. During Sajjanar's previous stint as Cyberabad CP, both participated in several programs together to raise public awareness about the importance of plasma



donation during the Corona pandemic. The megastar is currently acting in the film 'Mana

Shankara Varaprasad', directed by Anil Ravipudi. The film will be released as a Sankranti gift.

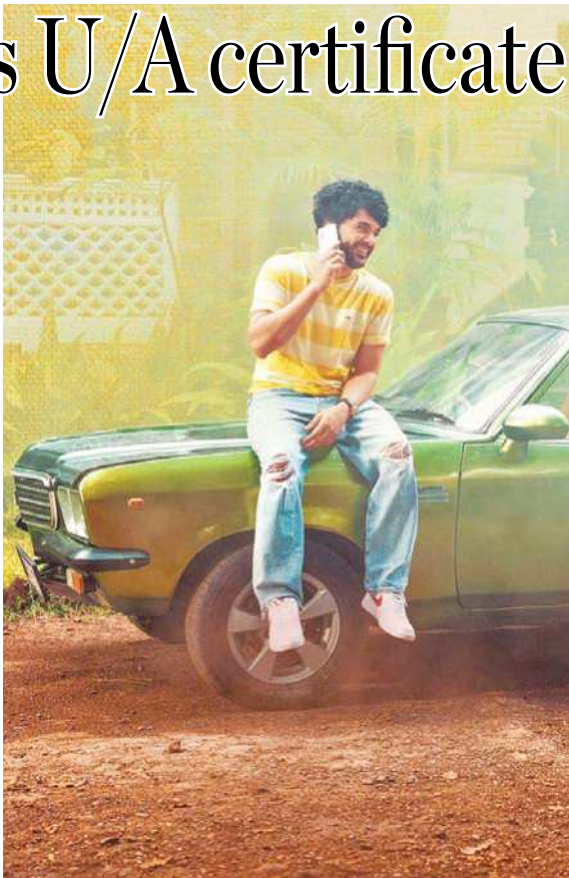
## 'Telusu Kada' gets U/A certificate

**S**TAR Boy Siddu Jonnalagadda is gearing up for a festive release as his much-anticipated youthful love saga 'Telusu Kada' will hit the screens this Diwali on October 17th, just five days away. The film, which marks the directorial debut of popular stylist Neeraja Kona under the esteemed banner of People Media Factory, produced by TG Vishwa Prasad and Krithi Prasad, has successfully cleared its censor hurdle, securing a 'U/A' certificate.

Reports are completely positive, which bodes well for the movie. Expectations have indeed reached new heights. The makers have finalized an optimal runtime of 2 hours and 16 minutes, ensuring a tight and engaging experience with no dull or unnecessary moments. With such a crisp runtime, it is expected to be racy from start to finish.

'Telusu Kada' features a compelling ensemble led by Siddu Jonnalagadda, Srinidhi Shetty, and Raashii Khanna. It's a contemporary love story, highly relatable to today's youth, enriched with unexpected twists and layered complexities surrounding the central trio.

Siddu Jonnalagadda plays a lively character, and his youthful charm and screen presence are sure to entertain. Srinidhi Shetty and Raashii Khanna light up the screen with their glamour, while Viva Harsha promises solid comic relief in a significant role.



## Thaman introduces Mishra Brothers' magic



**'G**OD of the Masses' Nandamuri Balakrishna and blockbuster director Boyapati Srinu's dynamic and powerful fourth collaboration, the much-awaited high-octane sequel 'Akhandam 2: Tandavam', is in the final stages of post-production. Ram Achanta and Gopichand Achanta are ambitiously producing this project under the banner 14 Reels Plus, with M Tejaswini Nandamuri proudly presenting it. The already released teaser of 'Akhandam 2' has created a huge buzz and enthralled fans. Sensational composer Thaman has recently begun the background score for 'Akhandam 2'.

Brothers Pandit Shrivani Mishra and Pandit Atul Mishra, known for their mesmerizing recitation of Sanskrit verses, are making their debut in the film industry with this project. In the background score composed by Thaman, the Mishra brothers will enchant audiences with powerful Sanskrit verses and Vedic mantras, promising to give goosebumps and elevate the spiritual intensity of the film. Thaman's high-voltage score is set to deliver an electrifying cinematic experience.

Samyukta plays the lead role in the film, while Aadhi Pinisetty portrays a powerful character. Harshali Malhotra will be seen in a crucial role.

C. Ramprasad and Santosh D. Detake are handling cinematography, while Tamiraj serves as the editor and AS Prakash as the art director. Backed by a powerhouse team and immense expectations, 'Akhandam 2: Tandavam' is poised to deliver a grand blend of spirituality, action, and visual splendor. The film is set for a worldwide theatrical release on December 5, 2025.

## 'Mithra Mandali' gets U/A certificate

**T**HE upcoming entertainer 'Mithra Mandali', starring Priyadarshi and Niharika NM in the lead roles, has successfully completed its censor formalities and received a U/A certificate. Directed by Vijayendra, the film is produced by Kalyan Manthana, Bhanu Prathap, and Dr. Vijayendra Reddy Teegala under Saptaashva Media Works in association with B.V. Works, and presented by Bunny Vas. The movie is all set for a grand theatrical release on October 16.



The censor board appreciated the film for its wholesome entertainment and sharp satire on various social systems. They praised the makers for blending buddy comedy with thought-provoking humor, making it a film that appeals to all sections of the audience. Featuring a fun and emotional track between Priyadarshi and Niharika, the film also stars Vishnu Oi, Rag Mayur, and Prasad Behara in key comic roles. Adding to the laughter are Vennela Kishore, Satya, and VTV Ganesh, while Brahmanandam appears in a special surprise role. With strong positive buzz, 'Mithra Mandali' is gearing up for a grand release on October 16.



## RAM POTHINENI'S 'ANDHRA KING' TEASER CELEBRATES CINEMA

**A** celebration of cinema unlike never before — the wholesome teaser of Energetic Star Ram Pothineni, directed by Mahesh Babu P and produced by Mythri Movie Makers, for 'Andhra King Taluka' is out now.

Energetic Star Ram Pothineni's much-awaited unique entertainer 'Andhra King Taluka', directed by Mahesh Babu P and produced by the Pan-India production house Mythri Movie Makers, is in the final phase of production. Bhagyashree Borse plays the leading lady, while Upenendra will be seen as an on-screen superhero. Vivek & Mervin composed the music, and the two songs released so far have become chartbusters. Today, the makers unveiled the teaser, offering a glimpse into Ram's character and the film's premise.

The protagonist grows up worshipping films and admiring the Andhra King. As a devoted fan, he celebrates his favorite star's successes and even gets into fights defending him. But just as deeply as he loves his hero, there's a girl who loves him with equal intensity. The teaser concludes with a hard-hitting dialogue delivered by Murali Sharma.

Ram Pothineni completely immerses himself in the role



of a movie fan. Every hero's admirer will see a bit of themselves in this character. Ram performs with infectious energy, and his charming smile makes the character even more appealing. Bhagyashree Borse plays Ram's love interest with grace and expressiveness. Rao Ramesh and Tulasi appear as Ram's parents, while Satya provides comic relief as his friend. Murali Sharma leaves an impression with a single impactful scene.

Director Mahesh Babu P, who delivered a big hit with his debut film, returns with another compelling story. His dialogues are impactful and relatable to the average audience. The teaser is smartly cut, blending all the essential elements seamlessly.

Siddharth Nuni's cinematography beautifully captures the vibrant first-day-first-show atmosphere and the rustic charm of village life. Vivek-Mervin's background score enhances the teaser's moods, adding depth and energy to the visuals. The production values from Mythri Movie Makers are top-notch. Sreekar Prasad serves as the editor, and Avinash Kolla as the production designer.

It's truly a celebration of cinema like never before, offering wholesome entertainment. The teaser packs all the right ingredients, generating a strong buzz for the film. Expectations have risen considerably, and 'Andhra King Taluka' is set for a grand theatrical release on November 28.

## 'Takshakudu' set for Netflix

**T**HE talented young actor Anand Deverakonda stars in 'Takshakudu', an intense action drama directed by Vinod Anantojy and made exclusively for Netflix. The duo previously delivered the critically acclaimed hit 'Middle Class Melodies', and their reunion has already sparked major curiosity among movie lovers.

Produced by S. Naga Vamsi and Sai Soujanya, 'Takshakudu' features Nitanshi Goel as the female lead.

Netflix officially announced the film's arrival today with a striking poster carrying the tagline: "In the hunter's story, the deer are always the culprits." The poster shows Anand Deverakonda holding a gun, with a village burning in the background—a visual that immediately builds intrigue. Early buzz suggests 'Takshakudu' will be a bold and unique addition to Anand Deverakonda's career, marking his most intense and different attempt yet.



## Grand launch of 'Meghana' teaser

**A**youth-oriented crime and suspense thriller film titled 'Meghana' is all set to hit the Telugu silver screen soon. Featuring 'Chitram' Srinivas, Sushma, and Ram Bandaru in the lead roles, the film is directed by Sudhakar Reddy Varra and produced by Nandi Venkat Reddy under the banner of Sri Shiva Sai Films. The poster and teaser launch event was held grandly at the Telugu Film Chamber, Hyderabad, with several film celebrities gracing the occasion.

Speaking at the event, hero 'Chitram' Srinivas said, "This film is being made with strong content and

will surely become a success. I believe it will add another hit to my career. I thank the director and producer for giving me this opportunity."

Heroine Sushma said, "Since the beginning, everyone in the team has been very supportive. I'm happy to have been given a chance to play the lead role. My father passed away three years ago, and I haven't celebrated my birthday since."

But celebrating it during this press meet made me feel deeply emotional and happy. This movie will be a special milestone in my life." Director Sudhakar Reddy Varra shared, "Though it's a small production, we made this movie with big dreams. Despite facing several challenges, we completed it within two years. The story mainly revolves around human

emotions and relationships. I'm confident audiences will connect deeply with it."

Producer Nandi Venkat Reddy stated, "We've made this film with a strong social message and designed it to appeal to family audiences. The story is engaging and entertaining for all age groups. We will soon announce the release date."

Chief guests — director Sanjeev Mogoti, 'Meelo Okadu' movie hero Kuppli Srinivas, and noted actors 'Gharshana' Srinivas, Lankela Ashok Reddy, and Dhanunjay — praised the teaser, saying, "It looks gripping and fresh. Making a crime suspense thriller with new talent is truly inspiring. We sincerely wish the entire team great success."

The movie is currently in its final post-production stage and will soon be released in theatres.



## 'K-Ramp' promises fun entertainment

**S**UCCESSFUL actor Kiran Abbavaram is set to entertain audiences in the upcoming film 'K-Ramp'. The movie is jointly produced by prominent production houses Hasya Movies and Rudransh Celluloid, with rising producers Ramesh Danda and Shiva Bommak supporting the project. Directed by Jains Nani, 'K-Ramp' is slated for a grand theatrical release on October 18, coinciding with the Diwali festival.

In a recent interview, director Jains Nani shared insights into the film. "We chose the title 'K-Ramp' because it fits the story and the hero's character, Kumar. While some might assume it's a vulgar term, we never intended it that way. The character faces various challenges, and the term 'ramp' aligned perfectly with his journey. Other titles were considered, but this one was catchy and memorable," he explained.

Addressing concerns about the trailer, Nani said, "Although a few lines may seem edgy, 'K-Ramp' is very much a family film. Our aim is to attract youth first, as they will bring their families to theatres. The story is relatable for all audiences. While some films rely on isolated 'moments', 'K-Ramp' has a solid storyline with engaging sequences. The interval block will also be a surprise."

Nani shared details about the film's preparation. "I studied at IIT Madras, where I made short films that encour-

aged me to step into Tollywood. Kiran Abbavaram's involvement helped refine the script based on his energy and body language. During scripting, he contributed ideas without interfering. We completed shooting in 47 days with no wastage," he said.

The heroine, Yukti, underwent workshops and rehearsals to perfectly fit her role. "The first half focuses on the hero, while the second half highlights the heroine. Both have strong performance arcs, ensuring audiences stay engaged," added Nani.

The film introduces freshness through its Kerala backdrop, bringing in new visuals, local flavor, and unique humor. The background score incorporates Kerala's musical elements, complementing the three songs in the movie.

Nani concluded, "With tough competition this Diwali, our teaser and trailer have already received a strong response. We invite audiences to theatres for guaranteed fun. Kamalini Jethmalani appears in a small guest role with hilarious scenes alongside Nareesh. Personally, I love energetic, fun-filled films, and 'K-Ramp' delivers just that. Some new projects are in discussion, which I will reveal after the release."

With its blend of comedy, drama, and engaging storytelling, 'K-Ramp' promises to be a fun-filled cinematic experience for both youth and family audiences.

