



THE Hans India



Efforts on to prevent PDS rice diversion via check posts
Minister for Civil Supplies Nadendla Manohar on Monday said that three internal check posts have been set up in Visakhapatnam Port area to monitor vehicles continuously carrying rice.

P3

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

Two more arrested in medico gang-rape case
Two more persons were arrested on Monday in connection with the alleged gang-rape of a 23-year-old medical student in West Bengal's Durgapur, taking the total number of arrests in the case to five, police said.

P5

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

Simultaneously published from Hyderabad | Warangal | Tirupati | Vijayawada | Visakhapatnam | Khammam | Kurnool | Delhi

For Advertisement Pl Call: 8498084260

Follow @ / thehansindia / thehansindiaweb / thehansindia / TheHansIndiaWeb / thehansindia

Book your Copy: 97055 55551

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).

Trust, Reliability & Service
Synonymous with **Kapil Chits**

44
Consistent Values Since 44 Years

Visit Us: www.kapilchits.com

KAPIL CHITS
SMALL SAVINGS GROW BIG WITH KAPIL

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

CHEQUE BAN!

Earlier, it took three days to clear a cheque. Now, thanks to same-day clearing, nobody knows when it'll clear

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 North-western University (US), Philippe Aghion of the Collège de France and IN-SEAD (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

'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

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, Gunur 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

- Excise minister, along with APSRTC Chairman Konakalla Narayana Rao and Krishna district collector DK Balaji inaugurate the shopping festival

- Dignitaries visited various stalls and interacted with traders to discuss the discount percentages being offered following the reduction in GST

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



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

that the GST on life-saving medicines has been 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 com-

mented 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.

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.

Rehabilitation and Upgradation of Existing road from Mydukur to Mudireddipalli Section of NH-167B

2nd Public Notice
(Under section 3(E) of NH Act, 1956)

Announcement of Award for acquisition of land for Rehabilitation and upgradation from KM 0/0 to 43/097 of Mydukur to Singarayakonda (via) Porumamilla, Seetharamapuram, C.S. Puram and Kandalur Two/Four lane with paved shoulders configuration in the state of Andhra Pradesh under EPC mode on NH-167B for land owners/ persons interested therein and payment of compensation Amount.

Kind attention of all landowners/ interested persons is invited to the Public Notice published in the following Newspapers informing them regarding.

→Announcement of award.

→Calling upon them of collect the compensation amount within a period of 60 days; and

→Requesting the landowners to handover the land to the undersigned.

SI No	Names of the Newspapers in which published	Date of Newspaper
1	Andhra Prabha (Telugu)	03.08.2025
2	Hans India (English)	03.08.2025

The prescribed time of 60 days has expired on 02.10.2025

The compensation amount in respect of Landowners who has furnished their Bank Account details has been credited to their respective accounts. Further, Bhumirasi Portal Payments have also been made to those who approached this office during this period. As regards the payment of the compensation amount to the balance land owners, they are again advised to approach this office for getting their payments at the earliest as the amount already stands tendered vide Public Notice dated. 03.08.2025.

Accordingly, all landowners/interested persons are hereby called upon to handover the possession of the acquired land to the undersigned immediately, failing which the same shall be take. which the police assistance in accordance with sub-section (2) of Section 3E of the NH Act, 1956

Sd/- Competent Authority (L.A.) & Revenue Divisional Officer, Badvel.

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 Sultanagaram 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 Sultanagaram 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

REGIONAL OFFICE : VISAKHAPATNAM-I
9-29-15/7, Padmavathi Towers, Balaji Nagar, Siripuram, Visakhapatnam-530003

POSSESSION NOTICE
(SECTION 13(4)) (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **Canara Bank** under Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a **Demand Notice dated 25.07.2025** calling upon the **Borrower/Guarantors : 1) M/s. Sri Krishna Agro Farms, Door No 1-1, Sunkapur, Kotavurtha Mandal, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. 2) Smt. Chitkila Venamma, C/o Chitkila Mehar Eswar, Nalla Matamma Temple, Sunkapur, 3) Sri. Chitkila Mehar Eswar Rao, C/o Chitkila Swami Naidu, Halla Maramma Temple, Sunkapur, Visakhapatnam Dist.** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.1,00,84,215.80 (Rupees One Crore Eighty Four Thousand Two Hundred Fifteen and Eighty Paise Only)** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(s) and the public in general, that the undersigned has taken **possession of the property** described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rule on this 9th day of October, 2025.

The borrower(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Canara Bank, Narsipatnam Branch** for an amount of **Rs.1,00,84,215.80 (Rupees One Crore Eighty Four Thousand Two Hundred Fifteen and Eighty Paise Only)** and interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Section 13 (8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property
ASSET ID:400078198944 : Visakhapatnam District, Present Anakapalli District, Kotavurtha Sub registry, kotavurtha Mandal, Sunkapur Village in survey No.206 an extent of Ac 1.32 or 0.533 hectares of 6388.8 Sq yds with the following **Boundaries: East : Road, South : Land belongs to Chitkila Mehar Eswar Rao, West : Land belongs to Chinthakayala Lovaraju, North : Land belongs to Chitkila Bhaskara rao**

Date : 09-10-2025
Place: Visakhapatnam

Sd/- **Authorised Officer**
Canara Bank

Efforts on to prevent PDS rice diversion via check posts

- Minister Manohar says check posts will work 24 hours round the clock in three shifts and 33 staffers have been appointed for the purpose
- Asserts that strong measures are being taken to ensure that the rice provided by the government does not get diverted and land in black market
- Informes that 700 mobile rapid kits have been made available to identify whether the stock is PDS rice or not

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

MINISTER for Civil Supplies Nadendla Manohar on Monday said that three internal check posts have been set up in Visakhapatnam Port area to monitor vehicles continuously carrying rice.

Speaking to the media here, the Minister said that these check posts will work 24 hours round the clock in three shifts and 33 staff have been appointed for the purpose.

He mentioned that many reforms have been brought in the civil supplies department. The government is

providing quality fortified rice to the people through the civil supplies department and that strong measures are being taken to ensure that the rice provided by the government does not get diverted and land in black market, he stressed.

Further, Manohar said that 700 mobile rapid kits have been made available to identify whether the stock is PDS rice or not.

He mentioned that these rapid kits will contain bottles of potassium thiocyanate and hydrochloric acid. He said that if these solutions are sprinkled on the fortified rice supplied by the government, it turns



Minister for Civil Supplies Nadendla Manohar addressing the media in Visakhapatnam on Monday

red, but the colour does not change for the rice sold in shops in the open market.

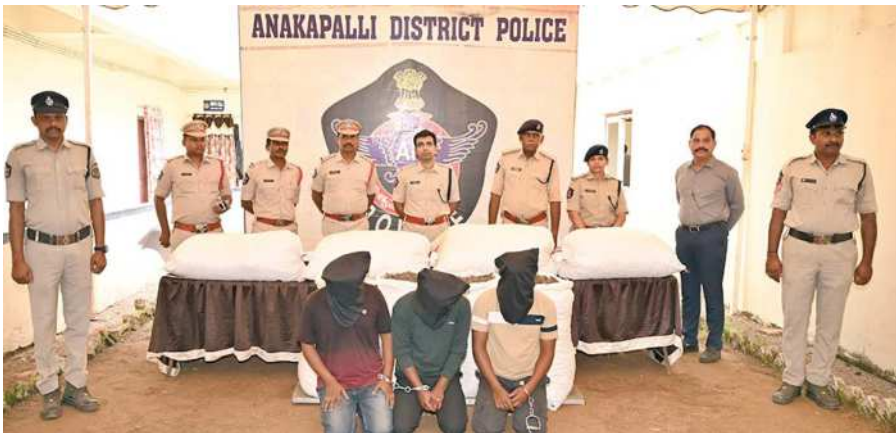
Further, Nadendla Manohar stated that in the past, it was difficult to prove in court after sending illegal rice to the lab, and these rapid kits will enable immediate identification and seizure. The Civil Supplies Minister informed that 4.42 crore people in the

State have been provided with smart rice cards with QR codes, and 89 percent of them are getting rice through these cards.

Speaking about the previous government's failure, the minister mentioned that the previous government seized 5.35 lakh quintals of rice in five years, and the NDA government has seized 5.65 lakh quintals of rice worth

245 crore in the last 14 months. So far, 230 criminal cases have been filed and the investigation is underway in the courts, he added.

Civil Supplies Corporation MD Manjeer Jilani, Joint Collector Mayur Ashok, Civil Supplies Corporation DM Srilatha and District Civil Supplies Officer Bhaskara Rao participated in the meeting.



Superintendent of Police Tuhin Sinha and DSP Shravani briefing the media in Anakapalli district on Monday

276 KG GANJA WORTH RS 13.7L SEIZED

HANS NEWS SERVICE
ANAKAPALLI

CHODAVARAM police in Anakapalli district seized 276-kg of ganja worth Rs.13.75 lakh and arrested three persons involved in the case.

Speaking to the media here on Monday, Anakapalli Superintendent of Police Tuhin Sinha informed that after receiving reliable information, Chodavaram Inspector P Appala Raju,

sub inspectors B Naga Kartik and B Jogarao along with the staff identified that packed ganja while transporting in a vehicle.

The ganja and vehicles were seized, he added.

B Mohan Babu, V Venkata Rao and B Vijay Kumar were identified as accused in the case and they were arrested.

V Devadas, B Chandra Khan and K Surendra were also involved in the case and are absconding, Anakapalli

sub-division DSP Shravani mentioned.

She informed that special teams have been formed to nab the other accused who were involved in the case.

Tuhin Sinha congratulated the police team for seizing the cannabis and nabbing the accused.

Additional SPs M Devaprasad and L Mohan Rao, Anakapalli Sub-Division DSP P Srinivasa Rao, and other officers were present.

‘Indians should follow the Swadeshi slogan’

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

BJP BC leader Mula Venkata Rao on Monday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is campaigning the Swadeshi movement as intense as the one carried by the freedom fighters during the pre-Independence era.

He pointed out the lack of inspiration for the Swadeshi slogan during the Congress rule. He underlined the need for a collective effort for the Swadeshi campaign.



BJP BC leader Mula Venkata Rao

The BJP BC called on the people to follow the path of economic self-reliance and urged them to use local products, boycotting foreign goods.

Venkat Rao said that although the previous Congress governments made efforts for industrial development, they neglected the Khadi sector.

He said that four elements give immense power for any nation and they include vision, planning, perseverance and honesty.

Training on developing core competencies kicks off

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

THE Integral Institute of Advanced Management in collaboration with Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam inaugurated a 10-day training-cum-workshop on 'core competencies development' for Naval Dockyard foreman and charge man here on Monday.

Ujjwal Kumar Ghatak, Academic Advisor of Defence Programmes highlighted the importance of continuous professional learning and leadership competency among defence personnel. Imtiyaz Arshad, CEO



Dockyard foreman and charge man at the workshop held in Visakhapatnam on Monday

and secretary, HPCL-SDI, stressed the distinction between leadership and management, stating that every leader is a manager, but every

manager cannot become a leader. Cdr. Adesh Pal Singh, director (Admin) spoke about the relevance of upskilling

programmes to meet the evolving challenges in defence management and technology.

M Mutyala Naidu, former

Vice-Chancellor, Adikavi Nannaya University, encouraged participants to adopt a proactive learning mindset to stay relevant in dynamic professional environments.

B Krishna Kumari, secretary, NIPM Visakhapatnam chapter, SP Ravindra, dean and secretary, READ Group of Educational Institutions spoke during the inaugural session.

The workshop will continue over the next 10 days, focusing on building leadership competencies, managerial effectiveness, and adaptive skills among the Naval Dockyard's technical and supervisory personnel.

Durga temple EO stresses devotees' convenience

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

KANAKA Durga temple executive officer V K Seena Naik has urged all employees to think innovatively and take proactive steps to enhance the convenience of devotees during the upcoming Karthika Masam and Bhavani Deeksha. He held a meeting with temple staff, the Vedic Committee, and engineering officials at his chamber at the Mallikharjuna Maha Mandapam atop Indrakeeladri here on Monday. Speaking at a meeting, the EO emphasised the need to implement plans ensuring a satisfying darshan of Sri Kanaka Durga Devi. He appreciated the attention and patience of the staff during Dasara Sharanavaratri celebrations and noted that expectations from the administration have risen. Naik highlighted that the negligence would be tolerated,

ated, and urged cooperation for further improvements at Indrakeeladri. The EO also instructed the discussion of 66 agenda items and completion of all tasks within deadlines, stressing coordinated efforts between the Board of Trustees and temple administration.

Executive engineer Rambabu, assistant commissioner Ranga Rao, assistant executive officers Chandrasekhar, Ramesh Babu, Sudharani, Gangadhar, Tirumaleswara Rao, Srinivas and Vedic Committee members Anjaneya Ghana Pati and Sridhar Sharma attended the meeting. Meanwhile, information & public relations director K S Viswanathan visited Sri Kanakadurga temple on Monday. He was welcomed with Vedic rituals, and offered blessings in the inner sanctum. He received tirtha prasadam and a portrait of the goddess from the chief priests.



Temple priest presenting a portrait to I & PR director K S Viswanathan atop Indrakeeladri in Vijayawada on Monday



Kanaka Durga Temple EO Seena Naik holding a meeting with the staff, Vedic committee and engineering officials at his chamber atop Indrakeeladri in Vijayawada on Monday

- States that no negligence on the part of staff in discharging their duties will be tolerated

Invitation for selection of school library books

HANS NEWS SERVICE
GUNTUR

THE state project director of Samagra Shiksha, B Srinivasa Rao announced that publications and authors are invited to submit books for selection for school libraries in government educational institutions across the state, for students studying from Class 1 to Class 12. The books include extracurricular materials such as stories, comics and literature.

Publishers and authors are requested to send one copy of each book by 30 October 2025 to State Project Director, Samagra Shiksha, KBC Zilla Parishad High School (Baluru) Campus, High School Road, Patamata, Vijayawada - 520 010.

After initial approval by the Director, SCERT, the state committee will make the final decision.

Subsequently, the books will be considered for purchase through a tender process.

Traffic chaos as heavy rain lashes Vijayawada

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

HEAVY rain lashed Vijayawada and several parts of the erstwhile Krishna district on Monday, throwing normal life out of gear and once again exposing the city's poor drainage infrastructure.

The sudden downpour which began in the morning and continued till evening caused severe waterlogging across major roads and residential areas, creating hardships for commuters and pedestrians alike.

According to official data, Krishna district recorded 42 mm of rainfall, with an average of 1.6 mm across the region. Key junctions including Mahatma Gandhi Road

(MG Road), Benz Circle, Gunadala, Padavala Revu, Ramavarappadu Ring, Mogalrajapuram, Ajit Singh Nagar, and One Town were heavily inundated, resulting in long traffic snarls. Low-lying areas near the railway underbridge and Eluru Road also witnessed flooding, severely hampering evening traffic flow. Commercial activities were hit as shopkeepers in major business zones reported a sharp drop in customers. Several establishments were forced to shut early as rainwater entered their premises.

The road near Pinnamani Poly Clinic— from Mother Teresa Junction to Nirmala High School Junction—was completely waterlogged,

submerging two-wheelers and blocking traffic. The lack of a proper drainage system caused rainwater and household wastewater to overflow onto the streets.

Traffic congestion from Benz Circle to Ramavarappadu Ring on the National Highway added to public woes. Although Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) officials deployed motors to drain water temporarily, residents demanded a permanent solution. Further, they alleged that even moderate rainfall results in flooding every year.

Citizens urged the civic body to expedite stormwater drain works and ensure effective measures to prevent flooding during future rains.

5,900 banned cold/cough syrups worth Rs 4.5L seized

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

DRUGS control officials on Monday seized 5,900 prohibited cold and cough syrups worth Rs.4.5 lakh from a wholesale medical agency in Visakhapatnam as the combination is prohibited for use among children below four years of age.

Under the directions of Girisha, Director General, Drugs Control Administration and supervision of S Vijaya Kumar, assistant director, Drugs Control, Visakhapatnam, Drugs Inspector M Srinivas Rao seized around 5,900 bottles of cold/cough syrups worth Rs.4.5

- The seized material will be produced before the court for further orders
- Drugs Inspector warns that stringent legal action will be taken against any licensee selling prohibited combinations
- The raid was done at Kirby Life Sciences, a wholesale medical agency in Marripalem, Visakhapatnam

lakh from Kirby Life Sciences, a wholesale medical agency at Marripalem, Visakhapatnam.

The syrups that contain a combination of Chlorphe-



Drugs Control officials seizing the prohibited cold and cough syrups in Visakhapatnam on Monday



2 Seized prohibited cold and cough syrup boxes in Visakhapatnam on Monday

niramine Maleate plus Phenylephrine Hydrochloride have been prohibited for use among children below four years of age.

Manufactured by Bajaj Formulations, Bhagwanpur, Roorkee, Haridwar, Uttarakhand, the label of the seized syrups failed to carry the mandatory warning, "Not to be used in children below four years of age."

Due to this omission, the officials mentioned that there is a potential risk of using the syrups for children.

A case has been registered against the manufacturer under Section 26A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, and 5,900 bottles worth Rs.4.5

lakh have been seized.

The seized material will be produced before the court for further orders.

In view of the recent incidents of child deaths in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan due to contaminated cough syrups, the Drugs Inspector warned that stringent legal action will be taken against any licensee selling prohibited combinations, and no cold/cough syrup for children should be sold without a valid prescription from a registered medical practitioner.

A case has been registered against the Uttarakhand-based manufacturer Bajaj Formulations.

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 project 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

SRIKALAHASTI 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 Jayachandrababu 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.



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

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.

Two more arrested in medico gang-rape case



KOLKATA

TWO more persons were arrested on Monday in connection with the alleged gang-rape of a 23-year-old medical student in West Bengal's Durgapur, taking the total number of arrests in the case to five, police said. Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) of Asansol-Durgapur Police Commissionerate, Abhishek Gupta, said, "Two more arrests have been made. With these, all five accused have been taken into custody on the basis of the complaint filed by the survivor."

The second-year student of a private medical college in Durgapur, hailing from Jaleswar in Odisha's Balasore district, was allegedly gang-raped on Friday night when

she went outside the college campus with a male friend to have dinner.

According to police sources, the student had initially submitted a brief written statement of three to four lines to the college authorities, stating that she and her friend were walking outside the campus when they were suddenly surrounded by a group of men who then assaulted her. The statement was later forwarded to the police, following which an FIR was lodged and an investigation initiated.

Based on the student's complaint, the police determined that the incident occurred between 8 pm and 8.45 pm on Friday. Investigators said that three men initially surrounded the student and snatched away

her phone when she tried to call her friends for help. Two more persons later joined them, and together the five men allegedly raped her. The accused also offered her Rs 5,000 to leave quietly, police sources said.

The survivor's male friend, who was accompanying her, is currently under police detention for questioning. Investigators said his movements and conduct on the night of the incident have raised suspicion. According to the survivor's father, who has also filed a separate complaint, the friend fled the scene when the accused surrounded the woman.

Police sources said investigators are examining why he did not alert other students or seek help from the col-

PRAVATI CRITICISES MAMATA'S ADVICE TO FEMALE BOARDERS

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR

THE Odisha government on Monday termed West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's advice to female boarders to not venture out late at night as "disappointing," Odisha's Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida, who is also in charge of the Women and Child Development department, strongly denounced Banerjee's advice to female boarders not to go out at night. "A woman leader like Mamata Banerjee, who is known as 'Didi' (elder sister) and a female Chief Minister, has disappointed women with her statement that girls should not go out at night. Her statement has surprised not only me but also the four crore ninety lakh women of West Bengal. Her statement has astonished and insulted all women," Parida said in a post on X.

"Instead of delivering justice to the victim, the West Bengal Chief Minister has no right to bring gender inequality and raise questions on the rights of girls. Moreover, if you have no sympathy for an Odia girl victim, then let them write to the Odisha government. We can look after our children even in your State," Parida said, adding that it is "extremely condemnable not to feel ashamed."

"If girls do not expect empathy, safety and rights from a female Chief Minister, then from whom will they seek it?" she asked in the social media post.

Banerjee on Sunday said, "Students staying in hostels, especially those who have come to West Bengal to study from outside the State, are expected to follow the rules of the hostels. They should avoid venturing out late at night, although they have the fundamental right to go wherever they want," Banerjee made the averment after a student of a private medical college in Durgapur, hailing from Odisha, was allegedly gang-raped on Friday night when she went out with a friend for dinner.

The Odisha Deputy Chief Minister, in another post said, "Women empowerment is not only a scheme; it is a commitment to the cause." Earlier, a team of the Odisha State Commission for Women, headed by its chairperson, Sovana Mohanty, on Monday left for West Bengal to meet the medical student who was undergoing treatment at a hospital in Durgapur after her alleged gang-rape on Friday evening.

lege after fleeing. The three accused arrested earlier were produced before the Durgapur Sub-Divisional Court on Sunday and remanded to 10 days of police custody. Searches were underway for others who may have been involved or have knowledge of the crime, police said.



Nuapada by-poll nomination process begins

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR

The nomination filing process for Nuapada by-poll began on Monday with the issuance of a notification in this regard, even as the State's two major political parties - the BJP and BJD - are yet to announce the names of their candidates.

The Congress has named Ghasiram Majhi as its candidate, and he is set to file nomination papers on October 19, OPCC president Bhakta Charan Das said. Odisha's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) R S Gopalan said with the issuance of the notification, the by-election process has officially started. He said the candidates can file nomination papers from Monday till October 20, and the papers will be scrutinised on October 22, and the last date for withdrawal is October 24.

As per the notification, polling will take place on November 11 and counting of votes is scheduled for November 14, he said. The CEO said over 2.53 lakh voters will exercise their democratic rights in 358 booths, of which 56 are new ones. The number of voters in each booth will not exceed 1,200 as per the direction of the ECI.

According to the notification, the polling will be held in 47 sensitive and left-wing extremism (LWE)-infested booths from 7 am to 4 pm, while the voting time in other booths will be from 7 am to 5 pm. The CEO said adequate force would be mobilised, keeping in view the significance of the by-poll. "We have requisitioned a chopper for transportation of voting materials and officials to eight booths in interior and remote areas. As many as 14 companies of Central Armed Police Force would be deployed apart from the State police to ensure a peaceful election at Nuapada," Gopalan said.



BJP, BJD set to name candidates

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR

The BJP's parliamentary party will announce the name of the candidate for Nuapada by-poll, Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari said.

Sources in the Opposition BJD said that party president Naveen Pattnaik rushed a team of senior leaders, including vice president Debi Prasad Mishra, party's women wing chief Snehangini Chhuria, former minister Tukuni Sahu and others to Nuapada.

They will meet the party's district-level leaders and submit names of candidates for the by-poll to the BJD president. Pattnaik will finally announce the name of the candidate, Mishra said.

Odisha BJP's core committee, comprising party State president Manmohan Samal, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and others, have held a detailed discussion on the candidate selection and sent its views to the Parliamentary Committee. The name of the BJP candidate will be announced in Delhi, sources said.

Meanwhile, the district police and personnel of the CRPF held flag march at Nuapada town to boost confidence of the people, a senior police officer said, adding that nine check posts are set up on Odisha-Chhattisgarh border to prevent the entry of any unwanted men and materials, including cash and liquor.

Check posts have also been set up at the entry point to Nuapada from neighbouring Kalahandi, Bolangir and Bargarh districts. The by-poll in the Nuapada Assembly segment was necessitated after the demise of sitting Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MLA Rajendra Dholakia, a

former minister and four-time legislator, who died on September 8, 2025, at the age of 68. In the 2024 Assembly elections, Dholakia had retained the seat with a margin of over 10,000 votes, defeating Independent candidate Ghasiram Majhi, who this time will be the Congress candidate. This will be the first by-election in Odisha after the BJP formed the government in the State.

Rajendra Dholakia's son Jay, who was tipped to become a the BJD candidate on Saturday, joined the ruling BJP. However, Jay's name was yet to be officially announced as the BJP candidate.

AIIMS lab attendant shot dead



HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR

A laboratory attendant of AIIMS Bhubaneswar was shot dead by unidentified persons in the city on Monday when he was on his way to the hospital, police said. The deceased has been identified as Sudhanshu Khuntia. He was working as a lab attendant in AIIMS through outsourcing, an official said.

According to the police, Khuntia was going to AIIMS Bhubaneswar on his motorcycle. At around 8 am, some miscreants chased him and opened fire on him near Ransinghpur. Locals shifted him to the AIIMS, where doctors declared him dead.

Getting information, a team from Khandagiri police station rushed to the spot

and started an investigation. The police suspect that Khuntia was killed over some past rivalry.

Khuntia's family have registered a complaint against his uncle's family, and the latter's family members were also injured during a clash between the two families, said Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Police Commissioner S Dev Datta Singh. "Our team is investigating the case, and very soon the accused will be arrested," he said.

Meanwhile, the body of a labourer was found lying near a construction site under the Chandrasekharpur police station area, he said. "The investigation is going on. If it is found to be a homicide case, action will be taken accordingly," Singh said.



Two skeletal remains found inside the washrooms of a derelict portion of Bhainsa Primary Health Centre at Patnagarh on Monday. The police are investigating the identity of the skeletal remains, which are suspected to be of infants

ITDA refutes charge of fund misuse

HANS NEWS SERVICE
RAYAGADA

Amidst a wave of political claims and counterclaims, the Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA), Rayagada, has dismissed allegations of fund misappropriation amounting to ₹4 crore, calling them politically motivated and contrary to official records.

Project Administrator Chandrakant Majhi clarified that all project expenditures under ITDA were made through due process, administrative approval and transparent documentation. "Every rupee spent is traceable and supported by official sanction. There has been no misuse of funds," he said.

Majhi referred to the proceedings of the Special Development Council (SDC) meeting held on September 28, 2023, which approved procure-

ment and distribution of musical instruments and sports kits to all 182 gram panchayats in the district. The project, with a total cost of ₹6 crore, aimed to promote tribal youth engagement and preservation of cultural identity. He cited a letter dated February 16, 2024 from Anusaya Majhi, then Chairperson of SDC Rayagada, addressed to former Collector and CEO, Swadha Dev Singh, recommending procurement through the Odisha Consumers' Co-operative Federation Ltd. (OCCF), Bhubaneswar, an apex cooperative under the State government.

"This documentation clearly reflects that the process had full administrative knowledge and consent at every level," Majhi emphasised, adding that all related records and approvals remain available for verification.

He also referred to a State Level

Advisory Committee (SLAC) resolution dated December 15, 2020, which empowered Collectors-cum-CEOs to continue implementing SDC projects until reconstitution of the councils, ensuring continuity of tribal welfare programmes.

Contrary to this, BJD leader Pradeep Majhi had recently alleged that ₹4 crore of tribal development funds under ITDA Rayagada were misappropriated, claiming irregularities in accounting and transparency.

Observers note that the timing and tone of the allegation appear politically motivated, especially as documents and government correspondence indicate prior approval and procedural compliance.

Majhi said ITDA Rayagada functions with integrity and accountability, and remains open to any official audit or inquiry by competent authorities.

Corruption alleged at Jharsuguda airport

HANS NEWS SERVICE
JHARSUGUDA

Jharsuguda Airport Director Sandeep Kumar Tiwari was transferred after he allegedly abused and assaulted Airport Association worker Sandeep Minz following a heated argument. A case was registered against him in this regard at Airport police station at Talpatia.

Minz, in his complaint, had stated that sand excavators, which were used for airport runway work, were lying at the airport after the work was completed. Minz alleged that in course of time, more than 100 truckloads of sand were sold without any paperwork on the instructions of the Airport Director and the Civil Engineer. When the Association workers took up this matter with Tiwari, he got angry and allegedly assaulted Minz.

Now, investigation has revealed that huge amount of money was sanctioned for the construction of badminton court, guest house and union office for the officers and the employees in the airport complex. But due to the collusion between civil chief engineer, contractor and director, work was done only on paper and more than Rs 1 crore was shown to be spent, the Association alleged. Similarly, Rs 1 crore was sanctioned for



the construction of a new road, but it is only half-constructed.

There is also an allegation that the contractor and the engineer falsely inflated the number of contract workers and made payments to non-existent "ghost employees." The Association has also alleged that huge amount of money is being misappropriated for garden maintenance of the complex.

Sources said the former Airport Director's wife conducted an interview for job for an airline and offered it on her own.

The firms employing contract workers at the airport are not paying bonus. They are deducting money from the salaries of the workers and paying it as bonus.

Bhubaneswar home to 47K stray dogs

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR

THE capital city is home to 47,126 stray dogs, according for around 3.62 per cent of Bhubaneswar's 13 lakh population, an official statement issued by the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) said on Monday. Of the total stray dog population in BMC area, 23,047 are males, 15,552 females, and 1,124 puppies. As many as 4,068 male

dogs and 3,335 female dogs have been sterilised, it added.

For the first time in the State, BMC conducted a stray dog count in two phases from September 18 to 25. The enumeration was carried out across all streets in the 67 wards of the civic area between 5 am and 7 am.

A total of 410 teams, supervised by senior veterinary doctors, swachh sathis, swachh supervisors, sanitary inspectors,

community organisers and other officials, were engaged in the process. With the city's population estimated around 13 lakh, stray dogs constitute about 3.62 per cent of the total population.

On average, each ward houses 703 stray dogs, the BMC said.

Citing the 20th National and State Livestock Census conducted by the Department of Animal Resources and Dairying, Government of India,

the BMC noted that the number of stray dogs in Bhubaneswar is much higher than the national average.

"While the national average of stray dog count is 11 per 1,000 people, it stands at 36 per 1,000 in Bhubaneswar," the statement added. The average for Odisha is slightly higher, at 39 per 1,000 population.

"The objective of the survey was to reduce dog bites and protect both

the public and animals from deadly diseases such as rabies," it said. The data is also expected to help mitigate traffic problems and accidents caused by stray dogs, and assist authorities in understanding dog population density at the micro-level, it said.

Mayor Sulochana Das said the survey provided scientific data for better urban animal management, dog sterilisation drives and public safety initiatives.



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.

19(1)(a) expression-Fear of weaponization haunts media fraternity



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-

cause of the existence of Section 8(2) of the RTI Act, why was the RTI Act amended?

Data Act of Section 44(3) substitutes RTI Act Section 8(1)(j), making all personal data exempt from disclosure without the earlier public-interest override (see explanatory note). How will MEITY prevent this from hollowing out journalists’ access to corruption-related records?

Meanwhile, journalists’ bodies show two serious problems in S 7: It states that personal data of a “data principal” can be used only for the “specified purpose”. In such a case, how do these scenarios pan out for journalists and media organisations?

Suppose a person involved in journalistic activity is working on a story on denial of ration cards to people of a certain region due to mismatch with Aadhaar data and collects personal data of the affected people such as name, age, and place for identifying the extent of the problems. It raises some questions:

Is such journalist required to take “informed consent” from each individual for processing this raw data and using it in a coherent tabular format in an article to highlight the systemic problem in the public interest?

Second critical situation:

Suppose, a few months down the line, it emerges that starvation deaths have occurred in the same region due to lack of access to food and the previously collected data is used to establish a causal link between the deaths and problems with Aadhaar data, is the person involved in journalistic activity or the media organisation required to obtain fresh consent?

44(3) of DPDP killed RTI:

The Right to Information Act 2005, Section 8(1) (j) information which relates to personal information the disclosure of which has no relationship to any public activity or interest is itself can protect the RTI without any recent amendments by the Parliament. Unfortunately, Section 44(3) of Data law substitutes RTI Act Section 8(1)(j), making all personal data exempt from disclosure without the earlier public-interest override. How will MEITY prevent this from hollowing out journalists’ access to corruption-related records?

Journalistic work at times requires sharing and storing of documents, including those containing personal information, across national borders and jurisdictions. At times, such documents are provided by whistleblowers and therefore require measures to ensure confidentiality, including in the storage and processing of such information which may entail the use of secure servers located outside Indian jurisdiction. Various sections place restrictions on transfer of personal data including Section 16 of the DPDP Act. How will processing and storage of information outside India for journalistic purposes be protected?

The memorandum calls for journalists and media outlets to be excluded from the powers under Sections 28 and 36 that allow government agencies to access sensitive or confidential journalistic material

(The writer is a former Central Information Commission, and presently Professor, School of Law, Mahindra University, Hyderabad)

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).

LETTERS

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, Taloqan, 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

BENGALURU ONLINE

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 BMRCL (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>

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 Gorr 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.



VISAKHAPATNAM METROPOLITAN REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Eye-catching DECK in the heart of city

The newly-built eye-catching DECK is one of the outstanding projects of Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region Development Authority (VMRDA). Located in the heart of the city, the imposing structure comprising 11 floors garners attention. Of them, four floors have been dedicated to the MLCP, while the rest will be utilised for commercial requirements. The state government decided to dedicate some of the floors for the IT sector. In a step to streamline vehicular congestion and overcome traffic bottlenecks, a multi-level car parking (MLCP) along with two-wheeler parking facility was initiated for which the work for the project commenced in 2022. The first-of-its-kind multi-level car parking facility in Andhra Pradesh stretches up to 1.35 acres. Currently, such facilities are available in Kolkata, Pune, Chennai and New Delhi. VMRDA initiated the MLCP and it comes with a host of benefits such as optimal utilisation of space, low maintenance and operational cost, low construction cost (owing to the prefabrication), secure and environment-friendly nature, along with saving cost for builders, saving height, depth, etc.,. The DECK spaces will also be utilised for commercial purposes. About 800 cars and 700-plus two-wheelers can be accommodated in the new facility. Key institutions and organisations housed in the DECK include South Coast Railway, Bharat Electronics Ltd, Ratan Tata Innovation Hub-promoting entrepreneurship, startups, and advanced technology solutions along with Georgian University - bringing global educational standards and collaborations to Visakhapatnam. With its cutting-edge infrastructure, large-scale parking, and integration of leading institutions, the DECK is a landmark development in Visakhapatnam-strengthening its role as commerce, education, and innovation hub.



UH-3H Museum, a new attraction in Vizag



An adventurous spot added to the Visakhapatnam tourism map

With the launch of the UH-3H Helicopter Museum on Beach Road, the new feature draws the attention of tourists arriving from various parts of the world. The Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region Development Authority invested Rs.3.5 crore to develop the museum. Following the success of the TU-142 aircraft museum, the submarine museum, and the sea harrier museum, the VMRDA was entrusted with another project. The Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation leased the land to VMRDA, which developed the museum to commemorate the UH-3H's contributions to the Indian Navy and the nation. After 17 years of service, the Indian Navy officially bid farewell to the UH-3H during a de-induction ceremony at INS Dega in June 2024. To honour its legacy, one aircraft was permanently installed in Visakhapatnam to inspire future generations. Navy officials handed over a commemorative plaque to the state government, marking the formal transfer. Nicknamed 'Saaras', the UH-3H, also known as the Sea King, was acquired from the United States in 2007 along with INS Jalashwa. This amphibious, all-weather helicopter featured a semi-monocoque, boat-type hull and an automated folding system for shipboard storage. It had a top speed of 210 km/h, a range of 675 km, and could carry up to 19 passengers. Equipped for anti-submarine warfare, it carried sonar systems, torpedoes, and missiles and historically, during the Cold War, was capable of carrying a B-57 nuclear bomb.



'Cascades', a sustainable water revival initiative



With a mission to revive existing waterbodies and restore springs to increase groundwater levels, the VMRDA initiated 'Cascades'. As part of a year-long sustainable water revival endeavour taken up in Visakhapatnam district, a pilot project has been rolled out to rejuvenate traditional waterbodies through the innovative model. In line with it, three pilot cascade clusters have been identified at Kapuluppada, Rampuram, and Narava that comprise over 20 interconnecting tanks. For the initial phase, the Kapuluppada cascade is selected and five tanks are identified for the revival. Two of these, Pothivani Cheruvu and Baddava Cheruvu, have already been successfully revived through a community-driven approach, involving local ayacut farmers. Similarly, efforts are underway to revive the remaining three tanks through the endeavour, including the remarkable restoration of Devaravani Cheruvu. Once a forgotten cheruvu which was

abandoned and barren, 'Devaravani Cheruvu' has now been revived as a brimming waterbody. Using remote sensing and GIS mapping, a hidden chain of tanks was discovered in the region. With strong support from the government authorities and unconditional participation of local farmers, the inlet channel was restored. After waiting for decades, water slowly began to trickle again into the cheruvu.

About 5.5 acres of barren land has been transformed into a rejuvenated waterbody. Along with water revival, the original name of Devaravani Cheruvu has also been restored. The cheruvu's revival has been facilitated and organised by the VMRDA and executed by the DHAN Foundation with the CSR support from the Redington Foundation. Locals expressed their happiness and thanked Metropolitan Commissioner KS Viswanathan, Chairperson MV Pranav Gopal and District Collector MN Harendhira Prasad for their visionary leadership and collaboration in converting ideas into impactful actions. Together, these efforts mark a significant step in water sustainability for the region ensuring a greener, more resilient future for generations to come.

Spiritual add-ons at Kailasagiri

The Kailasagiri hilltop park in Visakhapatnam will soon feature a new 65-foot Trishul. With the VMRDA accelerating works of the Rs.1.5 crore project, the new feature aims to add thematic flavour to Kailasagiri, a popular tourist spot in Visakhapatnam. Incorporating modern design, the mythological symbol aims to sum up the spiritual ambience at the hilltop. In addition to the statues of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati, other features at the hilltop include Titanic viewpoint, Shanku-Chakra Namamulu of Lord Venkateswara, a toy train, and a ropeway, glass bridge, zipline and sky-cycling. The Trishul and Damaru at the top of Kailasagiri Hill Park will be designed with a mild steel frame structure wrapped in translucent fibre-reinforced plastic material and will feature built-in LED illumination. With tenders being called for and foundation stone being laid, the project is set to be completed in six months. The total height of the Trishul is 65 feet from the ground level, while the measurements of Trishul is 25X22 and Damaru 10X18. They are getting readied at the top of Kailasagiri Hill, near the Hanumanthawaka side viewpoint.



Seven Master Plan roads play a key role in connecting people to Bhogapuram Airport



Known as the financial capital of Andhra Pradesh, Visakhapatnam is also being developed as an IT and Industrial hub of the state.

Working in tandem with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's vision to ease the city traffic and help people reach the Bhogapuram Greenfield International Airport, the VMRDA is focusing on developing seven most crucial master plan roads. In alignment with it, the NDA government is giving top priority to infrastructure development in the district. With work related to Bhogapuram Airport speeding up on a fast track mode, efforts are on to facilitate connecting roads to the new airport. As part of its ensuing project, Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region Development Authority is developing seven master plan roads with a total estimated cost of Rs.174.64-crore, stretching up to a total length of 26.72-km. The 26.72-km-long new master plan roads include several stretches. They include:

- Adavivaram road for 8-km
- Boyapalem road for 3.10-km
- Nerallavalasa road for 4-km
- Gambheeram 1 road for 2.20-km
- Gambheeram 2 road for 1.40-km
- Chippada - Divis Road for 6.32-km
- Siva Sakhti Nagar Road for 1.70-km

 In order to meet the requirement of road connectivity between the national highway, beach road and other major roads and ease traffic woes, implementation of the master plan roads are given top priority by the state government. The government issued instructions to ensure safe, quick and sustainable access for the growing number of city residents to jobs, education, recreation and other needs. These master plan roads will be developed by the VMRDA on a priority basis.

East Coast Habitat Centre, Vizag's gateway to metropolitan excellence



"Under the direction of dynamic Chief Minister Sri Nara Chandrababu Naidu garu, the Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region Development Authority (VMRDA) is advancing economic growth and tourism in the Visakhapatnam region. This vision aims to transform the area into a major economic and tourist hub."



M.V. PRANAV GOPAL
Chairperson

In the heart of India's fastest-growing coastal metropolis, a transformative vision is taking shape.

The VMRDA East Coast Habitat Centre represents more than infrastructure development, embodying Visakhapatnam's significant leap into the future as a world-class destination, setting up India's premier metropolitan centres. A city poised for transformation, Visakhapatnam stands at the threshold of unprecedented growth. As Andhra Pradesh is being developed as the fastest-growing urban centre, the city has become a hub for industries, businesses, and investments reshaping its economic landscape. The strategic positioning along India's eastern coast, combined with robust infrastructure development and forthcoming Bhogapuram International Airport has established Visakhapatnam as a pivotal gateway for trade and commerce in Eastern India. The remarkable growth trajectory has created an extraordinary opportunity to elevate the city's social infrastructure to match standards of India's leading metropolitan areas. Designed to catalyse comprehensive urban development whilst creating sustainable economic opportunities, the VMRDA East Coast

Habitat Centre emerges as the cornerstone of this ambitious vision.

A visionary multifunctional masterpiece

Strategically positioned on an expansive 8.82-acre parcel along Law College Road at Rushikonda, opposite the scenic Panorama Hills, the East Coast Habitat Centre draws inspiration from New Delhi's renowned India Habitat Centre.

This represents thoughtful adaptation capturing the essence of world-class multifunctional spaces while addressing Visakhapatnam's unique aspirations. The centre's comprehensive design encompasses commercial office spaces, a state of the art business centre and cultural venues including auditoriums, art galleries and exhibition halls. A boutique hotel and service apartments will cater to growing business travellers and tourists, while premium club facilities address the significant waiting periods currently experienced for club memberships in the city.

Economic catalyst and community nexus

With an estimated investment of Rs.460 crore under a 33-year concession model, the centre represents a paradigm shift in public-private partnership development. The project serves as a multifunctional ecosystem catering to individuals, corporations, governmental

organisations, business houses, foreign investors, and NRIs, creating a dynamic nexus where commerce, culture, and community converge.

Complementary developments creating synergy

The Habitat Centre anchors a broader constellation of transformative projects collectively elevating Visakhapatnam's profile. At Kailasagiri, eco-friendly cottages, a revolutionary 360-degree revolving restaurant, the city's first, and a panoramic bay view café redefine hospitality experiences while optimising hill station's natural beauty. Meanwhile, innovative tourism attractions including a new ropeway system, luge gravity ride, and cutting-edge virtual reality arena position Visakhapatnam as a next-generation destination appealing to younger demographics. The associated Virtual Reality Arena spanning 2.82 acres near Rushikonda exemplifies this philosophy. Featuring immersive theatres, mixed reality escape rooms and interactive gaming zones, these facilities cater specifically to Generation Y, Z, and Alpha visitors, ensuring Visakhapatnam attracts demographics driving future economic growth.



"VMRDA's vision is centered around achieving sustainable, inclusive, and integrated development of the Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region through comprehensive urban planning, infrastructure development, and economic growth."



K S VISWANATHAN, I.A.S.,
Metropolitan Commissioner

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.



Come out of the comfort zone to prosper in your career and life



SATYANARAYANA MURTHY SURAVAJJULA

Ravi was the kind of person every company wants—calm and composed, reliable, and ever punctual. He never missed deadlines, never created problems, and everyone trusted his work. But one day during his appraisal, his manager said something that stayed with him for a long time.

"Ravi, you're doing good work... but you're not growing." That line hit him hard! He realised that he had spent four years doing the same tasks, in the same way, every single day. He had become perfect at repetition — but a stranger to growth. Like many of us, Ravi had unknowingly settled into his comfort zone — that safe space where things feel easy, familiar, and peaceful... but change almost stops.

What the comfort zone provides

Let's be honest — comfort zones feel good. They give us stability, confidence, and calm. According to the American Psychological Association, predictable routines reduce anxiety and help the brain conserve energy. That's why we love habits — the same coffee shop, the same morning playlist, the same route to work. Comfort makes life feel under control. At times, that's important. After all, we all need comfort to rest, recover, and recharge. But when comfort becomes a lifestyle instead of a short stop, it slowly turns into a self-induced cage.

What it takes away

Growth begins where comfort ends. A Harvard Business Review study found that people who regularly challenge themselves are 45 per cent more likely to report high career satisfaction. Another study by Yale University showed that being slightly uncomfortable — what psychologists call the learning zone — can improve focus and performance by up to 30 per cent. Yet, the LinkedIn Workplace Learning Report revealed that 61 per cent of professionals avoid new challenges because they're "comfortable where they are." Comfort keeps us safe—but it also keeps us small. It gives peace, but it quietly steals progress. It feels warm, but it slowly cools ambition. As writer Neale Donald Walsch once said, "Life begins at the end of your comfort zone."

The psychology behind it

Researchers describe three zones in human behaviour:

- The comfort zone: where you feel safe but stagnant.
- The learning zone: where you feel challenged, alert, and growing.
- The panic zone: where you are so overwhelmed that you stop learning.

Real progress happens in the learning zone — the sweet spot between comfort and chaos. Think of it like an exercise — if the weight is too light, your muscles don't grow; if it's too heavy, you get injured. Growth happens when the challenge is just hard enough to stretch you — not break you.

Lessons from the legends

The world's greatest performers never lived in comfort. Take Sachin Tendulkar. Even after scoring centuries by the dozen, he would stay back in the nets fixing tiny mistakes. He once said, "You can't stop improving just because you

Comfort feels safe but it stagnates the growth prospects



succeeded once." His focus, not just talent, kept him at the top for over two decades. Or look at Steve Jobs. When he was fired from Apple — the company he created — it was painful. But later he said that it was "the best thing that ever happened" to him. That uncomfortable phase pushed him to create Pixar and, years later, return to Apple with bigger vision and bolder ideas. Both stories remind us that success doesn't grow in comfort. Rather, it grows in discomfort, discipline, and daring.

The modern trap — Digital comfort

Today, comfort has a new form — the screen. We scroll because it feels relaxing. We watch endless reels because it feels easy. But it's a quiet trap. A Microsoft study found that the average human attention span has fallen to eight seconds — shorter than a goldfish. Harvard Business School reports that digital distraction now costs global workplaces over \$600 billion a year in lost productivity. Earlier, comfort meant "staying safe," today it

means "staying distracted." And distraction is the new comfort zone — invisible but powerful.

How to step out

Leaving your comfort zone doesn't imply taking massive risks overnight. It means taking small, intentional steps every day.

- Speak at least once in a meeting where you usually stay quiet.
- Try a skill that makes you nervous.
- Volunteer for a project that feels slightly out of reach.
- Replace one hour of scrolling with one hour of learning.

Each step you take builds courage for the next one. And courage is a muscle — it grows when used often. Ravi, that young engineer, finally took up a project outside his comfort zone — leading a small automation team. When he initially failed, he doubted himself. But six months later, he said something that still inspires me: "I was afraid to leave my comfort zone. Now I'm afraid to go back."



The truth about growth

Growth doesn't yell or shriek. It whispers. It begins the day you decide not to repeat the previous day's proceedings. The comfort zone protects you — but it hides your best self. Remember that every dream you have lives just one step beyond it.

Points to remember

- 45% higher career satisfaction among people who take on challenges (HBR)
- 30% better performance in the "learning zone" (Yale University)
- 61% of professionals avoid challenges due to comfort
- \$600 billion lost annually

to digital distraction

- Eight-second human attention span — shorter than a goldfish

Well, it's time you take that decisive step. Speak up. Try something new. Be rest assured that one small step outside your comfort zone can open a hundred doors inside you.

Comfort makes you feel safe. But courage as the springboard makes you feel alive.

(The writer is a Director in Product Development, Technology Solutions Division—Audit in one of the Big 4 firms in Hyderabad)



National Face Your Fears Day

A day to break free and move forward

Fear is a natural part of life. It's our body's way of protecting us from danger. But sometimes, fear doesn't protect us — it holds us back. It keeps us from trying new things, taking risks, or chasing the dreams that could change our lives. Face Your Fears Day, observed every year on the second Tuesday of October, is a reminder to confront those invisible walls that fear builds around us.

Whether it's the fear of failure, rejection, change, or even success, fear can quietly take control of our decisions. Students avoid applying for competitive exams, professionals hesitate to take leadership roles, and individuals postpone pursuing their passions — all because of self-doubt. The truth is, most fears exist only in our minds.

Psychologists say that when we avoid fear, it grows stronger. But when we face it, it loses its power. Confronting fear is not about being fearless — it's about being brave enough to take the first step despite feeling afraid. On Face Your Fears Day, people are encouraged to identify one fear and take an action, however small, toward overcoming it. It could mean speaking in

public, learning to drive, standing up for yourself, or even saying "no" when you usually say "yes." Each small victory weakens fear's hold and builds confidence. Science backs this too. Studies from the University of Cambridge show that confronting fears through exposure — slowly and safely — helps retrain the brain to reduce anxiety responses. The more we challenge our fears, the more resilient we become.

Facing your fears can also open new doors. It teaches courage, resilience, and self-trust — qualities that build not just success but a fulfilling life. Great achievers like Oprah Winfrey, Elon Musk, and J.K. Rowling have all spoken about moments when they faced rejection, doubt, and fear — and kept moving forward anyway. So today, ask yourself: What's one thing I've been avoiding because I'm afraid? Take one small step toward it. Write that email, make that call, start that project, or share your idea.

Remember — courage doesn't mean the absence of fear. It means feeling the fear and doing it anyway. This Face Your Fears Day, choose growth over comfort — and freedom over fear.

IIT Kanpur launches UpStart 2025, showcasing India's next wave of startup innovators

The Entrepreneurship Cell of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur kicked off the national leg of its flagship startup pitching competition, UpStart 2025, in Delhi-NCR. The event brought together 23 promising startups, alongside leading venture capitalists, investors, and mentors from across the country.

UpStart, one of India's most anticipated platforms for budding entrepreneurs, aims to empower, accelerate, and mentor startups through structured guidance and funding opportunities. The Delhi-NCR event marks the beginning of a nationwide series, with subsequent editions planned in Hyderabad (November 1), Bengaluru (November 8), and Mumbai (December 6), culminating in the grand finale at IIT Kanpur on January 25, 2026.

The Delhi-NCR edition showcased a diverse mix of startups across various stages—from ideation to growth—spanning industries such as fintech, health tech, deep tech, Web3, and cybersecurity. The event provided a vibrant platform for young founders to pitch their ideas, receive feed-



back, and build networks with key players from firms like GMR Group, Inflection Point Ventures, IAN Group, Finvolve, and GrowX Ventures.

Selected startups from the regional events will undergo a four-week intensive mentorship program ahead of the national finals. This program, led by industry veterans and innovation leaders, will focus on refining business models, strengthening go-to-market strategies, and enhancing investor readiness.

Speaking about the Delhi-NCR edition, a spokesperson from the Entrepreneurship Cell, IIT Kanpur, said, "As India's startup ecosystem continues to expand, access to mentorship and funding remains critical. UpStart 2025 is designed to bridge this gap by offering emerging entrepreneurs a platform to connect, collaborate, and convert ideas into scalable ventures.

The energy and innovation we witnessed in Delhi-NCR have set the tone

for an exciting national journey."

The UpStart 2025 series builds on the remarkable success of its 2024 edition, which facilitated over ₹2 crore in on-spot funding and attracted participation from several high-impact startups and investors. With an even broader reach this year, IIT Kanpur's initiative continues to reinforce its vision of strengthening India's innovation pipeline and positioning the country as a global hub for entrepreneurship.

New flexible supercapacitor to power wearables, EVs, cut dependence on imported batteries

NEW DELHI

RESEARCHERS at Nagaland University have developed a flexible supercapacitor device capable of powering next-generation wearable electronics, electric vehicles (EVs), and renewable energy systems, a breakthrough that has the potential to transform energy storage technologies in the country.

The research supported by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore and funded by the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), could help India reduce dependence on imported batteries while boosting clean energy and storage technologies under the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat, said the researchers.

Going beyond lab-scale material development, the team built a working prototype of the flexible supercapacitor, demonstrating its practical viability.

While the immediate applications include health-monitoring devices, IoT gadgets, and robotics, the innovation also holds potential for electric vehicles, the team said, in the paper published in the peer-reviewed scientific journal



RSC Advances. Flexible supercapacitors like these could improve regenerative braking systems, provide quick acceleration boosts, and extend battery lifespans.

"The device combines flexibility, high energy storage, and durability, which are critical for future portable and wearable technolo-

gies. The study is the first to compare tungsten, vanadium, and cobalt doping in molybdenum diselenide for energy storage. Among them, cobalt proved most effective," said Dr. Vijeth H, Assistant Professor, Department of Physics, Nagaland University.

"The research strengthens India's path toward sustain-

able and self-reliant energy solutions," Vijeth added.

The device, created at the Advanced Materials for Device Applications (AMDA) Research Laboratory in Lumami campus of the University, uses cobalt-doped molybdenum diselenide, a cutting-edge two-dimensional (2D) material.

It delivers an impressive energy density of 34.54 W h kg⁻¹ and remains stable over 10,000 charge-discharge cycles, while also retaining performance even after repeated bending and twisting.

With the rapid growth of wearables, electric mobility, and renewable energy, reliable and efficient storage devices are in high demand. By combining flexibility, durability, and high energy density, the research has taken a significant step forward.

"The next steps involve optimising the electrode-electrolyte interface, improving safety with solid-state gel electrolytes, and scaling up the process to pilot-level production. Industry collaborations are also being explored to bring the technology closer to commercialisation," said Pewe-u Marhu, Research Scholar, Department of Physics, Nagaland University.



Chiranjeevi meets Hyderabad CP Sajjanar

MEGASTAR 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

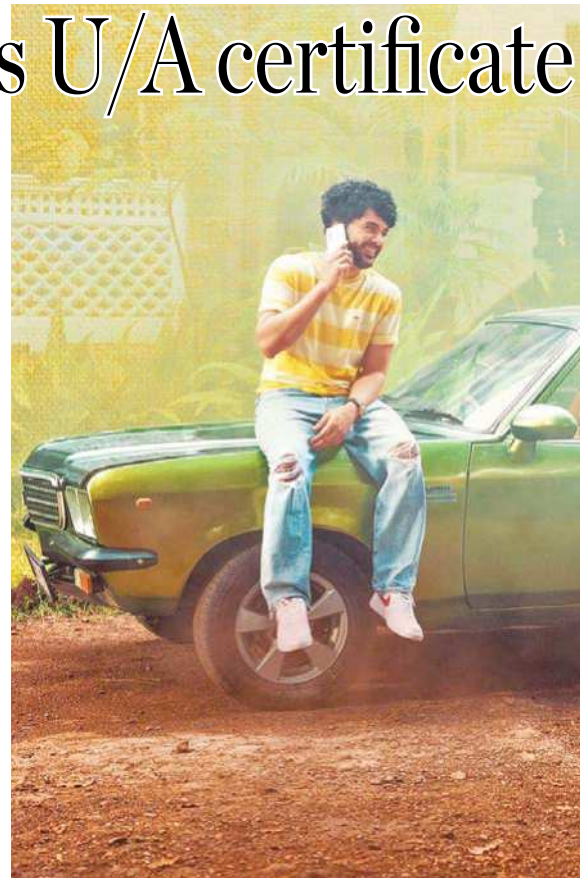
STAR Boy Siddu Jonnalagadda is gearing up for a festive release as his much-anticipated youthful love saga 'Telusu Kada' will hit the screens this Diwali on October 17th, just five days away. The film, which marks the directorial debut of popular stylist Neeraja Kona under the esteemed banner of People 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.

S Thaman's music is already a major asset, with two tracks having become viral hits. Promising a wholesome blend of fun, emotion, and a unique, socially relevant undercurrent, 'Telusu Kada' is set to offer complete entertainment this Diwali.



Thaman introduces Mishra Brothers' magic



'GOD 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 Tammiraju 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

THE 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 like 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. Bhagyashri Borse plays the leading lady, while Upendra 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. Bhagyashri 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 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

THE talented young actor Anand Deverakonda stars in 'Takshakudu', an intense action drama directed by Vinod Anantoju 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



Ayouth-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

SUCCESSFUL 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.

