



THE Hans India



India complete clean sweep

India needed exactly an hour on day five to complete a seven-wicket win over West Indies and seal a 2-0 series sweep at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Tuesday. KL Rahul anchored the chase with an unbeaten 58 off 108 balls, hitting six fours and two sixes to help India easily hunt down 121.

P10

Our future is in our own hands and right here

The old proverb about distant mountains being shiny is finally making sense to Indians. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks after the visa incident must be taken seriously. His pointed comments—stressing that we must stand on our own feet—are something Indians

P6

Adani Group leads infra RoA globally

Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani said the conglomerate's return on assets (ROA) rose to 16.5 per cent in the financial year 2024-25 – placing it among the top performers in the global infrastructure sector.

P11

Mrunal Thakur sets the ramp on fire

Actress Mrunal Thakur, who is gearing up for the release of her upcoming film Dacoit alongside AdiviSesh, made a stunning appearance at Lakmé Fashion Week, leaving fashion enthusiasts captivated with her bold and glamorous runway presence.

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Digital arrest scam targeting US citizens busted, 16 held

BENGALURU: In a breakthrough, Karnataka Police busted an international digital scam targeting US citizens and arrested 16 persons in connection with the case on Tuesday. The accused were running a call centre under the name Cybits Solutions Pvt Ltd in HSR police station limits, Bengaluru, and carried out large-scale cyber fraud.

Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh said, "It is a reverse digital arrest case, where citizens of the US, Canada, and other countries were subjected to digital arrest from Bengaluru." Police conducted raids on two residences and seized 41 computer systems, 41 monitors, 40 CPUs, 41 computer mouse, 41 key-boards, 41 VGA cables, 82 power cables, 21 LAN cables, two attendance registers, four script notebooks, 25 mobile phones, ID cards, an EPABX device, a D-Link switch, and a router.

Among those arrested, eight are from Maharashtra, four from Meghalaya, and the rest from Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, and Gujarat. According to police, on October 7, HSR Layout Police received a tip-off from a reliable source regarding the operations of Cybits Solutions and its cyber fraud activities. After gathering information, the HSR Layout Police Station officer registered a suo motu case. Investigations revealed that 20 to 25 young men and women were recruited online for jobs at the fake call centre. They were trained to commit cyber fraud and were instructed to collect information about strangers online before contacting them over the phone.

Posing as officials from investigative agencies, they told victims that cases of narcotics smuggling and money laundering had been registered against them. Victims were then threatened and coerced into transferring money online under the pretext of receiving help.

Using a live server provided by the company, the accused threatened citizens with fake arrest warrants and police IDs, accusing them of drug trafficking and money laundering. Victims were kept under "digital arrest" and forced to comply with demands, transferring money into company-controlled wallet accounts. All operations were carried out using custom software developed by the company.

Pak may attempt Pahalgam-type attacks again: Lt Gen Katiyar

The action we will take this time will be deadlier than the past. It will be more powerful. Yes, you are very right. It (Operation Sindoor 2.0) has to be deadlier. There is no doubt about it, says Western Army Commander

JAMMU

Asserting that Pakistan has no capacity to fight India but it may attempt Pahalgam-

type attacks again, Western Army commander Lieutenant General Manoj Kumar Katiyar on Tuesday said the response — Operation Sindoor 2.0 — will be deadlier.

He maintained that Pakistan continues its policy of "bleed India through a thousand cuts" and said the Army is fully prepared to deal with it.

"The action we will take this time will be deadlier than the past. It would be more powerful. Yes, you are very right. It (Operation Sindoor 2.0) has to be deadlier.



There is no doubt about it," Lt Gen Katiyar told reporters.

He was replying to a question whether Operation Sin-

door 2.0 will be deadlier than the first one.

Asked whether there will be Pahalgam-type attacks

in the future by Pakistan, he said that until there is a change in Pakistan's thinking, it will continue to carry out such mischiefs.

"It does not have the capacity to fight a war with us. They do not want to fight a war. It does mischief as per its policy of 'bleed India through a thousand cuts'."

The Western Army commander said that India had inflicted heavy damages on Pakistan in Operation Sindoor. "We have destroyed its posts and air bases, but it may again attempt some-

MODI 'GOOD FRIEND', MUNIR 'FAVOURITE FIELD MARSHAL': TRUMP

TEXAS: United States President Donald Trump praised India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi without naming him, saying 'India is a great country with a good friend of mine at the top'. Earlier praising Sharif and his 'favourite field marshal' Pakistan army chief Gen Asim Munir, Trump also invited the Pakistan prime minister to address the gathering.

Sharif said peace has been achieved in the Middle East after 'untiring and relentless efforts' of President Trump.

thing (Pahalgam-type attack). We have to remain prepared. We are fully prepared.

I am confident the action this time will be deadlier than in the past," he said.

One more suicide: New twist in IPS officer's case

Mystery deepens as ASI shoots himself dead, implicates Puran; Rahul visits the senior officer's family and calls for the respect of all Dalits

Congress leader asks Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the state government to take immediate action and arrest the officials responsible

HANS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH

A Haryana assistant sub-inspector in Rohtak shot himself dead on Tuesday and purportedly levelled corruption allegations against the late Inspector General Y Puran Kumar, adding a murky twist to the suspected suicide of the senior Dalit officer who served in the same district. ASI Sandeep Kumar's alleged suicide comes in the backdrop of the escalating row over Puran Kumar's death, which has led to a shakeup of the police brass and also become a huge political issue.

Earlier in the day, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi visited the senior officer's family and called for the respect of all Dalits. He asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the state government to take immediate action and arrest the officials



responsible.

The second suicide of a Haryana cop has muddied the waters even more, the questions becoming louder, the mystery deeper.

Sandeep Kumar's shock death came hours after the state government late Monday night sent state DGP Shatrueet Kapur on leave. Before that, the government transferred Narendra Bijarniya, former Rohtak superintendent of police. The two were among the eight officials named by Puran Kumar in a note he left behind.

O P Singh, a 1992-batch IPS officer of DGP rank, has been assigned "additional charge of DGP Haryana during the leave period of Shatrueet Kapur", according to an official order.

Sandeep Kumar, who was posted in the cyber cell and whose body was recovered from his Rohtak home, left behind a six-minute purported video and a three-page suicide note naming Puran Kumar. The veracity of the video and the statement could not

be immediately verified.

Police sources said the ASI played a role in the arrest of head constable Sushil Kumar, an aide of Puran Kumar who was found with a gunshot wound in his Chandigarh home on October 7.

"Sandeep shot himself," said a senior police official from Rohtak.

Asked about the video and the note, he said, "To say anything at this stage is difficult... the forensic team is investigating."

Sandeep Kumar levelled serious allegations against Puran Kumar in the purported video, saying even Bhagat Singh made sacrifices and walked a difficult path after which the country awakened.

Puran Kumar's name had cropped up in a bribery scandal recently.

A liquor contractor in Rohtak filed a bribery case against head constable Sushil Kumar. He alleged Sushil Kumar sought a bribe of Rs 2.5 lakh in Puran Kumar's name (when he was posted there).

BJP drops Speaker, fields two Deputy CMs

HANS NEWS SERVICE PATNA/ NEW DELHI

The ruling BJP on Tuesday sprang surprises with its first list of 71 candidates for the Bihar assembly polls, denying a ticket to Speaker Nand Kishore Yadav, a seven-term MLA, while fielding Deputy CM Samrat Choudhary in a direct election after over a decade.

Health and Law Minister Mangal Pandey, a member of the legislative council, has also been fielded by the party for the assembly polls. While Choudhary, who had last won an assembly election



from Parbatta in 2010 on an RJD ticket, has been fielded from adjoining Tarapur, Pandey has been named the BJP candidate from Siwan.

Notably, both Choudhary and Pandey are former state BJP presidents, and so is Yadav, who has been replaced in Patna Sahib with Sanjay Kumar Gupta, a low-key state secretary of the party.

Bulk SMSes, voice messages during 'silence period' on EC radar

HANS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

AS Bihar prepares for phase one of assembly polls on November 6, the Election Commission has warned that bulk SMSes and audio messages during the 48-hour 'silence period' which starts before the conclusion of voting, is prohibited.

Meanwhile, Election Commission said that first randomisation of Electronic Voting Machine- Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (EVM-VVPATs) for the second phase of Bihar Assembly Elections has been completed. In a note issued on October 9 outlining campaigning restrictions, the poll authority said, political advertisements on any election matter in TV, cable networks, radio, cinema halls, use of bulk SMS/voice messages, audio visual displays in any polling area during the period of 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for the conclusion of the poll for any election in the polling area is prohibited.

Separately, in a statement on Tuesday, the EC said it has issued orders on October 9, requiring every registered and national and state politi-



cal party and every contesting candidate to apply to the Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC) for pre-certification of all political advertisements on electronic media, including social media before publication.

MCMCs have been constituted at the district and state levels for pre-certification of political advertisements as per the prescribed guidelines.

No political advertisements are to be released to any internet-based media/websites, including social media websites,

by political parties or candidates without pre-certification from the respective MCMC, it cautioned.

The MCMCs will also keep a strict vigil on suspected cases of paid news in the media and take suitable action.

Given the penetration of social media in the electoral landscape, candidates have also been instructed to share the details of their authentic social media accounts at the time of filing nomination.

Citing provisions of the electoral law and a subsequent Supreme Court directions, it said political parties should also submit a statement of expenditure incurred on campaigning through internet, including social media websites to the ECI within 75 days of the completion of the assembly elections.

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From January 3, 2026, banks will pass/return cheques within 3 hours. Customers will get credit in a few hours.

What this means?

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- Improved Convenience
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Point to be noted

- Keep adequate balance to avoid cheque bounce

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For more details, contact your bank or refer to RBI notification dated August 13, 2025
For feedback, write to rbiaktehai@rbi.org.in

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Comedy actor Raju Talikote passes away

BENGALURU: Popular Kannada comedian and theatre veteran Raju Talikote breathed his last at a private hospital in Udupi on Monday following a cardiac arrest. He was 58. Talikote was in Udupi for the shooting of an upcoming Shine Shetty-starrer when he developed chest pain around midnight on Sunday. "He was brought to our emergency unit in critical condition. Despite our efforts, he succumbed at 5.30 pm," doctors at the Manipal hospital said. His family circles told that the family would perform the final rites in his hometown. "His body will be brought to Chikka Sindagi and the funeral will be held in his vineyard, as per his wishes," they informed. Known for his impeccable comic timing, Talikote gained fame through Yogaraj Bhat's Manasaare and acted in more than 35 films, including Jackie, Sugreeva and Myna. A Rangayana Dharwad director and founder of the Khaskateshwara Natya Sangha, he had been a prominent face in Karnataka's theatre scene. Winner of several honours including the Filmfare Award (2011) and Rajyotsava Popular Award (2015), Talikote is survived by his wives and children.

Passenger held with hydroponic ganja at Mangaluru airport

MANGALURU: In a co-ordinated operation, CISF officials at Mangaluru International Airport detained a domestic passenger arriving from Mumbai for allegedly smuggling 512 grams of hydroponic ganja, a high-grade variety of cannabis cultivated using water-based methods. The accused, Shankar Narayan Poddar, an Indian national (Passport No. AG 430883), arrived on IndiGo flight 6E-841 around 6:10 p.m. on October 13. Acting on prior intelligence, the Crime and Intelligence Wing (CIW) of CISF intercepted the passenger upon arrival. A search of his checked-in baggage revealed the narcotic substance concealed within his belongings.

Authorities immediately alerted the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Bengaluru, and the Bajpe Police. The seized contraband and the accused were later handed over to the Bajpe Police Station for further investigation under relevant sections of the NDPS Act. Officials said the operation highlights CISF's vigilance in curbing narcotics smuggling through domestic routes, as traffickers increasingly exploit smaller airports to avoid detection.

My body no longer supports the game: Saina

UDUPI: Olympic medallist and Padma Bhushan awardee Saina Nehwal announced that she has formally stepped away from competitive badminton, saying her body no longer allows her to play at the desired level. Speaking at a press conference in Manipal, Nehwal said, "I am quitting badminton with a heavy heart. The enthusiasm remains, but my body doesn't respond anymore." The former world number one clarified that she has no plans to enter coaching. "Coaching is tougher than playing. It demands long hours of standing and constant engagement. My husband Parupalli Kashyap is already assisting Gopi Sir (Pullela Gopichand) at his Hyderabad academy. I prefer to motivate children to take up sports rather than get into coaching right now," she said. Nehwal urged youngsters to move away from social media and embrace physical activity. On politics, Nehwal clarified, "I am not interested in politics. I admire Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and occasionally attend his events, but politics is not easy. She also hailed Prakash Padukone as a legend of Indian badminton. "Coming to his hometown, Udupi, makes me proud. He inspired both Gopi Sir and me," she said, adding that Chirag Shetty and Satwik Shetty represent India's bright badminton future.

WHO to revise global tuberculosis guidelines based on study by Mangaluru docs

MANGALURU

A pioneering study by Mangaluru-based doctors Dr. Anurag Bhargav and Dr. Madhavi Bhargav, published in the prestigious medical journal The Lancet, has led the World Health Organization (WHO) to revise its global tuberculosis (TB)

treatment guidelines.

The couple's work, part of the RATIONS (Reducing Activation of Tuberculosis by Improvement of Nutritional Status) trial, provided the first large-scale evidence that nutritional support sharply lowers TB mortality and infection rates among patients

and their families. The new WHO 2025 guidelines now formally recommend food assistance as a standard component of TB care, a major policy shift worldwide.

Conducted over three years across 2,800 households in Jharkhand, the study found that food baskets containing

cereals and pulses reduced new TB cases by 48 percent and deaths by 35 percent. In their Lancet paper, the authors wrote: "Undernutrition is the strongest driver of tuberculosis in India and other developing nations. Addressing nutritional deficiencies is therefore a vital preventive and thera-

peutic strategy." They added that "food supplementation should be integrated into national TB control programmes as an essential, not optional, intervention." Published in both The Lancet and The Lancet Global Health, the study has also influenced India's Nikshay Poshan and



Nikshay Mitra initiatives under the National TB Elimination Programme. Experts say the Mangaluru doctors'

findings have now bridged a critical gap between clinical treatment and public health nutrition.

Mega job fair in Mysuru to open new doors for state youth

HANS NEWS SERVICE
MYSURU

JOB fairs are not just platforms for finding employment—they are powerful opportunities for individuals to enhance their skills and grow in their professional journey. In Karnataka, the Karnataka Skill Development Corporation (KSDC) along with several government and private organizations has been playing a vital role in this mission. Now, the state government is gearing up to empower the dreams of Karnataka's youth by organizing a mega job fair in Mysuru.

The event, organized by KSDC in collaboration with the Department of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood, will be held under the leadership of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar. It aims to connect thousands of job seekers with leading companies, offering direct employment opportunities.

According to Mysuru Zilla Panchayat CEO S. Yukesh Kumar, more than 200 reputed companies from various sectors will participate in the fair, conducting direct interviews for multiple



More than 200 reputed companies from various sectors will participate in the fair, conducting direct interviews for multiple job roles

job roles. He urged youth across the region to attend the event in large numbers, emphasizing that this is a rare opportunity to secure employment in a single day through face-to-face interaction with employers. The mega job fair will take place at the historic Maharaja's Ground in Mysuru on October 17, 2025, in collabora-

tion with the Mysuru Zilla Panchayat. Anyone who has completed SSLC, PUC, Degree, Post-Graduation, ITI, or Diploma qualifications is eligible to attend.

Participants will get the chance to interact directly with company representatives, understand the skills and experience they are looking for, and identify the gap between their own abilities and industry expectations. This understanding will help them plan future training and skill enhancement. Participation in the job fair requires prior registration. Eligible candidates can register online at udyogamela.ksdkarnataka.com. For

any queries, candidates can contact the helpline number 9606494308 for assistance. Participants are advised to carry multiple copies of their updated resume for interviews.

Officials have also directed that candidates registered under the Yuva Nidhi Scheme be given priority during the recruitment process. This initiative by the Karnataka government marks a major step towards reducing unemployment in the state by bridging the gap between job seekers and employers. It also reflects the state's commitment to nurturing a skilled, employable, and future-ready workforce.

Shiv Sena invites Yatnal to join party, signals possible Hindutva alliance

HANS NEWS SERVICE
RAICHUR

THE political landscape in Karnataka is heating up with reports that the Shiv Sena (Shinde faction) has extended an open invitation to expelled BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, who is said to be preparing to launch a new Hindutva-based political party.

Speaking to a media, Siddalinga Swamiji, the Shiv Sena (Shinde faction)'s Karnataka state president, confirmed the outreach, saying, "If Yatnal decides to join the Shiv Sena, we will roll out the red carpet for him. If he is committed to the Hindutva cause, we are ready to work together."

Swamiji added that he had shared the stage with Yatnal during a recent event in Afzalpur, though no election-related discussions took place at that time. "Our ultimate goal is to establish a Hindutva-driven government. There is still time before the next election, and we are open to further discussions on political alignment," he said.

He also clarified that just as the Shiv Sena in Maha-



rashtra operates within the NDA alliance, the party's activities in Karnataka would also be guided by directives from the central leadership.

Accusing the Congress government in Karnataka of being "anti-Hindu," Swamiji asserted that his party would take all necessary steps to "unite Hindu votes and bring down the current government."

The developments have sparked speculation about a new Hindutva front taking shape in Karnataka politics. Since his expulsion from

the BJP, Yatnal has been increasingly active in the political scene. During the recent Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations, he toured several districts across northern Karnataka, drawing large gatherings of Hindu supporters.

His efforts to mobilise Hindu activists have reportedly gained significant momentum, and now, with the Shiv Sena extending an offer to join hands, political observers are closely watching whether this marks the beginning of a new saffron alliance in the state.

DHARMASTHALA HANDS OVER 666TH VATSALYA HOME HERALDS CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO RURAL UPLIFT

HANS NEWS SERVICE
UJIRE

THE Shree Kshetra Dharmasthala Rural Development Project celebrated a landmark achievement on October 13, by presenting its 666th Vatsalya Home to beneficiaries in Ujire, advancing its mission to transform lives across Karnataka.

The event, held at Amruthavarshini Sabha Bhavan in Dharmasthala, saw the presence of Vidushekhara Bharati Swamiji of Sringeri Peeth, who offered blessings and extolled the virtues of selfless service in bolstering both spiritual and social well-being.

Speaking to attendees, Swamiji outlined four human archetypes, those who give without expectation, those driven by self-interest, those who harm for gain, and those who cause harm pointlessly. He urged the adoption of righteous company, acts of kindness, and spiritual routines such as reciting the Bhagavad Gita and chanting divine names.

GOVERNOR Thaaawarchand Gehlot on Tuesday emphasised the need to digitise and simplify the RTI process to boost transparency and strengthen governance. Addressing an event marking 20 years of the Right to Information Act, Gehlot said, "The need of the hour is to completely digitise and simplify the Right to Information (RTI) process, enhance the independence and efficiency



Lauding the Heggade family's enduring social contributions, Swamiji hailed the Vatsalya Home program as an exemplary act of compassion, acknowledging the obstacles inherent in such noble pursuits and wishing for Dharmasthala's legacy as a hub of humanitarian and

spiritual excellence to thrive.

Executive Director of the Rural Development Project, Anil Kumar S S highlighted the project's far-reaching impact, empowering over 53 lakh families with economic self-sufficiency. The initiative has distributed 2,094 nutritional kits and equipped

18,500 needy families with essentials like bedding and kitchenware. With ₹10.14 crore invested in constructing 781 homes, the project aims to reach a target of 1,000, significantly improving living standards for Karnataka's underprivileged.

Notable attendees at the

event included Hemavati V Heggade, D Harshendra Kumar, Sonia Yashovarm, board member Shyam Bhat K, regional director Manoj Meneses, and Dr. Sridhar Bhat of SDM College, Ujire, all gathered to honour this pivotal step in rural development and community support.

DIPLOMAT CALL



Dy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar with Singapore Consul-General Edgar Pang during a meeting in Bengaluru on Tuesday

'Green cheer' at Kadri Park from October 17

HANS NEWS SERVICE
MANGALURU

THE city's Kadri Park will host a three-day Kadri Sasyotsava - Raitha Mela from October 17 to 19, celebrating sustainable farming, plant culture, and green living. The event, led by the Raitha Kudla Foundation, will be open daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. with free public entry. Deputy Commissioner Darshan K.V. will inaugurate the festival on

Thursday. Foundation president Bharath Raj Sorke will chair the event, while Zilla Panchayat CEO Narwade Vinayak Karbhari will confer the Raitha Kudla Honour on farmer John Montero of Bantwal for his innovative water conservation practices. Visitors can explore a wide variety of ornamental, fruit, and vegetable plants, along with organic fertilisers, seeds, gardening tools, and grow bags.

Guv urges digitisation, simplification of RTI on 20th anniversary

BENGALURU

GOVERNOR Thaaawarchand Gehlot on Tuesday emphasised the need to digitise and simplify the RTI process to boost transparency and strengthen governance. Addressing an event marking 20 years of the Right to Information Act, Gehlot said, "The need of the hour is to completely digitise and simplify the Right to Information (RTI) process, enhance the independence and efficiency



of Information Commissions, and, most importantly, nurture transparency as a moral value in governance."

He stressed increasing the use of Information Technology at all levels of governance. "Increasing the use of Information Technology at all levels of governance will automatically lead to transparency," he added.

Highlighting challenges in implementing the RTI Act, the governor said that misuse of the Act, the rising burden

on public offices, and a lack of public awareness remain major issues. "It is essential to understand the true power of the RTI Act, prevent its misuse, and ensure that every citizen can effectively exercise this right," Gehlot said.

He noted that greater use of technology in administration will enhance transparency and public awareness, empowering citizens to recognise RTI as their own right. "The RTI Act is a people's right that strengthens the very

spirit of democracy. It lays the foundation for accountability, transparency, and mutual trust between the government and the citizens. The RTI Act is not just a legal provision—it is a democratic instrument that bridges the gap between citizens and the government," the governor said.

Stressing citizen awareness, he added, "When citizens are aware, the administration becomes accountable. The Right to Information is the cornerstone of this awareness—it

empowers citizens and ensures administrative responsibility."

Gehlot said that over the past two decades, the RTI Act has transformed governance by promoting transparency, curbing corruption, enhancing citizen participation, and driving administrative reforms. Calling for collective efforts to strengthen the Act, he said, "There is a need to hold a thoughtful dialogue on how to reinforce this right in the days to come."

SC stays HC order disqualifying Malur MLA

BENGALURU: The Supreme Court on Tuesday granted an interim stay on the Karnataka High Court order that had annulled the election of Congress MLA K Y Nanjagowda from the Malur Assembly constituency in Kolar district. A bench comprising Justices Surya Kant and Joy-malya Bagchi, hearing Nanjagowda's special leave petition challenging the High Court's verdict, issued notices to the respondents and posted the matter for further hearing on November 24.

The apex court also directed the Election Commission of India (ECI) to conduct a recount of votes in the constituency and submit the results in a sealed cover. However, it instructed that the outcome must not be made public without prior permission from the court. The single-judge bench of the High Court had found merit in the allegations that vote counting was carried out in two separate rooms, violating the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and guidelines of the Election Commission. The court had also directed the ECI to recount the votes within four weeks and declare the winner based on the fresh tally.

139 TV artistes duped in fake site deal

BENGALURU: In a shocking case of fraud, as many as 139 television actors and artists have allegedly been cheated of crores of rupees under the pretext of being allotted residential sites in Bengaluru. The accused reportedly collected money promising land, created fake layout plans and fabricated property documents, and defrauded members of the television fraternity. An FIR has been registered at the Rajarajeshwari Nagar Police Station against five people — builder Bhagiratha, Sanjeev Tagaduru, Guruprasad, Ravindra, and Umakant — based on a complaint filed by Bhavana Belegere, a member of the Karnataka Television Association (KTVA). According to police sources, the fraud dates back to 2015, when Sanjeev Tagaduru, then a member of the KTVA Site Committee, along with builder Bhagiratha, had proposed to provide sites near Tavarekere. They allegedly collected huge sums of money from artistes, claiming to arrange genuine sale deeds. However, when the property registration process began, the documents were found to be fake, exposing the large-scale scam. The complaint states that the accused created bogus layout maps and forged land documents, cheating artists of approximately ₹1.6 crore. Several well-known small-screen actors, including Bhavana Belegere, Sharath Chandra, and Rahul, are among the victims.

Phoenix India light festival 2025

BENGALURU: Phoenix Mall of Asia, Bengaluru's premier destination for shopping, dining, and culture, proudly presents the India Light Festival 2.0 – Sitaro Ki Diwali – The Festival of Lights, Redefined. Launched this September with Navratri, the grand Diwali décor installation has transformed the Plaza into a vibrant festive hub, glowing with dazzling star-inspired elements and setting the tone for the season's celebrations.

TN man ‘sends hoax bomb threat’ to residences of CM, Dy CM

BENGALURU

A probe has been launched to trace a man from Tamil Nadu who allegedly sent a hoax email recently threatening to blow up the residences of Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, police said on Tuesday.

immediately alerted and necessary precautionary measures were taken, they said.

The purported email from aarna.ashwinshekher@outlook.com claimed that “four RDX devices and several IEDs” had been planted at the residences of both the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister and would be “detonated remotely.”

As per protocol, precautionary measures were initiated, and the Bengaluru

police carried out combing operations at both residences with the bomb detection and disposal squad. However, after thorough checks, the emails were declared a hoax, a senior police officer said.

A case was registered by the police on their own against the sender of the purported email at Halasuru Gate police station under sections 351(4) (criminal intimidation) and 353(1) (b) (statements conducing to public mischief) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita

(BNS), the officer said.

“The particular email ID has been tracked to a man from Tamil Nadu and efforts are on to nab the culprit. However, what we have observed is that in the past few months, we have repeatedly received such emails with similar threats and content, which later turn out to be hoax,” he said. “A special investigation team has also been formed to trace those behind such hoax emails. Further investigation is underway,” he added.



AI cameras tighten traffic monitoring in Bengaluru

Record 87% of violations automatically

HANS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU

MOTORISTS who thought they could break traffic rules unnoticed are in for a shock. The Bengaluru City Traffic Police have deployed advanced AI-powered cameras across major roads to automatically detect and record traffic violations, drastically reducing manual policing on the streets. According to official data, 87% of all traffic violations reported between January and July 2025 were captured through these AI cameras.



Of the 30 lakh total cases registered during this period, 11,800 violations were recorded daily by these automated systems, while police personnel manually registered only around 1,500 cases, mostly related to no-entry driving and illegal parking. The AI cameras, installed at nearly 75 key junctions, are capable of detecting a range of violations — including riding without a helmet, pillion riders not wearing helmets, driving without seat belts, and jumping traffic signals.

Each infraction is automatically recorded in both video and photographic formats, leaving no room for motorists to deny the offense. Officials say that this system not only ensures transparency and accuracy but also saves time for traffic personnel who can now focus on managing congestion rather than stopping vehicles for checks.

Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Karthik Reddy told that public awareness about traffic rules has improved significantly after the installation of AI surveillance cameras. He added that citizens can now conveniently check details of violations through the AS-TraM mobile app, designed for easy access to real-time traffic updates and penalty information. So far, the department has collected over ₹44 lakh in fines, accounting for nearly half of the total penalties imposed during this period.

Bengaluru’s ‘immortal’ potholes spark clash between industrialists and govt

HANS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU

THE city’s never-ending pothole problem continues to haunt commuters and embarrass the government, despite repeated promises of action. The issue, which has frustrated citizens for years, has now reignited tensions between industrialists and the state government, after Biocon chief Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw raised her voice once again over Bengaluru's crumbling infrastructure.

to dominate Bengaluru's roads.

In a social media post that went viral, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw revealed that a visiting industrialist from China questioned her about the city's poor roads and garbage piles, asking whether the government truly supports investors. She tagged CM Siddaramaiah, DCM D. K. Shivakumar, and Minister Priyank Kharge in the post, drawing public attention to the issue once again.

Responding to her remarks, IT & BT Minister Priyank Kharge said, “Industrialists like Kiran Mazumdar have made valuable contributions to Bengaluru, and we welcome their inputs. But they can also reach out directly to us for discussions. Everyone must play their part—citizens must stop littering and take responsibility. Garbage doesn't fall from the sky.” He also added that

other states are naturally inviting entrepreneurs, noting humorously that “the Andhra IT Minister seems to be waiting like a hawk for opportunities.”

Meanwhile, Large and Medium Industries Minister M. B. Patil took a balanced tone, acknowledging both the city's challenges and Shaw's role. “Kiran Mazumdar has contributed a lot to Bengaluru, and Bengaluru too has given her everything. Heavy rains have caused damage across the state, making it difficult to fix potholes immediately. Still, we are working to repair them. The number of people coming to Bengaluru continues to grow—hardly anyone is leaving,” he said.

Despite the reassurances, residents and business leaders remain skeptical, as Bengaluru's potholes continue to outlive every deadline, turning into a symbol of the city's chronic civic neglect.



EIGHTH SESSION OF ISA ASSEMBLY IN INDIA FROM OCTOBER 27-30

HANS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU

THE Eighth Session of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Assembly, scheduled from October 27 to 30 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, will bring the world together under one Sun, one vision, and one shared commitment to solar energy.

Launched by India and France at COP21 in Paris, ISA is the largest treaty-based intergovernmental organisation from the Global South, bringing together 124 Member and Signatory Countries. This high-level ministerial gathering comes weeks ahead of COP30 in Brazil, shaping priorities for scaling solar energy, unlocking transformative finance, charting technology and policy roadmaps, and



building skill ecosystems to accelerate a just and inclusive energy transition.

At the curtain-raiser today Pralhad Joshi, Minister of New and Renewable Energy,

GoI, & President of the ISA Assembly, said, “Owing to its clear vision and the consistent

polices, India achieved its renewable energy targets five years ahead of the schedule, crossing the 50% mark in overall installed electricity capacity from non-fossil resources. Today with approximately 125 GW of solar capacity, India is the world's third largest solar producer. This progress shows how the national ambition can translate to meaningful change at the local level. It is because our success story is more than just numbers; it is about the people. We have seen firsthand how decentralised solar transforms lives, bring light to rural homes, powers local health centres and gives new tools to our farmers. With PM Surya Ghar - Muft Bijli Yojana, more than 20 lakh households are benefiting from solar power.”

Man arrested for cheating people with ‘black magic’ rituals

BENGALURU

A 49-year-old man was arrested for allegedly cheating people by claiming to perform rituals to remove ‘black magic’ or ‘retrieve hidden treasures’, police said on Tuesday. With the arrest of the accused, identified as Dada Peer, who operated under multiple aliases, police said they recovered 485.4 grams of stolen gold ornaments worth Rs 53 lakh.

The matter came to light on September 26, when Hulimavu police received a tip-off that a suspicious person was standing near Bannerghatta Main Road, police said. Acting on the information, the station staff rushed to the spot, detained the man, and found he was a native of Kolar. Upon inspection, gold ornaments were recovered from his possession.

When questioned about their source, he confessed

to stealing the ornaments and searching for buyers to sell them, a senior police officer said. A case of theft was registered at Hulimavu police station, and the accused was formally arrested, police added.

During interrogation, the accused revealed that he deceived the public by claiming to perform rituals to ‘remove black magic’ or ‘unearth hidden treasures’ (nidhi). Gaining their trust, he would collect gold ornaments under the pretext of performing rituals or puja and then escape with them, the officer said.

He further confessed to committing a similar offence recently in Bhadravathi, Shivamogga district, Karnataka, the officer added. Police said half of the stolen gold ornaments were kept at his residence in Kolar, while the rest were pledged at jewellery shops in Nagpur, Maharashtra, and BTM Layout here.

Minister alleges threat calls for seeking ban on RSS activities in govt premises

BENGALURU

MINISTER Priyank Kharge on Tuesday claimed that he has been receiving phone calls “filled with threats, intimidation and filthiest abuses” directed at him and his family, as he dared to question and restrain RSS activities in government schools, colleges and public institutions.

“For the past two days, my phone hasn't stopped ringing. Calls filled with threats, intimidation and the filthiest abuse directed at me and my family, simply because I dared to

question and restrain RSS activities in government schools, colleges and public institutions,” Kharge said in a post on ‘X’.

However, the Minister, who is the son of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, asserted that he was neither shaken nor surprised.

“When the RSS didn't spare Mahatma Gandhi or Babasaheb Ambedkar, why would they spare me?” he remarked.

Reiterating his resolve, Kharge, who is Information Technology and Biotechnology Minister,



said, “If they (RSS) think threats and personal jibes will silence me, they are mistaken. This has just begun.”

Calling for a more equitable and compassionate

society, he added, “It is time to build a society founded on the principles of Buddha, Basavanna and Babasaheb, a society rooted in equality, reason and compassion, and purge this nation of the most

dangerous viRuSS.”

The Minister recently wrote to the Chief Minister Siddaramaiah requesting him to ban RSS activities in government schools and colleges and public places. “An organisation called the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has been conducting its shakhas in government and government-aided schools, as well as in public grounds, where slogans are shouted and negative ideas are instilled in the minds of children and youth,” he wrote in his letter.

He claimed that such

practices go against India's unity and the spirit of the Constitution. Later speaking to reporters, Kharge said he had been in a similar situation when Basavaraj Bommai was the Chief Minister.

“The police officers who investigated the matter in the past had told me that the IP addresses of the calls are masked and no one can figure out from where the call has been made. They told me officially that they cannot do much. Even now the same has happened,” he said.

According to Kharge,

whenever he spoke out against the system, he received such calls. “Let them make threat calls, I am not going to be intimidated.”

Addressing reporters, Siddaramaiah said he is not aware of threat calls to Priyank Kharge.

“I don't know about any such development. I will speak to Priyank Kharge,” he said. The Chief Minister on Monday said he has forwarded Kharge's letter to the Chief Secretary to find out what the Tamil Nadu government has done to stop RSS activities in government and public properties.

JH ASSEMBLY BYPOLL

Vote theft: KTR skewers Cong for deploying dubious methods

BRS working president accuses Congress of "conspiracies and machinations" to manipulate the voter list, highlighting 23,000 new votes and the illegal distribution of voter IDs

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE political atmosphere in Telangana intensified on Tuesday with the BRS Working President K T Rama Rao launching a frontal assault on the ruling Congress party, alleging massive electoral fraud and a blatant disregard for democratic principles ahead of the upcoming by-election.

In a detailed presentation to the media, K T Rama Rao accused the Congress of employing various "conspiracies and machinations" to manipulate the voters' list, insisting that despite these illegal attempts, the BRS would still emerge victorious.

K T Rama Rao initiated his critique by pointing out "abnormal" changes in the electoral rolls. He stated that while the voters' list saw an addition of 23,000 new votes, a simultaneous and unexplained deletion of 12,000 existing votes occurred, stressing that the sudden increase in voters raised "many doubts." The BRS specifically alleged that the Congress party candidate had "taken over the duty of the Election Commission" and engaged in



the illegal distribution of voter IDs, even extending these cards to minors.

K T Rama Rao further questioned the direct involvement of the Chief Minister and PCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud, noting that their photographs were prominently displayed during the related voter list distribution event. He confirmed that the Election Commission (EC) itself has already registered a case regarding the distribution of 'fake ID cards' by the Con-



gress candidate.

BRS party workers conducting a field analysis over just two days uncovered nu-

merous instances of alleged fraud. K T Rama Rao cited specific examples: a visit to the Sanskriti Avenue Apart-

ments, where 43 votes were registered, found that the owner explicitly denied any connection to the individuals listed; a small 80-square-yard house in Booth Number 125 was found to have 23 listed votes; and the house of a local Congress party leader was alleged to contain 32 "bogus votes."

The BRS highlighted the case of Srinivas Reddy, a resident of Sircilla, who discovered his vote was registered in the Jubilee Hills constituency without his knowledge, confirming the practice of "vote theft." K T Rama Rao asserted that all these "atrocities" were committed in a hurried manner and filled into the voters' list by the Congress government in a single day, adding that the Congress candidate, Naveen Kumar Yadav's, own brother, Venkat Praveen Yadav, holds three votes.

Recalling that the party formally met and submitted a letter to the CEO detailing all the evidence and objections, K T Rama Rao expressed dissatisfaction there was no response from the EC. He threatened the party would approach the High Court on the issue.

Ministers accuse BRS candidate of 'sympathy drama' in Jubilee Hills bypoll

BC Welfare and Agriculture Ministers allege Maganti Sunitha's public tears are being used for political mileage, while BRS leaders dismiss criticism as mudslinging

BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar and Agriculture Minister Thummala Nageswara Rao alleged that BRS was exploiting Maganti Sunitha's grief for political gain in the Jubilee Hills by-election

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

A war of words between state ministers and BRS leaders on BRS candidate M Sunitha crying in public triggered a political row. The ministers alleged that BRS was trying to garner sympathy votes on the death of MLA Gopinath by forcing Sunitha to weep at the first public meeting organised as part of the launch of the by-election campaign in Jubilee Hills assembly

constituency.

BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar alleged that BRS candidate Maganti Sunitha was enacting dramas and trying to seek votes through emotional appeals in the Jubilee Hills by-election.

Taking part in party programmes at Yousufguda on Tuesday, Prabhakar said he sympathised with Maganti Sunitha, who lost her husband and sitting BRS MLA Maganti Gopinath. "But by crying on stage and during political speeches, she is trying to seek sympathy votes. The BRS leaders are not ready for a debate on the development of Jubilee Hills in the last ten years. Instead, sympathy dramas are being enacted like in cinemas," Prabhakar said. He alleged that a few BRS workers were instructing her to cry on every stage and at every programme, labelling it "artificial crying."

Meanwhile, Agriculture Minister Thummala Nageswara Rao alleged that the BRS was trying to derive political mileage through Maganti Sunitha's emotions. "The BRS is not leaving any opportunity, even a woman's tears. They want to get back to power through sympathy and loot," he said.

Countering the two ministers, BRS leader and former minister Srinivas Goud charged that the Congress leaders were not in a position to tolerate the growing popularity of the BRS in the by-election bound Jubilee Hills constituency. He claimed the ministers had resorted to mudslinging and personal attacks on the BRS candidate.

On the issue of fake votes, Prabhakar clarified that the state government had not interfered in any way, alleging that BRS and BJP were responsible for "vote chori" and "dada giri."



CM to inaugurate Komatireddy Prateek govt school

Bottuguda school in Nalgonda renamed as 'Komatireddy Prateek Govt School'

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NALGONDA

THE government has officially renamed the Bottuguda Government School in Nalgonda as 'Komatireddy Prateek Government School' and will soon be inaugurated by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy.

The initiative led by Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy aims to transform the old primary and high school buildings into a modern, world-class educational institution. Constructed at a cost of Rs 8 crore through the Komatireddy Prateek Foundation, the school is equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure and advanced learning facilities on par with corporate institutions.



An architectural view of the newly constructed Komatireddy Prateek Government Primary and High School at Bottuguda, Nalgonda

In a statement on Tuesday, Venkat Reddy emphasised his vision to provide quality education to children from underprivileged families in

a government school setting comparable to private schools. "The school will introduce digital classrooms, computer education, and bi-

lingual teaching (English and Urdu), with highly qualified faculty appointed through the Foundation," said the statement. Deeply moved by the school being named after his late son, Komatireddy Prateek, he expressed gratitude to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for his support.

The minister reaffirmed his commitment to improving education and healthcare in Nalgonda, announcing phased development of all Anganwadi centers, schools, and colleges with modern amenities.

The Minister also cited projects like the Rs 10 crore Komatireddy Prateek Junior College Complex and ongoing efforts to upgrade Thipparthi and Kanagal Junior Colleges.

JH bypoll: KCR hands over B-form to Maganti Sunitha

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

BRS Party chief K Chandrashekar Rao on Tuesday handed over the B-form to Maganti Sunitha Gopinath, who is contesting as the party candidate in the bypoll for the Jubilee Hills constituency.

Along with the B-form, BRS chief handed over a cheque of Rs40 lakh on behalf of the party toward election expenses. Late Maganti Gopinath's daughter and son, former minister Maheshwaram MLA P Sabita Indra Reddy, Secunderabad MLA T Padmarao Goud, Amberpet MLA Kaleru Venkatesh, Musheerabad MLA Mutha



BRS chief K Chandrashekar Rao hands over the B-form to Maganti Sunitha Gopinath, the party's candidate for the Jubilee Hills bypoll, in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

Gopal, former Miryalaguda MLA N Bhaskar Rao and other party leaders were present on the occasion.

The BRS candidate will be filing her nomination papers in a simple manner on Wednesday with just

four leaders. The party has decided to take up a massive rally in her support on October 19.

20 days and no water supply from Kodandarama Swamy LIS

Farmers distressed as crops dry up in Akupamula village



A farmer of Akupamula village showing the dried up of fields

20 days, there has been no water supply owing to the lift's transformer that burned out. The motors are under repair bringing irrigation to a complete halt. As a result, paddy fields have developed cracks and the crops are withering.

Tenant farmers, who heavily by borrowing lakhs of rupees, are in tears watching their hard work go to waste. Despite repeated complaints, officials have not taken any action.

The farmers urged authorities to immediately repair the lift scheme and restore water supply to save their standing crops from total loss.

are distressed as their crops are drying up due to the lack of water supply from the Kodandarama Swamy Lift Irrigation Scheme. For the past

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AKUPAMULA (SURYAPET)

FARMERS in Akupamula village of Munagala mandal

Photography & short film contests to mark Police Flag Day

HANS NEWS SERVICE

MAHABUBNAGAR: To honor the valiant sacrifices of police personnel who laid down their lives in the line of duty, Mahabubnagar District Police has announced a Photography and Short Film Competition ahead of the upcoming Police Flag Day on October 21.

Addressing the media on Tuesday District Superintendent of Police D Janaki, said the initiative aims to inspire young people and showcase the dedication, service, and sacrifice of the police force.

Explaining the details of the competitions, she said that in the photography category, participants can submit a maxi-

mum of three photographs on themes such as police service, sacrifice, and public protection. The photo size must be 10 x 8 inches. In the short film category, participants are required to submit films with a maximum duration of three minutes, focusing on themes like police services, duty commitment, or community safety.

Serious allegations have been raised regarding irregularities in the Indiramma Housing Scheme, with claims that beneficiaries have been deprived while politically connected individuals received houses. Speaking at a press conference at the Nadigadda Human Rights Struggle Committee (NHPS) district office on Tuesday, District Chairman Gongalla Ranjith Kumar



Suraypet District SP Narasimha inspecting the fingerprint of a person on a bus in Suryapet town on Tuesday. The district police set up blockades on all major routes across the district as part of ensuring better safety for the public

NHPS alleges irregularities in Indiramma housing

HANS NEWS SERVICE
GADWAL

accused officials and local political leaders of misusing their power in the allocation process. Addressing the media, Ranjith Kumar pointed out that the number of houses

allotted to each village was insufficient, and lists of beneficiaries have been announced only for those with political backing, leaving many eligible poor families excluded.

He criticised the government for keeping beneficiary lists confidential and violating transparency norms. According to him, several individuals who already own assets

and houses have been granted new houses again, while truly deserving families continue to suffer. He alleged that local political leaders and officials have violated the scheme's guidelines, and demanded an immediate inquiry and strict action against those involved in these irregularities.

Ranjith Kumar also called for the beneficiary lists to be made public in all Gram Panchayats, ensuring that every villager has access to the information.

DLSA rescues six child labourers

HANS NEWS SERVICE
GADWAL

UNDER the supervision of the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), officials conducted an inspection on Tuesday in Dharur mandal, where three child labourers working in agricultural fields were identified. The children were immediately enrolled in the Zilla Parishad High School to ensure their continuation in education.

Similarly, in Nallagattu Thanda village under Gattu mandal, another three child labourers working in fields were identified as school dropouts.

The officials from the District Legal Defense Council and the Child Welfare Department visited the site and took necessary action to re-enroll them in the Mandal Parishad Primary School. During the visit, officials conducted an awareness session for the parents, explaining the rights of children and the laws prohibiting child labour. They emphasized that employing children in labour is a punishable offense and warned that it could ruin the future of the children. The officials urged everyone to cooperate in encouraging children to pursue education and lead better lives.

₹531 cr JSW industrial park to come up at Vizianagaram

- Govt approved JSW's shift from an aluminium refinery complex to a MSME and industrial park across 1,166.43 acres
- SW Industrial Park Ltd is expected to create 45,000 jobs
- State approvals include Rs 3 lakh per acre subsidy, land conversion exemptions, and infrastructure support, aiming to boost industrialisation in north Andhra

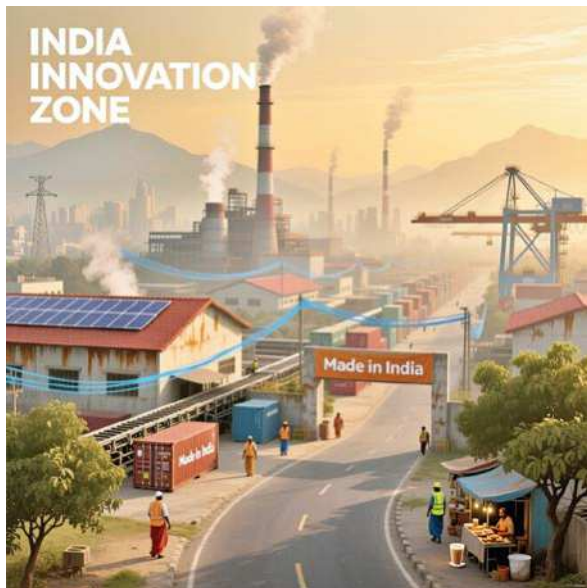
HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

THE state government approved the establishment of a Private Mega Industrial Park by JSW Aluminium Ltd (now renamed JSW Industrial Park Ltd.) in Vizianagaram district, with an investment of Rs 531.36 crore and an employment potential of 45,000 persons.

The industries and commerce department issued orders on Tuesday, granting JSW permission to change

its line of activity from an aluminium refinery complex to a multi-sector MSME and industrial park on the already allocated 985.7 acre land. The total project will now cover 1,166.43 acre across Musidipalli, Cheedipalem, Chinakhandeapalli, MB Vara, and Kiltampalem villages of Shringavarapukota Mandal in Vizianagaram district.

The government has also approved the change of name from JSW Aluminium Ltd. to JSW Industrial Park



Ltd., and extended eligibility for incentives under the Industrial Development Policy (IDP) 2023-27.

JSW Industrial Park Ltd sought facilities under the AP Private Parks Policy (4.0), 2024-29, including

road and water connectivity, two 25 MW substations, removal of 273.74 acres from Section 22A for land allotment, royalty exemptions on site materials, water at Rs 25 per KL for 25 years, 50 per cent CAPEX reimbursement

for CETP and STP, and subsidies for green energy and rainwater harvesting systems.

These proposals were reviewed by the State Investment Promotion Committee (SIPC) on October 7, 2025, and subsequently approved by the State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) at its meeting on October 8, 2025.

The government approved a Rs 3 lakh per acre capital subsidy for JSW Industrial Park, along with full exemptions on land conversion and related fees.

APIIC will manage infrastructure, water allocation, and project publicity, while GVMC provides interim water and the revenue department clears 273.74 acres for allotment.

The project is expected to boost industrialization in North Andhra, attracting MSMEs and large units to Vizianagaram.



Palle Panduga 2.0 to change rural landscape: Pawan

- Deputy CM urges officials to design Palle Panduga 2.0 to build on the success of its earlier phase and transform the state's rural landscape
- The review meet emphasised comprehensive plans for urban-level infrastructure in villages, focusing on roads, cattle shelters, and improved sanitation through magic drains

HANS NEWS SERVICE
MANGALAGIRI

DEPUTY Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan said that Palle Panduga 2.0 should be designed to sustain and build upon the success of the earlier phase of Palle Panduga, ensuring a complete transformation of the state's rural landscape.

Chairing a review meet-

ing with senior officials of the panchayat raj and rural development at his camp office on Tuesday, the Deputy CM reviewed preparations for the soon-to-be-launched Palle Panduga 2.0 initiative.

He directed officials to prepare comprehensive plans aimed at promoting urban-level infrastructure and facilities in villages. The review covered key focus areas such

as road development, new road construction, repair works, establishment of cattle shelters (Goshalas), and the creation of magic drains for improved sanitation. Senior officials including special chief secretary of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development, Shashi Bhushan Kumar, Commissioner Krishnateja, OSD Venkatakrishna, chief engineer (panchayat raj) Balu Nayak, and other senior officials participated in the review meeting. Deputy CM reiterated that Palle Panduga 2.0 should serve as a catalyst for a vibrant and self-reliant rural Andhra Pradesh, setting a benchmark for holistic rural development.

190 new 108 ambulances to replace old ones

Ambulance colours changed as per National Ambulance Code

HANS NEWS SERVICE
GUNTUR

THE state government is set to roll out 190 new 108 emergency ambulances across the state. This initiative will ensure that victims of road accidents and other emergencies are shifted to hospitals much faster than before.

According to the tender guidelines issued by the government, the new ambulances have been fully prepared and will soon be flagged off by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and health minister Y Satya Kumar Yadav.

The old, poorly maintained ambulances which frequently broke down and required repeated repairs will be replaced with these new vehicles. As a result, patients will receive medical attention within the crucial 'Golden Hour', Satya Kumar Yadav said in an official statement. Unlike in the past, the new ambulances have been painted in colors specified under the 'National Ambulance Code'. During the previous YSRCP regime, the maintenance of 108 emergency ambulances deteriorated severely.

After the coalition gov-

ernment assumed power, it awarded the 108 ambulance maintenance contract in April this year to Bhavya Health Services Pvt. Ltd., selected through a transparent tender process.

As per government regulations, the company spent about Rs.27 lakh per ambulance. The new fleet includes 56 advanced life support and 134 basic life support ambulances. The ALS ambulances are equipped with two ventilators and other critical medical devices, enabling the treatment of severely injured patients during transit.

The system is designed to ensure that emergency calls lead to hospital transfers within an hour, known as the 'Golden Hour'.

At present, 650 ambulances are operating across A.P. With the addition of new vehicles and the removal of outdated ones, the total operational fleet will now reach 731 ambulances.

Following the Central government's national ambulance code, the new fleet adopts a white and red colour scheme, which is now mandatory for all 108 emergency ambulances across the country.



Govt to re-register 2,180 acres under Kakinada SEZ to farmers

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

THE state government has decided to re-register 2,180 acre land under the Kakinada Special Economic Zone (SEZ) without charging stamp and registration duties, benefiting over 1,550 farmers in the Tondangi and Uppada Kothapalli mandals along the Kakinada coast.

Deputy Chief Minister K Pawan Kalyan, who had promised during the last election to return the SEZ lands to farmers, took the

initiative to resolve this long-standing issue. He held discussions with Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, following which the government approved the waiver of registration fees and stamp duty. "This move ensures that farmers regain their lands without any financial burden, fulfilling the promises made during the election," officials said.

The re-registration process will formalize land ownership, giving legal clarity and long-term security to the affected farmers.

Parakamani theft case back under scanner as CID steps in

CID officials seize crucial records in delayed probe following High Court rebuke

PRADEEP VENNELAKANTI
TIRUMALA

THE Crime Investigation Department (CID) has reopened the high-profile Parakamani theft case at the Srivari temple in Tirumala, following stern criticism from the AP High Court over the prolonged inaction on its earlier directives.

A special CID team headed by director general Ravi Shankar Ayyanar visited the temple's Parakamani (the counting centre for devotees' offerings) on Tuesday and began a fresh round of evidence collection. Investigators seized crucial documents, including files from the Tirumala I Town police station, Lok Adalat records, and resolutions passed by the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) board concerning the theft.

Briefing the media, Ayyanar said the CID was acting strictly in accordance with the High Court's orders. "We have taken custody of all related documents, CCTV footage, and TTD board resolutions. The collected material will be presented to the High Court in a sealed cover," he stated.

The intensified inquiry comes after the court, led by Justice Gannamaneni Ramakrishna Prasad, expressed dissatisfaction with the delay in implementing its Sep-



CID DGP Ravi Shankar Ayyanar speaking to the media at a police guest house in Tirumala on Tuesday

tember 16 order. The bench questioned why the CID had waited until October 8 to seek a modification of the directive instead of acting promptly.

The case first surfaced in March 2023 when an employee of Jeeyar Mutt, C Ravi Kumar, was caught stealing about \$ 920 from the Parakamani. However, later CCTV footage uncovered that the theft was much larger, allegedly involving foreign currency worth over 11,300 dollars hidden in his clothing during a separate incident in April 2023.

Initially, the case was closed following a Lok Adalat settlement in September 2023, under which Ravi Kumar reportedly agreed to surrender seven of his properties, valued at approximately Rs 40 crore, to the TTD.

The board accepted the settlement and dropped the case, but a public petitioner challenged this move in the High Court, alleging that the compromise was irregular and

that a full investigation had been bypassed.

Responding to the court's directions, the CID has now seized all case-related materials, including those from the Lok Adalat. The agency had earlier also requested permission for a senior officer to oversee the seizure process, citing the absence of an Inspector General in the department. Meanwhile, TTD Trust Board member and BJP leader G Bhanu Prakash Reddy met Ayyanar on Tuesday and submitted documents and CCTV clips that he said could shed more light on the theft. He urged the CID to carry out an impartial investigation and ensure accountability at all levels.

"We have faith in the police and the judicial system. Those involved in looting Lord Venkateswara's wealth, whether they planned it or benefited from it, will soon face justice. This will be a victory for the devotees, Bhanu Prakash said.

TTD board members allege that Ravi Kumar may have misappropriated foreign currency over a prolonged period, amassing properties worth more than Rs 100 crore. The CID has taken charge of all pertinent evidence and is expected to present a comprehensive report to the High Court soon.

Excise minister inspects wine shop, verifies brands

- Ravindra verifies liquor authenticity and later holds a video conference with excise officials
- Accuses YSRCP leaders of spreading false propaganda, citing past incidents of fake liquor deaths under their rule, and highlights the NDA govt's transparent liquor policy reforms
- Warns against unauthorised belt shops, urges consumers to report suspicious activity, and vowed strict action against violators and those politicizing liquor-related issues

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

PROHIBITION and excise minister Kollu Ravindra conducted a surprise inspection at a wine shop located on Sambamurthy Road here on Tuesday. He was accompanied by excise commissioner Ch Sridhar. During the visit, the minister verified liquor brands using the AP Excise

Suraksha app, which enables consumers to check whether a liquor brand is genuine or spurious. After completing the inspection, he held a review meeting with all excise officials and staff through video conference.

Speaking to the media later, Ravindra accused YSRCP leaders of attempting to defame the government by spreading false propaganda. He alleged that during the



Excise minister Kollu Ravindra verifying a liquor brand using the AP Excise Suraksha app at a wine shop in Vijayawada on Tuesday

previous YSRCP regime, several people had lost their lives due to the circulation of fake liquor. To prevent such incidents, the NDA coalition government introduced a new Liquor Policy and allotted wine shops in a transparent

manner, he said.

The minister said that one of the accused in the fake liquor scam, Janardhana Rao, had exposed the conspiracy behind the racket. Ravindra further criticised YSRCP leaders for linking unrelated

deaths to liquor cases, citing an example where a man who died of dehydration in Nellore was falsely associated with liquor consumption.

He assured that the government would probe every case thoroughly and take stern action against those involved, irrespective of their political or social background. Ravindra also warned wine shop owners against running unauthorized belt shops, cautioning that strict action would be taken against violators.

He urged consumers to buy liquor only from authorized outlets and to report any suspicious activity to excise officials. The Minister made it clear that those trying to politicize the fake liquor issue would not be spared.

Streamline urea distribution in rabi top priority: Agri director

- Manazir Jeelani Samoon, newly appointed director of agriculture, calls for smooth and transparent urea distribution for the upcoming rabi season
- Directs officials to enhance real-time monitoring of fertiliser stocks via the IFMS system and ensure RSKs are fully operational with verified access and biometric devices
- The director stresses adopting digital agriculture tools, precision farming, drone-based nano-fertiliser spraying, and strengthening FPOs to support farmers and improve data accuracy

HANS NEWS SERVICE
GUNTUR

STREAMLINING the distribution of urea for the upcoming rabi season will be the top priority for the agriculture department, said newly-appointed director of agriculture, Dr Manazir Jeelani Samoon, after taking charge at the directorate of agriculture office in Mangalagiri on Tuesday.

Soon after taking charge, Dr Samoon held a comprehensive review meeting with additional directors, joint directors, and section heads to assess crop conditions, input availability — especially urea — and the status of ongoing Central and state agricultural schemes. He directed officials to prepare an action plan to ensure smooth and transparent urea distribution, prevent-



Director of agriculture Dr Manazir Jeelani Samoon addressing a meeting of additional directors, joint directors, and section heads at his office in Mangalagiri on Tuesday

ing the bottlenecks experienced during the previous season.

Dr Samoon reviewed the software system for urea distribution and instructed that real-time monitoring of fertilizer stocks through the IFMS system be strictly implemented. He emphasised

that Rythu Seva Kendras (RSKs) would play a key role in fertilizer supply, directing officials to verify login access, biometric devices, and operational readiness well before the Rabi season.

The meeting also discussed the Digital Agriculture Platform and the

implementation of applications like D-Krishi, e-Panta, AGILE, AP-AIMS 2.0, and APPS.

Dr Samoon stressed the need to adopt precision farming and drone-based spraying of nano-fertilizers and pesticides in selected pilot areas.

He underscored the importance of accurate crop area and yield data, directing that crop-cutting experiments under the Crop Insurance Scheme be conducted as per schedule. He also called for proactive measures to strengthen Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and ensure that farmers face no inconvenience during procurement operations.

Officers from various wings of the department congratulated Dr. Samoon on assuming charge.

Google hub will generate ₹10,000 cr for AP: Pemmasani

NEW DELHI

THE upcoming 1-GW hyperscale Google Data Centre in Visakhapatnam is expected to generate approximately Rs 10,000 crore in revenue for Andhra Pradesh, Union minister of state for communications Pemmasani Chandrasekar said on Tuesday.

Describing the project as a defining milestone in Swarandhra Pradesh's journey of progress and self-reliance, the Union minister said that the investment of approximately 15 billion US dollars over five years

(2026-2030) will create 5,000-6,000 direct jobs and 20,000-30,000 total jobs in the state, while bringing essential manpower, infrastructure, power, and cooling facilities to Visakhapatnam, generating a significant multiplier effect on the state's economy.

The minister was interacting with the media after the announcement about setting up the artificial intelligence (AI) hub in Visakhapatnam, during the Bharat AI Shakti event held in New Delhi. The project will include India's first gigawatt-scale data centre and Google's first AI hub in India.

India’s global reset: Rebuilding ties with Canada, US and the West

INDIA and Canada have agreed on an “ambitious roadmap” to restore and rebuild bilateral relations, which sharply deteriorated following the killing of a Khalistani Sikh extremist in the North American country in 2023. This is a pleasant surprise, as the then prime minister, Justin Trudeau’s party, the Liberal Party, returned to power this year. It may be recalled that Trudeau played a pivotal role in souring Indo-Canadian relations. The objective of the new roadmap is to advance “cooperation in various domains, including trade, investment, agriculture, science and technology, civil nuclear collaboration, artificial intelligence, critical minerals, and energy,” said External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar after meeting his Canadian counterpart Anita

Anand in New Delhi. This should be seen as part of a major reset in India’s engagement with the world: there is new urgency in boosting relations with other countries, especially the West. After months of bitterness over US President Donald Trump’s peevish remarks about India, the two countries have also decided to hold trade negotiations this week. India has reportedly promised to import US energy and gas as it aims to placate Washington’s concerns over the issue of Russian oil purchases.

Trump’s conciliatory tone in his statements has played a part in ensuring this. British Prime Minister Keir Starmer’s recent visit should also be viewed in the same light. It has helped widen engagements between the two nations in critical areas such as trade, technology,

defence, and security. His trip was preceded by Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to London in July, when the two countries signed a crucial comprehensive economic & trade agreement (CETA) that is currently awaiting ratification. Around the same time, the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA), which India signed with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) in March 2024, came into effect. The EFTA, comprising Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein, is a vital bloc for India’s export diversification strategy. EFTA nations have pledged substantial long-term investments in India’s manufacturing and services sectors in return for tariff concessions, establishing a new model for future trade negotiations. India is also actively

negotiating a broader free trade agreement (FTA) with the European Union, its largest trading partner in goods. The growing economic interdependence, catalysed by Trump’s aggressive tariffs, has created strong momentum for an ambitious FTA that could remove regulatory barriers, liberalise services, and enhance investment protections.

With more than 6,000 EU companies already operating in India, both sides see immense potential in expanding cooperation in sectors such as digital technologies, renewable energy, pharmaceuticals, and green mobility. These developments have also effected a shift in India’s external engagement—from reactive diplomacy to a proactive and strategic recalibration of partnerships. The empha-

sis is on diversification, resilience, and technological collaboration. Whether it is through rebuilding trust with Canada, reviving trade talks with the US, strengthening strategic ties with the UK, or pursuing ambitious economic integration with Europe, India’s foreign policy today reflects a confident, globally oriented vision. This transformation is being driven by both geopolitical and economic imperatives. In an era of fragmented global supply chains, energy insecurity, and technological competition, India’s ability to maintain balanced relations with major powers while pursuing its developmental priorities is becoming its most valuable diplomatic asset. The new roadmap with Canada, therefore, is not an isolated event but part of a larger narrative.

Our future is in our own hands and right here



RAVULAPATI SEETARAMARAO

THE idea that “a job is a man’s defining characteristic” belongs to an older era. In today’s modern age there’s no need to give that saying any weight. What matters now is whether jobs are available to everyone — are people with education actually getting work?

That is the question we need to ask. Are jobs meant only for the educated lot? No. Eligibility should be judged only by job-related requirements — physical fitness, education and skills, among others, must be taken into account. This piece is not meant to analyse job availability across the whole world. It is limited to understanding what the employment situation is like in India.

Health and education are inseparable. You can learn only if you are healthy. In the past, rural areas had more people in good health. Today, there is not much difference between villages and towns when it comes to protecting people’s health.

Previously there was less need for people in villages to search for jobs. Formal schooling was not a requirement for most village work. Agricultural labour, farm tasks and various trades were plentiful; people earned their livelihoods and did not struggle to put food on the table on an everyday basis. Simply put, illiteracy did not prevent people in villages from getting work and the migration to towns was much lower.

In the past, resources for education in villages were extremely limited. Village life revolved around temple scholars teaching basic lessons; there were only a few schools and no higher education institutions. Most village students studied only up to about the fifth grade. To study beyond that, they had to go to nearby towns or cities. Those engaged in farming and trade had only minimal financial resources, so higher education was virtually inaccessible to them.

Times have changed! The value of education is finally understood! The determination to study no matter what—regardless of being poor or rich—has become widespread. That is why village elders now routinely work hard to send their children to towns for higher education. The belief that “higher education means studying in America” has taken hold.

In the 1980s and ’90s, go-



The old proverb about distant mountains being shiny is finally making sense to Indians. Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s remarks after the visa incident must be taken seriously. His pointed comments—stressing that we must stand on our own feet—are something Indians, especially those who pin their hopes on overseas jobs, should take particular note of. We don’t have to idolize America.

ing abroad became easier for students who had reached a certain level in life. Education loans were readily available in banks and villagers mortgaged their fields and property and sent their children overseas for further studies. While studying and working there, many sent their earnings back to their parents, which improved the financial standing of their respective families. When villagers became better off, they migrated to towns seeking a more comfortable life. Their children, who would visit occasionally, also preferred town life.

With the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act assuring at least 100 days of work (some kind of employment

for every adult in each village, a regular cash flow began to reach people alongside their livelihood. As a result, traditional manual and agricultural labour that young people used to do in the villages appeared burdensome.

The quest for urban life and luxury and people heading to the city, rang in drastic changes in village life. Agricultural work and field-level labour declined, as a result of which the rural agricultural system began to suffer. Unemployment figures began to increase in villages, while government schemes and welfare programs remained only on paper.

In fact, the culture of doing hard work for a livelihood disappeared from the

rural fabric. In this situation, ordinary B.A. and M.A. graduates and young people were subject to unemployment woes even in towns. Jobs matching their education were hard to find, and hiring of such people for low-level work steadily declined.

Every incumbent government promises job calendars before elections, but those promises are just for namesake — there’s no evidence of actual follow up. Outsourcing practices that treat workers like expendable pieces have created an unstable, uncertain life for youth. Under the guise of welfare schemes, governments are trying to buy votes in villages and towns — especially by pacifying young people — but it’s unfortunate that they haven’t been able to create government jobs and meaningfully address the unemployment issue. It’s true that the recent policies announced by US President Donald Trump are hitting India hard. For new applicants (skilled non immigrants) the H 1B visa fee has surged to nearly six times the current fee — making it much harder for those hoping to go to the US for work.

Moreover, this approach will severely affect many long standing software companies in the United States in the coming years. Bringing in new workers under this visa has become risky. Un-

der the lottery system, until now roughly 85,000 people went each year; that number has reportedly plunged dramatically recently. There could be many difficulties ahead in hiring specialised workers.

The old proverb about distant mountains being shiny is finally making sense to Indians. Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s remarks after the visa incident must be taken seriously. His pointed comments—stressing that we must stand on our own feet—are something Indians, especially those who pin their hopes on overseas jobs, should take particular note of. We don’t have to idolize America.

In fact, we must not forget that for many years India’s youth-driven economic growth was largely due to progressive policies followed in the US. That said, given the current situation, Trump and others are firmly convinced that America’s economic rebound is the result of its lighter, more permissive policies. Other countries don’t have the right to dismiss that belief.

If we can develop our own products, jobs and skills without being intimidated by tariffs, even if the benefits don’t come today, we can achieve the results we hope for tomorrow.

(The writer is a retired IPS officer, who has served as an Additional DGP of Andhra Pradesh)

LETTERS

Remembering Dr Kalam, the ‘people’s president’

THE ‘World Students Day’, instituted by the UN, is celebrated annually on October 15 to commemorate the birth anniversary of out former president Dr Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam. The day celebrates his extraordinary efforts in science, education and the military. Hailed as the “Missile Man of India” for his outstanding achievements in developing ballistic missiles and launch vehicle technology, and his commitment to education and his rapport with students led to the inception of this day. The ‘World Students Day’ focuses on encouraging students to become leaders and innovators and about how education can transform the mindset of individuals and help them shape a better future for all. India’s 11th president had embarked on his avowed mission to transform India into a fully developed country by 2020, through the ‘Lead India’ campaign. Dr Kalam always spoke of a good society that can be built when students have knowledge and are proficient in their subjects, thanks to the pioneering role of teachers. The life of Bharat Ratna, popularly hailed as the ‘people’s president’, stands as an inspiration to students and the global youth.

Dr Burra Madhusudhan Reddy, Karimnagar

Kalam’s life an inspiration to Gen Z

MANY great Indian personalities have been born in October, including Mahatma Gandhi, Lal Bahadur Shastri and Dr Homi Bhabha. We remember with reverence Dr APJ Abdul Kalam-scientist, ‘Missile Man’, Bharat Ratna and ‘people’s president’-every October 15, marking his birth anniversary. I recently reread Wings of Fire (Expanded Edition), which has sold over two million copies since its publication in 1999. The edition features a moving foreword by his private secretary, Harry Sheridan, and around 50 new photographs that bring alive his inspiring journey. In 2002, when persuaded to contest the presidential election, BJP’s Pramod Mahajan asked him for an auspicious time to file his nomination. Kalam replied, “Any time is auspicious for me,” explaining that for as long as the Earth rotates and orbits the Sun, every moment is blessed by science, not astrology. Whether politicians have honed scientific thinking or not, his words remain a timeless lesson in scientific thinking for Gen Z and generations beyond.

N Nagarajan, Hyderabad

Educate girls for their safety

THIS has reference to the article ‘Didi shocks the nation’. Everyone knows the ground realities. As per the 2022 NCRB report, approximately 31,516 rape cases reported across the country. On an average 86 such cases are reported each day. Many girls stay in hostels to be safe when away from their family. Hostels and colleges are like home away from home. It is the responsibility of the principals to create rules that no inmate leaves the campus late evenings without permission. They must mention the reason for going out, the location and when they are likely to return. The security staff must call the girl’s parents and inform them that their daughter is going out late evenings. Every girl must be educated about aspects needed to ensure their safety. Meanwhile, police and legal authorities need to punish culprits responsible for heinous crimes almost immediately. That is the only solution to deter the culprits from indulging in macabre crimes.

G Murali Mohana Rao, Secunderabad-11

Mamata must prioritise safety of girls

The recent incident of gang-rape of a medical student in Durgapur has sparked nationwide outrage. This reflects the deteriorating law and order situation in West Bengal. It is shocking that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has shifted the blame on the college authorities wondering how the girl had come out of the campus at midnight. Despite systematic sexual exploitation and reign of terror by the ruling party hooligans, the silence on the part of the government and police inaction against the perpetrators are a clear pointer that saving the goons was more important than rendering justice to victims. Even as the incident highlights the vulnerability and safety of women due to state’s negligence, it is time the court intervenes and ensures the harshest retribution to the perpetrators.

K R Srinivasan, Secunderabad-3

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BENGALURU ONLINE

TN man ‘sends hoax bomb threat’ to residences of CM, Dy CM

BENGALURU: A probe has been launched to trace a man from Tamil Nadu who allegedly sent a hoax email recently threatening to blow up the residences of Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, police said on Tuesday.

The emails were sent from a particular ID to the Tamil Nadu DGP on October 11, following which officials of the Karnataka police were immediately alerted and necessary precautionary measures were taken, they said.

The purported email from aarna.ashwineshkh@outlook.com claimed that “four RDX devices and several IEDs” had been planted at the residences of both the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister and would be “detonated remotely.”

As per protocol, precautionary measures were initiated, and the Bengaluru police carried out combing operations at both residences with the bomb detection and disposal squad. However, after thorough checks, the emails were declared a hoax, a senior police officer said. A case was registered by the police on their own against the sender of the purported email at Halasuru Gate police station under sections 351(4) (criminal intimidation) and 353(1)(b) (statements conducing to public mischief) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the officer said. “The particular email ID has been tracked to a man from Tamil Nadu and efforts are on to nab the culprit.

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

The voice within and the need for poetry

Every individual needs poetry in life- not just as written verses, but as the inner rhythm of thought



DR MYLAVARAM CHANDRA SHEKAR

A human being speaks — but not always from the heart. In today’s ultra-connected world, dominated by artificial intelligence (AI) and instant messaging, our communications are often filtered through screens, algorithms, and trending narratives.

When the heart wants to speak in its own rhythm, it takes the form of poetry.

A poem is born out of the urge to express what we truly feel. When we fail to convey our emotions directly — whether silenced by power imbalances in geopolitics or the high-pressure environments of business boardrooms — those emotions find their way through words.

Gentle, honest and rhythmic, poetry becomes not an ornament of language, but the purest reflection of the human mind, able to cut through the noise of propaganda, market sensationalism, and technological over-

load. Poetry is not just an emotional flow; it is also a courageous voice that seeks to unveil truth. In an era where deepfakes and misinformation shape public perception, poetry helps us distinguish between reality and illusion, allowing us to see things more clearly. Where news reveals facts, a poem adds a heartbeat to those facts, humanising headlines about conflict, recession, innovation, or migration. It is this pulse that links the lived experiences of people to unfolding events — and serves as a reminder to people in power of the human consequences beneath the statistics.

Over time, poetry has evolved:

Today’s poet is not confined to flowers, the moon, rivers or nature. The modern poet writes about computer screens, smartphones, supply chains disrupted by conflict, and the human mind caught between economic volatility and the rapid pace of technological change. The poet observes how technology — from AI to blockchain — changes not only our surroundings but also our inner world, bringing with it questions of privacy, autonomy, and identity.

Poetry acts like a mirror — one that reflects our



In today’s rapidly shifting geopolitical and economic landscape — where policy reversals, technological advances, and business disruptions are the norm — poetry teaches us that balance. It reminds us that victory is not about defeating others, but about overcoming the confusion within ourselves, and leading with vision and compassion

weaknesses, hopes, fears, and the most profound aspects of our consciousness. On the global stage, this mirror reflects the anxieties of societies facing job displacement due to automation or the divisiveness fuelled by social media echo chambers. Once we begin to see ourselves through this mirror, change starts within.

Every true poem asks a question: “Who are you really?” The search for this answer becomes a journey toward self-understanding, an inner resilience that is much needed in a time of rapid political, economic, and technological flux.

The fact is that poetry is also a form of knowledge

sharing. In business education, a lesson may fade from one’s memory, but a poem about a leader’s vision, an entrepreneur’s struggle, or a worker’s dream stays in the heart. Poetry teaches not just about what to think, but how to think — with empathy, with creativity and with an appreciation for complexity.

Through simple words, poetry sparks imagination and keeps erudition alive across generations, bridging the knowledge gap that often exists in the pursuit of innovation, policy and enterprise.

In society, differences of opinion are natural — whether over trade policy, climate action or regulation

of new technologies. Poetry builds bridges of understanding across those divides.

A poet brings different perspectives onto the same page and encourages respect for each of them, much as successful global businesses and diplomatic initiatives navigate diverse viewpoints to reach a consensus. Poetry is not a voice of division; it is a song of connection, essential for collaboration and peaceful progress in our interconnected world.

Every individual needs poetry in life — not just as written verses, but as the inner rhythm of thought. A poem can offer courage when words fail, comfort when silence feels heavy, and clarity when the mind is restless, whether one is a policymaker, entrepreneur, student, or citizen seeking direction amid uncertainty.

Life is like a pair of horses pulling a chariot — it needs balance, patience, and direction to reach its destination.

In today’s rapidly shifting geopolitical and economic landscape — where policy reversals, technological advances, and business disruptions are the norm — poetry teaches us that balance. It reminds us that victory is not about defeating others, but about overcoming the confusion within ourselves, and leading with vision and

compassion.

The question “Why poetry?” may sound simple, but its answer is infinite. For every heart that feels deeply — especially in a world transformed by geopolitics, business cycles, and technology — a poem is already being written within. Poetry is the voice of that inner self — a bridge between the silent heart and the speaking mind. It guides us gently toward understanding ourselves, and through that, understanding the world. This version weaves in the roles that policy, business, and technology play in shaping today’s emotional and cultural landscapes, and highlights poetry’s power as a counterbalance and guide in a complex, rapidly changing world.

Summary:

In a world of constant noise — from news feeds about global summits to the buzz of financial markets and relentless social media updates — poetry brings back silence. This silence helps us listen to our own hearts and regain perspective amid the turbulence of geopolitics and economic uncertainty.

(The writer is Program Head – PGDM BFS, Institute of Public Enterprise, Hyderabad)

SC certificates for Madasi Madari Kuruba community demanded

- The members of the community urges thousands of people from the community across the State have been waiting for SC caste certificates for years
- Alleges that due to negligence and lack of awareness among some local revenue officials, SC certificates are either delayed or incorrectly issued as Kuruba
- Brings to the Minister’s attention the prolonged delays caused by the revenue department in processing applications despite repeated requests

HANS NEWS SERVICE
ALUR

MEMBERS of the Madasi Madari Kuruba community from Alur mandal submitted a representation to BC Welfare and Handlooms & Textiles Minister Savita and Alur TDP in-charge Vaikuntham Jyothi at the R&B Guest House in Alur on Tuesday, urging immediate issuance of Scheduled Caste (SC) community certificates to eligible members.

They brought to the minister’s attention the prolonged delays caused by the revenue department in processing applications de-

spite repeated requests. Speaking on the occasion, Taluka Convener Kaudiki Raju and General Secretary Peddahyata Mallayya stated that thousands of people from the Madasi Madari Kuruba community across several districts of the State have been waiting for SC caste certificates for years. Due to negligence and lack of awareness among some local revenue officials, SC certificates are either delayed or incorrectly issued as Kuruba (BC.B.11), depriving eligible individuals of their rightful benefits in education, employment, and welfare schemes. The



Members of the Madasi Madari Kuruba community giving representation to BC Welfare and Handlooms & Textiles Minister Savita and Alur TDP in-charge Vaikuntham Jyothi on Tuesday

leaders appealed to the State government to issue clear directives to revenue officials to resolve the issue without further delay. They also requested that the matter be brought to the notice of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who will be visiting Kurnool

on October 16, to ensure a decisive government-level resolution. The event was attended by association honorary president Ranganna, Hanumappa Bellam Raju, Endi Halli Sarpanch Sudhakar, Sharan, former Sarpanch Devendrappa, Lingamurthy, and several other community leaders.

Complete all pending works by Dec, Sunitha tells babus

- The MLA discusses the progress of BT roads, CC roads, Village Health Clinics, and Gram Sachivalayam (village secretariat) buildings under various funding schemes
- Sunitha directed officials to expedite unfinished works, especially the 18 pending Village Health Clinics left incomplete by the previous government
- Reviews the construction of three new village secretariats in Vepakunta, Konapuram, and Narasampalli

HANS NEWS SERVICE
ANANTAPUR

RAPTADU MLA Paritala Sunitha on Tuesday instructed Panchayat Raj department officials to complete all pending devel-



Raptadu MLA Paritala Sunitha conducting a review meeting with Panchayat officials in Anantapur on Tuesday

opment works by December. She held a detailed review meeting with Executive Engineers (EEs), Deputy Engineers (DEs), and Assistant Engineers (AEs) of the Panchayat Raj department at her camp office in Anantapur on Monday. During the review, the MLA discussed the progress of BT roads, CC roads, Village Health Clinics, and Gram Sachivalayam (village secretariat) buildings under various funding schemes including World Bank, NAB-

ARD, NREGS, and the 15th Finance Commission. Officials briefed that out of 22 BT road projects worth ₹11 crore, works worth ₹6 crore have been completed, while the remaining are in progress. Similarly, CC road projects worth ₹22.80 crore have achieved 98% completion, and new works worth ₹3.19 crore have recently been sanctioned. Sunitha directed officials to expedite unfinished works, especially the 18 pending Village Health

Clinics left incomplete by the previous government. She emphasized the need to make them operational at the earliest for public benefit. Under the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bhava scheme, five new clinics are being built at a cost of ₹42 lakh each, while nine others are being constructed across Anantapur and Sri Sathya Sai districts under the 15th Finance Commission. She also reviewed the construction of three new village secretariats in Vepakunta, Konapuram, and Narasampalli at ₹32 lakh each, and road works in Amidalakunta (₹2.35 crore for 6 km) and Kamarupalli (₹80 lakh for 1.9 km). MLA Sunitha stressed that no project should remain pending beyond December, asserting that timely completion will significantly improve rural infrastructure and healthcare access in the constituency.

Awareness rally on Int’l Day of Girl Child held



Rally on Beti Bachao and Beti Padhao taken out in Kurnool on Tuesday

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KURNOOL

THE International Day of the Girl Child was observed in a spirited manner at the Zilla Parishad Girls High School in Kurnool on Tuesday. The event was organised under the supervision of District Mass Media Officer Prakash Raju. To mark the occasion, students actively participated in an awareness rally highlighting the importance of protecting and educating girl children under the theme “Beti Bachao – Beti Padhao.” The rally also focused on promoting the im-

portance of nutrition among adolescent girls. Speaking on the occasion, Prakash Raju said that week-long awareness programmes are being conducted to spread the message of gender equality and women’s empowerment. He underlined that gender imbalance poses serious social challenges and urged everyone to support girl children in achieving their dreams. Education, he stressed, is the key to ensuring economic self-reliance and a secure future for girls. Emphasizing gender equality, he said that women are on par with men in every sphere

and should be given equal opportunities to grow and lead. “Let us protect, educate, and empower girls to build a strong society,” he said, calling upon the community to work collectively toward this cause. The programme was attended by Deputy DEMO Chandrasekhar Reddy, Legal Consultant Sumalatha, Deputy Health Education Officer Padmavathi, Health Worker Manasa, ASHA Worker Aruna, and Projectionist staff. Officials and participants expressed their commitment to creating a safe, equal, and empowering environment for girls.

Essay writing competition on GST held

HANS NEWS SERVICE
GOOTY

AN essay writing competition on Goods and Services Tax (GST) was organised at Sri Sai Degree College, Gooty, under the jurisdiction of Sri Sai Campus CEO Sri Sriramulu, Sri Sai Degree College Principal Dr Venkateshwarlu Reddy, and PRR MBA College Principal Dr Prasanna Kumar (coordinator for GST programme). The main objective of the competition was to enhance students’ understanding of GST and its role in India’s economic

system. A total of 200 students from various groups participated enthusiastically in the competition and expressed their insights on the significance, advantages, and implications of GST in the Indian economy. After careful evaluation, nine students who excelled in the competition were awarded prizes and certificates for their outstanding performance. All other participants received certificates of participation in appreciation of their efforts.



Collector inspects special sanitation campaign

HANS NEWS SERVICE
PUTTAPARTHI

AS part of the special sanitation drive, Sri Sathya Sai District Collector A Shyam Prasad visited Venkatagaripalli Gram Panchayat in Puttaparthi Mandal on Tuesday. The district-wide campaign, being conducted from October 13 to 20, aims to promote cleanliness, environmental protection, waste management, and plastic-free awareness across all gram panchayats in the district. During his visit, the Collector emphasized that maintaining cleanliness with active public participation can transform rural areas into healthier and more beautiful communities. He urged gram panchayat officials, women’s groups, and youth associations to work collectively through voluntary community service (Shramadanam) to keep their villages clean and hygienic. The Collector personally inspected village streets,



Collector A Shyam Prasad inspecting the ongoing sanitation and cleanliness works in Puttaparthi on Tuesday

waste disposal centers, water tanks, and drainage systems, assessing the effectiveness of sanitation practices. He also interacted with villagers to gather feedback and suggestions for further improvement. Speaking on the occasion Shyam Prasad said, “Cleanliness should become a community habit. When every individual contributes, villages can truly become models of health and harmony.” The drive also witnessed

the participation of District Panchayat Officer Y Samatha, Puttaparthi Mandal Development Officer, local public representatives, Panchayat Secretary, Secretariat staff, and women’s self-help groups, who actively joined in the sanitation activities. The drive has been receiving encouraging public response across the district, reflecting a growing awareness among rural communities toward maintaining a clean and sustainable environment.

Promotions for Panchayat Secys a festive gift: MLA Daggupati Prasad

HANS NEWS SERVICE
ANANTAPUR

THE Andhra Pradesh Government’s decision to grant promotions to Panchayat Secretaries has been described as a Dussehra and Diwali gift to employees by Anantapur Urban MLA Daggupati Prasad. He lauded the State Cabinet’s approval for the restructuring and reclassification of Panchayats, calling it a long-awaited reform that fulfills a 48-year-old demand of the Panchayat Raj Department staff. Celebrating the announcement, Panchayat Secretaries gathered at the

MLA office in Anantapur, where they performed milk abhishekam to the portraits of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister & Panchayat Raj Minister Pawan Kalyan, expressing gratitude for the government’s support. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Daggupati said the government has divided Panchayats into four grades Special (urban), Grade I, Grade II, and Grade III based on population and revenue, ensuring fair governance and better service delivery. He noted that Panchayat Secretaries will now serve as



Panchayat Development Officers and MLA Daggupati Venkateswara Prasad performing milk abhishekam to the portraits of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Dy CM Pawan Kalyan in Anantapur on Tuesday

Panchayat Development Officers, marking a major administrative upgrade within the department. He criticized the previous YSRCP government, alleging that it had ignored rural development and neglected

Panchayat Raj institutions during its tenure. In contrast, he said, the current coalition government is committed to strengthening village-level governance through infrastructural development like roads and drainage systems.

‘Strict enforcement on firecracker sales ahead of Diwali’

HANS NEWS SERVICE
PUTTAPARTHI

IN view of the upcoming Diwali festival, Sri Sathya Sai District Collector A Shyam Prasad and District Superintendent of Police S Satish Kumar issued stern warnings against unauthorized and illegal sale of firecrackers. They emphasized that anyone violating government norms would face strict legal action. At a review meeting held at the Collectorate on Tuesday, the Collector, along with officials from Revenue, Police, Fire, Municipal, RDO, and Tahsildar departments, discussed safety measures to be implemented across all li-



Collector A Shyam Prasad and SP S Satish Kumar speaking during the meeting in Puttaparthi on Tuesday

censed firecracker outlets in the district. The officials were instructed to ensure that all shop owners strictly follow fire safety regulations, maintain sand and water for emergencies, and prevent over crowding and open flames near storage or sales areas. The Collector directed that shops must be set up with

thatched sheds, maintaining a safe distance between each outlet to avoid fire hazards. Electrical wiring should be inspected to prevent short circuits, and continuous monitoring should be carried out until the festival concludes. The SP announced a special police drive to inspect

whether traders are adhering to safety norms and holding valid licenses. He also warned that sale of crackers in residential or crowded areas is strictly prohibited and must only be done at officially designated locations. Authorities urged the public to report any illegal sales of firecrackers to Dial 112 or the nearest police station, assuring that the informant’s identity will be kept confidential. The officials reiterated that safety, legality, and public awareness must be the top priorities during the festive season to prevent accidents and ensure a safe Diwali for all.

Handri-Neeva tanks overflow, boosts Rayalaseema irrigation

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KURNOOL

IN a major push to strengthen irrigation in Rayalaseema, Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu reviewed the filling of tanks under the Handri Neeva Sujala Sravanthi Project at the Kurnool CE office on Tuesday. The meeting brought together top officials, including Irrigation Advisor Venkateswara Rao, ENC Narasimha Murthy, Chief Engineers, Superintending

- Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu reviews the filling of tanks under the Handri Neeva Sujala Sravanthi Project
- Reports that out of 517 tanks in the project area, 299 have already been filled, and active measures are underway to fill the remaining tanks
- Ramanaidu states that reservoirs with a total capacity of 961 TMC are currently holding 844 TMC, amounting to 87.86 percent of total capacity

Engineers, Executive Engineers, and other senior staff, to assess progress and streamline efforts for optimal water storage.

The minister reported that out of 517 tanks in the project area, 299 have already been filled, and active measures are underway to



Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu reviewing a meeting on the filling of tanks under the Handri Neeva Sujala Sravanthi Project at the Kurnool CE office on Tuesday

fill the remaining tanks. Highlighting the state’s

water storage achievements, Ramanaidu stated that res-

ervoirs with a total capacity of 961 TMC are currently holding 844 TMC, amounting to 87.86 percent of total capacity. “Already, 93 percent of the reservoirs in the state are full,” he added, attributing the success to the proactive water management policies of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu. Minister Ramanaidu also emphasized infrastructure development for the project, noting that ₹3,850 crore has been invested to channel Krishna waters

over 738 kilometers to remote areas. He criticised former chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy for neglecting the Handri Neeva project, saying, “Despite claiming to be a son of Rayalaseema, he did not spend a single rupee on this lifeline project, nor cleared motor bills or desilted tanks.” Contrasting past and present governments’ efforts, the minister stated, “What could not be achieved in five years under Jagan’s re-

gime, we completed in the first year of the coalition government.” He accused the previous government of electoral theatrics, releasing water using rented tanks before polls. In a symbolic demonstration of progress, Chief Minister Naidu brought Krishna waters to Kuppam, killed the Paramasagaram tank, and conducted a boat ride, showcasing the administration’s commitment to sustainable water supply and regional development.

Odissi dance enchants the audience

An evening of sublime Odissi unfolded as part of the 13th annual festival organised by Our Sacred Space Environmental and Cultural Centre. The performance featured the renowned Guru Sharmila Biswas and her disciple Raaginni Hindocha, who captivated the audience with their artistry and emotional depth. Their presentation beautifully blended tradition, innovation, and devotion, offering a memorable celebration of classical dance

ANNA RAO GANGAVALLI

AS part of their 13th Annual Festival, the Our Sacred Space Environmental and Cultural Centre organised an entrancing evening of Odissi dance at Chaurah Auditorium, Secunderabad, recently.

Senior Guru Sharmila Biswas is a leading dancer, choreographer, and teacher of Odissi. A prominent disciple of the legend Kelucharan Mohapatra, she is the founder of the 'Odissi Vision and Movement Centre' in Kolkata, which has been instrumental in the research of traditional folk-art forms as well as the Mahari or Devadasi tradition of Odisha. She delves into these for innovation in her productions, which have been presented at dance festivals worldwide. Her creative changes in content, technique, and costumes are a considerable contribution, recognised by the conferment of the Sang-eet Natak Akademi Award. Demanding excellence, dedication, and discipline from her students, she has been instrumental in grooming a talented younger generation of Odissi dancers.

Raaginni Hindocha is a budding disciple of Sharmila

Biswas and has performed in many festivals in India and abroad as part of her Guru's repertory. Two compositions were showcased by Raaginni and one by Sharmila Biswas. The 'aharya' of Raaginni was in electric blue, standing out well on the lit-up stage.

'Ramashtakam' in 'misra raga' was a treat with its lilting music. The young dancer entered the stage starting with her back to the audience in the characteristic stylized Odissi looping movements full of grace. The tempo built up with slow and steady movements flowing into vigorously agile 'angika abhinaya' as the attributes of Lord Rama were brought out. Raaginni's honed gestures were full of both delicacy and solidity, indicating an apt student who has imbibed the knowledge imparted meticulously by her Guru while inserting a considerable flair of her own. This was a tribute to Sharmila's considered opinion that a student must display originality without merely copying identically an age-old choreography.

After performing a 'Pranam', she went on to delineate, while being in precise synchrony with every trill of music, the refrain — salutations to Rama, to whose feet



all gods prostrate, born in the dynasty of the Sun, whose beautiful face is decorated by 'Chandan'. Then comes the young prince fixing his arrows to the bow to destroy the demon disturbers of the sages' sacrifices and the redeeming of Ahalya. The dainty fluttering of her hands exactly mirrored the exuberant footwork, creating a thrilling effect. Hara's bow broke in Rama's hands, and he went to the forest for the cause of truth and justice. The golden deer was brought down with a single arrow after the dancer depicted its bounding playful movements. The King of Eagles,

Jatayu, was given 'moksha' by the Lord, who slew Vali, the King of Monkeys. The peerless prince who controlled and had the ocean bridged, conquered Lanka by destroying Ravana and his armies — is bowed down to in humble reverence.

The second piece, 'Gativilas' in 'jog raga', was full of exquisite 'nritta' movements and expressions where, one by one, several animals were brought to life by their natural interpretation through the strides which give the horse its power, the regal lion whose stamp is its majestic stance, the peacock with its glorious fantail who dances

effortlessly in its forest environment, the cuckoo whose body reverberates with the powerful vibrance of its melodious singing, and the hawk whose telescopic gaze enables it to swoop down on its prey like lightning.

The finale was 'Vilasini' by Guru Sharmila Biswas herself. This piece was inspired by Sharmila's meeting with, and immense regard for, the last Maharis of the Jagannath Temple. Filled with overpowering 'abhinaya', it created a palimpsest of emotions where the artiste revelled in her own mastery of layers of intricate imagery to bring 'rasa' to the audience. The simple scene of an aged Mahari or temple dancer remembering the old days — despite seeing her wrinkled reflection, being unable to control her urge to decorate herself and get dressed up in the morning — was turned into a masterpiece of imaginative choreographic creativity.

Every minute movement, faithfully reproduced visually, built up the character in rich detail to a subtly picaresque perfection brimming with an earthly vitality



in every pore. The sleeping dancer stirs and awakens; she knots her hair into a bun, fastening it with flowers, dots her forehead with 'Sindoor', places 'Kajal' in her eyes. Earrings for her ears are fastened, a garland is hung around her neck, forehead and body daubed with 'Chandan'. A brocade jacket covers her chest; adorned with necklaces, she wears a saree with a temple motif border. Bangles and armlets are worn; feet gaily coloured red with 'Alta' and decked with anklets. Being peered upon, she uses the curious observers to have her toe ring put on as she cannot reach it herself. After her dressing up is finished,

she runs eagerly to the mirror to see and admire herself; it was as though the artiste had vanished and a real Mahari was on stage going through her toilette

— a stunning 'trompe l'oeil' effect translated flawlessly to dance with surpassing skill. The conclusion witnessed the appreciative applause of the spellbound audience.



DEEPTI NAVAL DROPS A FOND MEMORY WITH HER FATHER FROM THEIR EUROPE GETAWAY

Veteran actress Deepthi Naval treated the netizens with a fond memory with her father from their getaway to Europe back in 1982. The photo showed the father-daughter duo posing outside the camper. Remembering the time with her dad, the 'Saath Saath' actress penned on her Instagram, "Sharing a precious memory of my father - In a camper through Europe - Piti and I - 1982. (sic)"

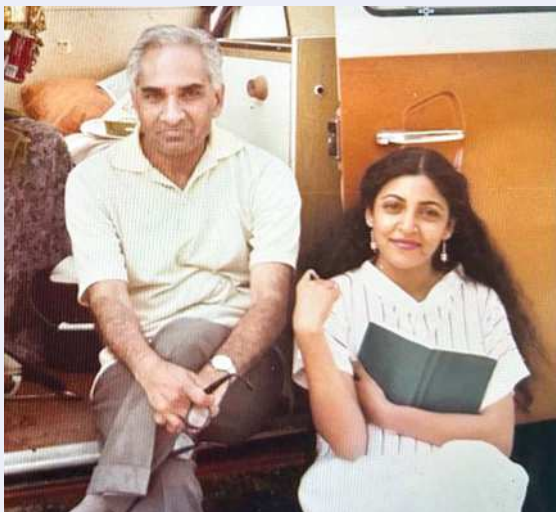
Adoring the throwback photo, an Insta user shared in the comment section, "This is one of the best beautiful picture of the day, u look so much pretty girl in this very picture. Deep regards."

Another netizen penned,

"No words to describe the classic immaculate Indian beauty." The third comment read, "Proud daughter of a proud father".

Earlier, Deepthi spoke about the monumental shift in the film industry over the years during an exclusive conversation.

Shedding light on the changes that she has witnessed in Hindi cinema from her era to the current times, Deepthi told IANS, "Well today, there is a lot of visual finesse in our movies. So that is something that I like the most. Our films are at par with the international standards. In terms of world cinema, we are as good as them technically and visually. There are a lot of skills today among all. Whether it is



the technicians or even the actors. Everybody is trained. Everybody has learnt their craft. You don't just stroll into the film industry, and become an actor, like me, I didn't learn anything. Everybody brings training. They are very focused".

"The younger generation are so focused, and they believe in their dreams. And

they are going all out for it. And these two are examples here. Jitesh and Alankrita. I find them very inspiring. Both of them. And our director, he is also very inspiring as a person. Cinema has changed a lot from the time when we were working earlier years to now. A lot of changes, I would say," she added.

Dia Mirza highlights India's vision for circular economy through deep-tech recycling initiative

BOLLYWOOD actress Dia Mirza took to social media to celebrate a breakthrough in sustainable innovation.

In her post, the 'Sanju' actress mentioned how the startup transforms up to five tons of unrecyclable plastic waste per month into high-quality circular materials while providing waste workers with higher wages, health benefits, and dignity, reflecting a vision of inclusive innovation. Dia emphasizes that this is more than just technological innovation — it's inclusive innovation. The plant not only tackles plastic waste but also benefits the people involved in the recycling process, offering 2-3 times higher salaries.

Sharing a series of her photos, the 'Rehnaa Hai Terre Dil Mein' actress wrote, "A milestone for people and planet Thrilled to back Without, an impact-first deep-tech material science enterprise, as they launch their pioneering FOAK Demonstration Plant in Pune — capable of transforming up to 5 tons/



month of "unrecyclable" plastic waste into high-quality, circular materials. This isn't just innovation — it's inclusive innovation. Cutting-edge recycling technology that gives waste workers 2-3x the salary, health insurance, paid leave, and above all, dignity and respect. At its heart lies systemic thinking and a vision of India leading the world in circular solutions."

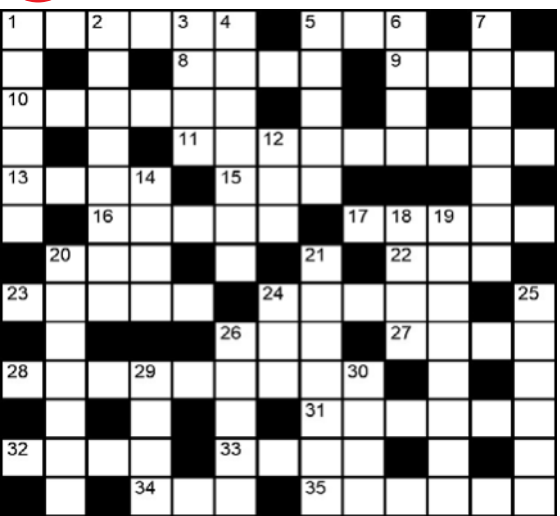
"The launch comes at the heels of a

\$1.9 million Seed Funding round, supported by truly patient impact capital. I'm proud to join this journey as strategic advisor, investor, and advocate alongside partners who believe that science, justice, and sustainability can — and must — go hand in hand."

"A powerful reminder that real circularity includes people, not just materials. Here's to scaling this vision across India and beyond. Because when innovation meets inclusion, hope becomes action," she added. As an environmental advocate, Dia Mirza often shares posts to raise awareness about conservation and sustainability.

On the professional front, Dia was recently seen in the Netflix film "Nadaan" directed by Shauna Gautam. The movie introduced a fresh lineup of actors, including Saif Ali Khan's son Ibrahim Ali Khan and Khushi Kapoor, alongside veteran performers Mahima Chaudhry, Suniel Shetty, and Jugad Hansraj. Dia portrayed Nandini, the mother of Ibrahim's character, Arjun.

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- Breakwater (6)
- Any of the heavenly bodies, as the sun or moon (3)
- Bears, in Barcelona (4)
- Republic in SW Asia (4)
- European sea (6)
- Befall, occur or happen (4,5)
- Its capital is Vientiane (4)
- Greek letter (3)
- Clumsy chap (5)
- Junkies (5)
- Monetary unit of Romania (3)

- In addition (3)
- Taken on to staff (5)
- Singer Cherry (5)
- Vitality (3)
- Husband's partner (4)
- Having three cusps (9)
- Japan (6)
- Propagated (4)
- Andre ____ : French writer, Nobel laureate in 1947 ? (4)
- Bond creator Fleming (3)
- Stoppage of flow or circulation (6)

DOWN

- Speak incoherently (6)
- Observer (8)
- Naval Off. In Charge (4)
- Guards of honour (7)
- Bone prefix (5)
- Amitabh Bachchan of course (3,1)
- Cowboy (7)
- Frequency unit (3)
- Swing about (4)
- Fret and fume (4)
- Extinct small horse (8)
- Collection of books (7)
- Causes to remember (7)
- Barely defeat (3)
- Federer's forte (6)
- Churchillian gesture (1-4)
- Basic monetary unit of Ghana (4)
- Eat sparingly (4)



Solution to October 14

SUDOKU



Solution to October 14

Naomi Watts says she suffers from imposter syndrome

BRITISH actress Naomi Watts has opened up on suffering from imposter syndrome. The 57-year-old actress made the confession as she was honoured with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles in honour of her career achievements in the movie industry with the Mulholland Drive star admitting the accolade came "out of the blue".

Speaking ahead of her star ceremony, she said, "I can't even believe it. It's interesting, because I have all kinds of imposter syndrome. I've always felt like I'm supposed to struggle, I'm supposed to keep proving myself, and this sort of just came out of the blue. It's really lovely".

During the star ceremony on Monday, Naomi paid tribute to her husband Billy Crudup for his "phenomenal love and support" as well as her son Sasha, 18, and daughter Kai, 16, from her mar-

riage to actor Liev Schreiber, and her step-son Will, reports 'Female First UK'. She told 'Variety', "I struggled for so long. I'm so familiar with that side of things more than this incredible good fortune, celebrations like this. It's wonderful".

During her speech, Naomi applauded Sasha for coming straight from classes at the University of Southern California to attend the ceremony, saying, "I'm so proud of my kids. My son Sasha, a freshman at USC, is here straight from class. He rolled in, and he's blossoming into the kindest, most charismatic young man".

Naomi called Kai "fierce and fearless" and applauded Will for "following in his father's footsteps" as he prepares for college graduation.

As per 'Female First UK', it comes after Billy, who married Naomi in 2023, opened up about how they support

each other in their marriage.

He told 'People' magazine, "We've been doing this for a long time. "I think we have some idea of how each of us manages our careers, and so we do the best that we can to



just be supportive of the other person's agenda".

The couple previously admitted it is "much easier" to attend Hollywood events together.

THE FUTURE OF WORK THROUGH GEN Z EYES

PROF VIKAS DHAWAN

WHEN one looks at today's young generation i.e., Gen Z students, they see a fundamental shift in how careers are being imagined & pursued. For earlier generations, careers were often seen as financial anchors or pathways to security. You picked a profession, committed to it for decades, and it became the foundation of stability for the family. But for Gen Z, careers are deeply tied to identity, purpose lifestyle & not confined to the sense of security. This generation is rewriting the rulebook: careers are lifestyle choices, and lifestyle choices are career decisions. And they're not wrong.

The blending of work and life

For Gen Z, the old concept of "work-life balance" feels outdated. Instead, they talk about "work-life integration."A career is now no longer about what you do between nine and five. Instead, it's an extension of who you are, what you care about, and the type of life you wish to live. If you're passionate about travel, you're drawn to careers in content creation, global consulting, or hospitality. If wellness is at the

A deep dive into how values, creativity, and freedom are shaping the next era of career choices

center of your life, careers in fitness, nutrition, or mental health appeal. The career is chosen to complement life & that's what is imperative in the long run.

The very approach is reshaping industries. Employees today understand that younger professionals desire flexibility, autonomy, and purpose. They are less inclined to take up jobs requiring personal sacrifice, and more inclined to go for businesses that align with their values: whether it is sustainability, diversity, or social responsibility.

The magnificent rise of purpose-driven careers

Probably, the most striking pattern here is how strongly Gen Z aligns career decisions with personal values. For instance, many students nowadays are choosing careers in renewable energy, social entrepreneurship, or something like impact con-



sulting; not merely because these fields are growing, but because they align with their aspirations of contributing to society. Similarly, even in technology, there's a visible shift towards aspirational careers. Educators are of immense importance in this scenario as they're responsible for helping students connect the dots between where they are & what they strive to be.

Flexibility as a non-negotiable element

The pandemic accelerated trends that were already underway i.e., remote work, gig

opportunities & moonlighting as a career. Gen Z has imbibed this wholeheartedly. For them, a career shouldn't be confined to one employer or one role. They're comfortable with freelancing, side hustles & modern options like moonlighting. MBA students today are often seen running small e-commerce stores, freelancing as digital marketers, or creating YouTube channels alongside their studies. For this generation, income streams and career identities are increasingly fluid. These pursuits fit into the lifestyle they aspire to: creative, flexible, and self-

directed and that's what matters, ultimately.

Creating the future instead of waiting for it

Careers can draw a lot of fuel from Abraham Lincoln's famous ideology: "The best way to predict the future is to create it." When an educator applies this to career development, it translates to preparing students for the possibilities that don't yet exist. This is the only reason why we motivate students to view careers as growth paths. The values they maintain, the skills they gain, and the decisions they make should



all contribute to making the life they desire for themselves. Most of the time, it is absolutely necessary for students to combine technical expertise with human skills. If you're pursuing IT, understand how those tools affect people's lives. If you're in management, inculcate digital fluency. This integration makes them aligned with their lifestyle choices. After all, a fulfilling career is one that doesn't merely earn you a paycheck but enriches your way of living.

The role of educators & institutions

Marquee institutes have a responsibility to adapt. Traditional models of education revolving around academic knowledge have become outdated pretty quickly. In fact, we need to offer exposure to entrepreneurial thinking & that's super important. This way, students are prepared for life & not confined to the 9 to 5 hustle.

Gen Z is Genz owing to their refusal to separate who they are from what they do. Their careers are extensions of their values, passions, and aspirations. They are unapologetic about choosing professions that let them

live the lives they want & that means prioritizing creativity, global mobility, sustainability & wellness combined into an offering. As educators and mentors, our role is not to fit them into old moulds but to give them the tools, exposure, and confidence to design their own. Because in the end, careers should serve both: economic reasons & lifestyle decisions. And this generation, more than any before, knows it best.

(The author is Director General, Institute of Management Studies (IMS) Noida)



Equipping young with job-ready AI skills

NEW DELHI

IN a major step to bridge the AI skills gap in India, EY and Microsoft launched the AI Skills Passport, a free online programme designed to provide young Indians with the tools and knowledge needed to thrive in an AI-driven economy.

The initiative, aimed at individuals aged 16 and above, offers equitable access to high-quality AI education, preparing early-career professionals and students with essential, job-ready AI skills.

The launch in India follows a global roll-out earlier this year, which has already seen over 40,000 participants enroll and more than 13,000 complete the programme.

With NASSCOM reporting that only 31 per cent of professionals in India feel well-prepared to use AI tools, EY and Microsoft aim to empower youth to upskill and be future-ready in an increasingly digital landscape.

Monesh Dange, Partner and Leader, Alliances and Ecosystems, EY India, said, "In an era where AI is revolutionising work and redefining career paths, the launch of the AI Skills Passport addresses India's growing demand for skilled AI talent."

- **Free and inclusive learning:** A fully online, free programme available in English and Hindi, ensuring broad accessibility across regions and backgrounds.
- **Practical, career-focused curriculum:** Around 10 hours of content combining AI fundamentals, responsible AI, real-world applications, and career development support.
- **Verified credential for employability:** Participants enhancing their job prospects and credibility in the AI-driven economy earn a verifiable digital badge, enhancing their job prospects and credibility in the AI-driven economy

"Many professionals remain unprepared to harness AI's full potential. Together with Microsoft, we're committed to ensuring this programme is not only free but impactful at scale, providing access for everyone to build essential AI skills," Dange added.

The AI Skills Passport is a fully online programme with approximately 10 hours of content, available in both English and Hindi to ensure broad accessibility.

The programme combines modular video lessons, practical exercises, and asynchronous assessments, allowing learners to engage at their own pace.

It covers fundamentals of AI, responsible AI practices, and applications of AI across industries such as healthcare, finance, and

technology. Real-world case studies, hands-on exercises, and career guidance, including résumé building, interview preparation, and networking strategies, are integrated to help learners apply their skills and enhance employability.

Upon successful completion, participants receive a verifiable digital badge to strengthen their job profiles and career prospects in the AI-driven economy.

Bhaskar Basu, Enterprise Partnerships Leader, Microsoft India & South Asia, said, "AI is transforming India's digital economy, with youth at its core. The AI Skills Passport, launched in partnership with EY, reflects our vision of 'AI for all' and our commitment to fostering future-ready talent."

TODAY IS GLOBAL HANDWASHING DAY

Raising awareness about hand hygiene

ONE of the simplest and most effective ways to prevent the spread of disease is something we often overlook — washing our hands regularly. From classrooms and offices to hospitals and homes, proper hand hygiene is a powerful defense against germs, bacteria, and viruses that cause illness.

Every day, we touch countless surfaces — doorknobs, phones, keyboards, money — all of which can harbor harmful microorganisms. When we touch our eyes, nose, or mouth without washing our hands, these germs can easily enter our bodies, leading to infections such as the flu, common cold, food poisoning, or even more serious diseases.

Regular handwashing



with soap and clean water can reduce the risk of respiratory and diarrheal

infections by up to 40%. It's a simple habit with enormous health benefits

— one that protects not only you but also those around you. The key is to

wash your hands for at least 20 seconds, especially before eating, after using the restroom, after coughing or sneezing, and after touching public surfaces.

Raising awareness about hand hygiene is just as important as practicing it. Schools, workplaces, and communities can take small but meaningful steps — like putting up posters, organizing awareness drives, or teaching children the right way to wash their hands.

Clean hands symbolize care, responsibility, and respect for others. As global health challenges continue to rise, adopting regular handwashing as a daily habit is one of the easiest and most effective ways to build a healthier, safer world for everyone.

WORLD STUDENTS' DAY CELEBRATING THE POWER, POTENTIAL, AND PROMISE OF YOUTH

EVERY year on October 15, the world celebrates World Students' Day — a day dedicated to honouring the spirit of learning, creativity, and curiosity that defines students across the globe. The date marks the birth anniversary of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, India's former President, eminent scientist, and one of the most inspiring educators of our time. His life's message was simple yet powerful: "Dream, dream, dream. Dreams transform into thoughts and thoughts result in action."

World Students' Day is not merely a celebration; it's a reminder of the vital role students play in shaping the future.

In an era driven by rapid technological advancements, climate change, and global interconnectivity, today's learners are tomorrow's innovators, leaders, and problem-solvers. Their ideas have the power to redefine industries, influence societies, and build more inclusive and sustainable communities.

Modern education is



evolving beyond textbooks and examinations. It now emphasizes critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and compassion — the skills that truly prepare students for life.

The rise of AI, digital learning platforms, and experiential education has created new opportunities

for students to learn anytime, anywhere. However, with these opportunities come responsibilities — to use technology ethically, to think globally while acting locally, and to pursue learning not just for personal growth but for the collective good.

As we celebrate this day,

it's essential to reflect on the challenges students face today — academic pressure, mental health struggles, and the growing digital divide. Institutions, educators, and policymakers must work together to create environments that nurture curiosity and emotional well-being, ensuring that

learning remains a joyful, empowering experience.

World Students' Day also celebrates the spirit of resilience. Whether adapting to online learning, exploring entrepreneurship, or leading social impact projects, students continue to prove their ability to innovate even in uncertainty.

-Gautam Gambhir,

Pansare and his wife were returning home from their morning walk in the Samrat Nagar area of Kolhapur when two motorbike-borne men fired multiple rounds at them before fleeing.



‘Bigg Boss Telugu Season 9’ losing credibility?

MOSTLY DUE TO POOR CONTESTANT PICKS

SUHAS SISTU

BIGG Boss Telugu has long thrived on controversy, charisma, and compelling personalities. But season 9, so far, is eroding that foundation — and it’s not because of the host or the format. Though it came with the tagline ‘Idi chadarangamkaadu, raanarangam’ (It’s not chess, it’s war), the show is not showing the same fire it promised. It’s the weak selection of contestants that’s turning what should be a high-voltage reality show into a

forgettable routine. **Where’s the spark?**

Contestant lineups in earlier seasons felt rugged, unpredictable, and teeming with clashing egos. This year’s cast, however, leans heavily into “safe” names and internet personas, many carrying baggage from past controversies. For instance, Sanjana Galrani entered the house with known legal issues, immediately shifting focus from the show itself to her personal drama. Flora Saini’s entry also brought pre-existing controversies to the fore

before she even got a chance to perform.

Rules break, respect fades

When viewers see contestants breaking fundamental rules—like the rule of speaking Telugu—without apparent consequences, it signals weak enforcement and less accountability. Bigg Boss himself had to scold contestants for repeatedly ignoring Telugu. That undermines the very structure that gives the show its gravity.

Drama by default, not design

Elsewhere, the show is

running out of organic tension. Relationships and fights feel manufactured. Wildcard entries like Divya Nikitha, selected despite having low support in the Agnipariksha audition, suggest favoritism over fair competition. When eliminations feel rigged or influenced by off-screen factors, viewers lose trust.

A show built on gamble, not formula

Bigg Boss is supposed to be about raw human unpredictability. This season, it has become a predictable exercise

in name value and past controversies. The result: a show that looks busy but lacks depth, and reinforces the idea that the franchise is banking more on spectacle than substance.

With the latest wildcard entries like Divvela Madhuri and Ramya Moksha, who recently made headlines for their controversial public statements, the makers seem to be attempting a last-minute rescue operation to revive audience interest. These contestants bring drama potential, but whether they can inject real momentum into



the show—or simply add more noise without substance—remains to be seen. All eyes are now on how these wildcard contestants will shake up the

house dynamics in the coming weeks. If these contestants also fade like the rest—season 9 risks becoming one of its most forgettable chapters.

‘MeesaalaPilla’ from ‘MSVP Garu’: Vintage melody with modern touch

MEGASTAR Chiranjeevi has joined forces for the first time with blockbuster filmmaker Anil Ravipudi for the much-awaited family entertainer Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu. Touted to be packed with family emotions, humor, and mass appeal in Ravipudi’s signature style, the film is gearing up for a grand Sankranti 2026 theatrical release.

The promotional campaign began on a powerful note with the launch of the first single ‘MeesaalaPilla’, whose promo dropped during the Dussehra festival. Within hours, the track went viral across social media platforms, trending with thousands of fan-made reels and edits celebrating Chiranjeevi’s unmatched screen aura and the song’s vibrant energy.

One of the biggest talking points from the promo is the refreshing on-screen chemistry between Chiranjeevi and Lady Superstar Nayanthara. The duo is seen portraying a grounded and



charming husband-wife pair, offering a blend of fun, warmth, and emotional relatability—something audiences are already loving.

The song boasts a melodious yet upbeat vibe brought to life by the soulful vocals of Udit Narayan and Shweta Mohan. Bhaskara Bhatla’s playful lyrics add a catchy

local flavor, while Bheem-sCeciroleo’s lively music makes “MeesaalaPilla” an instant chartbuster. Music lovers have already begun calling it one of the most addictive Telugu singles of the season.

Produced by SahuGara-pati and Sushmita Konidela under the Shine Screens

and Gold Box Entertainment banners, the film has now set high expectations among audiences. With the first single making waves, all eyes are now on the next glimpse from Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu as excitement continues to build ahead of its festive release.



‘Mithra Mandali’ pre-release event sparks buzz

THE upcoming buddy comedy Mithra Mandali is gearing up for a theatrical release on October 16, generating strong buzz among audiences. Produced under BV Works and presented by Bunny Vas and SaptaAshwa Media Works, the film features Priyadarshi and popular digital star Niharika NM in lead roles. Directed by Vijayender S, the film boasts a huge ensemble cast including comedy icons Brahmanandam, Vennela Kishore, Satya, VTV Ganesh, and others.

As part of promotions, a grand pre-release event was held on October 13, graced by actor Sree Vishnu as the chief guest. Speaking at the event, he praised the team’s effort and said, “Mithra Mandali is full of heart and humor. It will make audiences leave the theatre with a smile.” He also appreciated Priyadarshi’s script choices and welcomed Niharika NM to Telugu cinema.

Priyadarshi expressed confidence in the film’s entertainment value, saying, “If you don’t like this movie, don’t watch any of my future films!” Niharika NM added that she was delighted to officially

enter Telugu films with a project rooted in friendship and emotion.

Producer Bunny Vas called Mithra Mandali a “clean family entertainer and an early Diwali gift”, while assuring audiences that the film will deliver non-stop laughs. Director Vijayender thanked his team for their unwavering support and invited audiences to enjoy the emotional and humorous journey of friendship on screen.

With positive early buzz from trailers and songs, Mithra Mandali is set to entertain audiences starting October 16.

‘Bison’ trailer: Politically charged sports drama

YOUNG actor Dhruv Vikram, son of versatile star Chiyaan Vikram, is gearing up for what could be a defining moment in his career with his upcoming film Bison. Despite delivering strong performances in films like Adithya Varma and Mahaan, Dhruv is still awaiting that one big commercial breakthrough. Now, with acclaimed filmmaker Mari Selvaraj at the helm, Bison is generating strong expectations.

The trailer of the film, which released yesterday, has caught everyone’s attention with its intense narrative and emotional depth. Staying true to his film-making style, Mari Selvaraj once again chooses a socially grounded theme. The story follows Dhruv’s character, a determined young man from a marginalised community whose life revolves around his passion for Kabaddi. The trailer opens with his humble beginnings and turbulent journey, revealing the harsh oppression he faces from caste-based discrimination and societal prejudice.

Despite constant humiliation and setbacks, Dhruv’s character refuses to surrender, instead rising with resilience to fight for identity, dignity, and the pride of his people. The trailer promises a raw, realistic sports drama layered with emotional intensity and strong social commentary—hallmarks of Mari Selvaraj’s impactful storytelling.

Actresses Anupama Parameswaran and Rajisha Vijayan appear in strong rural roles, bringing authenticity to the village setting and emotional grounding to the story. Their rustic screen presence enhances the film’s culturally rooted tone.

Backed by impactful visuals and a compelling narrative, Bison is set for release on October 17th, coinciding with Diwali. With a powerful theme, emotional depth, and Dhruv Vikram’s intense performance, the film is being seen as a potential game-changer in his career.



‘Super Subbu’ promises bold humor in a village comedy with a social twist

THE upcoming web series Super Subbu brings a refreshing mix of humor, emotion, and social relevance to Indian storytelling. The plot follows the misadventures of a hapless young teacher who dreams of escaping his domineering father, only to end up with an unexpected assignment—teaching sex education in a conservative village. The biggest irony? He’s a virgin himself, setting the stage for a comedy full of awkwardness, heartfelt moments, and self-discovery.

Director Mallik Ram explains the inspiration behind the series: “Super Subbu was born from the observation that sex education is still treated as a taboo subject in our society. Parents avoid it, schools skip it, and children grow up with confusion and myths. Through Subbu’s journey, we use humor to break silence around a sensitive topic and make it accessible. The village of Maakhipur feels real and rooted, just

like the people many of us grew up around. At its core, this story is about courage, community, and acceptance.” Actress Mithila Palkar, who plays a key role, says, “It’s a quirky yet meaningful story about dreams, relationships, and coming of age in unexpected ways. The characters feel so real, and the narrative is both funny and emotional. I’m excited for audiences to see me in a very different avatar.” Actor Sundeep Kishan adds, “We’re now telling stories that are brave and relatable. Super Subbu celebrates simple joys while addressing real issues through lovable characters and engaging writing.” The series is expected to blend entertainment with a strong message, making it one to watch out for



Mrunal Thakur sets the ramp on fire

Actress Mrunal Thakur, who is gearing up for the release of her upcoming film Dacoit alongside Aditi Sesh, made a stunning appearance at Lakmé Fashion Week, leaving fashion enthusiasts captivated with her bold and glamorous runway presence.

Walking for ace designer duo Pankaj & Nidhi at Lakmé Fashion Week in partnership with FDCI, Mrunal embraced a powerful high-fashion avatar. She wore a shimmering gold-

en sleeveless top paired with a sleek black skirt featuring a daring thigh-high slit, perfectly blending elegance with drama. The look was elevated by statement golden earrings, adding just the right touch of opulence to her ensemble.

Interestingly, Mrunal opted for a minimalist styling approach, keeping her hands free of accessories and choosing classic black heels to maintain the focus on her striking outfit. Her makeup was subtle yet sharp, enhancing her natural beauty, while her hair was styled in a neat updo that highlighted her strong fea-

tures.

What truly stood out was her commanding runway attitude. She skipped the usual smile and instead delivered intense, piercing expressions, locking eyes with the camera and exuding top-model confidence. Fans and fashion critics alike praised her fierce walk and bold aura, calling her one of the best celebrity showstoppers of the season.

With every appearance, Mrunal Thakur continues to prove she’s not just a rising star in cinema, but also a style icon who owns every frame—on screen and on the runway.

‘I Am The Guy’ song from ‘Aryan’ is energetic



played by Sai Ronak, Tarak Ponnappa, Mala Parvathi, Avinash, and Abhishek Joseph George.

The story is co-written by Manu Anand of FIR fame. Harish Kannan handles cinematography, San Lokesh is the editor, and Ghibran scores the music. The makers will soon announce updates on the trailer and audio launch events.