



THE Hans India



Odissi dance enchants festival audience
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.

Our future is in our own hands and right here
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?

Excise minister inspects wine shop, verifies brands
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.

Raising awareness about hand hygiene
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.

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WINDOWS



Top Maoist leader Mallojula surrenders in Maharashtra

60 other cadres also lay down arms along with him

GADCHIROLI: Senior Naxalite Mallojula Venugopal Rao alias Bhupathi surrendered before police along with 60 other cadres in Maharashtra's Gadchiroli district, officials said on Tuesday. One of the influential strategists in the banned organisation, Bhupathi, a member of the central committee and politburo, carried a bounty of Rs 6 crore, the officials said. They said the Naxals turned themselves in before the police around 10 pm on Monday. The cadres were brought to the Gadchiroli police headquarters in police vehicles from Hodri village, where they surrendered with 54 weapons, the officials said. The seized weapons include seven AK-47s and nine INSAS rifles, the officials added. The surrendered cadres include a member of the central committee, three Dandkaranya Special Zonal Committee (DKSZC) members and 10 members of a divisional committee of the outlawed CPI-Maoist, the officials said. According to sources, Venugopal, alias Bhupathi alias Sonu, was considered one of the most influential strategists in the Maoist organisation and had long supervised platoon operations along the Maharashtra-Chhattisgarh border. **Continued on Page 7**

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IRREGULAR by MANJUL

Please carry the newspaper that says inflation has come down — we'll need to show it to the vegetable vendors!

AP gets Google's \$15-bn AI infra hub

GAMECHANGER FOR ANDHRA

- Google's biggest investment outside US
- Rs 1.33L cr investment will generate 6k direct jobs
- AdaniConneX will partner with Google, Airtel

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI/NEW DELHI

IN a landmark development that would propel Andhra Pradesh onto the global technology map, tech giant Google announced on Tuesday that it would invest a whopping \$15 billion (nearly Rs 1.33 lakh crore) on setting up an AI infrastructure hub in Visakhapatnam, which would include a gigawatt-scale data centre in partnership with diversified Adani Group.

The game-changing project is likely to generate 5,000-6,000 direct jobs and 20,000-30,000 total jobs. The AI hub in the state's coastal city will be Google's largest outside the US and will include a data centre fuelled by clean energy and a fiber-optic network. Adani Group's AdaniConneX will partner with Google on the project, along with Bharti

Signs MoU with tech giant which will set up mega data centre with Adani in Vizag



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Google Cloud CEO Thomas Kurian and state IT Minister Nara Lokesh during an event where the state government signed an MoU with Google for the Google AI Hub in Visakhapatnam

Airtel, India's second largest mobile operator. The mega investment will be made over the next five years (2026-2030). The facility is expected to be operational by 2029. "It's the largest AI hub that we are going to be investing in anywhere in the world outside of the US," Google Cloud CEO Thomas Kurian said after signing the formal agreement with the AP government at Bharat AI Shakti, a Google-hosted event, in New Delhi. **Continued on Page 7**

Modi hails Google's Vizag investment

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday hailed the agreement for Google's Artificial Intelligence Hub in Visakhapatnam, calling it a major stride toward realizing the vision of Viksit Bharat.

In a post on X, the Prime Minister said, "Delighted by the launch of the Google AI Hub in the dynamic city of Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. This multi-faceted investment that includes gigawatt-scale data centre infrastructure aligns with our vision to build a Viksit Bharat. It will be a powerful force in democratizing technology, ensuring AI for All, and securing India's place as a global technology leader." The announcement came as Google confirmed plans to establish India's first AI hub in Andhra Pradesh with an investment of \$15 billion over five years.

Continued on Page 7



Google's investment will make Visakhapatnam the world's next big digital powerhouse. This centre will serve as the foundation for India's first AI City and the largest AI and data hub outside the US

VIZAG AI HUB LANDMARK DEVELOPMENT, SAYS PICHA

AMARAVATI: Google CEO Sundar Pichai described Google AI hub in

Visakhapatnam as a landmark development. In a post on X, he said, "Great to speak with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and to share our plans for the first-ever Google AI hub in Visakhapatnam, a landmark development. This hub combines gigawatt-scale compute capacity, a new international subsea gateway, and large-scale energy infrastructure."

20 killed as moving bus catches fire in Jaisalmer

JAISALMER: Around 20 people died, and many others were grievously injured after a moving bus caught fire in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer district on Tuesday. The bus carrying 57 passengers was passing by the vicinity of the army station when it caught fire. The flames immediately engulfed the entire vehicle turning it into a moving ball of fire. **Continued on Page 7**

Modi 'good friend', Munir 'favourite field marshal': Trump



SHARM EL-SHEIKH

US President Donald Trump played a balancing act at the Gaza Peace Summit in Egypt's Sharm el-Sheikh, calling Pakistani Army Chief Asim Munir "my favourite marshal," while also praising his "very good friend," Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Prime Minister Sharif of Pakistan and I have to say, my favourite Field Marshal from Pakistan, who is not here but the Prime Minister is here," said Trump, as he invited Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to address the historic Gaza Peace Summit.

Continued on Page 7

BIHAR ASSEMBLY POLLS

BJP drops Speaker, fields 2 Deputy CMs in first list

NEW DELHI/PATNA

THE Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday announced its first list of 71 candidates for the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections, scheduled to be held in two phases on November 6 and 11.

The list features a mix of fresh and familiar faces, while also reflecting some bold choices, including the denial of ticket to Assembly



Speaker Nand Kishore Yadav

Speaker and seven-time Patna Sahib MLA Nand Kishore Yadav. In this first list, the BJP has retained 53 candidates and replaced nominees in 15 constituencies. **Continued on Page 7**

Vice-President to attend 100th birth anniversary of Sathya Sai Baba

AMARAVATI: Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust has invited Vice-President C P Radhakrishnan to participate in the centenary celebrations of Sri Sathya Sai Baba. R J Rathnakar, Managing Trustee of Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, met the Vice-President in New Delhi on Tuesday and formally invited him to the centenary celebrations.

Continued on Page 7

Security stepped up for PM's visit to Srisaillam

Modi is scheduled to visit the temple town tomorrow

NARENDRA KUMAR V
SRISAILLAM

IN view of the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Srisaillam on Thursday, the Police department has stepped up security with an elaborate, multi-layered deployment plan. Director General of Police Harish Kumar Gupta personally visited Srisaillam on Tuesday and reviewed the arrangements at



DGP Harish Kumar Gupta inspecting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit arrangements at Srisaillam on Tuesday

key locations, including the helipad, road routes, guest house, temple premises and Shivaji Inspiration Centre. He issued firm instructions to senior officials to ensure fool-proof security arrangements for the high-profile visit. The DGP directed officers to maintain strict access control at all entry and exit points and to remain on high alert throughout the visit.

Continued on Page 7

INTRODUCING

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Point to be noted

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NTR VAIDYA SEVA

NETWORK HOSPITALS' STRIKE ENTERS FIFTH DAY

- Strike, ongoing since Oct 10, halts services in private hospitals due to Rs 2,700 cr in pending dues, with Rs 650 cr approved but unpaid
- The strike reduces daily case registrations from 6,000–8,000 to about 2,000, limiting healthcare access to govt hospitals and medical colleges, affecting 80% of beneficiaries

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

THE strike by NTR Vaidya Seva Network Hospitals, under the aegis of Andhra Pradesh Speciality Hospitals Association (ASHA), entered its fifth day as of Tuesday. Started on October 10, the strike has brought all services under the NTR Vaidya Seva scheme in private network hospitals across the state to a halt.

ASHA cited pending dues of approximately Rs 2,700

crore owed by the NTR Vaidya Seva Trust to network hospitals. Of the submitted bills, about Rs 650 crore have already been approved by the Trust's CEO. The association's key demands include the immediate release of the approved dues and a clear policy on the settlement of remaining payments. Despite repeated appeals, the state government has yet to respond.

The strike has severely affected healthcare access. Normally, 6,000 to 8,000



cases are registered daily under the scheme. Due to the suspension of services in network hospitals, only about 2,000 cases are currently being registered,

meaning roughly 80 per cent of the population is temporarily deprived of government medical aid. At present, NTR Vaidya Seva services are available only

in government hospitals and medical colleges, explaining the drastic drop in case registrations.

ASHA said that the protest has been peaceful, and critical patients continue to be referred to government facilities free of cost to prevent life-threatening situations. However, the association warned that if the government continues to remain unresponsive, the agitation will be intensified, with private medical colleges soon joining the strike.

Strike data shows a sharp decline in pre-authorisation requests, with counts dropping from 34,676 before the strike to 18,040 after, a 48 per cent overall reduction, highlighting the significant disruption in public healthcare services caused by the ongoing protest.

Dharmana warns TDP coalition against privatisation of medical colleges

HANS NEWS SERVICE
SRIKAKULAM

FORMER minister Dharmana Prasada Rao strongly criticised the coalition government for its decision to privatise government medical colleges, calling it an irresponsible and anti-people move.

Speaking at a press conference here on Tuesday, he warned that if the government does not withdraw this decision, there will be a widespread public agitation to force it to back down. He said that handing over the

healthcare system to private players is like sacrificing the poor at the altar of profit. He said that public health is the government's responsibility and accused the Chandrababu Naidu-led coalition of violating constitutional values by transferring medical education and public healthcare into private hands. He pointed out that the decision has created widespread anger among the people, who feel betrayed.

Prasada Rao recalled that during YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's tenure, the state effectively fought the COV-

ID19 pandemic by providing free treatment through public hospitals, saving thousands of lives. He said the same system that protected the people during a global health crisis is now being dismantled for private gain.

He further said that the YSRCP government had initiated 17 new medical colleges, with seven already completed, each built at a cost of around Rs 500 crore with 50 acres of land.

These institutions were planned to make corporate-level healthcare accessible to the poor.



Collector Dr G Lakshminisha addressing a review meeting at Government General Hospital in Vijayawada on Tuesday. MP Kesineni Chinini and MLA Bonda Umamaheswara Rao are also seen.

MP Sivanath promises modern equipment to GGH

A review of the ongoing development works at Vijayawada Government Hospital was conducted

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

MP Kesineni Sivanath alias Chinini conducted a review of the ongoing development works at Vijayawada Government Hospital on Tuesday.

The meeting was attended by NTR district collector Dr G Lakshminisha, Vijayawada Central MLA and Government Whip Bonda Uma Maheswara Rao, East MLA Gadde Rammohan, and senior hospital officials.

The review focused on the hospital's progress, fund utilisation, and future requirements to enhance patient care.

Speaking at the meeting, MP Sivanath appreciated the hospital staff, noting that operations previously possible only in corporate private hospitals are now successfully performed at the government facility.

He said the government would provide modern equipment requested by the doctors and ensure the latest technologies are introduced gradually.

He added that once the new hospital building is completed, advanced services will be available for the public, particularly for the underprivileged.

MLA Bonda Umamaheswara Rao congratulated the doctors for their dedication, noting that all department heads participated in the review. He assured that the requested modern equipment would be provided soon.

GGH Superintendent Dr A Venkateswarlu expressed satisfaction over the support from the MP and Collector. He said the administration agreed to supply all required equipment, helping the hospital continue to provide timely and effective treatment.

250 mobiles handed over to owners

HANS NEWS SERVICE
GUNTUR

GUNTUR district SP Vakul Jindal handed over 250 recovered cell phones to their owners at a programme held at the DPO here on Tuesday. The value of cell phones he gave to the owners is Rs 50 lakh. Speaking on this occasion, he said police continue to stand by victims by tracing and returning lost and stolen mobile phones. So far, around 3,414 mobile phones worth Rs 6.82 crore have been

recovered and returned to owners. He advised the public to immediately lodge complaints on the national cyber crime helpline 1930 if their phones are lost or stolen to prevent misuse. He emphasised that as financial transactions are increasingly conducted through mobile phones, public awareness about cybercrimes is essential. He urged citizens to report any suspicious or threatening calls to 1930.

"Many people face serious inconvenience when

they lose their mobile phones or when they are stolen, as they often contain personal, banking, and confidential information which can be misused by criminals. Upon receiving complaints from victims, the police use advanced technical tools to trace the devices and return them," he said. He further advised citizens that if their phone is lost or stolen, they should immediately report it to the police helpline 8688831574 or lodge a complaint through the CEIR website.

Three judges transferred to AP High Court

The new judges are from Allahabad, Calcutta and Gujarat High Courts

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

THE Central government on Tuesday notified the transfer of three judges to the Andhra Pradesh High Court.

Justice Donadi Ramesh will move from the Allahabad High Court to Andhra Pradesh. Justice Subhendu Samanta has been transferred from the Calcutta High Court, while Justice Cheekati Manavendranath Roy will join from the Gujarat High Court.

Justice Cheekati Manavendranath Roy, a native of Parvathipuram, Vizianagaram district, was born on May 21, 1964. He studied law at MVP Law College, Visakhapatnam, and practiced as an

advocate in Parvathipuram from 1988 to 2002. Selected as District Sessions Judge (Grade-2) in 2002, he served in various judicial roles across the united AP and as Registrar General of the High Court from July 2015 to December 2018.

He was promoted to High Court judge on June 12, 2019, becoming the first judge appointed after the AP High Court's establishment in Amaravati, before being transferred to the Gujarat High Court on November 2, 2023.

Justice Donadi Ramesh, from Kammappalli, Madanapalle, Chittoor district, was born on June 27, 1965, and studied law at VR Law College, Nellore. He enrolled as

an advocate in 1990, served as government advocate in the united High Court (2000–04), and as standing counsel for AP Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in 2007. He became an AP High Court judge on January 13, 2020, before transferring to the Allahabad High Court on July 24, 2023.

Justice Subhendu Samanta, born on November 25, 1971, studied law at Hazra Campus, Kolkata University. He began practice at Tamluk District Court, served as a judicial officer and additional district and sessions judge in West Midnapore, and later as Chief Judge of Kolkata City Sessions Court. He took charge as an additional judge of the Calcutta High Court on May 18, 2022.

LIQUOR SCAM

SIT carries out searches at places linked to MP Midhun Reddy

- Conducted searches at several properties linked to Peddireddy Midhun Reddy in Hyderabad, Tirupati and Bengaluru as part of its probe into the alleged Rs 3,200 cr liquor scam
- Midhun Reddy, arrested in July and released on bail in Sept, claims the case is politically motivated, accusing the ruling coalition of fabricating charges to target YSRCP leaders.
- The SIT investigation uncovers widespread irregularities in the 2019–24 liquor policy, alleging a Rs 3,500 cr kickback network involving 48 individuals, with 12 already arrested

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

THE Andhra Pradesh Special Investigation Team (SIT) which is probing the liquor scam conducted searches on Tuesday at the premises of YSRCP floor leader in Lok Sabha, Peddireddy Midhun Reddy.

SIT officials conducted searches at the houses of the Rajampet MP in Hyderabad, Tirupati and Bengaluru.

In Hyderabad, the SIT searched the houses of YSRCP MP in Prashasan Nagar and Gayatri Hills, Yousufguda. His office in the Kondapur area was also searched by the SIT officials.

Midhun Reddy is one of the accused in the Rs 3,200 crore liquor scam, which allegedly occurred during the YSRCP rule. The Rajampet MP, who was arrested on July 19, was released on bail on September 30.

After his release, Midhun Reddy alleged that he was treated like a terrorist in jail.

He accused the coalition government of resorting to diversionary politics by filing fabricated cases against YSRCP leaders. He stated that the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) always used such tactics whenever it came to power.

He stated that the attempts by the coalition government to frighten opponents by filing false cases are an act of foolishness.

After the TDP-led NDA came to power last year, a case was registered at the CID Police Station in Mangalagiri under sections 409, 420, 120 (B), r/w 34 and 37 of IPC and section 7, 7A, 8, 12, 13 (1), (b), 13 (2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act 1988.

The Crime Investigation Department (CID) initially conducted an investigation following a complaint by an official of the Excise Department. Later, the government constituted SIT, headed by NTR district commissioner of police S V Rajashekhar Babu, to probe the case.

The SIT found large-scale irregularities and fund misappropriation in the liquor policy implemented during 2019-24.

Investigators reportedly uncovered a kickback network involving nearly Rs 3,500 crore siphoned off over five years.

There are allegations that the YSRCP leaders encouraged the new liquor policy, floated new brands, received kickbacks from the distillery companies, causing huge losses to the government.

The SIT has named 48 persons in the case, of whom 12 have been arrested.

Bank pensioners seek GST exemption on group insurance

- AIBPARC leader Kodali Balagangadhara Tilak points to a recent letter to finance minister urging implementation of Regulation 35(1) to align bank retirees' pensions with RBI pensioners'

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

ALL India Bank Pensioners' and Retirees' Confederation (AIBPARC) national deputy general secretary Kodali Balagangadhara Tilak emphasised the importance of pension upgradation and demanded exemption of GST on the group medical insurance to the pensioners as the premium was borne by them.

He recalled the recent representations made to the Union Finance Minister. He was addressing the meeting of the Association of Retired IOB's Employees (ARISE), Vijayawada Region, here on Sunday.

Kommuru Nagaiah, who recently retired as deputy general manager from Indian Overseas Bank's nodal audit office in Ben-

galuru was the chief guest. Balagangadhara Tilak noted that NCBE general secretary L Chandrasekhar had written to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on September 30, 2025, seeking immediate implementation of Regulation 35(1) of the Bank Employees' Pension Regulations, 1995 (amended and gazetted in March 2003), to bring bank retirees' pensions on par with those of RBI pensioners. NCBE is among the largest constituents of the United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU). ARISE assistant general secretary Kondaviti Venkateswara Rao outlined details regarding the renewal of the IBA Group Medical Insurance Scheme for retirees, with October 23 set as the last date for renewal.

The premium for a base policy of Rs 5.25 lakh for retired officers (retiree and spouse, without domiciliary cover) stands at Rs 47,473 including 18 percent GST.

During the event, 8 senior members aged 70 and above were felicitated. Uppalapati Srinivasa Rao, retired chief manager of IOB proposed a vote of thanks.



Kondaviti Venkateswara Rao, retired IOB officer, being felicitated by ARISE members KBG Tilak, Kommuru Nagaiah, S Gopalakrishna and GLKP Chandra Rao in Vijayawada

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.

₹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

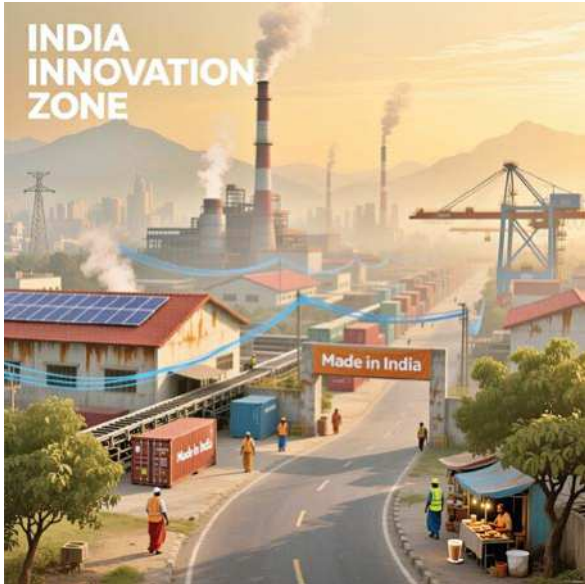
HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

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.

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.

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.

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.

BIG TWIST IN HARYANA IPS OFFICER SUICIDE CASE

Another cop shoots self; accuses dead ADGP of graft

ROHTAK/CHANDIGARH

A Haryana cop in Rohtak has allegedly committed suicide, accusing the deceased officer, Y Puran Kumar, of corruption, police said on Tuesday. The deceased has been identified as Sandeep Lather, who was posted with the cyber cell of Rohtak Police.

In his final video, ASI Sandeep expressed support to former Rohtak SP Narendra Bijarnia who was shunted after the incident. In the video, Sandeep said that Bijarnia is an honest police officer. Police sources said that Sandeep played a role in the arrest of head constable Sushil Kumar, an aide of Puran Kumar.

"ASI Sandeep was a very hardworking and an honest person in our department. We received information that a body has been found after which we reached here,"



Sandeep Lather and Puran Kumar

Rohtak Superintendent of Police S S Bhorla told reporters at the incident site.

Asked about the video and the note, he said, "To say anything at this stage is difficult. The forensic team is investigating." In a video recorded before his death, Sandeep levelled serious allegations against Puran Kumar, comparing his act to the sacrifices made by freedom fighter Bhagat Singh. He is heard saying that "the country will awaken when we sacrifice ourselves on the path of truth." Puran Kumar's name had recently surfaced in a bribery case.

A liquor contractor in

Rahul urges swift action over IPS officer's death

NEW DELHI: Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday strongly criticised the delay in action on the assurances given to the family of late IPS officer Y Puran Kumar by the Haryana government, urging it to allow his "final rites to take place peacefully, and end this drama".

Rohtak had accused head constable Sushil Kumar of demanding a bribe of Rs 2.5 lakh in Puran Kumar's name during his posting there, according to reports. Sushil Kumar was later arrested in connection with the case.

VC urges officials to keep TUDA on top

TIRUPATI: TUDA Vice-Chairman Shubham Bansal called on officials to work hard to keep TUDA among the top Urban Development Authorities in the State. TUDA officials organised a grand farewell for him here on Tuesday as he is leaving on transfer. Speaking on the occasion, Bansal said there is great potential to increase income through the development and sale of flats

in TUDA layouts. He added that the revenue earned would help improve basic infrastructure in both urban and rural areas. TUDA secretary Dr N V Sreekanth Babu praised Joint Collector Shubham Bhansal for his effective service over the past four months as Vice-Chairman. SE Krishna Reddy, LAO Sujana, CPO Devi Kumari and AO Sailaja were present.

2 YSRCP activists held for spreading false news in SM

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUPATI

ALIPIRI police arrested two YSRCP activists here late on Monday night for spreading false news on social media regarding fake liquor sales in the city.

Speaking to mediapersons, ASP Ravimanocharachi revealed the case details and said that on October 7, a video titled "Fake liquor in Tiru-

pati - Where is public safety?" went viral on social media.

Tirupati Urban Prohibition and Excise CI Mandapalle Ramachandra noticed the video and filed a complaint at East Police Station, he said.

As per the directions of District SP L Subbarayudu, and under the supervision of DSP Bhaktavatsalam, a detailed inquiry was conducted. The team found that the video and similar posts shared on

Instagram and Facebook were fake and were made only to create confusion among the public. There were no cases of fake liquor in the city.

The arrested were identified as A1 Chandrasekhar Venkatesh (25), MLC Cipai Subramanyam PA, and A2 Brungi Naveen (38), YSRCP activist and member in social media team. Both were arrested and they confessed to recording, editing, and posting



the fake videos with an intention to mislead the public and blame the Excise Department and government, he added.

During technical investigation, police confirmed through mobile call records and CCTV footage that both the accused worked together

and circulated false content.

ASP warned that strict legal action will be taken against anyone creating or spreading false and misleading posts on social media.

A case has been registered and further investigation is in progress.

TG writes to CWC, opposes Banakacherla

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

IN its bid to register a strong protest against the Banakacherla project taken up by the Andhra Pradesh government before the Union government, the Telangana government has written a strongly worded letter to the Central Water Commission (CWC) and Polavaram Project Authority (PPA).

In his missive to the CWC Chairman, state Engineer-in-Chief (Irrigation) Mohd Amjad Hussain said the Telangana government has already raised several objections as regards the Polavaram-Banakacherla Link project (PBLP) that is

Top engineer shoots strongly worded anti-AP missive to CWC and Polavaram Project Authority



proposed by the AP government. He sought action as per the provisions of the AP Reorganization Act 2014. The official pointed out that the ministry of Jal Shakti has directed CWC to reject the pre-feasibility report and also

requested the union ministry of Environment and Forests not to undertake any appraisal of the Banakacherla proposal and outrightly reject grant of ToR in the upcoming meeting of EAC.

"Further, external agen-

cies like Polavaram Project Authority(PPA) and Godavari River Management Board(GRMB) have communicated the observations/remarks on the PFR and explicitly stated that the diversion of additional 200 TMof water is not part of the approved DPR of Polavaram Project and contravenes with the operation schedule of Polavaram dam as envisaged in Annexure-G of GWDTA 1980", Amjad Hussain has said in the letter

The state government also furnished the comments of the State on the PFR stating that the project proposal envisages extensive changes in the dimensional features of com-

ponents of Polavaram project and reiterating that AP's PBLP proposal is in violation of APRA 2014, GWDTA, PPA & EC and infringe water rights of Telangana besides creating adverse backwater and cascading submergence effects, He requested against undertaking any appraisal of the P-B link project. The officials brought to the attention of the central water agency that the AP Water Resources department had issued a tender notification for preparing Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Polavaram-Banakacherla link project although Telangana sought an outright rejection of the project.

‘WHAT SORT OF FRIENDSHIP IS THIS?’

Cong jabs PM after Trump praises Pak's Munir

New Delhi: The Congress on Tuesday attacked the government over US President Donald Trump's praise for Pakistan Army Chief Asim Munir, saying what kind of signal is the American leader sending to India, in spite of PM Narendra Modi's "desperate attempts" to ingratiate himself with him. What sort of friendship is this between Trump and Modi, the opposition party asked, citing instances of Trump's praise for Munir and past meetings between the two. Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh

said Prime Minister Modi keeps calling President Trump his good friend and to be fair the American leader also keeps calling Modi his good friend. "But what sort of friendship is this? President Trump hosted Field Marshal Asim Munir to an unprecedented lunch in the White House on June 18, 2025. This was the Field Marshal whose inflammatory and communally poisonous remarks provided the backdrop to the Pahalgam terror attacks orchestrated by Pakistan on April 22, 2025," Ramesh said on X.

India to resume postal services to US from today

NEW DELHI: India Post will resume all international postal services to the US from Wednesday. This follows a suspension due to new US import regulations. India Post has now set up a system to collect customs duties up-front in India. This ensures faster clearance and seamless delivery for shipments to the USA. All postal categories are now available for booking. Postal services to the US were suspended on August 22 following new regulations announced by the US government that change how goods are shipped into the country. The Ministry of Communications said that India Post has now established a compliant mechanism for Delivery Duty Paid (DDP) processing after extensive system development, coordination with CBP-approved Qualified Parties, and successful operational trials in the Delhi and Maharashtra Circles.

Haryana DGP sent on leave

CHANDIGARH

THE Haryana government on Tuesday sent DGP Shatruejt Kapur on leave amid Opposition's attack on the BJP dispensation over IPS officer Y Puran Kumar's alleged suicide, and demand by Kumar's family for action against the officers accused of harassing him.

The late night development came days after the state government transferred Narendra Bijarniya, the then Rohtak's Superintendent of Police.

Modi ‘good friend’, Munir ‘favourite field marshal’: Trump

Continued from P1

In his address, Sharif lavished praise on President Trump, calling him a "man of peace" and renaming him for the Nobel Peace Prize.

The Pakistani Prime Minister also thanked the US President and his "wonderful team" for their intervention in the India-Pakistan conflict in May this year.

"Suffice to say, had it not been for this gentleman, who knows, India and Pakistan are both nuclear powers. Had he not intervened with his wonderful team during those four days, the war could've escalated to a level where no one would've lived to tell what happened," Sharif said.

In response, Trump jokingly said he didn't expect that from Sharif. "Wow! I didn't expect that. Let's go home, there's nothing more I have to say. Goodbye everybody. That was really beautiful and beautifully delivered, thank you very much," he quipped.

The US President then praised India and his "very good friend" Prime Minister Modi for doing a fantastic job. "I think Pakistan and India are going to live very nicely together," Trump said, while looking at Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who responded with a chuckle. Prime Minister Modi was also invited to the Summit but chose to skip it and deputised Minister of State Kirti Vardhan Singh in his place.

AP gets Google's \$15-bn AI infra hub

Continued from P1

The historic agreement was signed in the presence of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Union Ministers Nirmala Sitharaman and Ashwini Vaishnaw, and IT Minister Nara Lokesh.

The Google's AI hub will serve as the foundation for what Chief Minister Naidu described as "India's first AI City", a massive ecosystem integrating cloud infrastructure, high speed connectivity, clean energy, and innovation hubs across key sectors such as healthcare, education, agriculture, manufacturing, and finance. The Visakhapatnam hub will also be linked via undersea cables to Singapore, Malaysia, and Australia, strengthening India's global digital backbone.

Speaking at the MoU signing ceremony, Naidu called the agreement "a truly historic and auspicious day, marking one of the biggest technology milestones for Andhra Pradesh and India." "Google's investment will make Visakhapatnam the world's next big digital powerhouse," he said. "This centre will serve as the foundation for India's first AI City and the largest AI and

data hub outside the US. Additionally, Vizag will host Google's cable landing station, bringing the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam alive as India connects the world," he said.

Naidu thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Ministers Nirmala Sitharaman and Aswini Vaishnaw for their support, and credited IT Minister Nara Lokesh for his efforts in bringing the project to fruition.

He revealed that Prime Minister Modi, during discussions, expressed interest in organizing a global AI conference in February 2026 in India, further positioning the nation as a global technology leader. "Our goal is to make AI accessible to every household," Naidu said. "Through our One Family, One Entrepreneur mission, we aim to empower people with tools of innovation and data-driven governance."

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman described the project as a "turning point" for India's digital economy.

"The establishment of both a sea cable landing center and a Google data centre in Visakhapatnam is a major step

forward. Such visionary projects are possible only under dynamic leadership at the Centre and in Andhra Pradesh," she said.

Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said Google's investment reflects confidence in India's technology policies. "This decision will change lives across the country.

Andhra Pradesh's proactive data center policy and tech-first governance make it the right place for such an investment," he said, adding that India is expanding digital links to Southeast Asia and the Northeast through new submarine cable systems.

Google Cloud CEO Thomas Kurien called Visakhapatnam a "rising global connectivity hub". Twelve countries will be connected from Visakhapatnam through Google's sub-sea cable system, Kurien said.

"The center will host our full AI stack, including Gemini-AI, and serve as a launchpad for India's AI innovation. We see Visakhapatnam as a place that can produce world-class AI talent," he added. The Visakhapatnam hub will "serve not just India, but much of the world," he added.

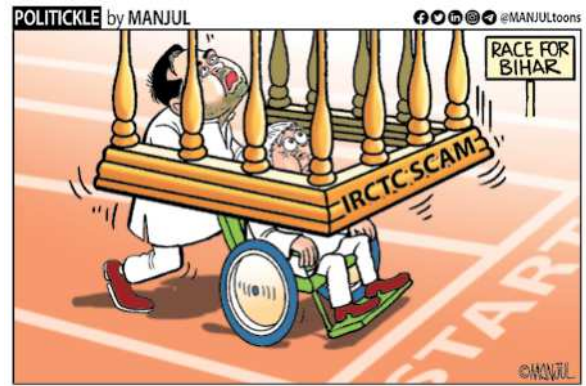
Modi hails Google's Vizag investment

Continued from P1

"We are honoured to be building the engine to power India's AI revolution, providing the tools for our nation's brightest minds to solve complex challenges," said Gautam Adani, Chairman of Adani Group, in a post on X.

According to IT Minister Nara Lokesh, Andhra Pradesh is aiming to host 6 GW of data centre capacity by 2029-30. Data is the new oil and data centers are new refineries, he added.

Deputy Chief Minister K Pawan Kalyan described the project as a monumental leap that will transform the City of Destiny into a gateway of India's AI revolution. "Visakhapatnam securing the \$15 billion Google AI Data Centre and India's first AI City is a monumental leap," he wrote on X. This initiative guarantees that the power of AI for All is truly democratized, impacting the lives of our youth, farmers, doctors, fishermen, entrepreneurs, women, and students.



Top Maoist leader Mallojula surrenders in Maharashtra

Continued from P1

However, growing differences between him and the top Naxal leadership in the recent months led to an internal conflict.

Bhupathi had claimed that the armed struggle failed and appealed for a shift towards peace and dialogue, citing diminishing public support and the loss of hundreds of cadres. His stand was met with resistance from other senior cadres who decided to continue the fight under another leader, sources said. Under pressure from the central Naxal leadership, Bhupathi eventually agreed to lay down arms, announced his exit from the outfit, and surrendered with his followers before the Gadchiroli police.

Bhupathi's surrender, along with 60 Naxals, is considered a major setback for the Maoist movement in the state. Earlier this year, Bhupathi's wife, Tarakka, also surrendered. She was a member of the Dandkaranya special zonal committee of the outlawed movement.

During an event at the state police headquarters on October 3, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis stated that the Naxal movement in the state was on the verge of ending. "We are on the verge of finishing Maoism. In Maharashtra, it can be finished anytime," Fadnavis had said.

20 killed as moving bus catches fire in Jaisalmer

Continued from P1

According to an official report, 10 to 12 people have been confirmed dead although the toll may rise.

The injured passengers were rushed to hospitals. At least 16 people were referred to Jodhpur for treatment in a critical condition, they said.

The cause of fire was not yet ascertained, however, a short circuit could probably have caused the fire, an official said. The police, fire brigade sleuths and other

agencies rushed to the spot for rescue work. District Collector Pratap Singh was supervising the rescue relief work. A group of army men was also assisting in the rescue operations.

Meanwhile, Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma expressed shock over the tragic incident, and asked the officials concerned to make all efforts to assist the injured. He has also proceeded to Jaisalmer to take stock of the situation.

Vice-President to attend 100th birth anniversary of Sathya Sai Baba

Continued from P1

During the meeting, Rathnakar apprised the Vice President of the various humanitarian and spiritual activities undertaken by the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust.

According to Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, Radhakrishnan responded positively and shared that his aunt has been a devotee of Sathya Sai Baba since 1966. He expressed his awareness of the immense good work being carried out and deeply appreciated the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust's efforts in carrying forward his teachings and legacy with

strength and dedication.

Rathnakar was accompanied by Adi Moolam, a long-standing devotee of Sri Sathya Sai Baba and Managing Director of Dinamalar. The centenary birth anniversary celebrations of Sri Sathya Sai Baba are scheduled for November 22-23.

Elaborate arrangements are being made for the celebrations at Puttaparthi in the Sri Sathya Sai District of Andhra Pradesh. Puttaparthi is likely to witness a surge of over 10 lakh devotees from all over India and abroad, including VIPs and VVIPs.

BJP drops Speaker, fields 2 Dy CMs in first list

Continued from P1

The party is contesting 101 of the 243 seats as part of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and is expected to release its second list of 30 candidates soon. Among the key candidates is Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary, who currently serves as a Member of the Legislative Council (MLC). He will contest from the Tarapur seat. His fellow Deputy CM, Vijay Kumar Sinha, has been fielded again from his stronghold, Lakhisarai. Another notable name is Mangal Pandey, also an MLC and a minister in the NDA government, who will contest from Siwan.

The list also includes two former MPs: Ram Kripal Yadav, who lost to RJD's Misa Bharti in the last general election, will contest from Danapur; and Sunil Kumar Pintu, an ex-JD(U) MP from Sitamarhi who recently rejoined the BJP, will contest from the same seat.

Other sitting MLAs who have been denied tickets include Arun Kumar Sinha (Kumhrar) and Amrendra Pratap Singh (Ara). Patna Sahib will now be contested by Ratnesh Kushwaha.

The party has fielded nine women candidates in this list, including prominent names like Renu Devi, Gayatri Devi,

Devanti Yadav, and Rama Nishad. Shooter-turned-politician Shreyasi Singh has been retained from Jamui.

A new entrant, IRS officer Sujit Kumar Singh, who resigned from civil service just a day before the announcement, has been given a ticket from Gaura Bauram—replacing his wife, Swarna Singh, the sitting MLA.

This announcement comes just days after the NDA finalised its seat-sharing arrangement: BJP and JD(U) will contest 101 seats each, while LJP (Ram Vilas) will contest 29, and HAM (Secular) and Rashtriya Lok Morcha will fight on six seats each.

Security stepped up for PM's visit to Srisaillam

Continued from P1

He underlined the importance of real-time coordination and surveillance. Senior officials including Koya Praveen, DIG (Kurnool Range), Ake Ravi Krishna (Eagle Team IG), Sunil Sheran (SP Nandyal), Adiraj Singh Rana, ASP and Atmakur DSP Ramangi Naik accompanied the DGP during the inspection. The top brass also assessed preparedness at the helipad and temple surroundings.

Meanwhile, the Nandyal SP Sunil Sheoran deployed around 1,800 police personnel as part of a massive security operation. He conducted a security briefing with officers from Additional SP to SI rank and liaising officials. The entire area has been divided into 10 security sectors with senior officers designated

as sector in-charges. Rooftop teams equipped with binoculars have been positioned at key junctions, approach roads, and temple surroundings to maintain 24/7 surveillance. All vehicles entering Srisaillam will be thoroughly checked, and the command control centre will continuously monitor camera feeds to detect any suspicious activity. To manage large crowds and prevent any untoward incidents, Quick Response Teams, rooftop forces, and special parties will be deployed at sensitive points. All police personnel will wear duty passes and ID cards, and revenue authorities will carefully verify access permissions. The SP underscored that the security cover for the Prime Minister will be uncompromising and of the highest standard.

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 Sangeet 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)"

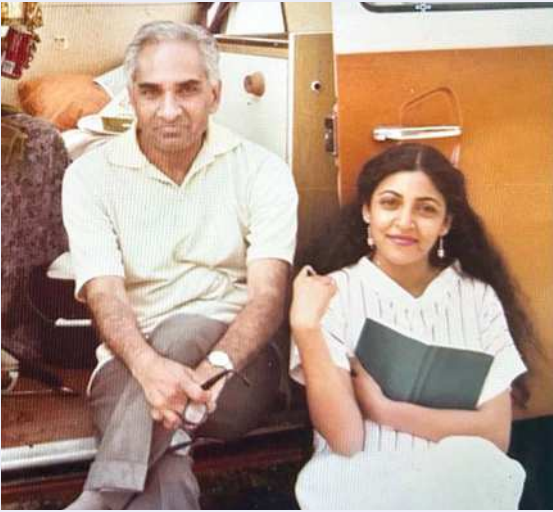
Adoring the throwback photo, an Insta user shared in the comment section, "This is one of the best beautiful picture of the day, u look so much pretty girl in this very picture. Deep regards."

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."

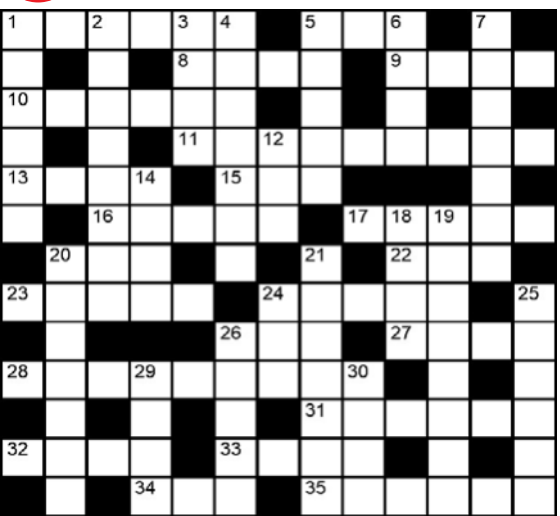
"The launch comes at the heels of a

\$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 "Nadaaniyan", 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.

-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.



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.

In his petition, Manjunath Gowda claimed that polling agents of several candidates were not given proper access to the counting process and that multiple irregularities had influenced the final result.

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. Building on last year's success of programmatic light installations that became a city landmark, this year's Phoenix India Light Festival (ILF) 2025, themed "Rhythms of Reverie," takes the experience further. The mall is reimagined as a luminous sanctuary where art and technology come together, offering visitors an immersive journey of color, memory, and imagination.

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.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 auto-



matically 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.

The AI-driven enforcement system has been hailed as a success in improving compliance and accountability on Bengaluru's busy roads. However, challenges remain. Despite the tech-

nological progress, illegal parking and one-way violations continue to trouble the city traffic police. These offenses often occur in areas without camera coverage, forcing officers to intervene manually. Authorities plan to expand the network of AI cameras to additional high-traffic zones in the coming months to ensure comprehensive monitoring. With the integration of artificial intelligence into daily enforcement, Bengaluru is fast emerging as a model city for smart traffic management in India.

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.

Entrepreneurs had earlier warned that they might move their operations out of the city if conditions did not improve. Following criticism from the industry and the high command's reprimand, both Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM D. K. Shivakumar had personally intervened, issuing strict orders and deadlines to officials. Yet, potholes continue

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 consist-

ent policies, 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.



‘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 ShankaraVara 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. BhaskaraBhatla’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 ShankaraVara 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, TarakPonnappa, 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.