



THE Hans India



'We made collective pledge to pour our entire hearts & souls'
After India won the Women's ODI World Cup trophy for the first time, right-handed batter Jemimah Rodrigues said the 52-run win in the final over South Africa was made on a shared promise by the hosts to give their everything on the field in their defence of 298/7. **P10**

The new criminal law is compelling disclosure of sources
All rules under the Data Act (DPDPA), including questions, apprehensions and queries revolving around pre-censorship that curbs freedom of press are taking one back in time to the dark days of Emergency. **P6**

Hyd leads hiring in education sector
India's white-collar job market in October 2025 showed notable strength in education, accounting and finance, BPO/ITES, and specialised tech roles despite a slowdown in recruitment during the Diwali-Dussehra holidays, a report by Naukri said on Monday. **P11**

Chiranjeevi's 'Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu' stylish climax shoot
Megastar Chiranjeevi's most-awaited wholesome entertainer, 'Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu,' directed by hit-machine Anil Ravipudi, also features Victory Venkatesh in a pivotal role. Venkatesh recently joined the team and received. **P12**

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WINDOWS Civic polls: SC grants state govt extension to issue final notification

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday granted the state government 15 days' time to issue the final notification for the delimitation of wards under all five municipal corporations of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) in connection with holding civic polls in Bengaluru.

The court has directed the Congress-led government to complete the delimitation exercise by November 15 and the process of ward reservation and other matters to be completed by December 15.

The Bench headed by Justices Surya Kant, Ujjal Bhuyan and Joymala Bagchi passed the order. The petition in this regard has been submitted by Congress leader Shivaraju and others. Senior counsel Abhishek Manu Singhvi has represented the state.

The state sought time with the court till December 15 for completing the process of delimitation and reservation and other matters. Earlier, the state had submitted that the election to Bengaluru civic authorities would be completed by November.

Singhvi submitted to the court that everything else is ready, but they just need 15 more days to finish compiling delayed caste survey data, after which both tasks will be completed together.

He further explained that the delay is due to the caste survey, where enumerators were late in submitting data, and compiling all this information is taking additional time. Although the deadline set by the judges is known to him, he is requesting 15 more days to complete the task for a valid reason. The court considering the submission stated, after reviewing the reasons given by the state government in its affidavit, the court believes that it is fair and reasonable in the interest of justice to allow the government 15 more days to finish the task. "Let the delimitation exercise be completed by 15th November and the ward reservation, etc. shall be completed by 15th December," the court stated. The BJP and JD(S) which have vehemently opposed the formation of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) have challenged the Congress-led government to hold civic polls of Bengaluru immediately. The civic polls in Bengaluru were last held in 2015.

NEW DELHI

THE Supreme Court on Monday said it needs to deal with digital arrest cases with an iron hand as it expressed shock over the scale of such cybercrime cases in the country, with over Rs 3000 crore allegedly extorted from victims, including senior citizens.

Digital arrest is a growing form of cybercrime in which fraudsters pose as law enforcement or court officials or personnel from government agencies to intimidate victims through audio and video calls. They hold the victims hostage and put pressure on them to pay money.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant, Ujjal Bhuyan and

- We have to strengthen the hands of our agencies through judicial orders. We are determined to deal with these crimes with iron hands: Justices Kant, Ujjal and Joymalya

- CBI has pointed out that crime syndicates were being operated from offshore locations where they have "scam compounds" having financial, technical and human pillars

Joymalya Bagchi, which appointed an amicus curiae to assist the court in the matter, perused two sealed cover reports submitted by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Central Bureau of



Investigation.

"It is shocking that over Rs 3000 crore have been collected from the victims, including senior citizens, across the country. If we don't pass stringent and harsh orders, this problem will magnify.

"We have to strengthen

the hands of our agencies through judicial orders. We are determined to deal with these crimes with iron hands," the bench observed.

The top court posted the matter for hearing on November 10 and said that it will pass certain directions based on the suggestions

from the amicus.

Justice Kant said that the CBI has pointed out that crime syndicates were being operated from offshore locations where they have "scam compounds" having financial, technical and human pillars.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre and the CBI, said that the Ministry of Home Affairs's cybercrime division is dealing with these issues.

The apex court has taken cognisance of a letter written by an elderly woman from Haryana's Ambala to Chief Justice of India BR Gavai complaining that she and her husband were put under the so-called "digital arrest" on the basis of forged orders of the court and probe agencies

by fraudsters, who extorted Rs 1.05 crore from them in September.

The woman said the court orders were shown through multiple audio and video calls by people impersonating as CBI, ED and judicial officers to arrest them.

The top court was informed that two FIRs were lodged with the cyber crime department at Ambala under various provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhitya (BNS).

On October 27, the top court said it is inclined to entrust the CBI with the probe into digital arrest cases after taking into consideration the magnitude and pan-India spread of such crimes.

It had sought details of

FIRs registered in different states and Union territories.

The top court had said it would monitor the progress of the CBI investigation and issue whatever directions necessary to deal with these crimes.

It had asked the CBI to respond whether it needs more resources, including cyber experts who are not in the police force, to investigate digital arrest cases.

On October 17, taking note of the rising incidents of online fraud in the country, especially digital arrests to dupe citizens by fabricating judicial orders, the top court sought responses from the Centre and the CBI, saying such offences strike at the "very foundation" of public trust in the system.

New age criteria for pre-primary admissions from 2026: Govt

- The decision, aligned with the National Education Policy 2020, aims to bring uniformity in the early childhood education system across the capital

- The announcement initially caused concern among parents, who feared their children might have to repeat a class or face difficulties during school transfers

PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI

THE Delhi government's Directorate of Education has announced a revised age limit for admissions to pre-primary classes-also known as Bal Vatika- in all government, private, and aided schools starting from the 2026-27 academic session. The decision, aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, aims to bring uniformity in the early childhood education system across the capital.

However, the announcement initially caused concern among parents, who feared their children might have to



repeat a class or face difficulties during school transfers. Addressing these apprehensions, the Directorate of Education clarified that the new age criteria will not apply to students already enrolled in the system.

According to Director of Education Vedita Reddy, children studying in nursery (Bal Vatika 1) in 2025-26 will progress to kindergarten (Bal Vatika 2) in 2026-27, while those currently in KG will move to Class 1 as per the usual process. "No child will be required to repeat a class because of the new rule," she said, adding that students transferring to another school will also not be affected by the change.

Under the NEP 2020 framework, children must complete three years of pre-primary education- Bal Vatika 1, 2, and 3 — before entering Grade 1. As per the new guidelines, the age for nursery or Bal Vatika 1 will be between three and four years, for lower KG or Bal Vatika 2 between four and five years, and for upper KG or Bal Vatika 3 between five and six years. Admission to Class 1 will require the child to be between six and seven years old.

The Directorate emphasized that the policy will be rolled out in a phased manner. In 2026-27, only nursery classes will follow the new 3-4 years age limit. Lower and upper

KG will be introduced in the 2027-28 session, and the 6+ age requirement for Class 1 will come into full effect by 2028-29. Schools have been directed to clearly communicate the changes to parents and to prepare a phased class structure and promotion list accordingly.

To ensure flexibility, the government has also allowed a one-month relaxation in the age limit. This means that principals may admit children who are slightly younger or older than the prescribed range — for instance, those aged 2 years and 11 months or 4 years and 1 month at the time of nursery admission. Additionally, students transferring from recognized schools with a valid School Leaving Certificate (SLC) and marksheets will be exempt from the new age rule, ensuring a smooth transition for all continuing learners.

The revised policy marks a significant step in aligning Delhi's school education system with the NEP 2020 framework, while ensuring that current students and parents face no disruption in the learning process.

PM: RJD had put pressure on UPA to stall projects in Bihar

HANS NEWS SERVICE
SAHARSA

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Monday charged the RJD with having stalled development projects in Bihar by putting pressure on the Congress-led UPA government at the Centre to "avenge" its ouster from power in the state in 2005.

Modi also reiterated that the Congress grudgingly agreed to declare Tejashwi Yadav as the INDIA bloc's chief ministerial candidate, after the RJD placed a 'katta' or illegal country-made gun on its head.

"Now in the current elections, the Congress, which is already a spent force in Bihar, has vowed to make the RJD sink," he claimed.

Modi urged the people to punish the RJD for its "sins" and asserted "the NDA



stands for development while the jungle raj wallahs for destruction".

"The RJD was sharing power at the Centre when it was voted out of power in Bihar in 2005. Projects like the Kosi Mahasetu had been sanctioned by the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government. So enraged was the RJD by Nitish Kumar forming a new government in the state that it put pressure on Manmohan Singh and Sonia Gandhi and stalled all such projects in Bihar," he alleged.

"The RJD can never understand the sufferings of the people of the Kosi re-

gion, which were alleviated through the construction of the bridge. We are also working on the interlinking of rivers. The NDA manifesto has also put forth a blueprint on flood control," he said.

Speaking in an area which has a substantial Muslim population, Modi charged the RJD-Congress combine with being soft on "infiltrators" and disdainful towards the Ram temple at Ayodhya and the Chhath festival.

"The leaders of the RJD and Congress take time off to visit all types of places abroad. But they do not get the time to visit Ayodhya. If they have so much dislike for Lord Ram, they can still go and see the monuments built in the memory of Nishad Raj and Valmiki," said the PM, in an apparent jibe at the INDIA bloc's pro-deprived caste stance.

People want clean air, not excuses: Rahul

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

CONGRESS leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday raised concern over the worsening air quality in the national capital, saying with both the Centre and Delhi under BJP rule, people expect clean air instead of excuses.

In a post in Hindi on X, Gandhi said Delhi's air is becoming "increasingly poisonous", but the BJP govern-

ments keep changing their excuses.

"Year after year, Delhi's air is becoming increasingly poisonous, but BJP governments just keep changing their excuses. Now, both at the Centre and in Delhi, it's their own government in power. No excuses now, the public wants clean air," he said in his post.

Gandhi shared an over eight-minute video in which he is seen discussing the is-

sue of air pollution with an environmentalist near the India Gate complex here early in the morning.

Gandhi is heard saying in the video, "I have been having breathing issues and my eyes are burning. The last week has been terrible."

He remarked that while the damage caused by air pollution continues throughout the year, people tend to realise its effects only during this period.

India backing high-risk, high-impact R and D projects: Modi

Inaugurating the first-ever Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC), the annual flagship event involving policy-makers, innovators and global visionaries, Modi says his government has introduced significant reforms for a modern ecosystem of innovation to flourish in the country

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Monday launched a Rs 1 lakh crore fund to spur private sector investment in research and development and announced that his government was now supporting high-risk and high-impact projects, as India aims to emerge as a science and technology powerhouse.

Inaugurating the first-ever Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation

Conclave (ESTIC), the annual flagship event involving policy-makers, innovators and global visionaries, Modi said his government has introduced significant reforms for a modern ecosystem of innovation to flourish in the country.

The prime minister said the world was witnessing a new shift in the global order and the pace of change was exponential.

"In this time of the 21st century, there is a great need for experts from all over



the world to come together to brainstorm on emerging science, technology and innovation, and together they should show the direction," said Modi, giving the reasons for hosting the Conclave, which will be an annual feature.

At the Conclave, the prime minister also launched the Rs 1 lakh crore Research, Development and

Innovation Fund to spur private sector investment in the domain.

"This significant investment is aimed at benefiting the public and unlocking new avenues of opportunity. Our goal is to foster a culture of research and development within the private sector as well," he said.

India spends 0.6 per cent of its GDP on research and

development, which is below the global average. On this share, the private sector accounts for 36 per cent of the investments, as against countries such as China, South Korea and the US. In these countries, the private sector spending accounts for 75 per cent of the gross expenditure on research and development.

"For the first time, capital is being allocated specifically for high-risk, high-impact projects, ensuring support for ground-breaking endeavours," he said, adding the government was focusing on 'Ease of Doing Research' so that a modern ecosystem of innovation can flourish in India.

"To achieve this vision, our government has introduced significant reforms in financial regulations and

procurement policies. Additionally, we have streamlined incentives and supply chain frameworks to accelerate the transition of prototypes from the lab to the market," he said.

Union Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood, Nobel Laureate Sir Andre Geim and other dignitaries were present at the event.

Modi urged scientists to shift focus from food security to nutrition security and wondered whether India can develop next-generation biofortified crops to help combat malnutrition globally.

"Can innovations in low-cost soil health enhancers and bio-fertilisers serve

as alternatives to chemical inputs and improve soil health? Can India better map its genomic diversity to advance personalised medicine and disease prediction? Can new and affordable innovations be developed in clean energy storage, such as batteries," he said.

The prime minister stressed the importance of identifying critical inputs where India is dependent on the world and achieving self-reliance in those areas.

Modi said over the past decade, India's R&D expenditure has doubled, demonstrating a commitment to innovation.

"The number of registered patents has grown an impressive 17-fold. In the start up landscape, India has emerged as the third-largest ecosystem globally," he said.

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I think instead of spending all your time in here, you should go out and play some cricket

IN BRIEF



India's First DIY electrolyser for lab-grown diamonds

MANGALURU: Move over, imported tech—Mangaluru's HYDGEN is stealing the spotlight! This weekend, the startup celebrated a massive milestone by dispatching its first-ever indigenously built electrolyser, tailor-made for the booming lab-grown diamond scene. The big reveal happened on November 2 at the Sahyadri Campus, with Dakshina Kanadana MP Capt. Brijesh Chowta cutting the ribbon on the shiny new HYDGEN DIA-S 5 kW PEM electrolyser. This little powerhouse churns out super-pure hydrogen (99.9995% pure!) at 1 Nm³ per hour, perfect for Surat's diamond factories using Chemical Vapor Deposition (CVD). It's a game-changer for India's \$12 billion lab-grown diamond industry, where the country ranks as the world's second-largest producer. And guess what? It's all green energy, baby—lining up with India's plan to pump out 5 million tonnes of green hydrogen by 2030! Behind this cool innovation are co-founders Dr. Manipaddy Krishna Kumar and Dr. Ramya Krishnakumar, who traded Singapore labs for Mangaluru vibes. With a fresh \$5 million in their pockets, they're scaling up their anion exchange membrane (AEM) tech to make hydrogen cheap and eco-friendly. Capt. Chowta couldn't stop raving, saying, "These guys are proof Mangaluru can be the next big innovation hub—let's get more talent #BackToOoru!" From R&D to real-world action, HYDGEN is showing the world that India can ditch pricey foreign tech and lead the green revolution.

12 school students hospitalised due to 'food poisoning'

BELAGAVI: Twelve students of a residential school in Belagavi district fell ill due to suspected food poisoning, police said on Monday. According to police, the students of the Morarji Desai Residential School at Hirekodi village of Chikkodi taluk, complained of vomiting and stomach pain after dinner on Sunday and were immediately shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment. Their condition is stated to be stable. The incident occurred just days after a local judge had visited the same institution and reprimanded the warden and staff over hygiene and management issues, sources said. A case has been registered and investigation is on.

HANS NEWS SERVICE
UDUPI

ADI Udupi APMC yard lessees have brazenly chopped down trees and razed government-funded interlock pavements to erect storage facilities on four plots, claims Vijay Kodavoor, head of APMC Rakshana Samithi, igniting fresh outrage over alleged administrative malfeasance.

In a media interaction, Kodavoor alleged that officials illicitly doled out 54 cents of prime yard real

estate on a lease-cum-sale basis at a paltry ₹1.65 lakh per cent, versus prevailing ₹10 lakh valuations, bypassing the elected board's sole prerogative for such allocations. The controversy traces to 2023, when the parcel was subdivided into 11 plots amid protests and assigned to bidders despite outcries.

"This is a blatant undervaluation, especially in land-scarce Udupi where public tracts are scarce," Kodavoor fumed, urging retribution of government holdings over hasty handovers.



On October 27, traders allegedly felled foliage and demolished pavements laid via state grants, ignoring a prior alert to Udupi Range Forest Officer (RFO) and APMC on October 21. "No equipment seizure by forestry; it's a free pass for destruction," he lamented, noting a pending suit contesting the allotments.

Kodavoor vowed to petition Udupi SP for enforcement against violators and stage demonstrations, extending the Samithi's 2 years 8 months resistance

to perceived favouritism. The episode amplifies longstanding gripes over APMC mismanagement, where officials allegedly prioritise private gains over public utility, eroding rural market infrastructure in a district with limited state-owned expenses.

As the court battle looms, the fallout threatens broader trader accountability, with calls for probes into undervalued deals mirroring encroachments cleared elsewhere in Udupi, like Kodavoor beach in March 2025.

CM vexed by queries on Shivakumar succession

MYSURU

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday expressed visible anger when a group of reporters repeatedly questioned him about deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar potentially replacing him as the head of the state government, terming the speculation as media-driven.

CM Siddaramaiah, responding to queries about leaders of the Bihari community in Bengaluru expressing a desire to see Shivakumar as the next Chief Minister, retorted sharply, asking the reporter if there was no other subject to discuss.

"It does not matter what people say. Anyone may say anything. Tell me, who is the high command?" he said in an irritated tone.

"It is Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, and AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge. Have they said anything on this? Then why raise it? You (media) are dragging the matter and bringing it up again and again. It is not what people say, it is you in the media who are giving it attention,"

Cabinet reshuffle likely after Bihar polls



he retorted. "What was the need to raise this question? The decision rests with the high command. No other remark carries any weight," he said. This marks the second instance in recent weeks where the Chief Minister has shown irritation over questions regarding a potential leadership change as the Congress government approaches the halfway mark of its term, amid persistent infighting within the state unit.

Regarding a possible Cabinet reshuffle, Siddaramaiah confirmed that he would

discuss the matter with party leaders immediately after the conclusion of the Bihar elections, scheduled to be held in two phases on November 6 and 11. The exchange follows Shivakumar's public appeal to Biharis in Bengaluru on Sunday to vote for the Mahagathbandhan in the upcoming Bihar elections. Speaking to reporters after addressing the Bihar Association at Coffee Board Layout in North Bengaluru, he remarked that although many had said he deserved a larger role, what mattered more to him was their support for the alliance

in Bihar. He observed that Nitish Kumar was nearing the end of his political career and noted that Tejashwi Yadav had already been named the coalition's chief ministerial candidate.

On October 30, Siddaramaiah lost his temper when questioned about the prospect of Shivakumar succeeding him. When asked whether a change in leadership might take place in November as the Congress government completes half its term, he appeared irritated and asked who had made such statements and where they had been recorded.

When reporters pointed to media reports, he challenged them to identify the publication, stating that he reads all newspapers.

Earlier in the day, Siddaramaiah refused to comment on the deadline for filling Bengaluru's potholes, which lapses at midnight on Friday, and directed journalists to approach Shivakumar, who heads the Bengaluru Development portfolio. The CM's remarks come at a time when talk of internal discord within the Congress continues.

Two wild elephants electrocuted in Khanapur taluk, farmer arrested

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BELAGAVI

IN a tragic incident highlighting the growing human-wildlife conflict in Karnataka, two wild elephants were electrocuted after coming into contact with a live electric fence near Sulegali village in Khanapur taluk of Belagavi district on Sunday afternoon. According to forest officials, the elephants — a male and a female — died instantly after touching an illegally electrified fence installed around a farm.

Preliminary investigations revealed that Ganapati Sateri Gurav, a local farmer, had drawn a power connection from his house to the fence in an attempt to prevent wild animals from entering his agricultural land. Forest officials arrested Ganapati Gurav for violating wildlife protection laws and causing the deaths of the elephants. He has been remanded to judicial custody, while his son Shivaji Gurav, who was also allegedly involved, is currently absconding.

Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre expressed strong displeasure over the incident and directed officials to conduct a thorough probe. He has instructed the department to submit a detailed report within five days. A team led by RFO Shivanand visited the site, collected evidence, and initiated an in-depth investigation.

The carcasses of the elephants were subjected to post-mortem examination this morning, following which the forest department conducted the cremation as per protocol. Authorities have also issued notices to concerned power department officials, citing negligence that may have contributed to the illegal



Rogue elephant caught after two-day operation

KARKALA

AN elephant that had killed two farmers in the Kerekatte area of Kudremukh National Park was successfully captured on Sunday after a two-day operation by the Forest Department.

The tusker, which had taken shelter in the forest near Bhagavathi Nature Camp, was tranquilised and captured under the supervision of officers from the Mangaluru Forest Division and Kudremukh Wildlife Range. Expert teams and five trained elephants from Sakrebail (Shivamogga), Dubare (Kodagu), and Nagarhole camps assisted in the effort.

To track the elephant in the hilly and dense forest terrain, officials used drones to conduct extensive surveillance. The animal was spot-



ted early in the morning near the Bhagavathi camp and was captured by evening after a coordinated effort involving more than 50 forest personnel.

The elephant had recently attacked and killed two farmers — Harish Shetty (44) and Umesh (48) — near Kerekatte in Kerekatte, leading to widespread protests by local residents demanding its capture and adequate compensation for the victims' families. According to forest officials, the elephant will receive necessary medical care before a decision is taken regarding its relocation to a suitable habitat.

electrification of the fence.

The deaths have reignited debate over the growing man-elephant conflict in Karnataka, particularly in forest fringe areas like Belagavi, Chikkamagaluru, and Kodagu. Environmentalists have demanded stricter enforcement of wildlife protection norms and stronger coordination between forest and energy departments to prevent such tragedies.

Locals claim that crop raids by elephants have

been increasing in the region, prompting farmers to resort to illegal electric fencing for protection. Forest officials, however, have warned that such actions are punishable under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, and pose a serious risk to both animals and humans. The tragic deaths in Sulegali once again underscore the urgent need for sustainable mitigation measures to balance human safety and wildlife conservation.

Reduce safari activities in forest areas of Mysuru: CM

MYSURU

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday said he has directed officials to scale down safari activities in the forest areas of Mysuru following the deaths of three farmers in October within a span of two weeks. He said the growing human activity in forest zones and the search for water and food have been driving wild animals into human settlements. "What

has happened is that people's movement in the forest region has increased, and resorts are coming up," Siddaramaiah told reporters here.

"Further, safari activities have increased—that's one reason. Then, they (wild animals) come for water and food to the villages," he added. "Yesterday, there was a meeting with forest officials. I will convene another soon. We will take action against illegal resorts, and



I have directed officials to reduce safari activities in the forest," the chief minister further said.

SC stays HC order asking multiplexes to maintain records of tickets

NEW DELHI

THE Supreme Court on Monday stayed the Karnataka High Court's order asking multiplexes to maintain a comprehensive and auditable record for every movie ticket sold. The high court's division bench had passed the direction on September 30 while hearing a plea against an order of its single judge that had granted an interim stay on the Karnataka Cinemas (Regulation) (Amendment) Rules, 2025, which sought to cap cinema ticket prices at Rs 200.

A plea challenging the division bench order came up for hearing on Monday before a bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta. "This should be fixed," the bench said, while observing that multiplexes were charging Rs 100 for a water bottle.

"As it is, the cinema is declining. Make it more reasonable for people to come and enjoy. Otherwise, the halls are empty," the bench said, adding, "We are with the division bench that it should be Rs 200." The bench agreed to hear the plea filed by Multiplex Association of India and others.



It issued notice to the Karnataka State Film Chamber of Commerce and others seeking their responses on the plea within four weeks. "In the meantime, the effect and operation of the impugned order shall remain stayed," the bench said.

The top court said it would be open for the single judge to proceed with the matter. The single judge had passed

the order on September 23 on the pleas challenging the Karnataka Cinemas (Regulation) (Amendment) Rules, 2025, which capped the ticket price at Rs 200.

The single judge had granted an interim stay on the amendment until further orders. When the matter came up before the division bench, it said an interim arrangement was required to be made to protect the

financial interests of all concerned, pending final adjudication of the petition.

It passed directions, including that multiplexes would maintain comprehensive and auditable records for every ticket sold and the records must include the date and time of sale, mode of booking, mode of payment, amount collected and the GST component.

"Digitally traceable receipts must be issued for all cash transactions, and daily cash registers must be countersigned by the manager-in-charge of the multiplex," it said. The division bench said that for cash-based ticket sales, multiplexes must issue numbered, time-stamped receipts to the consumers. It posted the matter for further hearing on November 25.

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

KARNATAKA Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao on Saturday chaired a high-level meeting to address the rising incidence of Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD), also known as "monkey fever", in the districts of Chikkamagaluru, Shivamogga, and Uttara Kanad. The meeting focused on implementing measures to control the spread of the tick-borne viral disease and gathering input from officials and public representatives.

According to the minister, a total of 4,080 samples have been tested, with 103 individuals confirmed positive for KFD. Tragically, two people have succumbed to the disease. The meeting outlined several guidelines to manage the situation in the affected districts, including strengthened human and monkey death reporting, enhanced tick surveillance, and the recruitment of staff on a contract basis to address shortages in the health department.

Other measures include the release of daily bulletins detailing KFD tests, positive cases, discharges, and deaths. Designated referral hospitals—KFC Manipal, SIMS Shivamogga, and KRIMS Karwar—have been identified to handle cases. Immediate hospitalisation of confirmed KFD cases is mandatory, with free treatment provided under the ABARK scheme. Additional support includes free ambulance services for patient transfers, adequate stocking of IV infusions and IV paracet-



amol at primary health centres and hospitals, and the extension of tele-facilities for KFD patients. The public is also receiving free distribution of DEPA, a tick repellent, to reduce exposure. Administrative responsibilities for controlling KFD have been delegated to the DCMO-VDL Shivamogga, who will oversee efforts across all affected districts. The minister highlighted ongoing discussions with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Indian Immunologists to pursue full-time research aimed at developing a permanent vaccine. Although no specific treatment exists for KFD, authorities are closely monitoring the situation and remain optimistic about curbing its spread.

District in-charge ministers and officials participated in the meeting, which was documented through photographs showing the attendees at the discussion table. The measures reflect a coordinated effort to manage the disease, which remains a public health challenge in the Western Ghats region.



IN BRIEF

Bengali domestic help alleges brutal assault by police

BENGALURU: A shocking allegation has surfaced against the Varthur police, with a Bengali woman claiming that she was brutally assaulted in custody, including on her private parts. The victim, identified as Sundari Bibi (34), has accused the police of inhuman treatment that left her with severe injuries and unable to walk properly. According to reports, Sundari Bibi worked as a domestic help in an apartment within the Varthur police limits. She allegedly found some money lying in a house where she worked and went to return it to her employer. The house owner, after checking CCTV footage, accused her of theft, assaulted her, and handed her over to the police.

However, what followed at the station has drawn outrage. The woman has alleged that Varthur police officers beat her mercilessly — targeting her head, back, hands, legs, and even her private areas. The assault reportedly caused internal bleeding and swelling, leaving her bedridden.

The case has now taken on political dimensions, after the victim's family brought the matter to the attention of West Bengal Rajya Sabha MP and chairman of the West Bengal Migrant Workers Welfare Board, Samir UL. Following this, the West Bengal Chief Minister's Office was informed of the incident and has reportedly expressed serious displeasure over the conduct of Bengaluru police.

Officials from Bengal are said to be seeking a detailed report from Karnataka authorities regarding the alleged police brutality. The incident has reignited debate over the treatment of migrant workers, particularly domestic help, in metropolitan cities like Bengaluru. Civil rights groups have demanded a high-level probe into the alleged custodial violence, calling for action against those responsible.

Share details of tunnel project, but first fix potholes: BJP

BENGALURU: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday demanded that the Congress-led Karnataka government share complete details of the proposed Bengaluru tunnel road project, while questioning its feasibility and financial viability.

Leader of the Opposition R. Ashoka accused the state government of withholding key information from the public and mocked it for announcing mega infrastructure plans without addressing the city's persistent civic issues. "The Congress government has not given any information to the people of Bengaluru about the tunnel road project. First, they should answer the public's questions," Ashoka said while speaking to reporters here.

He said that when he sought clarification from officials, he was told that approval from 124 departments was required for the project. "To prove they have the expertise to execute such a project, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and D.K. Shivakumar should first fill the potholes on the roads. How can those who can't fill potholes build a tunnel? And where is the money for it?" Ashoka questioned.

Nearly 30 Bengalureans participated in a symbolic circular walk through Lalbagh on Rajyotsava weekend, highlighting the city's growing citizen movement to protect its rapidly vanishing green heritage

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

MARKING the Karnataka Rajyotsava weekend, around 30 citizens gathered at Lalbagh, Bengaluru's iconic botanical garden, to take part in a symbolic 'Parikrama of Nature' — a circular walk expressing reverence for the environment and solidarity with the city's natural heritage. The walk was organized by Bengaluru Town Hall under the banner Lalbagh Nature Walk – Parikrama/Pradakshine.

Participants — including heritage enthusiasts, urban ecologists, students, and long-time residents — began their walk from the East Gate of Lalbagh, moving through its tree-lined pathways towards the historic Peninsular Gneiss Rock and Kempegowda's Watch Tower before completing the circle back at the starting point. The route was chosen to represent the unity of nature, heritage, and civic consciousness.

Speaking to the media, several participants expressed

Citizens undertake 'Parikrama of Nature' march at Lalbagh to reaffirm commitment to ecology



concern over increasing environmental degradation and large-scale infrastructure projects threatening the city's green spaces. "It is unimaginable that decisions could endanger what remains of Bengaluru's natural heritage," said one participant. Others stressed the need for sustained civic engagement to protect the city's lakes, trees, and biodiversity.

Organisers described the Parikrama as both a tribute and a reminder — urging citizens to reconnect with Bengaluru's ecological and cultural roots.

They highlighted that Lalbagh, first developed in the 18th century under Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan, remains one of the few surviving lungs of the city.

The walk concluded with participants taking a collective pledge to support efforts for conservation, signalling a quiet but determined stand for a greener, more sustainable Bengaluru. Lalbagh, spread over 240 acres, houses more than 1,800 species of flora and continues to be central to the city's identity as the "Garden City."

'DeepTech Decade'

State announces Rs 600-cr fund to boost startups

BENGALURU

MINISTER Priyank Kharge on Monday announced the launch of the 'DeepTech Decade' initiative, under which the state government will introduce a 'DeepTech Elevate Policy' with a funding out-lay of Rs 600 crore to boost startups in emerging technologies.

"The next 10 years will be the 'DeepTech Decade'. We will leverage DeepTech with an investment of Rs 600 crore," said Kharge, who holds the Information Technology and Biotechnology portfolios, addressing a press conference here.

Announcing the 28th edition of the Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS-2025), scheduled from November 18 to 20 at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC), Kharge said the state will also host the Future Makers Conclave (FMC)—a first-of-its-kind event and a key highlight of this year's summit.

The FMC, to be held on November



20, will bring together over 10,000 founders, entrepreneurs, investors, mentors, and industry leaders, serving as a platform to showcase India's most promising AI and DeepTech startups. The event will feature show-and-tell sessions, keynote speeches by unicorn founders, investors, and industry captains.

"This initiative reflects our vision to create a robust DeepTech pipeline supporting entrepreneurs working on technologies such as AI, Machine learning, quantum computing, advanced manufacturing, robotics, and sustainability-driven

innovation," Kharge said, adding that the move is aimed at positioning "Karnataka as the DeepTech Capital of India."

He also said the state government is in discussions with leading venture capital firms to create a joint fund of up to Rs 1,000 crore dedicated to DeepTech and AI startups. "Our blueprint is ready, and we are serious about being global players in the technology landscape," he added.

Outlining the investment plan, Kharge said Rs 150 crore will go to the DeepTech Elevate Fund with a focus on AI and frontier technologies. He said

Rs 80 crore will be allocated under the El-evate Beyond Bengaluru Fund to support startups in Mysuru, Mangaluru, Hubballi-Dharwad, and Kalaburagi.

Additionally, Rs 75 crore will be provided through the KITVIN Fund for equity-based investments in DeepTech and AI startups, with funding ranging between Rs 50 lakh and Rs 2 crore.

Additionally, Rs 48 crore will be allocated for new incubators and accelerators in Dharwad and Kalaburagi, while Rs 110 crore will be earmarked for business incubators in higher education institutions to nurture early-stage innovation and entrepreneurship across 11 institutions already cleared by the Cabinet.

Kharge said the government will also explore fund-of-funds and co-investment models with the venture capital ecosystem to ensure sustained capital flow and scalability across the DeepTech value chain.

JD(S) slams DKS over promise of land to Bihar association

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

THE Janata Dal (Secular) has launched a sharp attack on Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar after he promised to allot land in Bengaluru to the Bihar Association. Calling the move "vote bank appeasement politics," the JDS accused the Congress government of "betraying Kannadigas for electoral gains."

In a fiery post on its official X handle, the JDS wrote, "Congress leaders who shout 'Our taxes, our rights' — what should we call your hypocrisy now? Shame on you for trying to gift land belonging to Kannadigas to migrants just for votes."

The post went on to allege that the Congress is prioritizing "high command slavery" over protecting the interests of local citizens. "Instead of safeguarding Kannadigas, you are indulging in appeasement politics for the sake of Hindi-speaking voters."

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM Shi-



vakumar once accused Biharis of snatching jobs from local youth. Now, to win Bihar elections, you promise them land in Bengaluru — a symbol of Congress's double standards," the JDS statement read.

The controversy stems from DK Shivakumar's recent assurance during an interaction with members of the Bihar community in Bengaluru. The Deputy CM said, "If not for Biharis, Bengaluru wouldn't have its finest buildings. Hence, land will be allotted to the Bihar Association in the city."

Shivakumar also urged construction firms and contractors to grant three days' leave to Bihari workers so

they could return home and vote in the upcoming Bihar elections.

The JDS has accused the Congress of using Karnataka's resources and taxpayers' money to run its "vote bank politics." The party alleged that the Congress leadership was "bending over backwards" to please non-Kannadiga communities for political benefit, instead of focusing on employment and development for local youth.

The statement has sparked intense political debate across Karnataka, with opposition parties framing it as yet another example of Congress's "appeasement politics" ahead of key elections.

Woman arrested for killing pet dog in apartment lift

BENGALURU

A woman has been arrested for allegedly killing a pet dog by banging it against the floor of an apartment lift here, police said on Monday. The incident, which took place on November 1, was captured on CCTV installed inside the lift, they said.

In the footage, the woman—identified as Pushpalatha—is seen entering the lift with the pet dog. As the doors closed, she allegedly banged the animal against the floor, killing it on the spot, po-lice said. According to the complaint filed by a 23-year-old woman, she had hired Pushpalatha to take care of her four-year-old dog, Goofy,

on a monthly salary of Rs 23,000 from September 11.

"On November 1, my dog died. When I asked Pushpalatha how the dog had died, she said she did not know. Later, upon checking the CCTV footage, it was found that near the lift, she had lifted the dog and thrown it onto the ground, causing its death," the complainant alleged.

A case has been registered under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and Section 325 (mis-chief by killing or maiming an animal) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita at Bagalur police station. Pushpalatha was arrested on Sunday in connection with the incident, a senior police officer said.

Metro Pinkline to become operational by May

BENGALURU

KARNATAKA Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Monday announced that the Metro pink line will be operational by May 2026. In a post on X, he said the 13.76 km stretch from Kalena Agrahara to Nagawara will ease traffic.

"Our commitment to better connectivity continues! Namma Metro Pink Line connecting Kalena Agrahara to Nagawara will be operational by May 2026," Shivakumar said. "This 13.76 km stretch will ease traffic and strengthen north-south connectivity across Bengaluru," he added.

'Karnataka controlled by two mediocre sons'

BENGALURU

BJP MP Lahar Singh Siroya on Monday attacked Minister Priyank Kharge and Congress MLC Yathindra Siddaramaiah, alleging that the state was being "controlled by two mediocre sons" who "stoke needless controversy" and "ride roughshod over all seniors" in their party and in the government.

He alleged that despite being "arrogant" and violating their own high command's guidelines, they are tolerated. "One is not sure if the two act independently or are mouthpieces of their fathers? From my many political interactions, I have learnt that the two sons are intensely disliked by their own partymen. They are being tolerated because their fathers are in power. The moment their fathers step down, I am told, the reality for these two sons may become very different. If one son now acts like a super Congress President, the other acts like a super Chief Minister," Siroya said in a

post on X.

Priyank Kharge is the son of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, while Yathindra is the son of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. The BJP MP claimed that, despite all the controversies, both their fathers don't seem to have the ability to stop them or correct them.

"Perhaps they secretly enjoy their dominance in the party and government, and use them as tools to communicate and accomplish what they cannot say or do directly," he said.

Taking a dig at Priyank Kharge, the BJP MP said the minister constantly makes ideological statements on the RSS and BJP, which is more in tune with Rahul Gandhi's "hate-filled" language.

"This indirectly earns brownie points for Kharge Senior with the Nehru-Gandhi family and helps him survive in Delhi. Kharge Junior has become a kind of guru to the Siddaramaiah government on ideological matters," he alleged.

Akshayakalpa Organic launches high-protein milk

BENGALURU

AKSHAYAKALPA Organic on Monday launched high-protein milk, further expanding its portfolio that includes high-protein paneer, peanut and ragi-based snacks. The new variant is part of the company's ongoing efforts to make clean, functional nutrition accessible to Indian consumers, it said in a statement.

The high-protein milk will be available across Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Chennai, and can be ordered through the Akshayakalpa App and on Swiggy throughout November,



the company said. Produced from fresh organic cow milk and developed using ultrafiltration technology, the new high-protein milk delivers 25 grams of protein per 250 ml serving and is lactose-free. The milk is also free from antibiotic

preservatives, and added hormones, it said.

"It is designed to be gentle on the gut and easy to digest, offering consumers a healthy option that can be consumed directly from the pack or used in smoothies, cereals, and beverages," the company said. Shashi Kumar, Founder and CEO of Akshayakalpa Organic, said, "Protein is one of the most critical nutrients for long-term health, yet most Indian diets do not provide enough of it. With the launch of our high-protein milk, we are strengthening our commitment to clean, functional nutrition."

NEW DELHI

INDIA'S white-collar job market in October 2025 showed notable strength in education, accounting and finance, BPO/ITES, and specialised tech roles despite a slowdown in recruitment during the Diwali-Dussehra holidays, a report said on Monday. The report from recruitment platform

India's white collar hiring strong in October

Naukri said that India's white-collar hiring experienced a 3 per cent year-on-year growth when adjusted for the 'holiday effect' from the festive calendar shift. The Naukri JobSpeak Index recorded 2,480 points dur-

ing the month, marking a 9 per cent year-on-year dip, as the Diwali-Dussehra festive cluster temporarily slowed re-recruitment momentum. While the festive season led to a broad-based slowdown, sectors such as accounting and finance (up 15 per cent YoY), education (up 13 per cent), and BPO/ITES (up 6 per cent) defied the trend with positive growth.

FAN MURDER CASE

Court frames charges against Darshan, 16 others

BENGALURU

Accused plead innocence

A Karnataka court on Monday framed the charges against jailed Kannada superstar Darshan, his partner Pavithra Gowda, and 15 other accused in the sensational fan murder case.

Darshan and all other accused denied all charges against them in the case of the gruesome murder of his fan Renukaswamy here on June 8, 2024. Renukaswamy was kidnapped from his hometown, Chitradurga, brought to Bengaluru, kept

in a shed, and tortured to death.

After the murder, his body was thrown into a canal. The incident came to light after the security personnel of a private apartment building saw the body being dragged by a pack of dogs.

Judge Erappanna Pavadi Naik read out the charges against Darshan, Pavithra Gowda, and the other accused and sought their response. The court also asked

them to confirm whether they were able to hear the charges clearly.

Subsequently, the judge announced that the date for the trial would be fixed on November 10 and adjourned the matter. The jail authorities had produced Darshan, Pavithra Gowda and other accused before the court. Tight security arrangements were made in the premises of the 64th CCH Court, with additional police force de-



puted. Initially, the judge directed that the advocates concerned with the case should only be present, or he would adjourn the matter, questioning where he would make the 17 accused persons stand while beginning the process of framing of charges. He had also directed the lawyers overcrowding the court hall to step out.

Darshan is facing the charge of murder under IPC Section 302, while he has been booked for causing fatal injuries under Section 355, under Section 120-b for

criminal conspiracy, Section 204 for attempting to destroy evidence, and Section 359 for kidnapping. He is also booked under Sections 143, 147, 148 and 149 for illegal gathering and other charges.

Darshan was released from prison on October 30, 2024, after spending 131 days in custody.

Following the appeal by Karnataka Police, the Supreme Court has cancelled the bail and Darshan, his partner Pavithra Gowda, and others were re-arrested.



Chevella banyans battle: Heritage vs highway makes NH 163 a 'deadly' corridor

Conservationists clash with NHAI over plans to fell 900 Nizam-era trees for road expansion, citing accident risks

HARISH ANGADI
HYDERABAD

FOR nearly a century, the majestic banyan trees lining the Chevella-Moinabad stretch of National Highway 163 (NH 163) have stood as a living heritage of Telangana's past, with their origins dating back to the Nizam era. These almost 900 ancient trees, along with thousands of others, provide a unique ecosystem and a remarkable canopy that travellers have marvelled at for generations.

However, since 2019, this green legacy has become the epicentre of a fierce environmental battle. Citizen-led groups, notably 'Save Banyans of Chevella' and 'Nature Lovers of Hyderabad (NLH)', have been championing the cause to protect these irreplaceable trees against the National Highways Authority of India's (NHAI) plans to expand the highway from two to four lanes.

These groups have mounted persistent protests, filed petitions with the National Green Tribunal (NGT), and meticulously geotagged the banyans to counter government claims and demand comprehensive ecological



considerations within the expansion plans.

During the previous BRS government's tenure, the land acquisition for the NH 163 widening project saw significant delays. Disputes over compensation, protracted court cases, and environmental litigations fuelled by activism culminated in multiple NGT orders halting construction to ensure thorough Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA).

The NGT formally recognised the ecological importance of the banyans, particularly their biodiversity support, and mandated revised assessments to minimise environmental damage. Despite these clear directives, stalled land acquisitions and political hesi-

tance have perpetuated dangerous bottlenecks on this already perilous highway.

Activists contend that the government prioritised avoiding conflict over proactive dialogue, which effectively prolonged the highway's hazardous state and led to numerous fatal accidents.

The 'Save Banyans of Chevella' group employed a scientific approach to data collection and advocacy, exposing gaps in the NHAI's mitigation claims. They have demanded genuine measures, such as reliable tree translocation with survival guarantees and road realignment where feasible.

This critical stretch between Moinabad and Manneguda, which links Hyderabad and Bijapur, re-



mains a stark reminder of the clash between heritage conservation and infrastructure needs. While the ancient banyan trees are spared for the moment, the highway continues to bear the burden of delayed development and recurring tragedy.

As the NH 163 expansion resumes under government mandates, the hope remains for balanced progress that preserves these ecological treasures while simultaneously ensuring safer passage for the thousands who travel this vital route daily.



Experts warn overloaded buses, heavy vehicles fuel road tragedies in Telangana

MM FAROOQUI
HYDERABAD

FOLLOWING heavy vehicle accidents, the road safety experts have stressed a combination of safety measures focused on controlling overloading of carriers or overcrowding of buses, over-speeding and vehicle condition. The experts urged the State Transport Department to be proactive in their enforcement efforts.

In the last 10 days, the state witnessed two major road accidents with nearly 40 deaths of the people in two Telugu states. On October 24, a private bus going to Bengaluru from Hyderabad burst into flames in Kurnool district after colliding with a bike, killing 19 people.

On Monday, 19 persons lost their lives when an RTC bus from Tandur to Hyderabad was crushed under a gravel-laden tipper truck near Mirzaguda in Chevella in Ranga Reddy district.

The experts highlighted that the preliminary police investigations revealed that both vehicles were carrying excess load. The truck was overloaded with gravel, while the RTC bus had far more passengers than its permitted capacity.

Opinions are that an overloaded truck and an overcrowded bus were a deadly combination, regardless of who was at fault. Poor road conditions and failure to deploy enough buses to handle passenger rush were also being cited as major causes.

The experts said that the Mahalakshmi scheme has caused overcrowding on TGSRTC buses by significantly increasing daily commute, especially among women.

Earlier, the state-run buses used to transport over 50 lakh passengers in the state but now following the scheme it has crossed 66 lakh passengers, with the same fleet of buses.

"In the tragic accident that occurred in Chevella on Monday, 14 female and five male passengers lost



their lives. The incident was caused by overcrowding, which also underscores the need for adequate bus services under the existing state transport schemes," said R. Nageshwar, a road safety expert.

It has been witnessed that the buses are running overcrowded across the state. The buses are accommodating more passengers than the capacity. The bus which collided with the tipper was accommodating more than 70 passengers.

Mohammed Asif Hussain, another expert highlighted that the RTA officers must act on the RTC buses for overcrowding. When overloaded, the vehicle becomes unbalanced, which can result in accidents.

Citing the example of the inspection by the Jagtial district transport officials in July last year, Asif Hussain said, "The Jagtial transport officials seized the state-run bus for carrying 112 passengers, which was supposed to carry 55 passengers. Since then, there were no reports of the RTA inspecting RTC buses," said Asif Hussain.

Sri Harsha, a member of the Road Squad Team dedicated to promoting road safety across the country, said that the overloading of buses is a serious concern. It can only be controlled when both the government and the public understand the risks involved. The long-term solution lies in increasing the number and frequency of buses so that passengers are not forced to travel unsafely.

Furthermore, the Tipper lorries are often used

for shuttle services repeatedly travelling on the same stretches of roads. This familiarity tends to create overconfidence among drivers, leading to over speeding and careless driving, pointed out Harsha.

He said that a major reason behind the frequent heavy vehicle accidents is the lack of proper driver training. In many cases, cleaners gradually become drivers without undergoing any structured training. This poses serious risks on highways.

"In Telangana, there are only a few Institutes of Driver Training and Research such as those in Karimnagar, Sangareddy. For RTC drivers Warangal and Hyderabad training institutes are available, which are insufficient to meet the state's growing demand.

The government should encourage and support private sector participation in establishing more high-quality driver training institutes across all districts," said Harsha.

The member of the Road Squad Team said that strict enforcement is equally important. Installation of dashcams in all heavy vehicles and periodic monitoring by independent audit teams can greatly enhance accountability and road safety standards.

The road safety experts urged the authorities to fill potholes and resurface damaged patches, install lane reflectors, signage, and rumble strips, enforce speed limits and driver rest regulations and deploy night highway patrols.

HORROR PAIN...

Post-mortem done, bodies handed over to kin; 19 injured get treatment

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE injured passengers in the RTC bus and tipper collision were treated at Chevella and nearby hospitals, while the post-mortem examinations of the deceased were conducted by a team of doctors from Gandhi and Osmania Hospitals. The bodies were handed over to their families by 3 p.m.

According to officials, 19 passengers died in the accident, including 13 women, five men, and a two-month-old infant. As many as 19 passengers are undergoing treatment at various hospitals — 14 at Patnam Hospital, three at the CHC in Chevella, and two at Lalitha Hospital in Chevella. The condition of 18 passengers is said to be stable. Doctors stated that one patient with a head injury is under treatment but is now out of danger.

After learning about the accident, the Health Minister C Damodar Raja Narasimha directed the higher officials to rush to the accident site and supervise the treatment and complete other formalities.

He had directed the Health and Family Welfare Commissioner Sangeetha, State Medical Education Director Dr Narendra Kumar and Vaidya Vidhana Parishad Commissioner Dr Ajay Kumar to form a team of doctors to provide better treatment to the victims.

The minister directed the officials over the phone to appoint a committee of doctors to provide better treatment to the injured. The minister later visited the hospital and interacted with the injured. The minister consoled the injured, assuring that the government would oversee their treatment. He also enquired about the incident from the bus conductor.

TGSRTC announces ₹2 lakh ex-gratia after fatal Chevella crash

Corporation confirms insurance aid for victims; preliminary report clears bus driver, blames speeding tipper lorry

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE TGSRTC has announced an ex-gratia payment of Rs 2 lakh each to the victims of the recent fatal road accident in Chevella, in addition to providing the insurance amount through the Vehicle Insurance Policy.

Y Nagi Reddy, the TGSRTC Vice Chairman and Managing Director, visited the accident site, personally monitored the rescue operations, offered his condolences to the bereaved families, and instructed officials to provide comprehensive support.

According to a preliminary inquiry conducted by the TGSRTC, there was no fault found with either the condition of the TGSRTC bus or the driving of the bus operator. The bus was confirmed to possess all necessary Fitness and valid Insurance certifications. The

corporation stated that the accident was caused by the over-speeding of a heavily loaded gravel tipper lorry, which overturned and fell onto the bus after the tipper driver lost control of the vehicle in what is known to be an accident-prone spot.

The crash occurred around 6:15 am near Indira Reddy Nagar, Mirzaguda (within Chevella limits). The bus, registered TS34TA 6354 (Tandur), was struck head-on by the tipper lorry, registered TG06T 3879, which was travelling in the opposite direction at high speed.

A senior TGSRTC officer explained that the tipper, which was loaded with gravel and hard stone chips from Lakdaram (Patancheru, Sangareddy District) and en route to Manneguda, lost control while attempting to overtake multiple vehicles. It subsequently veered directly into the path of the oncoming bus. The

resulting impact caused extensive damage to the bus, with a large volume of gravel and dust pouring into the passenger compartment. This debris led to passengers being trapped, resulting in severe breathing difficulties, multiple injuries, and fatalities due to a combination of suffocation and trauma.

Senior TGSRTC officials, including the Executive Director (O&IT), ED/HZ, JD(V&S), RM/RR, Dy.RM(O)/RR, and Dy.RM(M)/RR, rushed to the location to oversee operations and review the circumstances of the crash.

Swift rescue and relief operations were coordinated by senior Police Officers, Emergency Services personnel, the District Collector, and Revenue Department officials. TGSRTC Depot Managers from Tandur, Parigi, and Vikarabad coordinated the on-ground response and the transfer of the injured to hospitals.



CROP INSURANCE

Companies reap profits while farmers get pittance

- Private insurance companies collected Rs 5,850 cr in premiums over three years but paid only Rs 930 cr to farmers, retaining 85% as profits
- Under weather-based schemes, Rs 1,567 cr in premiums yielded zero compensation to farmers despite cyclones, floods and droughts
- Enrolment is high (e.g., 25.28 lakh in 2022 kharif), but payouts reach few (e.g., only 3.43 lakh compensated), with tenant farmers demanding direct government intervention

DASARI SRINIVASA RAO
VIJAYAWADA



Paddy crop, which was damaged during the recent Cyclone Montha in Pedana in Krishna district
(File Photo)

THE crop insurance schemes introduced by the Central government, projected as a safety net for farmers facing natural calamities, have instead become a source of windfall profits for private insurance companies. Data from the past three years reveals a shocking imbalance, while insurance firms collected nearly Rs 5,850 crore in premiums, the compensation paid to farmers amounts to a mere Rs 930 crore. This means that 85 per cent of the funds went into corporate coffers rather than reaching the distressed cultivators.

Under both the Pradhan Mantri

Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and Weather-Based Insurance Schemes, farmers from the state, along with the state and Central governments, contributed large sums since the 2022 kharif season to the 2024 rabi. Yet, despite natural disasters such as cyclones, floods and droughts during this period, the compensation flow to farmers has been negligible. Out of Rs 1,567 crore collected under weather insurance alone, not a single rupee was paid to any farmer.

When the YSRCP government came to power in 2019, it initially replaced the Central scheme with a free crop insurance model, which

directly benefited farmers without intermediaries.

However, after pressure from the Centre, the State rejoined the Central insurance programmes from the 2022 Kharif. Since then, private companies have regained control—marking the return of old problems like delayed settlements, rejected claims, and massive profit accumulation.

Participation figures further expose the disparity. In 2022 kharif, 25.28 lakh farmers enrolled, but only 3.43 lakh received compensation, while in rabi 64,000 farmers received insurance out of 15.22 lakh

enrolled. In Kharif 2023, 98,000 farmers got claims out of 22.68 lakh insured, and in rabi that year, 1.43 lakh people out of 12.92 lakh people got compensation. Even after the TDP-led NDA coalition government promised free crop insurance in kharif 2024, only 82,000 farmers received a meagre Rs 8.53 crore in compensation.

In contrast, under the Weather-Based Insurance Scheme, crores in premiums were collected in multiple seasons — 2023 kharif, 2023 Rabi, 2024 Kharif and 2024 rabi — but not a single claim has been settled so far. These figures paint a grim picture: crop insurance, instead of being a shield for the farmer, has become a lucrative avenue for private companies, leaving the food producers of the nation empty-handed.

P Jamalaiah, state general secretary of the Andhra Pradesh Koulu Rythula (Tenant Farmers) Association, told 'The Hans India' that the government must ensure prompt insurance payments to farmers affected by natural calamities. He criticised successive governments for neglecting farmers' interests and allowing insurance companies to impose harsh conditions.

Jamalaiah urged that during cyclones and disasters, the government should personally intervene to guarantee compensation for farmers' crop losses without bureaucratic delays.

Narayana invites Dubai investors to CII summit

- The Minister highlights Andhra Pradesh's investment-friendly policies.
- Holds meetings with Shobha Group, KEF Holdings and Indian consulate officials, seeking investments in urban infrastructure and healthcare sectors
- Stresses the state's single-desk clearance system and rapid development reforms under Chandrababu Naidu to attract global investors

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA



Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister P Narayana with officials of KEF Holdings at its headquarters in Dubai on Monday

development and its investor-friendly ecosystem.

He held discussions with Vikram Dutta, senior vice-president of Shobha Group. Narayana invited the company to invest in urban infrastructure projects in Andhra Pradesh, noting that the state aims to become a premier investment destination through the upcoming partnership summit. Sobha Group has reportedly shown interest in exploring investment possibilities in the state.

Narayana also met Indian Consul General Satish Sivan, explaining that the state is adopting a speed of doing business approach through a single-desk clearance system to fast-track industrial approvals. He urged the consulate to encourage Dubai-

based investors to explore opportunities in Andhra Pradesh.

The minister in the evening met Faizal Kottikollon, chairman of KEF Holdings, at the company's Dubai headquarters. The group, which has a global presence in infrastructure, healthcare and technology, was urged to invest in the healthcare sector in Andhra Pradesh.

Narayana briefed the chairman on reforms being introduced under Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu to transform the medical sector and invited KEF Holdings to visit Andhra Pradesh during the summit. He was accompanied by AP CRDA commissioner Kannababu and MAUD director Sampath Kumar during the visit.

Textiles MoUs to be signed at Partnership Summit

- Minister Savitha announces that multiple agreements in textiles will be signed at Visakhapatnam summit on Nov 14-15, with two exclusive stalls
- Review meeting with officials focuses on inviting interested investors and details of proposed units and investment scales
- AP Pavilion to feature ODOP award-winning products in one stall and handloom fabrics for sale in the other

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA



Textiles and handlooms minister S Savitha holds a review with senior officials of department at her chamber in Secretariat on Monday

summit. Savitha instructed officials to ensure that investors who have already shown interest in investing in the textiles sector in Andhra Pradesh are brought to the Visakhapatnam summit. She also enquired about the regions where investors are planning to set up units and the scale of investment proposed.

As part of the summit, an AP Pavilion will be set up, the minister said. Of the two stalls planned in the pavilion, one will showcase award-winning products and artworks under the 'One District One Product (ODOP)' initiative, while the other will be dedicated to the sale of a wide range of handloom fabrics.

Senior officials from the handlooms and textiles department participated in the meeting.

MINISTER for handlooms and textiles S Savitha has announced that several Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) in the textiles sector will be signed during the Partnership Summit scheduled to be held in Visakhapatnam on the November 14 and 15. She said that two exclusive stalls will also be set up at the summit.

The minister held a review on Monday at her chamber in the Secretariat, attended by handlooms and textiles department principal secretary R P Sisodia, commissioner Rekharani, and industries secretary N Yuvaraj. She stated that a special slot has been allotted for MoU exchanges related to the textiles sector during the

Minister vows strict measures to curb mishaps

- Ramprasad Reddy informs that private travel bus drivers will be provided with tips and training as part of the measures
- Inaugurates Rs 1.92 cr APSRTC dispensary at Alipiri, pledges better healthcare for employees
- Says law will take its own course in fake liquor case

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUPATI

TRANSPORT minister Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy said that stringent measures are being taken to prevent private bus accidents in the state. For this, tips and training are required for the drivers which will be provided soon. The minister inaugurated the newly built APSRTC dispensary at Alipiri on Monday.

Speaking on the occasion, he rejected criticism that former minister and YSRCP leader Jogi Ramesh was arrested as part of vindictive politics. Law will take its own course in the fake liquor probe and any arrests are

part of the probe only.

He said that the new dispensary will provide better healthcare facilities to employees and their families. The government is committed to ensuring the welfare of APSRTC employees. The initiative was taken under the guidance of APSRTC Vice Chairman and managing director M Dwaraka Tirumala Rao and chief medical officer Dr B Venkata Ramana.

Built at a cost of Rs 1.92 crore, the dispensary is spread across 0.12 acre land and is equipped with advanced medical infrastructure. It includes four consultation rooms, two inpatient wards, a general ward, nursing and pharmacy units,



Transport Minister M Ramprasad Reddy inaugurating RTC dispensary in Tirupati on Monday. APSRTC chairman K Narayana Rao, MLA Arani Srinivasulu, TUDA chairman C Divakar Reddy and others are also seen.

laboratory, X-ray, and diagnostic sections, providing comprehensive healthcare facilities for RTC staff.

With this new facility, the RTC aims to serve nearly 6,000 employees and their families in the Tirupati district. The dispensary will operate with a team of 100 medical professionals, including 30 doctors, nurses, and paramedical staff.

Ramprasad Reddy said

that the government is determined to safeguard the health and welfare of RTC employees. He added that the new dispensary will not only serve the employees but also ensure access to quality healthcare for their dependents. The APSRTC management expressed gratitude to the government for extending continuous support to its welfare initiatives.

The inauguration cer-

emony was attended by RTC chairman Konakalla Narayana Rao, vice-chairman P S Munirathnam, MLA Arani Srinivasulu, TUDA chairman C Divakar Reddy, deputy mayor R C Munikrishna, transport secretary Siva Sankar, regional manager E M Reddy and deputy chief traffic manager P Viswanath, several senior officials and employees of the corporation.

FIVE DIE IN TWO SEPARATE ROAD ACCIDENTS

- Four persons killed when the car they were travelling collide with a truck at Satyavatipet in which in Bapatla district
- One dies as a mini-lorry overturns on Nadendla-Timmapuram road in Palnadu district

HANS NEWS SERVICE
GUNTUR

FIVE persons were killed and two others injured in

two separate road accidents in the state in the early hours of Monday.

Four people died when a car in which they were trav-

elling collided with a truck in Bapatla district.

The accident occurred around 1 am in Satyavatipet in Karlapalem mandal.

The deceased were identified as B Balarama Raju (65), B Lakshmi (60), G Pushpavati (60) and M Srinivasa Raju (54). Two boys aged 11 and 13 were injured, and both were admitted to a hos-

pital. Their condition is stated to be out of danger.

The victims were from Karlapalem and were returning home after attending the sangate ceremony of Bapatla MLA Narendra Verma's son.

Overspeeding is suspected to be the cause of the accident. Police registered a case and took up an in-

vestigation. In another accident in Palnadu district, a man died when a mini lorry overturned. The accident occurred on the Nadendla-Timmapuram road when the mini lorry suffered a tyre burst.

The driver lost control of the vehicle, resulting in the accident. The deceased was identified as Babu Malik, a

worker from Odisha.

The accident revealed that the mini lorry was being used to divert rice meant for distribution under the Public Distribution System.

Police registered a case and began an investigation. The civil supplies department also launched an investigation into PDS rice diversion.

Officials told to focus on infra in MSME Parks

- Minister Kondapalli directs officials to prioritize basic infrastructure like water, roads, and electricity in 175 new MSME parks across Andhra Pradesh.

- Urges expediting approvals, encouraging new entrepreneurs to utilise govt incentives and creating a clear action plan for the state's new industrial policies

- Reviews ongoing infrastructure development, stressed timely completion and called for aligning policies with global and national best practices to build a business-friendly ecosystem

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

MINISTER for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME), rural poverty eradication and NRI empowerment Kondapalli Srinivas directed officials to prioritise the development of basic infrastructure in the 175 MSME parks being set up across the state.

Chairing a review with officials of the MSME department and APIIC at the Secretariat on Friday, the minister

stressed the need for expediting the provision of essential facilities such as water supply, roads and electricity in all the proposed industrial parks. He said the government's new industrial policies were aimed at accelerating MSME growth and called for a clear action plan to implement them effectively.

Srinivas instructed officials to encourage new industrial entrepreneurs and ensure that they are able to make effective use of the incentives being offered by the government. He cautioned against delays in issuing mandatory approvals and permits required for setting up new units.

He also reviewed the status of buildings and infrastructure being developed in the new industrial estates and issued directions for timely completion. The minister emphasised that Andhra Pradesh must align its industrial policy with the best models being followed globally and in other Indian states and create a business-friendly ecosystem through necessary reforms.

Industries department secretary N Yuvaraj, MSME Development Corporation CEO Viswa Manoharan and senior APIIC officials attended the meeting.

Saap seeks major boost for AP sports under Khelo India

- Chairman Ravi Naidu submits proposals for 56 project worth Rs 676 cr in New Delhi to Khelo India joint secretary
- Key proposals include modernising Vijayawada's IGMC Stadium, setting up district sports centres and establishing national centres of excellence in Kakinada and Guntur
- A special request of Rs 170 cr was made for rebuilding BR Stadium in Guntur, with the Centre reportedly responding positively to the proposals

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

IN a push to upgrade sports infrastructure across the state, Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (Saap)

chairman Animini Ravi Naidu sought Central approval for 56 project proposals worth Rs 676 crore under the Khelo India scheme. The proposals were personally submitted in New Delhi on

Monday to Vineel Krishna, joint secretary of Khelo India.

Ravi Naidu briefed the official on the state's sports development roadmap and requested swift sanction of the pending projects, which cover infrastructure creation, stadium upgrades, talent development facilities and district-level sports centres.

Among the key proposals, Saap sought approval for the modernisation of the Indira Gandhi Municipal Corporation (IGMC) stadium in Vijayawada, aiming to transform it into an international-standard arena. The chairman also urged the Centre to establish Khelo India district sports centres in all districts, ensuring wider access to

training facilities for young athletes.

The state has further proposed the setting up of national centres of excellence (NCOE) in Kakinada and Guntur, along with residential centres for athletics and taekwondo in the Rayalseema region and Tirupati to nurture talent from rural and semi-urban areas.

A special request for Rs 170 crore funding for the reconstruction of BR Stadium in Guntur was also placed before the ministry.

Ravi Naidu said the Chandrababu Naidu-led government is prioritising sports as a tool for youth empowerment and aims to position Andhra Pradesh prominently in the national sports landscape with the support



Saap chairman Animini Ravi Naidu submitting key sports development proposals to Khelo India joint secretary Vineel Krishna in New Delhi on Monday

of Khelo India. Joint secretary Vineel Krishna is learnt to have responded positively,

assuring due examination and necessary action on the proposals.

CALL it a superstition or by any other name, number 13 is generally presumed to be an unlucky number. But to the Indian women cricketers it was the 13th edition of the ICC Women's World Cup 2025 that provided the icing on the cake; the realisation of a decades-long dream. In many ways, the crème-da-la-crème was much like the historic day (June 25, 1983) when Kapil Dev's 'nowhere in the hunt' unsung team gave a major push to cricket back home with a stunning showing that propelled India into the big league. It is likewise with November 2, 2025, which will go down in history as a momentous day for Indian cricket, thanks to the stunning exploits of Harman's Angels (we can't think of a better sobriquet to Kapil's Devils). It was the providential third time lucky

Harman's Angels cast a spell for ages

for Indian women. Poetic justice was rendered in Navi Mumbai on a magnificent Sunday after the 'so near so far' syndrome had jinxed the team twice over in the 2005 and 2017 finals of the Women's World Cup. Meanwhile, unlike the men, Indian women had to fight two adversaries --their opponents and the naysayers. Their coming on top in the first category will hopefully silence the naysayers and the prophets of doom, once and for all. Based on past performances vis-à-vis World Cup outings, India had the psychological edge while going into the championship clash considering that their opponents South Africa were in the finals for the first time and India was playing its third

and that too on home soil. Now that Indian women have proved that they are second to none, including in the game's shorter version, and once the euphoria sinks in, the players must start regrouping themselves rather than basking in the new-found glory. After all, uneasy lies the head that wears the crown. Towards this, they must hit the ground after they are through with a well-deserved break. It is quite ironic that the team began to blossom somewhere in the middle of the championship and peaked in the matches that mattered the most, the semifinals and the championship clash in which they came up with a clinical performance that dashed the last hurrah hopes

of South African captain Laura Wolvaardt and took India to the pinnacle of glory. Meanwhile, the BCCI has done well by announcing an overwhelming Rs 51 crore to Harmanpreet and her girls for lifting cricket's most cherished trophy. Beginning tomorrow, the nation will be baffled to notice how opportunistically calculating can men players, celebrities and politicians be. The very people who shunned women cricketers all these years will go all out to be 'seen' with them and be captured in photographs with the newly crowned queens. A redeeming feature was at the DY Patil stadium that was packed to capacity. However, barring former India

captains Sachin Tendulkar and Rohit Sharma, there was no celebrity worth the name to cheer for the Indian gladiators among the audience. It was only Sunil Gavaskar who pepped up the team's morale while assuring a jamming session with the star of the semifinal conquest of defending champion Australia, Jemimah Rodrigues if India wins their maiden World Cup. A touching moment in the post-match event was Harmanpreet's thanksgiving bow to coach Amol Majumdar. Having scripted a new chapter after breaking the barrier, the girls must concentrate on consolidating their position hereafter. Diana Eduljee, was undoubtedly speaking for millions, with her remark, "I've waited for this since 2017... This is the 1983 moment for us..." Hope springs eternal.

LETTERS

Road mishaps expose systemic negligence

The tragic road accident in Rangareddy district that claimed 19 lives, coming barely weeks after the Kurnool accident which killed 19, is deeply unfortunate and distressing. Road accidents and the resultant loss of precious lives are becoming disturbingly frequent across the country. Ironically, despite repeated fatalities, authorities have failed to take effective measures to curb the road menace. Enforcement of traffic rules remain dismal and compliance among motorists is alarmingly low. Over speeding, reckless driving, and disregard for basic safety norms continue unabated as there is no appropriate check mechanism. It is imperative that stringent actions be initiated—strong law enforcement, awareness campaigns, and improved infrastructure—to ensure road safety.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, Bengaluru-56

A ghastly road accident

WITHIN a short gap, two ghastly road accidents have occurred in the two Telugu states. Around 19 persons died near Kurnool city when the bus they were travelling in caught fire on October 24. The second one that also claimed 19 lives happened early Monday morning at Mirjaguda in Rangareddy district. This apparently occurred after a TGSRTC bus was rammed into by gravel-laden truck. Wherever the road accidents occur, the reasons generally attributed as over speed, overload, drunk and drive, pathetic roads, invisible sign boards, driving under stress or when feeling drowsy. Sadly, the governments which are in hurry to announce ex gratia never focus on coming up with corrective measures.

Pratapa Reddy Yaramala, Tiruvuru (AP)

Decades of toil bears fruit

Indian women's maiden ODI World Cup triumph is not only a stupendous achievement but also historic coming as it did after several decades of toiling and grooming. This cup of joy should remain in India forever as there is no dearth of talent in our country. Previously nepotism played a crucial role in the selection of the team. Things changed after the NDA assumed office in 2014. Slowly but surely the team gelled well and reached its goal rather easily. In fact the emphatic win against Australia in the semifinal, cemented our team's chances. Institutional encouragement and support from the government did the trick in building the players' confidence. The standout performance in the final was from Shafali Verma. The women cricketers did India proud. Hearty congratulations to the team and India!

Govardhana Myneedu, Vijayawada

A shot in the arm for women's cricket in India

CONGRATULATIONS to the Indian women's cricket team for winning the Women's World Cup 2025 after beating South Africa by 52 Runs. It was an emphatic victory for the Women in Blue. The journey to the final was quite inspirational as they defeated title favourite Australia in the semifinals. Shafali Verma and Smriti Mandhana stood with their partnership. Verma also came good with the ball while scalping two batters. Deepti Sharma was quite sensational with the bat and ball. It was a night filled with excitement and drama. The DY Patil stadium in Navi Mumbai had a capacity crowd which was cheering every shot played by the host players. Our team's incredible is testimony to the progress made by the team over the years. This win will change the future of women's cricket in India.

Parimala G Tadas, Hyderabad-50

Magnificent Indian women

In a great show, 11 Indian women rewrote history by winning their maiden ICC Women's World Cup by defeating South Africa by 52 runs in Sunday's final. They made tryst with destiny, so to say. November 2, 2025, will be written in golden letters in the history of India. Much alike June 25, 1983, when Kapil's Devils won the first ODI World Cup for India. Shafali Verma won the 'player of the final match' award for her quickfire 87 runs (in 78 balls) and two wickets. Equally outstanding was South African captain Wolvaardt's century.

PVP Madhu Nivriti, Secunderabad-61

thehansreader@gmail.com

BENGALURU ONLINE

'Two mediocre sons control K'taka'

BENGALURU: BJP MP Lahar Singh Siroya on Monday attacked Minister Priyank Kharge and Congress MLC Yathindra Siddaramaiah, alleging that the state was being "controlled by two mediocre sons" who "stoke needless controversy" and "ride roughshod over all seniors" in their party and in the government.

He alleged that despite being "arrogant" and violating their own high command's guidelines, they are tolerated. "One is not sure if the two act independently or are mouthpieces of their fathers? From my many political interactions, I have learnt that the two sons are intensely disliked by their own partymen. They are being tolerated because their fathers are in power. The moment their fathers step down, I am told, the reality for these two sons may become very different. If one son now acts like a super Congress President, the other acts like a super Chief Minister," Siroya said in a post on 'X'.

Priyank Kharge is the son of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, while Yathindra is the son of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. The BJP MP claimed that, despite all the controversies, both their fathers don't seem to have the ability to stop them or correct them.

"Perhaps they secretly enjoy their dominance in the party and government, and use them as tools to communicate and accomplish what they cannot say or do directly," he said. Taking a dig at Priyank Kharge, the BJP MP said the minister constantly makes ideological statements on the RSS and BJP, which is more in tune with Rahul Gandhi's "hate-filled" language. "This indirectly earns brownie points for Kharge Senior with the Nehru-Gandhi family and helps him survive in Delhi. Kharge Junior has become a kind of guru to the Siddaramaiah government on ideological matters," he alleged.

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

The new criminal law is compelling disclosure of sources



DR MADABHUSHI SRIDHAR ACHARYULU

All rules under the Data Act (DPDPA), including questions, apprehensions and queries revolving around pre-censorship that curbs freedom of press are taking one back in time to the dark days of Emergency. As things stand, the Centre, the ministry, its officers and staff pose a threat to Article 19(1)(a) in particular, and to the Constitution of India, in general.

New pre-censorship: Blocking news site

A journalist body rights contends "Repeated non-compliance can ultimately attract blocking under the IT Act, read with Section 37 DPDPA (blocking for data-protection reasons). Will MEITY commit to seeking prior judicial authorisation before any news site is disabled?

Secondly, journalists can forget public interest reporting and kill small newsrooms. What is the quantifiable threshold of non-compliances before blocking action is initiated? When deciding penalties, Section 33 directs the Board to consider factors such as the "nature, gravity and duration" of the breach. Given that honest public-interest reporting may involve leaked data, how will proportionality be guaranteed so fines do not have a chilling effect on smaller

newsrooms and individuals engaged in journalistic activity?

Third points to killing journalism through two enactments: MEITY obtaining DPDPA's consent and meeting requirements with statutory privileges under the Press and Registration of Periodicals Act and the Working Journalists (Conditions of Service) Act remain a source for debate.

The fourth point is about getting attacked in the name of the Information Technology Act. Given that the Central Government has been empowered to block information/content under Section 69A of the IT Act, what is the purpose behind including Section 37(1)(b) that creates another parallel blocking regime that further empowers the Central Government to issue blocking directions under the DP-DPA framework?

Scribes cannot pay heavy penalty:

Every rule is dangerous due to the penalty clause. The society should realise that a real threat is from the proposed penalty clause of Rs 250 crore, which can go up to Rs 500 crore against an individual or entity if the DPDPA Board appointed by the government deems fit. This effectively can close the gates of information, journalism and freedom of speech and expression. In short, it will kill a significant part of the Constitution.

Child 'Data Act':

There is a 'child data' law, though adults suffer. Implementation of the 'child data' law can be draconian. Generally, rules under a statute (an Act) should not create substantive legal problems. They are expected to help ease the difficulties in understanding and implemen-

tation of the law.

But then, Draft Rule 10(1) forces outlets to obtain age-verified parental consent before processing a child's data. How should people involved in journalistic activity or media organisations cover issues affecting minors in real-time without breaching this rule?

Revealing sources:

Media has always debated about protecting resources of reporting. It is not just an ethical question but a serious criminal point. The flashpoint is in 'revealing sources' and it gives sweeping powers to the Union Government. Journalist bodies and activists fear that clauses granting the government broad powers could be misused to unmask confidential sources. Besides pre-censorship, together with 'compelling the resource of reporting the news' will be more draconian than the '1975 Emergency' phase.

Since ages 'revealing sources' were protected as ethical and legal principles in democracies. Exceptions can only be in some compelling legal situations. Journalists' sources are revealed when their identities are exposed, either through their own voluntary disclosure or by being forced by legal authorities, which can happen in court if the information pertains to a crime or other legal proceedings. Sources are revealed when legal protections are absent, or when a journalist cannot or will not use legal or technological methods to keep them anonymous. Source protection is vital, as without it, people would be deterred from sharing public interest information with journalists.

Members from the Press Club of India (PCI) and the Indian Women Press Corps



The society should realise that a real threat is from the proposed penalty clause of Rs 250 crore, which can go up to Rs 500 crore against an individual or entity if the DPDPA Board appointed by the government deems fit. This effectively can close the gates of information, journalism and freedom of speech and expression. In short, it will kill a significant part of the Constitution.

(IWPC) have raised worries over the consequences of the Digital Personal Data Privacy (DPDP) Act, 2023, and the rules thereof. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeiTy) is yet to reply to media representations and the serious apprehensions. This is how threats to journalism emanate from the Data Act. The press bodies' pointed out: Clause (c) of sub-section (7) under Section 28 and Section 36 give the Data Protection Board and the Central Government sweeping powers to call for "any data, book, document, register, and book of account or any other document."

Now, investigative journalism largely relies on "source-based information" or leads provided by whistleblowers. Given the wide range of powers that have been vested in the Data Protection Board, it can very well demand a person involved in journalistic activity or media organisation to reveal the "source".

In that case, what are the protections available to a person involved in journalistic activity and media organisations from revealing a

"source" under the Act?

No editorial independence?

Draft Rule 6(g) demands "appropriate technical and organisational measures to ensure effective observance of security safeguards" and can be enforced by the Board. What limits will be set so that inspections do not morph into newsroom searches, jeopardising editorial independence remains unknown?

Whistle-blower and a bleak future!

Draft Rule 7 obliges a data fiduciary to alert every affected person after a leak. If a whistle-blower leaks wrongdoing inside a company, PSU, government department, etc., must the person involved in journalistic activity or the newsroom notify the very officials under investigation, thereby exposing its source?

Consent management:

The draft rules allow the Board to suspend or cancel a consent manager's registration and compel information disclosure. If a media-run consent tool is

de-registered, is there an appeal platform, and how will the ongoing subscriptions be maintained?

Draft Rule 6 requires encryption, extensive logging and one-year log retention. What financial or technical assistance will be offered to small, independent outlets that cannot afford enterprise-grade infrastructure?

Section 7(b) allows data processing by the state to provide state benefits. Rule 5 explicitly lets the State reuse personal data to deliver subsidies without consent, subject only to minimal standards. What safeguards will prevent such "lawful" data-sharing from being repurposed to identify or retaliate against critical journalists?

Why is it only in India?

"Worldwide, such laws exempt journalists, and our endeavour is also to ensure that this Act also exempts the professional work of journalists. We are hoping to seek an appointment with the minister concerned for a meeting at the earliest to take forward the joint decisions taken at the open meeting on the matter," stated Gautam Lahiri, president of PCI, on X. The Press Club of India and 21 media organisations have submitted a joint memorandum to Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, urging the exclusion of journalistic work from the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act. In addition, the civil society should study the detailed press notes of PCI and IWPC, which seek the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeiTy) to address the serious problems stemming from the DPDP Act.

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

Air pollution: Cloud seeding is not the solution



DR SRIDARALA RAMU

CLOUD seeding is the Cprocess of artificially inducing rainfall. To provide relief from air pollution in Delhi after Diwali, the Delhi government, in collaboration with IIT-Kanpur, conducted cloud seeding on October 28. Due to atmospheric heat, water from oceans, rivers, lakes, and other water bodies evaporates into vapor. The process of converting vapor into liquid droplets is called condensation while the direct transformation of vapor into a solid is called deposition. Condensation occurs with the help of tiny particles suspended in the air. Examples include dust particles, other small particles, or volcanic ash. These tiny particles act as condensation nuclei. Water vapor gathers around these particles (condensation nu-

clei) and transforms into liquid droplets or ice crystals.

When many such liquid droplets or ice crystals accumulate, a cloud is formed. As the size and weight of these droplets or ice crystals increase, they fall to the earth as rain. This is how natural rainfall occurs.

Cloud seeding:

Clouds can naturally produce rain. But not all clouds result in rainfall. In cloud seeding, chemicals like silver iodide, dry ice, or salt act as artificial condensation nuclei. These substances are released into moisture-laden clouds using aircraft, rockets, or ground-based generators. The nuclei help form sufficient liquid droplets or ice crystals, increasing their size and weight, thereby inducing artificial rainfall.

Like a car with a working engine and fuel that may not start due to a weak battery and needs a push, cloud seeding works when clouds and sufficient moisture are present, but rain does not occur naturally.

Clouds may not always produce rain:

Cloud seeding does not



Cloud seeding can interfere with naturally occurring rainfall. The chemicals used may alter the concentration of other atmospheric gases. Artificially inducing rain in one area can disrupt weather balance in nearby regions, potentially reducing rainfall nearby. In some cases, cloud seeding has led to sudden heavy rainfall, resulting in floods.

work under clear skies. Insufficient number of condensation nuclei to convert water vapor into droplets or ice crystals. Cloud seeding aims to address such critical issues.

How can human activities affect clouds?

Research shows that aerosols released into the atmosphere due to air pollution affect cloud formation and can inhibit rainfall. Aerosols prevent water droplets in clouds from merging into larger, heavier droplets. As a result, the droplets remain very small and continue to float in the atmosphere. Thus, air

pollution from urban and industrial activities significantly impacts rainfall patterns.

Why the experiment failed in Delhi?

Cloud seeding works only when clouds have around 50 per cent or more humidity. However, in the Delhi experiment, the targeted clouds had only 15-20 per cent humidity, according to Manindra Agrawal, Director of IIT, Kanpur, which partnered with the government for the project. He stated that a chemical mixture of common salt, rock salt, and silver iodide was used.

According to the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, although cloud seeding trials are usually conducted for drought management, this was the first indigenous attempt to use the method for air pollution control, Agrawal noted.

Where has cloud seeding worked?

Over 50 countries, including Saudi Arabia, the United States, Israel, Indonesia, and Australia, have conducted cloud seeding projects at some point. Some achieved good results, while others saw little or no success.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is noted as one of the most successful countries in cloud seeding. It conducts operations annually to increase rainfall and combat severe water scarcity. Reports indicate rainfall increased by 10 to 30 per cent in some areas.

China's success:

During the 2008 Beijing Olympics, China successfully used cloud seeding to create favourable weather conditions. To prevent rain during the opening and closing ceremonies, clouds were

"emptied" in advance. China launched over 1,100 rockets from several locations, using silver iodide for cloud seeding. This subsequently delayed rainfall in Beijing and resulted in clear skies.

Adverse effects:

Cloud seeding can interfere with naturally occurring rainfall. The chemicals used may alter the concentration of other atmospheric gases. Artificially inducing rain in one area can disrupt weather balance in nearby regions, potentially reducing rainfall nearby. In some cases, cloud seeding has led to sudden heavy rainfall, resulting in floods.

Scientists warn that cloud seeding is not a permanent solution to Delhi's air pollution. While it may provide short-term relief, it does not address the root causes of pollution. Even if artificial rain is successful, it may clear the air for only a few hours or days—a temporary fix. Therefore, it is important to implement long-term strategies to tackle air pollution.

(The writer is a Chemistry and Environmental Sciences faculty)

Hone sports skills: Collector exhorts youth

- The District Collector instructed officials to acquire land for playgrounds in 24 mandal centres
- She directed the committee members to ensure that the youth do not fall into the trap of any bad habits
- Encouraging the youths, the Collector underlined the need to hone their sports skills



District Collector Vijaya Krishnan speaking at the meeting in Anakapalli on Monday

will certainly shine in the field. The Collector instructed the sports development officers to promote sports in the district and encourage youths to hone their sports skills. She advised the youth to give priority to sports as well along with studies. Further, the District Collector directed the committee members to ensure that the youth do not fall into the trap of bad habits and provide them a platform to take up sports. Also, Vijaya Krishnan instructed the District Panchayat Officer to thoroughly examine the land proposed for the construction of 31 sports grounds with an extent of 10 to 15 cents suggested in each panchayat. The Collector advised the officials to coordinate with the mandal special officer and PET/PD and submit a viable report for the proposed project. Joint Collector M Jahnavi, in-charge District Revenue Officer Subbalakshmi, District Sports Development Officer Pujari Sailaja, DPO O Sandeep, DWAMA PD Purnima Devi, Municipal Commissioners of Elamanchili, Anakapalli, Narsipatnam and committee members participated in the meeting.

HANS NEWS SERVICE ANAKAPALLI

ANAKAPALLI District Collector Vijaya Krishnan instructed Zilla Parishad CEO P Narayana Murthy to acquire land for playgrounds in 24 mandal centres of the district with an area of not less than 25 cents each. Speaking at the District Sports Development Committee meeting held here on Monday, the District Collector mentioned that if talented youths are identified and given appropriate training and encouragement, they

IPS officers in city to get accommodation in star hotels

- IPS officers will now get star hotel accommodation in Visakhapatnam
- City Police Commissioner made a proposal with the star hotel association
- An agreement was signed between the Visakhapatnam city police and hotel association



Star hotels in Visakhapatnam where IPS officers will be accommodated

VASU POTNURU VISAKHAPATNAM

VISAKHAPATNAM is the most favoured destination to host national as well as international events. For an army of IPS officers who arrive in the city to render their service during various events, getting an accommodation has become a challenging task. Currently, the IPS officers are putting up at Sunrise Guesthouse (police officers' mess) that includes about 16 rooms. But during

major events, the capacity of the police officers' mess fails to cater to the number of IPS officers deployed for the purpose. To place a check on this issue, Visakhapatnam City Police Commissioner Shankhabrata Bagchi came up with a workable plan. As part of it, he held discussions with the representatives of star hotel managements and associations. The CP made a proposal that the TA/DA bills paid by the government to the IPS officers will be used to settle hotel bills if they get an accommodation in a star hotel during their visit. In the meantime, a number of star hotels came forward to accept the proposal. For the first time in Andhra Pradesh, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Visakhapatnam city police and star hotels association in the presence of Director General of Police Harish Kumar Gupta and City Commissioner of Police Shankhabrata Bagchi.



An MoU being signed in the presence of City Police Commissioner Shankhabrata Bagchi in Visakhapatnam

Based on the recommendations of the 7th Pay Commission, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) enforced a new pay matrix system for the IPS officers. According to this pay scale and depending on the category, the hospitality arrangements of the IPS officers will be provided by the designated hotels in Visakhapatnam city. Sharing details of the pact, the City Commissioner of Police Shankhabrata Bagchi said, "It is important to provide appropriate food and accommodation to the IPS officers to overcome their work stress and help them stay focused on duty. With the signing of the MoU, the first-of-its-kind initiative has been taken up by the city police." The MoU serves as a big relief for the IPS officers as they no longer have to experience accommodation problems in Visakhapatnam as they did in the past.



Pro Vice-Chancellor of the institution Y Goutham Rao along with students taking part in the pink walk held on the campus in Visakhapatnam on Monday

Three held for possession of LCD blots

HANS NEWS SERVICE VISAKHAPATNAM

THREE persons identified as P Konda Reddy, M Geeth Charan and T Harshavardan were taken into custody by the city police on Monday for reportedly possessing LCD blots here on Monday. Konda Reddy is YSRCP student wing president. At a media conference held here on Monday, DCP Mary Prashanti said the three have been closely associated with another and they are addicted to drugs and alcohol. As they ran out of supplies, Konda Reddy directed Charan to procure LCD blots from Bengaluru from a known source.



DCP Mary Prashanti briefing the details of the arrest in Visakhapatnam on Monday

The DCP informed that Charan went to Bengaluru on October 31 to procure the LCD blots. The next day, he travelled by train to reach Vizag on November 2. Based on a tip-off, a team of EAGLE, IV Town police caught Konda Reddy and Harshavardhan near the railway station while they were receiving the substance from Geeth Charan. The police arrested all the three and seized 48 LSD blots and three mobile phones from them along with a two-wheeler.

‘Aahwaan-2025’ welcomes freshers to AMC



Collector MN Harendhira Prasad inaugurating ‘Aahwaan-2025’ celebrations in Visakhapatnam on Monday

HANS NEWS SERVICE VISAKHAPATNAM

ANDHRA Medical College (AMC) celebrated Freshers' Day under the banner of 'Aahwaan-2025' here on Monday. About 250 new medical students of the 2025 batch joined the AMC fraternity. The freshers were welcomed by the faculty members and senior students. District Collector MN Harendhira Prasad, Visakhapatnam south MLA Ch Vamsi Krishna Srinivas Yadav attended the event. Principal of the AMC KVSM Sandhya Devi, Superintendent of King George Hospital, Vice Principal (Academic) V Manmadha Rao, among others, were present. Meanwhile, the postgraduate students of Andhra Medical College

(AMC) excelled in research papers exhibition organised by the PG students at the state-level conference on Radiology at GITAM. Of the 180 research papers that were exhibited at the state-level, G Pushpita stood first and received the prestigious Vizag City Sub Chapter Award gold medal. Jayaguru Sambatharajan received the second prize for presenting 150 research papers, Dr Raja Reddy secured the gold medal and A Meghana received a special commendation certificate. The students who received the awards were congratulated by the AMC Principal Sandhya Devi, King George Hospital Superintendent I Vani, head of the radiology department Dr Bujji Babu, radiology professor Uma Maheswara Rao and other faculty.

Pink walk focuses on cancer prevention

HANS NEWS SERVICE VISAKHAPATNAM

ENCOURAGING students and staff to adopt a healthy and proactive lifestyle and in observance of breast cancer awareness month, a 'pink walk' was held in Visakhapatnam on Monday. Organised by the Women Leaders' Forum (WLF) in collaboration with the Rotaract Club of GITAM, the event aimed at raising awareness about early detection and prevention of

breast cancer. Inaugurating the walk, Pro Vice-Chancellor of the institution Y Goutham Rao expressed concern over the rising incidence of breast cancer in India and emphasised that early detection, timely diagnosis, and increased awareness can significantly improve recovery outcomes. Further, he highlighted the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle including physical activity and yoga. Arun Kareek, Associate Dean of Student Life, along with members of the club, WLF and a large number of students participated enthusiastically in the rally. Participants carried placards and slogans promoting breast cancer awareness, encouraging regular health check-ups, and emphasising the strength and resilience of survivors. The platform served as a reminder that awareness and education act as powerful tools in waging a battle against breast cancer.



Stopping her convoy, Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha reached out to an accident victim at Elamanchili while she was travelling to Nakkapalli from Visakhapatnam and aided in shifting the victim to the Elamanchili government hospital on Monday

Vizag to host All India postal table tennis tournament from Nov 10

HANS NEWS SERVICE VISAKHAPATNAM

THE 40th All India Postal Table Tennis tournament will be held in Visakhapatnam from November 10 to November 14, informed Postmaster General, Visakhapatnam Region VS Jayasankar. Speaking to the media here on Monday, he stated that the tournament will be held at the S-3 Sports Arena located at MVP Colony. The Postmaster General informed that such events will not only instill sportsmanship among postal employees but also serve as a platform for talented players

- The Postmaster General launched a teaser and logo of the tournament
- 14 Teams from 14 states, including Andhra Pradesh, will participate in the event
- The department plans to launch a special cover on the occasion

to project their expertise at the national level. Further, he mentioned that 14 teams from 14 states, including Andhra Pradesh, will participate in the tournament.



Postmaster General, Visakhapatnam region VS Jayasankar at the launch of the teaser of the tournament in Visakhapatnam on Monday

Launching a teaser related to the tournament and logo, Jayasankar recalled that the West Bengal team performed well and won several medals in the tournament held in Porbandar, Gujarat last year. The department plans to launch a special cover on the occasion. Sports enthusiasts and representatives from various sports organisations and the public are requested to scan the QR code for logo and prospect details. Visakhapatnam Postal Division Senior Superintendent NVSN Raju, deputy superintendent P Komal Kumar, assistant director KVD Sagar, among others, were present.

Science and spirituality exhibition inspires thought & joy

HANS NEWS SERVICE PUTTAPARTHI

OFFERING prayers at the divine lotus feet of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations- Andhra Pradesh (education wing) presented a unique offering through the two-day "Sanathana Dharma-Scientific Perspective" (Science and Spirituality) Exhibition, held at Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, Prasanthi Nilayam. The exhibition was inaugurated by R.J. Ratnakar, Managing Trustee of the Sri

Sathya Sai Central Trust, who praised the creativity, devotion, and dedication reflected in each display. He lauded the efforts of the Bal Vikas teachers for nurturing the talents of young students and instilling Swami's values through innovative expression. More than 250 students from 26 districts of Andhra Pradesh, guided by 150 Bal Vikas gurus, presented around 170 exhibits, each creatively blending science with spirituality. Every model showcased profound spiritual truths illuminated through scientific understanding.



‘Navarasa’: A mesmerising journey through the nine emotions of Bharatanatyam



ANNA RAO GANGAVALLI

An entrancing ‘Baithak’ or chamber concert at the Raw Mango Showroom in Banjara Hills recently featured the Bharatanatyam ballet ‘Navarasa’, created by Padma Shri Dr. Ananda Shankar Jayant.

Rasa is an emotion felt by the audience — an experience they undergo when they watch a performance, painting, or any form of art. These rasas are classified into nine, as per Indian aesthetic theory. In the ‘Natyashastra’ of Bharata Muni, each of these emotions is associated with a particular colour — ‘Roudra’ (red), ‘Bhayanaka’ (black), ‘Adbhuta’ (yellow), ‘Bhishatsa’ (dark blue), ‘Veera’ (orange), ‘Karuna’ (grey), ‘Shringara’ (green), and ‘Shanta’ (colourless). These form the basic tenets of Indian art — whether dance, music, or painting.

Usually, in a dance recital, the emotions are anchored to the lyrics or storyline. However, if the story is unfamiliar, the audience may not be able to grasp the emotion. Sometimes, an event is not

strictly necessary to trigger a mood — it could be spontaneous laughter, anger, or tears. The challenge of conveying these rasas without a storyline inspired Ananda in envisioning this production. This was the genesis of the idea behind the ballet.

When the lyrics or ‘sahityam’ are omitted, pure music alone remains. The grammar of Bharatanatyam — pure ‘nritta’ — was explored through group dynamics to create visual framing that expressed emotions not limited to ‘abhinaya’ but encompassing the entire body as an instrument. The dancers began in pure white costumes, serving as a blank canvas on which various colours were projected using light. This visual imagery was masterfully designed by Surya Rao, creating a spectacular feat of lighting and imagination.

The Shankarananda Kalakshetra ensemble, led by Dr Ananda Shankar, included her disciples Sneha Magapu, Poojitha Namburi, Neha Sathanapalli, Srividya Sripathi, and Shreenidhi Ramaswamy.

The order of emotions was slightly altered, as



An intimate Baithak at the Raw Mango Showroom in Banjara Hills recently came alive with ‘Navarasa’, a Bharatanatyam ballet conceived and choreographed by Padma Shri Dr. Ananda Shankar Jayant. Exploring the essence of nine human emotions as described in the ‘Natyashastra’, the performance was a vivid interplay of light, movement, and expression. Through pure dance and innovative visual imagery, Dr Ananda and her ensemble transformed rasa theory into an evocative experience for the audience

Ananda felt that anger, rather than love, is a more immediate and striking emotion. Thus, ‘Roudra Rasa’ in ‘Atana’ raga began the performance with a powerful start. Using ‘Shikhara’ and ‘Pataka’ hastas, the dancers moved strongly. A fiery red glow bathed the stage — evoking images of a mob in riot, with pulling, pushing, and tugging movements symbolising collective fury.

‘Bhayanaka Rasa’ in ‘Lavangi’ depicted fear as experienced differently by each person. The dancers were instructed to respond to imagined fears — some appearing stunned, others seeking to escape — creating a vivid tapestry of reactions through slow movements and expressive ‘abhinaya’.

‘Adbhuta Rasa’ or wonder was portrayed as a feeling of awe through buoyant, jumpy movements, where each dancer expressed individual astonishment that merged into a collective illusion of amazement.

‘Bhishatsa Rasa’ in ‘Varali’ followed, expressing disgust. The dancers moved as though navigating through dirty water after a monsoon

shower — carefully placing their steps, drawing their hands back with caution to avoid being sullied. The depiction captured the visceral essence of revulsion with grace and restraint.

‘Veera Rasa’ in ‘Amritavarshini’ showcased valour through grand, determined movements. Large, elaborate, and firm marching steps were performed both singly and in unison, giving the impression of a heroic procession, radiating courage and strength.

‘Karuna Rasa’ in ‘Dwi-jawanthi’ brought forth grief and sorrow. This emotion, difficult to portray convincingly, was visualised as a contagious wave of sadness moving from one dancer to another — expressed through circular turns and tender interactions. The scene captured the depth of human empathy and shared loss.

‘Hasya Rasa’ in ‘Kathanakuthoohalam’ lightened the mood with humour. Through ‘adavus’ involving bends and stretches that contrasted each other, the dancers created comic effects without slipping into caricature. A delightful vignette featuring pup-

pets troubling their master added charm and wit to this segment.

‘Shringara Rasa’ in ‘Megh Malhar’ illustrated love — the state of being in love and the act of adornment. The dancers evoked subtle imagery of birds, bees, and blossoming joy, expressing tenderness and harmony without overemphasis, letting the emotion speak through graceful gestures and glances.

Finally, ‘Shanta Rasa’ in ‘Revati’ embodied peace and spiritual tranquillity. This concluding piece reflected meditative calmness, drawing the audience into stillness and introspection.

The music throughout served as a screen upon which the ‘nritta’ was projected, achieving the intended emotional impact to vivid applause. At the end of the performance, each saree used to signify the colour of a particular rasa was hung on a rack — the hanger holding all nine sarees, now a visual testament to the journey through emotion and art, standing as a symbol of completion and harmony. The music was composed by Prema Ramamurthy.

Saiyami Kher has tears of joy after women’s cricket team’s historic WC win

Actress Saiyami Kher was seen in tears of joy as the Women’s Indian Cricket Team brought the World Cup trophy home on the 2nd of November, 2025.

The actress shared a series of photos and videos on her social media, straight from the stadium where the match was held. Penning a detailed emotional caption, Kher wrote, “My love story with cricket began as an 8-year-old girl. I sat in front of the TV with my dad watching the Master bat. I was obsessed and completely consumed. But in a world of boys with bats, whenever I told them I wanted to play with them, I was laughed at. Their laughter stopped when I’d pick up the ball and bowl them out, one after another.

“Years later, in rooms full of men, when I spoke of cover drives and reverse swing, I saw that same smirk that silently said, “Oh. What do you know about cricket?” From there to last night, in a packed DY Patil stadium where chants echoed for every girl in blue, I saw tears in the eyes of those same grown-up men who’d smirk. Our girls wrote the history of a battle that started in 1978 when we hosted the first WC.

“From pooling money to sharing kit bags to this! It’s historic not just for women’s cricket but for every woman who dared to dream, for every girl who picked up a bat when the world said she couldn’t.”

She added, “Standing there, exactly where we shot Ghoomer, watching our girls lift that trophy, it felt like life had come full circle. Proud of our girls. Proud of the families who stood by them. Proud of the BCCI for believing. And grateful to Vijay Patil for an incredible



experience at DY Patil.” Kher further wrote, “Our girls have shown us that the game belongs to everyone who loves it. Last night, ‘Chak De’ and ‘Maa Tuije Salaam’ hit harder than any other time because these songs, these chants, weren’t just for the team. They were for every little girl who has said to herself, “Someday, I’ll play too.”

For the uninitiated, the Indian women’s cricket team created history by securing their maiden World Cup title after a nail-biting win against South Africa in the final match held at the Dr DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai.”

Celebrities from the film fraternity, including Priyanka Chopra, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Hrithik Roshan, Abhishek Bachchan, Samantha Ruth Prabhu, and

Anushka Sharma, among others, took to their respective social media accounts to praise the team’s incredible feat, describing it as a moment of immense pride for the country.

Talking about Ghoomer, the 2023 sports drama starred Saiyami Kher and Abhishek Bachchan and told the story of Anina Dixit, essayed by Kher, a young cricketer whose dreams are shattered after she loses her arm in an accident. Further, refusing to give in and braving all odds, Dixit is then mentored by her mentor, who helps her reinvent herself as a bowler, further mastering a unique style of bowling, ‘Ghoomer’. The film is important in the context of the recent World Cup win and how in sports, it’s a bit more difficult for some players.

Sonali Kulkarni embarks on a 3-day biking expedition to reconnect with herself on her birthday

Actress Sonali Kulkarni chose a unique way to celebrate her birthday this year by fulfilling a long-cherished dream.

Taking a short break from her busy schedule, the ‘Hello Knock Knock Kaun Hai’ actress set out on a three-day biking expedition, describing it as a journey to reconnect with herself and embrace the joy of freedom on the open road. Taking to her Instagram handle, Sonali shared a series of her photos riding a bike. The images also feature her striking different poses while sitting on the bike.

For the caption, Kulkarni wrote, “This is how my birthday is looking. Living my dream Biking 3day expedition.. Taking some time off to reconnect with myself - Much needed! Thanks so much for your best wishes and love everyone Much love right back to you all Please pardon if I miss answering /replying..#biking #bikeexpedition #birthdayspecial #adventure.”

Speaking of her work front, the National Film Award winning actress has appeared in over 70 films, spanning both mainstream and experimental cinema, as well as a few international projects.

Sonali began her acting journey with the Hindi film “Cheluvu” and soon made her Marathi debut with Mukta. Her performances

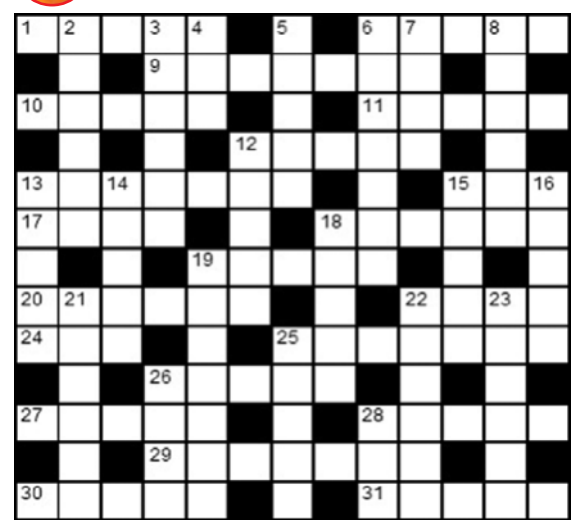


in “Doghi”, “Daayraa”, and “Gharabahr” earned her widespread critical acclaim. Over the years, she became a familiar face in Hindi cinema with notable roles in “Mission Kashmir”, “Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar”, “Pyaar Tune Kya Kiya”, “Dil Chahta Hai”, “Taxi No. 9211”, and “Singham”.

In a past interview with IANS, Sonali Kulkarni reflected on her recent projects, sharing insights into the differences and

similarities she has noticed while working across them. She highlighted how each project brings its own challenges and learning experiences. “More than differences, I notice similarities. As an actor, I feel grateful that I am doing so much work and receiving so much feedback from the audience. I don’t like to boast about compliments, as it might sound selfish, but I do get very positive responses.”

CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- On high (5)
 - Landing pier (5)
 - Remain longer (7)
 - Advertisement ? (5)
 - Arranged in banded areas (5)
 - Hungarian composer (5)
 - Coastal region of SW India (7)
 - Mafia boss (3)
 - Military group (4)
 - Cotton cloth (6)
 - Part of the large intestine (5)
 - Bamboo lovers (6)
 - Flying pest (4)
 - European airline (3)
 - Tolerate (7)
 - Camping shelters (5)
 - Actress Samantha (5)
 - Combine as one (5)
 - West Indian song (7)
 - Folds or pleats (5)
 - Hard as ___ (1,4)

DOWN

- “Ali nil” anagram for a girl’s name ? (6)
- Lay-out, arrangement (6)
- Place to soak (3)
- On the move (5)
- Brubeck or Monk? (7)
- River island ? (4)
- Aztec god of rain (6)
- Former capital of Nigeria (5)
- A contagious viral disease (5)
- Powerful animals (5)
- Singer Ross (5)
- Compass point (5)
- Young male horses (5)
- Photographer’s equipment (7)
- Canton in N Switzerland (6)
- Key of Mozart’s Symphony No. 25 (1-5)
- Acid in vinegar (6)
- Remains or resides in a place or condition (5)
- Short nail (4)
- North American nation (3)



Solution to November 3

SUDOKU



Solution to November 3

Coding for inclusion: How a teen innovator is transforming learning for students

ARTI ADKE

Meet the 17yrs innovator Arv Jakhodia, a Grade 12 student at The Shri Ram School – Aravali, is proving that innovation in education doesn't have to wait for adulthood. Driven by empathy and curiosity, Arv has developed Samanta, an educational app that reimagines how students—particularly those who are neurodiverse—learn business studies.

Samanta simplifies complex business concepts through interactive games, short videos, and visual aids, creating an experience that's intuitive, playful, and accessible. Already piloted in classrooms, the app has made a tangible difference—impacting over 30 students, logging 50+ browser plays and 150+ site visits, and earning partnerships with the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) and Pallavanjali School.

His innovation has also earned him the CREST Gold Award from the British Science Association and a nomination for the Inspire-Manak Award 2025 by India's Department of Science & Technology. In this exclusive conversation, Arv discusses his inspiration, challenges, and hopes for making learning more inclusive for all.



“ Education should never be about memorizing facts—it should be about understanding ideas. with samanta, i wanted to create a space where every student, regardless of how they learn, feels included and capable. technology gives us the power to make learning equal, engaging, and personal. if we can adapt apps to users, why can't we adapt classrooms to students? — Arv Jakhodia

Excerpts from an interview with Young Hans featuring Arv Jakhodia

What inspired you to create Samanta and focus on neurodiverse learners?

I always disliked the rote-learning culture in classrooms. Especially in business studies—students often memorized answers without understanding them. I saw how many of my peers, particularly neurodiverse learners, struggled not be-

cause they lacked intelligence but because the system didn't meet them where they were. I wanted to change that by making learning visual, interactive, and joyful.

How does the app's use of games and videos differ from traditional teaching?

Traditional classrooms are fast-paced and noisy. Samanta breaks lessons down into short, manageable segments—through videos, quizzes, and

games—so students can learn at their own pace. It caters to visual, auditory, and kinesthetic learners, ensuring that everyone—regardless of learning style—can grasp complex ideas easily.

How do you balance schoolwork with app development?

It's not easy, I dedicate 1–2 hours daily to coding and extra time on weekends. Working with teachers and



peers helps me refine the app while keeping up with academics. Once people saw what Samanta could do, it started to grow organically—its quality spoke for itself.

How have awards influenced your motivation?

The recognition from the British Science Association and INSPIRE-MANAK has been incredible. It validated my belief in Samanta's purpose and inspired me to expand it. My goal is to make Samanta the go-to platform for inclusive learning everywhere neurodivergent students are supported.

What role should technology play in inclusive education?

In today's world, everything adapts to technology—except education. When used thoughtfully, technology can personalize lessons and remove barriers of pace or style. It allows students to learn for understanding, not memorization. It's the bridge to make learning truly equal for everyone.

What feedback made you realize Samanta's impact?

A visit to Pallavanjali School, I asked students if they preferred rote learning or learning through games. They all said, 'Games are more fun!' Their excitement during the session—the smiles, the eagerness to answer—was

my real reward. Even the teachers, who were initially unsure, later praised how Samanta simplified learning and reduced their workload. That moment assured me this project mattered.

What's next for Samanta?

Business studies is just the start, I plan to expand Samanta beyond NIOS subjects, offering skill-based learning that schools often overlook—like financial literacy or communication. I want Samanta to grow from an app into a movement that changes how teaching happens across classrooms in India and beyond.

What are your future plans?

After school, I plan to study AI integration, information systems, or UX design. I want to keep building Samanta—adding more features, games, and accessibility tools to make neurodivergent learning more powerful. My goal is to merge human-centered design with computer science to create education technology that truly transforms lives.

In an age where technology often feels impersonal, Arv Jakhodia reminds us that innovation rooted in empathy can redefine how we learn. With Samanta, he's not just teaching students—he's reshaping the classroom itself, one inclusive experience at a time.

IT careers: Key roles and skills for the future

The world of Information Technology (IT) is constantly changing, and professionals in this field need to adapt by developing new skills, embracing emerging roles, and aligning their careers with industry demands. As businesses increasingly rely on technology for operations, communication, and innovation, IT professionals play a critical role in shaping the future of work.



Key roles in IT

IT offers a wide range of roles suited to different interests, expertise levels, and career goals. Some of the most sought-after roles include:

- Software Developer – They design, develop, and maintain applications and software solutions for businesses and consumers. Programming languages such as Python, Java, and C++ are essential in this role.
- Data Analyst/Data Scientist – These professionals analyze large datasets to extract actionable insights. Skills like statistical analysis, machine learning, and data visualization tools are key.
- Cybersecurity Specialist – Protecting sensitive information and infrastructure from cyber threats, these experts need knowledge of encryption, threat modeling, and ethical hacking.
- Cloud Engineer – As organizations move to cloud platforms like AWS, Azure, and Google Cloud, cloud engineers deploy and manage cloud services and infrastructure.
- DevOps Engineer – They streamline software development and deployment processes, ensuring continuous integration and delivery, using tools like Docker, Kubernetes,

and Jenkins.

- Network Administrator – They maintain hardware and software networks, ensuring optimal performance and resolving technical issues.

Skills every IT professional needs

The rapid pace of change in technology means that IT professionals must constantly update their knowledge and skills. Some essential skills include:

- Technical proficiency – Understanding programming languages, operating systems, and tools specific to the role.
- Problem-solving ability – Diagnosing issues, troubleshooting errors, and implementing solutions under time constraints.
- Adaptability – Staying updated with the latest technologies, frameworks, and industry trends.
- Communication skills – Collaborating with cross-functional teams, explaining technical concepts clearly to non-technical stakeholders.
- Cyber awareness – Recognizing and preventing security threats and breaches.
- Project management – Organizing tasks, managing timelines, and coordinating teams effectively.

Building a successful IT career

For those starting or advancing in IT, building a career requires intentional learning and strategic planning:

- Certifications – Earning

certifications like AWS Certified Solutions Architect, Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH), or Microsoft Certified can open doors to higher-paying and specialized roles.

- Networking – Joining professional groups, attending conferences, and contributing to open-source projects helps build relationships and credibility.
- Continuous learning – Online courses, webinars, and workshops are essential for keeping pace with industry developments.
- Real-world experience – Internships, freelance projects, and part-time roles allow hands-on learning and practical exposure.

Future outlook

With automation, artificial intelligence (AI), and machine learning transforming workplaces, the demand for IT professionals is expected to grow. Roles that require human creativity, ethical judgment, and advanced technical expertise will be highly valued. As technology becomes more integrated into everyday life, professionals who embrace lifelong learning and versatility will thrive.

In conclusion, an IT career offers diverse opportunities, requires a dynamic skill set, and demands a commitment to ongoing learning. With the right approach, professionals can build fulfilling careers while driving innovation and solving some of the world's most complex problems.

IIT Madras aces vertical take-off and landing in aircraft, UAVs with hybrid rocket thrusters

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras have taken India a step closer to advancing vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) aircraft and an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) with hybrid rocket thrusters.

In a sophisticated experiment that combined a real-time hybrid rocket thruster with a virtual simulation, the researchers achieved the necessary velocity for 'soft landing' -- a crucial feature for all craft ranging from planetary landing of an unmanned or manned exploration module to terrestrial landing of a VTOL aircraft.

Touchdown velocity is an important parameter to ensure safe vertical landings.

Researchers studied the feasibility of using the hybrid rocket motor for vertical landing platforms, as they are less complicated and safer compared to liquid engines. Moreover, hybrid rocket systems are gaining popularity due to their inherent safety and throttling capabilities, apart from the possibility of combining the advantages of liquid and solid rocket engines.

Currently, VTOL systems are complex and need high maintenance. Therefore, the research, published in the peer-reviewed International Journal of Aeronautical and Space Sciences, conceived the concept of a hybrid rocket thruster-powered platform as part of a system development study to bring out an effective propulsion unit for achieving VTOL in aircraft and UAVs.

"Vertical take-off and landing, as the name suggests, will enable an aircraft to take off



and land vertically, eliminating the need for infrastructure like long runways. Because of this, VTOL capability will enable access to remote locations and rugged terrains where long runways and large airports are difficult to establish. Currently, helicopters are the system operating on those terrains; however, they face limitations in terms of speed, range, and efficiency compared to a fixed-wing aircraft," said Prof. PA Ramakrishna, Department of Aerospace Engineering, IIT Madras.

"Once the VTOL system reaches the Technology Readiness Level (TRL) for commercial application, it will be a game-changer in both civil and military aviation. VTOL will help to decentralise air transport to multiple locations rather than a single big airport or an airbase. Such decentralisation brings significant strategic and operational advantages. This study is a precursor towards the development and demonstration of a proof-of-concept for a hybrid rocket-powered VTOL platform," Ramakrishna added.

The experts highlighted that a significant contribution is the development of a hybrid rocket fuel that needs only compressed air as the oxidiser. This makes VTOL systems easier to integrate with aerospace vehicles, especially in scenarios where compressed air is readily available.

"Another interesting aspect of this work is the unique Hardware-in-the-Loop Simulation (HILS) framework that IIT Madras researchers have developed. HILS combines physical hardware testing with simulations to offer a cost-effective way to quickly develop complex systems," said Dr. Joel George Manathara, Associate Professor, Department of Aerospace Engineering, IIT Madras. He explained that while typical HILS setups involve a servo motor or microcontroller as the hardware interacting with the simulation, the team integrated a real, live-firing hybrid rocket motor directly into the HILS loop. The hardware-in-the-loop simulation setup demonstrated a successful soft landing of the platform with a touchdown velocity of less than 1 m/s.

The importance of project management in achieving organizational success

Project management is a crucial discipline that ensures the successful initiation, planning, execution, monitoring, and completion of projects within organizations. It provides a structured approach to achieving specific goals by effectively managing time, cost, scope, and quality. In today's dynamic business environment, where competition and technological changes are constant, project management helps organizations remain organized, efficient, and adaptable.

A well-managed project begins with a clear understanding of objectives, resource allocation, and stakeholder expectations. Through tools such as Gantt charts, risk assessments, and progress tracking systems, project managers can monitor performance and address challenges proactively. Communication plays a central role, ensuring that all team members and stakeholders remain informed and aligned throughout the project lifecycle.

Moreover, project management fosters teamwork, accountability, and innovation. It helps identify potential risks early and provides strategies for mitigation, preventing costly delays or failures. Frameworks such as Agile, Scrum, and Waterfall offer different approaches to managing projects depending on the organization's needs and goals. Ultimately, effective project management contributes directly to organizational success by improving productivity, optimizing resource use, and delivering results that meet or exceed expectations.

Students soar high at National Model Rocketry and CANSAT competition

A hub of scientific curiosity and youthful innovation as the IN-SPACE Model Rocketry and CANSAT India Student Competition 2024–25 concluded after four days of intense, hands-on learning and competition.

Organised jointly by the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe), ISRO, and the Astronautical Society of India (ASI) — with support from the Government of Uttar Pradesh and local administration — the event brought together 67 student teams from across India.

The participants represented some of the country's most promising young innovators in rocketry and satellite systems, demonstrating how teamwork and experimentation are driving the next generation of space talent.

A total of 37 launches — 13 in the Model Rocketry and 24 in the CANSAT category — were conducted successfully, showcasing both technical skill and creative design. The teams were evaluated by a jury of scientists from ISRO and IN-SPACe on a range of parameters including structure, recovery systems, mission execution, and data analysis.

In the Model Rocketry category, R.V. College of Engineering, Bengaluru, emerged as the top performer, while SVKM's Dwarakadas J. Sanghvi College of Engineering, Mumbai, claimed first place in the CANSAT segment. They triumphed over strong competition from leading institutions such as PSIT



Kanpur, Nirma University Ahmedabad, BITS Pilani Hyderabad, and Dayanand Sagar College of Engineering Bengaluru.

While competition was fierce, the spirit of collaboration and learning was evident throughout the event. Students spent days refining their models, running last-minute tests, and working through real-time challenges in design, simulation, and telemetry. The environment encouraged peer learning, mentorship, and innovation under pressure — a true reflection of the "learning by doing" approach central to modern engineering education.

The competition also served as a meeting ground between young innovators and India's leading space scientists. During interactions and mentorship sessions, students gained insights into mission design, propulsion, avionics, and sustainable technologies for space exploration. Experts emphasised how such experiences help participants apply classroom knowledge to real-world systems — an essential skill for future

aerospace professionals.

In the Model Rocketry segment, teams were judged on parameters like flight performance, descent and recovery systems, and post-launch data analysis. Meanwhile, in the CANSAT challenge, students built miniature satellite prototypes capable of carrying sensors, collecting atmospheric data, and executing controlled descent missions. The integration of coding, electronics, and mechanical design tested both technical acumen and teamwork.

Beyond the competition, the event fostered wider community engagement. A space exhibition drew over 650 school students from nearby districts, allowing them to interact directly with participating teams and gain exposure to rocketry and satellite-building concepts. The exhibition also showcased winning artworks from ASI's "Art-in-Space" and "Space Quiz 20:20" outreach programmes, which together reached nearly 75,000 students across seven districts of Uttar Pradesh.

Adding a unique learning dimension, the event featured an Analog Astronaut Train-

ing Habitat, set up by AAKA Space, where students underwent simulated astronaut missions — experiencing the demands of life in space through controlled exercises in a 24-hour training module. For many participants, it was their first exposure to astronaut training concepts and mission-based teamwork.

The closing ceremony celebrated not just winners but every team's perseverance, curiosity, and dedication to innovation. Certificates were awarded to all participants, recognising their contribution to advancing student-led research and practical learning in space sciences.

More than a contest of rockets and satellites, the event became a platform where engineering met imagination — where young minds learned to translate theory into creation and challenges into opportunities. For students across India, it was a reminder that the future of space exploration will be shaped not only in labs and institutions but also through competitions like these, where learning takes flight in the truest sense.

Jemimah on historic WC triumph

'We made collective pledge to pour our entire hearts & souls'

NEW DELHI

AFTER India won the Women's ODI World Cup trophy for the first time, right-handed batter Jemimah Rodrigues said the 52-run win in the final over South Africa was made on a shared promise by the hosts to give their everything on the field in their defence of 298/7.

In a rain-delayed final at a packed DY Patil Stadium on Sunday, India posted a formidable 298/7, thanks to Shafali Verma's 87 and Deepthi Sharma's brisk 58. In reply, South Africa were bowled out for 246 despite a valiant 101 from captain Laura Wolvaardt, with Deepthi picking up a five-wicket haul and sparking celebrations across the country.

"We entered the match with full awareness that South Africa posed a significant threat and were entirely capable of chasing down a target of 299 runs, particularly given their history of achieving such formidable totals in high-pressure situations.

"Within our dressing room, the focus was on maximizing this opportunity, recognizing that this specific combination of players might never share the field again in exactly the same configuration. We made a collective pledge to pour our entire hearts and souls into those 50 overs, vowing to leave every last ounce of our effort on the ground in pursuit of victory," said Jemimah on JioStar.

She also felt that Laura's dismissal gave them the feeling that India was close to winning the trophy on home



BCCI announces Rs 51 cr cash reward for Harmanpreet & Co

NEW DELHI: The BCCI will reward the Indian women's cricket team with Rs 51 crore for winning the ODI World Cup, secretary Devajit Saikia announced on Monday.

The Indian women's team under Harmanpreet Kaur's leadership beat South Africa by 52 runs in the final on Sunday to win its first ever global trophy.

"As a token of appreciation, the BCCI will reward the Indian women's cricket team with a cash award of Rs 51 crore for winning the World Cup. It includes all the players, support staff and the national selection committee," Saikia told PTI on Monday. (PTI)

soil. "While immense credit is due to their skipper, Laura Wolvaardt, for her exemplary leadership throughout the tournament and her magnificent innings in the final, we understood that the crucial moment arrived with her dismissal. That was the defining moment of the match, and we made sure to seize it — turning the momentum our way to eventually clinch the title."

Head coach Amol Muzumdar believes winning the trophy will be a watershed moment for women's cricket in the country. "It is genuinely challenging to articulate the full depth of emotions

and significance surrounding this moment, but I can state with absolute conviction that this remarkable group of athletes truly merits every accolade and every success that will undoubtedly follow this extraordinary triumph.

"I have witnessed firsthand the immense dedication and relentless effort they have invested throughout this journey. Securing the Women's ODI World Cup 2025 title on our home soil is, without any exaggeration, a definitive watershed moment that will fundamentally reshape the landscape and trajectory of Indian cricket for generations to come." (IANS)

'We've broken the barrier, now winning must be a habit'

DEVARCHIT VERMA

NAVI MUMBAI

AT the stroke of midnight, Harmanpreet Kaur created her own legacy, broke a "barrier" with a bunch of sprightly women filled with guts and announced that this is not the end but just the beginning.

The Indian women's cricket team won its first-ever World Cup with a 52-run victory over South Africa in the summit clash here on Sunday to script a golden chapter in the country's pantheon of sporting achievements.

Having taken the World Cup-winning epochal catch Sunday night, the mercurial Indian women's team skipper displayed an entire gamut of emotions never seen before. She ran like crazy as if there was no tomorrow after taking the catch. Stood a bit detached as the youngsters celebrated, trying to soak in the moment.

Touched "Guruji" Amol Muzumdar's feet and engaged in an emotional hug where the tears burst out of the welled up eyes.

Called the two OGs of Indian women's cricket



-- Mithali Raj and Jhulan Goswami -- to hold the Cup. Both the legends broke down.

It was a moment to frame when the skipper and her deputy Smriti Mandhana engaged in a bear hug with Jhulan, telling her "Didi, Yeh Aapke liye tha (Sister, this is for you)".

And when Harmanpreet spoke at the post-match presentation ceremony, she didn't lose the macro picture of what it means to be the first women's team to achieve the unthinkable.

"This is the start. We wanted to break this barrier.

And our next plan is to make this a habit. We were waiting for it, now this moment has come. So many big occasions are coming, and we want to keep improving. This is not the end, just the beginning," the skipper said.

Captaincy is a lot about planning but just like it was Kapil Dev on June 25, 1983, whose gut feel told him to give one more over to Madan Lal against a rampaging Vivian Richards.

Harmanpreet felt that on Sunday, and her trump card was Shafali Verma, who possibly couldn't have done any wrong. (PTI)

Telangana State Gymnastics Meet

Ranga Reddy district emerges overall champion



HANS NEWS SERVICE

WARANGAL

THE 69th SGF Telangana State Gymnastics Championship 2025-26 for girls under 14, 17, and 19 years concluded on Sunday at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium, Warangal, with Ranga Reddy district emerging as the overall champion. The three-day event was conducted under the supervision of Alica Joe, NSNIS Gymnastics Coach and International Rhythmic Gymnastics Judge. In the Under-17 Rhythmic Gymnastics category, Balasaranitha Balaji of Ranga Reddy clinched the all-round champion title with 52.50 points, closely followed by Sindhura Ambati (51.80 points), also from Ranga Reddy. D. Harika of Karimnagar secured third place

with 20.30 points. Ranga Reddy gymnasts dominated all apparatus events, including the Hoop, Ball, Clubs, and Ribbon categories. The Under-14 all-round crown went to Dantuluri Sahasra of Ranga Reddy, who tallied 48.15 points, while teammate Anjana Gunukula (47.00) and B. Sankeerthana of Karimnagar (30.00) finished second and third respectively.

With consistent performances across categories, Ranga Reddy district lifted the Overall Championship Trophy, followed by Karimnagar in second place and Khammam in third.

The meet highlighted the rising standard of gymnastics among young girls in Telangana and the growing strength of Ranga Reddy's training programmes.

'BJP indulging in 'candidate chori' after vote chori'

NUAPADA (ODISHA)

BJD president Naveen Patnaik on Monday accused the ruling BJP of "betrayal" and alleged that it was now indulging in "candidate chori" (stealing candidates) in connection with the upcoming Nuapada bypoll.

Addressing his first public meeting after recovering from illness, Patnaik hit the campaign trail to seek votes for BJD candidate Snehani Chhuria in Nuapada's Komana block.

"All of you know that the BJD has been betrayed. Those who indulged in 'vote



chori' and formed the government earlier have now started 'candidate chori,'" Patnaik alleged. The BJD chief's remarks were aimed at late BJD MLA Rajendra Dholakia's son Jay Dholakia, who switched to the BJP ahead of

the bypoll and is now contesting on a saffron party ticket. The bypoll was necessitated following the death of Rajendra Dholakia on September 8. Voting for the seat will be held on November 11. Urging people to give a be-

fitting reply to those involved in "vote chori and candidate chori", the former five-time chief minister appealed to voters to press the conch symbol — BJD's election symbol — on polling day.

During his 10-minute speech, Patnaik also questioned the BJP government's performance in Odisha.

"During the last 16 months, the BJP government has only focused on publicity, not on development. They are heroes in publicity, but zero in work. Development activities across the state have come to a complete halt," he alleged. (PTI)

6 arrested for routing Rs 200 cr to Dubai-based cyber criminals

AHMEDABAD: The Gujarat police's CID-Crime has arrested six persons for allegedly routing Rs 200 crore to Dubai-based cyber criminals using nearly 100 'mule' bank accounts, officials said on Monday.

Based on a specific tip off and subsequent investigation, the Gandhinagar-based Cyber Centre of Excellence of the CID-Crime arrested Mahendra Solanki, Rupen Bhatia, Rakesh Lania, Rakesh Dekivadia, Vijay Khambhalya and Pankaj Kathiria from Morbi, Surendranagar, Surat and Amreli districts, they said.

A mule account is a bank account used by criminals to receive, transfer, or launder illicit funds with or without



the knowledge of the account holder, they added. "Investigators found details of over 100 'mule' bank accounts from the mobile phones recovered from these accused. They provided 'mule' bank accounts to cyber criminals operating in different states and then sent the fraudulently acquired money to Dubai-based crime syndicate through angadia (cash courier service) or through crypto currency transfers," a CID-Crime release said. Upon checking details on

the Union Home Ministry's 'Samanvaya' portal, it was found that the 100 bank accounts were used in 386 cyber crimes such as digital arrest, task fraud, investment fraud, loan fraud and part-time job fraud registered across the country, with victims being made to deposit Rs 200 crore in them, it said.

"The accused, for a specific commission, agreed to provide bank accounts to these cyber fraudsters to help them accept money from the victims. The accused used to withdraw cash from these bank accounts and send it to Dubai-based crime syndicates through 'angadia' (traditional couriers) or through crypto currency transfers," the release said.



Tejashwi lashes out at Modi over 'katta' remark

PATNA: RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav on Monday hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his 'katta' remark at a poll rally in Bihar, asserting that he had never heard any PM use such words.

Modi had on Sunday claimed that the Congress had been unwilling to accept Yadav as the INDIA bloc's chief ministerial, and relented only after the RJD pointed a "katta", a country-made gun, at its head.

Talking to reporters here, the RJD leader said, "I have nothing to say on the PM's comment ... I have never heard any PM in the country use such words. This shows his thought process".

"Whenever the PM goes to Gujarat, he talks about IT factories, semiconductor units and data centres... But when he comes to Bihar, he talks about 'katta'," Yadav alleged.

The PM used the simile on the campaign trail in Bihar on Sunday, where he addressed back-to-back rallies in Bhojpur and Nawada districts, and highlighted the RJD's reputation for alleged strong-arm tactics and its troubled equations with alliance partners.

"The Congress never wanted to announce the chief ministerial candidate in favour of the RJD. The RJD secured it by placing a 'katta' on the head of the Congress. They have learnt their lessons in the school of jungle raj. Such elements can never do good for Bihar," he had alleged. The Bihar assembly polls will be held in two phases on November 6 and November 11, while the counting of votes will take place on November 14. (PTI)

Lankan Navy detains 31 fishermen

Stalin urges Centre to secure release of TN fishermen

CHENNAI

TAMIL Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Monday urged External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to initiate immediate diplomatic efforts with the Sri Lankan government to secure the release of all the arrested fishermen along with their boats.

The Sri Lankan Navy detained 31 fishermen from Nagapattinam along with their three mechanised fishing boats on November 3, the CM said, adding that in a separate incident, four fishermen from Ramanathapuram district were also apprehended, along with their country craft.

The 31 fishermen had set sail from Akkaraipettai, according to Fisheries Department sources. They were



reportedly intercepted by the Sri Lankan Navy for violating maritime boundaries and were taken to Kankesanthurai Port, sources said.

"These recurrent incidents have caused profound distress among the fishing communities of Tamil Nadu, whose lives and livelihoods are inextricably linked to the sea. Each apprehension not only deprives families of their primary means of sustenance but also instills a deep

sense of fear and insecurity," Stalin wrote in his letter to Jaishankar.

According to him, as of now, 114 fishermen and 247 boats are under the custody of Sri Lankan authorities.

Stalin urged the External Affairs Minister to initiate immediate diplomatic efforts with the Sri Lankan government to secure the release of all the detained fishermen from Tamil Nadu along with their fishing boats. (PTI)

Priyanka mocks PM, says create 'Apamaan Mantrayala'

SAHARSA (BIHAR)

CONGRESS leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Monday mocked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying that he accuses all opposition leaders of insulting the country and Bihar, and should create an 'Apamaan Mantralaya' (Ministry of Insults).

Addressing an election rally at Sonabarsa in Saharsa district, Vadra alleged that the PM speaks on "unnecessary issues but doesn't utter a word on corruption or misrule of the NDA government in Bihar".

"Instead of talking about development, the prime minister keeps accusing every opposition leader of insulting the nation and Bihar. He should form a new ministry -- Apamaan Mantralaya --



because that's what his government seems most focused on," Vadra said.

Her comments came just days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi charged the opposition Congress-RJD combine in Bihar with insult-

ing 'Chhathi Maiyya', having "problems with Ram temple at Ayodhya" and "protecting infiltrators" for the politics of vote bank and appeasement.

"Before announcing doles for Bihar during elections, Modi and Amit Shah should

first answer what the NDA did for the state in the last 20 years," she said.

The Congress general secretary alleged that the Bihar government is being "remote-controlled" from Delhi. "Nitish Kumar doesn't run the Bihar government. It is the prime minister and people at the Centre who are running the show," she said.

The NDA government in Bihar is threatening people's right to vote guaranteed by the Constitution, she alleged.

Slamming the ruling alliance over joblessness, she said, "The youth of Bihar are forced to leave the state because there are no jobs here. All major PSUs that used to generate employment have been handed over to big corporates that are friends of the BJP" (PTI)

HIRING

A black and white photograph featuring five silhouettes of business professionals standing in a row against a plain white background. Above them, the word "HIRING" is written in large, bold, black capital letters. The silhouettes represent a diverse group: a woman on the far left carrying a briefcase, a man next to her holding a folder, a man in the center wearing a suit and tie and holding a briefcase, a man next to him holding a briefcase, and a woman on the far right. Long, dark shadows are cast by each figure onto the white surface behind them, extending towards the right. The floor in the foreground is dark and reflective, showing faint reflections of the figures.

Further, hiring activity within IT unicorns remained stable during the month, the release said.

The hiring in the education sector was driven by robust performances in Hy-

 Samsung followed with a 23 per cent value share, supported by its Galaxy S and A series and record sales of its foldable phones.

The company holds 24 per cent market share in Vijayawada, serving reputed institutions such as the High Court of Andhra Pradesh, PV Sidhartha College, Priya Pickles, AP Seeds Corporation, and KL University.

“Mergers and acquisitions (M&A) continued to drive market activity, accounting for 518 transactions valued at \$28.4 billion, marking an 80 per cent increase in value and

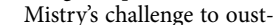
India's exports of solar photovoltaic (PV) products have surged by more than 10 times between FY19 and FY25, primarily to the US, the report said.

Domestic cell manufacturing capacity is projected to reach 100 GWp during the same period, with capex exceeding Rs 55,000 crore,

The advisory expects module production to increasingly rely on exports even as cell production is also likely to eclipse domestic demand in the medium term. This indicates that in the coming years, India's module and cell output will exceed domestic requirements, positioning exports as the key growth driver for the sector.

Reliance General Insurance, a private general insurance company, has announced the launch of its Surety Insurance- Bid Bond a solution designed to provide contractors with an efficient cost-effective and non-collateral-based alternative to traditional bank guarantees in project bidding. Rakesh Jain, CEO, Reliance General, said: "Our Surety Insurance Bid Bond product is a powerful enabler for India's contracting community by reducing reliance on traditional bank guarantees we are freeing up vital working capital enhancing EODB."

Leaders from the Ministry of Railways and various Central and Zonal Railway authorities visited.

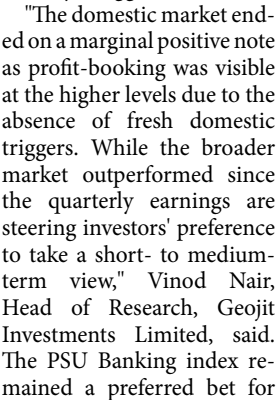


Tata Trusts -- the charitable arm that controls about 66 per cent of Tata Sons -- has been recently mired in internal disagreements.

The MoU was signed between CtrlS Founder & CEO Sridhar Pinnapureddy and NGEL CEO Sarit Maheshwari.

Profit taking at higher levels due to the absence of fresh domestic trigger and foreign fund outflows kept the market rangebound

The 30-share BSE Sensex inched up by 39.78 points or 0.05 per cent to settle at 83,978.49 as 14 of its constituents advanced and 16 declined. During the day, it hit a high of 84,127 and a low of 83,609.54. The 50-share NSE Nifty eked out a marginal gain of 41.25 points or 0.16 per cent to end at 25,763.35. Profit taking at higher levels





Chiranjeevi's 'Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu' stylish climax shoot



Megastar Chiranjeevi's most-awaited wholesome entertainer, 'Mana Shankara Vara Prasad

Garu,' directed by hit-machine Anil Ravipudi, also features Victory Venkatesh in a pivotal role. Venkatesh recently joined the team

and received a warm welcome from Chiranjeevi on set. Produced by Sahu Garapati and Sushmita Konidela under Shine Screens

and Gold Box Entertainments, the presented by Smt. Archana. Meanwhile, the team has begun filming a stylish climax action sequence featuring Chiranjeevi and a group of fighters in Hyderabad. Unlike a typical action scene, this sequence is designed with a unique and visually captivating approach to impress audiences across the board. Renowned choreographer Venkat Master is supervising the action, ensuring every moment exudes precision. With Chiranjeevi's unmatched charisma and grace, combined with Anil Ravipudi's signature touch, the film promises a perfect and memorable ending. Production work is progressing at a brisk pace.

Nayanthara plays the leading lady in the film, which also features an ensemble cast with VTV Ganesh in a crucial role. Music sensation Bheems Ceciroleo provides the music, with the first single 'Meesala Pilla' trending nationwide. Sameer Reddy handles cinematography, Tamiraju is the editor, and AS Prakash serves as the art director. The story is co-written by S. Krishna and G. Adi Narayana, with S. Krishna also serving as the executive producer. 'Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu' is gearing up to be one of the biggest attractions for Sankranthi 2026.

Priyadarshi's 'Premante' teaser unveiled

Priyadarshi, known for his strong performances in content-driven films, is back with 'Premante', a refreshing romantic comedy that takes a witty and heartfelt look at love and marriage. Directed by debutant Navaneeth Sriram, the film stars Anandhi as the female lead, alongside Suma Kanakala in a key role. Produced by Puskur Ram Mohan Rao and Jhanvi Narang under the prestigious Sree Venkateswara Cinemas LLP (SVCLLP) banner, 'Premante' is proudly presented by Rana Daggubati's Spirit Media. The film also stands as a tribute to the legacy of the late Narayan Das Narang, with Adithya Merugu joining as co-producer. The teaser has been unveiled today.

The teaser paints an amusing and heartwarming picture of newly married life—where the fairy-tale romance of forever love quickly collides with the everyday madness of reality. Priyadarshi and Anandhi step into the shoes of a young couple whose picture-perfect marriage dream soon turns into a laugh riot, filled with petty squabbles, playful misunderstandings, and moments every couple will find relatable.

Just when their domestic drama seems to settle into a routine, Suma Kanakala enters as a police head constable, a character who unexpectedly stirs up more chaos in their already topsy-turvy relationship. Her arrival adds a refreshing twist, infusing the narrative with humor and curiosity about her true role in their love story. Director Navaneeth Sriram infuses the film



with situational humor and emotional warmth, blending relatable conflicts with sharp writing. The teaser brilliantly captures the contrast between dreamy expectations of love and the everyday realities of living together, making it instantly connect with today's audience.

Priyadarshi and Anandhi share endearing chemistry, portraying the innocence, confusion, and evolution of a couple learning to love beyond fantasy. Suma Kanakala's presence adds gravitas, while Vennela Kishore brings his signature comic timing. The technical crew adds immense value to 'Premante'. Cinematographer Vishwanath Reddy, winner of the Gaddar Award for

Gaami, brings a vibrant, colorful visual palette that perfectly suits the film's romantic-comedy tone. Leon James, who recently delivered chartbuster tracks for Dragon, adds rhythm and emotion with his lively score. Editor Raghavendra Thirun ensures the narrative flows with engaging pace, while production designer Aravind Mule crafts a lively and relatable world for the characters. Dialogues by Karthik Thupurani and Rajkumar bring humor and heart in equal measure.

With its quirky tagline "Thrill-U Prapthirasthu!" and a vibrant blend of laughter, love, and life, 'Premante' promises a refreshing cinematic experience. The film is set to hit theatres on November 21st.

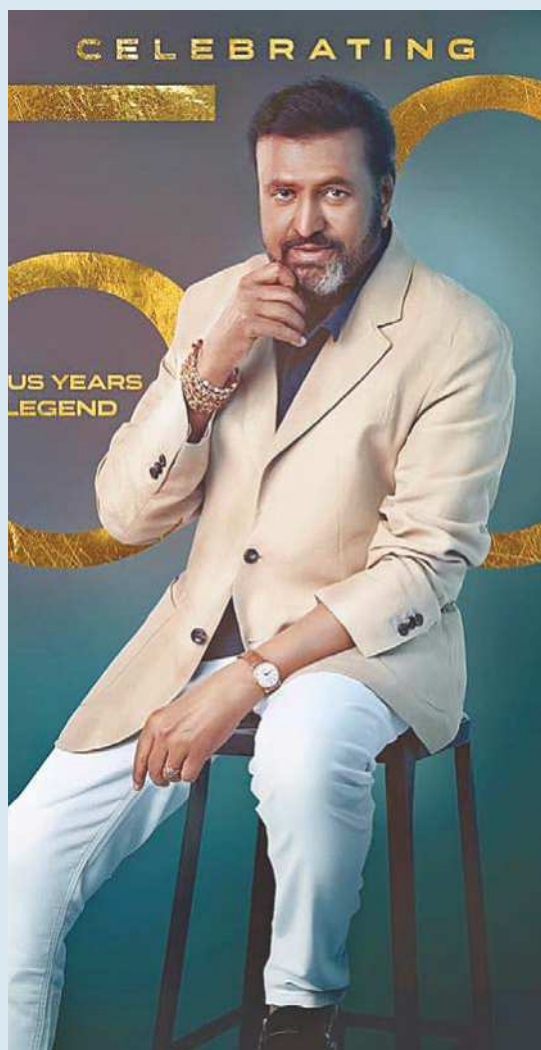
Director Ramachandra Vattikuti's 'Mutton Soup' impresses

'Mutton Soup' is a film directed by Ramachandra Vattikuti and produced by Mallikarjuna Erika (Gopal), Arun Chandra Vattikuti, and Ramakrishna Sanapala under the banners of Aluka Studios, Sri Varahi Arts, and Bhavishya Vihar. The film, starring Raman, Varsha Vishwanath, and Gemini Suresh in the lead roles, was released on October 10 and received positive reviews. Among the four films released that week, 'Mutton Soup' stood out with an impressive response from audiences and critics alike,



who praised its unique narrative and execution. At a time when the popularity of short films is on the decline, audiences continue

to value films that dare to be different. In that category, 'Mutton Soup' emerges as a refreshing crime thriller. The director skillfully weaves a story inspired by true events, filled with unexpected twists and a gripping screenplay that keeps viewers on edge. The film is set to reach a wider audience soon through an OTT release. Director Ramachandra Vattikuti, who made 'Mutton Soup' on a very low budget, is already preparing to begin his next project, once again promising a story with diverse and innovative content.



Mohan Babu's 'MB50' tribute announced

The year 2025 marks a monumental milestone in Indian cinema, as Dr. M Mohan Babu — the legendary actor, producer, educationist, and Padma Shri awardee — celebrates 50 glorious years in the film industry. To honour this extraordinary journey, a grand event titled 'MB50 – A Pearl White Tribute' will be held on November 22, 2025, celebrating the iconic actor and his enduring contributions to Indian cinema. The entire celebration is being curated by his son Vishnu Manchu, ensuring every element reflects the grandeur and elegance of this historic milestone. Over five decades, Dr. Mohan Babu has built a legacy that transcends generations. Renowned for his powerful performances, iconic dialogue delivery, and larger-than-life screen presence, he stands as a pillar of Telugu cinema and an inspiration to countless artists. With

over 600 films to his credit, his career embodies versatility, discipline, and unwavering passion for the craft. 'MB50' will not only celebrate his cinematic achievements but also honour his lifelong commitment to art, education, and philanthropy. The tribute aims to capture the essence of his remarkable journey — from humble beginnings to becoming a revered icon whose influence continues to shape Indian cinema. As Dr. Mohan Babu reaches this golden jubilee, the celebration will serve as a heartfelt homage to a man whose artistry continues to inspire, whose voice commands respect, and whose dedication defines excellence. Further details about the event will be revealed in the coming weeks. 'MB50 – A Pearl White Tribute' promises to be a spectacular celebration of a legend who has not only lived cinema but has become an inseparable part of its soul.

Dheekshith Shetty: 'The Girlfriend' is the best film of my career

National crush Rashmika Mandanna and talented actor Dheekshith Shetty are uniting for the emotional love story 'The Girlfriend', directed by Rahul Ravindran and produced by Dheeraj Mogilineni and Vidya Koppineedi under Geetha Arts and Dheeraj Mogilineni Entertainment, with presentation by Allu Aravind. The film releases in Hindi and Telugu on November 7, followed by Tamil, Malayalam, and Kannada versions on November 14. In an exclusive conversation, Dheekshith opened up about his journey, chemistry with Rashmika, and why 'The Girlfriend' holds a special place in his heart. "After 'Dasara', this was the next major opportunity that came my way," Dheekshith began. "Director Rahul



Ravindran approached me for 'The Girlfriend'. He told me Rashmika was playing the female lead and wanted me as the boyfriend. He had watched my Dasara interviews and felt I would fit perfectly. Once I read the script, I knew exactly why. Stories like 'The Girlfriend' are rare—that's why I had to do it." Talking about his director's

clarity, Dheekshith said, "Rahul had a very clear vision of how the character of Vikram should be—his behaviour, body language, even his tone. Because of that, it was easier to perform. Vikram has many layers. Some may think he's a toxic boyfriend after watching the trailer, but Rahul made sure he didn't come across as negative. Coming from a stage and film school background, I prepared deeply. For me, a film must connect personally through its story—that's what matters most." Reflecting on the film's message, he added, "Usually, love stories are told in a certain way, but 'The Girlfriend' explores romance from a fresh perspective. It's not just entertainment—it lingers long after you leave the theater. Larger-than-life films are fun, but this one feels real.

Rashmika even said that if she had watched a film like this years ago, her outlook on life would have changed. I believe audiences between 18 and 25 will find something meaningful in it." Praising his co-star, Dheekshith shared, "After watching Rashmika's performance, I genuinely felt no one else could have done justice to Bhuma's character. Even when 'Anima' became a blockbuster during our shoot, she stayed grounded and approachable. You won't see Rashmika—you'll see Bhuma." On the film's appeal, he said, "This isn't just for youth—families will relate too. It explores emotions and forms of toxicity we don't usually talk about. Rahul Ravindran is a kind director who brings out the best in everyone."

'Krishna Leela': Story is the hero

Young actor Devan takes on a double responsibility as both hero and director in the upcoming supernatural love story 'Krishna Leela', which carries the intriguing tagline 'Trigochina Kaalam'. Starring Dhanya Balakrishnan as the female lead, the film is produced by Jyotsna Ji under Mahasen Visuals and presented by Baby Vaishnavi. With story and dialogues by Anil Kiran Kumar Ji, 'Krishna Leela' is set for a grand release on November 7. The film's teaser and trailer have already received an enthusiastic response from audiences. Recalling how the journey began, Devan shared, "I was working as a software engineer while trying to make my mark

in films and had already acted in two movies. When I was waiting for new opportunities, producer Jyotsna Ji and writer Anil narrated this story to me. After listening to it for a week, I made some changes to suit today's generation and gave it a unique screenplay. They instantly loved the idea." When it came to choosing a director, Devan took everyone by surprise. "Though I had no prior experience in direction, I've always had a strong understanding of story and screenplay," he said. "With that confidence, I approached DOP Chota K Naidu garu. After listening to the story, he was very impressed and promised his full support. That's how 'Krishna Leela' came to life."



Explaining the film's concept, Devan said, "Krishna Leela' means Time Returned. Leela means play—it's about how Krishna plays a love story. Man cannot bring back time, but what if time itself returns with divine power? That's the

essence of our story, presented in an intriguing way." The actor-director added that the film carries deep philosophical undertones. "Every action has destiny. Everyone we meet in this life has a past connection with us. The Bhagavad Gita teaches us to love them without expectation. We've tried to depict that beautifully through this story," he explained. On incorporating Krishna's philosophy, Devan shared, "It's a vast subject. I often listened to Gangadhar Shastri's lectures and even consulted him during script development. He clarified my doubts and helped me bring depth to the story. What we visualized on paper has come alive with honesty and emotion."

'Gummadi Narsaiah' motion poster impresses

Bringing a real-life story to the big screen is never an easy task, especially when it's about a political leader known for his integrity, simplicity, and lifelong commitment to the people. Portraying such a leader's journey on screen is truly a bold endeavour, and that challenge has been taken up by young director Parameshwar Hivrale. Standing firmly behind him is producer N. Suresh Reddy, under the banner of Pravallika Arts Creations. In the titular role of 'Gummadi Narsaiah', Karunada Chakravarthy Dr Shiva Rajkumar will be seen in a powerful new avatar. A few days ago, the motion poster of 'Gummadi Narsaiah' was released, and it quickly became the talk of the town. Everyone was curious to see how Shiva Rajkumar would appear in this iconic role and whether he could truly embody the spirit of the leader. But the actor exceeded all expectations. It's evident that Shiva Rajkumar has breathed life into the role of Gummadi

Narsaiah, perfectly adapting his look and demeanour to fit the character. Even with a short motion poster, director Parameshwar showcased his talent and creative vision. After watching it, Shyamala Devi was all praise for the filmmaker, showering him with compliments. Speaking about the motion poster, Shyamala Devi said: "The motion poster is excellent. You can already sense how impactful the film is going to be just by watching it. It looks like a film destined for multiple awards. Shiva Rajkumar truly breathes life into the role of Gummadi Narsaiah. I wish the entire team all the best." Producer N Suresh Reddy is reportedly sparing no expense in bringing this ambitious biographical drama to life. The technical crew includes cinematographer Satish Muthyala, music director Suresh Bobbili, and editor Satya Giduturi. The filmmakers will soon reveal details about the rest of the cast and crew.

