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The Hans India

NATION\SPORTS

Golden glory for India as women lead charge

Undaunted by a heavy downpour and chilly conditions, Neeru Dhanda gave India its first ever women's trap gold in the Asian Games before the women's 4x400m relay team added another gold in the evening as the country breached the 50 mark. P10

EDIT

Centre must pay heed to mineral-rich states

With Biju Janata Dal (BJD) president and former Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik himself leading the agitation against the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2026, politics is expected to heat up not just in the eastern state but also. P6

BUSINESS

Essar to build $18-bn mine-to-steel chain in US

India's Essar Group, through its US subsidiary Mesabi Metallics, will invest about USD 18 billion to build a fully integrated steel business in the United States, including a USD 15 billion steel complex in Iowa and about USD 3 billion in an iron ore mine and pelletising. P11

ENETERTAINMENT

Ayesha Khan stuns in black off-shoulder gown

Actress Ayesha Khan stunned with the latest photos of hers as she posed in a beautiful black off-shoulder gown, flaunting her red-carpet style. The black dress featured a sweetheart neckline, body-hugging silhouette along. P12

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WINDOWS

Drought-hit areas to be assessed by Central team from Oct 3: HDK

BENGALURU: Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy on Tuesday said an Inter-Ministerial Central Team would visit Karnataka from October 3 to 7 to assess drought-affected areas in the state. He was referring to a response received from Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday to his September 24 letter seeking urgent Central assistance for Karnataka, which is facing a severe drought situation.

In a social media post on X, Kumaraswamy shared a copy of his letter to Chouhan and thanked the Agriculture Minister for his swift response. In his reply, Chouhan said the Karnataka government had submitted a drought memorandum seeking financial assistance from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF). Following receipt of the memorandum, an IMCT was constituted on September 17, he said. "The IMCT is undertaking the visit to the State from October 3 to October 7 to conduct an on-site assessment of the drought-affected areas and submit its report in accordance with prevailing norms and guidelines," Chouhan said in the letter. According to the letter, the report submitted by the IMCT will be considered by the Sub-Committee of the National Executive Committee (SC-NEC), headed by the Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. "Based on the recommendations of SC-NEC, the quantum of assistance from NDRF is approved by the High-Level Committee headed by the Union Home Minister, of which I am also a member," Chouhan said, assuring the state government of all possible support.

"I sincerely appreciate and thank him for his swift response. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Union Government has already constituted an Inter-Ministerial Central Team, which will visit Karnataka from October 3 to 7 to assess the situation on the ground," Kumaraswamy said in his post on X. He expressed confidence that the Union Government would extend all possible support to Karnataka. "At a time when our farmers are facing severe hardship, I am confident that the Union Government will extend all possible support to Karnataka. Our collective priority must be to stand firmly with our farmers," Kumaraswamy added.

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LOOT: SC raps 10-time markup on cancer drugs

Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta questioned why huge price disparities exist across non-scheduled formulations and advocated for a standardized 16% margin under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO) on all medicines.

The court condemned corporate hospitals for compelling patients to purchase drugs exclusively from their in-house pharmacies, noting that refusal often leads to hospitals denying guaranteed treatment to vulnerable families

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE Supreme Court on Tuesday expressed strong concern over hospitals and pharmacies charging exorbitant markups on cancer medicines, questioning why a drug supplied to retailers for ₹2,700 carries an MRP of ₹27,000.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta said, "This is carnage. Plain and simple," while hearing petitions concerning drug pricing, generic prescriptions and medical devices under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO), 2013.

The bench questioned the distinction between essential and non-essential medicines and suggested a uniform 16 per cent margin on MRP for all medicines. It asked the Centre to examine why such a huge gap exists between the price to retailers and the MRP. The court also asked the government to examine complaints that some corporate hospitals require patients to purchase medicines from their own chemists or specified pharmacies, with treatment assurances allegedly linked to such purchases. The bench noted that government schemes ultimately involve taxpayer-funded reimbursements.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, said the issue required attention and sought two weeks to consult officials and find a balance between competing interests. The court posted the matter for further hearing on October 12. The bench also questioned the economics of commonly prescribed medicines, citing the example of a statin costing around ₹40 and a combination with aspirin costing ₹70.

The petitions before the court highlight concerns over medicine pricing, particularly non-scheduled formulations, which constitute a substantial market portion and have greater pricing flexibility subject to regulatory limits.

Rahul steps up CEC attack, Cong plans wider mobilisation

- The party's resolution also sought suspension of the SIR exercise and restoration of 13.3 crore names that Congress claims have been removed from electoral rolls
- Gandhi reiterated allegations concerning irregularities in Har, Maha and Karnataka, including what he has described as manipulation of voter lists and EVM-related concern

PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI

CONGRESS leader and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi intensified his criticism of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar at the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting on Tuesday, with the party deciding to keep the Election Commission and Special Intensive Revision (SIR) at the centre of its campaign.

Gandhi told the CWC that the Congress should continue pressing for Gyanesh Kumar's resignation. The party's resolution also sought suspension of the SIR exercise and restoration of 13.3 crore names that Congress claims have been removed from electoral rolls.

Gandhi reiterated allegations concerning electoral irregularities in Haryana, Maharashtra and Karnataka, including what he has described as manipulation of voter lists and EVM-related concerns. The Election Commission has rejected allegations of wrongdoing and maintained that differences in institutional deliberations are normal and that its orders have legal sanction.

The Congress is expected to discuss its next steps with INDIA bloc parties at their proposed meeting on September 30. Gandhi indicated that the party could propose a major rally at Delhi's Ramlila Maidan, along with mobilisation programmes in states. Opposition parties are separately considering further parliamentary action seeking Kumar's removal.

The CWC meeting, chaired by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, was attended by senior leaders including Sonia Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, KC Venugopal and Jairam Ramesh.

Overnight rains waterlog roads, disrupt morning traffic

BENGALURU

OVERNIGHT rains left several roads waterlogged and caused traffic disruptions in various parts of Bengaluru on Tuesday, inconveniencing commuters during the morning rush hour. Students and office-goers faced difficulties in reaching their destinations as the rains continued into Tuesday morning. Several trees were also uprooted in different parts of the city.

According to weather data, the city recorded 19.8 mm of rainfall between 8.30 am on Monday and 5.30 am on Tuesday, while Bengaluru HAL Airport recorded 72 mm and GKVK Bengaluru received 46 mm during the same period.

Rainfall was recorded at several other locations in and around the city, with Bengaluru KIAL Airport receiving 37.4 mm and Chikkaballapur recording 9.5 mm during the same period. The Bengaluru Traffic Police also kept commuters updated about slow-moving traffic due to waterlogging in several areas, including Magadi Road, Ayyappa Underpass and Karthik Nagar."Due to waterlogging at Kottarapalya towards Vaddarapalya on Hennur-Bagalur Main Road, there is slow-moving traffic," it said in a post on 'X'.

Goldy Brar in FBI's 10 most wanted list

NEW DELHI

THE Federal Bureau of Investigation on Monday added gangster Satinderjeet Singh alias Goldy Brar to its list of Ten Most Wanted Fugitives and announced a reward of $1 million for information leading to his arrest. "Satinderjeet Singh is wanted for his alleged involvement in the Lawrence Bishnoi Organized Crime Group which is allegedly engaged in a variety of violent acts in Southern California, and across the United States and Canada," the FBI said. The probe agency warned that Singh should be considered armed, dangerous and an escape risk. The FBI said Singh is allegedly involved in assassinations of political and religious figures, shootings, murders, kidnappings, extortions, assaults, and the trafficking of narcotics and weapons.

Centre to develop 50 cities for 'Swachhata'

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has identified 50 model cities under the PRAGATI-50 initiative for demonstrating a higher benchmark of 'Swachhata' through targeted action and leveraging intensive technology-enabled monitoring within the framework of Swachh Bharat Mission–Urban 2.0.

Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Khattar said, "These 50 cities across 24 states will emerge as clean role model cities for the rest of the country, by going beyond their routine sanitation work to demonstrate sustained, high-performance parameters of visible cleanliness. We have ensured inclusion of major cities, cities of cultural importance, high tourism destinations and economic centres."

"The initiative aims to drive visible improvements in urban cleanliness, solid waste management, used water management, sanitation, and citizen participation through a structured framework of monitoring and review within a defined timeframe," he added.

Top Maha poll official seeks more powers for EROs in SIR

HANS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI

MAHARASHTRA Chief Electoral Officer S Chockalingam has requested the Election Commission for changes in the ECINet software to allow Electoral Registration officers (EROs) to use their discretion regarding anomalies in electoral rolls, an official said on Tuesday. Referring to a news item in The Indian Express, which first reported the development, an official in the state poll body said the senior IAS officer made the request to the Commission in a letter sent on September 24.

SC quashes NSA detention, UP govt fined Rs 10 lakh

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE Supreme Court on Tuesday ruled that the confession statement of an accused cannot be the basis for detaining him under the National Security Act. A bench of JusticesÂ Dipankar Datta and Sheel Nagu delivered the judgment while quashing the preventive detention of Mulla Afroz. Uttar Pradesh Police invoked the strict National Security Act (NSA) against Mulla Afroz in October 2025 for his alleged role in the 2024 communal violence in Sambhal. The top court imposed a cost of Rs 10 lakh on the government for passing the illegal preventive detention order. The NSA empowers the Centre and states to detain individuals to prevent them from acting in a manner "prejudicial to the defence of India". The maximum detention period is 12 months, though it can be revoked earlier. Tension brewed in Sambhal in November 2024, when a court-ordered survey of the Shahi Jama Masjid there was being carried out following claims that a Harihar temple previously existed at the site.

Where we do not sell oil, no one will sell oil: Iran

TEHRAN : Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf on Tuesday warned the US and other countries over the Strait of Hormuz, saying that if Iran's security is not ensured, "no infrastructure will be safe".

Ghalibaf made the remarks during a public video conference on Tuesday, referring to recent statements by US President Donald Trump regarding the Strait of Hormuz and the passage of ships through it. Reacting to the US President's remarks, Ghalibaf said they were a repetition of previous claims and that their nature was known to everyone.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL @MANJULtoons

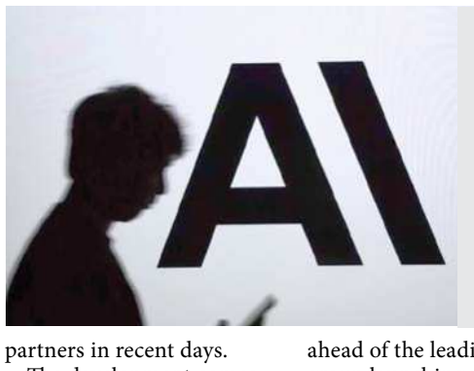
Anthropic warns of AI's 'existential risks to humanity'

TEXAS

DARIO Amodei's $ 1 trillion AI startup Anthropic, known for Claude, in its long-awaited initial public offering prospectus, has formally warned that its technology may post 'existential risks to humanity,' reports the Financial Times.

The prospectus, circulated with a select group of partners, used up almost one-third of its S-1 filing to detail the 'risk factors,' including the potential of advanced AI models to 'manipulate, blackmail and exhibit other unpredictable behaviour', the report stated.

Anthropic has formally warned investors that its technology may pose "existential risks to humanity" in a long-awaited initial public offering prospectus circulated with a small group of partners in recent days.



Claude's maker also provided investors with a clearer picture of the challenging economics of building state of the art AI models ahead of the listing, expected on the Nasdaq this autumn

The development comes ahead of the leading US group launching what the markets expect to be the most highly valued IPO of all time, the FT report stated. However, these warnings in its prospectus add to the challenges public market investors face in valuing Anthropic.

Claude's maker also provided investors with a clearer picture of the challenging economics of building state of the art AI models ahead of the listing, expected on the Nasdaq this autumn.

Anthropic's backers are hopeful it can list at a valuation of more than $2tn, twice its May valuation. Claude's maker plans to spend $518bn on cloud, computing and infra to support fast-paced growth in the coming years, the report stated.

The dark lining to the silver cloud comes from public warnings issued by ex-employees that unbridled AI could end humanity in a decade.

WINDOWS

Navarathri SHG sales exhibition from Oct 1 to 15

CHENNAI : The Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women will organise a special Navarathri exhibition showcasing products made by self-help groups at the Mother Teresa Women's Complex in Nungambakkam here.

The fortnight-long exhibition will be held from October 1 to 15, 2026, offering visitors a range of traditional and handcrafted products, a press release from the Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women (TNCDW) said here on Tuesday.

Organised under the Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihoods Mission and the Tamil Nadu Urban Livelihoods Mission, the exhibition aims to provide self-help groups with fair market prices and wider access to urban markets.

More than 70 SHGs from across the state will participate in the exhibition, setting up 50 stalls offering more than 100 varieties of products. The exhibition will feature artisanal and festive products, Navarathri 'Golu' dolls, wooden sculptures, handicrafts, textiles and accessories, as well as handcrafted products made from jute, paper, palm leaf and banana fibre. Herbal preparations and household products will also be available. Dedicated food stalls will serve traditional delicacies throughout the exhibition, the release said.

Admission and parking will be free, and the venue will be open to the public daily from 9 am to 9 pm. The organisers have invited the public to visit the exhibition and purchase products made by women SHGs, the release added. Navarathri will be observed from October 11 to 19, followed by Vijayadashami on October 20.

Absconding Chennai man held for wife's suicide

CHENNAI : A man who absconded after the Madras High Court upheld his conviction in connection with his wife's suicide was arrested and remanded, the police said on Tuesday. The man was arrested on Monday after a Mahila Court issued an arrest warrant to nab and imprison the absconding Raja, police said.

The police team led by the Inspector of Triplicane Police Station arrested Raja, 35, of Pallavan Salai here and produced him before the Mahila Court, which remanded him to judicial custody.

A release from the police said Raja's wife Sudha died by hanging in 2016, two years after marriage with him. A case of unnatural death was registered and investigated was taken up by the D-1 Triplicane Police Station.

Police investigation revealed that Sudha was harassed for dowry and abetted to commit suicide. Consequently, the legal sections of the case were altered to dowry harassment and abetment of suicide. Raja was then aged 25. He was arrested in 2016 and remanded to judicial custody.

Following the trial Raja, was declared guilty on May 31, 2022 by a Mahila Court which sentenced him to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment along with a fine of Rs 15,000.

Subsequently, he appealed before the Madras High Court which in its judgment on August 25, 2026, upheld Raja as guilty and sentenced him to 3 years of rigorous imprisonment and levied a penalty of Rs 15,000.

The Mahila Court issued an arrest warrant to nab the absconding Raja and imprison him, the release said and added that the court order was executed by the Triplicane Police team led by the Inspector.

24-hour strike by private bus operators demanding fare hike

Around 7,000 private buses operate in the state

CHENNAI

PRIVATE bus operators across Tamil Nadu, barring those in Chennai, Madurai, Nagercoil, and Udhagamandalam, have announced a 24-hour token strike from midnight on September 29 to press for a revision of passenger fares and oppose the proposed expansion of the state government's free travel scheme for women.

According to the Federation of Bus Operators Association of Tamil Nadu, around 7,000 private buses operate in the state, and the sector is grappling with mounting losses due to the steep increase in the cost of diesel and spare parts. While fares were last revised in 2018 when diesel was priced at Rs 64 a litre, the fuel now costs over Rs 100 a litre.

"We are currently operating at a loss of around 65 per cent. Unless fares are revised, the private bus sector will become unviable," Federation President Thangaraj told reporters on Monday.

Following a petition by a federation of private bus owners, the Madras High Court in March last year had directed the state government to seek views from operators and the public regarding a fare revision. However, operators alleged that no further action has been taken.

The federation has also raised strong objections to the upcoming expansion of the women's free travel scheme, scheduled for October 2. They noted that while state transport undertakings receive government subsidies to implement the initiative, private operators are excluded from such compensation.

"The expansion of the scheme will further worsen the financial position of private bus operators. The government should extend the free travel scheme to private buses as well and provide a subsidy to compensate us," Thangaraj added. The strike will be observed from midnight on September 29 to midnight on September 30.

Will back move seeking removal of CEC in Parliament: DMK

CHENNAI

THE DMK said on Tuesday that it would support in Parliament the Opposition's move seeking the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, though it is not part of the INDIA bloc. DMK spokesperson T K S Elangovan, speaking to reporters, said that whenever Opposition parties oppose the BJP on any issue, his party would also stand by them.

"Ideologically, we (Opposition) all stand together. We are not part of the INDIA bloc. That is different. But in Parliament, we will support whoever brings a removal motion against Gyanesh Kumar, because our leader (DMK chief M K Stalin) had issued a statement," Elangovan said, answering a question on the status of the INDIA bloc and ties between the Congress and Samajwadi parties.

Stalin had issued a statement on September 23 demanding that CEC Gyanesh Kumar "must go" and saying that he had no right to continue in office. Elangovan said that such support in Parliament does not mean that the DMK is a constituent of the INDIA bloc and that the move to oppose the BJP is based on ideology.

"Samajwadi Party top leader Akhilesh Yadav was skipping the meeting like the DMK, and that was because of the Congress party, he said, adding that the grand old party chose TVK in Tamil Nadu "for the sake of two ministerial berths in the TVK government", he added.

Further, the DMK leader said that the Congress party has said that it will continue with the TVK. "They are not in our (DMK) alliance. How can we support them? How can we go to the meeting called by them?" he asked. To another question, Elangovan said that the Congress, by aligning with the TVK and ditching the DMK, "committed a mistake."

After the TVK, led by actor-turned-politician C Joseph Vijay, won 108 constituencies out of the 234 Assembly segments in the April Assembly polls, the Congress party joined hands with the TVK and became a part of the government, after a gap of nearly six decades in Tamil Nadu.

TVK leaders review arrangements for CM's Dharapuram poll rally

CHENNAI

SENIOR leaders of the ruling TVK on Tuesday inspected the venue in Dharapuram where the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and TVK president C Joseph Vijay is scheduled to address a major campaign rally on Wednesday in support of the party's candidate for the October 6 assembly by-poll.

TVK general secretary and Minister N Anand visited the meeting venue and reviewed the arrangements, party sources here said. The meeting is being organized in support of P Sathyabama, the candidate representing the Secular Social Justice Victory Alliance in the Dharapuram by-election.

Party functionaries are currently making arrangements at a 34-acre site along the Dharapuram–Udumalai road, erecting stages and flagpoles under heavy security cover.

The inspection was also attended by Minister K G Arunraj, Minister K A Sengottaiyan, TVK Deputy General Secretary Udumalai K Radhakrishnan, along with several members of the Legislative Assembly, district secretaries, and party cadres.

Campaigning has intensified in the SC-reserved Dharapuram Assembly constituency in Tiruppur district, where 22 candidates including Sathyabama of TVK were locked in a high-stakes electoral battle.

TVK sources here said that TN CM Vijay is also likely set to lead a roadshow across the constituency on October 4, just ahead of the campaign wrap-up.

Having won the Dharapuram seat for the AIADMK in the April Assembly elections, Sathyabama subsequently resigned from the party to switch allegiance to the ruling TVK, which had re-nominated her for the seat.

TVK chief Vijay already campaigned for Maragatham Kumaravel at Acharapakkam in Madurantakam on September 28, giving the party back-to-back mega events as it fights to secure both constituencies.

Annamalai to honour unsung women achievers with Kamaraj Awards on Oct 2

This year, around 12 outstanding women from different parts of Tamil Nadu and from diverse spheres of activity have been identified for recognition

CHENNAI

AS part of its observance of October 2026 as women empowerment month, 'We The Leaders' founded by former state BJP president K Annamalai will confer the Kamaraj awards on women achievers on Gandhi Jayanthi day. The award aims to recognise women whose contributions have transformed lives, strengthened communities and inspired others, but whose work may not always have received the visibility it deserves, Aspire K Swaminathan, general secretary of "We The Leaders" said on Tuesday.

According to him, across Tamil Nadu, countless women continue to make a difference in education, agriculture, community development, social service and several other fields, often working quietly and away from public attention. The Kamaraj Award seeks to identify such women, bring their stories before a wider audience and recognise the values of perseverance, service, leadership and social responsibility that their journeys represent.

This year, around 12 outstanding women from different parts of Tamil Nadu and from diverse spheres of activity have been identified for recognition. Each awardee has distinguished herself through sustained effort, personal commitment and meaningful contribution in her respective field. The award has been instituted in the name of "Perunthalaivar" K Kamaraj, whose public life continues to be remembered for simplicity, integrity, commitment to education and concern for the welfare of ordinary people.

Through this recognition, "We The Leaders" seeks to celebrate women who continue to reflect these values through their work and service. The awardee will then be invited onto the dais to receive the honour from Annamalai, following which she will briefly share her thoughts and experiences with the audience.

After launching "We The Leaders", Annamalai have undertaken several key social activities and events across Tamil Nadu.

He also recently claimed "in many constituencies, more than 30,000 leaders are part of our 'We The Leaders' organization. In every constituency, we must set as our goal the creation of at least 30,000 leaders on behalf of our organization".

'BUILD SECRETARIAT ELSEWHERE'

Members of the fishing community stage a protest against the state government's proposal to build a new Secretariat at Pattinapakkam in Chennai on Tuesday

Vijay felicitates cop for clinging to SUV roof to foil gutka smuggling

CHENNAI

CHIEF Minister C Joseph Vijay on Tuesday felicitated Kovilpalayam police head constable M Velmurugan for his bravery in foiling a gutka smuggling attempt. Velmurugan had clung to the roof of an SUV for nearly 40 km in an attempt to prevent the gutka smugglers from escaping, while a police team chased the vehicle and eventually arrested 3 persons, a press release said. The CM invited Velmurugan to the Secretariat here and lauded him for his courage, quick thinking and dedication to duty.

The head constable, attached to the Kovilpalayam police station in Coimbatore, was on duty when a police team stopped a Karnataka-registered SUV near the Kaniyur toll gate following information that gutka was being smuggled. The 3 men inside the vehicle allegedly pushed the police personnel aside and sped away on the highway. Without losing time, Velmurugan jumped onto the SUV's roof and held on to the roof rails. The SUV driver reportedly accelerated to more than 100 km per hour and continued for about 40 km, with the head constable clinging to the roof. The pursuing police team eventually intercepted the vehicle near Avinashi in Tiruppur district and arrested the 3 men, all from Rajasthan, the release said. Police seized more than 170 kg of banned gutka and the vehicle. After felicitating Velmurugan, the CM advised him to exercise caution while on duty. Director General of Police Mahesh Kumar Agarwal was present on the occasion.

Woman cop dies after being pushed during clash at govt hospital

PARAMAKUDI

A 35-year-old woman head constable died after she was allegedly pushed to the ground while attempting to stop a violent clash between two groups at the government general hospital here, police said on Tuesday. The deceased officer was identified as Kannaki (35), who was attached to the Parthibanur police station in Ramanathapuram district and posted on duty at the Paramakudi government hospital.

According to police, a few youths who had sustained injuries in a brawl arrived at the hospital late Monday night for treatment. Soon after, members of the two groups clashed again on the hospital premises. When Officer Kannaki intervened to stop the fight, a youth identified as Karuppu Raja forcefully pushed her. Kannaki lost her balance and fell backward, suffering severe head injuries.

Though she was immediately admitted for emergency medical care, she succumbed to her injuries without responding to treatment. Upon receiving information, Ramanathapuram district superintendent of police G Chandeesh and Paramakudi deputy superintendent of police Sugumaran visited the hospital to conduct an investigation.

IIT Madras study finds educated professionals among cybercrime victims

CHENNAI

A study by researchers from IIT Madras here has found that financial cybercrime victims in the country were often highly educated professionals, challenging the perception that victims are primarily careless, financially unaware or greedy.

The study found that high digital literacy does not necessarily protect individuals from cyber fraud. Victims included IT professionals, bankers, doctors, management and finance professionals, public-sector officers and individuals with cybersecurity certifications, a release from the institution on Tuesday said here.

India's rapid digital transition near-universal mobile access, UPI, and the wider Digital India push has brought hundreds of millions of first-generation users into digital finance within a decade, opening an unusually wide attack surface for investment and stock-trading frauds, task and job scams, digital payment frauds, malware attacks, and the distinctly Indian "digital arrest" scam.

While official statistics from the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) record the transactional breach, they remain silent on the human trauma behind the numbers, prompting the research team to ask a human question rather than a technical one.

The researchers found that victims were often targeted during periods of stress or life disruption, including illness in the family, retirement, job searches, or workplace pressure. Fraudsters exploited fear, financial expectations, and reputational concerns to create an "engineered brain freeze," with victims describing a state of "mind arrest" that impaired their ability to think clearly.

The findings are based on semi-structured interviews with 33 victims — 22 men and 11 women, including 12 senior citizens—across Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, New Delhi and Mumbai. The interviews were conducted in English, Hindi and Tamil

Financial losses ranged from a few thousand rupees to more than Rs 1 crore, while victims also reported shame, insomnia, depression, and damaged family trust. The study also found that institutional responses varied, with some banks and cybercrime cells responding quickly while others lacked the required technical capabilities and coordination.

The findings are based on semi-structured interviews with 33 victims — 22 men and 11 women, including 12 senior citizens—across Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, New Delhi and Mumbai. The interviews were conducted in English, Hindi and Tamil and analysed using the Gioia methodology. The study was led by Prof P Kandaswamy, IPS (Retd), and Prof Nandan Sudarsanam, from IIT Madras in collaboration with Prof. Akanksha Jaiswal, Associate Professor, The University of Western Australia, Chennai Campus and Prof. Ameeta Fernando from Loyola Institute of Business Administration, Chennai.

The research received support from the Wadhwani School of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence at IIT Madras.

Elaborating on the findings, Nandan Sudarsanam, Wadhwani School of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence, IIT Madras, said, "Our findings show that financial cybercrime is not simply a problem of inadequate digital literacy. Even highly educated and digitally experienced individuals can become vulnerable when fraudsters exploit fear, stress, and urgency. Understanding these factors is essential to designing more effective prevention strategies."

Prof. P Kandaswamy IPS (Retd), Adjunct Faculty, Department of Data Science and Artificial intelligence, Department of Management Studies, IIT Madras said, "The response to cybercrime must move beyond blaming victims. Banks and law-enforcement agencies need stronger systems for early detection, rapid intervention, and coordinated response, along with better support for victims."

WINDOWS

Yoga practitioner bags Sarvangasana to claim world record

MOODBIDRI : P.K. Vikas, a third-year student at Alva's College of Naturopathy and Yogic Sciences, has been awarded a world record by the Book of World Records (BWR) for his continuous performance of Sarvangasana. The official certificate lauded Vikas for showing supreme endurance, bodily control, stability, and focus while maintaining the shoulder-stand posture.

Vikas, who hails from Belthangady, began his yoga journey 11 years ago as a fifth-grader. His consistent training has yielded numerous achievements, including silver medals at the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences inter-collegiate yoga meets in 2023, 2024, and 2025, alongside a gold medal at the 2022 WFF State-Level Championship.

At the national level, Vikas took second place at the 2021 Hyderabad National Yoga Competition and the 2025 AON Medical Institute competition, while also representing the region at AIIMS New Delhi in 2024. Today, he balances his academic studies with officiating as a certified yoga judge.

Highway u-turn triggers fatal crash

MANGALURU : Reckless driving on the Mangaluru-Bengaluru National Highway claimed the life of a 67-year-old woman and left five others hospitalised near Halira village in Bantwal taluk on Monday morning.

The deceased was identified as Nebisa (67), who was traveling in a car that collided with a pickup truck. According to the complaint lodged by the pickup driver, Palaniswamy (25), a resident of Hosur in Tamil Nadu, he was transporting goods toward Bengaluru when a car traveling ahead of him abruptly attempted a U-turn on the highway.

Police stated that the car driver, identified as Akbar Ali, executed the sudden turn without warning, leaving the trailing pickup driver with no time to react and causing a severe collision.

Bystanders immediately intervened, aiding the victims and arranging transport to a hospital. Those undergoing treatment include car driver Akbar Ali and passengers Maimoona, Shama, and Zubeida, alongside pickup driver Palaniswamy. Despite medical efforts, Nebisa died of her injuries shortly after admission.

Following the incident, Vittla police booked driver Akbar Ali under multiple sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), including Sections 281, 125(A), 125(B), and 106(1). Further legal proceedings are underway.

Andhra native Paramesh found dead in Malpe

UDUPI : A person from Andhra Pradesh was murdered in Malpe, and the killing became known on Tuesday morning. The dead man has been identified as Paramesh, who hailed from Andhra Pradesh. He earned a living by collecting scrap and was discovered dead in the same place where he slept each night. Personnel from Malpe police station visited the spot and are carrying out an examination.

Three Haliyal water bodies rejuvenated under Project NANNEER

Hans News Service
Haliyal

THREE water bodies in Haliyal taluk have undergone rejuvenation under Project NANNEER, a water stewardship initiative of the AMM Foundation, increasing their combined storage capacity and improving prospects for groundwater recharge and irrigation.

The project covered Kumbarekare Lake in Thergaon village, Alloli Pond and Hanumantha Pond in Haliyal village. The work involved desilting, deepening and strengthening of the water bodies to improve water retention and recharge.

Haliyal receives more than 1,500 mm of rainfall during the southwest monsoon, but much of the water is lost as runoff because of limited percolation. The restored water bodies are intended to retain more monsoon water and improve availability during the summer.

Combined storage capacity doubles, improving groundwater recharge, irrigation availability and water security for rural communities

Kumbarekare Lake, spread over 54.5 acres, has seen its storage capacity increase from 352,002 cubic metres to 655,452 cubic metres. The restoration is expected to benefit about 243 families in Thergaon by improving groundwater recharge and irrigation availability.

The capacity of Alloli Pond has increased from 27,280 cubic metres to 87,296 cubic metres, while Hanumantha Pond's capacity has risen from 10,115 cubic metres to 24,276 cubic metres. Together, the two ponds are expected to benefit more than 370 families. The restoration is also aimed at reducing water stagnation and flooding during heavy monsoon spells, besides supporting agriculture and improving groundwater availability.

Muthu Murugappan, CEO of EID Parry India Ltd and chair of Project NANNEER, said water security begins at the community level and that restoring local water bodies could support agriculture and strengthen rural resilience.

Farmers and local panchayat representatives said the increased storage would improve access to irrigation water during the summer months. They also said the restored ponds would support crops, including sugarcane, and improve water availability for daily needs.

HDK steps up attack on NICE project, questions toll collection

Hans News Service
Bengaluru

UNION Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Tuesday intensified his criticism of the Bengaluru-Mysuru Infrastructure Corridor Project (BMIC/NICE), alleging large-scale financial and land-related irregularities and questioning the continued collection of toll on the NICE Road.

Addressing a press conference in Bengaluru, Kumaraswamy alleged that irregularities in the project amounted to more than Rs 3 lakh crore. He also accused project promoter Ashok Kheny of serious wrongdoing and said the government should first stop toll collection on the road.

Kumaraswamy further alleged that around 1.25 lakh acres connected to the project had been denotified in 2004 and claimed there was a plan to commercially exploit the land. He questioned Kheny's reported claim that the state government would have to pay around Rs 2 lakh crore and asked who was supporting such demands.

The allegations come after a July 2026 Karnataka High Court judgment that raised serious questions over the implementation of the BMIC project. The court noted that the project originally envisaged a 111-km expressway, 41-km peripheral road, 9.8-km link road and five townships. It also recorded that only about five kilometres of the proposed expressway had been constructed in 25-26 years, according to a state affidavit.

The High Court dismissed appeals filed by NICE and KIADB and suggested independent assessment, investigation and a forensic audit of the project. The court also examined issues concerning land utilisation, compensation and toll collection.

Kumaraswamy said he had attempted to scrap the project when he was chief minister but claimed he did not receive adequate political support. He said farmers who had lost land had approached him for assistance and indicated that he would continue the legal fight following the court proceedings.

Govt notifies road grid for Bengaluru Urban areas

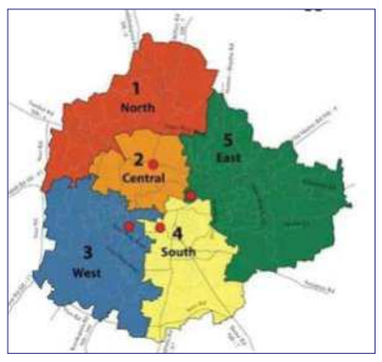
Bengaluru

THE government has notified a new road grid for the areas of Bengaluru Urban district outside the Greater Bengaluru Authority to ensure that future urban growth is backed by adequate roads, drinking water, drainage and other essential infrastructure, Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said on Tuesday.

Speaking at a press conference here, the minister said Bengaluru had grown rapidly over the past 25 years without adequate advance planning and preparedness, and the consequences were now visible in the form of traffic congestion and persistent challenges relating to roads, drinking water and drainage.

"We are today facing the consequences of the planning deficiencies of the past. We must learn from these mistakes and ensure that they are not repeated," Gowda said, adding that Chief Minister D K Shivakumar had clearly directed that the same mistakes should not recur.

According to Gowda, urbanisation is rapidly expanding into areas outside the GBA. Although these areas are currently outside the GBA limits, they are increasingly developing as extensions of Bengaluru and could eventually become part of the city's larger urban footprint.



While urbanisation has already spread across around 750 sq km, experts estimate that Bengaluru's urbanised area could expand to 1,400-1,800 sq km in the coming years. "Whether we want it or not, urbanisation around Bengaluru is inevitable. If we do not plan and provide infrastructure in these areas now, they too will face the same traffic and drainage problems that Bengaluru is struggling with today," the Minister said. He said the government's objective was to put a planned development framework in place before unplanned urbanisation takes hold, so that the problems currently being experienced within the GBA are not replicated in Bengaluru's expanding periphery.

As part of this planned approach, the entire Bengaluru Urban district was recently brought under the jurisdiction of the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB).

Gowda said that a master plan is being prepared to provide drinking water and progressively establish adequate drainage infrastructure across the district.

Similarly, a new road grid has been identified in the master plan across the jurisdictions of BMRDA and other local development authorities to improve connectivity and ease future traffic movement, he said.

The minister said creating new roads inside the existing GBA would have limited utility because large parts of the area already have layouts and buildings. "Therefore, the focus is on areas that are currently developing," he said.

Telangana Minister Adluri Laxman Kumar visits Udupi

Hans News Service
Udupi

ADLURI Laxman Kumar, Cabinet Minister for SC Development, Tribal Welfare, Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Senior Citizens, and Minorities Empowerment in the Government of Telangana, visited the Udupi Sri Krishna Matha on Tuesday to seek the blessings of the deity. After having darshan of Lord Krishna, the minister interacted with temple authorities to learn about the rich religious heritage, customs, and daily management of the pilgrimage center.

To mark his visit, the Paryaya Sri Shiroor Matha hosted a formal facilitation honouring the visiting dignitary. Dewan of the Paryaya Matha Uday Kumar Saralattaya, Parupathyagara Srisha Bhat Kadekar, and Venkataramana Muchintaya were among the prominent temple officials present during the ceremony.

Contractors seek release of Rs 38,000 crore pending dues

Hans News Service
Bengaluru

THE Karnataka State Contractors' Association has urged Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar to release around Rs 38,000 crore in pending bills, while expressing dissatisfaction over what it described as delays in fulfilling earlier assurances given to the contracting community.

In a letter to Shivakumar, the association recalled assurances made when he was Deputy Chief Minister that the government would stand with contractors and clear their pending payments. It said that after nearly three years of the government, several promises had not been implemented.

The association said Shivakumar met its office-bearers on June 30, 2026, and assured them that pending dues would be cleared within two months. It claimed that the chief minister had also instructed the Finance Department to make arrangements for the payments.According to the association, around Rs 38,000 crore is pending across development departments, with dues dating back to 2021-22. It sought immediate release of the amount and demanded that payments be made according to the seniority of pending bills.

The contractors also urged the government to stop issuing Special Letters of Credit and ensure greater transparency in tendering and payment procedures. They sought the release of the eight per cent VAT-GST difference for 2017-18 and 2018-19.The association also demanded withdrawal of the requirement to upload work details on the Contract Management Module before treasury payments are released. It sought preference for local contractors at district and taluk levels.

The association said small and medium contractors had faced financial difficulties since the Covid-19 period and requested measures for licence renewal and continuation of government works.

4-day meet held on GST, Customs practices

Hans News Service
Bengaluru

THE Directorate General of Taxpayer Services (DGTS), Bengaluru Zonal Unit of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), Ministry of Finance, ran a four-day Outreach and Trade Meet on GST and Customs from September 22-25. Shailendra Kumar Sinha, Director General, DGTS, New Delhi, presided. Sessions were held at the BMTC Building, Banashankari; the CR Building, Queens Road; and HMT Bhavan under Bengaluru North GST Commissionerate. Day one reviewed the Zonal Unit; the next three days were set aside for trade talks. DGTS, created in August 2015 as a CBIC field formation with six zonal units, exists to strengthen taxpayer services, stakeholder contact, grievance handling and public outreach. It links taxpayers with the indirect-tax system and promotes voluntary compliance, openness and a better taxpayer experience.

Coffee cafe opened

BENGALURU : Third Wave Coffee has opened its first café in Manipal at Canara Mall, marking its 102nd café in South India. The expansion strengthens its Karnataka presence across Bengaluru, Mangaluru and Manipal, targeting the city's growing student population and evolving café culture.

Nitte gets 5-yr FAO reference centre badge

Hans News Service
Mangaluru

Nitte (deemed to be university), Mangaluru, has been re-named an FAO Reference Centre for Antimicrobial Resistance and Aquaculture Biosecurity for five more years, through 2031, four years after first joining that select global group.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) first designated Nitte for 2022–26, making it one of four world reference centres in those fields. An assessment of that period led FAO to renew the status from 2026 to 2031.

The formal presentation took place at FAO Headquarters in Rome during the FAO Global Conference for Actions on One Health, between September 21-23. Vice Chancellor Dr. M S Moodithaya received the certificate from Deputy Director General Godfrey Magwenzi, in the presence of Assistant Directors General Thanawat Tiensin and Manuel Barange. Dr. Indrani Karunasagar, who heads the Nitte FAO Reference Centre, and Dr. Iddya Karunasagar, former FAO Senior Food Safety Officer and now adviser to the centre, were also in the delegation.

Give Rs 50k per acre drought relief or admit financial crisis: Vijayendra

Hans News Service
Bengaluru

Referring to a letter issued by the Finance Department, Vijayendra said it had raised serious questions about the state's financial position. He demanded that Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister D K Shivakumar immediately issue a white paper on the actual financial condition of Karnataka

BJP state president B Y Vijayendra accused the Congress government of failing to respond adequately to the difficulties faced by farmers amid the severe drought situation in Karnataka and demanded that the government provide at least Rs 50,000 compensation per acre.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP office on Tuesday, Vijayendra said there were expectations that the government would convene a special Assembly session to discuss the drought situation and take concrete measures to support farmers. However, he alleged that no serious steps had been taken to provide direct relief to farmers.

He said the BJP had demanded in both Houses of the legislature that farmers be provided a minimum compensation of Rs 50,000 per acre. Instead, the state government had provided only Rs 2,500, which he said was inadequate considering the extent of the farmers' losses.

Vijayendra said the government should provide appropriate relief, help farmers deal with the burden of loans and ensure adequate power supply at a time when farmers were facing severe difficulties. He also alleged that the government was finding it difficult to implement its guarantee schemes.

Referring to a letter issued by the Finance Department, Vijayendra said it had raised serious questions about the state's financial position. He demanded that Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister D.K. Shivakumar immediately issue a white paper on the actual financial condition of Karnataka.

He also alleged that beneficiaries of various social security schemes, including pensions for persons with disabilities and old-age pensions, were not receiving payments on time and that basic programmes such as housing for the poor were being affected.

Vijayendra alleged that the government was providing opportunities to political workers through guarantee implementation committees instead of prioritising people based on their needs. He said public funds should not be used for political purposes and that the government was accountable to taxpayers.

On allegations concerning a video conference reportedly conducted by Home Minister G. Parameshwara, Vijayendra said the government should clarify claims that party workers were being given priority in the implementation of guarantee schemes. Beneficiaries, he said, should be selected based on their needs and not on lists prepared by Congress workers.

Vijayendra also criticised the government over the availability of three-phase electricity to farmers during the drought. He demanded that farmers be provided at least five hours of three-phase power every day and said electricity should be purchased from other states if necessary.

He also questioned Congress leaders' protests against the Election Commission and the Chief Election Commissioner. Vijayendra said constitutional institutions should not be targeted in a manner that creates distrust among the public. He said electoral victories and defeats were part of democracy and alleged that questioning constitutional institutions after an electoral defeat was inappropriate.

On the proposed Congress padayatra from Shikaripura announced by B.K. Hariprasad, Vijayendra said he welcomed the move and claimed that it could have been inspired by the BJP's Ballari Chalo padayatra. He said Shikaripura was the place that had shaped his political career and challenged Hariprasad to visit the constituency and see its development. Vijayendra said the BJP would strengthen its organisation from the booth level ahead of the forthcoming local body elections and prepare its workers for the polls.

On the proposed all-party delegation to the Centre over drought relief, Vijayendra said the state government should first fulfil its responsibility towards farmers. He reiterated the demand for Rs 50,000 compensation per acre and farm loan waivers, adding that if the state's financial condition did not permit such relief, the government should openly acknowledge it.

He also demanded a comprehensive white paper on the state's debt, expenditure on guarantee schemes and spending on other programmes, alleging that Karnataka's debt burden had increased substantially during the Congress government's tenure.

Army engineers to be deployed for SLBC, Kaleshwaram works

Telangana likely to take three Corps of Engineers officers on deputation

Pathan Afzal Babu
Hyderabad

THE Telangana Government is set to strengthen the execution of the Srisailam Left Bank Canal tunnel and the rehabilitation of the Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages by engaging additional officers from the Indian Army's Corps of Engineers. The Military Secretary's Branch of the Integrated Headquarters of the Ministry of Defence has offered three officers for selection by the Telangana Government: Lt Col Satyadev Singh, Lt Col Ranjit A Menon and Lt Col HV Bhalla. The State Government is likely to take all three officers on deputation and deploy them in its most technically challenging irrigation works.

Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy recently met Chief of the Army Staff General Dhiraj Seth at his official residence in New Delhi and requested the deputation of experienced Army engineers to Telangana. He explained the technical complexity and strategic importance of the SLBC tunnel and the repair and rehabilitation of the three Kaleshwaram barrages.

Col Mehra has been closely associated with both the SLBC tunnel, the repair and rehabilitation planning for Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages. His technical knowledge, field-level involvement and ability to coordinate complex operations have been of immense value to the Irrigation Department.

"Our experience with Col Parikshit Mehra has been extraordinary. His contribution has reinforced our belief that experienced military engineers can add tremendous value to technically complicated infrastructure projects. In light of that experience, we requested the Army Chief to depute more officers. I am grateful that General Dhiraj Seth and Army Headquarters responded so positively and promptly," Uttam Kumar Reddy said.

Under the deployment being considered, one of the three officers would supervise operations at the SLBC tunnel's two excavation fronts, including work inside the tunnel near the excavation faces. The remaining two officers would be assigned to the repair and rehabilitation works covering the Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages.

Scuffle breaks out over 2BHK allotments

Officials had initiated the process to allot 58 double-bedroom houses through a draw. A few villagers objected alleging that houses were being allotted to ineligible persons. Police dispersed the protesters to bring the situation under control and some of them were reportedly taken to the police station

Beneficiaries argue with police during protest alleging irregularities

Hans news service
Maddirala (Suryapet)

TENSION prevailed in Maddirala village of Tungaturthi constituency in Suryapet district during the draw conducted for the allotment of double-bedroom houses, after several villagers staged a protest alleging irregularities in the selection of beneficiaries.

Officials had initiated the process to allot a total of 58 double-bedroom houses to beneficiaries through a draw. However, a few villagers objected to the process, alleging that houses were being allotted to ineligible persons instead of deserving poor families.

The protesters claimed that beneficiaries who already owned houses had also been included in the allotment, while several poor families who had been living without houses for years were being denied the benefit.

As villagers staged a protest and dharna questioning the allotment process, the situation became tense.

An argument reportedly broke out between the protesters and police personnel. Police dispersed the protesters to bring the situation under control, and some of them were reportedly taken to the police station.

The villagers demanded a comprehensive inquiry into the allotment process and a fresh verification of the eligibility of beneficiaries. They urged the authorities to identify genuinely deserving families and allot the houses transparently in accordance with government norms.

An official response from the authorities and public representatives concerned to the allegations of irregularities in the allotment was awaited.

SCR intensifies water quality checks at Nizamabad station

Hans News Service
Nizamabad

SOUTH Central Railway (SCR) has intensified water quality monitoring and maintenance at Nizamabad railway station and adjoining railway colonies under the Hyderabad division to ensure safe drinking water for passengers and residents.

During a special drive conducted from August 21 to September 28, officials tested 531 drinking water samples for residual chlorine, with all samples found satisfactory. Another 134 samples underwent bacteriological analysis and tested negative for E. coli contamination.

Engineering and medical department officials jointly inspected groundwater sources, municipal supply lines, storage facilities, Ground Level Reservoirs and High Level Reservoirs. Chlorination systems and distribution networks were also reviewed.

SCR General Manager Sanjay Kumar Srivastava directed officials to maintain continuous vigilance and ensure compliance with Indian Railways Medical Manual standards.

He stressed frequent sampling and prompt preventive measures to ensure uninterrupted access to safe drinking water.

Opposition protests agenda approval at Bodhan Council meet

Heated exchanges erupt as councillors demand discussion before decisions are taken

Hans News Service
Nizamabad

TENSIONS erupted at the Bodhan Municipal general body meeting on Tuesday after opposition councillors protested the unilateral approval of the agenda without allowing them an opportunity to speak.

The meeting, presided over by Municipal Chairperson Thumu Padma, witnessed heated exchanges as BJP and AIMIM councillors objected to being denied the floor to raise civic issues and public grievances.

The opposition members demanded that the agenda be discussed in detail before any decisions were taken, questioning how they could respond to their constituents if they were not permitted to voice their concerns during official deliberations. Their protest led to a heated argument with ruling party members and municipal officials.

The situation intensified when Municipal Commissioner attempted to leave the meeting hall. Councillors led by Vice Chairman Mir Iliyas Ali and BJP floor leader Kollipaka Renuka reportedly gheraoed the official and prevented him from leaving, prompting police to intervene and restore order.

Vice Chairman Mir Iliyas Ali, BJP floor leader Kollipaka Renuka and other councillors strongly protested against what they described as the administration's high-handed conduct and demanded greater opportunity for opposition members to participate in council proceedings.

SRSP storage rises to 46.65 TMC as water inflows continue

Reservoir receives 1,736 cusecs inflow; 2,157 cusecs released for irrigation and drinking water needs

Hans News Service

NIZAMABAD: Water storage in the Sriram Sagar Project (SRSP) has reached 46.654 TMC, according to official figures recorded on Tuesday. The reservoir's water level stood at 1,080.60 feet, with the project receiving an average inflow of 1,736 cusecs over the past 24 hours.

Against the inflow, project authorities released 2,157 cusecs of water through the project's main canals and lift irrigation schemes to meet agricultural and drinking water requirements in downstream areas.

Irrigation department officials said water was being actively supplied through the canal network and lift irrigation systems to meet the ongoing needs of farmers and communities in the region. The continued releases are aimed at ensuring adequate water availability for irrigation as well as drinking water requirements in downstream areas.

Technology to play key role in strengthening crime control

Hans News Service
Jayashankar Bhupalpally

SP Sirishetty Sankeerth directs police to intensify surveillance, cyber investigations and public safety measures

AS part of annual inspections, SP Sirishetty Sankeerth on Tuesday inspected Mahamuttaram Police Station and the Katarm Circle Office and reviewed cleanliness, records, armory management, staff discipline, uniforms and departmental performance. He interacted with police personnel to understand duty management, performance and welfare concerns.

The SP inspected CCTV systems and directed officers to use technology effectively for crime prevention and public safety. He stressed road accident prevention, visible policing, surveillance patrolling and community policing.

He urged personnel to improve skills in CCTNS 2.0, e-Sakshya, digital forensics, cyber investigation and social media monitoring. He also directed prompt disposal of pending cases and continuous surveillance of drug offences, cybercrime, traffic violations, rowdies and habitual offenders.

The SP stressed special attention to women, children and senior citizens. He later planted saplings at both premises.

Surprise checks conducted at fertiliser shops in Chigurumamidi

Hans News Service

KARIMNAGAR: Agriculture officials conducted surprise inspections at fertiliser shops across Chigurumamidi mandal on Tuesday to ensure the availability of quality fertilisers and seeds to farmers during the ongoing kharif season.

The inspections covered shops at the mandal headquarters and several villages. Officials examined stock registers, sales records, displayed prices and dealers' licences to verify compliance with regulations.

The Mandal Agriculture Officer warned dealers against selling fertilisers above the prescribed Maximum Retail Price (MRP), cautioning that violations would attract legal action. Dealers were also instructed to issue computer-generated or authorised bills for every transaction. Officials urged farmers to insist on bills when purchasing fertilisers and check the manufacturing date, batch number and expiry date printed on the bags. Farmers were also advised to report any suspected sale of counterfeit or substandard fertilisers to the Agriculture Department.

Officials said inspections would continue across the mandal to prevent malpractice and protect farmers' interests.

TUWJ, IJU call for 'Demands Day' on Oct 2

Hans news service

WANAPARTHY: D Madhava Rao, the Wanaparthy district president of TUWJ-IJU, announced that a nationwide 'Demands Day' would be observed on October 2, coinciding with Gandhi Jayanti, to advocate for journalists' rights, safety, and socio-economic welfare, in response to a call by the Indian Journalists Union (IJU).

At a press conference held at the collectorate complex, he urged journalists across all district headquarters in Telangana to stage protests at Gandhi statues and subsequently submit representations to collectors, ministers, MPs, and MLAs.

Rao called upon journalists to participate in large numbers in the event here and ensure its success. He demanded a media commission to address changes in the media landscape and enactment of a special national law to ensure journalists' safety. He called for the restoration of rights previously guaranteed by law regarding job security, service conditions, wages and grievance redressal mechanisms for journalists.

Rao demanded the Centre to constitute a wage board to ensure wages for the media staff that align with current cost of living. He urged the Telangana government to fulfil its election promise by sanctioning house-sites and houses to journalists, and to provide health cards and cashless treatment, like those extended to employees.

He requested the government to focus specifically on providing house-sites and healthcare to eligible journalists in the district, address issues related to accreditation, ID cards and amenities for performing duty.

Students learn about use of robotics in education

Hans news service
Wanaparthy

AN awareness programme regarding the use of robotics in education was organised on Tuesday to enhance the technical skills of students at the Government Women's Degree College here under the auspices of the Computer Science department. The event featured resource person Akanksha, who educated students on the importance, applications and prospects of robotics.

Topics such as robot construction, programming, use of sensors and automation were explained. Robotics fosters creativity, problem-solving abilities, critical thinking and teamwork skills among students. The principal noted the growing importance of technology in modern education and advised students to gain knowledge in emerging technological fields, such as robotics and artificial intelligence, alongside their regular academic curriculum.

AP agriculture caught between drought and destructive rain

- Cultivation lags far behind national and Telangana levels
- 32.92 per cent rainfall deficit leaves rain-fed crops battered after failed July-August monsoon
- Late depression brings relief to rainfall figures but damages paddy, groundnut, banana and vegetables in North Andhra
- Farmers face mounting losses from crop failures, rising input costs and water stress

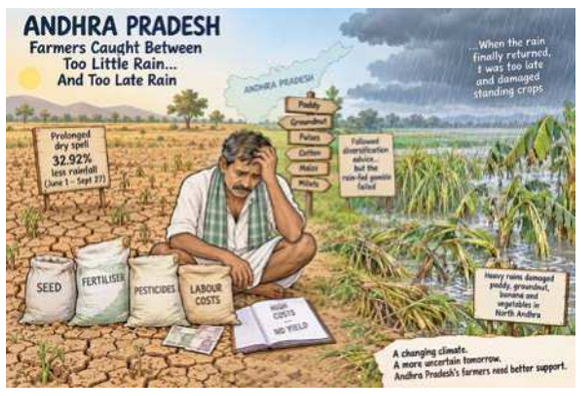
K Varaprasada Rao
Amaravati

ANDHRA Pradesh's kharif season has slipped into a deep agrarian crisis, with a prolonged rainfall deficit leaving thousands of farmers staring at crop losses after spending heavily on sowing, fertilisers, pesticides and labour.

The state received 32.92 per cent less rainfall than normal between June 1 and September 27, with the deficit widening to 45.10 per cent in Rayalaseema and 21.64 per cent in Coastal Andhra. The situation was even more severe until early September, when the cumulative deficit stood at 55.45 per cent. But the late rains brought by a depression over Coastal Andhra have improved the seasonal rainfall position on paper, but they have come too late for many dryland farmers. In North Andhra, the heavy rains have instead damaged standing paddy, groundnut, banana and vegetable crops.

The scale of the agricultural setback becomes clearer when Andhra Pradesh is compared with the rest of the country. By September 23, cultivation nationally had reached 100.57 per cent of the normal area, while Telangana had covered 95 per cent. Andhra Pradesh had managed only 83 per cent, with 63.24 lakh acres under cultivation against the projected 76.2 lakh acres.

Farmers followed the diversification advice, but the rain-fed gamble failed. Due to the El Nino effect, the government has repeatedly urged farmers to reduce paddy cultivation and move towards less water-intensive, rain-fed crops. Yet paddy still accounts for 32.86 lakh acres, or 52 per cent of the State's total cultivated area, because large tracts of the delta and other irrigated regions remain structurally dependent on paddy during kharif. The crops that were expected to provide an alternative-groundnut, pulses, cotton, maize and millets- are now among the worst affected. Groundnut was cultivated on only 4.13 lakh acres, 43 per cent of its normal area. Cotton covered 10.80 lakh acres, maize 3.1 lakh acres and pulses 9.41 lakh acres. The sowing window for groundnut and cotton has already closed, leaving little scope for farmers to recover the season through fresh planting.



Four districts — Kurnool, Anantapur, Nandyal and Sri Sathya Sai — alone accounted for 23.75 lakh acres, nearly 38 per cent of the state's cultivated area. These are predominantly rain-fed farming regions. June showers encouraged farmers to sow, but the rains largely disappeared in July and August, when the standing crops needed them most.

The consequences are visible in the cultivation figures. Prakasam managed only 27 per cent of its projected area, Annamayya 33 per cent, Anakapalli 36 per cent, Chittoor 36 per cent, Markapuram 37 per cent, Polavaram 38 per cent and Palnadu 66 per cent. In several of these districts, farmers had already incurred expenditure on land preparation, seed, fertiliser, pesticides, labour and lease rents before the crops began to fail.

However, El Nino warning adds to the uncertainty over the next season. The crisis has also exposed the vulnerability of Andhra Pradesh's farm economy to a changing rainfall pattern. The State government had already warned farmers about the possibility of El Nino-related weather risks, urging caution in crop planning and water use. That warning has acquired greater significance as the current season has unfolded with long dry spells punctuated by intense rainfall.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu had told the Assembly on August 17 that Andhra Pradesh was receiving rainfall at a level far below the national average.

The latest rainfall figures underline the warning. Annamayya recorded a deficit of 63.12 per cent, Sri Sathya Sai 56.10 per cent and Prakasam 56.75 per cent. Five other districts recorded deficits between 40 per cent and 49 per cent. Under the IMD classification, rainfall between -20 per cent and -59 per cent is considered deficient, while -60 per cent or below is classified as scanty.

A recent study by scientists from the India Meteorological Department and the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting, covering weather extremes over India from 1971 to 2022, has also identified South Peninsular India as the region showing the strongest drought trend. Andhra Pradesh is among the eastern coastal States identified as a pronounced drought hotspot. For Andhra Pradesh, the immediate problem is therefore not simply a shortage of rain. It is the collision of failed dryland crops, inadequate irrigation support, depleted groundwater, rising cultivation costs and increasingly erratic rainfall.

The state's farm economy has entered a season in which farmers spent money to sow when the rain came- and lost the crop when the rain stopped. Now, when the rain has finally returned, it is damaging crops that survived.

APSEC moves cybercrime police over fake local body poll schedule

Fabricated messages circulated using SEC letterhead, logo and signature

Hans News Service
Amaravati

THE State Election Commission (SEC) has lodged a complaint with the cybercrime police station seeking a probe into two incidents involving the circulation of fabricated messages and documents in the name of the Commission ahead of the forthcoming rural and urban local body elections. The SEC said it was making preparations for the second ordinary elections to rural and urban local bodies in the State when a fake election schedule was circulated through WhatsApp and social media on August 21. The fabricated communication used tampered letterheads, official logos and a signature, falsely projecting it as an official SEC communication.

The commission issued a press note on August 24, clarifying that the schedule was fake and urging the public and media to rely only on its official press notes and press conferences for authenticated information.

A second fabricated message surfaced in WhatsApp groups on September 28. It claimed that the State Election Commissioner had said another two months would be required to announce the local body election schedule and that the election process would begin only after court clearance on electoral rolls and reservations. It also claimed that internal preparations had already begun despite any delay.

The SEC categorically rejected the claims in a press note issued on September 29, stating that the information had neither been issued nor authorised by it.

The commission said repeated circulation of such material was creating confusion among the public, media, political parties and government officials. It said the resulting calls seeking clarification were also affecting its normal functioning and diverting officers and staff from election preparations.

Taking the matter seriously, the SEC lodged a complaint with the cybercrime police station seeking a thorough investigation into both incidents. It asked the police to identify those involved in creating, modifying, transmitting and circulating the fabricated communications and initiate action under applicable law, including the Information Technology Act, 2000, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, and other applicable cyber laws and statutory provisions.

Efforts are underway to remove the crane from the pit in Tirupati on Tuesday

AP aims to be land-dispute-free state by March

- Re-survey 2.0 to be conducted in presence of farmers: Survey director Kurmanath
- 2,800 teams equipped with advanced Rovers undertaking re-survey across state

Hans News Service
Vijayawada

THE state government is working to make the State land-dispute-free by March 2027, with the survey, settlements and land records department intensifying the ongoing re-survey by involving farmers at every stage, said state survey, settlements and land records director Ronanki Kurmanath.

He conducted surprise inspections of the re-survey being carried out at Kapileswarapuram in Pamidimukkala mandal and South Valluru in Thotlavalluru mandal of Krishna district on Tuesday, along with district revenue and survey officials. Expressing satisfaction over the participation of farmers during the survey, he said field-level inspections were being conducted to ensure transparency and prevent recurrence of errors.

Speaking on the occasion, Kurmanath said Re-survey 2.0 was being implemented to correct errors, resolve existing land-related issues and prevent future disputes. He inspected the field-level survey along with revenue and survey officials and expressed satisfaction over farmers participating in the process.

State survey, settlements and land records director Ronanki Kurmanath inspecting the re-survey at the field level and interacting with farmers in Krishna district on Tuesday

Kurmanath directed officials to inform farmers in advance about the survey and ensure that the concerned farmer or a family member was present when the survey was conducted. He said boundaries should be determined through field measurements and subsequently verified with relevant documents in the presence of farmers.

He said e-KYC was being made mandatory as part of the process to ensure transparency and keep farmers informed. Farmers would also be provided details through notices before the finalisation of land records, he added.

The director said re-survey was being conducted in 628 villages in Phase-I, 748 in Phase-II, 729 in Phase-III and 1,645 in Phase-IV. Under Phase-V, the process was under way in 1,343 villages with the active participation of farmers.

Around 2,800 teams equipped with advanced Rovers were conducting the re-survey across the State. Field-level measurements were being matched with documentary records to ensure accuracy and prevent future disputes, he said.

Kurmanath said a mechanism had been put in place to resolve problems identified during field-level surveys immediately.

He directed officials to ensure that farmers received pattadar passbooks with accurate measurements after completion of the process.

Later, Kurmanath inspected the Vuyyuru tahsildar's office and reviewed the VRO-related records and logins pertaining to the mandal. He said Re-survey 2.0 was being implemented across the state with the objective of avoiding errors and providing a permanent solution to land-related issues. After the field survey, land details would be communicated to farmers through notices and verified against relevant documents, he said.

District assistant director of survey Pujari Lakshmana Rao, Vuyyuru RDO S Karuna Kumari, tahsildars of Vuyyuru, Pamidimukkala and Thotlavalluru, survey inspector Suresh Babu, survey and revenue officials, village representatives and farmers were present.

Crane collapse at Tirupati construction site claims three lives

- Three others injured in a crane accident at a private hotel construction site
- The crane reportedly tilted suddenly and plunged into a deep pit while construction work underway
- YSRCP Tirupati leaders question the alleged use of the adjoining municipal school premises for private construction activity

Hans News Service
Tirupati

THREE workers died when a heavy crane suddenly tilted and plunged into a deep pit at a construction site in Tirupati on Tuesday. Three others were injured in the accident that occurred at a private hotel construction site on DBR Road.

The three victims were trapped beneath the crane after it fell into the pit and died at the spot. The deceased were identified as Rama Rao (45), a migrant worker from Odisha, site engineer Sandeep Kumar (35) of Srikakulam district and Gangayya (40), a watchman from Tirupati.

The injured were identified as crane operators Sheikh Farahan and Naushan, both from Bihar, and labourer Muragayya of R Mallavaram in Yerpedu mandal. They were shifted to SVR Ruia Government General Hospital for treatment after locals alerted the police about the accident.

Police personnel, rescue teams and officials rushed to the site and began efforts to remove the crane from the pit. Police have taken up an inquiry to ascertain how the crane lost balance and whether any safety lapses were involved in the incident.

The accident also led to questions over the alleged use of the premises of the adjoining Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Municipal Corporation Government School for private construction activity.

YSRCP Tirupati unit leaders alleged that private construction workers and a heavy crane had been allowed inside the school premises in connection with the hotel project. They questioned how such activity was permitted when classes were in progress.

The leaders also sought clarification over the alleged cutting of an old tree on the school premises and excavation of a deep pit close to the school. They questioned who had authorised the work and whether the required permissions had been obtained from the Tirupati Municipal Corporation.

Claiming that nearly 1,000 children were present in the school, the YSRCP leaders raised concerns over the safety arrangements at the site. They demanded a detailed inquiry into the permissions granted for the construction activity, compliance with safety regulations and the responsibility of those involved. Police are continuing their investigation, while officials are expected to examine the construction site and relevant permissions to determine the circumstances leading to the accident.

APCRDA signs agreement with Rainbow for hospital

Hans News Service
Amaravati

THE Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) has entered into an agreement for lease with Rainbow Children's Medicare Limited for allotment of two acres of land in Amaravati for establishment of a super specialty paediatric and perinatal care hospital of up to 250 beds, along with ancillary healthcare facilities. The agreement was executed at Amaravati on September 26 for a lease period of 60 years.

The land is located in Ananthavaram and Thullur villages and has been allotted under the Social Development Objective of the Amaravati Land Allotment Regulations, 2017. The proposed hospital will provide specialised paediatric and perinatal healthcare services and is envisaged to be developed in a phased manner. The project will also include ancillary facilities as proposed in the detailed project report, including residential accommodation for doctors and paramedical staff, a nursing hostel and a healthcare training institute, subject to applicable regulations and approvals.

The project is expected to add specialised healthcare infrastructure in Amaravati and support the availability of quality paediatric and perinatal care services.

The lease agreement was signed on behalf of APCRDA by Jubin Cheeran Roy, joint director, estates, APCRDA, and on behalf of Rainbow Children's Medicare Limited by K Ramadhara Naidu, group projects consultant, authorised by the company.

APCRDA and Rainbow Children's Medicare Ltd officials exchange copies of land lease agreement in Amaravati on September 26

As per the terms of the agreement, the project is to be implemented in accordance with the approved detailed project report, applicable regulations and stipulated development milestones. The lease deed will be executed upon fulfilment of the prescribed conditions, including completion of the project, obtaining the required occupancy and compliance certificates, and commencement of operations.

Domestic market vital to strengthen aqua sector: NFDB chief

- Industry urged to reduce dependence on exports and boost seafood consumption
- NFDB offers 40% premium subsidy under Aqua Crop Insurance scheme

Hans News Service
Vijayawada

NATIONAL Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) chief executive Dr Vijay Kumar Behera said that developing a strong domestic market was essential to protect India's aquaculture sector from geopolitical uncertainties, US tariffs and international trade restrictions.

The Shrimp Retail-2026 conference was held at a hotel here on Tuesday. On the occasion, dignitaries unveiled the Aqua Post journal. The conference was attended by aqua farmers, processors, retailers and researchers from across the country. Participants presented strategies through PowerPoint presentations aimed at promoting the sustainable long-term growth of the domestic aquaculture sector.

NFDB chief executive Dr Vijay Kumar Behera releasing the 'Aqua Post' journal during the Shrimp Retail-2026 conference in Vijayawada on Tuesday

Speaking as the chief guest at the conference, Dr Behera said the aquaculture industry should reduce its dependence on exports and focus on increasing domestic consumption of fish and shrimp. This, he said, would help ensure stable and remunerative returns for farmers and processors.

Referring to climate-related risks, including the El Niño phenomenon, Dr Behera said the NFDB was offering a 40% premium subsidy under the Aqua Crop Insurance scheme to protect farmers against possible yield losses. He urged aqua farmers to make use of the scheme. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Deputy Director General (Fisheries Science) Dr Joykrushna Jena and Shrimp Retail Convenor Prabhas Pradhan said India ranked second globally in shrimp production, with Andhra Pradesh contributing more than 70% of the country's shrimp output.

They stressed the need to increase seafood consumption in India, which remains low compared with countries such as China and the US. They said robust marketing strategies, an extensive retail network and an efficient supply chain across the country, with a population of over 140 crore, would help expand the domestic market and ensure stable and remunerative prices for aqua farmers.

They also called for efforts to dispel the misconception that shrimp was prohibitively expensive and urged stakeholders to promote it as an affordable, high-quality source of protein, particularly in non-coastal and northern states.

Centre must pay heed to mineral-rich states

WITH Biju Janata Dal (BJD) president and former Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik himself leading the agitation against the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2026, politics is expected to heat up not just in the eastern state but also in other mineral-rich states. Patnaik has been a popular leader for quite some time, yet he has never been known for leading or participating in street-level public agitations; after all, he is no Mamata Banerjee or Arvind Kejriwal. In fact, the suave and mild-mannered Odisha leader is known for his reticence and composure, so his very visual opposition to the Act cannot be taken lightly. While the Act is not without its merits, the Narendra Modi government's decision to clear it in Parliament by brute force of numbers doesn't sound judicious. The Centre's position is that the new law enables states to impose new levies, the caveat being that these must be compliant with the conditions set by the Central government. Making a political point, BJD and Congress MLAs claim that the Act "snatches the rights" of mineral-rich states.

Earlier, mining was taxed differently in every state, whereas now there will be a single, Centre-directed tax framework. The Centre claims that earlier the maximum burden fell on small and medium miners, whereas now every miner benefits from a fair and equal framework. These measures don't sound unreasonable, which begs the question: were adequate efforts made to persuade mineral-rich states to support the legislation that hugely impacts the economy as well as employment-generation potential? Further, the new mines law invalidates all pending retrospective dues, but this raises another question: has the Union government bid adieu to the abomination called retrospective taxation? The answer, sadly, is 'no,' it did take recourse to retrospective taxation late last year in the case of Safari Retreats, despite having pledged not to do so in the past. Now following the 2026 Act, the ball is in the Centre's court. The Modi government may have the numbers in Parliament to push through legislation, but legislative majorities cannot by themselves create political legitimacy, particularly when a law directly affects wide economic interests, the federal structure, and fiscal autonomy of states.

The Centre would therefore do well to engage with Odisha and other mineral-rich states and address their apprehensions rather than dismissing them as politically motivated opposition. A transparent dialogue over the proposed levy framework, the distribution of revenues and the safeguards against arbitrary intervention by the Centre could go a long way towards allaying fears of centralisation. It would also demonstrate that cooperative federalism is not merely a slogan invoked when convenient, but a principle that informs the making and implementation of important economic legislation. The controversy over retrospective taxation makes such engagement even more necessary. If the government wishes to persuade industry and the states that the new framework provides certainty, predictability and fairness, then it must itself adhere consistently to those principles. The Centre cannot reasonably ask investors and states to repose faith in a 'stable' tax regime, while retaining the option of intervention whenever circumstances demand such a measure. The government has an opportunity to reassure states that the new regime will be administered fairly, predictably, and in consultation with them and not unilaterally.

Only the voters are saving our democracy

RAVULAPATI SEETARAMARAO

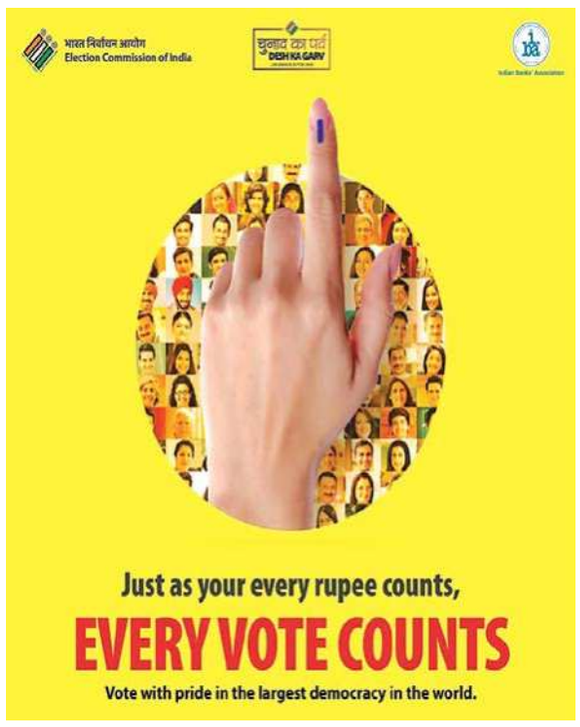
AMONG the major issues in our courts where the law is said to be no one's friend, the systems are strangely running in four different directions. Is this happening only in our country? It is odd that those involved in "Criminal Jurisprudence", instead of deeply reflecting for a solution, are moving towards a state of confusion.

In a judgment delivered a few days back, the Supreme Court directed that the accused may be released immediately, after stating that the police cannot arrest without stating the reasons or denying a lawyer, at the time of arrest. It also declared that violating Fundamental Right (Article 22(1) of the Constitution) is illegal. This is a landmark ruling that the police must implement. We must note that the Supreme Court warned that if the courts do not act strictly in accordance with the Constitution when anyone tries to infringe fundamental rights, arrest and remand procedures are undermined. It is imperative to follow this.

The Delhi High Court—just a few days ago—refused to accept the Special Investigation Team (like the CBI SIT) petition to register an FIR and investigate the huge amount of cash found at former Delhi High Court judge Yashwant Sharma's house. It asked, in effect, whether there isn't some other good work to do, and criticised sharply, saying that it seemed like an unnecessary witch-hunt in a forest.

Investigating agencies should register a First Information Report (FIR) the moment a cognizable offence is detected. Regardless of anything, it seems very odd if, when a crime has already come to light, the courts (including the Supreme Court) shield officials who have erred by backing them up and somehow justify another route (perhaps dictated by law, that the common person may not know of). Until the case details are fully known, we should only assume that the law does not favour anyone. That's all.

Earlier, the Delhi Court criticised the inclusion of Sonia Gandhi in the electoral roll as an Indian citizen before she could even acquire citizenship, a move that the previous magistrate court order had dismissed. The Delhi Court accepted that order, sent it back for re-examination to the magistrate court, and ordered a fresh inquiry. Sonia Gandhi is considered a major political party leader who has been voting for years. Could she be rendered stateless and deported to Italy? Well, if only the people who understand and argue the law—lawyers—are involved, the courts can issue verdicts, and the police can enforce them. Even when we translate the concept of Criminal Jurisprudence, it is hard to capture the true "spirit" of the Constitution. Even scholars who understand the Constitution and statutes struggle to interpret them.



In our country, every five years a citizen's hearing senses come alive during elections! As soon as they become voters, their eyes and everything else start working in full force. On that single day, democracy stands still, and a true citizen rises to do his job. Then he retreats into his own "shell" and disappears! On that one day, he becomes a "king"!

Across many periods, the courts and judgments have taken time, for many reasons that seem legally acceptable, police say so too! Governments, however, have occasionally set up special courts to expedite certain important cases, so that verdicts come out faster. That may be a good thing at least; perhaps it reduces some pendency to some extent.

However, some cases remain pending in court for years on end, but not even on a single day do the witnesses or accused step into court and there is inexplicable delay in the starting prosecution of such cases. These cases may be important in the eyes of the public, but they appear to be irrelevant to the courts and the government.

People say that the law does its own work, as spoken by a former prime minister of the country! Why P V Narasimha Rao said it that way is unclear to some, but the law's functioning can be described as "slow and steady." In fact, all classes of people are gradually becoming someone's "circle" around the laws! Externally, though, they themselves are saying that the law does not belong to anyone.

In our country, every five years a citizen's hearing senses come alive during elections! As soon as they become voters, their eyes and everything else start working in full force. On that single day, democracy stands still, and a true citizen rises to do his job. Then he retreats into his own "shell" and disappears! To fill democracy in this country, poor citizens dutifully perform their assigned tasks in the ordinary way, day after day! On that one day, he becomes a "king"!

Somewhere on one such election day, an elderly man, aging close to a hundred, is seen worried, he says, "It will be difficult for me to live until 2029! If I depart, what will happen to democracy in our country?" None of the people around him had the courage to answer for a while. But one wise man said, "It won't go anywhere! To protect it, political parties, the legislature, the judiciary, and the executives, when they do their own jobs, instead of doing the job for their own sake, there is no room for democracy to fail in our country."

With this, he turned away from the group, leaving with a sense of resignation that his maybe a tall claim.

As someone once said, "Democracy is like a cap without a shape; it perfectly fits anyone who wears it."

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

Creativity is destroying the environment

EDARA SREENIVASA REDDY

COMING up with one creation after another, today everyone is an alternate Brahma, with each person using artificial intelligence to create new videos, photos, and reels according to whatever comes to one's mind and whatever they like. Ironically, these 'Brahmas' are inflicted with a strange malady-They are enjoying seeing how they would have looked back in the 1980s. In this category are those born before 1980 and are without any old photographs in their collection.

As those born after 1980 do not have that opportunity, many of them have descended upon Gemini AI, ChatGPT and the like. Each one has started creating hundreds upon hundreds of photos. In India, 70 to 100 million are active AI users every day. Of them, around 35 million (38 per cent) use ChatGPT, Gemini AI and similar tools, while away time in the name of entertainment. The figure crosses 50 million when viral trends rule the roost. Among Gen-Z (ages 16-24) youth, 60 per cent spend hours on reels, face-swaps, and memes alone.

Is there any benefit to society from this? None. But they are unable to realize that these activities are causing considerable harm to society, especially to the environment. It is not just them; those who make reels on social media, those who make short videos, those who create avatars through animation, well just about everyone is swaying to the AI magic; it is like each person is contributing a handful of sesame seeds and causing their share of harm to the environment. Because of them, not only is carbon dioxide increasing in our surroundings, but the water resources are also evaporating.

The reason for this creation upon creation is the generative AI models powered by artificial intelligence. Like the proverbial dwarf growing ever larger, along with their form, their usage is also increasing. Not only that, they are expanding in terms of words, photos, music, and videos that they produce and users and creators. For generative AI models to create new things, they must first be trained. As the days go by, not only will these models be trained, but more models will come along. Both their training and usage involve not only financial expenses but also numerous associated costs. These models emit enormous amounts of carbon dioxide. At the same time, they consume water on a massive scale. The data centres and millions of high-end graphics processing units (GPUs) that operate on these systems must run continuously. To control the enormous heat that is generated, water is continuously circulated through cooling towers. For instance, to run data centres 24x7 hours a day, enormous amounts of water are required. Ultra-pure water is used directly to reduce the heat of servers, in power plants, and in plants that manufacture AI chips and semiconductors.

Carbon emissions can be reduced by using solar energy, but unfortunately water consumption cannot be reduced. We need more efficient processes today that effectively balance the needs for both carbon and water.

Data centres that power generative AI models generate electricity, which produces heat that can be cooled by water.

Water use by these can be broadly classified into three types-One is direct water use for on-site data centre cooling, two is off-site water for electricity generation and three is water for server manufacturing. At data centres, cooling towers evaporate water to dissipate the heat. Around 80 per cent of the non-evaporated water can be reused and that too only a few times. All of them are potable water that can prevent pipes from clogging or bacteria from growing. Another method is to use air for cooling without evaporating water in more temperate climates.

It is the training of these models (i.e., the highest level of computational processing that takes place before they are used) that creates the high energy and cooling requirements. Generative AI (Generative AI) has been extremely useful for various tasks across industries, particularly in the media sector. Training and using these models also cause environmental harm. Within this broad scope, water consumption (water footprint) has not been discussed much. As the climate crisis intensifies, clean water is becoming an increasingly limited resource. In both continuously training new models and using them, we all need to pay more attention to the impact these models have on the environment. In a world where clean water is becoming scarce commodity, it is essential to be aware of the water consumption of these models.

During the training process of GPT-3 (an outdated 2020-era model belonging to OpenAI), seven lakh litres of fresh water evaporated. In 2023, Google data centres consumed 2,900 crore litres of fresh water to cool their systems. By 2027, it is estimated that 4.2 to 6.6 trillion litres of water will be required worldwide for AI needs.

For example, the Philadelphia Water Department estimated that an average person's daily water consumption is 384 litres.

By this calculation, for GPT-3 training, the amount of water required is equivalent to what one person would consume over 1823 days. That is equal to the annual water consumption of five people. The water consumed by Google data centres in 2023 was equivalent to the annual water consumption of 2,06,906 people (75,520,833 days).

A single AI video 5 to 10 seconds long evaporates approximately 4.1 litres of water. By 2027, according to worldwide demand, it is estimated that training these systems will equal the annual water consumption of 30–47 million people.

If everything is added together, it is no exaggeration to say that a few top companies are going to use half the water on Earth. According to United Nations reports, currently more than 220 crore people worldwide do not have access to safe drinking water. Another 350 crore people experience severe water stress for at least one month a year. Our country too is going to become one of the countries facing an extremely severe water crisis, the UN is expressing concern. According to the NITI Aayog Composite Water Management Index. Nearly 60 crore people in the country are facing severe water shortage. Approximately, 25 per cent of all groundwater extracted in the world is reported in India alone. On the other hand, our country is becoming a hub for data centres. Cities such as Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Noida, Visakhapatnam are rapidly becoming data centre hubs. Experts point out that in these metro cities, which depend on tankers for drinking water in summer, the operation of massive servers is putting severe pressure on local people's drinking water. They warn that if this excessive trend continues unchecked, humanity will inevitably face difficulties in the future.

Carbon emissions can be reduced by using solar energy, but unfortunately water consumption cannot be reduced. We need more efficient processes today that effectively balance the needs for both carbon and water.

The first step toward changing that is to highlight this issue and create awareness among people. So, if we are responsible in the way we use these models and use them only as much as we need, we will be protecting the environment. If you are someone who uses generative models repeatedly and excessively, try to balance it by reducing your other water consumption, such as taking shorter showers, there is no better way than that.

(The writer is Professor – VITAP; Artificial Intelligence Researcher)

LETTERS

Dogs hone true emotional bond

IT is with reference to the editorial "Why do dogs behave the way they do?" No doubt perceptions about dogs changed after the Supreme Court's intervention in a case pertaining to calls to curb dog menace in society. Your editorial threw more light on dogs regarding their language skills and their faith in their masters. First among animals to be domesticated by humans over 20000 years ago, dogs have superhuman senses. As regards emotional and psychological factors, an average dog is as smart as a two-year-old child. They have a true emotional bond and can read emotions and expressions like joy and jealousy.

Pratapa Reddy Yaramala, Tiruvuru (AP)

Time humans learn from dogs

THIS refers to "Why do dogs behave the way they do" (Sept 29). Dogs have been human's best friends for thousands of years, but their behaviour often resembles that of their owners. Being accustomed to people has changed dogs; stray dogs have become more aggressive and dangerous, developing rabies and other diseases, while pet dogs are subject to human hatred due to the attacks. Scientists have concluded that dogs understand words and intonation the same way humans do, meaning animals can comprehend the call of their owner just as well as a child would. While humans have complicated the process, often expressing feelings without empathy, animals have instinctively mastered the art of emotional expression and understanding. The similarities between the two species prove that humanity should treat the loyalty of dogs with respect and empathy; ironically, while dogs bark at other dogs, people often hurt other people much worse, so maybe it is time humanity learns from their pets.

Dr O Prasada Rao, Hyderabad

Dogs not the problem, irresponsible owners are

APROPOS 'Why do dogs behave the way they do?', the editorial's exploration of how dogs process human speech is fascinating, but it sidesteps a more urgent question. Why do some dog owners behave so irresponsibly? The real issue in India is not whether dogs understand words but whether owners understand their responsibilities. Unleashed pets, uncleaned mess, and aggressive breeds in dense neighbourhoods have made daily life difficult for many. Dogs are not the problem. Irresponsible ownership is. Stricter enforcement of licensing, leash laws, and breeding regulations can boost public safety better than any study on canine cognition. Empathy for animals and accountability for humans must go together.

Veda Chidanand, Bengaluru

Responsible pet ownership holds the key

THIS refers to "Why do dogs behave the way they do?". The editorial is a reminder that a dog's behaviour is often shaped by its environment and relationship with humans. Pets that enjoy regular interaction, exercise and proper training are more likely to adapt comfortably to domestic surroundings. Owners therefore have a responsibility beyond providing food and shelter. They should ensure vaccination, veterinary care, exercise and basic behavioural training. Dogs should not be abandoned when their care becomes inconvenient. Housing societies can frame reasonable guidelines covering cleanliness, noise and common area use without unfairly discriminating against pet owners. Public awareness programmes can also teach children how to approach animals in a safe way. Responsible ownership benefits both people and animals. A little patience and consistency can prevent many behavioural problems and reduce avoidable disputes in residential communities.

Abbharna Barathi, Chennai-23

75-year-old woman exemplifies human resilience

THE miraculous survival of a 75-year-old woman, Kasi Dalei, floating 25 km an entire night down the raging Brahmani River in Odisha's Jaipur district, is an extraordinary testament to human resilience. Swept away in pitch darkness, she endured over 12 hours in turbulent waters notorious for deadly saltwater crocodiles. Her sheer will to hang on against such terrifying odds is nothing short of a miracle. Equally deserving the praise are two local fishermen, whose swift, selfless actions pulled her to safety the next morning. While we celebrate the septuagenarian's survival, this incident highlights a critical issue. She fell into the river while attending nature's call. This underlines an urgent need for the local administration to provide secure sanitation infrastructure and safer riverbank fencing in flood-prone, crocodile-infested belts. Meanwhile, Kasi Dalei's story is a breathtaking reminder that hope and human valour can prevail against the most merciless situations.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, Chennai-603210

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BENGALURU ONLINE

Three Haliyal water bodies rejuvenated under Project NANNEER

HALIYAL: Three water bodies in Haliyal taluk have undergone rejuvenation under Project NANNEER, a water stewardship initiative of the AMM Foundation, increasing their combined storage capacity and improving prospects for groundwater recharge and irrigation. The project covered Kumbarekare Lake in Thergaon village, Alloli Pond and Hanumantha Pond in Haliyal village. The work involved desilting, deepening and strengthening of the water bodies to improve water retention and recharge. Haliyal receives more than 1,500 mm of rainfall during the southwest monsoon, but much of the water is lost as runoff because of limited percolation. The restored water bodies are intended to retain more monsoon water and improve availability during the summer. Kumbarekare Lake, spread over 54.5 acres, has seen its storage capacity increase from 352,002 cubic metres to 655,452 cubic metres.

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

Railways approves Machilipatnam to Kurnool express via Vijayawada

- **Indian Railways approved the new Machilipatnam–Kurnool City Express via Vijayawada, spanning 499 km to connect coastal Andhra, Palnadu, and Rayalaseema regions**
- **Operating three days a week, the train leaves Machilipatnam at 4:55 pm (Mon, Wed, Sat) reaching Kurnool at 5:45 am, and departs Kurnool at 9:30 am (Tue, Thu, Sun) arriving in Machilipatnam at 9:35 pm**
- **The service halts at Gudivada, Vijayawada, Narasaraopet, Vinukonda, Donakonda, Markapur Road, Cumbum, Giddalur, Diguvametta, Nandyal, Bethamcherla, and Dhone**

For representational purpose only

Narendra Kumar Varikuntla
Kurnool

INDIAN Railways has approved a new Machilipatnam–Kurnool City Express via Vijayawada, providing additional rail connectivity between the coastal Andhra, Palnadu and Rayalaseema regions.

The 499-km train service will operate three days a week in each direction, benefiting passengers travelling between the two cities and several towns along the route. The new service is expected to offer greater convenience to commuters and strengthen rail connectivity across the State.

According to sources, the express will depart from Machilipatnam at 4.55 pm and reach Kurnool City at 5.45 am the following day. In the return direction, it will leave Kurnool at 9.30 am and arrive at Machilipatnam at 9.35 pm on the same day.

The train will run from Machilipatnam on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, while the return service will operate from Kurnool on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. It will stop at Gudivada, Vijayawada, Narasaraopet, Vinukonda, Donakonda, Markapur Road, Cumbum, Giddalur, Diguvametta, Nandyal, Bethamcherla and Dhone.In a separate development, the Railways has approved a Rs 122-crore project to double a six-km railway stretch between Barbil and Bolani Khadan under the South Eastern Railway. The project is expected to enhance freight handling capacity by an additional 8.9 million tonnes annually upon completion. The existing single-line section handles around nine million tonnes of freight every year, with approximately six loaded iron ore rakes departing through the route daily. The doubling work is expected to facilitate smoother freight movement and improve transportation capacity. Meanwhile, a Rs 223-crore project has been approved for the installation of the Kavach 4.0 automatic train protection system along 614.75 km of railway lines in the Varanasi Division of the North Eastern Railway.

The system is aimed at enhancing train safety and reducing the risk of collisions. The latest approvals cover passenger connectivity, freight transportation and railway safety, with the new Machilipatnam–Kurnool Express set to provide an additional travel option for passengers in Andhra Pradesh.

Parents boycott SMC polls at Holagunda high school over alleged irregularities

Hans News Service
Kurnool

THE School Management Committee (SMC) elections at the Zilla Parishad High School in Holagunda, Kurnool district, turned contentious on Tuesday as a section of parents boycotted the proceedings, alleging severe violations of government guidelines and procedural irregularities.

Parents who arrived to contest the elections staged a walkout from the meeting hall, expressing intense anger over unilateral decisions by officials and complaining that their objections were completely ignored.

The protesters alleged that the elections proceeded without the mandatory 50 per cent quorum. They accused the headmaster of acting under political pressure to announce a pre-decided list of members without conducting a proper vote, failing to brief participants on election norms or seeking their willingness to contest. Demanding an immediate cancellation of the disputed polls, the aggrieved parents staged a dharna in front of the Holagunda Tahsildar's office.

They insisted that the process be declared invalid and conducted afresh to ensure equal opportunity for all eligible parents, emphasizing that the SMC plays a critical role in safeguarding student interests.

A formal representation was submitted to the junior assistant at the Tahsildar's office, urging authorities to forward it to the District Collector. They reiterated that student futures must take priority, demanding strict adherence to guidelines in future proceedings. Several parents actively participated in the demonstration.

Parents after boycotting the SMC polls staging a protest in front of Holagunda Tahsildar office on Tuesday

- **Parents contesting the SMC elections at ZPHS in Holagunda, staged a walkout and boycotted proceedings**
- **Protesters accuse the headmaster of bowing to political pressure, bypassing mandatory 50% quorum rules, and pushing through a pre-decided list of members without proper voting**

Collector and SP launch 'Operation Trishul'

Hans News Service
Puttaparthi

DISTRICT Collector Shyam Prasad and SP S Satish Kumar led a high-level review meeting at the Puttaparthi Collectorate on Tuesday to formulate a comprehensive strategy for a drug-free Sri Sathya Sai District.

Authorities unveiled 'Operation Trishul' campaign posters, targeting drug traffickers with strict legal action. Officials emphasized promoting the confidential 'Eagle' toll-free helpline '1972' and conducting intensive awareness programs in educational institutions. The meeting also reviewed rehabilitation progress for recovering youths, underscoring inter-departmental coordination, continuous monitoring, and community-wide vigilance against substance abuse.

EMPTY DESKS AND BROKEN TRUST

Only six students return to Kothapalli KGBV after suicide of a pupil

Hans News Service
Nandyal

THE Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) at Kothapalli in Nandyal district has been wearing a deserted look following the tragic suicide of intermediate student Bhavya on September 23.

While 235 students left for their homes in the wake of the incident, academic activities remain paralyzed as only six students returned when the school reopened on Monday.

Meanwhile, Bhavya's parents have expressed deep doubts over the authenticity of the suicide note, noting handwriting discrepancies compared to her notebooks.

Maintaining she spoke to them happily a day prior, they urged police to conduct a thorough probe. Furthermore, parents have demanded an immediate transfer of the entire school staff, alleging that years of internal groupism and differential treatment created an unsafe environment.

They recalled past controversies, including a PET teacher's removal over burn injuries and students consuming cleaning agents.

Refusing to send their children back until a complete staff overhaul is executed, parents warn that the education of 235 girls is severely jeopardized, with some considering moving their children to private institutions. Attempts by the Hans India to reach the District Education Officer (DEO) for comment went unanswered, prompting urgent calls for senior district authorities to intervene and restore safety and confidence.

- **Following the tragic suicide of intermediate student Bhavya on September 23, all 235 students left the KGBV in Kothapalli; only six students attended when classes resumed**
- **Bhavya's parents have questioned the authenticity of the recovery note due to handwriting mismatches**
- **Demands a thorough police investigation into the circumstances of her death**

MP inspires law students at Vijayanagara College

Hans News Service
Anantapur

MP Ambika Lakshminarayana attended the "Assurance for the Youth's Future" programme at Vijayanagara Law College in Anantapur on Tuesday as chief guest.

Interacting with law students, she emphasized that legal education instills a deep responsibility to uphold justice and constitutional values.

Speakers praised government initiatives under CM Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Education Minister Nara Lokesh for advancing skill development and modern education.

The MP urged students to master the judicial system and strive for professional excellence. College Founder Ramireddy, Principal Raghavendrachari, faculty, and students participated in the inspiring event.

AHUDA holds 23rd authority meeting in Anantapur

Hans News Service
Anantapur

AHUDA held its 23rd Authority meeting on Tuesday under Chairman TC Varun, focusing on future urban planning for Anantapur and Sri Sathya Sai districts.

District collectors and state-level officials participated via Zoom conference alongside AHUDA Secretary Ishaq. The governing body approved four key agenda items, notably greenlighting an e-auction for vacant plots in Anantapur city layouts and clearing three major infrastructure and beautification proposals.

Chairman Varun urged officials to accelerate regional development activities and ensure prompt public service delivery.

Chief Secy reviews revenue and land administration

Hans News Service
Anantapur

STATE Chief Secretary G Sai Prasad, CCLA, and Special CS Jayalakshmi reviewed key revenue matters via video conference from Amaravati with district officials.

The meeting prioritized land re-survey progress, pattadar passbook distribution, '22A' list removals, PGRS grievance resolution, and census updates.

District Collector O Anand, Joint Collector C Vishnu Charan, DRO A Malola, and other departmental heads attended from the Anantapur Collectorate mini-conference hall. State leadership stressed transparency, efficient land administration, and timely redressal of public grievances across the district.

PCOD awareness prog for young women organised

Hans News service
Anantapur

THE Women Empowerment Cell at PVKK Institute of Technology organized a PCOD awareness programme for young women. Convener Y Mamata highlighted preventive measures, healthy diets, and stress management.

Chief guest Dr Chitta Sri Lakshmi, a gynecologist from Sri Srikara Hospitals, interacted with students, addressing questions on women's health and fertility. Principal Dr Bandi Ramesh Babu, Vice-Principal Dr P Deepti Jordhana, and Administrative Officer Dr K Manohar Reddy commended the initiative, which successfully educated students on adopting healthy lifestyle habits and prioritizing wellness.

DASARA DHAMAKA

Win exciting prizes by recycling dry waste

Hans News Service
Puttaparthi

IN an innovative push for rural sanitation and recycling, District Collector Shyam Prasad directed officials on Tuesday to launch a special dry waste collection campaign titled "Dasara Dhamaka" across every mandal in conjunction with the Dasara festival.

Launched under the directives of the Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj Commissioner, the initiative aims to keep villages clean while encouraging households to collect and recycle dry waste. On Tuesday at the District Collectorate, Collector Shyam Prasad released the publicity material for Bukkapatnam mandal, anchored by the slogan: "Do not throw away dry waste... collect and hand it over – play your part in building a clean village."

To drive public participation, the special campaign features an attractive lucky draw for residents who hand over more than 10 kg of dry waste.

Prizes for Bukkapatnam mandal include a refrigerator as the first prize, a bicycle as the second prize, kitchen items as the third prize, and a cooker as the fourth prize.

Authorities urged citizens to segregate materials like plastic, paper, cardboard, and scrap metal rather than discarding them outdoors.

The campaign rollout was attended by District Panchayat Officer Samatha, Divisional Development Officer P Narendra Kumar, Bukkapatnam Deputy MPDO Raghavendra, and various Panchayat Secretaries.

- **Collector Shyam Prasad launches the "Dasara Dhamaka" dry waste collection drive**
- **Aims at maintaining cleanliness across mandals during the Dasara festival**
- **Citizens who hand over more than 10 kg of dry waste qualify for a lucky draw featuring exciting prizes, including a refrigerator (1st prize), bicycle (2nd prize), kitchen items (3rd prize), and a cooker (4th prize)**

Womenia

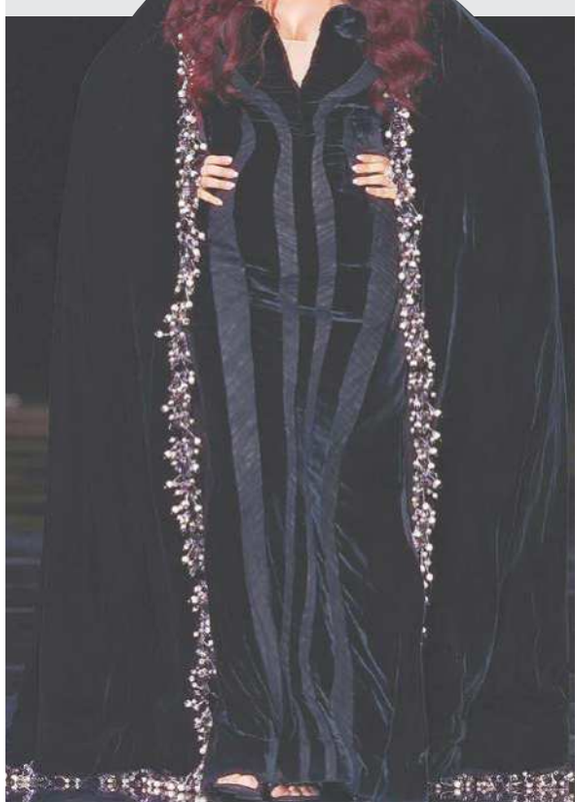
Aishwarya Rai Bachchan Stuns at Paris Fashion Week in Royal Crimson Glam

A first look at the icon's runway glam at Place Joffre, set against the iconic Eiffel Tower

Aishwarya stepped out in a Royal Crimson Glam look that brought together bold beauty, rich colour and timeless glamour. Her return marks several years of her journey with L'Oréal Paris on the global fashion stage, celebrating the spirit of "Express Your Worth."

Aishwarya's beauty look made a powerful statement with a deep bold lip. Her signature red lipstick made a comeback with L'Oréal Paris Infallible Matte Resistance Liquid Lipstick in shade 423 Audacious Red, one of five new shades from the L'Oréal Paris Runway Matte Collection. With its intense colour payoff and comfortable matte finish, the statement red brought depth and confidence to the look. Her complexion was perfected with L'Oréal Paris Infallible Cushion Foundation in shade N140, delivering lightweight flawless coverage with a semi-matte finish.

L'Oréal Paris Panorama Waterproof Mascara for bold, voluminous lashes and the L'Oréal Paris Infallible Grip Matte Liquid Liner in shade 01 Matte Black for added definition and intensity to her eyes. The look was finished with L'Oréal Paris Infallible 3-Second Setting Spray, keeping her makeup flawless and intact for the runway. The Royal Crimson Glam look was completed with a Yara Shoemaker corseted black velvet fishtail gown, featuring a velvet-embellished cape and paired with a jewelled crown, bringing a regal sense of drama and grandeur to Aishwarya's appearance on the Paris runway. Paired with her bold red lip and glamorous beauty look, the statement ensemble came together as a powerful celebration of confidence, individuality and timeless glamour, bringing the spirit of "Express Your Worth" to life.



Nutrition through a woman's life: What your body needs in your 20s, 30s, 40s and 50s

EDWINA RAJ

Women's nutritional needs evolve with age, hormones, lifestyle and changing health priorities. From building strong bones in the 20s to protecting muscle and heart health later in life, the right nutrients can support wellbeing at every stage. A balanced, varied diet tailored to each life stage can help women maintain energy, strength and overall health through the years

A woman's nutritional needs change as she moves through different stages of life. The food that supports the body in the 20s may not be enough in the 40s or 50s. Hormonal changes, pregnancy, work stress, bone health and metabolism all influence what the body needs. Eating a balanced diet at every age can help women stay healthy, energetic and active.

Your 20s: Build a Strong Foundation

The 20s are an important time to build healthy eating habits. Women should focus on protein, iron, calcium, healthy fats, vitamins and minerals. Iron is especially important because of monthly menstrual blood loss. Green leafy vegetables, lentils, beans, eggs, nuts and seeds can be included regularly. Vitamin C-rich foods such as oranges, guava and amla can help the body absorb iron. Protein from eggs, pulses, dairy, soy, nuts and seeds supports muscles and overall health. Calcium and vitamin D are also important for building and maintaining strong bones.

Your 30s: Support Energy and Hormonal Health

The 30s often bring busy work schedules, family responsibilities and, for many women, pregnancy and motherhood. Nutrition should support energy while also helping maintain a healthy weight. Protein, fibre, iron, calcium, folate and omega-3 fats deserve attention. Women planning pregnancy should discuss folic acid supplementation with their doctor. Whole grains, vegetables, fruits, pulses, dairy, eggs, nuts and seeds can form the base of a healthy diet. Limiting highly processed foods, excess sugar and sugary drinks is equally important.

Your 40s: Protect Muscle, Bones and Metabolism

During the 40s, changes in metabolism and hormones may make weight management more difficult. Muscle mass can also gradually decline without adequate protein and physical activity. A protein-rich diet, along with regular strength exercises, can help preserve muscle. Calcium and vitamin D remain important for bone health. Foods rich in fibre can support digestion and heart health. This is also a good stage to pay attention to blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol. Regular health checks, along with a balanced diet, can help identify problems early.

Your 50s: Focus on Bone and Heart Health

Around menopause, falling oestrogen levels can affect bone health, body composition and heart health. Calcium and vitamin D become particularly important. Milk, curd, ragi, sesame seeds and leafy greens can contribute to calcium intake. Protein should remain part of every meal to help maintain muscle strength. Fruits, vegetables, whole grains, pulses, nuts and seeds provide fibre and essential nutrients.

Healthy Eating at Every Age

There is no single diet that works for every woman. Nutritional needs depend on age, activity, health conditions and lifestyle. However, the basic principle remains the same: eat a variety of minimally processed foods, include enough protein and fibre, stay hydrated and maintain regular physical activity. Good nutrition is not about following a restrictive diet. It is about giving the body the right nutrients at every stage of life.

(The writer is a Head of Services - Clinical Nutrition & Dietetics, Aster CMI Hospital, Bangalore)

Dhanya Vasanta wins Dame Marie Bashir Peace Prize 2026

TELUGU GIRL MAKES HER MARK IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

MV SYAM SUNDAR

IN a proud moment for the Telugu community across the globe, Dhanya Vasanta, a young NRI student of Telugu origin, has been conferred the Dame Marie Bashir Peace Prize 2026. The award was presented on Monday at the New South Wales (NSW) State Parliament, Sydney, recognising her outstanding contributions to community service, youth leadership, and promotion of peace. Dhanya's work reflects exceptional initiative and impact at a young age.

She founded "A Little Library" when she was just 12-year-old, beginning with a donation of 200 books to Westmead Children's Hospital. Under her leadership, the initiative has grown into a grassroots literacy movement—collecting over 10,000 books, distributing books to regional, remote Australian communities, communities overseas in African countries. She has also built partnerships with multiple organisations, raised funds to sustain the initiative, and mobilised volunteers. Her service extends beyond literacy.

For over four years, Dhanya has volunteered weekly at a music therapy clinic, supporting children with physical disabilities and neurodivergence to build communication, emotional resilience, and confidence. She has also actively advocated for the importance of music therapy through student publications.

A strong youth leader, Dhanya has contributed to community engagement through initiatives such as the Northern Beaches Youth Advisory Group and "Have Your Say Day," which drew significant youth participation. Her international pen-pal initiative fosters cultural understanding between Australian and Japanese students. Within her school, she has founded a Japanese Club, mentored younger students, led peer tutoring initiatives, and supported social causes including fundraising for community programs.

Dhanya is the granddaughter of Potluri Bhaskara Rao, president of the Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry Federation (AP Chambers), adding further pride to the Telugu Diaspora. This distinguished recognition highlights not only Dhanya's individual accomplishments but also the growing global impact of Indian-origin youth. Her journey stands as an inspiration to young people worldwide, exemplifying compassion, leadership, and commitment to societal good.

Dhanya Vasanta receiving the award in Australia on Monday.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Unfortunate occurrence (6)
5 Legal right (3)
8 Roman censor (4)
9 Asian noble's title (4)
10 In ___ of : pro ? (6)
11 Euphemism for hell (9)
13 Goes astray (4)
15 ___ away : escaped ? (3)
16 Bestow upon (5)
17 Contraction of has not (5)
20 Influenza (3)
22 Voice of America (3)
23 Perhaps (5)
24 Long fictional narrative (5)
26 Black beetle (3)
27 Applies friction to (4)
28 Former British coin (9)
31 Home of St Francis (6)
32 Kid's claim (4)
33 Mahler's "Das Lied von der __" (4)
34 Scoundrel (3)
35 A colour made by mixing red and yellow (6)

DOWN

1 Displeased (6)
2 In a harsh and austere manner (8)
3 _ __ above the rest : better than others ? (1,3)
4 Beau ideal (7)
5 A piece of meat (5)
6 Parody (4)
7 `Material Girl' singer ? (7)
12 Altercation or fight (3)
14 Rebuff (4)
18 Say for sure (4)
19 Answer to a problem (8)
20 Zealot (7)
21 Hurricane or twister (7)
24 Not (prefix) (3)
25 Seek ambitiously (6)
26 Dissuade (5)
29 Exchequer, treasury (4)
30 Belgian river (4)

Solution to September 29

SUDOKU

6			3		1			2
			8		6			
8		1				3		6
5	2						6	3
1	9						5	8
2		8				4		9
			1		3			
3			2		8			7

2	1	9	4	8	5	6	3	7
5	6	7	3	9	2	4	8	1
3	8	4	1	6	7	2	9	5
9	4	8	5	2	1	7	6	3
1	5	3	9	7	6	8	4	2
6	7	2	8	3	4	5	1	9
4	2	6	7	1	3	9	5	8
7	9	1	6	5	8	3	2	4
8	3	5	2	4	9	1	7	6

Solution to September 29

Young Hans

TODAY IS INTERNATIONAL TRANSLATION DAY

BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

In a world where people communicate across countries, cultures and communities, the ability to understand different languages has become increasingly important. Translation plays a key role in making information, ideas and knowledge accessible to people who speak different languages.

Translation is more than replacing words from one language with words from another. A good translation considers the meaning, context, tone and cultural background of the original message. The same word or expression can have different meanings depending on how and where it is used. Translators therefore need strong language skills as well as an understanding of the subject and culture involved.

For students, learning about translation can strengthen vocabulary, reading comprehension, writing and communication skills. It can also encourage them to appreciate languages beyond their own. Translating a short story, article or conversation can help students understand how expressions, humour and cultural references change from one language to another. Translation is also important in education and access to knowledge. Books, research papers, learning resources and digital content can reach wider audiences when they are available in multiple languages. In a multilingual country such as India, translation can help connect learners with educational material across regional and national languages.

Technology is changing the way translation is done. Online dictionaries, translation software and artificial intelligence tools can assist users in understanding unfamiliar words and sentences. However, automated translation may not always understand context, cultural references or subtle differences in meaning. Human judgement remains important, particularly for academic, literary, legal and specialised content. Students interested in languages can explore translation through reading, writing and learning additional languages. They can compare how the same idea is expressed in different languages and practise translating simple passages while preserving their original meaning.

Choosing M.Tech specialisation: Look beyond the next big trend

DR SONALI VYAS

Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, Cybersecurity, VLSI and Robotics often dominate these conversations. While understanding industry demand is important, choosing a postgraduate specialisation solely because it is currently popular can be limiting. Technology changes quickly, and the skills in demand today may evolve significantly by the time a student completes an M.Tech.

A more useful question is: What kind of engineer do I want to become, and which specialisation can help me develop that capability?

An M.Tech is more than an additional qualification. It can provide an opportunity to develop deeper technical knowledge, work on complex problems, undertake research and build expertise in a chosen area. The decision, therefore, deserves consideration beyond placement figures and technology trends.

Start with interest, but assess aptitude

Genuine interest is an important starting point. Students can reflect on the subjects, projects and engineering problems that held their attention during undergraduate study.

However, interest needs to be considered alongside aptitude. A student may be interested in Artificial Intelligence but may not enjoy mathematics, statistics or programming. Another student may discover a stronger inclination towards circuit design, electronics or hardware systems. Others may find greater satisfaction in areas such as manufacturing, structures, energy or materials. The right specialisation often lies at the intersection of interest, ability and willingness to develop expertise over time.

Academic performance, project work, laboratory experience and conversations with faculty members, alumni and industry professionals can help students assess where their strengths and interests align.

Engineering disciplines are increasingly connected

Another factor students should consider is the changing relationship between engineering disciplines. The boundaries between computer science, electronics, mechanical, civil and other branches are becoming increasingly interconnected.

AI and machine learning are being applied across healthcare, manufacturing, agriculture, robotics, finance and infrastructure. The growth of connected devices is linking physical systems with digital platforms, while automation is changing processes across manufacturing and logistics.

Developments in the semiconductor sector have also increased attention towards VLSI, chip design, embedded systems and electronic system design. Cybersecurity is becoming relevant across cloud platforms, connected devices and digital services.

At the same time, sustainability is creating engineering applications in renewable energy, electric mobility, smart grids, energy-efficient buildings, sustainable materials and climate-resilient infrastructure.

This makes interdisciplinary capability increasingly relevant. A mechanical engineer with knowledge of robotics and data analytics, for instance, may work across traditional and emerging applications. Similarly, civil engineers can combine their core knowledge with areas such as GIS, digital twins and smart infrastructure.

The question should therefore extend beyond "Which technology is trending?" to "Which emerging technologies can complement my core engineering knowledge?"

Look beyond the degree title

The name of an M.Tech programme does not tell the entire story. Students should examine the curriculum, faculty expertise, laboratories, research opportunities, industry projects, internships and interdisciplinary work available through a programme.

Postgraduate education also needs to develop the ability to work with real-world problems. Research, experimentation, simulation, computational tools and project-based learning can help students connect theoretical knowledge with practical applications. The growing use of generative AI offers an example. AI tools can assist with coding, documentation and analysis, but engineers still need to understand fundamentals, define problems correctly, verify outputs and make informed technical decisions.

Treat industry demand as a signal

Placement figures and hiring trends can provide useful information, but they should not be the sole basis for choosing a specialisation. Technology markets change with economic conditions, automation and new developments. A field experiencing strong hiring today may look different several years later.

Transferable capabilities can provide a stronger foundation. Analytical thinking, problem-solving, mathematical reasoning, research skills, systems thinking, technical communication and the ability to learn new technologies can remain useful across changing professional environments.

Choose a trajectory, not a trend

There is no single M.Tech specialisation that is suitable for every engineering graduate. The choice depends on individual interests, aptitude, career goals, academic foundation and willingness to continue learning.

Students interested in research may prioritise theoretical depth, laboratories and faculty-led projects. Those planning industry careers may look more closely at internships, application-oriented courses and industry exposure. Students interested in entrepreneurship may benefit from interdisciplinary programmes and opportunities to develop technical ideas into practical solutions.

The decision can begin with a few simple questions: What do I enjoy learning? What am I good at? Which engineering problems interest me? How is my discipline changing? Which emerging technologies complement my strengths? And what options will this specialisation leave open in the future?

(The author is Professor of Computer Science & Head, Centre for Global Learning Programs, JKLU)

Prof Neelima Satyam nominated for Devendra Lal Memorial Medal

The IIT Indore Professor hails from AP and served as an expert advisor for several disaster management projects in Telugu states

VRC PHANIHARAN

INTERNATIONALLY recognised geotechnical engineer and Earth scientist Professor Neelima Satyam has been nominated for the Devendra Lal Memorial Medal of the American Geophysical Union (AGU) for her contributions to landslide hazard assessment, geotechnical engineering, seismic microzonation and disaster-resilient infrastructure. Prof Neelima, a professor at the Indian Institute of Technology, Indore, Madhya Pradesh, hails from Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh.

The Devendra Lal Memorial Medal, established in the name of renowned geophysicist Professor Devendra Lal, whose pioneering work established the use of cosmogenic isotopes as tracers in Earth science research, is awarded annually to an early- or mid-career scientist for outstanding research in Earth and space sciences.

Professor Neelima Satyam's research integrates geotechnical engineering, geomorphology, remote sensing, real-time sensing, geospatial analytics and artificial intelligence to improve the understanding, monitoring and prediction of landslides and other geohazards. Her work covers landslide susceptibility mapping, rainfall-threshold analysis, debris-flow characterisation and modelling, hydro-geotechnical assessment and sensor-based early-warning systems. Her research has contributed to the development of operational monitoring and early-warning frameworks in landslide-prone mountainous regions, supporting disaster-management authorities in preparedness and response to rainfall-induced slope failures.

She has also made significant contributions to seismic microzonation and earthquake hazard assessment through high-resolution shear-wave velocity profiling, site-response analysis and geotechnical hazard mapping. These studies have supported hazard-informed infrastructure planning and development.

A major aspect of Prof Neelima's work has been translating scientific research into engineering practice. She has contributed to national technical standards and committees on hill-area development, soil and foundation engineering, roads, tunnels, embankments, drainage, ground improvement, and disaster management.

Prof Neelima's scholarly contributions include more than 140 peer-reviewed publications, patents and international collaborative research projects. She has also played an important role in mentoring researchers, professional training, scientific outreach and capacity building in developing regions.

The nomination recognises her sustained contributions to advancing Earth and geotechnical sciences and translating scientific knowledge into practical approaches for disaster-risk reduction and resilient infrastructure.

The medal recipient receives an engraved medal, lifetime membership of AGU, induction into the AGU College of Fellows, and recognition and an opportunity to present at the AGU annual meeting in the year of the award.

Prof Neelima Satyam

ICMAI organises advanced skill training programme

The Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICMAI) organised a one-day Advanced Skill Training Programme (ASTP) in Hyderabad to help bridge the gap between academic learning and professional practice.

The programme was organised by the ICMAI Hyderabad Chapter and focused on developing workplace-oriented skills among students and professionals. The training covered areas including communication, analytical thinking, presentation, problem-solving, corporate etiquette, adaptability and professional confidence.

CMA Chittaranjan Chattopadhyay, President, ICMAI, presented ASTP certificates to participants during the valedictory programme held at the Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI), Lakdikapul.

CMA Dr K.C.H.A.V.S.N. Murthy, Central Council Member, ICMAI; CMA D. Venkata Ram Babu, Chairman, ICMAI Hyderabad Chapter; and CMA Kirti Gupta, Secretary, ICMAI Hyderabad Chapter, were present at the programme.

According to ICMAI, the Advanced Skill Training Programme is intended to support the transition of newly qualified Cost and Management Accountants (CMAs) from academic learning to professional roles. The programme complements technical and academic knowledge with skills required in workplace settings and business environments.

The training is also linked with ICMAI's Campus Placement Programme, with an emphasis on helping young CMAs understand workplace expectations and adapt to changing professional requirements.

Speaking at the valedictory programme, CMA Chittaranjan Chattopadhyay said the institute was focusing on preparing CMAs to apply their professional knowledge to practical business situations.

"ASTP is an important part of our professional capacity-building efforts, helping newly qualified members transform knowledge into capability and capability into professional performance," he said. The Hyderabad programme brought together participants for structured training and interaction on professional skills that complement their formal accounting and management education. The initiative forms part of ICMAI's efforts to support the professional development of its students and newly qualified members.

It's been a bit of a rollercoaster, I've got to admit. Considering Neeru Dhanda was very poorly only 10 days, 12 days ago, and it was looking like she might not even be able to make the Asian Games. She didn't do any training in the build-up. And so to be here now, having her lead from the very front, it's been an attritional three days, long three days. And then to shoot 28 out of 30 in the way she did, I couldn't be happier for her.
- Peter Wilson, Indian trap-shooting coach

Sports Nation

Asian Games 2026

Golden glory for India as women lead charge

- **Neeru Dhanda, Women's relay team strike gold**
- **Gulveer Singh completes Games treble with 5000m bronze; India enters top-10 in medal tally**

The quartet of Kiran Pahal, Poovamma Machettira, Prachi, Vithya Ramraj celebrate after winning the women's 4x400m relay with a time of 3:29.69 minutes, giving India first gold medal in track and field events at Asian Games 2026

NAGOYA: Undaunted by a heavy downpour and chilly conditions, Neeru Dhanda gave India its first ever women's trap gold in the Asian Games before the women's 4x400m relay team added another gold in the evening as the country breached the 50 mark in the mega-event's medal tally to enter the top-10 here on Tuesday.

Dhanda's vision was at times disrupted by incessant rain but the focus was unwavering as she smashed the Asian record to claim the top finish, which was also India's first individual shooting gold in the ongoing Games with a score of 28 in the finals.

In the evening, the women's relay team of Kiran, Prachi Choudhary, M R Poovamma and Vithya Ramraj claimed the 4x400 women's relay top honours with a timing of 3:29.69sec.

Of these, the 36-year-old Poovamma was a member of the Indian teams that won gold medals in the 2014 and 2018 Asiads as well. Vithya Ramraj had earlier bettered the legendary P T Usha's over four-decade-old national record to claim bronze in the 400m hurdles competition.

As a result, the country's standing in the overall tally improved to 10th with 52 medals (6 gold, 21 silver and 25 bronze) so far.

It was overall a mixed day in the track and field competitions but India managed to end it on a high thanks women's relay gold.

Neeru Dhanda strikes first ever women's trap gold in Asian Games

However, it was nowhere close to the high of six gold medals that the track and field campaign of the previous edition had yielded.

Nineteen-year-old high jumper Pooja Singh looked in control for a while but eventually came third with a 1.84m best effort, adding to the bronze tally.

The ever-reliable Gulveer Singh completed a treble at the Games, adding a 5000m bronze to the silver medals he won in the 10,000m and 1500m races.

Gulveer thus became the second Indian man and fourth from the country to win three medals in track and field events in a single Asiad after Lavy Pinto (New Delhi 1951, 3 medals), PT Usha (Seoul, 1986, 4 medals) and KM Beenamol (Busan 2002, 3 medals).

Archers advance to quarters

IN the archery competition, Dhiraj Bommadevara, Neeraj Chauhan and Kumkum Mohod Anil progressed to the recurve quarterfinals with impressive wins. Chauhan stunned South Korea's 22-year-old Kim Je Deok, a three-time Olympic gold-medallist, 6-4 (30-28, 29-29, 29-30, 29-29, 29-27) in the men's individual 1/8 elimination round. Bommadevara, on the other hand, outwitted Chinese Taipei's Cheng Hsiang-Hui 6-2 (29-27, 27-28, 30-28, 29-28) in the other pre-quarterfinal. In women's recurve 1/8 elimination, Kumkum Mohod Anil thrashed Bangladesh's Saima Salah Uddin 6-0 (29-26, 28-26, 27-26) to make it to the last eight.

Winning run in squash, tennis

THE Indian women's squash team blanked Iran 3-0 in its last group-stage match to progress to the quarterfinals. Starting the proceedings, Tanvi Khanna was declared the winner after her opponent Narges Soltani retired while trailing 5-11, 0-3 in the first singles.

Anahat Singh, who won a silver in the individual event, then saw off Fereshteh Eghtedari 3-0 (11-5, 11-4, 11-7) to give India an unassailable 2-0 lead. In the third singles, veteran Joshna Chinappa, who also won a bronze in the mixed doubles event, prevailed 3-0 (11-1, 11-3, 11-9) over Najmeh Boushehrizadeh to complete the 3-0 win. India will face Singapore in the quarterfinals on Wednesday.

Indian tennis players Dhakshineswar Suresh and Sumit Nagal made winning starts in their men's singles campaigns and secured pre-quarterfinal slots. Dhakshineswar got the better of Indonesia's Gunawan Trismuwantara 7-5 7-6(2) in his second round, while Nagal got past South Korea's Seongchan Hong 6-4 6-0 in his rain-interrupted match. Among the disappointments was cyclists failing to come good in the men's and women's team sprint events and women's team pursuit competition, falling out of medal contention at the preliminary stage.

Boxer Ankush Panghal breaks eight-year jinx

NISHIO (JAPAN): There was a jinx broken in the boxing arena as well with Ankush Panghal ensuring that India had a male boxing finalist after eight years by advancing to the summit clash of the 80kg category.

The boxers have already surpassed their previous haul of four by ensuring six medals this time. Apart from Ankush, Parveen Hooda too stormed into the final, securing her place in the 65kg gold-medal bout with a commanding victory even as Narender Berwal signed off with a bronze after losing in the +90kg semifinals.

Parveen defeated China's Li Shu 5-0 before Ankush produced a stirring comeback to out-punch reigning 75kg world champion Uzbekistan's Fazliddin Erkinboev 4-1.

Narender, however, went down 0-5 to reigning super-heavyweight world champion Aibek Oralbay of Kazakhstan in the last-four stage. The bronze was Narender's second at the Asian Games after he also finished on the podium in Hangzhou in 2023.

Men's volleyball: India edge Qatar 3-2 to enter last 8

NAGOYA: The Indian men's volleyball team continued its winning run, eking out a hard-fought 3-2 win over Qatar to register its third victory and qualify for the quarterfinals of the Asian Games here on Tuesday. The Indian team bounced back from being two sets down to defeat Qatar 26-28, 25-27, 25-23, 25-20, 24-22 in a marathon Pool C match, which lasted two hours and 47 minutes. All four quarterfinals will be played on Thursday. India had earlier defeated Vietnam 3-0 (25-23, 25-21, 25-20) and Hong Kong China 3-0 (25-22, 25-19, 25-21) in their opening two matches respectively. Against Qatar, Jerome Vinith scored 27 points for India, all coming through spikes, while Amit Singh Balwan scored 24 points -- 22 from spikes and two from blocks. Joel Benjamin Jebaraj also made double-digit scores with 17 points -- 14 from spikes, two from blocks, and one service point.

Indian canoe slalom paddlers enter semis

NAGOYA: Indian canoe slalom paddlers advanced to the semifinals in the men's kayak single and women's canoe single events at the Asian Games here on Tuesday. In the men's kayak single heats, Hitesh Kewat finished eighth with a time of 118.22 seconds, while Pradhyumna Singh Rathod was 10th clocking 127.70 seconds. In the women's canoe single heats, Pallavi Jagtap finished seventh with a time of 224.20 seconds, while Rina Sen was ninth in 342.72 seconds. The four Indian paddlers will compete in their respective semifinals on Wednesday, with the medal rounds also scheduled for the same day.

In the women's kayak single, Shikha Chouhan finished second-last in the heats with a time of 344.87 seconds and will compete in the semifinals on Thursday.

KAT elects new office bearers for 2026–2030

The Korfball Association of Telangana (KAT) elected its new office bearers for 2026–2030 at its General Meeting held on September 26, 2026, at GHMC Community Hall, Gunfoundry, Hyderabad. S R Rajnikanth was elected President, with Dominic Savio and K J Laxminarayana as Senior Vice Presidents, G Ashish, D Vijender and K Asha Monica as Vice Presidents, Santosh Kumar Paloju as General Secretary and Rahul Pershad as Treasurer. Syed Afzal, Meena Shahi, Samatha G, Srinivas B and Neha Jain Surana were elected as Joint Secretaries while Praveen Kumar and Ajay Yadav were named Executive Members. The new team, comprising former national players, coaches and international officials, will focus on grassroots development, wider participation, player support and transparent administration across Telangana.

Clubs Cup: HPRC narrowly misses title in Madrid

India HPRC (in blue) against Spain - Madrid Polo Club (in red) in action during the Clubs Cup at Madrid Polo Club. Hyderabad Polo and Riding Club (HPRC), representing India, went down 4–3 to Madrid Polo Club of Spain in a closely fought Clubs Cup at San Fernando de Henares on Sunday. Chaitania Kumar scored once and Arsalan Khan twice for HPRC. Akash Reddy and Saif Attari completed the Indian line-up, while Madrid fielded Mateo, Ivan Davila, Manuel Segimon and Paul. HPRC had earlier featured in the Friendship Cup, with the White team winning 4–3. Madrid marked HPRC's first stop on its 2026 international tour and the first overseas tour by a Hyderabad club side. The team next travels to Lexington, Kentucky, to face Commonwealth Polo Club, promoting Hyderabad as a polo destination and strengthening international sporting ties.

OU announces Inter-College Sports C'ships

HYDERABAD: Osmania University has announced a series of Inter-College Sports Championships for students studying under its jurisdiction.

The Inter-College Fencing Championships for men and women will be held at R G Kedia College on October 1, 2026, at 9 am. The Inter-College Cross Country Races for men and women are scheduled at the OU Synthetic Athletics Track on October 3 at 6 a.m.

The Inter-College Carroms Championship for men will take place at IIMC College, Khairtabad, on October 5 and 6 at 8:30 a.m. The Inter-College Basketball Championships will be held at Loyola Academy on October 8 and 9 at 8:30 a.m.

All eligible students may participate. For further details, contact Sr. Prof Rajesh Kumar, Secretary, ICT for Men, Department of Physical Education, OU.

Rats, flies, cockroaches, blood...:

FDA seizes over 50 tonnes of food stock

MUMBAI: The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has seized more than 50 tonnes of food products worth nearly Rs 1.20 crore during a statewide crackdown carried out between September 23 and 27 ahead of the festive season, officials said on Tuesday.

According to the FDA, a total of 50,601.78 kg of food stock, valued at Rs 1,19,90,792, was seized during inspections across various districts. The seized products included sweets, milk and milk products, edible oil, rice, dry fruits, namkeen, farsan, tea, spices, sauces, noodles, wafers and other food items.

The department also suspended the licences or registration certificates of 30 food establishments across Maharashtra. These included 13 establishments in Mumbai, six in the Konkan division, eight in the Pune division and three in the Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar division.

During inspections in Mumbai, food establishments were found with serious hygiene and food safety deficiencies, including pest infestation, improper food storage, inadequate segregation of raw and ready-to-eat food, lack of protective equipment and other sanitary violations.

At one food establishment, FDA officials found cats, rat droppings, live flies and dead cockroaches in food preparation and storage areas. Blood had reportedly accumulated inside a refrigerator, while an open sewage manhole was found in the processing section. Food was also found stored directly on the floor and raw dough was covered with printed newspaper.

2021 Antilia bomb scare case

Mumbai court grants bail to ex-cop Sachin Waze

MUMBAI: A special NIA court on Tuesday granted bail to former policeman Sachin Waze in the 2021 Antilia bomb scare and Mansukh Hiran murder case, saying the prosecution failed to establish a prima facie case of terrorism under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) against him.

Special Sessions Judge Chakor S Baviskar said there is nothing on record to infer that the Ambani family was "terrorised" in any manner.

On February 25, 2021, an explosives-laden SUV was found near industrialist Mukesh Ambani's residence 'Antilia' in south Mumbai. Businessman Masnukh Hiran, who was in possession of the SUV, was found dead in a creek in neighbouring Thane on March 5, 2021.

The court questioned the National Investigation Agency's (NIA) application of the stringent UAPA, noting the agency failed to record statements from any member of the Ambani family to prove they were terrorised.

"There is absolutely nothing on record even to infer by any stretch of imagination that the Ambanis or anyone of them is/was, are/were ever terrorised in any manner," it said.

The court asserted that the day-to-day business of the Ambanis does not appear to have been disturbed even for a minute, from soon after the incident till this moment.

"Though according to the prosecution, Sachin Waze wanted to strike terror or the act of the accused was likely to strike terror in the minds of Ambanis..., there is nothing on record to that effect," it observed.

Furthermore, the court noted that the gelatin sticks found in the SUV parked near the Ambani residence lacked detonators, rendering them useless for an explosion and falling short of the "means" required to define a "terrorist act" under Section 15 of the UAPA.

MNS, Sena (UBT) to hold morcha against EC on Oct 4

MUMBAI: Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray on Tuesday said his party and the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) will take out a morcha against the Election Commission in Mumbai on October 4. Raj Thackeray said that the march from Byculla to the BMC Headquarters is aimed at uniting all political parties under the tricolour against the poll body over allegations of electoral roll manipulation.

"We will invite all parties for the morcha. The ruling parties are also welcome," he said at a joint press conference here with his cousin and former Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

The morcha is to protest the functioning of the Election Commission, Raj said, adding that no party flags will be allowed in the march and protestors will carry the tricolour.

Several Opposition parties have been critical of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and demanded his resignation, after it came to light that Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had recorded objections on at least 14 occasions over 10 months to decisions and orders, some of which they said were issued without their knowledge.

Woman cop dies while stopping clash at hospital

CHENNAI: A 35-year-old woman head constable died after she was allegedly pushed to the ground while attempting to stop a violent clash between two groups at the government general hospital here, police said on Tuesday.

The deceased officer was identified as Kannaki (35), who was attached to the Parthibanur police station in Ramanathapuram district and posted on duty at the Paramakudi government hospital.

According to police, a few youths who had sustained injuries in a brawl arrived at the hospital late Monday night for treatment.

Soon after, members of the two groups clashed again on the hospital premises.

When Officer Kannaki intervened to stop the fight, a youth identified as Karuppu Raja forcefully pushed her.

Kannaki lost her balance and fell backward, suffering severe head injuries.

Though she was immediately admitted for emergency medical care, she succumbed to her injuries without responding to treatment.

Upon receiving information, Ramanathapuram district superintendent of police G Chandeesh and Paramakudi deputy superintendent of police Sugumaran visited the hospital to conduct an investigation.

Police have launched a search to trace and arrest Karuppu Raja, who fled the scene following the incident. (PTI)

Assam Rifles jawan killed in ambush by militants

CHANGLANG: An Assam Rifles jawan was killed and four others injured after a patrol team came under suspected militant attack along the India-Myanmar border in Arunachal Pradesh's Changlang district on Tuesday, officials said.

The incident took place around 6.30 am near Nampong Nallah under Nampong circle when personnel of the 21 Assam Rifles were patrolling an area where border fencing work is underway, they said.

Preliminary reports suggested that suspected militants opened fire on the patrol team, killing Havildar Jankhokai Kuki (42) and injuring four others.

The injured personnel were being evacuated for medical treatment, while details regarding their condition were awaited.

Security forces have intensified operations in the area following the incident, the official said.

Preliminary reports suggested the involvement of militants belonging to the NSCN (K-YA).

However, there was no official confirmation about the attackers' identity.

An official statement from the Assam Rifles is awaited.

Changlang SP Kirli Padu said he had received information about the incident and directed the officer-in-charge of Changlang police station to gather details. (PTI)

THE Hans India

Business

Merely obtaining a degree is not enough. Continuous upskilling and acquiring new skills in line with emerging technologies such as AI, semiconductors and quantum computing is the need of the hour. More than 28 countries around the world were facing a strong demand for manpower and the young people should continuously upgrade their skills.
-Devendra Fadnavis, Maharashtra Chief Minister

BIZ BRIEFS

NETRA to host conference in Hyd

NetZero Energy Transition Association (NETRA) will host the National Conference on Solar and BESS for Grid + C&I Sector, at the KLN Prasad Auditorium, Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI), Red Hills, Hyderabad on September 30. Dr Rahul Walawalkar, Founder, NETRA, said: "Battery Energy Storage Systems are emerging as the backbone of reliability, flexibility and decarbonisation for India's power system and C&I energy consumers."

ShowKeen to debut in Hyd

AstaGuru'sShowKeen exhibition will debut in Hyderabad at the Hi-Tex Exhibition Centre on October 17-18. Th event will showcase modern and contemporary Indian art, fine and heirloom jewellery, and luxury timepieces.Aparna Batra, CBO, AstaGuru Auction House, said:"Hyderabad is an important market for us, given its deep cultural heritage and longstanding appreciation for art, craftsmanship and design. There is a discerning audience here that understands the value of provenance, heritage and artistic excellence."

MakeMyTrip's new feature

MakeMyTrip has launched Price Drop Protection, a feature that refunds travellers the fare difference if flight prices fall after booking and before departure. The feature is aimed at reducing fare-related uncertainty among travellers. Raj Rishi Singh, COO, MakeMyTrip, said: "Travellers should not have to choose between booking early and worrying that fares may fall later. Price Drop Protection lets them book when it works for them, with the reassurance that if the fare drops, they are protected."

HDFC MF's initiative

HDFC Mutual Fund's NaariNivesh Yatra concluded its Tirupati leg, engaging women across markets and community locations through street plays and investor awareness sessions. The six-month nationwide initiative promotes financial planning, while also conducting dedicated sessions with women's Self Help Groups across India.Navneet Munot, MD,HDFC AMC, said: "Across India, women are often the most disciplined savers in a household and yet, structured investing has remained out of reach for many."

Classic Legends updates portfolio

Classic Legends has introduced festive-season updates across their Jawa, Yezdi and BSA Motorcycles portfolio, including refreshed models, new colours and rider-focused enhancements. Key developments include the evolved Jawa 42 OG, Yezdi's updated Untamed Trinity and BSA Scrambler 650.Anupam Thareja, Co-Founder, Classic Legends, said: "It has been an exciting year for Classic Legends, with new motorcycles and product upgrades across Jawa, Yezdi and BSA."

Only 16%IT workforce AI-skilled

GENAI AND CLOUD FACE TALENT GAPS OF 53-60%

MUMBAI

INDIA'S technology industry is facing a significant AI-ready talent gap, with shortages estimated at 53-60 per cent in Generative AI and cloud skills, a report said on Tuesday. India's tech industry is growing fast, but the supply of AI-ready talent is not keeping pace, as TeamLease Digital's 'Digital Skills & Salary Primer FY27, found a 53-60 per cent talent gap in GenAI and Cloud. According to the report, only about 16 per cent of IT professionals are holding AI skills. Cloud has the widest supply gap of the four skill families at 55-60 per cent, followed by GenAI at about 53 per cent, while demand for GenAI talent is expected to cross 10 lakh roles by 2026. The gap in Cybersecurity stands at 25-30 per cent, which is narrowing but still material.

The TeamLease Digital's 'Digital Skills & Salary Primer FY27 is based on analysis of 37,000 technology and digital roles from TeamLease Employee Data of 2026-27, across GCCs, tech firms and core industries. The report further revealed that, amid a shortage of skilled talent, salary premiums are increasingly shifting towards AI-core and product-critical engineering roles, even at the early stages of a career. A GenAI Developer (AI-Core) earns Rs 11.2 LPA at 0-2 years, rising to Rs 34.5 LPA at 6-8 years, defining how wide the gap is. A Data Engineer (AI-Adjacent) moves from Rs 9.1 LPA to Rs 29.6 LPA, while a Technical Support Engineer (AI-Support) moves from Rs 5.2 LPA to Rs 14.6 LPA. By 6-8 years, GenAI, ML and Data Science roles reach Rs 31-35 LPA, nearly 2 times of AI-Support roles, and the gap is set to widen, with projected FY28 growth of 16.2 per cent for GenAI Developers, 12 per cent for Data Engineers and 6.6 per cent for Technical Support Engineers. "AI is changing what it means to be capable. Using AI tools is now the baseline, what the market rewards is the ability to build, run and govern AI in production. That is why we look at talent through three tiers, AI-Core, AI-Adjacent and AI-Support, because with only about 16 per cent of IT professionals holding AI skills, 'AI-skilled' means very different things at each level," TeamLease Digital CEO Neeti Sharma said.

US President Donald Trump announcing the investment at the White House

Essar arm to invest $18-bn in US steel

MINNESOTA MINE TO FEED IOWA COMPLEX WITH 10 MTPA STEEL CAPACITY

WASHINGTON

INDIA'S Essar Group, through its US subsidiary Mesabi Metallics, will invest about USD 18 billion to build a fully integrated steel business in the United States, including a USD 15 billion steel complex in Iowa and about USD 3 billion in an iron ore mine and pelletising facility in Minnesota.

US President Donald Trump announced the investment at the White House, describing the planned Iowa facility as the "largest steel plant in American history". The project is expected to begin production around 2030 and produce about 10 million tonnes of steel annually.

The Minnesota mine at Nashwauk, on the Mesabi Iron Range, is expected to produce about 7.5 million tonnes of iron ore a year and employ around 350 people once fully operational. The company says it would be the first new iron ore mine built in the US in about 50 years.

The mine will supply direct-reduction-grade iron ore pellets to the Iowa complex, creating an integrated "mine-to-mill" supply chain within the US.

Mesabi Metallics said the overall project would create more than 8,000 construction jobs and at least 1,750 permanent jobs once operational. It also estimated USD 95 billion in economic output during construction and the first 10 years of operations. The Iowa complex will use direct-reduced iron and electric arc furnace technology, which the company said would lower energy use and emissions compared with conventional blast furnace steelmaking.

Rewant Ruia, chairman of Mesabi Metallics, said the project would connect Minnesota's iron ore resources with steelmaking in Iowa to produce "100 per cent American steel". Trump linked the investment to his administration's 50 per cent tariff on imported steel, saying companies were choosing to manufacture in the US to avoid tariffs. The project thus marks a major expansion of Essar's US manufacturing presence and shifts more of its steel production closer to the American market.

Sebi closes offshore funds control case against Vinod Adani

MUMBAI

MARKETS regulator Sebi has dropped minimum public shareholding and fraud allegations against Vinod Adani, brother of Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani, saying its investigation could not establish that he controlled two offshore funds that invested in four Adani group companies.

In its 81-page final order, Sebi said it could not prove that Vinod Adani directed investment decisions of Emerging India Focus Funds and EM Resurgent Fund, or controlled Opal Investments' investment in Adani Power.

The case centred on the requirement that listed companies maintain at least 25 per cent public shareholding. Sebi said a violation would arise if shares held by public shareholders were beneficially owned or controlled by a promoter or promoter group and, if counted as promoter holdings, reduced public ownership below the prescribed threshold.

The regulator said there was no allegation that Vinod Adani or the promoter group was the beneficial owner of

Vinod Adani

shares held by the FPIs. The issue was whether he exercised control over investment decisions.

Sebi said de facto control must be established through evidence that a person positively directs management or policy decisions. Business or financial relationships by themselves could not establish such control. The investigation also did not establish that Vinod Adani controlled Nasser Ali Shaban Ahli or Chang Chung-Ling and, through them, the investment decisions of underlying investors. Sebi further found that an investment advisory agreement between Excel Investment Advisory Services, allegedly controlled by Vinod Adani, and Global Macro Asset Management did not establish control because the advice was non-binding and investigators found no evidence that Excel had given advice contrary to the agreement.

Bulk buyers crowd fuel pumps, private retailers cap diesel sales

Price gap of up to Rs 40/litre drives industrial users to retail outlets

NEW DELHI

PRIVATE fuel retailers Jio-bp and Nayara Energy have capped diesel purchases at their petrol pumps as industrial and other bulk consumers increasingly shift to cheaper retail fuel, putting pressure on supplies at individual stations.

Jio-bp outlets have capped diesel purchases at 50 litres per customer per day, while limits at Nayara Energy outlets range from 70 litres to 200 litres, people aware of the matter said. Public sector retailers Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation are also likely to impose quantity restrictions.

The shift has been driven by a widening price gap between retail diesel and fuel supplied to bulk consumers. While

retail petrol and diesel prices have remained unchanged since May, bulk prices have moved more closely in line with international crude prices, which have risen sharply.

The differential is as much as Rs 40 a litre, prompting factories, manufacturing units, telecom companies, hotels, malls, hospitals and data centres that use diesel for machinery or backup generators to increasingly buy fuel from retail pumps.

Some industrial users are purchasing 400-600 litres at a time, far above the quantities normally bought by motorists. The resulting surge has put pressure on stocks at individual petrol pumps, which have limited storage capacity and may take days to replenish supplies.

Jio-bp said its stations were adequately stocked but that it was taking measures to ensure equitable availability of fuel, particularly amid demand from industrial and other non-transport users. Nayara said it continued to maintain supplies across its retail network and serve both retail and bulk customers.

NCLAT seeks creditors' replies on Subhash Chandra plea

NEW DELHI

THE National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) on Tuesday issued notices to creditors on Essel Group chairman Subhash Chandra's plea challenging a National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) order in his personal insolvency case and scheduled the matter for October 29 and 30.

Chandra had challenged the September 1 order of a five-member NCLT bench, which stayed an earlier order of a third member of the tribunal and restrained him from alienating his assets. A three-member NCLAT bench directed creditors opposing the maintainability of Chandra's petition to file their replies within a week. Chandra was given a further week to file his rejoinder.

The bench, comprising Officiating Chairperson Justice (Retd.) Yogesh Khanna and Technical Members Barun Mitra and Ajai Das Mehrotra, fixed October 29 and 30 for hearing Chandra's interim relief applications.

The appellate tribunal also clubbed a separate petition filed by creditors challenging the NCLT order that had approved a settlement involving payment of about Rs 6.5 crore against admitted claims of around Rs 22,006.57 crore.

The insolvency proceedings followed a split verdict by a two-member NCLT bench. While Member (Judicial) Ashok Kumar Bhardwaj approved Chandra's repayment plan and held him eligible for relief under the insolvency framework for personal guarantors, Member (Technical) Reeta Kohli rejected the proposal.

Salesforce's Agents for Impact showcases AI Solutions for India

HANS BUSINESS
HYDERABAD

SALESFORCE, an AI CRM, announced that four Indian nonprofits have built and demonstrated custom Agentforce solutions through the inaugural India cohort of Salesforce Accelerator — Agents for Impact, an initiative that helps nonprofits harness AI to advance their missions. Showcased after its six-month build phase, the AI agents address critical needs across education, career readiness, scholarships and support for people with disabilities and their families.

Arundhati Bhattacharya, President & CEO, Salesforce, South Asia, said, "Six months ago, these organizations brought us ideas grounded in the realities of their missions. Today, they have translated deep domain expertise into practical agents built around trusted data and clear human roles. This cohort shows that AI's most meaningful role in the social sector is not replacing people, but extending their knowledge, reclaiming their time and helping them serve more communities with relevance and care."

YouTube creator economy fuels ₹18,000-cr GDP boost

NEW DELHI

VIDEO-sharing platform YouTube's creative ecosystem contributed over Rs 18,000 crore to India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and supported over 9.6 lakh full-time equivalent jobs in the country in 2025, according to a report by Oxford Economics.

The findings point to a significant shift in India's digital creator landscape, where independent content creators are increasingly evolving into full-fledged media enterprises, driving employment and local economic activity across both metropolitan centres and smaller towns. According to the report, the number of YouTube channels in India generating six figures or more in revenue (INR) rose by over 30 per cent year-on-year. Furthermore, over 18,000 Indian channels have crossed the threshold of one million subscribers. The report noted that 73 per cent of creators who monetise content on YouTube consider the platform to be their primary source of income. Beyond direct earnings, monetising creators supported more than 3 lakh apprentices over the past year. Creative clusters have sprung up in non-metro hubs such as Jaipur, Lucknow and Kochi, generating local demand for video editors, camera operators and scriptwriters. The platform highlighted that hyper-local and regional-language content is gaining significant traction internationally, with over 15 per cent of watch time on content produced by Indian channels coming from viewers outside the country. Additionally, 81 per cent of media companies with a presence on the platform said that YouTube assisted them in reaching global audiences. Over 160 million hours of content were uploaded by Indian channels in the past year, the report said. YouTube said it is collaborating with the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and the Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT) to advance national digital skilling under the "Create with AI" initiative. It is also partnering with the Ministry of Culture to preserve heritage and promote traditional folk and tribal music on the global stage. On the product front, the company is rolling out artificial intelligence-driven production tools, including conversational AI editing for Shorts and agentic channel management features in Ask Studio. To address digital authenticity, the platform said it is introducing 'AI Likeness Detection' alongside clear labels and disclosures for synthetic content.

Platform supports 9.6 lakh jobs in India, report says

vivo to felicitate 10 educators from 6 states

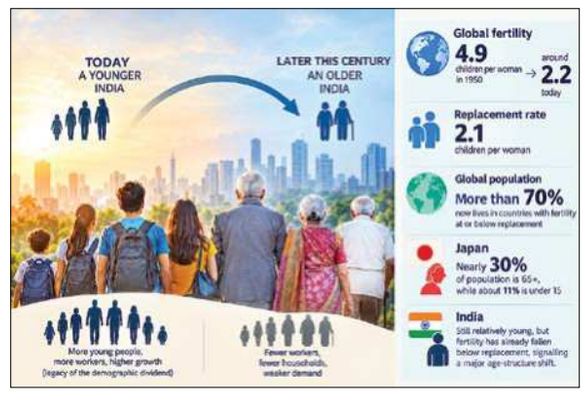
HANS BUSINESS
HYDERABAD

vivo India has announced 10 Teacher Innovation Fellows under the 4th edition of vivo Ignite 2026, recognising educators who are going beyond conventional classroom learning to nurture curiosity, experimentation, problem-solving and innovation among students. Introduced as a new component of vivo Ignite 4.0, the National Teacher Innovation Fellowship (NTIF) aims to strengthen the STEM education ecosystem by recognising teachers' contributions in experiential learning, innovative pedagogy, problem-solving and inclusive classroom practices. The fellowship received more than 200 applications from across India, with 30 educators progressing to the interview stage. Following a rigorous evaluation, 10 educators from 6 states, 1 UT and 10 districts were selected. The evaluation assessed four areas: Innovation in Teaching Practice; Inclusive and Adaptive Teaching; Real-World Impact and STEM Application; and Vision, Leadership and Scale.

India's demographic advantage faces ageing test

NEW DELHI

INDIA is likely to have much older population later this century as the country's age structure is beginning to shift and fertility fallen "below replacement", Moody's Ratings said on Tuesday. Moody's said population growth has long been a tailwind for economic growth and creditworthiness, but falling fertility is now changing that picture. Fewer workers will limit productive capacity, while fewer households and consumers will weaken demand. As a result, countries will have to rely more on productivity to sustain growth. Moody's said the global fertility rate has declined from 4.9 children per woman in 1950 to around 2.2 today, only slightly above the replacement rate of 2.1. "What makes this episode particularly significant is that many of the world's largest economies are aging at the same time. In fact, more than 70 per cent of the world's population now lives in countries with fertility rates at or below replacement level," Moody's said in a report on global demographics. It said fertility rates across much of Latin America are now comparable to those of Europe and Japan, while several East Asian countries have some of the lowest fertility rates ever recorded. Japan has the most top-heavy population structure, with nearly 30 per cent of its population over 65 and about 11 per cent under 15. Korea is close behind, while China is moving rapidly in the same direction. Emerging markets, including Brazil, India, Thailand and Turkiye, are also progressing along the same path. "Although India's population remains relatively young, fertility has already fallen below replacement and the country's age structure is beginning to shift, setting the stage for a much older population later this century," Moody's said. Declining fertility ultimately reshapes age structures as well as population growth. Countries experiencing the steepest fertility declines today will also age most rapidly in coming decades.



Entertainment

'Ettara Etthu' from 'Comrade Kalyan' parades revolutionary energy

The makers of Comrade Kalyan, which stars Sri Vishnu in the lead, have released the energetic song 'Ettara Etthu' to spice up the promotions ahead of the film's October 9 theatrical release.

Composed by Vijay Bulganin, the revolutionary song features the distinct vocals of Nalgonda Gaddar Narsanna, with the soulful lyrics penned down by Bhaskarabhatla. Sri Vishnu's performance, along with the pulsating beats and the song's lyrical energy have fetched the track a good response on social media.

Directed by Janakiram Marella, Comrade Kalyan is presented by Kona Venkatand produced by Venkata Krishna Karnati, Seetha Karnati under Skanda Vahana Motion Pictures LLP. The film is a period entertainer that combines humor, romance and emotionalism.

The makers have been able to create good amount of intrigue with the previously released glimpses, teaser and songs. The latest track continues to expand the film's musical and thematic world.

Radhika Sarathkumar, Shine Tom Chacko and Upendra Limaye are among the film's special highlight.

Vijay Bulganin is composing the music for the film, while Sai Sriram is the cinematographer, who has been joined by Chota K. Prasad as the editor.

'Emo Emo Idi' title song is a soothing melody

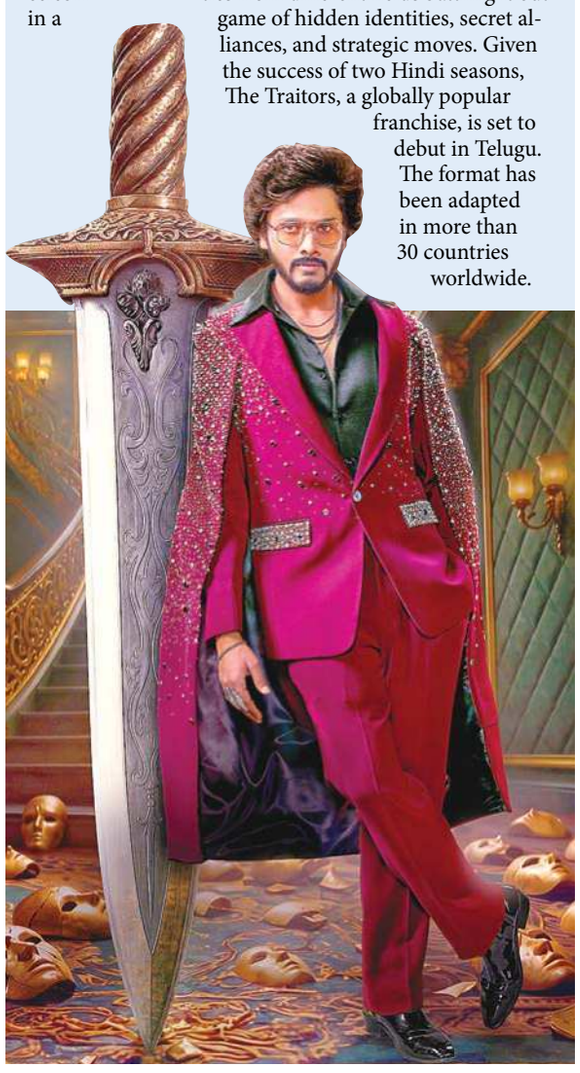
The much-anticipated title track of Emo Emo Idi has been revealed, providing a sneak peek into the film's romantic world. After the positive response to The First Breeze of Emo Emo Idi video, unveiled on the occasion of the film's announcement, the song has now been released.

This romantic track is a breezy composition by Hesham Abdul Wahab, with lovely vocals by Karthik and Ramya Behara, and melodious lyrics by Krishna Kanth. The feel-good music along with the cute love notes has been beautifully portrayed by the leads Roshan Meka and Preity Mukhundhan. The romanticism in the song is enhanced by the visuals of the lead pair clicking pictures in the mountainous terrain and snow-white landscapes. The locations, along with the music and the stellar performance by the lead pair, add a certain magic to this romantic track.

Emo Emo Idi is written and directed by Dr. Sailesh Kolanu and produced by Naga Vamsi S and Sai Soujanya under Sithara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas. Srikara Studios presents the film while Vamsi Patchipulusu handles cinematography. Emo Emo Idi is scheduled to hit theatres on October 30, 2026.

'The Traitors' Telugu: 'Teja Sajja' to host high-stakes reality show

The Traitors Telugu will bring together trust, deception, strategy, and betrayal for Telugu audiences after Prime Video announced the world premiere of its much-awaited reality show as the unscripted original will begin streaming exclusively on Prime Video from October 15, 2026, with new episodes arriving every Thursday at noon. The show will air over four weeks from October 15th. Popular Telugu actor Teja Sajja will make his reality television hosting debut with The Traitors Telugu as he is expected to deliver a dynamic performance on screen. SOL Productions, the show's producer, will present a 10-episode series that will see 20 celebrities from different fields battling it out in a game of hidden identities, secret alliances, and strategic moves. Given the success of two Hindi seasons, The Traitors, a globally popular franchise, is set to debut in Telugu. The format has been adapted in more than 30 countries worldwide.



'Samavarthi' teaser gets tremendous response

The teaser of Samavarthi, Satya Dev's upcoming 16th film as lead actor, has gone viral, crossing one crore digital views, creating tremendous curiosity among the masses and business communities. The unique visuals along with the eco-friendly action-thriller premise reportedly fetched business inquiries for the makers.

Directed by Ajay Nag V and presented by Shivacharan Reddy Jakkidi and Shashidhar Reddy Padamati under Rudra Pictures and Panchabhuta Productions, the film is all set to release in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam languages this year.

The makers created immense hype around the project with the release of the teaser, which showcased an intriguing concept and visuals, captivating the viewers' attention. The makers have also planned to release more updates in the coming weeks.

Satya Dev, who has been choosing scripts with star power in his recent projects, stars alongside Sreekanth, Dileesh Pothan, Rajeev Kanakala, Ganavi Laxman, Ravindra Vijay, and Mohan Bhagath. Satya Dev's upcoming film Samavarthi promises to be different from his other works, featuring unique elements, such as an eco-friendly theme and action-packed sequences.

'Tatvam' pre-release event creates hype

Tatvam, which stars Dinesh Tej and Dashwika K. in lead roles is set to release on October 2. The movie directed by Arjun Kola is jointly produced by Vamsi Seemakurthi and Swetha Pashupulate under Trayathi Ishani Creations and SK productions. Recently, a pre-release event was organized for the movie where the cast and crew shared some details about the film which includes a murder mystery with loads of suspense and an interesting story along with a sensible script. Music director Chetan Bharadwaj requested people to come out and watch the film as lots of efforts went into it. The director stated that they could not release the film before this date as there were some mishaps like an accident of the heroes while promoting the film. They had to reschedule as many films were releasing in October, but as the response to the trailer and songs was good, they decided to go ahead on the 2nd. Dinesh Tej said that right from the start, he had faith in the film's story, and he hopes that people would support the film as it showcased a new concept for Telugu cinema. Dashwika K also asked people to watch the movie.

Mullapudi Mohan elected FNCC Secretary for second time

The Film Nagar Cultural Club (FNCC) election results have been out, announcing popular producer K.S. Rama Rao as the new President of the club. Mullapudi Mohan has been elected as Secretary, while Sadashiva Reddy, Shailaja and S.N. Reddy have been chosen as Vice President, Treasurer and Joint Secretary, respectively. The elected committee members include Edida Raja, Krishnaraju, Srinivasa Raju, Kishore, Kaja Suryanarayana, Muralimohan Rao, Bhaskar Naidu, Balaraju and Nagasushma. Mohan emerged as the highest vote-getter in the election, garnering 1,013 votes. He will be serving as FNCC Secretary for the second time. He previously served as a member of the Telangana TTD LAC and also held the position of FNCC Vice President. During his previous tenure, Mohan was involved with a number of sports and cultural programmes organised by the club. His return as Secretary is expected to bring back his previous experience into the functioning and development of FNCC.

Ayesha Khan stuns in black off-shoulder gown

Actress Ayesha Khan stunned with the latest photos of hers as she posed in a beautiful black off-shoulder gown, flaunting her red-carpet style. The black dress featured a sweetheart neckline, body-hugging silhouette along with a trailing train that made the actress look dramatic. Ayesha kept her accessory minimal but killer as she completed the look with a dazzling diamond necklace, statement earrings, and a bracelet. Ayesha kept her glam quotient on the same level as she had opted for soft waves in her hair along with smoky eyes and nude lips. One of the pictures has caught Ayesha clicking selfies in a dark and moody black and white picture with her hand on her hip. Another picture has the actress clicking pictures in the elevator with a hand near her face and looking away from the camera, adding to the intrigue. The actress's latest photoshoot seems to have captured the movie magic as the theatrical lights and sets were needed to create the effect. As far as work is concerned, Ayesha Khan was seen in Kis Kisko Pyaar Karoon 2, which released last year but couldn't find much success at the box office.

Naveen Chandra performs prayers in Tirumala, announces new film with Srikanth Nagothi

Popular star Naveen Chandra visited Tirumala temple on Tuesday morning and sought the blessing of Lord Venkateswara. The actor performed VIP break darshan and prayed to the deity. After the darshan, Naveen Chandra met Vedic scholars in Ranganayakula Mandapam and was blessed with theertha prasadam along with being offered a silk cloth by the officials. "While I prayed to the Lord, I requested for the successful completion of my all upcoming projects without any hurdles. Also, today, I announced that I am starting a new venture from Tirumala", he added. Naveen Chandra also spoke about his upcoming film. "I am also working with director Srikanth Nagothi again on a special film after Month of Madhu. Our second venture together will be a total surprise for the fans." The actor further stated that three of his Tamil films are all set to release soon. Director Srikanth Nagothi, along with producer and distributor Harish Kumar also visited Tirumala and performed prayers.