

Konda Surekha warns party leaders against targeting her supporters

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

FORMER Minister and Congress MLA Konda Surekha has warned party leaders against making irresponsible remarks or targeting her supporters, while making it clear that she would not tolerate any attempt to harm Congress activists and her followers.

She urged party leaders to exercise restraint in their public statements and warned that women party activists would respond strongly if provoca-

tive remarks continued.

Surekha said, "Certain leaders need to mind their language and that any further indiscretion would not be tolerated. Leaders who speak recklessly and without restraint would face a severe thrashing at the hands of female party activists. Fake leaders are talking too much, while genuine leaders are being overlooked for positions. Strict action would be taken against anyone whose behaviour harms the party or its leadership. Each woman is ca-

pable of taking on and thrashing four individuals. Dire consequences if the leaders did not mend their ways. Everyone to move forward strategically with the sole objective of winning". Surekha said, "I am not upset about losing the ministerial post. Whether I am there or here, I will continue to serve the State and my constituency. As a minister, I had to spend considerable time serving the State. Now, I will dedicate more time to Warangal and remain accessible to the people," she said.

Cong picks Sarvotham Reddy, Sama Rammohan for two Grad MLC seats

CONG GIVES PRIORITY TO WINNING ABILITY RATHER THAN 'SOCIAL JUSTICE' THEORY

VENKATESHWARLU
KOLISHETTY
HYDERABAD

THE ruling Congress party announced its Graduate MLC candidates for the Nalgonda-Khammam-Warangal and Hyderabad-Rangareddy-Mahabubnagar constituencies on Tuesday night. The party announced Ramreddy Sarvotham Reddy as the candidate for the Nalgonda-Khammam-Warangal constituency and Sama Rammohan Reddy as the candidate for the Hyderabad-Rangareddy-Mahabubnagar constituency.

Giving a surprise to ticket aspirants from the BCs, SCs, STs and minorities, the party gave priority to winning ability rather than social justice.

The party leadership reportedly gave tickets to

hardcore Congress loyalists, keeping social justice considerations aside and giving importance to the candidates' winning ability. Here, winning ability means that both candidates are from the Reddy community. In the six districts, Reddy MLAs are ruling the roost. Keeping this in view, the party gave tickets to Reddy candidates rather than considering social equations.

However, for the Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda Graduate MLC constituency, the candidate in-charge and Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, had shortlisted Patel Ramesh Reddy, Dr Lokesh Yadav, Gutta Amit Reddy, Ramreddy Sarvotham Reddy, Chanagani Dayakar and Ponguleti Prasad Reddy for consideration by the party high command. However, the party

high command finalised Ramreddy Sarvotham Reddy.

Similarly, Health Minister Damodara Rajanarsimha, who had overseen the candidate selection for the Hyderabad-Rangareddy-Mahabubnagar constituency, had shortlisted Manne Jeevan Reddy, Sama Rammohan Reddy, Gauri Satish, Harshavardhan Reddy, Shivasena Reddy and Bodanapalli Venugopal Reddy. However, the party finalised Sama Rammohan Reddy's name.

Meanwhile, the two constituencies cover a large geographical area. The Nalgonda-Khammam-Warangal constituency comprises 34 Assembly segments, while the Hyderabad-Rangareddy-Mahabubnagar constituency covers 53 Assembly segments. Candidates will therefore have to reach out

to graduates across a large number of Assembly constituencies and build an extensive campaign network.

Party leaders discussed various combinations while considering the social composition of the candidates. However, the belief among some leaders that both seats should be given to open-category candidates, with representation to BCs being considered later during the selection of Governor-quota MLCs, has become a reality.

Three Governor-quota MLC positions are expected to fall vacant soon, and some party leaders believe that these vacancies could provide an opportunity to address demands for wider social representation.

However, the argument that the party should look within itself for candidates with strong winning prop-

pects from BC, SC, ST and minority communities had not fructified.

The Congress leadership is reportedly attaching considerable importance to the two Graduate MLC elections and is seeking to strengthen its position in the State through the contests. As a result, the selection process concentrated only on the winnability theory rather than the party's social justice theory.

Anyway, party leaders believe that an early announcement of the candidates would provide adequate time to reach out to graduate voters, establish campaign networks and coordinate with the party's organisational machinery.

The final decision of the party high command looked at the winning ball instead of the social justice wall.

Army engineers to bolster 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 Srishailam 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 Sup-



File photo

plies 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.

Tummala flags Telangana's farm needs at Rabi conference

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

AGRICULTURE Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao highlighted Telangana's requirements in the agriculture sector at the National Rabi Conference-2026 on Tuesday and brought key issues concerning farmers to the notice of Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

Tummala said Telangana was prioritising crop diversification in view of the El Niño effect, rainfall fluctuations and prolonged dry spells. As a result, pulse cultivation had increased significantly, with Telangana ranking second in the country and recording a 36% rise over the previous year.

He sought Central assistance to expand vegetable cultivation from the present 8,800 acres to one lakh acres. Citing rainfall shortages in several mandals due to El Niño, he requested special assistance for micro-irrigation, protective irrigation and water conservation structures.

Tummala also sought the inclusion of maize and sorghum (jowar) under the Price Support Scheme (PSS), describing them as drought-tolerant crops suitable for water-stressed areas. He urged the Centre to restore the import duty on crude palm oil to 44%, stressing the need to



Telangana BJP State president N Ramchander Rao speaking at the preparatory meeting on the Graduate MLC elections

BJP huddles to chalk out MLC poll strategy

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

TELANGANA BJP State president N Ramchander Rao presided over a preparatory meeting on the Graduate MLC elections for the Mahabubnagar-Rangareddy-Hyderabad and Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda constituencies following the commencement of Form-18 voter registration.

Rao said the two elections, covering 10 combined districts and around 76 Assembly constituencies, were matters of great prestige for the party. He directed cadres to ensure every eligible graduate registers as a voter and prepare a robust action plan from the booth level.

Rao called upon the educated community to raise its voice against what he described as the "anti-people policies" of the Congress and BRS. He said the MLC elections would be a crucial political test ahead of future electoral battles. The party has already constituted special committees

and initiated an action plan at all levels.

Claiming that the BJP had historically enjoyed strong support and a grassroots presence in the two Graduates' constituencies since the Jana Sangh days, Rao cited the party's performance in 2015 and subsequent elections.

He alleged that the BRS had failed to fulfil the aspirations of graduates, educated youth and the unemployed, particularly on job recruitment. He also claimed that public discontent was growing against the Congress government over pending DA, PRC matters and pensions, while graduates and unemployed youth were questioning unfulfilled election promises.

Rao said the BJP would approach the elections with unity and confidence, adding that the entire cadre would support whichever candidate the party announces.

He urged graduates, teachers, employees and intellectuals to participate in the elections and make their voices heard.

Mirae Asset Sharekhan joins forces with ASK Private Wealth

HYDERABAD: Mirae Asset Sharekhan has announced a landmark strategic partnership with ASK Private Wealth, bringing together two institutions focused on delivering exceptional client value through specialised expertise and best-in-class execution. ASK Private Wealth is the first firm to be onboarded under the newly launched 'Premier Wealth Partner' category by Mirae Asset Sharekhan. Moon Kyung Kang, CEO, Mirae Asset Sharekhan, said, "This partnership brings together ASK Private Wealth's advisory expertise and Mirae Asset Sharekhan's execution, technology and research capabilities to deliver a superior investment experience for clients." Rajesh Saluja, Co-Founder, CEO & MD, ASK Private Wealth, said, "The platform is seamlessly integrated into our existing digital ecosystem and is ready to serve our clients' needs for direct equity and ETF market participation without compromising on trust and institutional security."

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
HYDERABAD (DRT-II)
1ST FLOOR, TRIVENI COMPLEX
ABIDS, HYDERABAD- 50000
O.A. No. 642 of 2026

ICICI Bank Ltd. ...Applicant
And
Hussaini Hospital ...Defendants
SUMMONS BY WAY OF PAPER
PUBLICATION

To,
1. Hussaini Hospital
Rep. by its Proprietor Saif
Mohammed Khan
S/o. Ghulam Mohammed Khan,
Age: 36 Years Occ: Business
H.No. 22-2-765, 3rd Eoad., Flat
No. 302, Hasnath Complex,
Above Getwell Clinic, Noor Khan
Bazar, Hyderabad- 500024 TG
2. Saif Mohammed Khan
S/o. Ghulam Mohammed Khan,
Age: 36 Years, Occ: Business
H.No. 22-2-765, 3rd Eoad., Flat
No. 302, Hasnath Complex, Above
Getwell Clinic, Noor Khan Bazar,
Hyderabad- 500024 TG
Co-Applicant ...Defendant

Please take the summons in the
above O.A. No. 642 of 2026 filed by
the Applicant for Recovery of
money of Rs.77,61,359.99 P5/-
against you. The Hon'ble Tribunal
ordered summons to you by way of
paper publication in "MAANA
TELANGANA, a Telugu Daily and
THE HANSINDIA, an English Daily",
newspaper and posted the matter to
27.10.2026.
In accordance with sub-section (4)
of section 19 of the Act, you, the
defendants, are directed as under;
(i) To show cause within thirty days
of the service of summons as to why
the relief prayed for should not be
granted;
(ii) To disclose particulars of
properties or assets other than
properties and assets specified by
the applicant under serial number
3A of the Original application;
(iii) You are restrained from dealing
with or disposing of secured assets
or such other pending hearing and
disposal of the application for
attachment of properties;
(iv) You shall not transfer by way of
sale, lease or otherwise, except in
the ordinary course of your
business, any of the assets over
which a security interest in created
and/or other assets and properties
specified or disclosed under serial
number 3A of the original
application without the prior
approval of the Tribunal;
(v) You shall be liable to account for
the sale proceeds realised by the
sale of secured assets of other
assets and properties in the
ordinary course of business and
deposit such sale proceeds in the
account maintained with the bank
or financial institutions holding a
security interest over such assets.
You are hereby required to show
cause on 27.10.2026 at 10.30 am
at Debts Recovery Tribunal-II, 1st
Floor, Triveni Complex, Abids,
Hyderabad - 500001, in person or
by an Advocate duly instructed as
to why the relief prayed for should
not be granted.
Take notice that in case of default,
the Application will be heard and
determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of
this Tribunal on this 23rd day of
September, 2026.
(By order of the Court) Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal-II
Hyderabad



Begumpet turning into an open dumping spot!

I would like to bring to the notice of the concerned authorities the unchecked garbage dumping problem in a residential area in Begumpet. People are throwing household waste, plastic, cardboard and food waste directly on the roadside, turning the area into an open dumping spot.

The garbage is piling up close to residential houses, giving off a foul smell and making the surroundings unhygienic for the people living there. It can also attract stray animals and insects and become a bigger health concern if the waste continues to remain uncleared.

The entire garbage should be immediately cleared. Besides, regular



clearance of garbage is vital to prevent these spots from becoming dumping points again. Warning boards can be put up and action taken against those who deliberately dump wastes on the road. The authorities should also check whether garbage collection in the lane is taking place regularly.

Residents should not have to deal with a garbage piles outside their homes. I hope the concerned civic authorities will look into the issue and take necessary action.

— Saniya Anjum, Hyderabad

Traffic signals trigger chaos!

When traffic signals fail, chaos reigns. No one would vouch for this other than the traffic cop more so when a woman cop presiding, helplessly over the chaos at the Shenoy Nursing Home junction in West Marredpally. Despite repeated reminders about dysfunctional traffic signals at the bustling junction, traffic police bigwigs seem to be nonchalant and have turned a blind eye to the chaotic commuting.

While the traffic cops blame GHMC for refusing to permit them to dig the road to fix the underground cable problem, baldia babus' ostrich-like attitude is aggravating the problem, resulting in the prolonged suffering of commuters. Sooner than never. Hope the authorities from both the vital wings sit across the table and hammer out an early solution to the problem, without further loss of time.

—Akshay Pusthay, West Marredpally

Pothole-ridden roads prick city commuters

PLEASE FIX POTHOLE SAFETY GAPS

Rain spells across Hyderabad have turned arterial stretches into obstacle courses of unmapped potholes and sunken manholes. While emergency patching happens post-accident, contractors face zero accountability for substandard asphalt mix that washes away within two showers. Three civic bodies need a transparent geo-tagged portal where citizens can log patch failures, triggering mandatory contractor re-work without public expense. Liability for vehicle damage or skidding crashes must shift directly to executing agencies. Quick cosmetic filling before VIP visits is a poor substitute for structural road integrity and commuter safety.

— Scian Venessa, Hyderabad



CUT TREES A THREAT TO PEDESTRIANS

Freshly cut tree branches lie scattered along the roadside near Anand Theatre in Secunderabad, posing an inconvenience to commuters and pedestrians. Freshly cut tree branches lie scattered along the roadside near Anand Theatre in Secunderabad, posing an inconvenience to commuters and pedestrians

Ch Prabhu Das



A DANGER CALLED DAMAGED ROAD...!

Damaged and uneven road surface under the railway bridge near Rail Nilayam in Secunderabad is causing inconvenience to motorists and commuters.

Srinivas Setty

Clear payments, please: Ad agencies to Fin dept

This is to highlight a serious problem that payments are not being cleared by the Finance wing despite the issue of tokens with numbers. This has been a problem for a long time, particularly for advertising agencies and publications. We request the Finance wing head to look into the matter and clear all pending payments immediately. All are facing problems due to non-payment for months on end. The agencies should make the payments within 60 to 90 days, whereas we have been waiting for years. The authorities must try to understand the situation of industry owners and their employees who all are facing hard days.

— Krishna, Hyderabad



SAFETY RULES GO FOR A TOSS...!

Private buses spark chaos on Inner Ring Road



M M FAROOQUI
HYDERABAD

THE very purpose of building the Inner Ring Road (IRR) in Hyderabad is being defeated by private travel buses which illegally park buses frequently along the IRR stretch from Re-thi Bowli X Road to Aramghar X Road, causing traffic snarls and creating safety hazards for residents, commuters, and other road users. This is happening despite repeated complaints from residents in the localities.

A ring road is meant to assist in reducing traffic volumes in the urban centre, such as by offering an alternative route around the city. Often the ring road is used to divert through-traffic and heavy freight away from crowded city centres,

thus reducing urban congestion and improving overall travel speeds. Those benefits have gone for a toss in the IRR stretch in question. Residents allege that private buses are being parked on service roads and, at times, directly on the main carriageway, be it day or night. The problem is reportedly particularly severe around the Dairy Farm–Attapur–Aramghar stretch, where buses are allegedly parked for prolonged periods without regard to traffic movement.

Javed Patel, a resident of Golden City Colony, said: "Re-thi Bowli X Road to Aramghar X Road is facing severe traffic congestion because private buses are being parked on the service roads and even on the main road. This is happening 24/7 and has become a

serious hazard for residents and commuters." Residents say they have repeatedly raised the issue but feel that the problem has continued without a lasting solution. Javed said "I have been raising the illegal parking issue of private travel buses from Dairy Farm to Aramghar for a long time. It seems the problem continues despite repeated complaints. Authorities need to take serious action, instead of allowing the situation to continue." Furthermore, the obstruction is also being attributed, in part, to vehicles associated with function halls that are allegedly blocking service roads, further reducing the space available for traffic and pedestrians.

Another complaint highlighted an incident near Pillar No. 123 at Attapur, where

a private bus was allegedly blocking the entire road and reportedly failed to stop despite a red traffic signal.

Mohit Gupta, a resident, posted on X: "At Pillar No. 123, Attapur, a bus blocked the whole road and did not stop at the red signal. Such incidents put both motorists and pedestrians at risk and require immediate enforcement." In response to the complaint, the police stated: "Dear sir, thank you for reporting to us, the matter has been forwarded to our e-challan team for necessary action." Residents are seeking regular enforcement against illegally parked private travel buses, action against vehicles obstructing service roads near function halls, and measures to ensure that buses do not occupy the main carriageway or ignore traffic signals.



Do you have any civic issues? Are any roads in your locality damaged? Do you have any complaints against govt departments? Are any private companies taking you for a ride regarding sales and service?

The Hans India will publish your complaints, concerns and grievances in these columns on every Wednesday.

Mail the details along with relevant photographs to hanspeoplesvoice@gmail.com

— EDITOR

ACB searches five more locations in NIMS DA case

₹4.94 lakh cash, land and plot documents seized in Hyderabad

MM FAROOQUI
HYDERABAD

THE Telangana Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Tuesday continued searches at multiple locations in Hyderabad as part of its investigation into a disproportionate assets case registered against Nori Lakshmi Bhasker, Additional Medical Superintendent/Additional Professor at Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS), Hyderabad.

The case, registered on September 21, 2026, was booked under Section 13(1) (b) read with Section 13(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act. According to ACB, in continuation of the earlier searches, and based on search warrants issued by the Principal Special Judge for SPE & ACB Cases, Hyderabad, ACB officials conducted searches on September 29 at five different locations in and around Hyderabad.

"The locations included

the residences of persons suspected by investigators to be benamis, who allegedly had financial and other transactions with the accused officer," said an officer at ACB adding the officer said several documents and other items allegedly connected to suspected benami assets were seized during the searches.

The ACB stated that Rs 4,94,394 in cash was seized from the residence of Dhanraj, an employee of NIMS. Officials also found documents relating to three agricultural land parcels in Maheshwaram, valued at approximately Rs 57 lakh.

Documents relating to an open plot in Venkateswara Cooperative Housing Society at MLA Colony, Banjara Hills, valued at approximately Rs 2.70 crore, were also found during the searches.

Furthermore, the ACB said documents relating to two investments amounting to Rs 20 lakh were found in

the names of D Ganesh, an outsourcing employee of NIMS, and others. Receipts relating to an alleged hand loan of Rs 3 lakh were also found.

The ACB said verification of additional assets is currently underway and that the case remains under investigation.

Earlier during the searches, it found several movable and immovable assets with a total document value of around Rs 6.13 crore. The properties include a four-bedroom flat, two three-bedroom flats, five two-bedroom flats, and four open plots and one open plot in Andhra Pradesh.

The ACB also found bank balances of about Rs 41 lakh, post-office deposits of Rs 12 lakh, and investments of Rs 35 lakh in private financial and mutual funds of about Rs 29.55 lakh. ACB officials also identified approximately 517.8 grams of gold ornaments, besides four-wheelers, including a Jaguar, Audi,

KTR targets Cong over Singareni workers' bonus

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

STATING that Singareni Collieries Company Limited represents a vital source of wealth for Telangana, BRS Working President KTR on Tuesday criticized the Congress government for undermining the organization and trampling upon worker welfare. In an open letter addressed to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, KTR asserted that despite three years having passed since assuming power, the administration completely failed to fulfill electoral commitments made to the mining workforce. He expressed severe concern over the government approach regarding Dasara bonus payments, alleging that workers who generate thousands of crores in profits are being denied their legitimate share.

Detailing financial discrepancies, KTR highlighted that in the 2023-24 financial year, Singareni generated a net profit of Rs 4,701 crore, from which a 33 per cent share equalled Rs 1,551 crore. However, only Rs 796 crore was disbursed to workers, marking a substantial reduction in legitimate dues. Similarly, despite net profits reaching Rs 6,394 crore in the 2024-25 financial year, workers received



only Rs 819 crore as profit bonus. KTR emphasized that accumulated profit bonus dues for the 2023 to 2025 period total Rs 2,342 crore, demanding immediate payment to eligible employees.

He further noted that the state enterprise faces severe financial strain due to outstanding dues of approximately Rs 60,000 crore owed by power utilities Transco and Genco. Expressing alarm over reports that the company might require bank loans to meet monthly salary obligations, KTR raised serious questions regarding the future stability of the public sector unit. The BRS leader firmly demanded that the Chief Minister refrain from selling Singareni equity shares, questioning why disinvestment is being contemplated when the organization requires institutional strengthening. Concluding his demands, KTR insisted that Singareni workers must be granted a profit share exceeding 36 per cent based on actual financial returns.

Khatik Samaj Pragati Sammelan 0.2 begins

HYDERABAD: The two-day Khatik Samaj Pragati Sammelan 0.2, a Citizen Service Camp was started on a grand note with over 500 persons utilised services like Aadhaar, MeeSeva, Voter-ID, PAN and others at the AK Bhavan in Chandanwadi in Goshamahall on Tuesday. The camp has been organised by the Telangana Khatik Samaj City Committee in Collaboration with the Are Khatika Suryavanshi Sangh, Chaknawadi, Goshamahall to provide public awareness, assistance and guidance regarding various government and public utility services, including Aadhaar, MeeSeva, Voter ID, PAN, GHMC services, LIC, health awareness, Ayushman Bharat/PM-JAY and Rajiv AarogyaSri guidance, banking services, financial literacy, home-loan guidance, government welfare schemes, employment and career guidance and other public utility services, subject to applicable eligibility and departmental procedures. According to the organisers, over 500 people had utilised the services.

Committee leaders Netikar Premal, Netikar Mohanlal, Gogikar Narsing Rao, Bichukarini Surya, Are Khatika Suryavanshi Sangh, Goshamahall committee President D Gopal, Hyderabad City President Gogikar Rajesh, General Secretary Kamblekar Sandeep Kumar, Jamalpur Sai Baba, A Gangaram, U Narsing Rao, DK Manish, Pantulu Rakesh and others were present.

Science City in Kolkata wows visitors with a raft of wonders

Interactive exhibits, immersive technologies and hands-on experiences turn scientific concepts into engaging learning

GOUDA SWIYACHANDRA
KOLKATA

INTERACTIVE exhibits, immersive digital technologies and hands-on demonstrations are transforming the way scientific concepts are communicated to the public. Science City in Kolkata has emerged as a major centre for experiential science learning.

A media delegation from Telangana, which visited Kolkata as part of the five-day PIB Hyderabad media tour, explored various facilities at Science City and witnessed how science, technology and entertainment are combined to encourage curiosity and scientific enquiry among visitors of different age groups.

The delegation was briefed on the activities and facilities of Science City by Rajib Nath, Director (Hqrs), National Council of Science Museums (NCSM); Manoj Kumar Panda, Principal Curator, Science City, Kolkata; and Satyajit N Singh,



PRO, NCSM. Rajib Nath explained the evolution of the science museum movement in India and the role played by the NCSM in popularising science.

He said the organised science museum movement began with the Birla Industrial and Technological Museum (BITM), Kolkata, in 1959, followed by the Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum (VITM), Bengaluru, in 1965. NCSM was established in 1978 and has since expanded the science museum network across the country.

NCSM currently directly administers 26 Science Museums and Science Centres, while another 29 centres have been handed over to State Governments and other authorities. Around 30 projects, including Science Museums, Science Centres, digital planetariums and innovation hubs, are also under development.

Science City, Kolkata, a unit of NCSM under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, was established as the first Science City in India and inaugurated on July 1, 1997, by the

then Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral.

The complex houses several major facilities, including Space Odyssey, Dynamotion, Science Exploration Hall, Maritime Centre, Earth Exploration Hall and Science Park. These facilities use interactive exhibits, multimedia presentations and experiential learning methods to make complex scientific concepts accessible to visitors.

The delegation visited the Stimulation Centre, where visitors can understand scientific principles through demonstrations and hands-on activities. The Full Dome 3D Digital Theatre provided another immersive experience through large-format 2D and 3D digital projections covering themes related to science, astronomy and the natural world.

The Science Exploration Hall, spread over around 5,400 square metres, presents scientific concepts through interactive and enquiry-based exhibits. Its

themes include the formation of the Solar System, evolution of life, human evolution, India's science and technology heritage and emerging technologies.

A key attraction is Evolution of Life – A Dark Ride, which uses robotic animal models and audio-visual effects to portray major stages in the evolution of life across geological eras.

The delegation also explored the Earth Exploration Hall, which presents the Earth's geography, geology, biodiversity, natural processes and environmental systems through interactive and multimedia technologies. Exhibits on climate change and environmental challenges help visitors understand the impact of human activities on the planet.

Another important attraction, Science on a Sphere, uses a spherical visualisation system to display planetary datasets and demonstrate dynamic processes involving land, oceans and the atmosphere.

SIR hearings draw lukewarm response in Hyderabad

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Hyderabad district is facing a lukewarm response from voters, with a large majority of those served notices failing to turn up for mandatory hearings, even as only a week remains for the October 7 deadline.

Officials involved in the revision process have been conducting hearings to verify details of voters whose names and particulars require scrutiny. However, the poor turnout has emerged as a major concern. The difficulty in obtaining or producing required documents appears to be discouraging voters from attending the hearings.

A Booth Level Officer (BLO) at Malakpet said voters flagged under the no-mapping and anomaly categories are required to produce three to four categories of supporting documents during verification, which is proving difficult for many. Election authorities are also seeking clarifications over age-related anomalies, the BLO said.

Citizens said the prob-



File photo

lem is particularly acute among families where there is a significant age difference between the present generation and their parents, as well as among siblings. Voters said clarifying age-related discrepancies has created difficulties in establishing family details, as the present verification process relies on digitised records, whereas entries were manually recorded earlier. The Assistant Electoral Registration Officer (AERO) of Charminar Assembly Constituency said anomaly cases would be verified and approved by AEROs or EROs. In no-mapping cases, the software will automatically forward the documents to the District Election Officer (DEO), who will verify the documents submitted against the notice.

Sharing his experience at hearing centres, he said many

electors were not turning up according to the schedule specified in the notices. "However, we are accepting documents and conducting hearings to ensure that no eligible voter is left out," he added.

Hyderabad DEO RV Kannan said the notice process was particularly significant as voters flagged during SIR verification may be required to furnish supporting documents. "The Election Commission has prescribed 12 different document requirements depending on the elector's date of birth, including documents relating to the elector and, where applicable, parents."

He urged voters who have received notices not to ignore them and to attend hearings with the necessary documents to safeguard their names in the electoral rolls.



Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy (right) reviewing a representation from farmers of Sivaru Venkatapur regarding alleged land rights issues on the Dharani portal, at the Secretariat in Hyderabad on Tuesday

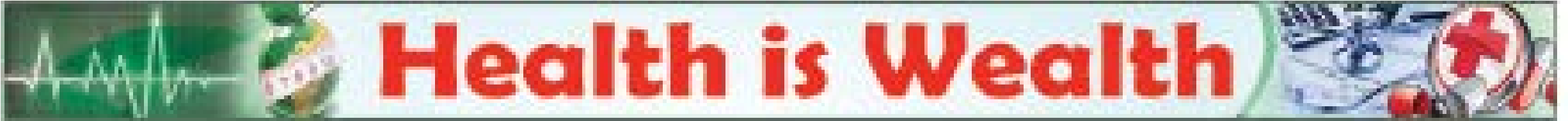
Ponguleti assures justice to Venkatapur farmers

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

REVENUE Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy on Tuesday assured justice to farmers of Sivaru Venkatapur village in Markook Mandal under Gajwel Constituency of Siddipet District. After the aggrieved villagers submitted a formal representation alleging loss of rights over ancestral lands due to alterations on the Dharani portal, the Minister directed department officials to conduct a comprehensive probe, ascertain facts through revenue records, and ensure justice for eligible owners. A delegation of farmers, including Thummala Satyanarayana, Sheri Poshayya, Sheri Srikanth, Putta Vittal, Putta Dayanand, and Bachali Jahangir, met Srinivasa Reddy

at the Secretariat to submit their grievance petition.

According to the representation, villagers have been cultivating approximately 134 acres of agricultural land spread across Survey Numbers 38, 41, 47, 85, 88, and 100 on the outskirts of Venkatapur village for generations. However, they alleged that following the introduction of the Dharani portal, their land rights were severely affected due to record alterations, leading to loss of physical possession. Presenting pre-Dharani passbooks and historical village maps to the Minister, the farmers stated that officials of the previous administration had collected their original passbooks under the pretext of issuing new documents but failed to return replacement titles.



THE DECCAN HOSPITAL: EXPERT ADVICE ON PREVENTING “TECH NECK” IN THE DIGITAL AGE



Dr. Ajay Kumar Tiwari
Consultant Orthopaedic & Robotic Surgeon
The Deccan Hospital,
Somajiguda, Hyderabad

Prolonged Smartphone and Computer Use Can Lead to Neck and Shoulder Problems, Says Orthopaedic Expert Hyderabad. Smartphones, computers and other digital devices have become an integral part of

modern life. However, prolonged screen time, poor posture and lack of physical activity are increasingly contributing to neck, shoulder and upper-back discomfort.

The condition commonly referred to as "Tech Neck" occurs when the neck remains bent forward or downward for prolonged periods, placing additional strain on the muscles, joints and structures of the cervical spine.

According to Dr. Ajay Kumar Tiwari, Consultant Orthopaedic & Robotic Surgeon, The Deccan Hospital, Somajiguda, Hyderabad, people who spend several hours working on computers or using smartphones should pay particular attention to posture and regular movement.

Common Symptoms People experiencing technology-related neck strain may develop:

- Neck pain and stiffness
- Shoulder and upper-back discomfort
- Headaches associated with neck strain
- Reduced neck movement
- Muscle tightness and fatigue
- Pain that worsens after prolonged screen use
- Tingling, numbness or weakness in the arm or hand in some cases

"Neck pain should not always be considered a normal consequence of age or work. Persistent or recurrent symptoms require appropriate clinical assessment, particularly when pain is associated with numbness, tingling or

weakness," says Dr. Ajay Kumar Tiwari.

Prevention Through Simple Lifestyle Changes:

People who work for long periods at a desk should maintain proper ergonomics and avoid keeping the neck continuously bent forward.

- Dr. Tiwari recommends:
 - Keep computer and laptop screens close to eye level
 - Maintain proper back support while sitting
 - Keep the shoulders relaxed
 - Avoid prolonged downward viewing of mobile phones
 - Take regular short breaks during extended screen use
 - Perform appropriate neck and shoulder movements
 - Maintain regular physical activity

- Avoid self-medication for persistent pain
- Seek professional medical advice when symptoms continue

When Should You Consult an Orthopaedic Specialist?

Occasional discomfort after prolonged screen use may improve with rest, posture correction and appropriate exercises. However, persistent neck pain, pain radiating into the arm, numbness, tingling, weakness, balance problems or pain following an injury should not be ignored.

A detailed clinical examination can help identify whether symptoms are related to muscular strain, cervical spine degeneration, disc-related conditions or other underlying problems.

The Department of Orthopaedics at The Deccan Hospital, Somajiguda, Hyderabad, provides comprehensive evaluation and treatment for a wide range of bone, joint, muscle and spine-related conditions. The orthopaedic team provides care for conditions including:

- Knee and hip arthritis
- Joint pain and degenerative joint diseases
- Sports injuries
- Ligament and meniscus injuries
- Fractures and trauma
- Shoulder and elbow problems
- Spine and neck-related musculoskeletal conditions
- Joint and soft-tissue disorders

- Age-related bone and joint problems
- Knee and hip replacement surgery
- Robotic-assisted joint replacement, where clinically appropriate
- Post-operative rehabilitation and physiotherapy guidance

The hospital follows an integrated approach involving clinical evaluation, appropriate imaging and investigations, non-surgical management, surgical treatment when indicated, rehabilitation and follow-up care.

Advanced Joint Replacement and Robotic Surgery

For selected patients requiring joint replacement, modern surgical techniques, including robotic-assisted joint replacement, may be

considered based on the individual's condition, clinical findings and suitability for the procedure.

The goal is to provide appropriate treatment while helping patients regain mobility and improve their ability to perform daily activities.

Expert Advice

"Technology is an important part of our daily lives, but prolonged screen use should not come at the cost of our musculoskeletal health. Maintaining good posture, taking regular breaks and staying physically active can help reduce unnecessary strain on the neck and spine. If pain persists or neurological symptoms develop, timely medical evaluation is important."

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.

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

PROPOS '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>



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.

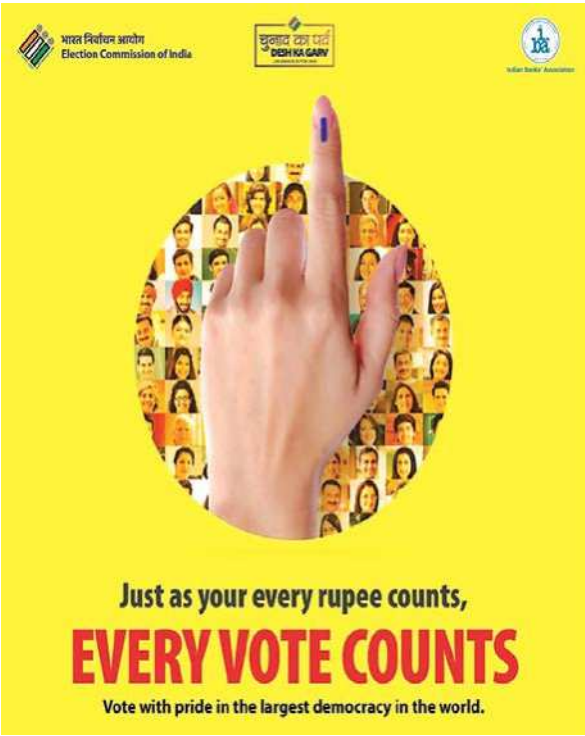
In a judgment delivered a few days back, the Supreme Court directed that the accused may be released immediately, after stating that the police cannot arrest without stating the reasons or denying a lawyer, at the time of arrest. It also declared that violating Fundamental Right (Article 22(1) of the 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 consid-



ered 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.

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

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"!

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 afflicted 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 mod-



els 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.

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 ex-

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.

tremely 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)

CM trying to divide Hindus, BJP slams Revanth's remarks

VRC PHANIHARAN
HYDERABAD

UNION Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar and the State BJP Chief N Ramachander Rao on Tuesday condemned Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, calling his remarks on Lord Rama and Mahadev (Lord Rama) divisive and inappropriate.

Sanjay Kumar said Revanth Reddy, who equates Muslims with the Congress and the Congress with Muslims, is now attempting to create a political divide between Lord Rama and Lord Shiva. Also, it is inappropriate to engage in politics that divide Lord Rama and Lord Shiva along North-South lines.

Further, as the Chief Minister of Telangana—home to Vemulawada (known as 'Dakshina Kashi') and Bhadrachalam (known as 'Dakshina Ayodhya')—Revanth Reddy ought to act with greater responsibility. He noted that dividing Lord Rama and Lord Shiva for political gain runs counter to the spir-

Congress is sowing venomous discord between castes, North and the South, and now between Lord Shiva and Lord Rama, says Bandi Sanjay

it of Hindu Dharma. While Lord Shiva took 'Halahala' (poison), the Congress, however, is spewing the poison of discord between castes, between the North and the South, and now between Lord Shiva and Lord Rama.

He recalled that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the only Prime Minister since Independence to have visited the Sri Raja Rajeshwara Swamy temple in Vemulawada.

He reminded the Chief Minister that the Manyamkonda Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple in Revanth Reddy's home district of Mahabubnagar is famous as a 'Harihara Kshetram' (a sacred site uniting Hari/Vishnu and Hara/Shiva).

The Union Minister said that



Revanth Reddy swore oaths in the name of deities during the elections. However, he is now using those very deities to breed division among the people. "Yesterday, you (CM Revanth Reddy) invoked the gods as witnesses to your pledges; today, you are attempting to attribute caste, faction, and regional identities to those very same gods." He said people must refrain from using gods for political division and stressed that people need to recognise the Congress party's divisive politics.

Condemning the comment of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Ramchander Rao accused him of trying to divide Hindus and unite Muslims using the name of

Hindu gods.

Reacting to Revanth's comments, Rao ridiculed Reddy's statement that "Sri Ram is God of Rich and Har Har Mahadev is God of poor". BJP state chief asserted that there is no difference between Lord Ram and Lord Mahadev. Gods always bless the poor and needy.

H said that the statement of Revanth Reddy appears to be a ploy of dividing the Hindus and uniting muslims, Rao alleged and demanded an unconditional apology from CM Revanth Reddy to the nation for making statements that divide communities.

Rao alleged that Revanth Reddy's remarks were meant

to attract Muslim votes, keeping in mind the Khairatabad by-election, which is now vacant following the disqualification of Danam Nagender. He recalled that CM Revanth Reddy had said during Jubilee Hills by-elections that "Congress is Muslim and Muslim is Congress".

Revanth Reddy is playing into the hands of Islamist Jihadis who are trying to break Hindu society and also unite Muslims. Revanth Reddy, who should change his name to 'Revanthuddin', is blaming Hindu society today; such a claim on Hindu society is condemnable.

He said the division between Aryans and Dravidians, as well as dividing deities along regional or social lines, was a notion introduced by British colonial rulers to divide India, which political opponents are now playing into. He emphasises that Hindus worship both Lord Ram and Lord Shiva equally across all parts of India, from North to South and that India stands unified as Akhand Bharat.

SC QUESTIONS STEEP CANCER DRUG PRICES

Continued from P1

The cancer drug is priced at an MRP of Rs 27,000 despite being supplied to retailers for Rs 2,700.

"Corporate hospitals don't spare anyone. They won't allow even the dead body to be taken out. The pharma sector is not bothered," the bench told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta appearing for the Centre. The bench was hearing petitions concerning regulation of medicine prices, generic prescriptions and controls on medical devices under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO), 2013.

At the outset, Mehta said they need to find a way out and some balance must be created. Justice Mehta said, "Why this distinction? Essential or non-essential does not matter? Why not keep a 16 per cent margin on MRP of everything?" "Think about what happens. Ultimately, the result is that the taxpayers suffer. In corporate hospitals, the MRP of an essential cancer drug was Rs 27,000 when the price to retailer

(PTR) was Rs 2,700. Just see the difference."

The solicitor general said that he needed to discuss with the officials and agreed that the issue requires attention. Justice Mehta went on and said the government should also investigate the issue that many corporate hospitals mandate that one has to buy from their chemist or from "so and so pharmacy" and if the patient gets it from outside, then they are not assuring treatment. "If that patient is taking treatment under a government scheme, who reimburses? The taxpayer does. So why not uniform criteria?"

Justice Mehta further told the solicitor general that if one gets a pharmacist who is very humane and says that he will give the medicine to the needy for Rs 2,700, then the patient would start thinking whether the drug is genuine or spurious. "The question is why this 10 times' markup? Where does this huge chunk of money go? Who is benefiting from it? Ultimately, the loser is the honest taxpayer.

We will examine this issue thoroughly. This affects a large section of society," the bench said, adding that first it is the pricing and then the ethical practices of medical practitioners. Mehta added that pharma companies are not the gainers and it appears that the gainers are the private hospitals. "Let me have a meeting with the officials. Give me two weeks," he submitted.

Justice Mehta said a simple statin, without combination, costs Rs 40 and with a combination of aspirin it is Rs 70. "How is this happening? Corporate hospitals are industries. It is not a service at all. Why should the common man suffer all this?" the bench told the solicitor general. The solicitor general submitted, "I am not saying the petitioners are wrong, but some way which balances equities will have to be found. As I understand, pharma companies are not the ones benefiting from it." The bench posted the matter for further hearing on October 12.

PM SHOULD RESIGN FOR 'PRESSURING' CEC: KHARGE

Continued from P1

Addressing a crucial meeting of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) here, he said the Congress party would take to the streets and raise in Parliament issues pertaining to alleged irregularities in the electoral rolls and poll process.

Kharge put forth five major demands at the CWC, noting that all data on changes in electoral rolls be made public, all voters whose names have been deleted should

get a chance to appeal and all political parties should be given electoral rolls in simple format in time.

He also demanded that an independent time-bound probe should also be conducted where serious anomalies are found and the poll process should be made transparent so no one feels that information is being hidden.

"The two Election Commissioners have themselves termed the CEC's actions as

'arbitrary and unreasonable' and the entire nation now knows that he has been trying to help the ruling party. In such a situation, he does not have the right to be in his position and should be removed immediately," Kharge said. "Together with this, the prime minister should also resign on moral grounds for 'pressuring' the CEC," the Congress chief said in his inaugural address at the CWC. "We should take a pledge at the CWC meeting that there

should be transparency in electoral rolls and the poll process should be impartial. Institutions should be independent and the vote of every Indian should be protected," he said in his inaugural address.

This, he said, is the core of our Constitution and the soul of our democracy and the Congress party would not be left behind in fulfilling this responsibility and will take to the streets and raise these issues in Parliament.

CEC Gyanesh Kumar must go, says Congress

Continued from P1

In his post on X, Ramesh said, "The ECI is Election Commission of India, not Establisher of Citizenship of Indians." "In an interview to a leading newspaper published this morning, Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, who retired from the Supreme Court last year, has reaffirmed categorically that it is not the ECI's job or Constitutional responsibility to determine citizenship as it has been doing under SIR," he said. Ramesh further said citizenship is determined under the Citizenship Act, 1955, as amended by Parliament from time to time, he said.

A Constitutional functionary himself, the CEC has deliberately and clearly violated the Constitution in letter and spirit on the citizenship and other issues like illegally amending Form 6 to disenfranchise Gen Z voters, Ramesh said. "The first step in the long road to reclaiming our democracy is the resignation of the CEC who is both a front for the diabolical PM-HM (Narendra Modi-Amit Shah) duo and an affront to the Constitution of India," the Congress general secretary said.

His remarks come a day after the Congress said the EC's proposed measures related to

SIR are an admission that the exercise has been a "disaster" and asserted that the "piecemeal" steps for deleted or at risk voters will do little to mitigate this "mass disenfranchisement".

Ramesh had said the press note issued by the Election Commission on Saturday (September 26, 2026) night has already been debunked and exposed for what it is — "a desperate attempt at damage control that hides all and reveals nothing". He said the proposed measures around the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls are an admission that it has been a "disaster".

CM urges Centre to clear hurdles for Tummidihetti

Continued from P1

Pending environmental clearances to the Telangana projects was also reviewed in the meeting. The Chief Minister appealed to the Union Minister to grant environmental clearances for the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme (PRLIS), Dindi Lift Irrigation Scheme (DLIS), Sitarama Sagar Multipurpose Project (SSMP), and Gauravelli reservoirs. He brought to the attention of Patil the recent announcement of the new guidelines for environmental clearances in the light of the recent Supreme Court verdict and urged the Centre to accord approvals to these projects immediately. The Chief Minister briefed the Minister that the delay in granting clearances was escalating the construction costs.

Jal Shakti Minister was also requested to expedite approval of clearances pending with the Central Water Commission (CWC) for the Sammakka Sagar project. The project's Detailed Project Report (DPR) had already been submitted to the CWC and sought approvals regarding the irrigation plan and inter-state aspects, the Chief Minister said, informing the Union Minister that discussions were underway with the Chhattisgarh government to obtain a No Objection Certificate (NOC) for the project. The Chief Minister and the Union Minister discussed the pending installation of telemetry system which is being undertaken by the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) and requested to expedite the works. Revanth Reddy informed that the state government had already deposited the required Rs 4.15 crore for the first phase of the installation and urged for the swift completion of the installation of systems in the first, second and third phases.

Did not submit enumeration form?

Continued from P1

The documents which are required during the SIR exercise include any Identity card/Pension Payment Order issued to a regular employee/pensioner of any Central Govt/State Govt/PSU, any Identity Card/Certificate/Document issued in India by the Government/ local authorities/Banks/Post Office/LIC/PSUs prior to 01.07.1987, birth certificate issued by the competent authority, passport, matriculation/educational boards/Universities certificate issued by recognised, permanent residence certificate issued by the competent State authority, forest right certificate, OBC/SC/ST or any caste certificate issued by the Competent Authority, national Register of Citizens (wherever it exists), family register, prepared by State/Local authorities, any land/house allotment certificate by the Government and for Aadhaar, the Commission's directions issued vide letter No 23/2025-ERS/Vol II dated 09.09.2025 would apply.

SC to hear plea seeking suspension of CEC next week

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to hear next week a petition seeking suspension of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar and challenging the alleged manner in which decisions were taken by the Election Commission without the approval of other members of the poll panel. The matter was mentioned before a bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant and comprising Justices Joyimalya

Bagchi and V Mohana. Senior advocate Vikas Singh, appearing for the petitioner, argued that decisions of the multi-member Election Commission are required to be taken unanimously or through a majority decision. The petition, filed by Patna resident Rakesh Kumar Singh, seeks directions to prevent CEC Kumar from exercising the functions of the Chief Election Commissioner until the matter is decided.

AP, Telangana impacted due to drought: Chouhan

NEW DELHI: Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday said that there are concerns about the drought situation in Karnataka, Maharashtra, parts of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Rajasthan. "The information received so far indicates concerns in Karnataka, Maharashtra, parts of Andhra Pradesh-including Rayalaseema and adjoining areas-parts of Telangana, and parts of Rajasthan. Detailed reports from the states are still awaited," Chouhan told reporters. Karnataka has requested a central team, which is scheduled to visit the state on October 3. The Chief Minister

of Maharashtra has also requested a central assessment team, and a team will be sent there as well. The Agriculture minister said that he would personally visit the affected states and remain in constant contact with their governments. "The immediate objective is to ensure that agricultural fields do not remain fallow," he added. For the upcoming Rabi crop season, the minister said the Centre will assist the states in identifying suitable seeds and crop varieties that require less water, have a shorter maturity period, suitable for local soil and weather conditions.

Gangster Goldy Brar on FBI 10 most wanted list

WASHINGTON: Gangster Satinderjeet Singh alias Goldy Brar, the man accused of ordering the assassination of Khalistan separatist Harjit Singh Nijjar, has been added to the list of ten most wanted fugitives of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), with the probe agency announcing a reward of \$1 million for information leading to his arrest. According to the FBI, Brar is wanted for his role as the North American leader of the Lawrence Bishnoi Organised

Crime Group, which has allegedly been linked to a string of violent crimes spanning the United States and Canada. "Satinderjeet Singh is wanted for his alleged involvement in the Lawrence Bishnoi Organised Crime Group, which is allegedly engaged in a variety of violent acts in Southern California and across the United States and Canada. A reward of up to USD 1,000,000 is offered for information leading to his arrest," the FBI said in a statement.

India, China in talks over Xinjiang air route amid Pak airspace ban

NEW DELHI: India is in talks with China on allowing Indian airlines to fly through Xinjiang as Pakistan's airspace ban continues to make flights to Europe and the United States longer and more expensive, sources said.

The proposed route would pass near Hotan in western China. The Ministry of External Affairs has been discussing the possibility with Chinese officials for nearly a year, but no agreement has

been reached. Pakistan closed its airspace to Indian carriers after the Pahalgam terror attack in April 2025. Airlines have since had to divert some westbound flights over the Arabian Sea, adding to flying time, fuel consumption and crew costs.

Air India estimated last year that the ban could cost it about \$600 million over 12 months if it remained in place. Its long-haul flights have been among the most affected.

Higher aviation fuel prices amid the West Asia conflict have added to the pressure. A route through Xinjiang could offer Indian carriers another option, although any savings would depend on the route China permits and which flights can use it. For now, airlines continue to fly around Pakistani airspace.

The talks are taking place as India-China ties improve after the tensions caused by the 2020 border standoff.

Revanth meets Rahul, Venugopal

Continued from P1

Earlier, AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi and Venugopal held a meeting with Chief Ministers and Education Ministers of Congress-ruled states at the AICC headquarters. The meeting discussed the implementation of education policies, improving literacy rates and other issues related to the education sector.

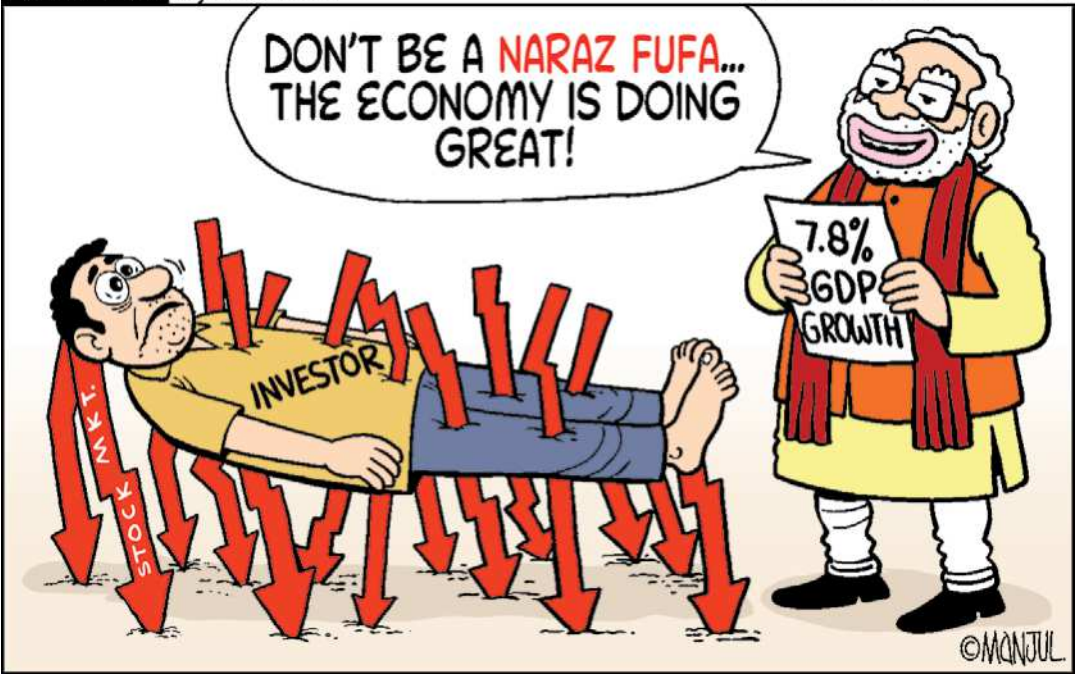
Revanth Reddy, along with his Karnataka counterpart, Kerala's VD Satheesan and Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder

Singh Sukhu, participated in the meeting.

Taking to social media, Revanth Reddy said he had a "meaningful conversation" with Rahul Gandhi, Venugopal and Shivakumar ahead of the CWC meeting. He said Telangana's growth remained his primary focus, while the deliberations also addressed national issues, including what he described as the BJP and Election Commission "hollowing out" electoral integrity and the need to formulate socio-economic strategies for the country.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL

@MANJULtoons



Centre launches new initiative to develop 50 model cities

NEW DELHI

THE Union 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, KPI-based action and by leveraging intensive and technology-enabled monitoring within the framework of Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0.

Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal, at the launch, stated, "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 the 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. Progress will be continuously reviewed through outcome-based assessments and tech-enabled monitoring. I will personally chair review meetings every other month to track the advancement of these cities."

Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Tokhan Sahu noted that over the past decade, Swachhata has evolved

from a people's movement into a way of life. He said the new model cities initiative would assist cities in achieving the goal of Garbage Free Cities within a stipulated timeframe and help them become role models for other urban centres. He urged States and Urban Local Bodies to prepare micro-level action plans and ensure their swift and effective implementation.

Highlighting the role of youth and technology, Sahu remarked that India has become the world's third-largest startup ecosystem. He noted that the launch of the third cohort in collaboration with IIT Kanpur marks the achievement of the national target of onboarding and incubating 75 startups under the Mission. Satendra Singh, Secretary of the Depart-

ment of Urban Development, MoHUA, emphasised that efforts will focus on enhancing citizen experience and holistic service delivery. He explained that the initiative adopts a "City as a Whole" approach, involving all stakeholders and partners, including Urban Local Bodies, in planning and implementation. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs stated that the Mission has consistently prioritised research and innovation as key to advancing Swachhata. In partnership with CSIR-CMERI, MoHUA launched the Swachh Bharat Test Bed & Innovation Centre at Durgapur, a national facility dedicated to research, product development, testing, validation, certification and capacity building in sanitation technologies.



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 Fadnis, 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 Unstamed 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 profes-



sionals 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 Metalics, 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 com-

plex, creating an integrated "mine-to-mill" supply chain within the US.

Mesabi Metalics 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 Metalics, 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



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.

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 plat-



Platform supports 9.6 lakh jobs in India, report says

form 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

vivo to felicitate 10 educators from 6 states

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

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 skillling 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.

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

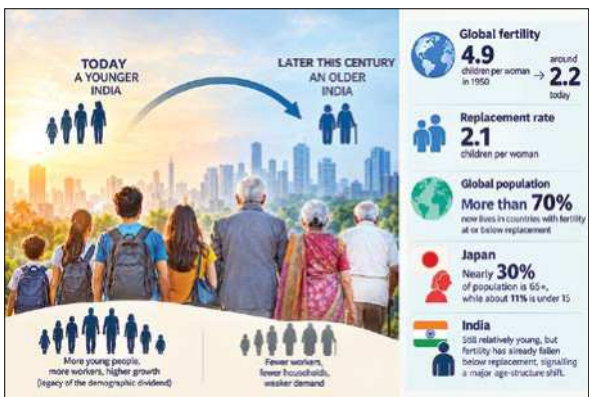
INDIA is likely to have much older population later this century as the country's age structure is beginning to shift and fertility fallen "below replacement", Moody's Ratings said on Tuesday. Moody's said population growth has long been a tailwind for economic growth and creditworthiness, but falling 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 sig-

nificant 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 popula-

tion 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.





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 au-

thorities 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), Lakdikapal.

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 Dhandha 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

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 Fereshth 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 Boushehriadeh to complete the 3-0 win. India will face Singapore in the quarterfinals on Wednesday.

Indian tennis players Dhakshinewar Suresh and Sumit Nagal made winning starts in their men's singles campaigns and secured pre-quarterfinal slots. Dhakshinewar 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 cyclist 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.

Golden glory for India as women lead charge

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

NAGOYA: Undaunted by a heavy downpour and chilly conditions, Neeru Dhandha 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.

Dhandha'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 Asiad 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



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



to end it on a high thanks women's relay gold.

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).

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 Bernal 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.



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



Sambhajanagar 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 Mansukh 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 pa-

trol 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 in-

tensified 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)



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

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,

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

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



Dhanya Vasanta receiving the award in Australia on Monday.

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.

CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Unfortunate occurrence (6)
 - Legal right (3)
 - Roman censor (4)
 - Asian noble's title (4)
 - In ___ of : pro ? (6)
 - Euphemism for hell (9)
 - Goes astray (4)
 - ___ away : escaped ? (3)
 - Bestow upon (5)
 - Contraction of has not (5)
 - Influenza (3)
 - Voice of America (3)
 - Perhaps (5)
 - Long fictional narrative (5)
 - Black beetle (3)
 - Applies friction to (4)
 - Former British coin (9)
 - Home of St Francis (6)
 - Kid's claim (4)
 - Mahler's "Das Lied von der ___" (4)
 - Scoundrel (3)
 - A colour made by mixing red and yellow (6)

DOWN

- Displeased (6)
- In a harsh and austere manner (8)
- ___ above the rest : better than others ? (1,3)
- Beau ideal (7)
- A piece of meat (5)
- Parody (4)
- "Material Girl" singer ? (7)
- Altercation or fight (3)
- Rebuff (4)
- Say for sure (4)
- Answer to a problem (8)
- Zealot (7)
- Hurricane or twister (7)
- Not (prefix) (3)
- Seek ambitiously (6)
- Dissuade (5)
- Exchequer, treasury (4)
- Belgian river (4)



Solution to September 29

SUDOKU



Solution to September 29

‘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 Mukhundan.

The romanticism in the song is enhanced by the visuals of the lead pair clicking pictures in the mountainous terrain and snow-white landscapes.

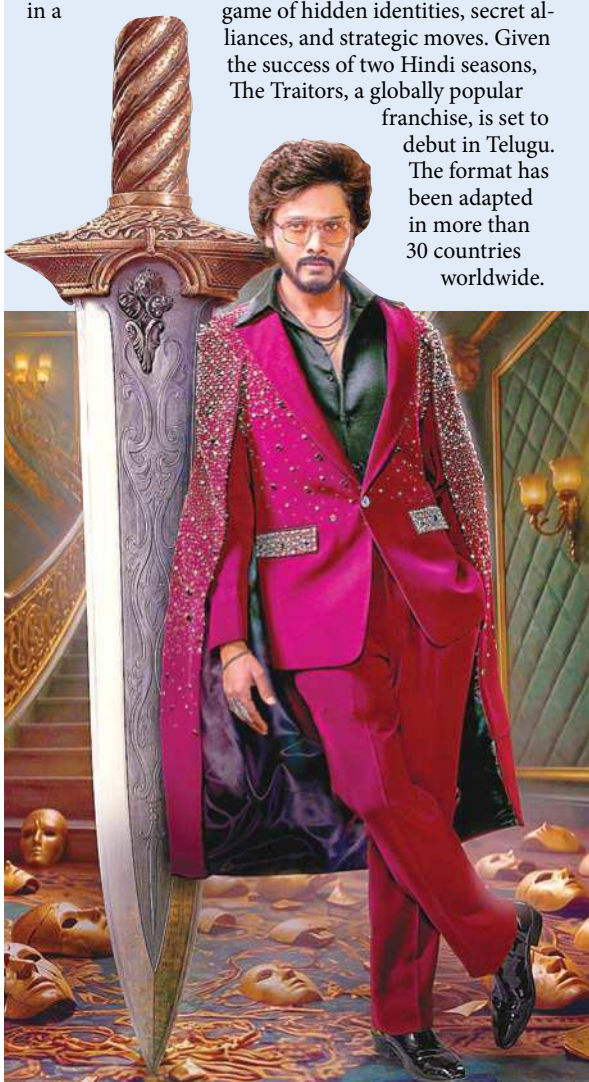
The locations, along with the music and the stellar performance by the lead pair, add a certain magic to this romantic track.

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. Sri Kara 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 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.

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‘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 Pashupate 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.



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 an-

nounced 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.

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 Kis Ka Pyaar Karoon 2, which released last year but couldn’t find much success at the box office.

