



India break athletics gold jinx in Asian Games with women's 4x400m relay win

NAGOYA: India finally broke their athletics gold jinx at the Asian Games 2026, doing so in spectacular fashion as the women's 4x400m relay team of Vithya Ramraj, Kiran Pahal, Machettira Pooamma and Prachi stormed to gold in Aichi-Nagoya on Tuesday. The Indian quartet clocked 3:29.69 to finish ahead of Bahrain, who claimed silver in 3:30.21, while China took bronze in 3:31.02. The victory gave India their first athletics gold of the Games after a string of silver and bronze medals.

Report: Page 10

CM urges Centre to clear hurdles for Tummidihetti

- Meets Union Jal Shakti Minister CR Patil in New Delhi
- Seeks approvals for Palamuru-Rangareddy, Dindi projects

PATAN AFZAL BABU
NEW DELHI

TELANGANA Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy urged Union Jal Shakti Minister CR Patil to resolve the issue of proposed construction of the Tummidihetti barrage through a dialogue with the Maharashtra government. Updating the Union Minister about the submission of the proposal to construct the Tummidihetti barrage to the Maharashtra government, the Chief Minister requested Patil to facilitate required approvals for the barrage.

Revanth Reddy, accompa-



Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy with Union Jal Shakti Minister C R Patil in New Delhi on Tuesday

nied by State Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy, met with Patil in Delhi on Tuesday evening. During the meeting, the Chief Minister

apprised the Union Minister of the important pending issues pertaining to Telangana's projects in the Krishna and Godavari basins.

Pointing out about the delay, the Chief Minister requested the Jal Shakti Minister to speed up the process of entering into an agreement between Telangana and Maharashtra to construct the Tummidihetti barrage on Pranahita River at a Full Reservoir Level (FRL) of +152 metres. Revanth Reddy briefed Patil that constructing the barrage at the level of 152 metres would enable to supply water to the Yellampalli project through gravity which also helps to reduce both the electricity consumption and the associated costs for water supply.

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Revanth meets Rahul, Venugopal

Discusses national issues, Telangana development

VENKATESHWARLU KOLISHETTY

NEW DELHI: Telangana Chief Minister Anumula Revanth Reddy held discussions with Congress leaders, including Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, AICC General Secretary (Organisation) KC Venugopal and Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, ahead of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting in Delhi on Tuesday. Revanth Reddy said the discussions covered key national and socio-economic issues, besides matters concerning Telangana's development.

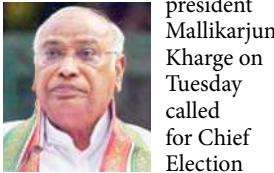
Continued on Page 5

'AFFRONT TO CONSTITUTION' CEC front for diabolical PM-HM duo: Congress

NEW DELHI: Ramping up pressure on Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar, the Congress on Monday said the first step in the long road to reclaiming the country's democracy is the resignation of the CEC who is both a front for the "diabolical PM-HM duo" and an affront to the Constitution. Congress general secretary in-charge of communications Jairam Ramesh shared an interview of former Supreme Court judge Sudhanshu Dhulia in which he has said that the apex court has laid down the law in several judgments on citizenship and it "is not the Election Commission of India's job".

PM should resign for 'pressuring' CEC: Kharage

NEW DELHI: Congress



president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday called for Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's immediate removal over alleged SIR "irregularities" and also demanded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resignation on moral grounds for "pressuring" the poll panel chief.

Continued on Page 5

SC to hear plea seeking suspension of CEC next week P5



Fintechs, banks, public... everyone will be happy. Just impose UPI charges on corruption transactions

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.

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Did not submit enumeration form?

K CHANDRASHEKAR
HYDERABAD

THE voters in the state who have failed to submit their SIR forms can apply for the vote through Form 6 afresh but giving it with a declaration specifying the reasons for failing to submit and also should submit one of the 12 documents prescribed by the Election Commission of India.

According to the officials

Voters can apply afresh but along with a declaration

in the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), there are over 10 per cent voters who could not submit their enumeration forms back to the BLOs. Such voters can apply for the vote by filling up the Form 6. However, these voters will have to submit a declaration form specifying the reasons for not submitting the



FILE PHOTO

forms to the BLOs. A senior official said that the best procedure was to fill the Form 6 application online. Along with this form, a

declaration form will have to be filled. For applications during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise, the voters will have to submit one of the 12 documents specified by the Election Commission of India. In case of application outside the SIR exercise, the voter needs only three things which include passport size

photo, Aadhaar copy and electricity bill for address. The persons who are residing outside India will have to fill Form 6A to get a vote. The application can be done on ECI website <http://voters.eci.gov.in>.

The official said if the voter registers after the SIR exercise that is after publication of final rolls, routine application through Form 6 can be made.

Continued on Page 5

EMPOWERING THE POOR

A CELEBRATION OF OWNERSHIP

From living in their homes to legally owning them...
Pattas and conveyance deeds for a record 26,401 families in NTR and Krishna Districts

**Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh
Sri Nara Chandrababu Naidu
confers complete ownership rights
for poor families**

House pattas distributed,
with a total asset value of
₹11,246.80 crores

708 acres, spanning
34,25,268 square yards,
to be handed over

Date: 30-09-2026 Time: 01:00 PM

Venue: Makineni Basava Punnaiah Stadium,
Vijayawada

Issued by : Director, Information & Public Relations Dept., Andhra Pradesh.

The NDA Government is committed to fulfilling the dream of owning a home for every poor family in the state by 2029

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT										
FORM VII										
(See Sub-rule (1) of rule-25 and Section -19 (1) of the Act -30/2013)										
DECLARATION										
COLLECTOR: JAGTIAL No.G1/787/2025					Dated : 26.09.2026					
R.D.O. JAGTIAL No. E/ 320 /2026					Dated : 17.09.2026					
Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana / Collector, Jagtial that a total of Ac 18.20Gts of land is required in the village of TIRUMALAPUR village of KODIMIAL Mandal Jagtial District for public purpose of excavation of Distributary of [1] POTHARAM LMC MINOR 3 R KM FROM 0.000 TO 0.600[2] POTHARAM LMC MINOR 4 R KM FROM 0.000 TO 0.700 [3] POTHARAM LMC MINOR 5 R KM FROM 0.000 TO 0.250 [4] POTHARAM RMC FROM Km 1.100 to 2.800 [5] POTHARAM RMC MINOR 1 L 0.900 TO 1.800[6] POTHARAM RMC MINOR 3 TE 0.000 TO 1.050UNDER SYP CANAL NETWORKS PACKAGE-III.										
Therefore, declaration is made that a piece of land measuring, more or less Ac 18.20 Gts of standard measurement under acquisition for the above said project in TIRUMALAPOOR village of KODIMIAL Mandal, Jagtial District whose detailed description is as following.										
SCHEDULE										
VILLAGE:TIRUMALAPUR MANDAL:KODIMIAL DISTRICT: JAGTIAL										
[1] POTHARAM LMC MINOR 3 R KM FROM 0.000 TO 0.600										
Sl. No	Sy. No	Type of Title	Area under Acquisition (Acres)	Name &Address of person interested / Pattedar	Boundaries			Structure / res/ Tre es		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	7/B	Patta Dry	0.0100	Vodnala Malleshham S/o Lingaiah	8 15 5 12 Nil					
2	7/F	Patta Dry	0.0700	Odlna Hanmaiah S/o Ramaiah	8 15 5 12 Nil					
3	9/H	Patta Dry	0.0200	Ponnann Narayan S/o Buchaiah	34 7 8 10 Nil					
4	9/A/1	Patta Dry	0.0800	Maji Anjali W/o Natraj Gowri Prasad	34 7 8 10 Nil					
5	9/F	Patta Dry	0.0600	Vodnala Malleshham S/o Lingaiah	34 7 8 10 Nil					
6	9/J	Patta Dry	0.0850	Odlna Buchaiah S/o Hanmaiah	34 7 8 10 Nil					
7	9/G	Patta Dry	0.0650	Odlna Narsaiah S/o Hanmaiah	34 7 8 10 Nil					
8	12/B	Patta Dry	0.0200	Balgam Dharmapuri S/o Narsaiah	9 13 7 11 Nil					
9	12/F	Patta Dry	0.0950	Vodnala Laxman S/o Malliah	9 13 7 11 Nil					
10	12/D	Patta Dry	0.0850	Nandravani Laxman S/o Ramulu	9 13 7 11 Nil					
11	14/C	Patta Dry	0.0650	Chennamaneni Lavanya W/o Purnachandan Rao	12 12 15 13 Nil					
12	14/A	Patta Dry	0.0450	Thigala Anjamma W/o Gopal Rao	12 12 15 13 Nil					
13	16	Patta Dry	0.0300	Mattapelly Sanjeeva Rao S/o Narayana Rao	15 Canal 7 Canal Nil					
14	17/es	Patta Dry	0.0450	Thigala Anjamma W/o Gopal Rao	14 19 Canal 20 Nil					
15	17/es	Patta Dry	0.0650	Odlna Narsaiah S/o Hanmaiah	14 19 Canal 20 Nil					
16	360 /es	Patta Dry	0.0800	Mattapelly Sanjeeva Rao S/o Narayana Rao	18 359 361 20 Nil					
TOTAL			2.12							
[2] POTHARAM LMC MINOR 4 R KM FROM 0.000 TO 0.700										
Sl. No	Sy. No	Type of Title	Area under Acquisition (Acres)	Name &Address of person interested / Pattedar	Boundaries			Structure / res/ Tre es		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	63/ 54/2	Patta Dry	0.0700	Dasari Swamy S/o Rajaiah	64 98 64 32					Pipe line
2	63/ 54/1	Patta Dry	0.0700	Dasari Kishan S/o Rajaiah	64 98 64 32					Pipe line
3	64/B /2	Patta Dry	0.0600	Dasari Swamy S/o Rajaiah	94 98 65 33					Pipe line
4	64/B /1	Patta Dry	0.0600	Dasari Kishan S/o Rajaiah	94 98 65 33					Pipe line
5	64/A	Patta Dry	0.0200	Marupaka Devapala S/o Durgiah	94 98 65 33					Pipe line
6	64/F	Patta Dry	0.1000	Arappalli Rajaiah S/o Narsaiah	94 98 65 33					Pipe line
7	98/es /1/2	Patta Dry	0.1200	Chelmela Bhupal Reddy S/o Narayana Reddy	65 99 97 45					Al Mandi
8	98/es /1/1	Patta Dry	0.1200	Chelmela Jayapal Reddy S/o Narayana Reddy	65 99 97 45					Bore well
9	98/es /6	Patta Dry	0.0350	Thydala Lingaiah S/o Rajaiah	65 99 97 45					Pipe line
10	98	Patta Dry	0.0350	Thydala Shankar S/o Rajaiah	65 99 97 45					Pipe line
11	98/3	Patta Dry	0.0350	Thydala Mallavaiah W/o Babu	65 99 97 45					1 Mangro
12	99A	Patta Dry	0.0350	Thydala Swamy S/o Rajaiah	98 100/161/102 Nil					1 Mangro
13	99D	Patta Dry	0.0150	Road	98 100/161/102 Nil					
14	99C	Patta Dry	0.0600	Polu Rayamallu S/o Lingaiah	98 100/161/102 Nil					1 Mangro
15	99F	Patta Dry	0.0600	Malliala Nadipati Venkata S/o Venkata Narsu	98 100/161/102 Nil					1 Mangro
16	102/B	Patta Dry	0.0500	Malliala Bhuchiah S/o Venkata Narsu	99 101 99 97 Nil					1 Mangro
TOTAL			2.28 %							
[3] POTHARAM LMC MINOR 5 R KM FROM 0.000 TO 0.250										
Sl. No	Sy. No	Type of Title	Area under Acquisition (Acres)	Name &Address of person interested / Pattedar	Boundaries			Structure / res/ Tre es		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	68/27 /1/1	Assigned Patta	0.0350	Easampelli Bhuchava W/o Bhumaiah	69 68 175 95 Nil					1 Mangro
2	68/28	Assigned Patta	0.0750	Are Rajava W/o Malliah	69 68 175 95 Nil					
3	68/27 /2	Assigned Patta	0.0500	Are Narsaiah S/o Ramaiah	69 68 175 95 Nil					
4	68	Govt Land	0.0400	Road	69 68 175 95 Nil					
5	69/C	Patta Dry	1.0050	Vanga Laxman S/o Lingaiah	70 68 176 70 Nil					
6	69/D	Patta Dry	0.0425	Vanga Nampelli S/o Lingaiah	70 68 176 70 Nil					
7	69/E	Patta Dry	0.0425	Vanga Devaiah S/o Lingaiah	70 68 176 70 Nil					
8	69	Patta Dry	0.0400	Road	70 68 176 70 Nil					
Total Extent			1.33							
[4] POTHARAM RMC FROM Km 1.100 to 2.800										
Sl. No	Sy. No	Type of Title	Area under Acquisition (Acres)	Name &Address of person interested / Pattedar	Boundaries			Structure / res/ Tre es		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	249C	Patta Dry	0.1300	Marupaka Devapala S/o Durgiah	250 291/249 248 1					1 Mangro
2	249	Patta Dry	0.0200	Road	250 291/249 248 Nil					
3	249E	Patta Dry	0.0600	Velumula Mallia Reddy S/o Narsingu	250 291/249 248 Nil					2 Teak
4	250C	Patta Dry	0.1600	Velumula Mallia Reddy S/o Narsingu	246 249 250 248 Nil					32 Mangro
5	268/B	Patta Dry	0.2000	ManchalaBakkiah S/o Rajam	291 291 268 268 Nil					1 Mangro
6	282/A	Patta Dry	0.0200	Govt Land	291 282 291 282 Nil					1 Mangro
7	291/ 20	Assigned land	0.0700	Tyidala Bhumavva W/o Bhoomaiah	258 291 291 258 Nil					1 Mangro
8	291	Patta Dry	0.0300	Govt Land	258 291 291 258 Nil					1 Mangro
9	291 /10	Patta Dry	0.2000	Bokkena Chinnna Malliah S/o Ramaiah	258 291 291 258 Nil					1 Mangro
10	291/6	Assigned land	0.0400	TunikiKistaiah S/o Bhoomaiah	258 291 291 258 Nil					1 Mangro
11	291/8	Assigned land	0.1000	ChiliveruShaikula W/o Narayana	258 291 291 258 Nil					1 Mangro
12	291/4 /1/B & 291/4 /1/C	Assigned land	0.1600	Chokkala Rama Swamy S/o Rajam	258 291 291 258 Nil					1 Mangro
13	291/4 /1/A	Assigned land	0.0300	Chokkala Prabhakar S/o Sailu	258 291 291 258 Nil					1 Mangro
14	291/4 /1/D	Assigned land	0.0300	Chokkala Rajeshwari W/o Devaiah	258 291 291 258 Nil					1 Mangro
15	291 /4/1/E	Assigned land	0.1200	ChokkalaShankaravva W/o Laxmipathi	258 291 291 258 Nil					1 Mangro

Telangana Tech-savvy Transport department hints at AI-based driving tests to cut down mishaps

The department has taken up the initiative after a Committee on Automated Driving Test Tracks visited driving test facilities in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha

MM FAROOQUI
HYDERABAD

THE Telangana Transport Department is planning to upgrade driving test tracks with AI-based video analytics to make driving tests more transparent, stringent and technology-driven, said Joint Transport Commissioner M Chandra Shekhar Goud.

On Tuesday, JTC along with Deputy Transport Commissioner Ravindar Kumar, Regional Transport Officer Raghunandan and officials from the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA), inspected the driving test tracks at Kondapur and Nagole on Monday.

Speaking during the in-



Transport Department and HMDA officials inspecting the driving test tracks at Kondapur and Nagole as part of the initiative to upgrade facilities with AI-based video analytics

spection, Chandra Shekhar said strict and transparent driving tests were essential to improving road safety and reducing road accidents. He

said the proposed technology would help minimise human intervention in the testing process.

The department has tak-

en up the initiative after a Committee on Automated Driving Test Tracks visited driving test facilities in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha to study the systems and practices followed there. The committee subsequently submitted its report to the Transport Department.

Based on the committee's recommendations and directions from Transport Minister Ponnamm Prabhakar, Special Chief Secretary Vikas Raj, and Transport Commissioner K Ilambarithi, the department plans to implement the project in phases.

In the first phase, the department proposes to upgrade driving test tracks within the Core Urban Region (CURE) and the Ka-

rimnagar RTO Driving Test Track.

The upgraded facilities will use AI-based video analytics to assess driving tests, with the aim of reducing manual intervention.

The Transport Department and Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. are jointly planning the upgrade of the existing driving test tracks and implementation of the AI-enabled testing system.

As part of the preparations, officials conducted a field survey at the Kondapur and Nagole tracks along with HMDA officials Srinivas, Rajashekhar Reddy and Vikram, and committee members Amrita Varshini, Abhilash Naik and Neha, besides RTO official Kondayya.

PCC chief endorses Revanth's 'rich God, poor God' remarks

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

AMID the political controversy over Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's remarks that "Shiva is the god of the poor, while Rama is the god of the rich," TPCC President B. Mahesh Kumar Goud has defended the Chief Minister and endorsed his comments.

Speaking to the national media in Hyderabad on Tuesday, Mahesh Kumar Goud questioned why Revanth Reddy should apologise for the remarks. He suggested that the Chief Minister was referring to the traditional visual representations of Lord Rama and Lord Shiva.

Goud said Lord Rama is



traditionally depicted in royal attire and adorned with ornaments, while Lord Shiva is portrayed wearing tiger skin and without jewellery or material ostentation. He questioned whether highlighting the differences in their traditional depictions was

inappropriate. Mahesh Kumar Goud further stated that Congress leaders have immense respect and devotion towards both Lord Rama and Lord Shiva. He said they pray to both deities and believe that the blessings of all gods are always with them.



Paddy procurement centres to be geo-tagged

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NAGARKURNOOL

DISTRICT Collector Hemanta Keshav Patil directed officials to arrange for Kharif paddy procurement and ensure that farmers face no inconvenience. He reviewed procurement ar-

rangements with officials at the Collectorate on Tuesday and instructed them to prepare 183 procurement centres across 20 mandals. The Collector directed officials to geo-tag every procurement centre and register the details on the PCSAP portal. He also instructed them to ensure 16 basic facilities, including weighing machines, moisture meters, tarpaulins and drinking water, and upload photographs and details on the portal. Officials were directed to ensure payment of the government-announced MSP to farmers and make advance arrangements for paddy transportation and storage. The Collector also called for regular monitoring of vehicle movement, coordination among departments and timely resolution of field-level issues.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the general public that my client, Nadikuda Kavitha W/o. Saide Chary, Age: 35 years, Occu: Household, R/o. H.No. 11-289/3, Padmavathi Colony, Chandur Village & Mandal, Nalgonda District she got Property through Sale Deed No. 194/2017, SRO-Chandur, she was lost his original Link document No. 281/2009, SRO-Chandur, when she was travelling from Clock Tower to Prakasham Bazar Nalgonda on Auto, Which Contains original link documents with regard to same matter was reported to SHO-Nalgonda 1 Town. The said original link document covered property of Residential House bearing Municipal Door No. 11-288/2/3, Plot No. 2, Within Sy.No. 205, measuring 78.75 Sq. Yards & 65.84 Sq.Mtrs., Situated at Block No. 11, Chandur Village & Mandal, Nalgonda District. If anyone found the said property document may return to my client. Any person have any objection over the said property contact the under signed with documentary evidence within 7 days from the date of this notice. The said property bounded by: North: Plot No.1, South: Plot No.3 East: 30'00 Wide Road, West: Plot No. 5. Sd/- Nampally Chandrasekhar, Advocate H. No. 6-2-439/1, Sri Nagar Colony, Hyd Road, Nalgonda-508001 Nalgonda Date: 29/9/26

Singareni, TGGENCO draw up coal supply plan

75,500 tonnes to be supplied daily to thermal power plants amid rising electricity demand

PATHAN AFZAL BABU

HYDERABAD: Singareni and Telangana GENCO have prepared an action plan to ensure uninterrupted coal supply to TGGENCO's thermal power plants in line with the state's growing electricity needs amid El Niño conditions. A special coordination meeting held through video conference on Tuesday discussed a daily coal supply target of 75,500 tonnes.

Singareni CMD Dr Buddhaprakash Jyoti and Telangana GENCO CMD Dr Harish, along with Singareni Area General Managers, Chief Engineers of TGGENCO power plants and senior officials of both organisations, participated in the meeting.

They reviewed the coal requirements of each plant, current supplies, coal quality, availability of railway rakes, loading and unloading operations, and transportation difficulties.

The meeting discussed a plan to supply 56,000



tonnes a day through 14 railway rakes and 19,500 tonnes by road. Plant-wise requirements of 24,000 tonnes a day for Kothagudem, 4,500 tonnes for Kakatiya, 15,000 tonnes for Bhadradi and 34,000 tonnes for Yadadri were reviewed.

For Yadadri, an action plan was drawn up to transport 8,000 tonnes a day through two rakes from the Naini coal block in Odisha

and 36,000 tonnes through six rakes from Singareni's local mines. Singareni officials said steps were being taken to increase supplies from Naini.

Singareni's Marketing Department officials said 15.02 lakh tonnes of coal had been supplied to TGGENCO power plants by road and rail up to September 28. During the corresponding period last September, supply stood at 11.44 lakh tonnes.

TGGENCO officials informed the meeting that electricity demand had risen due to dry conditions associated with El Niño and that additional coal was needed to support higher generation.

Parties gear up for graduates' MLC poll

• Janasena announces former Health Director Gadala Srinivas Rao as candidate
• Congress and BJP yet to finalise candidates
• BRS leader Rakesh Reddy, whose candidature is yet to be confirmed, begins campaigning

PV SATYANARAYANA
KHAMMAM

POLITICAL parties in Telangana have begun preparations for the Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda graduates' MLC election, with the process for preparation of fresh electoral rolls set to begin.

Chief Electoral Officer C Sudharshan Reddy has issued the schedule, with the public notice for voter registration issued on September 28 and the final electoral roll scheduled for publication on December 30.

Issues relating to government recruitment, jobs, education, and concerns of unemployed youth are expected to figure prominently in the contest



BRS leader A Rakesh Reddy (likely candidate)

The term of sitting MLC Chintapandu Naveen, popularly known as Teenmar Mallanna, ends in March 2027.

In the May 2024 biennial election, Congress candidate Mallanna defeated BRS nominee A Rakesh Reddy.

The results were declared



Janasena candidate Gadala Srinivas Rao

on June 8. The seat had fallen vacant after then MLC Palla Rajeshwar Reddy resigned following his election to the Jangaon Assembly constituency in 2023.

Rakesh Reddy, whose candidature is yet to be formally announced, has already begun campaign-

ing, meeting graduates and organising programmes across the constituency. Issues relating to government recruitment, jobs, education, and the concerns of unemployed youth are expected to figure prominently in the contest.

Meanwhile, the Jana Sena Party has named former Health Director Gadala Srinivas Rao as its candidate. He has also begun his campaign.

The Congress and BJP are yet to announce their nominees.

Several names are doing the rounds in Congress circles, including Telangana State Tourism Corporation Chairman Patel Ramesh Reddy, Vijaya Dairy Chairman Gutta Amith Reddy, Osmania University JAC leader Lokesh Yadav, Singapuram Indira, Ramireddy Sarvothama Reddy, son of

former minister Damodar Reddy, Ponguleti Prasad Reddy, brother of Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, Nalgonda DCC president Punna Kailash Neta and RTI Commissioner PV Srinivas.

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka reportedly held a meeting with key leaders from the erstwhile Warangal, Khammam, and Nalgonda districts in Hyderabad earlier this month to discuss the party's election strategy.

According to party sources, Vikramarka asked the leaders to abide by the high command's decision on the candidate and work together for the party.

With the electoral roll exercise now scheduled, political activity in the graduates' constituency is likely to intensify in the run-up to the election.

Khammam Youth Cong focuses on strengthening grassroots

“The organisation had also identified problems faced by people at the grassroots and worked with local communities towards addressing them” Khammam Youth Congress president V Sai Kumar

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KHAMMAM

“THE District Youth Congress is working to strengthen the organisation from the village level and develop a new generation of young leaders through a structured action plan,” district president Vejanla Sai Kumar said.

On Tuesday, Sai Kumar presented a report on the activities undertaken by the Khammam district Youth Congress during the past six months at a state-level Youth Congress workshop in the presence of Youth Congress national in-charge Manish Sharma and Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president Mahesh Kumar Goud.

Speaking on the



occasion, Sai Kumar said the Youth Congress had organised several protests and agitations in Khammam district over what he described as policies of the Union government.

“The organisation had also identified problems faced by people at the grassroots and worked with local communities towards addressing them,” he said.

“Youth Congress workers were also actively involved in taking welfare programmes implemented by the state government to

the people,” he said.

Sai Kumar said the organisation was preparing an action plan to further strengthen the Youth Congress from the village level and involve young people in every village, with the objective of nurturing new leadership.

Youth Congress national in-charge Manish Sharma and Telangana Youth Congress president Jakki Shiva Charan Reddy appreciated Sai Kumar after reviewing the report on the district unit's activities and its proposed future programme.

Tribals encouraged to utilise Prajavani prog

HANS NEWS SERVICE
WANAPARTHY

“TRIBALS should raise their grievances through the Prajavani platform. Officials should ensure timely resolution of the petitions submitted by tribals in Prajavani,” said Jatoth Hussain, member of National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (STs) on Tuesday.

“The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (STs) stands at the forefront to ensure justice for tribals whenever and wherever they face problems,” he added.

Hussain was received by additional collector (revenue) Vinod Kumar who welcomed him at the Khilla Ghanapuram mandal headquarters. He met tribal residents at Eniki thanda and inquired about the issues they were facing.

Hussain noted they had brought to his attention issues concerning 460 acres—known as ‘Raja’s land’—spread across 27 thandas in



the mandal. He assured to examine the details regarding the issue and provide a solution within two months.

He emphasised that the Atrocities Act should not be misused but rather invoked only in cases involving genuine grievances and injustices; cautioned against diluting the significance of the law by filing atrocity cases for minor disputes.

Noting the nationwide popularity of the Banjara language, he urged people to elect leaders who work for

the public good. Public representatives should dedicate time to understanding the people's problems and strive to resolve them.

Later, the commission members visited Savai Gudem thanda in Wanaparthi mandal and inquired about the difficulties faced by residents due to lack of road connectivity. They discussed potential measures to resolve the issue with villagers and assured the issue would be brought to attention of officials.

400 sheep killed after Dakshin Express hits flock

DEEKONDA RAVI SHANKAR
YADADRI-BHONGIR

IN a major tragedy, around 400 sheep were killed after being hit by the speeding Dakshin Express near Bibinagar in Yadadri-Bhongir district on Tuesday. The incident occurred in the Ghatkesar-Kondamadugu stretch, leaving sheep carcasses and remains scattered along the railway track.

According to information available, farmer Balamoni Kistaiah, a resident of Aleenagar under Jooluru village limits in Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri district, had halted near Kondamadugu with his flock of sheep.

The Dakshin Express, travelling from Kazipet towards Hyderabad Nampally, reportedly sounded its horn while approaching the area. Startled by the loud horn, the sheep panicked and ran onto the railway track.

The shepherd attempted to bring the flock under control. However, before he could move the animals away from the track, the speeding train struck them. Around 400 sheep were crushed under the train and died on the spot.



The incident caused heavy financial losses, estimated to run into several lakhs of rupees, to the farmer. Devastated by the loss of his flock, Kistaiah appealed to the State government to provide immediate financial assistance and compensation.

On receiving information about the incident, railway officials and police rushed to the spot. The carcasses were removed from the railway track and train services were restored.

Police registered a case and launched an investigation into the incident.

‘RUN’ FOR YOUR HEART



A 5K Run was organized by Dr Samuel Super Speciality Hospital on World Heart Day and Swachhata Hi Seva in Mahabubnagar Municipal Corporation limits on Tuesday, which was flagged off by Mayor Gummala Mamatha Srinivas Mudiraj

Tackle drug menace with iron hand: DSP

HANS NEWS SERVICE
GADWAL

A review meeting on drug control and prevention measures was held under the auspices of Telangana Eagle Force at the District SP office in Jogulamba Gadwal district headquarters on Tuesday to discuss preventive measures for youth and students from falling prey to drugs, curbing drug use and trafficking, and increasing the participation of all sections of the police department towards achieving the goal of a drug-free India.

Telangana Eagle Force SP PV Padmaja said that there is a need to see the drug problem not just

as a policing issue but as a social responsibility related to the safety of future generations. He suggested that educational institutions, parents, police department, voluntary organizations and people should work in coordination so that the youth do not get attracted to drugs.

SP Rao added that the police department is giving priority to eradicating drugs in the district.

He said that awareness, monitoring and preventive measures need to be implemented more effectively at the level of educational institutions to protect students and youth from the effects of drugs.



Discipline key to students' success: DIEO

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KHAMMAM

DISCIPLINE and good habits are essential for students to achieve their goals and build a successful future, District Intermediate Education Officer (DIEO) Ravi Babu said on Tuesday. Addressing Freshers' Day celebrations organised by Resonance Junior College here, he urged students to respect their

parents, work hard, and stay away from social media and drugs. Teachers play a key role in developing discipline, confidence, and goal-oriented thinking among students, he said. College director R V Nagendra Kumar said the institution focused on students' academic and overall development. Cultural programmes, including dance and music, marked the celebrations.



PEOPLE FIRST



Sub-Collector Mrinal Shreshtha meeting a disabled woman outside his office to receive her petition seeking resolution of her problems in Bhadrachalam on Tuesday

Khanpura Urdu School gets fresh push for permanent building

Community leaders seek government support to address accommodation and infrastructure needs

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KARIMNAGAR

COMMUNITY leaders, public representatives and parents have joined hands to address the pressing needs of the Government Urdu Medium School at Khanpura, including rent, teachers' salaries and basic infrastructure.

At a meeting held on Monday, Laksh Foundation president Dr Mustaq Ali Khan, who had borne the school's entire rent last year, contributed another Rs 50,000 towards five months' rent in advance. He urged Congress leaders to approach the government for a permanent school building or financial assistance towards rental expenses.

AIUC president Mufti Nadeem contributed an amount equivalent to three months' salary of a teacher, while former deputy mayor Abbas Sami paid one month's rent.

Khadimane Millat pledged to bear a teach-



er's salary for a year. District Congress Minority Cell president Taj assured participants that efforts would be made to establish a permanent school building with benches and other facilities.

Parents sought better infrastructure and a stable arrangement for students. Dr Mustaq Ali Khan was felicitated for his support.

Army engineers to be deployed for SLBC, Kaleshwaram works

Telangana likely to take three Corps of Engineers officers on deputation

PATHAN AFZAL BABU
HYDERABAD

THE Telangana Government is set to strengthen the execution of the Srisailem 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 Bhalu. 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-



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.

Scuffle breaks out over 2BHK allotments

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE
MADDIRALA (SURYAPET)

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

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

Beneficiaries argue with police during protest alleging irregularities



deserving poor families.

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

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

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

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

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



SCR intensifies water quality checks at Nizamabad station

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NIZAMABAD

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

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

contamination.

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

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

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

Opposition protests agenda approval at Bodhan Council meet

Heated exchanges erupt as councillors demand discussion before decisions are taken



HANS NEWS SERVICE
NIZAMABAD

TENSIONS erupted at the Bodhan Municipal general body meeting on Tuesday after opposition councillors protested the unilateral ap-

proval of the agenda without allowing them an opportunity to speak.

The meeting, presided over by Municipal Chairperson Thumu Padma, witnessed heated exchanges as BJP and AIMIM councillors

respond to their constituents if they were not permitted to voice their concerns during official deliberations. Their protest led to a heated argument with ruling party members and municipal officials.

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

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



SRSP storage rises to 46.65 TMC as water inflows continue

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE

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

Against the inflow, project authorities released 2,157 cusecs of water through the project's main canals and lift

irrigation schemes to meet agricultural and drinking water requirements in downstream areas.

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

Technology to play key role in strengthening crime control

HANS NEWS SERVICE
JAYASHANKAR BHUPALPALY

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

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

He urged personnel to im-

prove skills in CCTNS 2.0, e-Sakshya, digital forensics, cyber investigation and social media monitoring. He also directed prompt disposal of



pending cases and continuous surveillance of drug offences, cybercrime, traffic violations, rowdies and habitual offenders.

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

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

Surprise checks conducted at fertiliser shops in Chigurumamidi

HANS NEWS SERVICE

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

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



compliance with regulations.

The Mandal Agriculture Officer warned dealers against selling fertilisers above the

prescribed Maximum Retail Price (MRP), cautioning that violations would attract legal action. Dealers were also in-

structed to issue computer-generated or authorised bills for every transaction. Officials urged farmers to insist on bills when purchasing fertilisers and check the manufacturing date, batch number and expiry date printed on the bags. Farmers were also advised to report any suspected sale of counterfeit or substandard fertilisers to the Agriculture Department.

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

Students learn about use of robotics in education

HANS NEWS SERVICE
WANAPARTHY

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

Topics such as robot construction, programming, use of sensors and automation were explained. Robotics fos-



ters creativity, problem-solving abilities, critical thinking and teamwork skills among students. The principal noted

the growing importance of technology in modern education and advised students to gain knowledge in emerging

technological fields, such as robotics and artificial intelligence, alongside their regular academic curriculum.

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE

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

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

Rao called upon journalists to participate in large numbers in the event here and ensure its success. He demanded a media commission to address changes in

the media landscape and enactment of a special national law to ensure journalists' safety. He called for the restoration of rights previously guaranteed by law regarding job security, service conditions, wages and grievance redressal mechanisms for journalists.

Rao demanded the Centre to constitute a wage board to ensure wages for the media staff that align with current cost of living. He urged the

Telangana government to fulfil its election promise by sanctioning house-sites and houses to journalists, and to provide health cards and cashless treatment, like those extended to employees.

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

HC orders DGP to identify cops who manhandled women MLAs

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

THE Telangana High Court on Tuesday modified its interim order in the dispute between the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) legislators and the police over entry into the Assembly. Justice Tangirala Madhavi Devi passed the order on an application by the State seeking to vacate the earlier directions.

The court re-affirmed that maintaining decorum and enforcing rules within the Assembly precincts is the exclusive prerogative of the Speaker. It changed only its directions on the police accountability for the altercation at the Assembly gate on September 7.

The judge modified the earlier order and directed the DGP to identify the erring police officers and furnish to the Speaker for taking action against them and if the incident on September 7 oc-

Modifies order on police action against BRS legislators at Assembly gate

curred at the gate, then the DGP has to furnish a report to the court on the entire incident.

The case arises from a writ by the BRS Legislature Party Deputy Floor Leader Talasani Srinivas Yadav, seeking strict action against the police officers, who restrained the BRS MLAs from entering the Assembly to attend the proceedings on September 7.

The petition alleged that the police officers blocked BRS members from entering the Assembly without authority, misbehaved with them and caused bodily injuries. On September 7, the court had issued interim directions that authorities should not prevent legislators from attending House proceedings. It said any disciplinary action

for breach of internal rules rested solely with the Speaker. It also directed the DGP to identify the erring personnel and take strict action against them.

The State, represented by Advocate-General A Sudarshan Reddy, sought vacation or modification of those directions. It raised a preliminary objection on maintainability. It argued that a political party has no locus standi to claim violation of fundamental rights under Article 226.

On merits, the State said the police acted on the Speaker's directions to the Chief Marshal to maintain order. It said BRS legislators wearing black T-shirts with printed political slogans tried to force their way into the Assembly. Relying on Supreme Court

precedent on parliamentary privileges, the A-G argued that the members violated Assembly bulletins and prohibitory orders under the Hyderabad City Police Act. He said the resulting scuffles injured several police officers, including women.

Counsel for the petitioner countered that the petition was maintainable. It was filed by the recognised BRS legislature party, he said, and not by a general political entity. He argued that the blockade was politically motivated. Women legislators in black sarees and members without slogan-bearing shirts were also detained and taken to BRS Bhavan. He submitted that the written directions from the Legislature Secretariat were issued after the

court pronounced its interim order at 3.30 pm, to justify the police conduct.

Justice Devi held that the question of maintainability would be decided at the final hearing. She noted that the treatment of women legislators had not been addressed. The court observed that internal Assembly discipline falls within the Speaker's domain. Police action taken on the Speaker's directions, it said, remains subject to parliamentary oversight.

The court then modified its second direction. The DGP must review the incident and identify the personnel who misbehaved with or manhandled women legislators; he must submit the findings to the Speaker for appropriate action. If the inquiry shows any part of the incident took place outside the designated precincts at the Assembly gate, the DGP must submit a detailed report directly to the court.

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

ADILABAD MLA Payal Shankar criticized the Telangana state government on Tuesday, stating that local farmers are mired in a severe crisis due to adverse natural conditions and lack of governmental support. Addressing a press conference alongside BJP Kisan Morcha State President Baswapuram Lakshminarsai-

ah, he issued a strict deadline of October 21 for the Congress administration to fulfill core agricultural demands. The requirements include providing Rs 50,000 per acre compensation for crop losses incurred during the Vanakalam season, implementing a complete crop loan waiver for the current agricultural cycle, and ensuring immediate implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana with the state government bearing one hundred percent of premium costs for the upcoming Ya-



sangi season. Payal Shankar warned that if the state government fails to take a definitive decision on crop insurance by October 21, the BJP Kisan Morcha will launch a massive Rythu Yatra starting October 22 from Adilabad to the Secretariat in Hyderabad. The party announced that its state president will flag off the rally, with prominent central and state leaders participating alongside thousands of farmers. Additionally, a party delegation will conduct a field inspection in Nalgonda district on Wednesday to assess crop damage.

The lawmaker highlighted that agriculturalists face dis-

tress due to El Nino conditions, deficient rainfall, and frequent power cuts, calling the non-implementation of PMFBY an unforgivable offense. He noted that even the Communist government in Kerala implements the central insurance scheme, whereas Telangana farmers suffer due to official negligence. Criticizing both the previous BRS regime and the current Congress government for ignoring farmer promises, he noted that under PMFBY, affected farmers would have received Rs 35,000 to Rs 40,000 per acre in direct compensation for seasonal losses.

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 front for diabolical PM-HM duo: 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 Gauravalli 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.

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

Continued from P1

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. He also said the Centre will help farmers continue cultivation despite drought conditions. The Centre will also facilitate coordination and cooperation among the states and other stakeholders, he added.

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

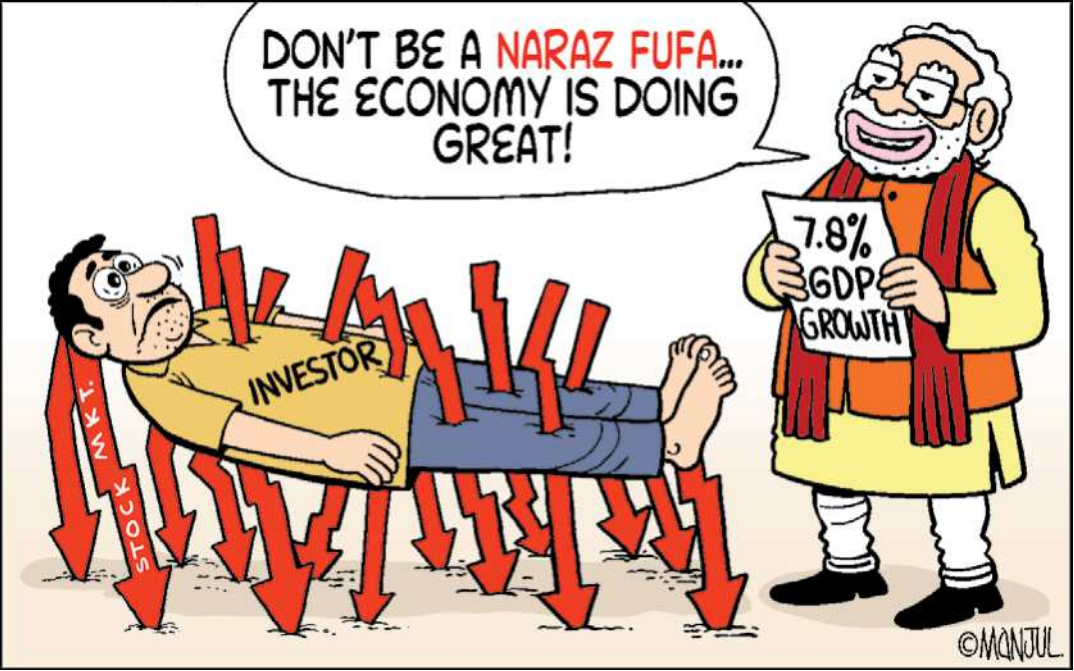
Singh Sukhu, participated in the meeting.

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.

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.

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.



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.

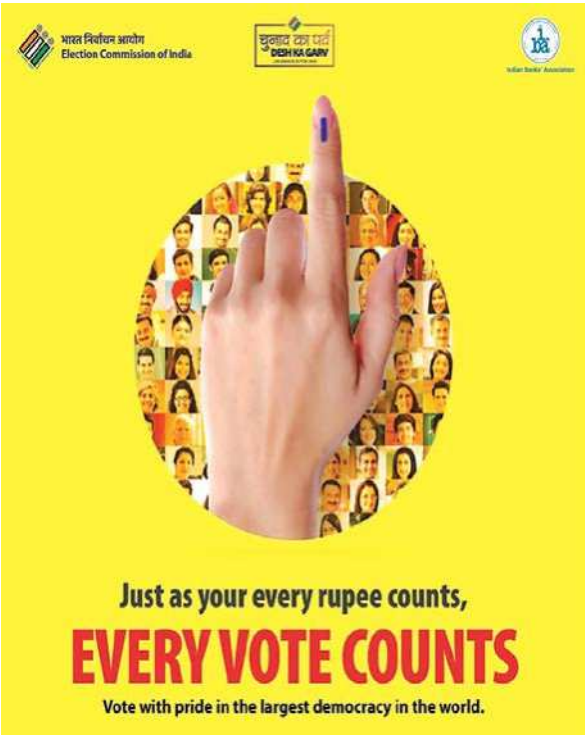
In a judgment delivered a few days back, the Supreme Court directed that the accused may be released immediately, after stating that the police cannot arrest without stating the reasons or denying a lawyer, at the time of arrest. It also declared that violating Fundamental Right (Article 22(1) of the 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 inflicted with a strange malady—They are enjoying seeing how they would have looked back in the 1980s. In this category are those born before 1980 and are without any old photographs in their collection.

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

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

The reason for this creation upon creation is the generative AI models powered by artificial intelligence. Like the proverbial dwarf growing ever larger, along with their form, their usage is also increasing. Not only that, they are expanding in terms of words, photos, music, and videos that they produce and users and creators. For generative AI models to create new things, they must first be trained. As the days go by, not only will these 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)



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), Lakdikapul.

CMA Dr K.C.H.A.V.S.N. Murthy, Central Council Member, ICMAI; CMA D. Venkata Ram Babu, Chairman, ICMAI Hyderabad Chapter; and CMA

Kirti Gupta, Secretary, ICMAI Hyderabad Chapter, were present at the programme.

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

The training is also linked

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

Speaking at the valedictory programme, CMA Chittaranjan Chattopadhyay said the institute was focusing on preparing CMAs to apply their professional knowledge to practical business situations. "ASTP is an important part of our professional capacity-building efforts, helping

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

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



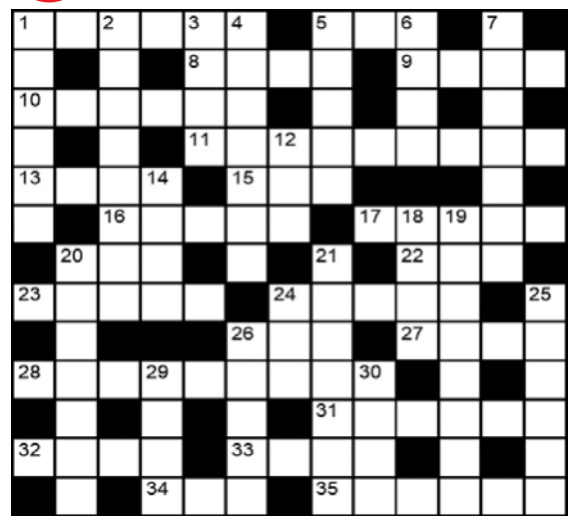
Dhanya Vasanta receiving the award in Australia on Monday.

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



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's ShowKeen exhibition will debut in Hyderabad at the Hi-Tex Exhibition Centre on October 17-18. The 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.

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.

NCLAT seeks creditors' replies on Subhash Chandra plea

NEW DELHI

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

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

The bench, comprising

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

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

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

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



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.

vivo to felicitate 10 educators from 6 states

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

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

India's demographic advantage faces ageing test

NEW DELHI

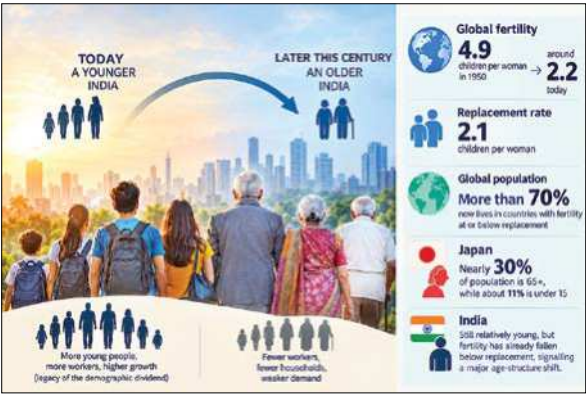
INDIA is likely to have much older population later this century as the country's age structure is beginning to shift and fertility fallen "below replacement", Moody's Ratings said on Tuesday. Moody's said population growth has long been a tailwind for economic growth and creditworthiness, but falling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

that picture. Fewer workers will limit productive capacity, while fewer households and consumers will weaken demand. As a result, countries will have to rely more on productivity to sustain growth. Moody's said the global fertility rate has declined from 4.9 children per woman in 1950 to around 2.2 today, only slightly above the replacement rate of 2.1. "What makes this episode particularly 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 Türkiye, 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.





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

- Peter Wilson, Indian trap-shooting coach

Sports Nation

Asian Games 2026

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 Dhanda, 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 Dhanda gave India its first ever women's trap gold in the Asian Games before the women's 4x400m relay team added another gold in the evening as the country breached the 50 mark in the mega-event's medal tally to enter the top-10 here on Tuesday.

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

In the evening, the women's relay team of Kiran, Prachi Choudhary, M R Poovamma and Vithya Ramraj claimed the 4x400 women's relay top honours with a timing of 3:29.69sec. Of these, the 36-year-old Poovamma was a member of the Indian teams that won gold medals in the 2014 and 2018 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.



KAT elects new office bearers for 2026-2030



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

Clubs Cup: HPRC narrowly misses title in Madrid



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

OU announces Inter-College Sports C'ships

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

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

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

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

Rats, flies, cockroaches, blood....:

FDA seizes over 50 tonnes of food stock

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

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

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



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.

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)



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 Chandees 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)

AP agriculture caught between drought and destructive rain

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

K VARAPRASADA RAO
AMARAVATI

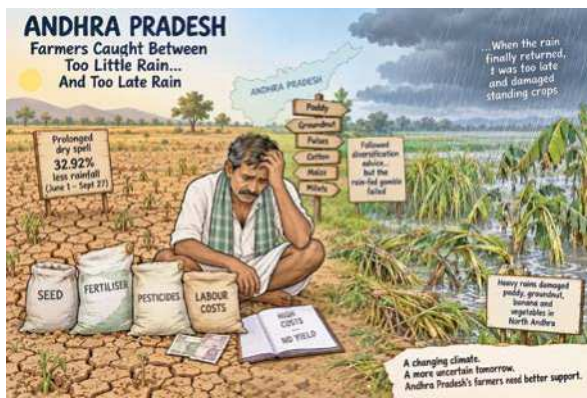
ANDHRA Pradesh's kharif season has slipped into a deep agrarian crisis, with a prolonged rainfall deficit leaving thousands of farmers staring at crop losses after spending heavily on sowing, fertilisers, pesticides and labour.

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

The scale of the agricultural setback becomes clearer when

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

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



ton covered 10.80 lakh acres, maize 3.1 lakh acres and pulses 9.41 lakh acres. The sowing window for groundnut and cotton has already closed, leaving little scope for farmers to recover the season through fresh planting.

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

The consequences are visible in the cultivation figures. Prakasam managed only 27 per cent of its projected area, Annamayya 33 per cent, Anakapalli 36 per cent, Chittoor 36 per cent, Markapuram 37 per cent, Polavaram 38 per cent and Palnadu 66 per cent.

In several of these districts, farmers had already incurred expenditure on land preparation, seed, fertiliser, pesticides, labour and lease rents before the crops began to fail.

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

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

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

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

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

APSEC moves cybercrime police over fake local body poll schedule

Fabricated messages circulated using SEC letterhead, logo and signature

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

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

The commission issued a press note on August 24, clarifying that the schedule was fake and urging the public and media to rely only on its



official press notes and press conferences for authenticated information.

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

The SEC categorically rejected the claims in a press note issued on September 29,

stating that the information had neither been issued nor authorised by it.

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

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

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

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

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

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

Speaking on the occasion, Kurmanath said Re-survey 2.0 was being implemented to correct



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

errors, resolve existing land-related issues and prevent future disputes. He inspected the field-level survey along with revenue and survey officials and expressed satisfaction over farmers participating in the process.

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

measurements and subsequently verified with relevant documents in the presence of farmers.

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

The director said re-survey was being conducted in 628 villages in Phase-I, 748 in Phase-II, 729 in Phase-III and 1,645 in Phase-IV.

Under Phase-V, the process was under way in 1,343 villages with the active participation of farmers.

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

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

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

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

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

Crane collapse at Tirupati construction site claims three lives

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUPATI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

APCRDA signs agreement with Rainbow for hospital

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

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

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

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

The lease agreement was signed on behalf



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

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

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

Domestic market vital to strengthen aqua sector: NFDB chief

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

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

The Shrimp Retail-2026 conference was held at a hotel here on Tuesday. On the occasion, dignitaries unveiled the Aqua Post journal. The conference was attended



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

by aqua farmers, processors, retailers and researchers from across the country. Participants presented strategies through PowerPoint presentations aimed at promoting the sustainable long-term growth of the domestic aquaculture sector.

Speaking as the chief guest at the conference, Dr Behera said the aquaculture industry

should reduce its dependence on exports and focus on increasing domestic consumption of fish and shrimp. This, he said, would help ensure stable and remunerative returns for farmers and processors.

Referring to climate-related risks, including the El Niño phenomenon, Dr Behera said the NFDB was

offering a 40% premium subsidy under the Aqua Crop Insurance scheme to protect farmers against possible yield losses. He urged aqua farmers to make use of the scheme. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Deputy Director General (Fisheries Science) Dr Joykrushna Jena and Shrimp Retail Convenor

Prabhas Pradhan said India ranked second globally in shrimp production, with Andhra Pradesh contributing more than 70% of the country's shrimp output.

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

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



‘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.

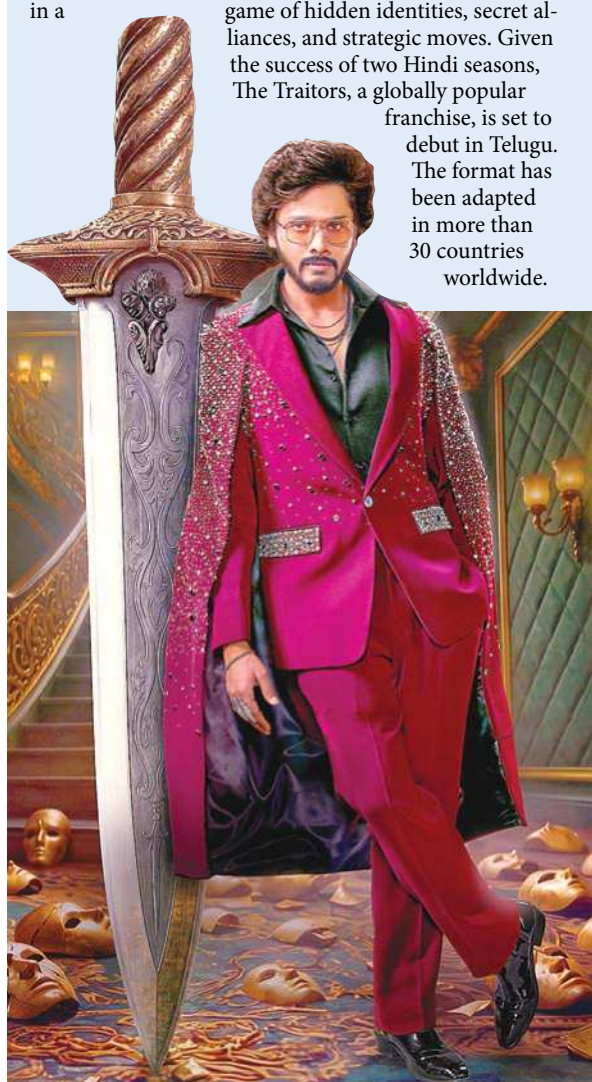
The locations, along with the music and the stellar performance by the lead pair, add a certain magic to this romantic track.

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.

Ayesha Khan stuns in black off-shoulder gown

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



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



Popular star Naveen Chandra visited Tirumala temple on Tuesday morning and sought the blessing of Lord Venkateswara. The actor performed VIP break darshan and prayed to the deity. After the darshan, Naveen Chandra met Vedic scholars in Ranganayakula Mandapam and was blessed with theertha prasadam along with being offered a silk cloth by the officials. “While I prayed to the Lord, I requested for the successful completion of my all upcoming projects without any hurdles. Also, today, I 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.