



THE Hans India



Golden glory for India as women lead charge
Undaunted by a heavy downpour and chilly conditions, Neeru Dhandu 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.

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.

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

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.

Simultaneously published from Hyderabad | Warangal | Tirupati | Vijayawada | Visakhapatnam | Khammam | Kurnool | Delhi: RNI No: DELENG/2017/74095

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WINDOWS

2 MHA officials arrested for seeking bribe

NEW DELHI: Delhi Police's Special Cell, in coordination with central agencies, apprehended two MHA officials for allegedly seeking gratification from an association to facilitate its registration under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), officials said on Tuesday. The two officials, a senior accountant and an accountant, were apprehended in New Delhi on September 28, according to the Ministry of Home Affairs. One of them is presently posted in the Foreigners Division of the MHA, while the other is currently posted in a Pay and Accounts Office and had earlier served in the Foreigners Division, the ministry said. Preliminary questioning has revealed that the two officials were allegedly in contact with certain associations and sought gratification for facilitating their registration and renewal under the FCRA, it said.

Three arrested with 2 AK-47, 10 kg heroin

CHANDIGARH: Punjab Police dismantled an illegal arms and narcotics supply network in Amritsar, arresting three individuals with 10 kg of heroin, two AK-47 assault rifles, four magazines and 10 live cartridges, a top police officer said on Tuesday. The accused were allegedly linked to foreign-based smugglers and were procuring illegal weapons and narcotics for further supply in the state, police investigation revealed, said Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav. An FIR has been registered at Police Station Gharinda in.

11-year-old boy killed by leopard

JAIPUR: An 11-year-old boy was killed in a leopard attack in Rajasthan's Banswara district, forest officials said on Tuesday. Deputy Conservator of Forests Shaitan Singh Deora said that the incident took place at Tibudi village near the Jagmer Jogimal forest area on Monday evening. The deceased was identified as Rohit, son of Vimal Prasad Damor. Deora said Rohit's house is located close to the forest. On Monday evening, he had gone to bring back goats from the forest, as he did routinely, when a leopard hiding in the bushes suddenly attacked him.

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LOOT: SC raps 10-time markup on cancer drugs

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

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

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

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

The bench questioned the

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

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the

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

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



Rahul steps up CEC attack, Cong plans wider mobilisation

- The party's resolution also sought suspension of the SIR exercise and restoration of 13.3 crore names that Congress claims have been removed from electoral rolls

- Gandhi reiterated allegations concerning irregularities in Har, Maha and Karnataka, including what he has described as manipulation of voter lists and EVM-related concern

PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI

CONGRESS leader and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi



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

Gandhi told the CWC that the Congress should continue pressing for Gyanesh

Kumar's resignation. The party's resolution also sought suspension of the SIR exercise and restoration of 13.3 crore names that Congress claims have been removed from electoral rolls.

Gandhi reiterated allegations concerning electoral irregularities in Haryana, Maharashtra and Karnataka, including what he has described as manipulation

of voter lists and EVM-related concerns. The Election Commission has rejected allegations of wrongdoing and maintained that differences in institutional deliberations are normal and that its orders have legal sanction.

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

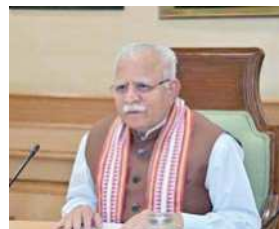
The CWC meeting, chaired by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, was attended by senior leaders including Sonia Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, KC Venugopal and Jairam Ramesh.

Centre to develop 50 cities for 'Swachhata'

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

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

Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Khattar said, "These 50 cities across 24 states will emerge as clean role model cities for the rest of the country, by



going beyond their routine sanitation work to demonstrate sustained, high-performance parameters of visible cleanliness. We have ensured inclusion of major cities, cities of cultural importance, high tourism destinations and economic centres."

"The initiative aims to drive visible improvements

in urban cleanliness, solid waste management, used water management, sanitation, and citizen participation through a structured framework of monitoring and review within a defined timeframe," he added.

The other initiatives rolled out on Tuesday include the launch of the Swachh Bharat Test Bed by CSIR-CMERI, the onboarding of the 3rd cohort of Swachhata Start-ups in collaboration with IIT Kanpur, inauguration of the Reduce Reuse and Recycle Centre of Sankalp Bhawan, New Delhi and the launch of Swachhata Behaviour Change Digital Kosh.



Goldy Brar in FBI's 10 most wanted list

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

DMK says it will back Parl move to oust CEC

HANS NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI

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

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



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

TEXAS

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

The prospectus, circulated with a select group of partners, used up almost

one-third of its S-1 filing to detail the 'risk factors,' including the potential of advanced AI models to 'manipulate, blackmail and exhibit other unpredictable behaviour,' the report stated.

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



partners in recent days.

The development comes

ahead of the leading US group launching what the

markets expect to be the most highly valued IPO

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

of all time, the FT report stated. However, these warnings in its prospectus add to the challenges public market investors face in valuing Anthropic.

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

Anthropic's backers are

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

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



‘World-class connectivity vital for UP’s trillion-dollar eco goal’

HANS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW

DEVELOPING a world-class connectivity network is crucial for achieving Uttar Pradesh's goal of becoming a trillion-dollar economy, Chief Secretary S P Goyal said on Tuesday, calling for proactive resolution of bottlenecks to accelerate infrastructure projects. He made the remarks while inaugurating a day-long state-level workshop on "Accelerating Linear Infrastructure Projects: Good Practices and New Ideas" here.

“Development of a world-class connectivity network is extremely important in the direction of achieving the goal of making Uttar Pradesh a trillion-dollar economy. Roads, railways, expressways, industrial corridors, logistics hubs, airports and urban infrastructure are the backbone of the state’s economic development,” a statement quoted him as saying. He said adequate preparations relating to land availability, design, utility shifting and statutory approvals should be completed before construction begins to ensure timely completion of linear infrastructure projects.”

He stressed that large corridors and projects should be divided into systematic and manageable construction packages to enable effective monitoring at every level. “Monitoring of projects should not be limited to the overall level but should be done at the level of construction activities. This will clearly indicate the status of work at each location and where obstacles such as land, utilities, bridges, culverts, encroachments or environmental clearances exist,” he said. Goyal directed departments and officials to ensure timely removal of bottlenecks, particularly completing land acquisition within stipulated timelines. He said an effective interface management system should be developed, clearly recording the agency concerned, responsible officer, location, deadline and current status of every issue. “An effective interface management system is necessary because linear infrastructure projects involve multiple agencies, including PWD, NHAI, Railways, power, water, telecommunications, revenue, forest, police and urban local bodies.

Adequate preparations relating to land availability, design, utility shifting and statutory approvals should be completed before construction begins to ensure timely completion of linear infrastructure projects: Chief Secretary S P Goyal



‘Ramdrohi’ will create confusion over Sanatan glory, says Yogi

‘Ram Lalla’s manifestation in Ayodhya in 1949 involved a few people. Mahant Digvijay Nath Maharaj was there, along with Baba Abhiram Das and Mahant Ramchandra Das Paramhans. The strategy was formulated at the Devi Patan, Maa Pateshwari Dham in Balrampur’

HANS NEWS SERVICE
GORAKHPUR

UTTAR Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday invoked the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya and accused “Ramdrohi” (those opposed to Lord Ram) of trying to create confusion over the “glory of Sanatan Dharma.” Addressing a programme organised at the Goraknath temple to mark the 57th death anniversary of Mahant Digvijay Nath, Adityanath also stressed the need for unity among followers of different sects and traditions of Sanatan Dharma. Recalling Digvijay Nath’s role in the Ram Janmabhoomi movement, Adityanath



noted, “He (Digvijay Nath) had said India’s Independence did not mean only political independence. It means complete independence, including cultural independence. Then if the work of the re-consecration of Somnath temple is taking place, this work should also take place in Ayodhya.” “Ram Lalla’s manifestation in Ayodhya in 1949 involved a few people. Mahant Digvijay Nath Maharaj was there, along with Baba Abhiram Das and Mahant Ramchandra Das Paramhans. The strategy was formulated at the Devi Patan, Maa Pateshwari Dham in Balrampur,” Adityanath said. The chief minister said a strategy was developed between Mahant Digvijay

UP HEADMASTER, AND WIFE HACKED TO DEATH

HANS NEWS SERVICE
SULTANPUR

A government school headmaster and his wife, who was the principal of a private school they owned in Sultanpur district, were allegedly hacked to death with an axe and a spade, police said on Tuesday. The couple were found dead at their private school in Kumbhi Dadiya village under the Kadipur Kotwali police station area. They lived on the school premises, police said. Superintendent of Police Vineet Jaiswal said it was not immediately clear whether the killings took place on Monday night or Tuesday morning. The incident came to light on Tuesday morning when school employees arrived and found the bodies lying in pools of blood, he said. The deceased have been identified as Mukesh Singh (45) and his wife Vinita (42), he said. According to preliminary police assessment, Vinita was attacked with an axe, spade and possibly other weapons inside a room in the school. Mukesh was also found dead about 150 metres away from her. An axe, spade and knife were recovered from the spot, they said. SP Jaiswal said the family members of the deceased have been informed. The bodies were being sent for post-mortem examination, and further legal action would be taken after the arrival of their relatives, he said. Kadipur Circle Officer Vinay Gautam and local police arrived at the spot and began an investigation. The couple is survived by a 20-year-old son, Abhyuday, who is studying at a university in Delhi. Mukesh established the private educational institution in Kumbhi Dadiya village in 2002 and had been living there with his wife, locals said.



Five of a family drown in river during religious ceremony in UP

FIVE members of a family including a 12-year-old boy drowned in the Sukhnai river during a religious ritual here on Tuesday, police said. The incident took place in Mauranipur area around 1 pm when the family members, attending a ‘shraddh’ ceremony, entered the river to perform some ritual. Some of them apparently strayed into deep waters and began drowning. Others family members rushed to their rescue, but were also swept into deep waters by the strong current, Mauranipur Circle Officer Ratnesh Kumar Singh said. The deceased were identified as Anoop Tiwari (40), his son Arpit (12), Abhinav (24), Shreyansh alias Kallu (22) and Chhote alias Pushkar (25), the officer said. “Five people drowned in the incident while other members of the family managed to come out safely,” Singh said.

16 trekkers stranded in high-altitude parts of Uttarkashi airlifted to safety

HANS NEWS SERVICE
DEHRADUN

SIXTEEN trekkers stranded due to inclement weather conditions were rescued from high-altitude Himalayan parts of Uttarakhand with the help of helicopters, officials said on Tuesday. Earlier on Monday, 40 people stranded at various locations had been safely evacuated, taking the number of such people rescued to 56. Eight trekkers and porters were evacuated from Kalindi Khal and

Mount Jogin each in Uttarkashi district on Tuesday morning as the weather cleared. Rain, snow and landslides have been reported in various parts of Uttarakhand. Vinod Kumar Suman, the state’s disaster management Secretary, said that reports of 136 stranded trekkers at various locations were received from across the state. SDRF personnel launched a rescue operation to evacuate trekkers from the snow-covered mountains. So far, 19 trekkers have been brought to the Harisil





Counterfeit currency racket busted in Jammu, 3 arrested

HANS NEWS SERVICE JAMMU
POLICE on Tuesday busted a counterfeit currency racket and arrested three men who were allegedly printing fake currency notes at a rented accommodation here, an official said. Originally hailing from Bihar, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh, the trio were arrested from Chowadhi area of Jammu along with low-quality counterfeit currency notes of Rs 100 denomination with a total face value of Rs 13,500, and a printing machine, a police spokesperson said. The arrested accused as Vijay Sahani of Siwan (Bihar), Indrajeet Kumar of Maharajpur, Jharkhand and Rahul Ahirwar of Khajrao, Madhya Pradesh who were currently living as tenants at Preet Nagar, Digana, Trikuta Nagar and Marble Market areas of Jammu, respectively. On getting reliable information about suspected counterfeit currency-related activity from a rented premises at Chowadhi, a police team from Police Post Sainik Colony raided the premises and apprehended three persons, the spokesperson said. He said besides the low-quality counterfeit currency notes and a printing machine, the search party also seized paper cutter, ink bottles of different colours, one ‘toka’ (sharp edged weapon) and other material suspected to be connected with the activity. An FIR under relevant sections of BNS and Arms Act has been registered at Police Station Channi Himmat, and investigation has been taken up, the spokesperson said.

Omar mentors first-time MLA

HANS NEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR
CHIEF Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday schooled first-time BJP MLA Devyani Rana on Question Hour procedure in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly after the House’s youngest member raised an unrelated issue while asking supplementaries. Rana, daughter of Abdullah’s one-time close confidante who later joined the BJP, had asked a question on digitisation of land records in Jammu and Kashmir. The Chief Minister replied as per procedure. However, when Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather allowed Rana to ask a supplementary question, she sought to “advise” the government on how the Uttar Pradesh government was using women’s services to distribute electricity bills. As the Nagrota MLA went on with her suggestion, Abdullah intervened, saying Rana needed to learn the House’s proceedings. “The honourable is new here. May be her seniors need to teach her about the procedure of the House,” Abdullah said. The Speaker told Rana that she would have to confine her supplementary to the question she had listed for Question Hour.



Fatehpur LPG cylinder blast: Toll rises to 5

HANS NEWS SERVICE KANPUR
THE death toll in the Fatehpur LPG cylinder blast incident rose to five after a 25-year-old man who had suffered severe burns died during treatment at Malwa Medical College early Tuesday, a senior police official said. The blast, which took place at a residence in Fatehpur’s Malwa town, brought down a two-storey building and damaged several neighbouring houses. Superintendent of Police (Fatehpur) Abhimanyu Manglik told PTI that preliminary probe indicates that the blast was caused by a leak in an LPG cylinder. Investigation also suggests that batteries used in a solar power system were kept inside the house, which exploded during the incident, intensifying its impact, the official added. The explosion occurred around 5 pm on Monday while meals were being prepared at the house of Suresh Gupta, a fruit and vegetable vendor. A suspected gas leak triggered a fire, leading to explosion of multiple LPG cylinders, according to preliminary findings. Seven people were rescued from the debris and taken to hospital. Four of them -- Kunal Gupta (18), Arpit Gupta (15), Ved Gupta (8) and Yash Gupta (4) -- died Monday, while Alok Gupta (25) succumbed to his injuries on Tuesday, the SP told PTI. Suresh Gupta (50) and his seven-year-old nephew Om were also injured. Their condition is stated to be stable, police said.

Ex-DGP O P Singh to steer Har’s new anti-drug body Sankalp

HANS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH

FORMER Haryana DGP O P Singh has been appointed chief executive officer of Sankalp, a new body chaired by Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini that brings the state’s police, health, education, social justice and village institutions under one anti-drug plan. The SANKALP Society (Substance Abuse and Narcotics Knowledge, Awareness and Liberation

Substance Abuse and Narcotics Knowledge, Awareness and Liberation Programme was constituted to reduce first-time drug cases among young people and create drug-free villages

Programme) was constituted to reduce first-time drug cases among young people and create drug-free villages, through a notification published in the Haryana Government Gazette on Monday. Building on the state’s strongest enforcement year so far, the new body adds prevention, treatment and community action to that enforcement effort. Haryana registered a record 3,738 FIRs under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act in 2025 and arrested 6,801 people. According to the notification, Sankalp, whose chairperson will be the chief minister, will coordinate 11 departments, including Home, Health, School and Higher Education, and Sports and Youth Affairs. The administrative secretaries of these departments sit on the Society. Additional DGP, Haryana State Narcotics Control Bureau (HSNCB), is its member secretary. The society’s first-year priorities are set out in the notification: decline in first-time NDPS registrations among persons under 25 years of age per lakh population in identified districts against a fixed 2025-26 baseline; de-addiction; certification of villages and urban wards as “SANKALP-Certified Nasha Mukti”. Progress on these goals will be the first item at every meeting of the society and will be included in its annual report to the Council of Ministers. The order calls for a “citizen-led movement” with leadership at the village, ward, school, college and workplace levels, involving youth clubs, local influencers, religious leaders and resident welfare bodies. Schools and colleges will add drug awareness, refusal skills and mental-health education to their curricula, the notification says. Panchayats and urban local bodies will receive toolkits, technical support and competitive incentives to earn drug-free certification. District NCORD committees, headed by deputy commissioners, will send monthly reports to a state dashboard.

Court acquits four in acid attack case, cites 18-month delay in FIR

‘This court holds that the prosecution has miserably failed to prove the charges against any of the accused persons beyond reasonable doubt. The benefit of pervasive doubt, systemic investigative lapses, unexplained delay, and unrefuted defence evidence must inevitably extend to the accused persons’

NEW DELHI
A Delhi court has acquitted four men accused of throwing acid on a woman in Sangam

Vihar here in 2019 after finding serious gaps in the prosecution case, including an unexplained 18-month delay in registration of the FIR.

Additional Sessions Judge Hargurvarinder Singh Jaggi was hearing a case against Preet Pal, Ramesh, Suresh Chand and Bablu Kumar,



who were accused of throwing acid on the woman. “This court holds that the

persons beyond reasonable doubt. The benefit of pervasive doubt, systemic investigative lapses, unexplained delay, and unrefuted defence evidence must inevitably extend to the accused persons,” it said. The woman, Renu, had alleged that the accused arrived on two motorcycles and threw a chemical at her near a temple in Sangam Vihar on July 9, 2019. She suffered chemical burns on her back and waist. According to the prosecution, the accused had attacked

Renu and subsequently threatened her to withdraw a previous complaint against Preet Pal. The court, however, found that the FIR in the case was registered only on January 7, 2021, nearly 18 months after the alleged incident. The investigating officer also admitted that he was unaware of the reason for the delay. The court noted that the prosecution case largely rested on Renu’s testimony. During cross-examination, the girl said she had turned around after feeling a burning

sensation on her back. The court said this meant she had not actually seen who threw the liquid at her and observed that her identification of Preet Pal as the person holding the bottle was a post-facto assumption. “No specific overt act is proved against Ramesh, Suresh, or Bablu. Similarly, the charges under Sections 195A and 506 IPC lack independent corroboration and fail the standard of proof beyond reasonable doubt,” the court said.

SHAH INAUGURATES BARAPULLAH FLYOVER

CM Rekha attributes the launch of these projects to the power of a double-engine government. “Only with a double-engine government can Delhi’s stalled projects be opened to the public. The Centre and the Delhi government are working together”

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday launched four major road infrastructure projects worth Rs 1,941 crore in the national capital, including the long-pending Barapullah Phase 3 elevated corridor. Shah inaugurated the projects at a function in Barapullah, which was attended by Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and her cabinet colleagues, and Union Minister of State for Road Transport Harsh Malhotra, among others. Speaking at the event, Gupta attributed the launch of these projects to the “power of a double-engine government”. “Only with a double-engine government can Delhi’s stalled projects be opened to the public. The Centre and the Delhi government are working together,” she said. She said her government is



planning several projects to address traffic congestion, an issue that was neglected over the last 50 years. Minister for Public Works Department Parvesh Verma, who was present, said the 11-year wait for the Barapullah flyover was finally over. “Last year, we committed that the Barapullah flyover would be over in a year and we have done it. For the last 18 months, there has been no politics of allegations or

excuses, but only work done by the government for the public,” Verma said. The Barapullah Phase 3 elevated road corridor, the biggest of the four projects, aims to provide seamless connectivity between east and south Delhi, linking Mayur Vihar Phase-1 and AIIMS through signal-free carriageways. The flyover will merge with the existing Barapullah flyover at Sarai Kale Khan, completing a stretch of

around 10 kilometres. Originally approved in 2014 and initiated in 2015, the project was initially scheduled for completion in 2017. However, it faced multiple delays and significant cost overruns, with the revised project cost escalating to approximately Rs 1,635 crore. The other projects include two new flyovers to reduce traffic congestion in south Delhi and an underpass on Outer Ring Road in north Delhi.

AAP leaders detained during protest outside Police HQ

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

DELHI AAP president Saurabh Bharadwaj and MLA Jarnail Singh were detained by Delhi Police on Tuesday while protesting outside the police headquarters here, demanding an FIR against BJP’s Parvesh Verma for allegedly slapping a man on Sunday. Bharadwaj, in a post on X, said, “It’s not about one Verma slapping one 22-year-old man, it’s about this new culture of politics. Look around and identify the local goons in your colony, the people who are abusing and intimidating residents.” Police and the government should ensure justice. If the government deliberately wrongs citizens, they will take to the streets to protest peacefully and democratically seek their rights, he wrote. AAP workers and leaders, including Bharadwaj and Jarnail Singh, were detained in front of the police headquarters while demanding an FIR against Delhi PWD Minister Parvesh Verma for allegedly slapping a man on Sunday. They were later released. There was no immediate response from Delhi Police.

‘Thieves’ mobbed in Shahbad Dairy; 1 killed

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

A 21-year-old man with nine previous criminal involvements died after he and his associates were allegedly thrashed by a group of people over suspicion of attempting theft in outnorth Delhi’s Shahbad Dairy area, police said on Tuesday. The deceased has been identified as Hasan Mangal. According to police, information was received around 7 am that a group of suspected thieves had been mobbed by public in Shahbad Dairy police station area. A police team reached the spot and found three people injured. They were shifted to a hospital, where Mangal was declared brought dead, while the two others are undergoing treatment, officials said. They said Mangal had nine previous criminal involvements and was designated ‘bad character’ by Narela Industrial Area police station. “According to preliminary information, around four to five suspicious people had entered the area with the intention of committing theft and were possibly trying to break open the lock of a shop. Hearing



dergoing treatment, officials said. They said Mangal had nine previous criminal involvements and was designated ‘bad character’ by Narela Industrial Area police station. “According to preliminary information, around four to five suspicious people had entered the area with the intention of committing theft and were possibly trying to break open the lock of a shop. Hearing

the noise, local residents came out and caught the suspected thieves,” a police officer said. While some of them managed to flee, three of the suspects were caught by locals, and subsequently thrashed, the officer said, adding that Mangal sustained serious injuries and later declared dead. The officer said a crime team has inspected the scene and collected evidence.

Fake detective agency website used to dupe man of Rs 1.15L

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

NEW DELHI: A mother-son duo has been arrested from Ghaziabad for allegedly running a fake detective agency website and cheating a man of Rs 1.15 lakh, police said on Tuesday. The accused have been identified as Poonam Singh (45) and her son Arnab Singh (22), both residents of

Ghaziabad, they said. The case came to light after complainant, who was looking for detective services online, came across a website, police in a statement said. The website was allegedly designed to look like a genuine detective agency’s website. The complainant was contacted through a mobile number and allegedly induced to pay Rs 1.15 lakh on the pre-

text of providing detective and investigation services, read the statement. The amount was deposited into a bank account maintained in Poonam Singh’s name and was later transferred to different bank accounts, it read. An e-FIR was subsequently registered at the Cyber Police Station in East Delhi and further investigation was taken up.

LG asks NSUT to develop tech solutions for civic challenges

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

DELHI Lieutenant Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu, on Tuesday, directed Netaji Subhas University of Technology (NSUT) to develop technological solutions for civic challenges such as sanitation, traffic management, road conditions and flooding, and called for converting research into actionable outcomes. Chairing the sixth Court Meeting of NSUT at Lok Niwas, Sandhu said the technical university should focus on research that addresses real-world challenges faced by the city. He directed the university to coordinate with expert agencies and facilitate the MCD, NDMC, Delhi Police, Health Department, PWD and Transport Department



with technological solutions tailored to their specific requirements. The LG also stressed the need to make AI education future-ready through global collaborations, with a focus

on transformative applications, particularly AI-enabled healthcare in government hospitals. He called for skill-based courses in areas such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and digital tools to enhance employability, and urged the university to leverage international academic and industry partnerships to upgrade its capabilities and global competitiveness. Sandhu said improving NSUT’s national and global rankings should be pursued through academic rigour, research excellence and international engagement. On community engagement, the LG directed NSUT to continue activities in adopted villages focusing on employability, financial awareness and sports, particularly team games to promote teamwork.

HC imposes Rs 1L cost on lawyer for ‘moving car virtual appearance’

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE Delhi High Court has imposed a cost of Rs 1 lakh on a lawyer for appearing virtually before it from a moving car, holding that the lawyer’s conduct was in violation of the rules. Justice Om Prakash Shukla said while the convenience offered by virtual hearings was appreciated, it could not be at the cost of the court’s decorum or causing disturbance in the conduct of judicial proceedings. “When this court has to deal with more than 70 matters in a day, background noise and movement during the hearing are disruptive for this court to proceed,” said the judge in the order passed on September 28. “In view of the aforesaid, a cost of Rs 1 lakh is imposed upon learned Counsel for the



Decree Holder, payable to Delhi High Court Legal Services Committee within one week from today,” the court ordered. In its order, the court observed that under the high court’s Electronic Evidence and Video Conferencing Rules, an endeavour has to be made by advocates not to join proceedings from

vehicles except in exceptional circumstances and with permission. Justice Shukla underscored that such a requirement was not merely procedural and to ensure that even when lawyers appear virtually, they do so from an environment conducive to the proper functioning of the court.

2 armed men held after gunfight with police

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE police have arrested two alleged armed criminals after a brief gunfight in which seven rounds were fired in the Paharganj area in Delhi, and the suspects sustained bullet injuries to their legs, officials said on Tuesday. The accused, identified as Akash alias Matthi (27) and Mukesh alias Chinu (35) were taken to a hospital. According to the police, the accused fired four rounds at the police team on the stretch from Chemsford Road towards Reservation Road in Paharganj. “The police team fired three rounds in retaliation. One bullet passed close to the head of head constable Mohit, while another hit the bulletproof jacket of head constable Rajvir,” a senior police officer said. Two illegal firearms -- a pistol and a country-made pistol, each



loaded with two live cartridges -- and a stolen motorcycle were recovered from them. Police found the motorcycle stolen in a case registered at Subzi Mandi police station on August 31. “Teams from the Special Staff and Central had been working to identify those involved in a firing incident during a Baba Ramdev Ji procession in the Nabi Karim-Sadar Bazar area on September 13. During the incident, members of the alleged Vikas Kalia group opened fire near Ram Kumar Marg, with one bullet hitting a person in the left hand,” the officer said.

Patanjali’s botanical drive: 1,000 specimens preserved

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HARIDWAR

THE Patanjali Research Foundation (PRF) is expanding its botanical research and conservation efforts across India, with scientists documenting plant diversity in several states and preserving specimens for future research. PRF scientists have recorded more than 100 new plant records from different regions, including Haryana, Uttarakhand,

PRF scientists conducted a detailed survey of the flora at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, documenting 620 plant species. Two books—Flora of Rashtrapati Bhavan and Medicinal Plants of Rashtrapati Bhavan—were released by President Droupadi Murmu in November 2025

Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and West Bengal. More than 1,000 plant specimens have been preserved in the Patanjali herbarium. PRF scientists conducted

a detailed survey of the flora at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, documenting 620 plant species. Two books—Flora of Rashtrapati Bhavan and Medicinal Plants of Rashtrapati Bhavan—were

released by President Droupadi Murmu in November 2025. A checklist of Delhi’s flora was also published. PRF’s botanical work has contributed to identifying and documenting new plant



Acharya Balkrishna, General Secretary of Patanjali Yogpeeth, searching for plants.

diversity, including Campanula densiciliata. Surveys have also covered Himalayan and northeastern regions, including Arunachal Pradesh. Work on Flora of Haridwar is currently underway. Under Acharya Balkrishna’s guidance, PRF scientists have been conducting plant surveys across diverse ecosystems. Their work includes documenting plants used by tribal communities and surveys along the Ganga under the Namami Gange

programme, from Gomukh to Gangasagar. PRF says its botanical research is aimed not only at scientific documentation but also at biodiversity conservation, medicinal plant identification, environmental studies and creating a knowledge base for future generations. The foundation has also contributed plant records to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew’s digital databases, extending the reach of its botanical documentation beyond India.

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>

Only the voters are saving our democracy



RAVULAPATI SEETARAMARAO

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

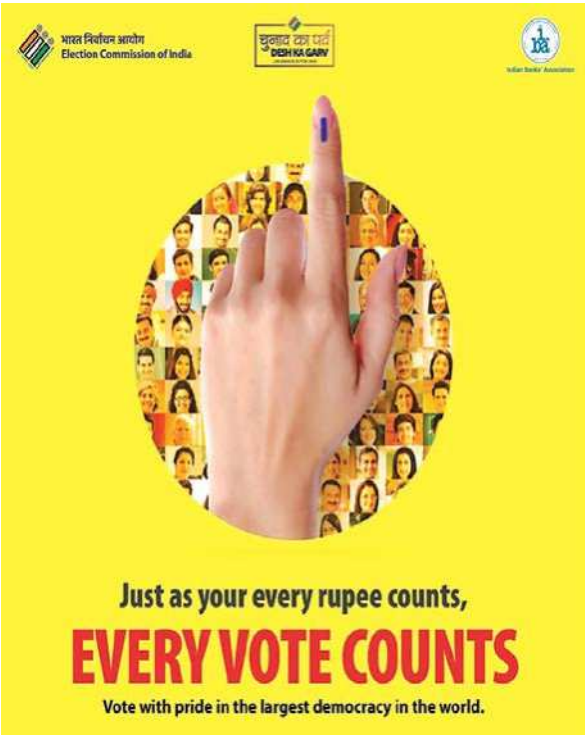
In a judgment delivered a few days back, the Supreme Court directed that the accused may be released immediately, after stating that the police cannot arrest without stating the reasons or denying a lawyer, at the time of arrest. It also declared that violating Fundamental Right (Article 22(1) of the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

imperative to follow this.

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

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

Earlier, the Delhi Court criticised the inclusion of Sonia Gandhi in the electoral roll as an Indian citizen before she could even acquire citizenship, a move that the previous magistrate court order had dismissed. The Delhi Court accepted that order, sent it back for re-examination to the magistrate court, and ordered a fresh inquiry. Sonia Gandhi is consid-



ered a major political party leader who has been voting for years. Could she be rendered stateless and deported to Italy? Well, if only the people who understand and argue the law—lawyers—are involved, the courts can issue verdicts, and the police can enforce them. Even when we translate the concept of Criminal Jurisprudence, it is hard to capture the true "spirit" of the Constitution. Even scholars who understand the Constitution and statutes struggle to interpret them.

Across many periods, the courts and judgments have

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

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

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

the public, but they appear to be irrelevant to the courts and the government.

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

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

one day, he becomes a "king"!

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

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

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

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

Creativity is destroying the environment

EDARA SREENIVASA REDDY

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

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

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

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



els be trained, but more models will come along. Both their training and usage involve not only financial expenses but also numerous associated costs. These models emit enormous amounts of carbon dioxide. At the same time, they consume water on a massive scale. The data centres and millions of high-end graphics processing units (GPUs) that operate on these systems must run continuously. To control the enormous heat that is generated, water is continuously circulated through cooling towers. For instance, to run data centres 24x7 hours a day, enormous amounts of water are required. Ultra-pure water is used directly to reduce the heat of servers, in power plants, and in plants that manufacture AI chips and semiconductors.

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

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

It is the training of these models (i.e., the highest level of computational processing that takes place before they are used) that creates the high energy and cooling requirements. Generative AI (Generative AI) has been ex-

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

tremely useful for various tasks across industries, particularly in the media sector. Training and using these models also cause environmental harm. Within this broad scope, water consumption (water footprint) has not been discussed much. As the climate crisis intensifies, clean water is becoming an increasingly limited resource. In both continuously training new models and using them, we all need to pay more attention to the impact these models have on the environment. In a world where clean water is becoming scarce commodity, it is essential to be aware of the water consumption of these models.

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

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

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

A single AI video 5 to 10 seconds long evaporates approximately 4.1 litres of water.

By 2027, according to worldwide demand, it is estimated that training these systems will equal the annual water consumption of 30–47 million people.

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

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

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

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

AP agriculture caught between drought and destructive rain

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



K VARAPRASADA RAO
AMARAVATI

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

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

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

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

Four districts — Kurnool, Anantapur, Nandyal and Sri Sathya Sai — alone accounted for 23.75 lakh acres, nearly 38 per cent of the state's cultivated area. These are predominantly rain-fed farming regions. June showed farmers 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.

Army engineers to be deployed for SLBC, Kaleshwaram works

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 Bhalla. The State Government is likely to take all three officers on deputation and deploy them in its most technically challenging irrigation works.

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

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

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

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

Scuffle breaks out over double bedroom allotment

Beneficiaries argue with police during protest alleging irregularities

HANS NEWS SERVICE
MADDIRALA (SURYAPET)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
Tender Notice	
The Chief Administrative Officer/Const., Northern Railway, Kashmere Gate, Delhi, for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open e-tender under Two Packet System of the under noted work :-	
Full Name of work:	Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Agreement for construction of 3rd and 4th Railway line (Ghaziabad-New Moradabad) adjacent to the existing Broad Gauge (BG) electrified double line including detour portions with Civil Engineering works, Track works, Signalling & Telecommunication works, Over Head Electrification, Electrical General Services & all other allied works between Ghaziabad (GZB)/(CH: 145.710km) (Excluding) to New Moradabad (NMB)/(Excluding) (CH:0.850km) as per approved alignment in Delhi & Moradabad divisions of Northern Railway.
Approx. Cost of work:	Rs. 3726.33,95,235.27/-
Completion period of the work:	48 (Forty Eight) months
Earnest Money to be deposited:	Rs. 74,52,67,900/-
Sale/availability of tender document on Rly. Website:	Tender documents will be available on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 28.09.2026 to 23.02.2027 upto 11.00 hrs
(i) Pre-Bid Conference:	12.11.2026 at 11.00 hours at CAO/C Office, N. Rly., Kashmere Gate, Delhi and through online VC link.
(ii) 2nd Pre-Bid Conference:	07.12.2026 at 11.00 hours at CAO/C Office, N. Rly., Kashmere Gate, Delhi and through online VC link.
Last date of receipt of (i) Pre-Bid & 2nd Pre-Bid queries:	12.11.2026 upto 18:00 hrs & 07.12.2026 upto 18:00 hrs
Authority response to queries:	19.11.2026 (1st Pre bid) & 22.12.2026 (2nd Pre bid) upto 18:00 hrs
Last date/Time of upload of tenders:	23.02.2027 upto 11.00 hours. Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS web site w.e.f. 09.02.2027 to 23.02.2027.
Date and time of opening of technical bid:	23.02.2027 upto 11:00 hours. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.
Tender Notice No. 74-W-4.1-490-WA-MB Dated: 28.09.2026	3386/2026
Serving Customers With A Smile	

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
TENDER NOTICE	
Name of work : Provision and Modification REBC in LHB Coaches of DLI Division Depots.	
Tender No. : 30-Elect-6TR1-Chg-2025-26	
Approx. cost of the work in (Rs.) : Rs. 2,29,16,591.20/-	
Cost of tender form : Rs. 0.00	
Address of the Office : Sr. Divl. Elect, Engineer/Chg/Northern Railway, New Delhi.	
Earnest Money : Rs. 4,58,300/-	
Period of completion of work : 06 Months	
Last date & time of submission of tender : 21.10.2026 up to 15.00 hrs.	
And opening of tender : 21.10.2026 at 15.01 hrs.	
Website & notice board : www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. DEE/Chg/DLI	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3378/2026	

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
E-TENDER NOTICE	
AMM/EMU/GZB acting for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender against Tender No. 46265213A. The details are as under.	
1 Name of Work	Buran 10 compressor kit failveley make part no. FT0052281-K20 as per annexure-A. One set consisting of 07 item (qty.-222)
2 Approx. cost of work	Rs. 14863433.40/-
3 Quantity	18 Set
4 Last Date & Time of Submission of tender bid of tender	28.10.2026 (11:00 Hrs.)
5 Date & Time of Opening of tender document.	28.10.2026 (11:00 Hrs.)
6 Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in
Note: (i) The tenderers must be registered on the Indian Railways E-Procurement System (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in . (ii) Please refer to the tender document for all terms and conditions. (iii) No manual offers are acceptable. NIT No. —46265213A Date: 28-09-2026 3382/2026	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

KIND ATTENTION RAIL PASSENGERS! IMPORTANT INFORMATION

RUN OF MORE POOJA FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2026

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during this Festival Season, Railways have decided to run the following additional Pooja Festival Special Trains as per details given below:-

Train No. 05005/05006 Barhni - Jalandhar City - Barhni					16
Unreserved Special Train					Trips
Train No. 05005		↓ STATIONS ↑	Train No. 05006		
Arr.	Dep.		Arr.	Dep.	
--	15:10	Barhni	04:45	--	
08:30	--	Jalandhar City	--	10:50	

Days of Run: 05005 Ex Barhni on every Wednesday from 07.10.2026 to 25.11.2026 and 05006 Ex Jalandhar City on every Thursday from 08.10.2026 to 26.11.2026. Accommodation: Sleeper & General. Stoppages: Tulsipur, Balrampur, Gonda Jn., Burhwal, Sitapur Jn., Bareilly, Moradabad, Saharanpur Jn., Yamunanagar Jagadhri, Ambala Cantt. & Dhandari Kalan Stations.

Train No. 05101/05102 Gorakhpur Jn. - Shakur Basti - Gorakhpur Jn. Special Train					16 Trips
Train No. 05101		STATIONS	Train No. 05102		
Arr.	Dep.		Arr.	Dep.	
--	16:00	Gorakhpur Jn.	08:30	--	
11:05	--	Shakur Basti	--	13:15	

Days of Run: 05101 Ex Gorakhpur Jn. on every Sunday from 11.10.2026 to 29.11.2026 and 05102 Ex Shakur Basti on every Monday from 12.10.2026 to 30.11.2026. Accommodation: 1st AC, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General. Stoppages: Anand Nagar Jn., Siddharth Nagar, Barhni, Tulsipur, Balrampur, Gonda Jn., Sitapur Jn., Shahjahanpur, Bareilly Jn., Moradabad Jn., Ghaziabad Jn. & Delhi Jn. Stations.

Train No. 05048/05047 Banaras - Kolkata - Banaras Special Train					16 Trips
Train No. 05048		STATIONS	Train No. 05047		
Arr.	Dep.		Arr.	Dep.	
--	10:45	Banaras	04:15	--	
10:55	11:00	Varanasi Jn.	03:55	04:00	
06:15	--	Kolkata	--	08:25	

Days of Run: 05048 Ex Banaras on every Tuesday from 06.10.2026 to 24.11.2026 and 05047 Ex Kolkata on every Wednesday from 07.10.2026 to 25.11.2026. Accommodation: AC 3 Tier. Stoppages: Varanasi Jn., Aunrihar Jn., Ghazipur City, Ballia, Reoti, Suraimanpur, Chhapra Jn., Dighwara, Sonpur Jn., Hajipur Jn., Shahpur Patoree, Barauni Jn., Kiul Jn., Jhajha, Jasiidh Jn., Madhupur Jn., Chhitaranjan, Asansol Jn., Durgapur, Bardhaman Jn., Bandel Jn. & Naihati Jn. Stations.

Train No. 01123/01124 Lokmanya Tilak (T) - Mau Jn. - Lokmanya Tilak (T) Special Train (Bi-Weekly)					24 Trips
Train No. 01123		STATIONS		Train No. 01124	
Arr.	Dep.			Arr.	Dep.
--	12:15	Lokmanya Tilak (T)		16:45	--
15:50	16:00	Varanasi Jn.		09:50	10:00
21:30	--	Mau Jn.		--	04:15

Days of Run: 01123 Ex Lokmanya Tilak (T) on every Friday & Sunday from 11.10.2026 to 20.11.2026 and 01124 Ex Mau Jn. on every Sunday & Tuesday from 13.10.2026 to 22.11.2026. Accommodation: AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General. Stoppages: Thane, Kalyan Jn., Igatpuri, Nashik Road, Jalgaon Jn., Bhusaval Jn., Khandwa, Itarsi Jn., Pipariya, Narsinghpur, Madan Mahal, Katni, Maihar, Satna, Manikpur Jn., Prayagraj Chheoki, Varanasi Jn., Jaunpur Jn., Shahganj Jn., Khoraon Road, Azamgarh & Muhammadabad Stations.

Train No. 01431/01432 Hadapsar - Ghazipur City - Hadapsar Special Train (Bi-Weekly)					24 Trips
Train No. 01431		STATIONS		Train No. 01432	
Arr.	Dep.			Arr.	Dep.
--	06:55	Hadapsar		16:20	--
15:10	15:20	Varanasi Jn.		08:20	08:30
20:15	--	Ghazipur City		--	04:00

Days of Run: 01431 Ex Hadapsar on every Friday & Tuesday from 13.10.2026 to 20.11.2026 and 01432 Ex Ghazipur City on every Sunday & Thursday from 15.10.2026 to 22.11.2026. Accommodation: AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General. Stoppages: Daund Chord Line, Ahmednagar, Belapur, Kopergaon, Ankal, Manmad Jn., Jalgaon Jn., Bhusaval Jn., Khandwa, Itarsi Jn., Pipariya, Narsinghpur, Madan Mahal, Katni, Maihar, Satna, Manikpur Jn., Prayagraj Chheoki, Varanasi Jn., Jaunpur Jn. & Aunrihar Jn. Stations.

Train No. 01079/01080 Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj (T) - Gorakhpur Jn. - Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj (T) Special Train (Daily)					64 Trips
Train No. 01079		STATIONS		Train No. 01080	
Arr.	Dep.			Arr.	Dep.
--	22:30	Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj (T)		00:40	--
04:05	04:15	Lucknow		19:45	19:55
10:00	--	Gorakhpur Jn.		--	14:30

Days of Run: 01079 Ex Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj (T) from 16.10.2026 to 16.11.2026 (Daily) and 01080 Ex Gorakhpur Jn. from 18.10.2026 to 18.11.2026. (Daily) Accommodation: AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General. Stoppages: Dadar, Thane, Kalyan Jn., Igatpuri, Nashik Road, Manmad Jn., Jalgaon Jn., Bhusaval Jn., Khandwa, Itarsi Jn., Bhopal Jn., Bina Jn., Virangana Lakshimbai Jhansi, Orai, Kanpur Central, Lucknow, Gonda Jn., Mankapur Jn., Basti & Kharilabad Stations.

Train No. 01415/01416 Hadapsar - Gorakhpur Jn. - Hadapsar Special Train (Daily)					64 Trips	
Train No. 01415			STATIONS	Train No. 01416		
Arr.	Dep.	Arr.		Dep.		
--	07:05	Hadapsar		03:30	--	
09:55	10:05	Lucknow		22:25	22:35	
16:00	--	Gorakhpur Jn.		--	17:30	

Days of Run: 01415 Ex Hadapsar from 16.10.2026 to 16.11.2026 (Daily) 01416 Ex Gorakhpur Jn. from 17.10.2026 to 17.11.2026 (Daily).

Accommodation: AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General. Stoppages: Daund Chord Line, Ahmednagar, Belapur, Kopergaon, Manmad Jn., Bhusaval Jn., Khandwa, Itarsi Jn., Bhopal Jn., Bina Jn., Virangana Lakshimbai Jhansi, Orai, Kanpur Central, Lucknow, Gonda Jn., Mankapur Jn. & Basti Stations.

Train No. 01051/01052 Lokmanya Tilak (T) - Banaras - Lokmanya Tilak (T) Special Train (Bi-Weekly)					24 Trips
Train No. 01051		STATIONS		Train No. 01052	
Arr.	Dep.			Arr.	Dep.
--	12:15	Lokmanya Tilak (T)		04:40	--
15:45	15:50	Varanasi Jn.		20:45	20:50
16:05	--	Banaras		--	20:30

Days of Run: 01051 Ex Lokmanya Tilak (T) on every Wednesday & Thursday from 14.10.2026 to 19.11.2026 and 01052 Ex Banaras on every Thursday & Friday from 15.10.2026 to 20.11.2026.

Accommodation: AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General. Stoppages: Thane, Kalyan Jn., Igatpuri, Nashik Road, Jalgaon Jn., Bhusaval Jn., Khandwa, Itarsi Jn., Pipariya, Narsinghpur, Madan Mahal, Katni, Maihar, Satna, Manikpur Jn., Prayagraj Chheoki & Varanasi Jn. Stations.

Train No. 04829/04830 Jodhpur Jn. - Gorakhpur Jn. - Jodhpur Jn. Pooja Special Train					18 Trips
Train No. 04829			STATIONS	Train No. 04830	
Arr.	Dep.			Arr.	Dep.
--	16:15	Jodhpur Jn.		05:30	--
04:30	04:45	Delhi Jn.		14:00	14:10
20:30	--	Gorakhpur Jn.		--	23:25

Days of Run: 04829 Ex Jodhpur Jn. on every Thursday from 01.10.2026 to 26.11.2026 and 04830 Ex Gorakhpur Jn. on every Friday from 02.10.2026 to 27.11.2026.

Accommodation: AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General. Stoppages: Merta Road Jn., Degana Jn., Chhoti Katu, Didwana, Ladnun, Sujargarh, Ratangrahn Jn., Churu Jn., Sadulpur Jn., Loharu Jn., Mahendragarh, Rewari Jn., Gurgaon, Delhi Cantt., Delhi Jn., Ghaziabad Jn., Moradabad Jn., Bareilly Jn., Shahjahanpur, Sitapur City Jn., Gonda Jn. & Basti Stations.

Train No. 05167/05168 Banaras - Lokmanya Tilak (T) - Banaras Special Train					14 Trips
Train No. 05167		STATIONS		Train No. 05168	
Arr.	Dep.			Arr.	Dep.
--	09:50		Banaras	00:50	--
10:06	10:08		Varanasi Jn.	00:30	00:35
16:50	--		Lokmanya Tilak (T)	--	18:10

Days of Run: 05167 Ex Banaras on every Saturday from 17.10.2026 to 28.11.2026 and 05168 Ex Lokmanya Tilak (T) on every Sunday from 18.10.2026 to 29.11.2026.

Accommodation: 1st AC, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, AC 3 Tier Economy Sleeper & General. Stoppages: Varanasi Jn., Prayagraj Chheoki, Manikpur Jn., Satna, Maihar, Katni, Jabalpur, Itarsi Jn., Khandwa Jn., Burhanpur, Bhusaval Jn., Nasik Road, Igatpuri, Kalyan Jn. & Thane Stations.

Train No. 04731/04732 Sri Ganganagar Jn. - Sam
--

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

- Peter Wilson, Indian trap-shooting coach

Asian Games 2026

Archers advance to quarters

IN the archery competition, Dhiraj Bommadevara, Neeraj Chauhan and Kum-kum 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, Kum-kum 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 Boushehri-zadeh to complete the 3-0 win. India will face Singapore in the quarterfinals on Wednesday.

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

Golden glory for India as women lead charge

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

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

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

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

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

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

It was overall a mixed day in the track and field competitions but India managed



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



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

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

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

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

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

Boxer Ankush Panghal breaks eight-year jinx

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

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

Parveen defeated China's Li Shu 5-0 before Ankush



produced a stirring comeback to out-punch reigning 75kg world champion Uzbekistan's Fazliddin Erkinboev 4-1.

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

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

NAGOYA: The Indian men's volleyball team continued its winning run, eking out a hard-fought 3-2 win over Qatar to register its third victory and qualify for the quarterfinals of the Asian Games here on Tuesday.

The Indian team bounced back from being two sets down to defeat Qatar 26-28, 25-27, 25-23, 25-20, 24-22 in a marathon Pool C match, which lasted two hours and 47 minutes. All four quarterfinals will be played on Thursday. India had earlier defeated Vietnam 3-0 (25-23, 25-21, 25-20) and Hong Kong China 3-0 (25-22, 25-19, 25-21) in their opening two matches respectively. Against Qatar, Jerome Vinith scored 27 points for India, all coming through spikes, while Amit Singh Balwan scored 24 points -- 22 from spikes and two from blocks. Joel Benjamin Jebaraj also made double-digit scores with 17 points -- 14 from spikes, two from blocks, and one service point.

Indian canoe slalom paddlers enter semis

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

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



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)



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.

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

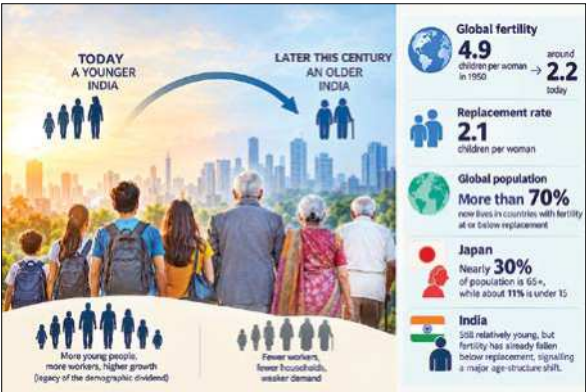
INDIA is likely to have much older population later this century as the country's age structure is beginning to shift and fertility fallen "below replacement", Moody's Ratings said on Tuesday. Moody's said population growth has long been a tailwind for economic growth and creditworthiness, but falling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



‘Ettara Etthu’ from ‘Comrade Kalyan’ parades revolutionary energy

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

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

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

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

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

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



‘Emo Emo Idi’ title song is a soothing melody

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

This romantic track is a breezy composition by Hesham Abdul Wahab, with lovely vocals by Karthik and Ramya Behara, and melodious lyrics by Krishna Kanth. The feel-good music along with the cute love notes has been beautifully portrayed by the leads

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

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

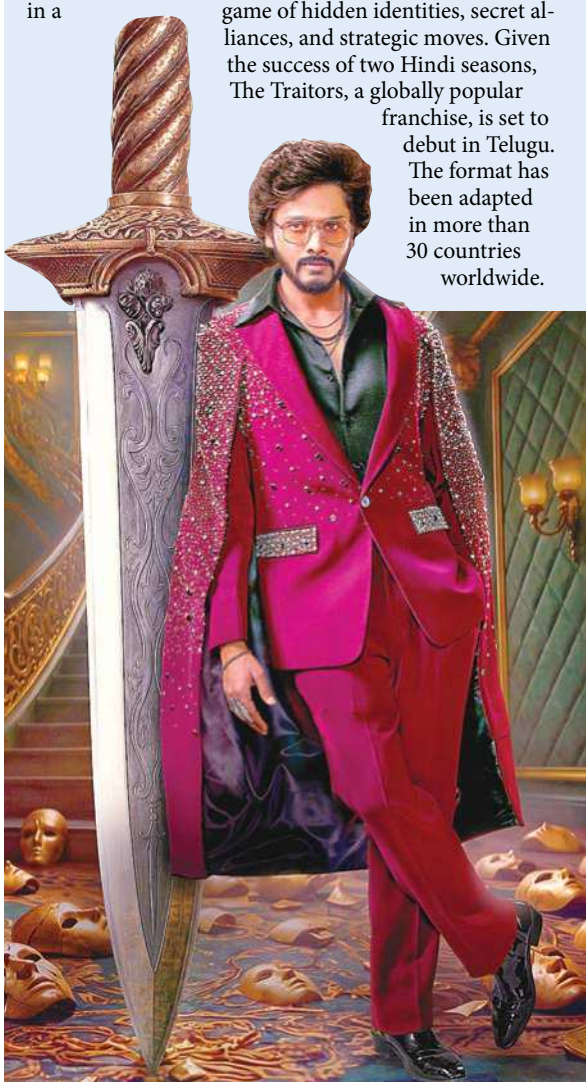
Emo Emo Idi is written and directed by Dr. Sailesh Kolanu and produced by Naga Vamsi S and Sai Soujanya under Sithara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas. Sri Kara Studios presents the film while Vamsi Patchipulusu handles cinematography. Emo Emo Idi is scheduled to hit theatres on October 30, 2026.



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

The Traitors Telugu will bring together trust, deception, strategy, and betrayal for Telugu audiences after Prime Video announced the world premiere of its much-awaited reality show as the unscripted original will begin streaming exclusively on Prime Video from October 15, 2026, with new episodes arriving every Thursday at noon. The show will air over four weeks from October 15th. Popular Telugu actor Teja Sajja will make his reality television hosting debut with The Traitors Telugu as he is expected to deliver a dynamic performance on screen. SOL Productions, the show’s producer, will present a 10-episode series that will see 20 celebrities from different fields battling it out

game of hidden identities, secret alliances, and strategic moves. Given the success of two Hindi seasons, The Traitors, a globally popular franchise, is set to debut in Telugu. The format has been adapted in more than 30 countries worldwide.



‘Samavarthi’ teaser gets tremendous response



The teaser of Samavarthi, Satya Dev’s upcoming 16th film as lead actor, has gone viral, crossing one

crore digital views, creating tremendous curiosity among the masses and business communities. The unique visuals along with the eco-friendly action-thriller premise reportedly fetched business inquiries for the makers.

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

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

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

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‘Tatvam’ pre-release event creates hype



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

Mullapudi Mohan elected FNCC Secretary for second time

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



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



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

nounced that I am starting a new venture from Tirumala”, he added. Naveen Chandra also spoke about his upcoming film. “I am also working with director Srikanth Nagothi again on a special film after Month of Madhu. Our second venture together will be a total surprise for the fans.” The actor further stated that three of his Tamil films are all set to release soon. Director Srikanth Nagothi, along with producer and distributor Harish Kumar also visited Tirumala and performed prayers.

Ayesha Khan stuns in black off-shoulder gown

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

