



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

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

Report: Page 10

Implementing our promises at jet speed, says CM Naidu

Urges people to compare NDA's rural development with previous YCP regime

- ▶▶ Launches Palle Panduga 3.0 in Nellore district
- ▶▶ Dy CM Pawan Kalyan also takes part
- ▶▶ 15,500-km BT, CC roads taken up under Palle Panduga 3.0

M SRINIVASA RAO
NELLORE

CHIEF Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, while asserting his government's commitment to the development of the state, appealed to people to compare the NDA government's focus on rural development, welfare and good governance with what



CM Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Dy CM Pawan Kalyan launching developmental works as part of Palle Panduga-3.0 programme at Ramapuram village in Nellore district on Tuesday

he described as "destruction" during the previous YSRCP government.

Addressing a Palle Panduga-3.0 public meeting at

Ramapuram in Varikuntapadu mandal in Nellore district on Tuesday, Naidu said the programme marked the beginning of a new phase of

development in rural areas.

Naidu appreciated Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan for his leadership in implementing three editions of Palle Panduga and for bringing changes to villages with an "activist spirit". He said the NDA government in the state was implementing its promises at "jet speed" and taking the state forward through welfare, development and good governance.

"The vote people cast in the 2024 elections has not gone waste. We have lived up to the trust reposed in us," he said, adding that the NDA alliance had gained further momentum since the 2024 elections. Continued on Page 7

Naidu calls for continuous skilling, governance overhaul

AP tops national capacity-building rankings under Mission Karmayogi

K VARAPRASADA RAO

AMARAVATI: Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has called for a fundamental overhaul of governance systems and institutions by integrating technology, leadership, policy and continuous skill development to meet rising public expectations and harness emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence.

Addressing a Mission Karmayogi workshop organised by the Capacity Building Commission in Vijayawada on Tuesday, Naidu said the next 20 years would be crucial for India's development.

Continued on Page 7

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

NEW DELHI: Ramping up pressure on Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar, the Congress on Monday said the first step in the long road to reclaiming the country's democracy is the resignation of the CEC who is both a front for the "diabolical PM-HM duo" and an affront to the Constitution.

Congress general secretary in-charge of communications Jairam Ramesh shared an interview of former Supreme Court judge Sudhanshu Dhulia in which he has said that the apex court has laid down the law in several judgments on citizenship and it "is not the Election Commission of India's job". Cont'd on Page 7

PM should resign for 'pressuring' CEC: Kharage

NEW DELHI: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday called for Chief Election

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

Continued on Page 7

SC to hear plea seeking suspension of CEC next week P7



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

AP, Telangana impacted due to drought: Chouhan

NEW DELHI: Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday said that there are concerns about the drought situation in Karnataka, Maharashtra, parts of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Rajasthan.

"The information received so far indicates concerns in Karnataka, Maharashtra, parts of Andhra Pradesh-including Rayalaseema and adjoining areas-parts



of Telangana, and parts of Rajasthan. Detailed reports from the states are still awaited," Chouhan told reporters.

Continued on Page 7

Amaravati going green with ornamental plants!

SHYAM SUNDAR MATHAM
AMARAVATI

AS the capital city of Amaravati takes shape, the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) is laying a strong green foundation alongside its infrastructure development. APCRDA Commissioner V Vijaya Rama Raju told The Hans India here on Tuesday that at the heart of this effort are two nurseries

- ▶▶ APCRDA developing nurseries for greener Amaravati
- ▶▶ Sets an ambitious target of producing

- one lakh trees,
- ▶▶ 4L ornamental shrubs, 10k indoor plants to dot Greenfield city



established to ensure a steady supply of quality plants for the new capital's parks, roads, public institutions and other green spaces. "In fact, the Amaravati Development Corporation and CRDA are jointly making efforts to develop the nurseries," he said.

The flagship initiative is the 20-acre Central Nursery at Uddandarayunipalem, developed as a modern, long-term institutional resource for Amaravati's landscap-

ing and greening needs. In addition, APCRDA has developed another two-acre nursery on the premises of the Andhra Pradesh Secretariat at Velagapudi.

Ramaraju said that the nurseries are designed to provide a continuous supply of native tree species, ornamental plants and indoor plants required for various greening and landscaping projects across the capital.

Continued on Page 7

EMPOWERING THE POOR
A CELEBRATION OF OWNERSHIP

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

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

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

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

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

Venue: Makineni Basava Punnaiah Stadium,
Vijayawada

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

Mines NOC timelines tightened

- Principal secretary MK Meena orders strict 14-day, 7-day escalation checks under OMEPS 2.0
- Tahsildars, joint collectors, district collectors held accountable for delays in mining land clearances
- Portal ensures digital monitoring, forest-area alerts, and higher-level scrutiny of pending cases

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

PRINCIPAL secretary, mines and geology, Mukesh Kumar Meena directed officials of the mines and geology, revenue and forest departments to strictly adhere to prescribed timelines for processing land

No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for mining applications and take steps to eliminate pendency.

Meena reviewed the implementation of the time-bound NOC mechanism under OMEPS 2.0 at a videoconference with officials of the mines directorate, joint collectors, district forest officers and district mines and geology officers. He directed officials to ensure that every application was processed within the stipulated time-frame and that delays at any stage were immediately escalated through the online system.

Under the revised procedure, the tahsildar has 14 days from the date of intimation to issue or reject an NOC on the portal. If no action is taken within the prescribed period,



M K Meena

the application is automatically escalated to the joint collector, who has seven days to process it. In case of further delay, it moves to the district collector, who has another seven days. The portal also alerts the director of mines and geology at each stage.

Meena directed joint collectors and field-level revenue

officials to closely monitor pending applications and ensure strict compliance with the timelines. District Collectors have been entrusted with ensuring compliance by Tahsildars, while wilful delay or negligence would invite responsibility on the concerned officer.

He also instructed mines and geology officials to properly scrutinise applications before forwarding NOC requests to revenue authorities. Area plans showing existing leases should be submitted through the portal. Where land is located within 500 metres of a reserved forest, the request should simultaneously be sent to the concerned district forest officer.

The principal secretary stressed close coordination among the mines, revenue

and forest departments, particularly in cases involving assigned and patta lands and forest-adjointing areas.

He directed officials to make full use of OMEPS 2.0's digital monitoring and escalation mechanism. The portal records every action, remark, document upload and forwarding of applications, while pending cases are automatically compiled for higher-level monitoring.

Director of mines and geology W B Chandrasekhar, additional director D Srinivasa Rao and joint director G Sreenivas Chowdary attended the meeting from the Secretariat. Joint collectors, district forest officers and district mines and geology officers from all 26 districts participated through video conference.

Retired engineer loses Rs 10 cr to cyber frauds in Vijayawada

- Fraudsters pose as police officials, threaten victim with 'digital arrest'
- Cybercrime police freeze around Rs 7 cr in two bank accounts

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

A retired engineer from Gurunak Colony in Vijayawada was allegedly duped of Rs 10 crore by cyber fraudsters who posed as police officials and threatened him with a 'digital arrest'. Based on a complaint lodged by the retired engineer, the Vijayawada cybercrime police registered a case on Tuesday.

According to police, the victim received a phone call from unidentified persons about a week ago. The callers allegedly told him that his mobile number had surfaced in connection with several criminal cases and that cases had been registered against him. They subsequently contacted him through a video call and threatened him with a 'digital arrest'.

The fraudsters allegedly told the retired engineer that he would have to pay a large sum of money to avoid legal action. Frightened by their threats, the victim reportedly followed their instructions and transferred Rs.10 crore in four transactions from his Canara Bank account in Krishnalanka to bank

accounts provided by the fraudsters.

The victim became suspicious when the callers demanded more money and approached the Vijayawada cybercrime police on Tuesday.

Police registered a case and launched an investigation.

The victim told the police that he had withdrawn money from his fixed deposits to make the payments to the fraudsters.

Based on the details provided by the victim, cybercrime police traced the bank accounts used by the fraudsters and froze two accounts containing around Rs 7 crore. Police are investigating the case and trying to identify those involved.

Dr Venkata Ramana is new director of public health

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

THE state government has decided to appoint Dr Venkata Ramana as the in-charge director of public health (DPH). Health and medical education minister Y Satya Kumar Yadav approved the appointment on Tuesday, following which Dr Venkata Ramana will assume charge as DPH.

The appointment comes as Dr K Padmavathi, who has been serving as director of public health and family welfare for the past 33 months, is scheduled to retire on Wednesday. Dr Padmavathi



had been holding additional charge as DPH in her capacity as additional director (NLEP). She served the state health and medical department in various capacities for 37 years.

The department had considered seven officers for the post. Of them, inquiries are pending against two officials over allegations, while two others did not have experience as district medical and health officers (DMHOs). Another officer had served as a DMHO only for three months on additional charge, while one more officer was due to retire in June. Against this backdrop, the government selected Dr Venkata Ramana for the post of DPH. He is currently serving as Additional Director (Disease Control Programme) in the DPH office.

Dr Prabhakar Reddy appointed Nandyal GGH superintendent

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

THE state government appointed noted cardiothoracic and vascular surgeon Dr C Prabhakar Reddy as the new superintendent of Nandyal Government General Hospital (GGH). He is currently working as a professor at Kurnool Government Medical College.

The government has finalised postings for nine professors who were recently promoted as additional directors of medical education (ADMEs), with Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu approving their postings. Of the nine officers, six belong to the BC category and two to the SC category.

Dr P Bujibabu, Professor of Radiology at Andhra Medical College, has been posted as Principal of Paderu Government Medical College, while Dr G Baleswari, Professor of Pathology at Kurnool, has been appointed Superintendent of Piduguralla GGH.

Dr Sunil Kumar, Professor of TB and Chest Diseases at Andhra Medical College, Visakhapatnam, has been posted as Superintendent of Paderu GGH. Dr G Padmasri, Professor of General Surgery in Vijayawada, has been appointed superintendent of Machilipatnam GGH.

Dr Anand, Professor of General Surgery at Srikakulam, has been posted as superintendent of the Palasa Kidney Research Centre.

K. Rambabu, Professor of General Surgery at Visakhapatnam, has been appointed Superintendent of Rajamahendravaram GGH.

K Madhavi, Professor of Biochemistry at Nellore, has been posted as Superintendent of Nellore GGH, while Dr K. Naveen Kumar, Professor of Anaesthesia at Anantapur, has been appointed superintendent of Kadapa GGH.

10,000 RUNNERS CONFIRM PARTICIPATION IN SWACHHATHON

- The second edition of the Swachhathon Marathon will be organised in the Vijayawada-Amaravati region on Oct 2
- The marathon will feature 5K, 10K and 21K (half marathon) categories, with cash prizes totalling Rs 10L for winners
- Minister Nara Lokesh will falg off the run from the Indira Gandhi Municipal Corporation Stadium

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

SWACHHA Andhra Corporation Chairman Kommareddy Pattabhi Ram said that around 10,000 runners were expected to participate in the second edition of the Swachhathon Marathon, to be organised in the Vijayawada-Amaravati region on October 2 on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti and Swachh Diwas.

Speaking at a press conference in Vijayawada on Tuesday, Pattabhi Ram said the marathon was aimed at creating greater public awareness about cleanliness, sanitation and health. Inspired by the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan launched by Prime



Swachha Andhra Corporation Chairman Kommareddy Pattabhi Ram releasing the Swachhathon Marathon medals during a press conference in Vijayawada on Tuesday

Minister Narendra Modi, the State government had been promoting the Swarna Andhra-Swachha Andhra movement since January 2025 under the leadership of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, he said.

He said the first edition of the Swachhathon Run held last year received a good response, with around 6,000 to 7,000 runners participating. HDFC Bank is the title sponsor of the second edition. The marathon will feature 5K, 10K and 21K (half marathon) categories, with cash prizes totalling Rs 10 lakh for the winners.

He said the marathon would be flagged off by Minister for Human Resources Development, IT and RTG Nara Lokesh from the Indira Gandhi Municip

pal Corporation (IGMC) Stadium at 5 am on October 2. Health, Medical and Family Welfare Minister Y Satya Kumar Yadav, Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh and Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister Ponguru Narayana, along with MPs, MLAs and other public representatives, besides personalities from the film and sports sectors, are expected to participate.

Explaining the route, he said the marathon would cover the Police Control Room, Vinayaka Temple, Seethamma Vari Padalu, Krishna Barrage and Steel Bridge before reaching the Manthena Satyanarayana Raju Ashram in the Amaravati capital region and returning to Vijayawada.

Pattabhi Ram said NTR District Collector Dr G Lakshminisha, the Vijayawada Police Commissionerate and VMC Commissioner HM Dhyanachandra were coordinating arrangements for security and route clearance. Timing bibs for participants in the 10K and 21K categories would be issued at Amma Kalyana Mandapam.

He said drummers, cultural performances, Zumba and other entertainment programmes would be arranged along the route to encourage runners.

Amaravati Runners is the organising partner, HDFC Bank the title sponsor and Medstar Hospitals the medical partner.

Pattabhi Ram said registration was mandatory for the 10K and 21K categories, while those without registration would also be allowed to participate in the 5K run. He said the marathon would serve as a curtain-raiser for the forthcoming Dasara festivities in Vijayawada and called for greater public participation in building a clean and healthy Andhra Pradesh.

Amaravati Runners representative Ravi Ramesh, HDFC Area Head of Operations representative Pavan, Medstar Hospitals representative Prem and others were present.

CM sanctioned ₹137 crores for Somasila and Peddyreddy Palles canal works: Anam



HANS NEWS SERVICE
NELLORE

CHIEF Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu sanctioned Rs 137 crores on Tuesday following appeals by Endowments Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy and Udayagiri MLA Kakarla Suresh.

The funds comprise Rs 85 crores for Somasila High-Level Canal Phase-1 and Rs 52 crores for Peddyreddy Palles canal

works, alongside an assurance of Rs 100 crores to resolve fluoride issues in Kanigiri mandal.

Later, the CM and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan inspected Palles Panduga 3.30 works at Kakolluvuri Palles village.

Highlighting community accountability, the CM urged villagers to drive comprehensive rural development.



Collector MN Harendhira Prasad

Support for new industries assured

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KAKINADA

DISTRICT collector MN Harendhira Prasad has assured full support from the district administration for setting up new industries and projects in Kakinada district and directed officials to expedite the process of granting industrial permissions and clearances. The Collector spoke at the 32nd meeting of the District Industries and Export Promotion Committee (DIEPC), held at the Collectorate here on Tuesday. He reviewed the development of industries in the district, establishment of new units, permissions required by entrepreneurs and disposal of applications under the single desk system.

The Collector first reviewed the implementation of decisions taken at the 31st DIEPC meeting and the progress made on the action taken. He later reviewed the status of various clearances and permissions to be issued to industries under the single desk policy and sought details from officials on pending applications and departmental approvals. He said 46 applications had been received through the single desk system, of which all necessary permissions had been granted to 33 applications, while 13 were at various stages of processing. The committee approved the establishment of 16 industries in the district, for which incentives amounting to Rs 2.37 crore would be extended, he said.

DIC General Manager CH Ganapathi, APIIC Zonal Manager A. Ramanareddy, LDM CHSV Prasad, DRDA Project Director G. Srinivasa Rao, Ground Water DD Radhakrishna, Deputy Chief Inspector of Factories Narayana Rao and officials of various departments attended the meeting.

Women urged to achieve financial independence

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

BYST AP State Head ALN Prasad stressed the importance of financial independence for women, saying it enhances self-respect and contributes to family stability and financial security.

He was speaking at the valedictory session of a two-day Women's Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP), jointly organised by YES-J and Bharatiya Yuva Shakti

Trust (BYST), which concluded on Tuesday at the YES-J Centre for Excellence, Andhra Loyola College here. As many as 53 women participated in the programme, which focused on developing skills in business planning, entrepreneurship and enterprise management.

Fr Bala, Director, YES-J, urged the participants to use their time productively by developing business, technical and digital skills instead of spending excessive time on social media and entertainment. Pity Parker,

Programme Coordinator, said the participants gained practical insights into starting and managing enterprises. She said continued mentoring and handholding through the YES-J Y-Hub initiative would help them develop sustainable ventures.

The valedictory session was attended by BYST mentors Venkata Srikanth and Sashi Kumar, AP Project Head D Amar Chand, Finance Officer DV Krishna Rao, YES-J Manager Mani Raju, Cluster Head N Lavanya and the participating women.

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
Panchayati Raj Engg. Department
e-Procurement Tender Notice

NIT No.39 to 43, Dt. 23.09.2026

Online tenders are invited under e-procurement platform for 7 works in Anantapuram & Sri Sathya Sai Districts. Estimate Cost of Rs.1375.90 Lakhs for 7 works. Prospective bidders can download the tender schedules from: 29.09.2026. Further details can be seen at e-market place i.e., www.eprocurement.gov.in.

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer,
P.R., Anantapuram

DIPR R.O. NO. 21610CJ/ADVT/11/2021-22 Dt. 29/09/2026

ANDHRA PRADESH CAPITAL REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Project office, Rayapudi (V), Thullur (M), Amaravati-522237, A.P.
E PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

NIT No. 51 to 64/MAU61-USIOHB(OTH)/374/2025-CETT, Dt:28/09/2026

Name of Work: APCRDA "Providing Infrastructure Facilities in 26 Gram Panchayats of Amaravati Capital City under Critical Infrastructure and Investment Plan on Lump Sum contract (percentage tender) including DLP of 2 Years for 14 Packages. The above bids can be downloaded on AP e-procurement portal from 30.09.2026 to 21.10.2026 up to 14.00 Hrs. Due date for submission of Bid is 21.10.2026 up to 15.00 Hrs. Technical bid opening 21.10.2026 @16.00Hrs. For further details, Please refer to www.apcprda.com and www.crda.ap.gov.in

Sd/- Commissioner, APCRDA, Rayapudi

Govt. of Andhra Pradesh Endowment Department
SRI CHAMUNDESWARI AMMAVARI TEMPLE
Gangapatnam (Vi), Indukurpet(M), SPSR Nellore Dt, AP,
Rc.No: P/COE/1965/2026 Date: 22/09/2026

TENDER NOTICE

Tenders are invited in Sri Chamundeswari Amma Vari Temple, Gangapatnam (Vi), Indukurpet (M), SPSR Nellore Dt, For construction of Anivetti Mandapam with CGF Funds. Interested Eligible Contractors may visit the Website "https://tender.approcurement.gov.in" for the detailed Information.

Sd/- EXECUTIVE OFFICER

SMC elections held peacefully across state

- Polling conducted in 39,888 schools with active participation of parents and local communities
- Elections in 4,171 schools rescheduled for October 1: SPD B Srinivasa Rao

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

THE reconstitution elections for School Management Committees (SMCs) were conducted peacefully and transparently across Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday, in accordance with the 'SMC Guidelines-2026' issued by the Government of India.

The elections were conducted under the joint supervision of the Department of School Education and Samagra Shiksha. Of the 44,059 schools in the State,



Headmaster of PM SHRI ZPH School at Nunna in Vijayawada Rural mandal Surapaneni Ravi Prasad congratulating newly elected SMC chairperson Mullangi Sonia, vice-chairperson Narayana and other members in NTR district on Tuesday

polling was conducted in 39,888 schools. In several schools, SMC members, chairpersons and vice-chairpersons were elected unanimously with the active participation and cooperation of parents and local communities.

Elections could not be

conducted in 4,171 schools due to various reasons. Of these, 321 schools could not conduct the elections due to lack of quorum, while elections in the remaining 3,850 schools could not be held due to administrative reasons. The School Education Department has rescheduled

the elections in all 4,171 schools for October 1.

Polling began at 7 am and continued until 1 pm. The election of SMC chairpersons and vice-chairpersons was completed by 1.30 pm, followed by the oath-taking ceremony of the newly elected members at 2 pm.

The first meeting of the newly elected SMCs was held at 3 pm.

Samagra Shiksha state project director B Srinivasa Rao said SMCs played a crucial role in strengthening school development, monitoring educational activities and promoting community participation in school administration.

He said their active involvement would help improve the functioning of schools and contribute to ensuring quality education.

Srinivasa Rao congratulated teachers, education officials, public representatives and parents for their cooperation in conducting the elections successfully. He said the SMCs would continue to play an important role in effective school management and strengthening community participation in education across the State.

Mayor post emerges as key battlefront in Tirupati

- Several TDP leaders are lobbying for the Mayor post, awaiting clarity on its reservation
- Social media is abuzz with speculation over the likely reservation category and possible candidates

PRADEEP VENNELAKANTI
TIRUPATI

POLITICAL activity in Tirupati is picking up ahead of the municipal elections, with the Mayor post emerging as a major point of discussion among ruling alliance partners.

The race for the post has begun to heat up, with several TDP leaders lobbying for the coveted position and waiting for clarity on its reservation.

The government's decision to hold direct elections for Mayor posts has increased interest among aspirants. Several leaders in the TDP



TDP, Jana Sena and BJP leaders at a recent coordination meeting in Tirupati

have already started making efforts to secure the party's backing, while speculation is also rife on social media over the likely reservation of the post and possible candidates.

Caste equations have become part of the discussion, with social media posts claiming that TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu has assured the post to a particular community. However, there is no official confirmation on such claims. Several names are currently being discussed in TDP circles. They include former MLA A Mohan, Anna Anitha Yadav, Dampuri Bhaskar Yadav, Penumadu Praveen, RC Munikrishna, NB Harshavardhan Reddy

and Pushpavathi Yadav. Former Mayor M Sugunamma, G Narasimha Yadav and M Devanarayana Reddy are also reportedly seeking the opportunity mostly for their family members.

Jana Sena leaders Pasupuleti Hariprasad, Kiran Royal, Tammiseti Venkateswarlu and Subhashini are among others whose names are being mentioned in connection with the Mayor race. For now, the BJP is not seeking the Mayor post and is instead focusing on securing key corporator positions. There is speculation in political circles that the Mayor post could be reserved for BC-General which may pave the way for

aspirants from Yadava community. Interestingly, the previous Mayor Dr R Sirisha Yadav of YSRCP was also from the same community.

The delimitation of divisions has already been completed, and political parties and aspirants are now waiting for the reservation process to conclude.

The announcement is expected to bring clarity to the Mayor race as well as the competition for individual corporator seats.

Meanwhile, the TDP, Jana Sena and BJP have begun preparations for the local body elections. At a recent coordination meeting of the Tirupati Parliament constituency, leaders of the three parties stressed the need to work together and arrive at an understanding on seat sharing.

The leaders said the alliance would follow the decisions of the party leadership on reservations and seat allocation.

They also noted that several aspirants from the TDP and Jana Sena are seeking tickets and that clarity on the number of seats to be allotted to each party would help in finalising the adjustments.



Rs 3.495 cr sanctioned for earthen bunds to support Gogulapalli salt farmers

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NELLORE

FUNDS worth Rs 3.495 crore have been sanctioned under the VB-GRAM scheme to construct earthen bunds and access roads for salt farmers in East and West Gogulapalli gram panchayats of SPSR Nellore district.

Secured through MP Beeda Masthan Rao Yadav's appeal with Deputy CM K Pawan Kalyan's cooperation, the project covers 32 works spanning 18,900 meters.

It directly benefits 534 SC, ST, and BC salt-farming families by enabling direct market transport, eliminating middlemen, and improving prices.

Gogulapalli carries historic significance as a hub for freedom-era salt Satyagraha protests against British colonial rule.

APSPDCL crosses one lakh rooftop solar connections in southern AP



APSPDCL CMD Siva Shankar Lotheti reviewing grid-connected rooftop solar installations as the utility crosses the one-lakh milestone across nine southern districts

- APSPDCL has connected one lakh rooftop solar services to the grid, becoming the first among Andhra Pradesh's three discoms to achieve this benchmark
- Operating across nine southern districts—Nellore, Tirupati, Chittoor, Annamayya, Kadapa, Kurnool, Nandyal, Anantapur, and Sri Sathya Sai—the utility has installed 210 MW of capacity under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

VANI MALLELA
TIRUPATI

IN a major boost to Andhra Pradesh's clean energy ambitions, the Andhra Pradesh Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (APSPDCL) has successfully connected one lakh rooftop solar services to the grid, becoming

the first among the state's three discoms to cross this landmark figure.

Operating under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, the utility has achieved an installed capacity of 210 MW, focusing heavily on Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) households.

The initiative is executed through the Utility Led Aggregation (ULA) model, which aims to install 2 kW grid-connected rooftop systems on the homes of 2.07 lakh SC/ST consumers across nine southern districts: Nellore, Tirupati, Chittoor, Annamayya, Kadapa, Kurnool, Nandyal, Anantapur, and Sri

Sathya Sai. According to Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) data, APSPDCL has streamlined the entire workflow—from consent collection to grid integration—ensuring minimal delays.

Praising the coordinated efforts of field staff and solar agencies, CMD Siva Shankar Lotheti hailed the milestone and announced plans to cover all remaining eligible families.

Accounting for nearly 47% of the state's progress in the SC/ST ULA programme, this achievement has propelled Andhra Pradesh into the top four states nationally for rooftop solar installations.

Apollo Hospitals holds awareness rally to mark World Heart Day



HANS NEWS SERVICE
NELLORE

APOLLO Speciality Hospitals in Nellore organized a walkathon on Tuesday to mark World Heart Day, observed globally on Tuesday.

Nellore Municipal Commissioner O Nandan flagged off the rally from the Muthukur Bus Stand Center. Emphasizing this year's theme,

“Don't Miss a Beat,” cardiologist Dr Chirra Bhakthavatsala Reddy urged the public to stay vigilant about heart health.

Unit Head Eega Visweswar Reddy, Director of Medical Services Dr Sriram Satish, along with a team of specialist doctors, hospital staff, and citizens, participated in the event to promote cardiovascular awareness.

72nd b'day of Rajashree Birla celebrated

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUPATI

THE 72nd birthday of Padma Bhushan Rajashree Birla was celebrated at the Kasturba Gandhi Kendra Trust in Tirupati under Chairman Dr P C Rayulu. TTD Board Member G Bhanu Prakash Reddy and District BJP President Samanachi Srinivas attended as guests. The milestone event featured cake-cutting, sweet distribution, and an Annadanam serving nearly 1,000 people. Speakers praised the Birla family's national service and Rajashree Birla's exemplary CSR initiatives. Local leaders, trust staff, and citizens participated in the heartfelt celebration, recognizing the Trust's continuous humanitarian work in the region.



KIMS Hospitals celebrates World Heart Day

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NELLORE

KIMS Hospitals marked World Heart Day on Tuesday with a 3-kilometer walk and ambulance rally in Nellore, drawing 500 participants from VRC Grounds to Dargamitta.

Squash star Aparajitha and GGH Medical Superintendent Dr Madhavi graced the event as chief guests.

Highlighting the theme

“No heart survival without movement,” doctors organized a 30-minute Zumba session. Senior cardiologists Dr CS Srinivasa Raju, Dr D Saheb Peer, Dr H Nagaraja Rao, and surgeon Dr P Lokeshwara Rao urged citizens to exercise, avoid tobacco, and manage hypertension, diabetes, and obesity.

Hospital leadership and the VRC Walkers Association participated enthusiastically.



Narayana Hospitals drives heart health campaign across Nellore



HANS NEWS SERVICE
NELLORE

NARAYANA Medical College & Hospital marked World Heart Day with an ambulance awareness rally traversing major routes across Nellore. Dean Dr P Srinivasulu Reddy and Additional Medical Superintendent Dr Harish Ravulapalli stressed the vital role of early detection in preventing

heart diseases. To make cardiac care accessible, the hospital launched a special Heart Check-up Package for Rs 999 and a day-care angiogram service for Rs 8,999, available through October 29, 2026. Head of Operations DV Rama Rao, senior cardiologists, cardiothoracic surgeons, and administrative staff participated in the comprehensive public health campaign.

Medicover Hospitals hosts major public awareness event on World Heart Day

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NELLORE

MARKING World Heart Day, Medicover Hospitals organized a public awareness event at Children's Park in Nellore.

A panel of expert cardiologists—including Dr C Vijay Amarnath Reddy, Dr Jayaram M, Dr P Manohar Reddy, Dr Balakrishna, and Dr Vignya Charan—interact-



ed with citizens to promote cardiac wellness. Speaking on the occasion, the doctors warned that poor diets, physical inactivity, stress, and

smoking are driving a surge in heart diseases.

Emphasizing prevention and healthy lifestyle choices, the hospital team wrapped

up the impactful community outreach session with the core message: “Let us protect our hearts and lead a healthy life.”

Healthy lifestyle key to prevent heart diseases: SVIMS Director

- Experts highlight that modern lifestyles, unhealthy diets, physical inactivity, stress, smoking, diabetes, hypertension, and high cholesterol are fueling the rise of heart diseases

- Dr G Jagadish advises daily physical exercise, balanced diets with reduced salt/sugar/fat intake, smoking cessation, and routine health check-ups for high-risk individuals

- Cardiology HoD Dr Vanajakshamma and Director Dr Jagadish stressed that symptoms like chest tightness, breathing difficulty, dizziness, and excessive sweating require immediate medical attention

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUPATI

SRI Venkateswara Institute of Medical Sciences (SVIMS) Director cum Vice Chancel-

lor Dr G Jagadish said that people should pay special attention to their heart health and adopt healthy lifestyle habits from a young age.

The Department of Car-



SVIMS Director Dr G Jagadish, Dr Vanajakshamma and others at the World Heart Day event on Tuesday

diology of the Institute organised an awareness programme on the occasion of World Heart Day on Tuesday.

Speaking at the pro-

gramme, Dr Jagadish said the risk of heart diseases was increasing due to changing lifestyles, unhealthy food habits, lack of physical activity, stress, smoking, diabe-

tes, high blood pressure and high cholesterol. He advised people to spend some time every day on physical exercise, eat a balanced diet and reduce the intake of salt, sugar and fatty foods. Avoiding smoking and other harmful habits can also help protect heart health.

Dr Jagadish advised people with high blood pressure, diabetes and high cholesterol to undergo regular health check-ups as recommended by doctors. He said symptoms such as chest pain or tightness, difficulty in breathing, excessive sweating, dizziness and sudden weakness should not be ignored and medical help should be sought immediately. Modern medical

facilities for the treatment of heart-related diseases were available at SVIMS under the supervision of specialist doctors. People requiring treatment should consult doctors in time and receive appropriate medical care, he added.

Head of the Department of Cardiology Dr Vanajakshamma said people should seek emergency medical attention without delay if they experience chest pain or tightness, breathing difficulty, sudden sweating, dizziness, fainting or unusual and severe weakness.

Assistant Professor Dr Varun, other doctors, post-graduate students and patients participated in the programme.

Hans India Classifieds

CHANGE OF SURNAME

I, CATTAMANCHI LOKANADHAM ESWAR (Old Name), S/o KATTAMANCHI LOKANADHAM, R/lat D.No. 8-57, Cherlapalli, Chittoor Dist. AP, have changed my surname to CATTAMANCHI LOKANADHAM ESWAR. Henceforth, I shall be known as CATTAMANCHI LOKANADHAM ESWAR (New Name)

RAJENDRA-TPT

CHANGE OF NAME

I, PATAN ALIYA (Old name), residing at D. No: 36/719, Ashok Nagar, Chinnachowk, Kadapa, Y.S.R. District, A.P., hereby changed my name as **PATAN ALIYA KHANAM** (New name), W/O. SHAIK JEELAN BASHA

RAJASEKHAR-KNL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, AARLAGADDA JEEVAN VARMA (OLD NAME), R/O. D.NO. 1152, THALLAPAKA (V), (P), RAJAMPET (M), YSR KADAPA (DT), AP, HEREBY CHANGED MY NAME AS **ALLAGADDA JEEVANVARMA** (NEW NAME), S/O ALLAGADDARAMMOHANRAJU

Ro No. 34602

I, KATTERAPALLE BHASKAR REDDY, S/o Late. K. NARAYANA REDDY R/o 2-514/8, Srinivasa Puram, Padmavathi Puram, Tirupati Dist, A.P. changed my minor son name from **K. MUKULA VISHNUVARDHAN REDDY** to **KATTERAPALLE MUKHUL REDDY** for all records purpose.

Ro No. 34602

CHANGE OF SURNAME AND NAME

I, DAUZI LIYAKHAT ALI KHAN (Old SURNAME AND NAME), S/o: NABI KHAN DOUZI, D.No: 11/757, HABEEBULAH STREET, KADAPA, Do hereby change my name to **DOUZI LIYAKAT ALI KHAN** (NEW SURNAME AND NAME), Hence forth then I may be called as **DOUZI LIYAKAT ALI KHAN**.

Ro No. 34602

CHANGE OF SURNAME & NAME

I, Thalluri Murali, Army No: 14369953H, Rank: NK(OPR), R/O D.No: 15-5-3-18-A, R.R. Naidu Colony, Vinayaka Nagar, Madanapalle(T&M), Annamayya Dist., A.P. In my Service records my Wife Name mentioned as T.Girisree instead of **THALLURI GIRISRI**. Vide affidavit Dt: 22.06.2026 before Madanapalle Court.

RAJENDRA-TPT

CHANGE OF SURNAME

I, HARITHA SAJJA (Old Name) W/o. AMAR NADH KOTAPATI R/o. 00000, 49 KOTHAPALLIMITTA POST, KATIKAPALLE, SR PURAM MANDAL, CHITTOOR DIST-AP-517167 India Hence I have changed my surname to **HARITHA KOTAPATI** (New Name), hereafter my name is known as **HARITHA KOTAPATI** (new name) W/o. AMAR NADH KOTAPATI

TH-34602

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I, DONTI GEETHANJALI, SPOUSE OF LAKKAKULA VENKATARAMTHAM, RESIDENT OF ISKCON CITY, NELLORE, SRI POTTI SRIRAMULU NELLORE DISTRICT (AP), PIN-524004, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM **DONTI GEETHANJALI** TO **LAKKAKULA GEETHANJALI** I DECLARE THAT BOTH NAMES ARE ONE AND THE SAME PERSON.

MADAN-NLR

CHANGE OF NAME

I, AGNIGUNDALA ADAM, W/o. AGNIGUNDALA NARASAIHA, residing at D.No.2-1-80, Kollamitta, Sullurpeta, Tirupati District, Andhra Pradesh-524121. I have change my name from **A ADAM** (Old Name) to **AGNIGUNDALA ADAM** (New Name). Hence forth I am being called **AGNIGUNDALA ADAM** for all purpose.

MADAN-NLR

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MANYAM MALLIKARJUNA S/o MANYAM SIVAIHA, R/lat Mallampeta (V), Balayapalli (P), Badvel (M), YSR Kadapa (Cuddapah) Dist, AP – 516502, have changed my name to **MANYAM MALLIKARJUNA REDDY** S/o MANYAM SIVA REDDY, Henceforth, I shall be known as **MANYAM MALLIKARJUNA REDDY** for all purposes.

RAJENDRA-TPT

PASSPORT LOST

I, PATHAN SALMA, W/o PATAN TARIGONDA INAYATHULLA KHAN, R/lat D.No. 4-142, Raja Veedhi, Kalakada V&M, AP, India, hereby declare that my original Indian Passport No. **R9355671**, issued in 2018, was lost on 10-03-2021 while travelling by bus from Piler to Kalkada. If found, kindly contact me at 6281425562, 9703196260.

RAJENDRA-TPT

CHANGE OF NAME

I, JC-209873W, Rank: Subedar Major, Honorary Captain(Retd) **A.SAMBASIYA CHETTY**, resident of No.180, Majara Kothapalli Village, Budithreddy Pali Post, Yadaman Mandal, Chittoor District, A.P. Pin-517422 hereby declare that I want to change name of my spouse from **NAGARATHNAM** to **A S NAGARATHNAM**

VARASIDDI

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AP agriculture caught between drought and destructive rain

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

K VARAPRASADA RAO
AMARAVATI

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

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

The scale of the agricultural setback becomes clearer when

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

APSEC moves cybercrime police over fake local body poll schedule

Fabricated messages circulated using SEC letterhead, logo and signature

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

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

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



official press notes and press conferences for authenticated information.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Crane collapse at Tirupati construction site claims three lives

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUPATI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

APCRDA signs agreement with Rainbow for hospital

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

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

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

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

The lease agreement was signed on behalf



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

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

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

Domestic market vital to strengthen aqua sector: NFDB chief

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Navarathri SHG sales exhibition from Oct 1 to 15

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

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

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

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

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

Absconding Chennai man held for wife's suicide

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24-hour strike by private bus operators demanding fare hike

CHENNAI

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

According to the Federation of Bus Operators As-

Around 7,000 private buses operate in the state

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

"We are currently operating at a loss of around 65 per

cent. Unless fares are revised, the private bus sector will become unviable," Federation President Thangaraj told reporters on Monday.

Following a petition by a federation of private bus owners, the Madras High Court in March last year had directed the state government to seek views from operators and the public regarding a fare revision. How-

ever, operators alleged that no further action has been taken.

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

ed from such compensation.

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



Will back move seeking removal of CEC in Parliament: DMK

CHENNAI

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

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



answering a question on the status of the INDIA bloc and ties between the Congress and Samajwadi parties.

Stalin had issued a statement on September 23 demanding that CEC Gyanesh Kumar "must go" and saying that he had no right to continue in office. Elangovan said that such support in Parlia-

ment does not mean that the DMK is a constituent of the INDIA bloc and that the move to oppose the BJP is based on ideology.

"Samajwadi Party top leader Akhilesh Yadav was skipping the meeting like the DMK, and that was because of the Congress party, he said, adding that the grand old party chose TVK

in Tamil Nadu "for the sake of two ministerial berths in the TVK government", he added.

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

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

TVK leaders review arrangements for CM's Dharapuram poll rally

CHENNAI

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

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

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

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

Campaigning has intensified in the SC-reserved Dharapuram Assembly constituency



in Tiruppur district, where 22 candidates including Sathyabama of TVK were locked in a high-stakes electoral battle.

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

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

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

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

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

CHENNAI

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

According to him, across Tamil Nadu, countless women continue to make a difference in education, agriculture, community development, social service and several other fields, often working quietly and away from public attention. The Kamaraj Award seeks

to identify such women, bring their stories before a wider audience and recognise the values of perseverance, service, leadership and social responsibility that their journeys represent.

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

Through this recognition, "We The Leaders" seeks to celebrate women who con-



tinue to reflect these values through their work and service. The awardee will then be invited onto the dais to receive the honour from Annamalai, following which she will briefly share her thoughts and experiences with the audience.

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

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



'BUILD SECRETARIAT ELSEWHERE'

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

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

CHENNAI

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

The head constable, attached to the Kovilpalayam police station in Coimbatore, was on duty when a police team stopped a Karnataka-registered SUV near the Kaniyur toll gate following information that gutka was being smuggled. The 3 men inside the vehicle allegedly pushed the police personnel aside and sped away on the highway. Without losing time, Velmurugan



jumped onto the SUV's roof and held on to the roof rails. The SUV driver reportedly accelerated to more than 100 km per hour and continued for about 40 km, with the head constable clinging to the roof. The pursuing police team eventually intercepted the vehicle near Avinashi in Tiruppur district and arrested the 3 men, all from Rajasthan, the release said. Police seized more than 170 kg of banned gutka and the vehicle. After felicitating Velmurugan, the CM advised him to exercise caution while on duty. Director General of Police Mahesh Kumar Agarwal was present on the occasion.

Woman cop dies after being pushed during clash at govt hospital

PARAMAKUDI

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

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

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

IIT Madras study finds educated professionals among cybercrime victims

CHENNAI

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

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

India's rapid digital transition near-universal mo-

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

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

The researchers found that victims were often targeted



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

during periods of stress or life disruption, including illness in the family, retirement, job searches, or workplace pressure. Fraudsters exploited

fear, financial expectations, and reputational concerns to create an "engineered brain freeze," with victims describing a state of "mind arrest"

that impaired their ability to think clearly.

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

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

lysed using the Gioia methodology. The study was led by Prof P Kandaswamy, IPS (Retd), and Prof Nandan Sudarsanam, from IIT Madras in collaboration with Prof. Akanksha Jaiswal, Associate Professor, The University of Western Australia, Chennai Campus and Prof. Ameeta Fernando from Loyola Institute of Business Administration, Chennai.

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

Elaborating on the findings, Nandan Sudarsanam, Wadhvani School of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence, IIT Madras, said, "Our findings show that financial cybercrime is not

simply a problem of inadequate digital literacy. Even highly educated and digitally experienced individuals can become vulnerable when fraudsters exploit fear, stress, and urgency. Understanding these factors is essential to designing more effective prevention strategies."

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

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.

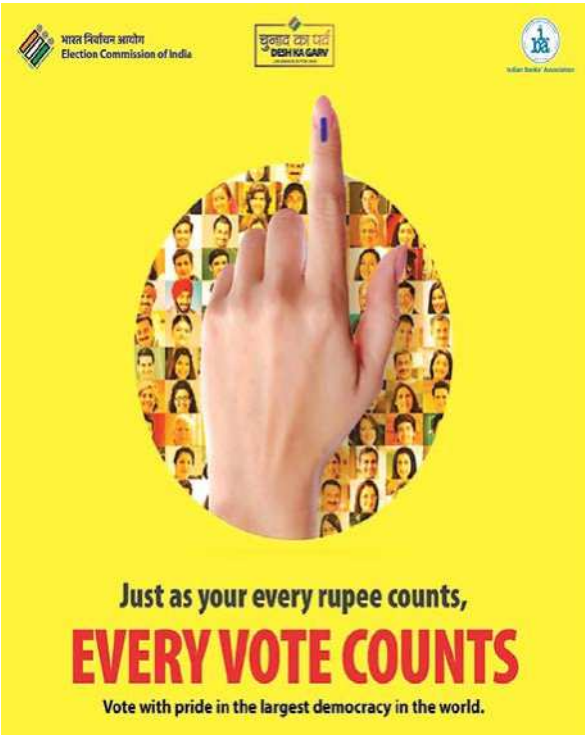
In a judgment delivered a few days back, the Supreme Court directed that the accused may be released immediately, after stating that the police cannot arrest without stating the reasons or denying a lawyer, at the time of arrest. It also declared that violating Fundamental Right (Article 22(1) of the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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Singapore offers support to strengthen AP edu system

Singapore home minister Shanmugam, state education minister Lokesh offer prayers at Tirumala

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUMALA

SINGAPORE home minister K Shanmugam has offered to support Andhra Pradesh in strengthening its education system and adopting suitable practices from Singapore, while appreciating the reforms being pursued by the state government.

Shanmugam held discussions with education, IT and electronics minister Nara Lokesh at Tirumala on Tuesday on a range of issues, including education reforms, school dropouts, drug prevention, skill development and social security.

The Singapore minister said reducing school drop-outs was crucial to protecting children from falling into drug abuse and other social problems.

He appreciated the steps being taken by the AP government to bring down the dropout rate and suggested that efforts should continue



Singapore home minister K Shanmugam, AP education minister N Lokesh and TTD additional EO Ch Venkaiah Chowdary at Srivari temple in Tirumala on Tuesday

until it is reduced to zero. Lokesh explained the education reforms being introduced by the coalition government and the measures being taken to

improve the government school system. He also briefed Shanmugam on efforts to encourage students to shift from private schools to government schools.

Expressing interest in the initiatives, Shanmugam said he would like to visit government schools in the state. He also assured that Singapore would extend cooperation in strengthening the state's education system and share relevant practices followed in the country.

Drug prevention was another key issue discussed by the two ministers. Shanmugam explained Singapore's approach to tackling drug abuse and stressed the importance of strict laws and penalties.

They explored the possibility of linking Andhra Pradesh's Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) with Singapore's Institute of Technical Education (ITE). Shanmugam explained how ITE provides industry-oriented

training based on employment requirements.

Before the discussions, Shanmugam and Lokesh offered prayers at the Tirumala temple. Shanmugam arrived in Tirumala on Monday night and was received by Lokesh. On Tuesday morning, the two ministers participated in Suprabhata Seva, Thomala Seva and Archana Seva and had darshan of Lord Sri Venkateswara Swamy.

TTD executive officer Muddada Ravichandra, additional EO Ch Venkaiah Chowdary and temple priests welcomed the ministers. After darshan, priests performed Vedaseervachanam for Shanmugam and Lokesh at the Ranganayakula Mandapam. Shanmugam also praised the arrangements made by the TTD. Recalling an earlier visit to Tirumala, he referred to a saying he had seen at the Executive Officer's office — "It's not the darshan that you want, it's the darshan that he gives."

Centre launches new initiative to develop 50 model cities

NEW DELHI

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

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

importance, high tourism destinations and economic centres.

The initiative aims to drive visible improvements in urban cleanliness, solid waste management, used water management, sanitation, and citizen participation through a structured framework of monitoring and review within a defined timeframe. Progress will be continuously reviewed through outcome-based assessments and tech-enabled monitoring. I will personally chair review meetings every other month to track the advancement of these cities."

Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Tokhan Sahu noted that over the past decade, Swachhata has evolved from a people's movement into a way of life. He said the new model cities initiative would assist cities in achieving the goal of

Garbage Free Cities within a stipulated timeframe and help them become role models for other urban centres. He urged States and Urban Local Bodies to prepare micro-level action plans and ensure their swift and effective implementation.

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

Satendra Singh, Secretary of the Department of Urban Development, MoHUA, emphasised that efforts will focus on enhancing citizen experience and holistic service delivery.

Naidu calls for continuous skilling, governance overhaul

Continued from page 1

With advanced technologies, a talented youth population and growing aspirations, the country's key challenge was to strengthen governance institutions to translate these opportunities into better public services.

He urged government employees at every level, from the State headquarters to the grassroots, to continuously upgrade their skills through capacity-building programmes. He said the iGOT-Mission Karmayogi platform, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi through the Capacity Building Commission, provided officials and employees with an avenue for regular online learning and skill enhancement.

Naidu congratulated the Andhra Pradesh government machinery for completing two crore courses through the iGOT Karmayogi portal, enabling the State to secure the first position nationally in capacity building.

He presented the national award to finance department principal secretary Piyush Kumar and AP development planning society executive director Alaparthi Venkateswara Rao. Karnataka and Odisha received the second and third positions respectively.

The Chief Minister stressed the need to integrate technology, administrative procedures and inter-departmental coordination to improve public service delivery. Regular

information-sharing among departments, he said, could accelerate decision-making and help identify and resolve problems before they turned into crises.

He highlighted the role of government employees in managing natural disasters, festivals and major public programmes, and appreciated their commitment to public service, often at the cost of time with their families.

Naidu cited Modi's journey from a tea vendor at a railway station to Prime Minister as an example of the potential of capacity building. Capacity Building Commission chairperson Radha Chouhan, member Alka and Secretary Jagdeep Gupta also addressed the workshop.

SC to hear plea seeking suspension of CEC next week

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to hear next week a petition seeking suspension of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar and challenging the alleged manner in which decisions were taken by the Election Commission without the approval of other members of the poll panel. The matter was mentioned before a bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant and comprising Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana. Senior advocate Vikas Singh, appearing for the petitioner, argued that decisions of the multi-member Election Commission are required to be taken unanimously or through a majority decision.

The petition, filed by Patna resident Rakesh Kumar Singh, seeks directions to prevent CEC Kumar from exercising the functions of the Chief Election Commissioner until

the matter is decided. It also seeks a declaration that powers under Article 324 of the Constitution must be exercised collectively by the Election Commission. The plea comes amid controversy over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. It refers to reports claiming that Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi raised objections on several occasions regarding decisions allegedly taken without their approval. The Election Commission has maintained that differing views and observations are part of institutional deliberations and that all its decisions have legal validity. The petition has sought records, including meeting minutes, approval documents, file notes and digital access details, to examine whether procedures were followed in matters related to electoral rolls and other decisions of the Commission.



PM should resign for 'pressuring' CEC: Kharage

Continued from page 1

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

Kharage put forth five major demands at the CWC, noting that all data on changes in electoral rolls be made public, all voters whose names have been deleted should get a chance to appeal and all political parties should be given electoral rolls in simple format in time. He also demanded that an independent time-bound probe should also be conducted where serious anomalies are found and the poll process should be made transparent so no one feels that information is being hidden.

"The two Election Commissioners have themselves termed the CEC's actions as 'arbitrary and unreasonable' and the entire nation now knows that he has been trying to help the ruling party. In such a situation, he does not have the right to be in his position and should be removed immediately," Kharage said.

"Together with this, the prime minister should also resign on moral grounds for 'pressuring' the CEC," the Congress chief said in his inaugural address at the CWC. "We should take a pledge at the CWC meeting that there should be transparency in electoral rolls and the poll process should be impartial. Institutions should be independent and the vote of every Indian should be protected," he said in his inaugural address. This, he said, is the core of our Constitution and the soul of our democracy and the Congress party would not be left behind in fulfilling this responsibility and will take to the streets and raise these issues in Parliament.

Implementing our promises at jet speed, says CM Naidu

Continued from page 1

The Chief Minister alleged that villages had suffered during the previous government, citing pothole-ridden roads, inadequate street lighting and even shortages of basic sanitation materials such as bleaching powder.

He said Gram Sabhas were conducted simultaneously in all 13,326 villages to initiate development activities and around 10,000 Panchayat Raj employees in various cadres were given promotions after nearly two-and-a-half decades. He also referred to the release of Rs 4,136 crore under the 15th Finance Commission, the creation of more than one lakh farm ponds and construction of cattle water troughs.

Naidu said 15,500 km of BT and CC roads were being taken up under Palle Panduga - 3.0, including 6,000 km of CC roads at a cost of Rs 2,700 crore. He said the roads

would improve connectivity and make travel easier for schoolchildren, farmers and villagers.

"People should be able to walk without getting mud on their feet. Better roads will ensure smooth movement and make it easier for children to go to school and farmers to reach their fields," he said.

He added that development works worth Rs 50,000 crore had been initiated in urban areas.

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan said strengthening villages was fundamental to the overall progress of the state. He said the government was working to make families economically stronger and villages more self-reliant by improving roads, drinking water, agriculture, employment, sanitation, infrastructure and tourism.

Pawan said the previous government had constructed

880 km of CC roads during its five-year tenure, while the coalition government had completed nearly 9,000 km in two years.

He said development works based on local needs were being taken up in all 13,326 gram panchayats through Palle Panduga programmes. Around 1.15 lakh farm ponds had been created and fruit orchards developed across two lakh acres, he added. Palle Panduga works worth nearly Rs 520 crore were being taken up in Nellore district, Pawan said.

Ministers Anam Ramanarayana Reddy, Ponguru Narayana, N.M.D. Farooq, Nimmala Ramanaidu, Gotipati Ravi Kumar and BC Janardhan Reddy, Nellore MP Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy, Rajya Sabha member Beeda Masthan Rao, Udayagiri MLA Kakarla Suresh, Nellore Collector Himanshu Shukla and others were present.

CEC front for diabolical PM-HM duo: Congress

Continued from page 1

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

A Constitutional functionary himself, the CEC has deliberately and clearly violated the Constitution in letter and spirit on the citizenship and other issues like illegally amending Form 6 to disenfranchise Gen Z voters, Ramesh said. "The first step in the long road to reclaiming our democracy is the

resignation of the CEC who is both a front for the diabolical PM-HM (Narendra Modi-Amit Shah) duo and an affront to the Constitution of India," the Congress general secretary said.

His remarks come a day after the Congress said the EC's proposed measures related to SIR are an admission that the exercise has been a "disaster" and asserted that the "piecemeal" steps for deleted or at risk voters will do little to mitigate this "mass disenfranchisement".

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

Gangster Goldy Brar on FBI 10 most wanted list

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

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

AP, Telangana impacted due to drought: Chouhan

Continued from page 1

Karnataka has requested a central team, which is scheduled to visit the state on October 3.

The Chief Minister of Maharashtra has also requested a central assessment team, and a team will be sent there as well.

The Agriculture minister said that he would person-

ally visit the affected states and remain in constant contact with their governments. "The immediate objective is to ensure that agricultural fields do not remain fallow," he added.

For the upcoming Rabi crop season, the minister said the Centre will assist the states in identifying suitable seeds and crop varieties

that require less water, have a shorter maturity period, suitable for local soil and weather conditions. He also said the Centre will help farmers continue cultivation despite drought conditions. The Centre will also facilitate coordination and cooperation among the states and other stakeholders, he added.

Amaravati going green with ornamental plants!

Continued from page 1

By producing plants locally, APCRDA aims to reduce dependence on external sources and create a sustainable plant resource for Amaravati, he added.

The Central Nursery has been developed with a production plan covering more than 60 native tree species. APCRDA has set an ambitious target of producing 1 lakh trees, 4 lakh ornamental shrubs and 10,000 indoor plants over the next two years. The nursery has already emerged as a significant plant resource, with around

1.15 lakh healthy plants currently available. The collection includes native tree varieties, flowering plants, roadside plantation species, ornamental plants and varieties suitable for landscaping.

These plants are expected to play an important role in both ongoing and future greening programmes in Amaravati, supporting the development of green corridors, landscaped public spaces, avenues and parks.

The initiative also incorporates renewable energy into nursery operations. Giving priority to environ-

mental conservation, APCRDA has installed a 52.5-kilowatt solar power plant at the Central Nursery. Solar power is being used for lighting, water supply for plants and other operational requirements. Besides reducing dependence on conventional electricity, the solar facility is expected to help lower operating costs and carbon emissions. The development of these nurseries reflects an approach that combines urban development with environmental sustainability. Instead of treating greenery as an addition to infrastructure, APCRDA is creating

an institutional system capable of supplying the plants required to sustain Amaravati's green landscape over the long term. With its large-scale plant production capacity, diverse collection of species and adoption of solar energy, the Central Nursery at Uddandarayunipalem is emerging as an important green asset for Amaravati.

As development activities gather pace, these nurseries are expected to provide the botanical backbone for transforming Amaravati into a greener, more pleasant and environmentally sustainable capital city.





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

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

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

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

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



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

EDWINA RAJ

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

Your 20s: Build a Strong Foundation

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

Your 30s: Support Energy and Hormonal Health

The 30s often bring busy work schedules, family responsibilities and, for many women, pregnancy and motherhood. Nutrition should support energy while also helping maintain a healthy weight. Protein, fibre, iron, calcium, folate and omega-3 fats deserve attention. Women planning pregnancy should discuss folic acid supplementation with their doctor. Whole grains, vegetables,

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

fruits, pulses, dairy, eggs, nuts and seeds can form the base of a healthy diet. Limiting highly processed foods, excess sugar and sugary drinks is equally important.

Your 40s: Protect Muscle, Bones and Metabolism

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



a balanced diet, can help identify problems early.

Your 50s: Focus on Bone and Heart Health

Around menopause, falling oestrogen levels can affect bone health, body composition and heart health. Calcium and vitamin D become particularly

important. Milk, curd, ragi, sesame seeds and leafy greens can contribute to calcium intake. Protein should remain part of every meal to help maintain muscle strength. Fruits, vegetables, whole grains, pulses, nuts and seeds provide fibre and essential nutrients.

Healthy Eating at Every Age

There is no single diet that works for every woman. Nutritional needs depend on age, activity, health conditions and lifestyle. However, the basic principle remains the same: eat a variety of minimally processed foods, include enough protein

and fibre, stay hydrated and maintain regular physical activity. Good nutrition is not about following a restrictive diet. It is about giving the body the right nutrients at every stage of life.

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

Dhanya Vasanta wins Dame Marie Bashir Peace Prize 2026

TELUGU GIRL MAKES HER MARK IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

MV SYAM SUNDAR

IN a proud moment for the Telugu community across the globe, Dhanya Vasanta, a young NRI student of Telugu origin, has been conferred the

Dame Marie Bashir Peace Prize 2026. The award was presented on Monday at the New South Wales (NSW) State Parliament, Sydney, recognising her outstanding contributions to community service,

youth leadership, and promotion of peace. Dhanya's work reflects exceptional initiative and impact at a young age. She founded "A Little Library" when she was just 12-year-old, beginning

with a donation of 200 books to Westmead Children's Hospital. Under her leadership, the initiative has grown into a grassroots literacy movement—collecting over 10,000 books, distributing books to regional, remote Australian communities, communities overseas in African countries. She has also built partnerships with multiple organisations, raised funds to sustain the initiative, and mobilised volunteers. Her service extends beyond literacy.

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

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

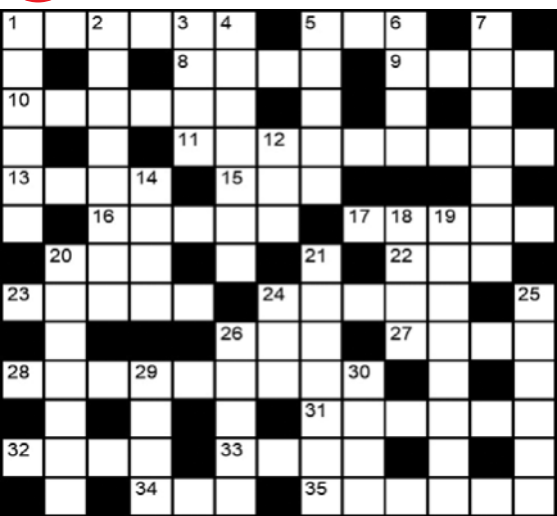


Dhanya Vasanta receiving the award in Australia on Monday.

fundraising for community programs. Dhanya is the granddaughter of Potluri Bhaskara Rao, president of the Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry Federation (AP Chambers), adding further pride to the Telugu Diaspora. This distinguished

recognition highlights not only Dhanya's individual accomplishments but also the growing global impact of Indian-origin youth. Her journey stands as an inspiration to young people worldwide, exemplifying compassion, leadership, and commitment to societal good.

CROSSWORD



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

DOWN

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



Solution to September 29

SUDOKU



Solution to September 29



Yoga practitioner bags Sarvangasana to claim world record

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

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

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

Highway u-turn triggers fatal crash

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

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

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

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

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

Andhra native Paramesh found dead in Malpe



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

Three Haliyal water bodies rejuvenated under Project NANNNEER

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HALIYAL

THREE water bodies in Haliyal taluk have undergone rejuvenation under Project NANNNEER, 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 Ha-

numantha Pond in Haliyal village. The work involved desilting, deepening and strengthening of the water bodies to improve water retention and recharge.

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

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

Kumbarekare Lake, spread over 54.5 acres, has seen its storage capacity increase from 352,002 cubic metres to 655,452 cubic metres. The restoration is expected to

benefit about 243 families in Thergaon by improving groundwater recharge and irrigation availability.

The capacity of Alloli Pond has increased from 27,280 cubic metres to 87,296 cubic metres, while Hanumantha Pond's capacity has risen from 10,115 cubic metres to 24,276 cubic metres. Together, the two ponds are expected to benefit more than 370 families. The restoration is also aimed at reducing water stagnation and flooding dur-

ing heavy monsoon spells, besides supporting agriculture and improving groundwater availability.

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

Farmers and local panchayat representatives said the increased storage would improve access to irrigation



water during the summer months. They also said the restored ponds would support

crops, including sugarcane, and improve water availability for daily needs.

HDK steps up attack on NICE project, questions toll collection

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

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

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

Kumaraswamy further alleged that around 1.25 lakh acres connected to the project had been denotified in 2004 and claimed there was a plan to commercially exploit the land. He questioned Kheny's reported claim that the state government would



have to pay around Rs 2 lakh crore and asked who was supporting such demands.

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

The High Court dismissed

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

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

Contractors seek release of Rs 38,000 crore pending dues

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

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

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

The association said Shivakumar met its office-bearers on June 30, 2026, and assured them that pending dues would be cleared within two months. It claimed that the chief minister



had also instructed the Finance Department to make arrangements for the payments. According to the association, around Rs 38,000 crore is pending across development departments, with dues dating back to 2021-22. It sought immediate release of the amount and demanded that payments be made according to the seniority of pending bills.

The contractors also urged the government to stop issuing Special Letters of Credit and ensure greater transparency in tendering and payment procedures. They sought the release of

the eight per cent VAT-GST difference for 2017-18 and 2018-19. The association also demanded withdrawal of the requirement to upload work details on the Contract Management Module before treasury payments are released. It sought preference for local contractors at district and taluk levels.

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

4-day meet held on GST, Customs practices

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

THE Directorate General of Taxpayer Services (DGTS), Bengaluru Zonal Unit of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), Ministry of Finance, ran a four-day Outreach and Trade Meet on GST and Customs from September 22-25. Shailendra Kumar Sinha, Director General, DGTS, New Delhi, presided. Sessions were held at the BMTC Building, Banashankari; the CR Build-

ing, Queens Road; and HMT Bhavan under Bengaluru North GST Commissionerate. Day one reviewed the Zonal Unit; the next three days were set aside for trade talks. DGTS, created in August 2015 as a CBIC field formation with six zonal units, exists to strengthen taxpayer services, stakeholder contact, grievance handling and public outreach. It links taxpayers with the indirect-tax system and promotes voluntary compliance, openness and a better taxpayer experience.

Coffee cafe opened

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

Nitte gets 5-yr FAO reference centre badge

HANS NEWS SERVICE
MANGALURU

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

Food and Agriculture Or-

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

The formal presentation took place at FAO Headquarters in Rome during the FAO Global Conference for Actions on One Health, between September 21-23. Vice Chancellor

Dr. M S Moodithaya received the certificate from Deputy Director General Godfrey Magwenzi, in the presence of Assistant Directors General Thanawat Tiensin and Manuel Barange. Dr. Indrani Karunasagar, who heads the Nitte FAO Reference Centre, and Dr. Iddya Karunasagar, former FAO Senior Food Safety Officer and now adviser to the centre, were also in the delegation.

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

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

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

He said the BJP had demanded in both Houses of the legislature that farmers be

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

provided a minimum compensation of Rs 50,000 per acre. Instead, the state government had provided only Rs 2,500, which he said was inadequate considering the extent of the farmers' losses.

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

Referring to a letter issued by the Finance Department, Vijayendra said it had raised

serious questions about the state's financial position. He demanded that Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister D.K. Shivakumar immediately issue a white paper on the actual financial condition of Karnataka.

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

Vijayendra alleged that the government was providing opportunities to political



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

On allegations concerning a video conference reportedly conducted by Home Minister G. Parameshwara, Vijayendra said the government should clarify claims that party workers were being given priority in the implementation

of guarantee schemes. Beneficiaries, he said, should be selected based on their needs and not on lists prepared by Congress workers.

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

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

On the proposed Congress padayatra from Shikaripura announced by B.K. Hariprasad, Vijayendra said he welcomed the move and claimed that it could have been inspired by the BJP's Ballari Chalo padayatra. He said Shikaripura was the place that had shaped his political career and challenged Hariprasad to visit the constituency and see its development. Vijayendra said the BJP

would strengthen its organisation from the booth level ahead of the forthcoming local body elections and prepare its workers for the polls.

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

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



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

- Peter Wilson, Indian trap-shooting coach

Sports Nation

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 cyclists failing to come good in the men's and women's team sprint events and women's team pursuit competition, falling out of medal contention at the preliminary stage.

Asian Games 2026Golden glory for India as women lead charge

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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

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

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

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

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

Boxer Ankush Panghal breaks eight-year jinx

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Indian canoe slalom paddlers enter semis

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

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



KAT elects new office bearers for 2026-2030



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

Clubs Cup: HPRC narrowly misses title in Madrid



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

OU announces Inter-College Sports C'ships

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

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

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

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

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

FDA seizes over 50 tonnes of food stock

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

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

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



Sambhajanagar division.

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

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

2021 Antilia bomb scare case

Mumbai court grants bail to ex-cop Sachin Waze

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

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

On February 25, 2021, an explosives-laden SUV was found near industrialist Mukesh Ambani's residence 'Antilia' in south Mumbai. Businessman Masnuhk 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 Chandeesh and Paramakudi deputy superintendent of police Sugumaran visited the hospital to conduct an investigation.

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



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-Text 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.



US President Donald Trump announcing the investment at the White House

Essar arm to invest \$18-bn in US steel

MINNESOTA MINE TO FEED IOWA COMPLEX WITH 10 MTPA STEEL CAPACITY

WASHINGTON

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

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

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

The mine will supply direct-reduction-grade iron ore pellets to the Iowa com-

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

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

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

Sebi closes offshore funds control case against Vinod Adani

MUMBAI

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

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

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

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



Vinod Adani

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

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

Bulk buyers crowd fuel pumps, private retailers cap diesel sales

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

NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

Some industrial users are purchasing 400-600 litres at a time, far above the quantities

normally bought by motorists. The resulting surge has put pressure on stocks at individual petrol pumps, which have limited storage capacity and may take days to replenish supplies.

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

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

per cent of media companies with a presence on the platform said that YouTube assisted them in reaching global audiences. Over 160 million hours of content were uploaded by Indian channels in the past year, the report said. YouTube said it is collaborating with the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and the Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT) to advance national digital skillling under the "Create with AI" initiative. It is also partnering with the Ministry of Culture to preserve heritage and promote traditional folk and tribal music on the global stage. On the product front, the company is rolling out artificial intelligence-driven production tools, including conversational AI editing for Shorts and agentic channel management features in Ask Studio. To address digital authenticity, the platform said it is introducing 'AI Likeness Detection' alongside clear labels and disclosures for synthetic content.

vivo 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

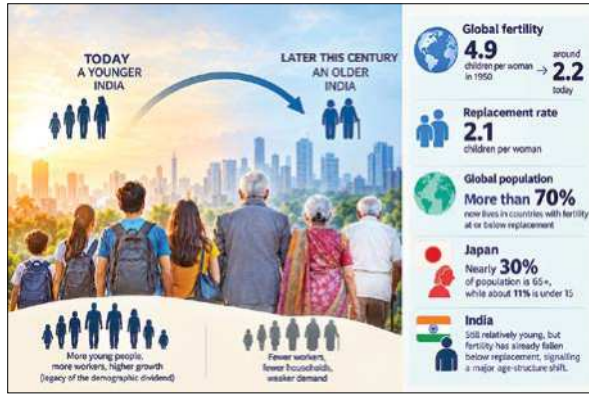
INDIA is likely to have much older population later this century as the country's age structure is beginning to shift and fertility fallen "below replacement", Moody's Ratings said on Tuesday. Moody's said population growth has long been a tailwind for economic growth and creditworthiness, but falling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

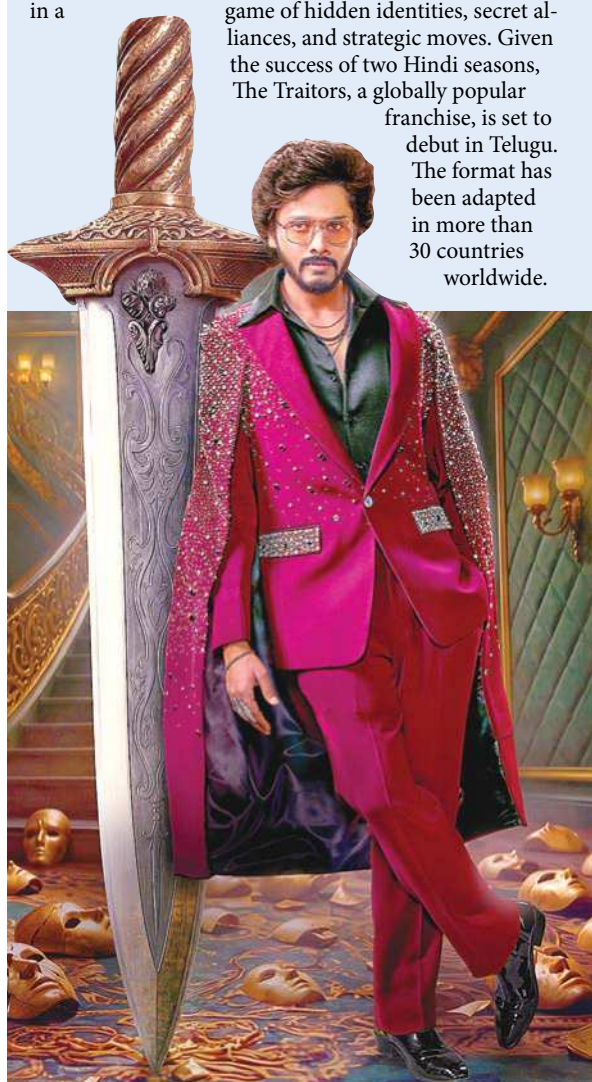
The locations, along with the music and the stellar performance by the lead pair, add a certain magic to this romantic track.

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.



Ayesha Khan stuns in black off-shoulder gown

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



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



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

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