



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.

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'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



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

AP, Telangana impacted due to drought: Chouhan

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

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



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

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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 fallg 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 Lakshmisha, 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 Palle 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-I and Rs 52 crores for Peddyreddy

Palle 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 Palle Panduga 3.30 works at Kakolluvuri Palle village.

Highlighting community accountability, the CM urged villagers to judiciously utilize government funds 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.

ANDHRA PRADESH CAPITAL REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Project office, Rayapudi (V), Thuluri (M), Amaravati-522237, A.P.

E PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

NIT No. 51 to 64/MAU61-USIOHBI(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.apecprocurement.gov.in and www.crda.ap.gov.in

Sd/- Commissioner, APCRDA, Rayapudi

Govt. of Andhra Pradesh Endowment Department
SRI CHAMUNDESWARI AMMAVARI TEMPLE
Gangapatnam (Vii), Indurkpet(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), Indurkpet (M) , SPSR Nellore Dt, For construction of Anivetti Mandapam with CGF Funds. Interested Eligible Contractors may visit the Website "<https://tender.apecprocurement.gov.in>" for the detailed Information.

SD/- EXECUTIVE OFFICER

VISAKHAPATNAM METROPOLITAN REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

PUBLIC NOTICE

Eoffice No.11021/123/2026/L8 (c-3383439), Dt: 29-09-2026

Application of Sri Medapati Ramesh Reddy have requested for approval of layout covering the Sy.Nos. 38-1A, 38-1P, 38-2P, 38-3, 38-4, 38-5, 51-1P, 51-2P, 52-1, 52-1A, 53-1, 53-2, 53-3, 53-4, 53-5A P, 54-1P, 54-2, 54-2A, 54-3, 54-3A, 54-4, 54-5, 54-6P, 54-6A, 54-6B, 54-7, 55-6, 55-7P, 55-7A, 55-7B, 57-1A, 57-1, 57-2, 57-3P, 57-4, 57-5A P, 57-8 P of Munjeru (V), Bhogapuram (M), Vizianagaram District to an extent of Acs.13.10 Cts vide Online No. PER/LP/1167/0059/2026/REV1 is under process in VMRDA.

Hence, the general public is hereby informed to submit any objections/suggestions in this regard 7 days from the date of publication to VMRDA pertaining to the above approval of layout application failing which it will be construed that there are no objections/suggestions etc., and the above approval of layout application will be processed as per rules.

Sd/- Metropolitan Commissioner, VMRDA

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.

Bolisetty launches nationwide movement ‘Dharma’ to save nature, temple lands

- The movement transcends political parties and individual interests, aiming to unite millions across the country to protect nature, human rights, temple properties, livelihoods, and constitutional values

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

ENVIRONMENT Conservationist and national convener of Jal Biradari Bolisetty Satyanarayana said that communities no longer tolerate the injustice of destroying natural and traditional foundations in the name of development.

Asserting that solutions to these modern challenges lie deeply rooted in the concept of Dharma at a media conference held in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday, Satyanarayana stated that at a time when lawlessness, environmental destruction, and the exploitation of natural resources have reached alarming levels, there is a historic need for the public to raise their voices and question this destruction.

Marking the official launch of a nationwide movement, Satyanarayana said that the movement transcends political parties and individual interests, aiming to unite millions across the country to protect nature, human rights, temple properties, livelihoods, and constitutional values.

During the interaction, Satyanarayana and civil society leaders including Waterman Ra-



Environment Conservationist and national convener of Jal Biradari Bolisetty Satyanarayana speaking to the media in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday

jendra Singh, MVR Sastry, Justice Gopala Gowda, P V Rajagopal, and Basavaraj Patil outlined severe ecological and social threats facing the region and the nation.

As a concrete immediate course of action, the movement has strongly opposed the alleged diversion and commercial exploitation of Simhachalam Devasthanam lands. Satyanarayana announced that this campaign serves as a stepping stone toward safeguarding Hindu temple properties across Andhra Pradesh and India. He urged village communities to take active leadership roles as guardians of local temples and their assets.

In view of the forthcoming local-body elections, Satyanarayana urged the citizens to evaluate candidates not based on party symbols or financial inducements, but on their proven track record of public service, environmental commitment, and dedication to safeguarding community assets.

- Ketan Garg emphasises quality standards in road development, greenery, junction modernisation,

- The Commissioner directs officials to prepare attractive and modern designs for bus bay construction

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

GREATER Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) Commissioner Ketan Garg directed engineering officials to commence city development and beautification works, expedite their execution and ensure their completion within the stipulated deadline.

On Tuesday, the Commissioner, along with GVMC chief engineer PVV Satyanarayana Raju, inspected the central median development works undertaken



GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg during field visit in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday

from Dutt Island junction to Polamamba temple in the Siripuram area.

Speaking on the occasion, the Commissioner stated that the state government had recently allocated Rs 400 crore under a special package for the holistic development of the city. This funding will be utilised to develop major

roads, central medians, dividers, greenery, modernise junctions, install modern lighting and other development and beautification works across the city.

The Commissioner directed officials to accord top priority to development and beautification works, as only one month remained be-

fore the partnership summit scheduled for the city. Accordingly, he instructed the chief engineer to prepare and implement an action plan in coordination with engineering officials and representatives of the contracting agency to commence the works.

Ketan Garg emphasised maintaining quality stand-

ards in road development, greenery, junction modernisation, central medians and lighting, among others, as part of the city's beautification programme.

The Commissioner directed officials to prepare attractive and modern designs for the construction of bus bays. He instructed them to develop special designs for electric poles to be installed on central medians, ensuring that they complement the city's beautification.

He further directed officials to install modern central lighting at suitable locations to enhance the city's visual appeal.

Engineering officials were told to review the progress of works daily in coordination with NCC representatives. GVMC executive engineer Gangadhar, deputy executive engineers Venkateswara Rao and Appala Naidu, in-charge assistant engineer Chaitanya Devi, NCC representatives and other engineering officials accompanied the Commissioner during the inspection.

Roundtable demands removal of CEC

HANS NEWS SERVICE
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

A roundtable by all political parties and people's organisations under the aegis of the CPM in Rajamahendravaram on Tuesday demanded the immediate removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, alleging that the independence of constitutional institutions was being undermined. The meeting, chaired by CPM district secretary T Arun, discussed changes in the appointment of Election Commissioners, deletion of large numbers of names during revision of electoral rolls, centralisation of powers through ECI-Net and concerns over EVMs and VVPATs. Speakers stressed the need for greater transparency and accountability to restore public confidence in the Election Commission. Arun called upon political parties, people's organisations and the public to unite to protect democratic institutions. He said an all-party Satyagraha would be organised at the Dandi March statues near Kambala Cheruvu in Rajamahendravaram on October 2. He alleged that the Centre had attempted to block around 1.75 lakh social media posts, including posts criticising government policies, and said such action would affect freedom of expression. He also criticised the changes introduced through the 2023 law governing the appointment of Election Commissioners, alleging that they had increased the Centre's influence. Former MP and YSRCP spokesperson Margani Bharat Ram said the appointment procedure for Election Commissioners should

be reviewed. Referring to reports that two Election Commissioners had recorded written objections to decisions of the Chief Election Commissioner on 14 occasions, he sought clarity from the Election Commission. He demanded that voter registration and deletion procedures remain within the jurisdiction of BLOs, ELOs and EROs and sought an explanation from the Election Commission on changes to Form 6. He also called for the reasons for every deletion from electoral rolls to be made public through a dedicated dashboard and sought an appeal mechanism for those whose names were removed.

YSRCP central committee member Jakkampudi Vijayalakshmi said government institutions should not be used for the benefit of any ruling party. She said questions had been raised among sections of the public over the functioning of the Election Commission during the 2019 and 2024 elections.

GV Sundar, correspondent of Rajiv Gandhi College, sought separate disclosure of details concerning deceased persons, duplicate entries, migrated voters and eligible voters whose names were removed during the SIR. He called for simplifying Form 6 for young voters and an audit of election software by independent institutions such as the IITs.

Congress district president TK Visweswara Reddy said every vote should have equal value and election institutions should function free from political interference.

Congress city leader Balepalli Murali sought an independent and comprehensive inquiry into allegations of irregularities in the electoral process.

Visitors can explore bean to cup journey at Araku Coffee Centre

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

THE Girijan Cooperative Corporation (GCC) is taking steps to strengthen marketing facilities for products produced by tribal farmers and promote Araku Valley Coffee among tourists and the public, emphasised GCC chairman Kidari Sravan Kumar.

Inspecting the ongoing construction of the Araku Valley Coffee Cafe, established by GCC on Beach Road at an estimated cost of Rs 1.06 crore here on Tuesday, he directed officials to maintain quality standards and complete the project following strict timelines.

The cafe is designed to offer visitors a taste of authentic Araku coffee while providing a platform to showcase and market various



Girijan Cooperative Corporation GCC chairman Kidari Sravan Kumar inspecting the work being carried out at the Araku Valley Coffee Café in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday

tribal products sold by GCC. A cafe will be established on the ground floor, where visitors can enjoy Araku coffee and purchase tribal products, he added. The Araku Coffee Experience Centre is being developed on the first floor. Visitors can explore the bean-to-cup journey of the world-famous indigenous

coffee. Sravan Kumar mentioned that the experience centre would provide tourists and the public a first-hand understanding of the coffee production process, while also highlighting the efforts and challenges faced by tribal farmers and the marketing opportunities available for their products.

Man gets 20-yr jail in POCSO case

HANS NEWS SERVICE
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

A special POCSO court in Kakinada has sentenced a 25-year-old man to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment for sexually assaulting a seven-year-old girl. The accused was identified as Gummadi Rajasekhar of Kovvur town in East Godavari district. According to police, the accused allegedly lured the minor girl from Singavaram village in Seethanagaram mandal by offering her biscuits and chocolates and took her along with him before sexually assaulting her. Based on a complaint, Seethanagaram police registered a case in Crime No 179/2020.

North Zone DSP P Satyanarayana Rao conducted the investigation and collected scientific evidence, medical examination reports and statements of the victim, including the statement recorded under Section 164 CrPc.

A charge sheet was subsequently filed

before the Special POCSO Court in Kakinada.

During the trial, Special Public Prosecutor P Sridevi presented the prosecution evidence before the court and advanced arguments to establish the charges against the accused.

After completion of the trial, Special POCSO Court Judge K Sridevi found the accused guilty and sentenced him to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 5,000. In default of payment of the fine, he would undergo an additional three months of simple imprisonment.

The court directed that the Rs 5,000 fine be paid to the victim as compensation after expiry of the appeal period. District SP D Narasimha Kishore appreciated Special Public Prosecutor Sridevi, former North Zone DSP P Satyanarayana, CI SVVS Murthy, SI L Srinunayak, and other staff for their role in the investigation, prosecution and monitoring of the trial.

DRUCC member pitches for Telugu-speaking railway employees



Railway board took major decisions regarding transfers, postings, seniority and promotions of employees associated with the Visakhapatnam division

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

IN the wake of operational changes concerning the Rayagada division of South Coast Railway (SCoR), the railway board recently took major decisions regarding transfers, postings, seniority and promotions of employees associated with the Visakhapatnam division.

The board directed that a roadmap be prepared for the phased transfer to Visakhapatnam of loco running staff, presently working in the Rayagada division, who expressed their willingness to return to the Visakhapatnam division. At the same time, to ensure Rayagada division does not face any staff shortage, it was decided that newly-recruited assistant loco pilots (ALPs) be posted in Rayagada.

With these decisions coming into effect, employees in the loco running category, who were transferred from the Visakhapatnam division to Rayagada are expected

to have a clearer pathway for returning to Visakhapatnam, said Chalasani Gandhi, senior railway national labour leader and member of the Divisional Railway Users Consultative Committee (DRUCC).

The board further decided that pending inter-divisional request transfer (IDRT) applications should be considered until cadre closure. For gazetted officers, promotions and postings are to be undertaken without affecting their lien and seniority. It also directed that comprehensive details of the posts and staff working in the construction departments under the jurisdictions of SCoR and ECoR be submitted.

However, Gandhi said, the issue should not be limited only to the running staff. He demanded that there is also a need to address the concerns of employees belonging to other departments who are presently working in the Odisha and Chhattisgarh regions, formerly part of the Waltair division.

A large number of Telugu-speaking employees belonging to departments such as engineering, operating, signal and telecommunication and other categories working in Chhattisgarh and Odisha have been awaiting permanent transfer to the Visakhapatnam division. Gandhi raised the concern that they too request consideration for transfer to the Visakhapatnam division, taking their seniority and service conditions into account.

According to labour organisations, approximately 1,000 Telugu-speaking employees belonging to various departments are presently working in the newly formed Rayagada division.

A comprehensive plan needs to be drafted to ensure that their seniority, promotions and other service benefits are protected while making every possible effort to accommodate employees belonging to the Andhra region in the Visakhapatnam division.

‘World Heart Day’ meet focuses on prevention mechanism

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

VISAKHAPATNAM Institute of Medical Sciences (VIMS) director V Manmadha Rao underlined the importance of regular exercise, a balanced diet and periodic health check-up in preventing heart diseases.

Speaking at an awareness programme organised at VIMS Hospital on the occasion of the ‘World Heart

Day’, Dr Manmadha Rao said that maintaining good heart health should be a priority for each individual. He urged people to consult doctors without delay if they experience symptoms associated with heart disease and seek timely medical intervention.

He said the primary objective of World Heart Day is to create greater awareness about cardiovascular health and encourage people to



World Heart Day observed at VIMS in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday

adopt preventive measures. Regular health check-ups can help detect potential heart-related problems at an early stage, while a healthy lifestyle can significantly reduce the risk of cardiovascular diseases, he informed.

Dr Manmadha Rao said VIMS is equipped with modern medical facilities and provides quality healthcare services to patients suffering from heart-related ailments.

Doctors from the department of cardiology explained various aspects of heart disease prevention, precautionary measures, emergency response and ways to maintain cardiovascular health. Deputy director of VIMS Srinivas Kumar, Nursing Superintendent Sugeeta Swarnalatha, hospital administrator Manoj Kumar, cardiology department doctors and nursing staff participated in the programme.

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RAMESH-VSP

AP agriculture caught between drought and destructive rain

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

K VARAPRASADA RAO
AMARAVATI

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

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

The scale of the agricultural setback becomes clearer when

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

APSEC moves cybercrime police over fake local body poll schedule

Fabricated messages circulated using SEC letterhead, logo and signature

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

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

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



official press notes and press conferences for authenticated information.

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

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

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

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

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



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.

Gate Bazaar flyover faces safety test

SUNIL MOHAN PATNAIK
BRAHMAPUR

AN expert nine-member technical team, led by Superintending Engineer Pinaki Prasad Swain of Brahmapur Quality Control Division, on Monday began a detailed inspection of the under-construction Gate Bazaar flyover following allegations of substandard construction work and use of inferior-quality materials.

The team, comprising the Superintending Engineer, SDO, JE and other technical personnel, inspected various components of the flyover and began collecting samples of construction materials, including cement and steel. The team is also inspecting the dimensions and specifications of different structural components to ascertain whether the work conforms to prescribed technical standards.

The inspection follows a letter written by Brahmapur MP Pradip Panigrahi to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on July 25, seeking an expert-level investigation into the



alleged use of low-quality construction materials and the delay in completion of the flyover.

Panigrahi had alleged that inferior-quality cement, steel and other materials were being used in the project and that managerial difficulties were contributing to delays. The prolonged construction work has also been causing considerable traffic congestion in Gate Bazaar and affecting the business activities of local traders.

Speaking during the inspection, SE Pinaki Prasad Swain said the technical investigation would take a few days. "We are collecting samples from every pillar and slab and inspecting the dimensions of the various components used in the flyover. The samples will

be tested and evaluated as per prescribed procedures. The findings will be compiled and a report will be submitted to the State government," he said.

The technical scrutiny has now put the quality and progress of the much-awaited project under close examination, with all eyes on the findings of the expert committee.

The 1,136-metre-long flyover, connecting Niladri Vihar on Aska Road with the City Hospital Old Gate, is intended to ease traffic congestion in one of Brahmapur's busiest stretches. The project was formally inaugurated on August 29, 2025, while actual construction commenced on January 15, 2025.

INDIA bloc calls Odisha bandh on Oct 8

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR

INDIA bloc on Tuesday announced an Odisha bandh on October 8 to demand the repeal of the new mining law and two other issues, as members of the alliance staged a demonstration near Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi's residence here. Hundreds of workers and leaders of bloc partners such as the Congress, CPI(M), CPI, CPI(ML) Liberation, Forward Bloc, NCP, Samajwadi Party and RJD took part in the rally.

The protesters had earlier planned to gherao the Assembly but shifted their focus to the Chief Minister's residence after the monsoon session was adjourned sine die a day earlier. "The BJP government adjourned the Assembly sine die instead of answering our questions on the MMDR Bill, 'vote chori' and CEC Gyanesh Kumar. But they can't adjourn the people's questions. We are staging agitation before the CM's residence," Pradesh Congress Committee president Bhakta Charan Das said.

The protesters clashed with security personnel after police stopped them from marching towards the

DEMAND TO REPEAL NEW MINING LAW



Chief Minister's residence. Some supporters broke through the barricades and courted arrest, while several others were taken into custody for allegedly violating the law, a senior police officer said.

Addressing the gathering, Das announced the state-wide bandh for October 8 and appealed to people to join it. The demands include repeal of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Amendment Act, 2026,

resignation of Odisha School and Mass Education Minister Nityananda Gond over alleged errors in school textbooks, and resignation and arrest of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise. Das said the Congress and its INDIA bloc partners would ensure that the bandh was observed peacefully across the state.

The INDIA bloc will also organise a demonstration in

mineral-rich Kendujhar district on October 7 against the new mining law, he said. The bloc claimed that Odisha would lose around Rs 1 lakh crore and Rs 12,000 crore annually following implementation of the new mining law. It said rallies and economic blockades would be organised across key mining belts on October 8 to halt mineral extraction and transportation.

The alliance alleged that the MMDR Amendment Act, 2026, would affect

the rights and economic interests of mineral-rich states such as Odisha. The protesters also demanded protection of water, forests and land, tribal rights, and the livelihoods and rights of mine workers and local residents in mining areas.

"The principal demands of the protest are repeal of the MMDR Amendment Act, 2026, protection of Odisha's mineral rights and financial autonomy, and safeguarding the state's mineral resources from corporate plunder," CPI(M) Odisha state secretary Suresh Chandra Panigrahy said.

State BJP president Manmohan Samal criticised the Congress, alleging that the party had a habit of opposing government initiatives. "They were opposing GST, mining reforms also. The Congress has lost its identity among the people," Samal said. BJP general secretary Biranchi Narayan Tripathy also attacked the Congress.

"Earlier the mines were being distributed among Congress leaders and their families. As PM Narendra Modi stopped it, the Congress is raising its voice to protect the interest of their leaders," he said.



IIMC students witness Assembly proceedings

SAMRIDDHI TRIPATHI
DHENKANAL

STUDENTS from the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) witnessed the live proceedings of the Odisha State Legislative Assembly for the first time. Following the session, Assembly Secretary Satyabrata Rout and Joint Director (Research division) Shiva Prasad Patnaik briefed the students on legislative procedures, protocols, and House operations. The visit also included an exploration of the Assembly archives and library, alongside the announcement of new internship opportunities for IIMC students.

An interactive Q&A session introduced the future media professionals to the pace of the newsroom and administrative reporting.

Odisha Legislative Assembly Research Division Director Tribikram Pradhan donated books on Rules of Procedure, Assembly business transactions, and brief legislative history to the IIMC, Dhenkanal library. This initiative will provide students with resources on legislative affairs to encourage academic interest in parliamentary practices.

Satyabrata Rout announced that, at the institute's request, IIMC students will be offered state legislature internships starting this year to provide them with firsthand experience in legislative processes. The aspiring journalists learned that the Odisha Assembly archives years of proceedings and won an e-Governance Award of Excellence for its paperless digital transformation.

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR

THE monsoon session of the Odisha Assembly was on Monday adjourned sine die by Speaker Surama Padhy, four days ahead of schedule, amid frequent disruptions. The monsoon session had commenced on September 22 and was scheduled to continue till October 3.

However, keeping in view the continuing heavy rainfall and the flood situation in the State, and to facilitate members to visit their respective constituencies, the House was adjourned sine die, Padhy said. Government chief whip Saroj Kumar Pradhan moved a proposal to adjourn the Assembly,



which was supported by members of the treasury bench – Upasana Mohapatra and Laxman Bag. During the session, four key bills were passed, including the Odisha State Tax on Professions, Trades, Callings and

Employments Bill, 2026, the Indian Stamp (Odisha Amendment) Bill, 2026, and the Odisha Jan Vishwas Bill, 2026.

The Assembly session witnessed frequent disruptions, with Opposition BJP

and Congress members demanding withdrawal of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Amendment Act, 2026, and the resignation of School and Mass Education Minister Nityananda Gond over large-scale errors in textbooks of state-run schools. Due to the ruckus by the Opposition members, the House could hardly function for three hours during the entire session.

An all-party meeting convened by Deputy Speaker Bhabani Shankar Bhoi on Friday, too, could not end the stalemate as the Opposition remained adamant on their demands. The four bills were passed in the absence of the Opposition members,

as leaders of the BJD and Congress walked out of the House during the post-lunch session on Monday.

The political standoff between the ruling BJP and Opposition parties in the State over the MMDR Act had been continuing from the first day of the session on September 22.

The Opposition has been claiming that Odisha would lose over Rs 1 lakh crore in revenues if the Act is implemented in the State. In a recent reply in the Assembly, Odisha's Steel and Mines Minister Bibhuti Bhusan Jena had said the government has not yet assessed whether the State would gain or lose due to the new mining law.



Ashok Basa WFEO panel Chair

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR

ODIA engineer Ashok Basa, past president of the Institution of Engineers (India), has been appointed as the Chair of the Internal Audit Committee of the World Federation of Engineering Organisations (WFEO).

Effective September 28, 2026, Ashok Basa has been appointed as the first Chair of the newly constituted WFEO Internal Audit Committee, with his tenure running through the end of 2027.

In his appointment letter, WFEO Executive Director Moez Chakchouk stated that the selection reflects the Federation's confidence in Basa's leadership, global professional standing, and commitment to engineering excellence. He also praised Basa's dedication to supporting WFEO's goals of transparency, accountability, and strong governance.

As Chair, Basa will lead the committee in reviewing WFEO's internal controls, ensuring compliance, safeguarding assets, and verifying financial data integrity. The committee will also monitor internal audit corrective actions and conduct mandated investigations.

Vigilance raids on two govt officers

BHUBANESWAR: The Odisha Vigilance on Tuesday launched raids on properties of two government officers at multiple locations for possessing disproportionate assets (DA) beyond their known sources of income.

Vigilance sleuths launched search operations on properties of Umakant Samantaray, Assistant Director of factories and boilers, Sambalpur, and Bandita Dash, Assistant Engineer (AE), posted at Badachana block in Jajpur district.

Vigilance officers led by 8 DSPs, 11 inspectors, 11 ASIs, and other supporting staff, conducted searches at seven

places in Sambalpur, Bhubaneswar, Puri, and Khordha ased on search warrants issued by the special judge, Vigilance, Sambalpur, officials said.

Dash and her associate Somonath Sethy (private person) were nabbed on Monday for demanding and taking a bribe of Rs 35,000 from an individual to release a security deposit and clear pending bills, a Vigilance officer said.

While searching Dash's residential house in Kataka, the Vigilance department recovered Rs 5.15 lakh, he said, adding that further investigation is in progress.

Meanwhile, the Vigilance department arrested Shishir

Kumar Dash, Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE), Mathili block, attached to the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), Malkangiri, for possessing disproportionate assets. During raids conducted on Monday, the AEE was found in possession of disproportionate assets including two multi-storeyed buildings, 6 high value plots, Rs 82 lakh in deposits, and one four wheeler, etc, which he could not account for satisfactorily, the officer said. In this connection, a case has been registered against the engineer at Brahmapur Vigilance police station under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

IISER-NIT patent advances oral cancer therapy

SUNIL MOHAN PATNAIK
BRAHMAPUR

RESEARCHERS from the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Berhampur and NIT, Rourkela have received an Indian patent for a newly developed compound that could be used in the future to make medicines for oral cancer. The research team, led by Prof Laxmidhar Rout of IISER, Berhampur and Prof Harekrushna Sahoo of NIT, Rourkela, developed the new compound, named S-27, with the aim of exploring its use in treating oral cancer. The researchers said their work is particularly focused on oral squamous cell carcinoma, a

common type of oral cancer. The new compound has shown promise as a possible candidate for further research into oral cancer treatment. The patent, titled "Design, Synthesis, and Formulation of a Cotarnine Derivative for Oral Cancer Therapy," was filed by L Prusty, H K Sahoo, P Behera, L Rout, S Biswal and B Mallick. The patent application was filed on November 19, 2025, and the patent was granted on September 25, 2026. The researchers said the new work could eventually help in developing a more affordable medicine for oral cancer. However, they stressed that much more testing is needed before the compound can be used as a medicine for patients.

CAG flags serious lapses in DMF fund spending

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR

THE Comptroller and Auditor General has flagged several lacunae in the sanction and execution of projects under Odisha's District Mineral Foundation, meant for the interest and benefits of the mining-affected people and areas in the State.

In one of its reports, presented in the Odisha Assembly on Monday, the top audit authority flagged significant systemic shortcomings in the assessment, collection, and monitoring of District Mineral Foundation (DMF) contributions in test-checked mining circles and works divisions.

Incorrect application of prescribed DMF contribution rates, failure to reassess contributions after final royalty assessments, and non-levy of interest on de-

layed payments collectively resulted in a substantial loss in DMF collections, it said. Such contributions refer to a mandatory financial payment made by mining leaseholders in Odisha to DMFs.

Although six districts collected Rs 22,568.17 crore towards DMF contribution, including interest, and sanctioned 17,435 projects worth Rs 20,947.52 crore from DMF funds during 2015-16 to 2023-24, none of the six DMFs prepared a perspective plan and master plan, the audit report said.

The six audited districts are Sunderagada, Kendujhar, Jajpur, Mayurbhanj, Dhenkanal and Nabarangpur. "As many as 9,739 projects worth Rs 17,926.79 crore were sanctioned from DMF in Kendujhar and Sunderagada districts during 2015-16 to 2023-24. Out of this,



expenditure of Rs 983.32 crore was made towards implementing projects in 976 non-affected villages, whereas not a single project

was implemented in 488 directly affected villages and 96 indirectly affected villages," the report said.

Of the Rs 1,164.43 crore

utilised in Jajpur DMF, 43.54 per cent, that translates to Rs 507.02 crore, was used in indirectly affected areas, exceeding the prescribed limit

of 40 per cent, it stated. Out of the six selected DMFs, Mayurbhanj, Dhenkanal and Nabarangpur districts had not opted for a flexi deposit/ auto sweep account for surplus DMF funds during 2015-2024, resulting in an interest loss of Rs 9.49 crore. Similarly, Kendujhar DMF incurred an interest loss amounting to Rs 84.51 crore.

DMF funds of Rs 171.79 crore from Jajpur, Kendujhar and Sunderagada districts were released to the MGNREGS director for the payment of additional wages to job seekers, which violates the Ministry of Rural Development guidelines, the CAG said.

"Out of total administrative expenditure of 99.81 crore in Sunderagada DMF, Rs 25.01 crore was irregularly utilised for other than administrative expendi-

ture, like engagement of vehicle for police patrolling, renovation of municipality office, renovation of reading room at Collector's residence, inauguration charges and organisation of school function etc," the auditor pointed out.

In Jajpur, Kendujhar and Sunderagada DMFs, implementing agencies had not returned the unspent amount of Rs 470.25 crore and the interest earned thereon, amounting to Rs 26.51 crore, to the DMFs after project completion. Similarly, the implementing agencies of Dhenkanal and Mayurbhanj had not returned interest amounting to Rs 87 lakh to their respective DMFs.

Furthermore, an expenditure of Rs 136.77 crore was made for constructing a hockey stadium out of DMF funds in Sunderagada, and

the project does not fall under any activities permissible under the scheme guidelines, the audit said.

The CAG further pointed out that Rs 109.45 crore from Sunderagada's DMF was paid to a private hospital in Raurkela against a requisite payment of Rs 98.85 crore, resulting in an excess payment of Rs 10.60 crore during the Covid pandemic. The auditor advised the Odisha government to ensure proper maintenance of accounts of DMF funds as per the codal provisions and refund of accrued interest thereon by the implementing agencies.

It recommended that the State government ensure timely completion of projects sanctioned and full utilisation of funds released within the financial year and submission of utilisation certificates.

Centre must pay heed to mineral-rich states

WITH Biju Janata Dal (BJD) president and former Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik himself leading the agitation against the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2026, politics is expected to heat up not just in the eastern state but also in other mineral-rich states. Patnaik has been a popular leader for quite some time, yet he has never been known for leading or participating in street-level public agitations; after all, he is no Mamata Banerjee or Arvind Kejriwal. In fact, the suave and mild-mannered Odisha leader is known for his reticence and composure, so his very visual opposition to the Act cannot be taken lightly. While the Act is not without its merits, the Narendra Modi

government's decision to clear it in Parliament by brute force of numbers doesn't sound judicious. The Centre's position is that the new law enables states to impose new levies, the caveat being that these must be compliant with the conditions set by the Central government. Making a political point, BJD and Congress MLAs claim that the Act "snatches the rights" of mineral-rich states. Earlier, mining was taxed differently in every state, whereas now there will be a single, Centre-directed tax framework. The Centre claims that earlier the maximum burden fell on small and medium miners, whereas now every miner benefits from a fair and equal framework. These measures don't sound unreasonable, which begs

the question: were adequate efforts made to persuade mineral-rich states to support the legislation that hugely impacts the economy as well as employment-generation potential? Further, the new mines law invalidates all pending retrospective dues, but this raises another question: has the Union government bid adieu to the abomination called retrospective taxation? The answer, sadly, is 'no,' it did take recourse to retrospective taxation late last year in the case of Safari Retreats, despite having pledged not to do so in the past. Now following the 2026 Act, the ball is in the Centre's court. The Modi government may have the numbers in Parliament to push through legislation, but legislative majorities cannot by themselves

create political legitimacy, particularly when a law directly affects wide economic interests, the federal structure, and fiscal autonomy of states. The Centre would therefore do well to engage with Odisha and other mineral-rich states and address their apprehensions rather than dismissing them as politically motivated opposition. A transparent dialogue over the proposed levy framework, the distribution of revenues and the safeguards against arbitrary intervention by the Centre could go a long way towards allaying fears of centralisation. It would also demonstrate that cooperative federalism is not merely a slogan invoked when convenient, but a principle that informs the making

and implementation of important economic legislation. The controversy over retrospective taxation makes such engagement even more necessary. If the government wishes to persuade industry and the states that the new framework provides certainty, predictability and fairness, then it must itself adhere consistently to those principles. The Centre cannot reasonably ask investors and states to repose faith in a 'stable' tax regime, while retaining the option of intervention whenever circumstances demand such a measure. The government has an opportunity to reassure states that the new regime will be administered fairly, predictably, and in consultation with them and not unilaterally.

LETTERS

Dogs hone true emotional bond

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

Time humans learn from dogs

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

Dogs not the problem, irresponsible owners are

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

Responsible pet ownership holds the key

THIS refers to "Why do dogs behave the way they do?". The editorial is a reminder that a dog's behaviour is often shaped by its environment and relationship with humans. Pets that enjoy regular interaction, exercise and proper training are more likely to adapt comfortably to domestic surroundings. Owners therefore have a responsibility beyond providing food and shelter. They should ensure vaccination, veterinary care, exercise and basic behavioural training. Dogs should not be abandoned when their care becomes inconvenient. Housing societies can frame reasonable guidelines covering cleanliness, noise and common area use without unfairly discriminating against pet owners. Public awareness programmes can also teach children how to approach animals in a safe way. Responsible ownership benefits both people and animals. A little patience and consistency can prevent many behavioural problems and reduce avoidable disputes in residential communities. Abbharna Barathi, Chennai-23

75-year-old woman exemplifies human resilience

THE miraculous survival of a 75-year-old woman, Kasi Dalei, floating 25 km an entire night down the raging Brahmani River in Odisha's Jaipur district, is an extraordinary testament to human resilience. Swept away in pitch darkness, she endured over 12 hours in turbulent waters notorious for deadly saltwater crocodiles. Her sheer will to hang on against such terrifying odds is nothing short of a miracle. Equally deserving the praise are two local fishermen, whose swift, selfless actions pulled her to safety the next morning. While we celebrate the septuagenarian's survival, this incident highlights a critical issue. She fell into the river while attending nature's call. This underlines an urgent need for the local administration to provide secure sanitation infrastructure and safer riverbank fencing in flood-prone, crocodile-infested belts. Meanwhile, Kasi Dalei's story is a breathtaking reminder that hope and human valour can prevail against the most merciless situations. Ranganathan Sivakumar, Chennai-603210

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BENGALURU ONLINE

Three Haliyal water bodies rejuvenated under Project NANNEER

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

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

Only the voters are saving our democracy



RAVULAPATI SEETARAMARAO

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

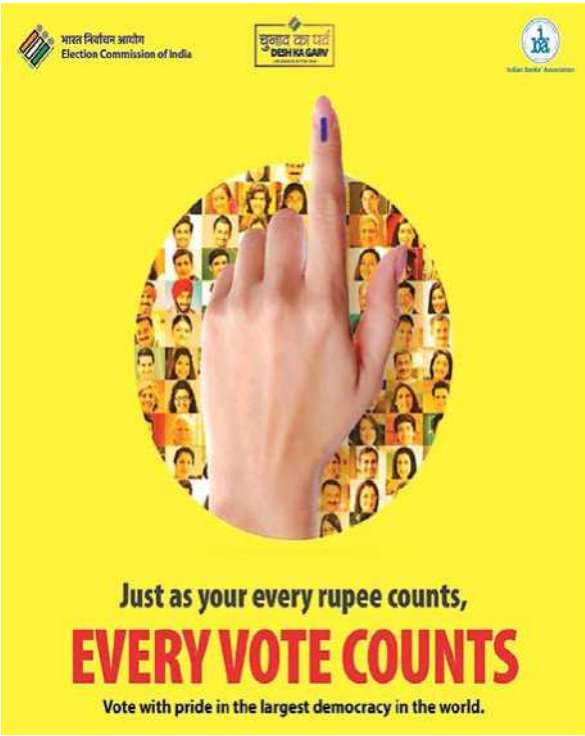
In a judgment delivered a few days back, the Supreme Court directed that the accused may be released immediately, after stating that the police cannot arrest without stating the reasons or denying a lawyer, at the time of arrest. It also declared that violating Fundamental Right (Article 22(1) of the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

imperative to follow this.

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

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

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



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

Across many periods, the courts and judgments have

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

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

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

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

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

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

one day, he becomes a "king"!

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

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

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

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

Creativity is destroying the environment

EDARA SREENIVASA REDDY

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 dropouts 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.

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

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

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

Pakistan closed its airspace to Indian carriers after the Pahalgam terror attack in April 2025. Airlines have since had to divert some westbound flights over the Arabian Sea, adding

to flying time, fuel consumption and crew costs. Air India estimated last year that the ban could cost it about \$600 million over 12 months if it remained in place. Its long-haul flights have been among the most affected. Higher aviation fuel prices amid the West Asia conflict have added to the pressure. A route through Xinjiang could offer Indian carriers another option, although any savings would depend on the route China permits and which flights can use it. For now, airlines continue to fly around Pakistani airspace. The talks are taking place as India-China ties improve after the tensions caused by the 2020 border standoff.

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.

"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.

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 Ramnarayana Reddy, Ponguru Narayana, N.M.D. Farooq, Nimmala Ramanaidu, Gotipati Ravi Kumar and BC Janardhan Reddy, Nellore MP Vemiredy 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.

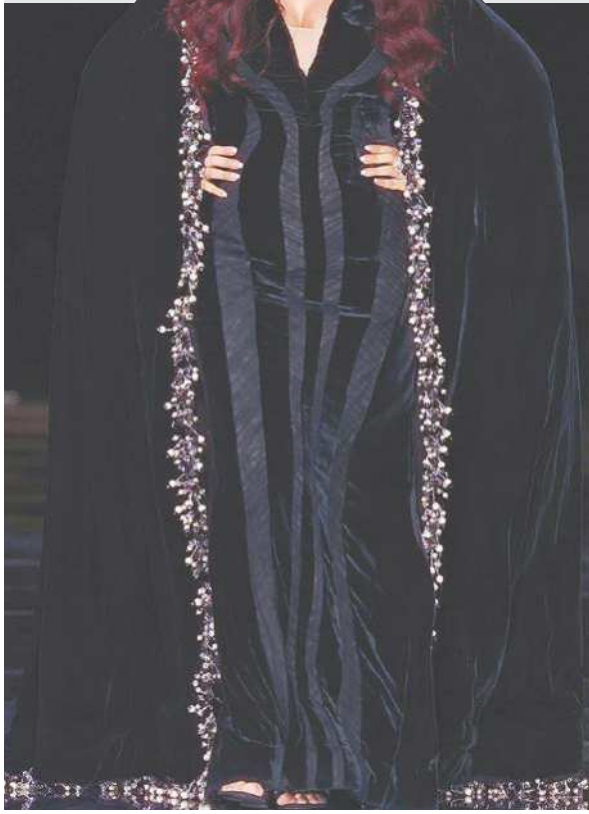
Aishwarya Rai Bachchan Stuns at Paris Fashion Week in Royal Crimson Glam

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

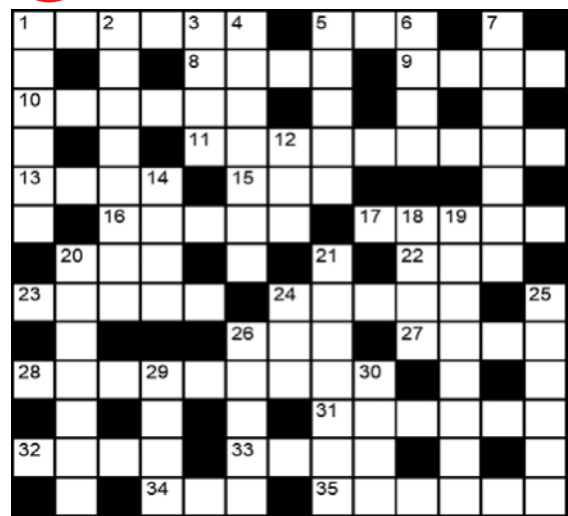


Dhanya Vasanta receiving the award in Australia on Monday.

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

TODAY IS INTERNATIONAL
TRANSLATION DAY

BUILDING
BRIDGES
BETWEEN
LANGUAGES
AND CULTURES

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

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

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

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

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

DR SONALI VYAS

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

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

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

Start with interest,
but assess aptitude

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

However, interest needs to be considered alongside aptitude. A student may be interested in Artificial Intelligence but may not enjoy mathematics, statistics or programming. Another student may discover a stronger inclination towards circuit design, electronics or hardware systems. Others may find greater satisfaction in areas such as

structures, energy or materials. The right specialisation often lies at the intersection of interest, ability and willingness to develop expertise over time.

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

Engineering disciplines are
increasingly connected

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

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

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

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

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

infrastructure.

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

Look beyond the degree title

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

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

Treat industry
demand as a
signal

Placement
figures and
hiring
trends can

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

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

Choose a trajectory, not a trend

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

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

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

(The author is Professor of
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Centre for Global Learning
Programs, JKLU)

Prof Neelima Satyam nominated for Devendra Lal Memorial Medal

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

VRC PHANIHARAN

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

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

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

thorities in preparedness and response to rainfall-induced slope failures.

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

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

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

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

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



Prof Neelima Satyam

ICMAI organises advanced skill training programme



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

The programme was organised by the ICMAI Hyderabad Chapter and focused on developing workplace-oriented skills among students and professionals. The training covered areas including communication, analytical thinking,

presentation, problem-solving, corporate etiquette, adaptability and professional confidence.

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

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

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

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

The training is also linked

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

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

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



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

- Peter Wilson, Indian trap-shooting coach

Sports Nation

Asian Games 2026

Archers advance to quarters

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

Winning run in squash, tennis

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

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

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

Golden glory for India as women lead charge

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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

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

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

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

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

Boxer Ankush Panghal breaks eight-year jinx

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Indian canoe slalom paddlers enter semis

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

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



KAT elects new office bearers for 2026-2030



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

Clubs Cup: HPRC narrowly misses title in Madrid



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

OU announces Inter-College Sports C'ships

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

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

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

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

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

FDA seizes over 50 tonnes of food stock

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

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

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



Sambhajanagar division.

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

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

2021 Antilia bomb scare case

Mumbai court grants bail to ex-cop Sachin Waze

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

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

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

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

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

The court asserted that the day-to-day



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Assam Rifles jawan killed in ambush by militants

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

The incident took place

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

Preliminary reports suggested that suspected militants opened fire on the pa-

trol team, killing Havildar Jankhokai Kuki (42) and injuring four others.

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

Security forces have in-

tensified operations in the area following the incident, the official said.

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

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

An official statement from the Assam Rifles is awaited.

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



Woman cop dies while stopping clash at hospital

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

-Devendra Fadnis,
Maharashtra Chief Minister

BIZ BRIEFS

NETRA to host conference in Hyd

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

ShowKeen to debut in Hyd

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

MakeMyTrip's new feature

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

HDFC MF's initiative

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

Classic Legends updates portfolio

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

Only 16% IT workforce AI-skilled

GENAI AND CLOUD FACE TALENT GAPS OF 53-60%

MUMBAI

INDIA'S technology industry is facing a significant AI-ready talent gap, with shortages estimated at 53-60 per cent in Generative AI and cloud skills, a report said on Tuesday. India's tech industry is growing fast, but the supply of AI-ready talent is not keeping pace, as TeamLease Digital's 'Digital Skills & Salary Primer FY27, found a 53-60 per cent talent gap in GenAI and Cloud. According to the report, only about 16 per cent of IT profes-



sionals are holding AI skills. Cloud has the widest supply gap of the four skill families at 55-60 per cent, followed by GenAI at about 53 per cent, while demand for GenAI talent is expected to cross 10 lakh roles by 2026. The gap

in Cybersecurity stands at 25-30 per cent, which is narrowing but still material.

The TeamLease Digital's 'Digital Skills & Salary Primer FY27 is based on analysis of 37,000 technology and digital roles from TeamLease Employee Data of 2026-27, across GCCs, tech firms and core industries. The report further revealed that, amid a shortage of skilled talent, salary premiums are increasingly shifting towards AI-core and product-critical engineering roles, even at the early stages of a career. A GenAI

Developer (AI-Core) earns Rs 11.2 LPA at 0-2 years, rising to Rs 34.5 LPA at 6-8 years, defining how wide the gap is. A Data Engineer (AI-Adjacent) moves from Rs 9.1 LPA to Rs 29.6 LPA, while a Technical Support Engineer (AI-Support) moves from Rs 5.2 LPA to Rs 14.6 LPA. By 6-8 years, GenAI, ML and Data Science roles reach Rs 31-35 LPA, nearly 2 times of AI-Support roles, and the gap is set to widen, with projected FY28 growth of 16.2 per cent for GenAI Developers, 12 per cent for Data

Engineers and 6.6 per cent for Technical Support Engineers. "AI is changing what it means to be capable. Using AI tools is now the baseline, what the market rewards is the ability to build, run and govern AI in production. That is why we look at talent through three tiers, AI-Core, AI-Adjacent and AI-Support, because with only about 16 per cent of IT professionals holding AI skills, 'AI-skilled' means very different things at each level," TeamLease Digital CEO Neeti Sharma said.



US President Donald Trump announcing the investment at the White House

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

MINNESOTA MINE TO FEED IOWA COMPLEX WITH 10 MTPA STEEL CAPACITY

WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sebi closes offshore funds control case against Vinod Adani

MUMBAI

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

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

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

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



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

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

Bulk buyers crowd fuel pumps, private retailers cap diesel sales

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

NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Salesforce's Agents for Impact showcases AI Solutions for India

HANS BUSINESS
HYDERABAD

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

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

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

NEW DELHI

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

The findings point to a significant shift in India's digital creator landscape, where independent content creators are increasingly evolving into full-fledged media enterprises, driving employment and local economic activity across both metropolitan centres and smaller towns. According to the report, the number of YouTube channels in India generating six figures or more in revenue (INR) rose by over 30 per cent year-on-year. Furthermore, over 18,000 Indian channels have crossed the threshold of one million subscribers. The report noted that 73 per cent of creators who monetise content on YouTube consider the plat-



Platform supports 9.6 lakh jobs in India, report says

form to be their primary source of income. Beyond direct earnings, monetising creators supported more than 3 lakh apprentices over the past year. Creative clusters have sprung up in non-metro hubs such as Jaipur, Lucknow and Kochi, generating local demand for video editors, camera operators and scriptwriters. The platform highlighted that hyper-local and regional-language content is gaining significant traction internationally, with over 15 per cent of watch time on content produced by Indian channels coming from viewers outside the country. Additionally, 81

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

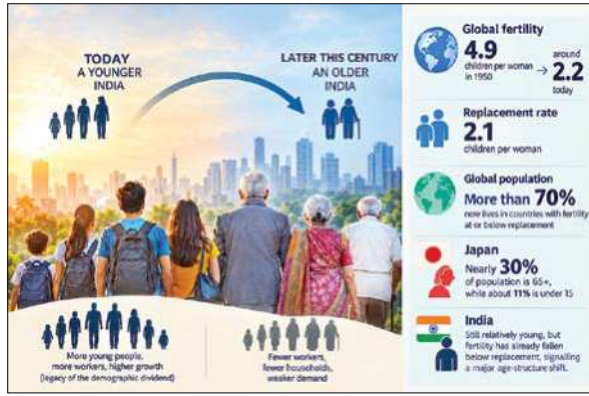
INDIA is likely to have much older population later this century as the country's age structure is beginning to shift and fertility fallen "below replacement", Moody's Ratings said on Tuesday. Moody's said population growth has long been a tailwind for economic growth and creditworthiness, but falling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

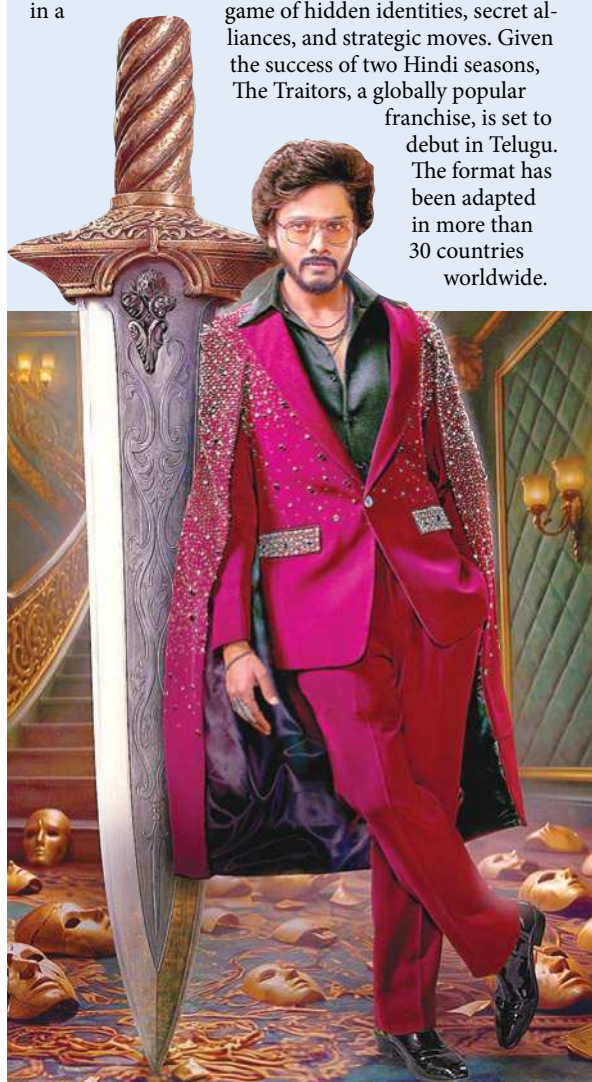
The locations, along with the music and the stellar performance by the lead pair, add a certain magic to this romantic track.

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.