



Lovlina to fight for gold
Lovlina Borghain scripted history by becoming the first Indian woman boxer to reach back-to-back Asian Games finals, while debutants Priya Ghanghas and Kapil Pokhariya settled for bronze medals here on Wednesday.

P10



Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home
While many things are needed for people to lead happy and contented lives, food, shelter, and clothing are universally accepted as the basic minimum requirements of human beings. There is in fact this adage in Telugu.

P6



Lighter cars get relief under new CAFE norms
The government has notified the third phase of Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE-III) norms for passenger vehicles, giving lighter cars relatively softer efficiency targets while requiring greater improvements from heavier vehicles.

P11



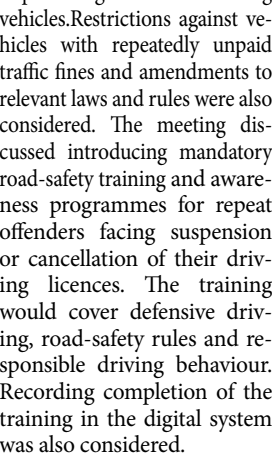
Priyanka Jawalkar grabs attention in sheer pink saree
Priyanka Jawalkar stunned in sheer pink saree. The actress is garnering love for flaunting a pretty traditional look on her social media. Even though she has been seen in cameo roles in many of the web shows that she has been a part.

P12

WINDOWS

Tougher penalties for traffic violations soon in state

BENGALURU: The government is considering introducing a points-based driving licence system, under which repeated traffic violations would attract penalty points and a driving licence could be suspended once a prescribed threshold is reached, officials said on Wednesday. The proposal was discussed at a joint review meeting of the Home and Transport departments chaired by state Home Minister Priyank Kharge and Transport Minister Byrathi Suresh here. The meeting focused on measures to improve road safety, curb traffic violations and ease congestion in Bengaluru, Kharge's office said in a release. Under the proposed system, points would be assigned for different traffic violations and accumulated against a driver's record. Reaching a specified limit could result in suspension of the driving licence, it said. The meeting also examined the legal changes required to introduce the points-based system, it added. The departments discussed directly integrating the Transport Department's Sarathi driving licence system with the Bengaluru Traffic Police's e-Challan system. The integration would enable traffic police to verify a driving licence's validity on the spot, access a driver's previous violation history and link newly recorded offences directly to the driver's digital record. The move is expected to reduce paperwork and make enforcement of traffic rules more effective, it said. The meeting also discussed increasing fines for traffic violations that affect traffic flow and public safety in Bengaluru. These include parking on footpaths, driving against traffic on one-way roads, driving on footpaths, unauthorised parking, parking in no-parking zones, violating traffic signals and obstructing the free flow of traffic. The proposal also includes higher penalties for repeat offences and dangerous driving, particularly involving two-wheelers. Officials discussed identifying motorists with five or more traffic violations, recovering pending fines and, where necessary, impounding or blacklisting vehicles. Restrictions against vehicles with repeatedly unpaid traffic fines and amendments to relevant laws and rules were also considered. The meeting discussed introducing mandatory road-safety training and awareness programmes for repeat offenders facing suspension or cancellation of their driving licences. The training would cover defensive driving, road-safety rules and responsible driving behaviour. Recording completion of the training in the digital system was also considered.



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INDIA unveils rallies, marches over electoral transparency

PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI

THE INDIA bloc on Wednesday announced a joint campaign demanding greater transparency in electoral rolls and the election process, including five rallies in October-November and nationwide demonstrations. The dates and venues will be finalised soon, with a major rally scheduled in Delhi on November 1. The parties also agreed on a common action plan on electoral issues. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge demanded greater transparency in

changes to electoral rolls, including constituency- and booth-level details of additions, deletions and corrections. He also sought notice and an appeal mechanism before voter names are removed. Kharge and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee called for the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. Kharge also demanded replacing EVM voting with ballot papers and restoring the voter list prepared before the Special Intensive Revision (SIR). "Save Democracy Marches" will be held across the

- Kharge and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee called for the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar
- Rahul said INDIA bloc leaders are committed to accountability over what they described as threats to democracy and constitutional rights

country from October 2 to 8, with district-level protests. Opposition MPs will march to the Election Commission on October 6 and seek an appointment with the President. Rahul Gandhi said INDIA bloc leaders were committed to accountability over what they described as threats to democracy and

constitutional rights. The meeting followed reports that Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had raised objections multiple times over decisions related to the SIR exercise. The Election Commission has maintained that differences during institutional deliberations are normal and that its orders



Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi with former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at the INDIA bloc meeting in Delhi

have legal validity.

The BJP rejected the opposition's approach and questioned the INDIA bloc's organisational strength and cohesion. BJP leader Shah Nawaz Hussain described the meeting as a "flop show" and claimed that the opposition grouping

had neither a formal office nor a president or convenor. "There is no such thing as the I.N.D.I.A Alliance," Hussain said, alleging that the grouping lacked a clear policy and leadership structure. He also claimed that the number of parties associated with the alliance

was declining with each meeting. The BJP said the outcomes of the INDIA meeting were "zero vision, 100 per cent frustration, and an advance excuse for poll defeats", with the leaders of the opposition grouping rejecting Rahul's leadership.

EC dumps SIR declaration from Form 6 after row

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE Election Commission on Wednesday removed the additional Special Intensive Revision (SIR) declaration from online Form 6 in states and Union Territories where the revision exercise has concluded. The change was made on the ECINET portal and comes four days after the full Commission decided that the additional requirement would apply only during the SIR exercise. Form 6 is the statutory form used by eligible citizens to apply for inclusion in electoral rolls. The additional declaration had required new applicants to indicate whether their names, or those of their parents or grandparents, appeared in electoral rolls prepared during an earlier SIR. Applicants could also be asked to provide relevant electoral roll details. With the declaration now removed in states where SIR has ended, new applicants

Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had raised objections to the change, arguing that the statutory form could not be modified without amending the relevant rules



will have to submit only the statutory Form 6 prescribed under the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960. The additional SIR-related requirement continues in states and

UTs where the revision is still underway. The move follows controversy over the alteration of Form 6. The Indian Express had reported that Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had raised objections to the change, arguing that the statutory form could not be modified without amending the relevant rules. The report also said the two Commissioners had recorded objections on SIR-related decisions on multiple occasions, raising questions over the decision-making process within the Commission. The ECI subsequently announced that the statutory forms would be used during non-SIR periods and set up an expert panel to review ECINET's compliance with laws and rules.

Pilots fight mid-air; 'passenger' lands Israel-bound flight in Saudi

JEDDAH: A commercial flight, carrying around 180 passengers, headed to Israel made an emergency landing in Saudi Arabia Wednesday after an apparent altercation in the cockpit. Some reports said a man pulled a knife and attacked a pilot, but officials have not confirmed that account. Cluster 2, which operates several airports in Saudi Arabia, said the captain and first officer were both injured and taken to a hospital. The incident sparked a military response from Israel, which couldn't rule out that the incident was terrorism related. Whether it was terrorism-related remains contested among Israeli officials. An Indian national was the captain of a Flydubai flight who fought with his co-pilot during a violent cockpit confrontation that forced the aircraft to make an



emergency landing in Saudi Arabia. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that Saudi Arabia had arrested the pilot of a Flydubai flight who stabbed another pilot and apparently tried to crash a plane full of Israelis. The flight from Dubai to Tel Aviv landed in Saudi Arabia Wednesday after triggering a general emergency alert. That was briefly changed to an unlawful interference alert before reverting to a general emergency.

The flight tracker also reported the plane dropped from 33,000 feet to 17,000 feet in about a minute before circling. One passenger told The Associated Press her daughter heard screaming and someone she believed was the pilot calling for help. Other passengers who spoke to The New York Times said two other pilots were on the flight. They took control of the plane and landed it in Saudi Arabia.

Solo bike journey across India covering over 30,000 km

HANS NEWS SERVICE
MANGALURU

AFTER his first Journey throughout the state to address Government School children, former journalist and educational activist Srinivasan Nandagopal has now embarked on a nation-wide ride to create awareness and raise funds for Childhood Cancer Treatment along with his School-Connect activities. The Dreams on Wheels 2.0, second episode of his long rides, will traverse through over 30,000 kms across the country with an objective to sensitize people, especially students to empathize and stand with young warriors fighting the dreaded cancer. With the tag line "Every Child Deserves a Chance to Heal and Dream", the Dreams on Wheels 2.0 has

'Dreams on Wheels 2.0' by Srinivasan Nandagopal to focus on fund raising for childhood cancer

taken off from Mangalore on September 26 and travel through the 30-plus states and union territories in the span of next one year. The expedition will begin in Mangaluru and travel through Thiruvananthapuram, Chennai, Hyderabad, Odisha, West Bengal, the Northeast, North India, Western India and Central India before returning to Mangaluru. The theme of the initiative is "Health, Education and Personality Development." Through interactive sessions, the project will address stu-



dent wellness, hygiene, nutrition, emotional well-being, reading habits, communication, career awareness etc. Dreams on Wheels 2.0 builds on the first Dreams on Wheels expedition, during which Nandagopal travelled approximately 6,500 kilometres across Karnataka and interacted with more than 5,000 government-school children on examination preparedness and career orientation. The new expedition will expand the initiative na-

tionally while adding a structured student-aspiration study and a stronger focus on health and personality development. A significant component of the project will be fundraising and public awareness for children undergoing cancer treatment. The campaign will be implemented through verified partner organisations and transparent, compliant mechanisms. Support may include treatment assistance, nutrition, accommodation, transport, psychosocial care and educational continuity. Dreams on Wheels 2.0 will be partnered by Tapasya Foundation, a dedicated centre for Childhood Cancer and Palliative Care in Mangalore. Srinivasan Nandagopal has been a working journalist for over two decades since

he Co-founded the Centre for Integrated Learning, an organization working with children and youth through an array of activities that add value to present education. CIL has been striving to evolve strategies and interventions that groom children and youth to transform into effective individuals and responsible citizenry. "While the first ride from November 2025 to March 2026 was more of connecting with students of Government Schools across Karnataka, this time it has a bigger purpose of raising funds for Childhood Cancer Treatment. The Dreams on Wheels 2.0 will ride on as my Pleasure for biking will converge with strong Purpose in supporting families who are devastated by the dreaded disease," Nandagopal stated.

Lashkar terrorist wanted in Pahalgam attack killed

BUDGAM

SECURITY forces on Wednesday recovered the body of a Pakistani Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist, identified as Mohammad Asif alias Hashim Moosa, along with war-like stores during a search operation in the general area of Palmaidan in Jammu and Kashmir's Budgam district. The killing of Moosa was confirmed by the Srinagar-based Chinara Corps, which said, "During the search early morning in General Area Palmaidan, body of Pak-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist, identified as Mohammad Asif alias Hashim Moosa recovered along with war-like stores." The Army and other



security agencies on Wednesday launched OP KORAG in the Youismarg area based on specific intelligence input. A Joint Search Operation was launched when vigilant troops observed suspicious activity and upon being challenged, terrorists opened fire, prompting a fierce exchange of gunfire during which Hashim Moosa was neutralised.

76-year-old man gets 13-yr jail for robbing bank 38 yrs ago

KOLLAM

A 76-year-old man has been sentenced to 13 years in prison and fined Rs 16,000 for his role in a robbery at the Nallurad Service Co-operative Bank in Wayanad in 1988. Additional District and Sessions Court Judge L Jayavanth sentenced Kollam native Abdul Samad in

the case. He will undergo another 10 months in prison if he fails to pay the fine. According to police, the robbery took place in the early hours of January 8, 1988, when a six-member gang broke into the bank. The gang arrived in a car, broke the locks and entered the bank. The robbers took away a safe, nearly one kilogram of



gold ornaments and Rs 5,544 in cash. According to the pros-

The robbery took place in the early hours of January 8, 1988, when a six-member gang broke into the bank. The gang arrived in a car, broke the locks and entered the bank

ecution, two persons who reached the bank after hearing the noise were attacked

with a crowbar. Four of the accused -- Subair, Suresh Babu,

Allickutty and Naseer -- were arrested and sentenced in 1993. Another accused, O K Babu, who had remained absconding, surrendered before the court in 2017 and was later sentenced. Police arrested Samad in October 2024. He faced trial while in judicial custody. The court examined around 40 witnesses in

the case. The prosecution produced 166 documents as evidence and 21 material objects seized under the mahazar before the court. The initial investigation was conducted by the then Mananthavady police and it was later taken over by District CB-CID. Public Prosecutor E R Santhosh Kumar appeared for the prosecution.

WINDOWS



Anvay Dravid to lead state for Vinoo Mankad trophy

BENGALURU: Promising Anvay Dravid, son of legendary Rahul Dravid, was on Wednesday appointed as captain of the Karnataka team for the Vinoo Mankad Trophy. The one-day format U-19 tournament will be played at Visakhapatnam from October 8-16.

The right-handed wicketkeeper-batter Dravid had recently featured in India U-19's three-match ODI series against Australia in Rajkot, where he played two matches. The 17-year-old was also picked in India U-19's tour of Sri Lanka in July this year. Karnataka are placed in Elite Group E along with Gujarat, Jharkhand, Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi.

Nitte climbs into 1001-1200 rankings for 2027

MANGALURU: Nitte (Deemed to be University), Mangaluru, has moved up in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2027, leaving the 1201-1500 band of 2026 for the 1001-1200 band. The rise, the university said, follows steady work on teaching, research, research quality, industry engagement and international outlook, which are the five broad pillars used by THE.

Officials linked the result to a lasting stress on academic excellence, research that has impact, innovation, international contact and social responsibility. The new band, they added, shows the combined labour of the campus community in building a stronger, more globally connected academic and research setting.

University leaders thanked faculty, staff, students, alumni and partners in academia, industry and the community for their continued effort. Nitte said it will keep developing talent, advancing knowledge, supporting innovation and meeting social needs through sound teaching and research that matters. The 2027 improvement is described as a marker on the university's global path and as fresh energy to deepen academic, research, industry and international work and to aim for still higher recognition in coming years.

LPG cylinder explodes on vacant site

BENGALURU: A LPG cylinder exploded inside a makeshift shed at a vacant site here on Wednesday and there were no casualties or injuries, police said. According to police, the cylinder exploded at the site belonging to a person named Murthy, located at 6th Cross, Kaggadasapura, within the limits of Byappanahalli Police Station.

The shed was damaged due to the blast. Upon reaching the spot and inspecting the area, it was found that there were no casualties or injuries, a senior police officer said. Responding to a query whether it was an illegal gas refilling unit, the officer said, "We are verifying the incident." Fire and Emergency Services personnel, along with officers and staff of the Byappanahalli Police Station, reached the spot and conducted an inspection, he added.

New campus at Kings School

Bengaluru: The King's School Canterbury has launched its Bengaluru campus, partnering with Vidyashilp Education Group. Founded in 597 AD, the school will welcome its first pupils in 2027-28, combining its historic educational legacy with Bengaluru's dynamic environment.

Contractors warn of releasing commission documents if dues remain unpaid

HANS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU

THE Karnataka State Contractors' Association has warned the state government that it would release documents relating to alleged commission practices if its pending bills are not cleared by November. Association president R. Manjunath said contractors had been waiting for payments for several years and accused the government of failing to honour assurances on clearing their dues.

The association has claimed that nearly Rs 38,000 crore remains pending across various government departments and has sought immediate release of the amount. Reports have put the number of affected contractors at around 1.5 lakh, with dues dating back to 2021-22.

Manjunath alleged that commission demands had increased under the present government and said the association would disclose documents if the pending amount was not released

Reports have put the number of affected contractors at around 1.5 lakh, with dues dating back to 2021-22

within the deadline. These are allegations made by the contractors' association and have not been independently established.

He also alleged that legislators were increasingly intervening in contract works. According to him, contractors who secure tenders are sometimes required to ap-

proach local MLAs before commencing work, which he claimed was discouraging genuine contractors from taking up projects. "Once a tender is awarded, contractors have to first approach the MLA. Only after getting approval can the work begin," Manjunath was quoted as saying.

The association has also alleged that funds meant for clearing contractors' bills were being diverted towards other government commitments, including guarantee schemes.

This allegation has been raised by the contractors' body and was not independently verified in the available reports.

The contractors recalled that Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar had met their representatives on June 30 and, according to the association, assured them that arrangements would be made to clear the dues within two months. The association said that deadline had passed without the promised payments being released.



LoP accuses govt of 'mishandling' drought, farmers' distress

BENGALURU

LEADER of Opposition in the Karnataka Assembly R Ashoka on Wednesday accused the Congress government of "failing" to adequately address drought-related distress, the drinking-water situation and the state's finances, and said the BJP would take the issues to the "people's court".

The BJP leader also questioned Chief Minister D K Shivakumar's proposal for an all-party delegation to the Centre, saying the government had not consulted the opposition while preparing its memorandum seeking central assistance.

"The Congress government in Karnataka, this joint government of Siddaramaiah and D K Shivakumar, has pushed the people of Karnataka into three major crises," Ashoka told reporters here.

According to him, more than 3,000 farmers have died by suicide since the Congress government came to power and the opposition has demanded Rs 25,000 per acre in drought compensation. The government had instead announced Rs 2,500



per farmer.

The state has announced the assistance for around 50 lakh drought-hit farmers at an estimated cost of Rs 1,250 crore.

Ashoka said the government should also prevent distress migration, ensure drinking water and provide adequate power to farmers.

He alleged that more than 200 taluks had crossed the drought threshold and

claimed a 36 per cent rainfall deficit across Karnataka and 46 per cent in south interior Karnataka.

He said the BJP would decide whether to join the proposed delegation after discussions with NDA partners, including Union Ministers Pralhad Joshi and H D Kumaraswamy. "If you work for the good of the state, we will stand with you for the good of the state," he said.

Ashoka also charged the government with "mishandling" farmer debt-related distress and demanded directions to banks and microfinance companies to halt loan recovery for two years.

Referring to alleged farmer suicides in Maddur and K M Doddi, he described them as "government-sponsored killings" but provided no independent evidence for the allegation.

On the state's finances, Ashoka alleged that Karnataka had been pushed into a severe debt burden and demanded that the government release detailed financial figures.

He claimed the state's outstanding debt was Rs 8,34,677 crore and alleged that more than half of it had been incurred during Siddaramaiah's tenure.

He also referred to a reported death note by a KRIDL engineer, alleging harassment over delayed payments, and cited the Karnataka Contractors' Association's demand for release of Rs 38,000 crore in pending bills. These claims were presented by Ashoka as evidence of financial distress.

Cong launches Bharat Jodo 2.0 padayatra from Shikaripura

HANS NEWS SERVICE SHIVAMOGGA

THE Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) on Wednesday launched its 'Bharat Jodo 2.0' padayatra from Shikaripura in Shivamogga district, targeting 84 Assembly constituencies where the Congress was defeated in the 2023 Karnataka elections.

The padayatra is being led by KPCC president B.K. Hariprasad and is planned as an 84-day programme covering 29 districts. Congress leaders said the initiative is aimed at strengthening the party organisation and increasing direct interaction with people in constituencies where the party lost in the previous Assembly election.

The programme was launched from Kittadahalli in Shikaripura taluk. The march proceeded through Mattikote, Hosanagar Cross and Nelavagilu before heading towards Shikaripura town. According to Minister Madhu Bangarappa, around 10 km will be covered during the first day's padayatra.

A public meeting has been planned in Shikaripura after the march. Ministers Madhu



Bangarappa and K.S. Basavanna, along with other Congress leaders, workers and local party functionaries, participated in the programme. The selection of Shikaripura for the launch has drawn attention because the constituency is represented by BJP state president B.Y. Vijayendra. It was earlier represented by his father and former chief minister B.S. Yediyurappa.

The Congress has linked the programme to the completion of four years since Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra entered Karnataka in 2022. The new programme, however, has a different state-level focus, with the party planning activities across constituencies where it faced defeat in the 2023 Assembly polls.

Congress leaders said the padayatra would provide an opportunity to interact with residents, understand local issues and strengthen the party's presence at the grassroots level. The next phase of the programme is expected to begin from October 4 or 5 in other constituencies. The party has planned the campaign across 84 Assembly segments over 84 days.

The launch from Shikaripura has also brought the Congress programme into focus because of the constituency's political association with the BJP's state leadership. The Congress leadership has maintained that the padayatra is part of its organisational programme covering the constituencies identified for the 84-day campaign.



A woman crosses a busy road amidst traffic during rainfall in Bengaluru on Wednesday

MRPL explosion prompts call for scientific damage assessment

HANS NEWS SERVICE MANGALURU

WEDNESDAY'S blast at the MRPL facility near Jokatte has left surrounding residents badly alarmed. People in far-off areas such as Katipalla and Bala also heard the loud noise, and accounts of damage to neighbouring homes and buildings have added to the worry. The Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) has raised concern on the matter. "The occurrence next to a densely lived-in zone



Smoke erupts after a loud explosion-like sound was reported from the MRPL premises near Jokatte in Mangaluru on Wednesday

is a grave issue. District authorities and industrial safety officers should check without delay

whether all norms needed for public safety are being duly followed at MRPL," a statement

from SDPI said.

"A free and high-level investigation should cover the precise reason for the explosion, any fault or carelessness in the safety setup, and the fitness of the emergency-handling system. Findings should be disclosed to citizens," said Jamal Jokatte, the SDPI Dakshina Kannada District General Secretary.

He further said, "A comprehensive survey of damage to houses, buildings and other assets should start at once, followed by a scientific valuation.

Probe ordered into fake GPS photos under Employment Guarantee Scheme

HANS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU

RURAL Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Eshwar B Khandre has ordered an inquiry following reports of fraud involving fake GPS photographs being used to record attendance of workers under the rural employment guarantee scheme.

In a written direction to the department's Secretary, Khandre said media reports had alleged that in Koppal district, mates were recording videos at work sites even when workers had not gone to the location and, while the video was being played, taking GPS photographs using another mobile phone to falsely record attendance. He has directed an officer of the rank of Joint Director to conduct an inquiry into the allegations and submit a report within four days.

Media reports had also alleged that fake GPS photographs were being used to fraudulently claim Rs 20,000 to Rs 30,000 every day and that attendance was being

marked for workers who had not actually carried out any work.

Taking the reports seriously, Khandre directed officials to submit a factual report along with recommendations on action to be taken against those responsible if the allegations are found to be true. He also instructed officials to consult experts and take necessary measures to prevent misuse of technology and the fraudulent marking of attendance.

The government has made it mandatory under the rural employment guarantee scheme for workers engaged at work sites to take GPS photographs while carrying out work and upload them on the NMMS app.

The measure was introduced to prevent the use of machinery for works and the illegal marking of attendance of workers who had not actually worked at the site. However, reports that some individuals have found ways to bypass the technology have prompted the government to initiate action.

5 decades on canvas: Ganesha Somayaji brings 'Reflection' to Bengaluru

M RAGHURAM MANGALURU

MORE than five decades of artistic practice, spanning watercolour, oil and acrylic, will come together in veteran artist and art educator Ganesha Somayaji B's solo exhibition Reflection, opening at the Karnataka Chitrakala Parishat here on October 1.

The week-long exhibition, which will continue until October 7, will present a selection from Somayaji's extensive body of work, including landscapes, portraits and paintings inspired by historical sites, forts, riverbanks, beaches and other natural and cultural settings. His works had been extensive in the realm of folk performing arts, folk traditions. His collections adorn the Rashtrapati Bhavan in Delhi, various art galleries across the country and in some private collections in different countries.

Born in Bantwal in Dakshina Kannada in 1949, Somayaji trained under artist

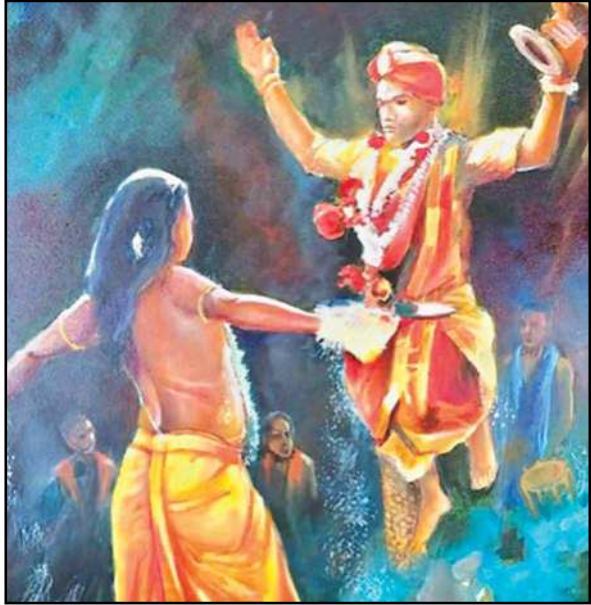


Ganesha Somayaji B

B.G. Mohammed of B.G.M. Fine Arts in Mangaluru. He later secured the first rank and a gold medal in the G.D. Art examination in 1973.

Over a career spanning more than 50 years, Somayaji has produced more than 1,000 works and held 25 solo exhibitions, besides participating in over 120 group exhibitions across India. His practice has included on-the-spot landscape painting, portraiture and documentation of places and heritage through different media.

His works have been ex-



hibited at venues including Mumbai's Jehangir Art Gallery, where he participated in exhibitions in 2019 and 2023. He was also part of the Central Lalit Kala Akademi's national camp, Varanasi Through Creative Eyes in 2016 and has participated in the Appa Art Festival in

Pune and seven editions of the Kudla Kala Mela.

Some of his works are part of collections including that of the President of India and the Karnataka Lalitha Kala Academy.

He has been associated with the Karnataka Lalitha Kala Academy as a member

VETERAN artist Ganesha Somayaji B. will bring more than five decades of painting to Bengaluru with his solo exhibition 'Reflection'. The showcase, opening October 1, will feature landscapes, portraits and works documenting Karnataka's natural, cultural and architectural heritage.

and has coordinated initiatives including Chithra Siri, Varna Jagruthi and Varna Virasat. He is also honorary president of Karavali Chitrakala Chavadi.

The exhibition will be inaugurated on October 1 at 5 pm by veteran artist Krishna Setty, Honorary Member of the Russian Academy of Arts, Moscow. Artist and Karnataka Lalitha Kala Academy president Pa. Sa. Kumar will preside. Reflection will be open to visitors from 11 am to 7 pm daily at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishat, Kumara Kripa Road, Bengaluru.

Sircilla weavers earned global recognition for artistry: CM

Rs 1,741 crore has been spent for the welfare of handloom and textile workers

• Describes district as a region where courage, devotion and the spirit of struggle have remained deeply rooted

• Criticises the BRS govt for neglecting weavers' problems

DANDI SANTOSH KUMAR
RAJANNA SIRCILLA

CHIEF Minister Anumula Revanth Reddy described Sircilla as a region where courage, devotion and the spirit of struggle have remained deeply rooted. He highlighted the spiritual significance of the region. The Sri Parvathi Rajarajeshwara Swamy temple at Vemulawada stands as a symbol of devotion and Telangana's historic spirit of resistance. The Chief Minister said while addressing a public meeting here on Wednesday.

Revanth Reddy said the district has earned global recognition for its textile industry. "Clothing was among the first necessities of human civilisation, and Sircilla is a major centre of the textile industry,"



he said, adding that thousands of families depend on weaving and textile activities for their livelihood.

He praised the skill of local weavers, saying they have earned recognition for producing globally recognised sarees with their craftsman-ship. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy criticised the previous BRS government, alleging that the problems faced by textile workers, including suicides and migration of workers to Gulf countries, were not ade-

quately addressed. He said his government has introduced measures for Gulf workers and is taking steps to support families of those who die in accidents abroad.

Rs1,700 crore development push for Sircilla

Revanth Reddy said the state government has sanctioned more than Rs 1,700 crore for development works in Rajanna Sircilla district. He added that Rs 1,741 crore has been spent for the welfare of handloom and

textile workers.

He said a yarn depot has been established at Vemulawada and steps are being taken for the development of Sri Rajarajeshwara Swamy temple. The Chief Minister also mentioned plans to establish a tahsildar office, Sub-Registrar office, women's police station, traffic police station and Young India Integrated School in the district.

Sircilla gets political focus: CM promises cabinet berth for Congress winner

Giving special political im-

portance to Sircilla, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy announced that a Congress candidate elected from the Sircilla constituency in the coming elections would be inducted into his cabinet.

He appealed to people to support the Congress party for the development of the constituency and said the government would work according to the aspirations of the people.

The Chief Minister also announced that a representative from the Padmashali community, which has a strong connection with the textile sector, would be given an opportunity in the Legislative Council.

"Sircilla needs a change"

Revanth Reddy urged people to choose between what he described as family-based politics and people-centric governance. He said his government is focused on welfare and development and expressed confidence that Sircilla would witness a transformation.

Several ministers, government advisers, MPs, MLAs, MLCs, public representatives and senior officials were present at the meeting.

Centralised community kitchen completes two months in Madhira

Serves breakfast to 27,700 students daily

• A balanced breakfast menu has been designed under the guidance of the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) to provide essential nutrients required for the physical and mental development of students

• Hot milk is also served on alternate days



P V SATYANARAYANA
KHAMMAM

THE Centralised Community Kitchen established at Madhira under the state government's School Breakfast Programme has successfully completed two months, providing nutritious breakfast every day to around 27,700 students across 575 government schools and 10 government junior colleges in 11 mandals.

The initiative was launched on July 27 by Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and has been continuing under his supervision and guidance, officials said.

The Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation India is the implementation partner for the programme.

A balanced breakfast menu has been designed under the guidance of the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) to provide essential nutrients required for the physical and mental development of students. Hot milk is also served on alternate days.

The weekly breakfast menu includes idli with sambar,

puri with aloo kurma, dosa with chutney, upma with sambar and bonda with chutney.

The centralised kitchen is equipped with modern machinery to prepare large quantities of breakfast within a short period. It has a production capacity of 5,400 idlis, 3,600 puris and 2,000 dosas per hour, officials said.

The prepared food is transported in dedicated vehicles to schools and colleges in time for distribution, while hygiene and food safety standards are maintained throughout the preparation and delivery process.

Under the programme, the government bears the breakfast cost based on the level of students. The allocation is Rs

11.50 per student for Classes 1 to 5 and Rs 13.50 for Classes 6 to 10 and junior college students. An additional Rs 1.08 per student is allocated for milk served on alternate days.

Organisers said the provision of breakfast in the morning has helped ensure that students do not have to attend classes on an empty stomach and has contributed to improved concentration and attendance.

The Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation India also expressed gratitude to Singareni Collieries Company Limited for providing financial assistance under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative towards construction of the centralised kitchen.

Namburi reviews second phase of SIR process

HANS NEWS SERVICE
SATHUPALLI (KHAMMAM)

BJP state spokesperson Namburi Ramalingeswara Rao reviewed the second phase of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls at a constituency-level meeting here on Wednesday. Speaking at the

meeting, Namburi explained the importance of the SIR exercise in ensuring that the names of all eligible citizens are included in the electoral rolls and in identifying ineligible names, names of deceased persons and duplicate entries.

He said the exercise would help make the electoral rolls

more transparent and comprehensive. Namburi asked BLAs to focus on every polling booth in their respective areas and create awareness among voters about the SIR process. They should assist eligible voters in verifying their details and submitting corrections or objections through the prescribed



procedure, he said.

He also called upon booth-level workers to coordinate effectively at the grassroots level and give priority to verification of electoral rolls at every booth. Namburi urged BJP workers to

Collector calls for stringent measures on food adulteration

Officials directed to check raw materials used in hotels, bakeries and hostels

HANS NEWS SERVICE

ASIFABAD: District Collector K. Haritha has directed officials to take strict action against those involved in food adulteration and ensure food safety across the district.

The Collector issued the instructions during a meet-



ing of the District-level Food Safety Advisory Committee held at the Integrated District Collectorate complex on Wednesday.

Additional Collector (Revenue) M. David and officials

from various departments attended the meeting.

Haritha directed food safety officials to conduct extensive inspections of hotels, bakeries, eateries and other food establishments, while

verifying business licences and shop registrations.

Action should be taken against establishments found using adulterated ingredients.

She also stressed regular monitoring of the quality of raw materials supplied to welfare hostels, residential schools and ashram schools to prevent foodborne diseases and poisoning incidents. Officials were urged to coordinate closely.

She further suggested publishing details of seized items and erring establishments in newspapers.

CP orders urgent safety measures at 22 accident-prone spots

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HANUMAKONDA

WARANGAL Commissioner of Police N. Swetha has directed officials to take immediate and comprehensive measures to prevent road accidents across the Warangal Police Commissionerate limits.

On Tuesday, the CP inspected 22 accident-prone locations along the Warangal-Khammam and Warangal-Karimnagar Na-



tional Highways with officials from various departments. She examined road conditions, traffic movement, accident causes and existing traffic-control

arrangements. Of the identified black spots, 14 are located on the Warangal-Khammam highway and eight on the Warangal-Karimnagar highway.

Official data showed that the Warangal-Khammam stretch witnessed 108 accidents and 80 deaths over the past three years, while the Warangal-Karimnagar highway recorded 79 accidents and 37 fatalities. Swetha instructed officials to strengthen surveillance, improve road safety infrastructure and address identified risk factors in coordination with NHAI, R&B, municipal, transport, traffic and police departments.

Health camp for sanitation workers held

HANS NEWS SERVICE
SHADNAGAR

SHADNAGAR Municipal Chairman Agganur Basaveshwar emphasised the need to pay special attention to the health and welfare of sanitation workers, who tirelessly work to protect public health.

On the occasion of the 5th AB Day, a special health camp was organised for sanitation workers at the Shadnagar Municipal Office on

Wednesday.

As part of 'Safaimitra Suraksha Sanman', Chairman Basaveshwar honored the sanitation workers.

Speaking at the event, he praised the commendable services of sanitation workers, who play a crucial role in maintaining cleanliness for the well-being of the public. He stressed that it is everyone's responsibility to take necessary measures for the protection of workers' health.

During the medical camp,

several health check-ups were conducted for the workers, and free medicines were distributed. Medical staff also created awareness about preventive healthcare and safety measures to be followed while performing duties.

Municipal councillors Koppunuri Praveen and Dilip, Deputy DM&HO Vijayalakshmi, Health Educator Srinivas, municipal officials, and medical staff participated in the programme.



Surveyors told to cooperate with govt in land re-survey

HANS NEWS SERVICE
WANAPARTHY

LICENSED surveyors must participate in the land re-survey process and cooperate with the government on the prestigious programme, said district collector Adarsh Surabhi on Wednesday.

At a meeting with licensed surveyors, he provided

guidelines concerning the process and the role of surveyors.

Surabhi emphasised that cooperation of licensed surveyors is crucial for successful completion of the re-survey.

He clarified that the government would not pay fixed salaries to the surveyors but would provide remuneration

at ₹60/acre. Surveyors can earn a good income if they work diligently and skilfully. He made it clear that failure to cooperate with government programs could lead to action against the licences.

The collector stated that the resurvey programme offers the surveyors not only good employment opportunities, but also a chance to



enhance their skills. Gaining experience and expertise in re-survey work would increase their professional value in the market.

He advised them to make

the most of this opportunity to develop technical skills.

Additional collector (revenue) Vinod Kumar, Survey official AD Srinivasulu, other officials were present.

Call to fight for journalists' rights

HANS NEWS SERVICE
WANAPARTHY

G Balavardhan, president, Pebbair Press Club, stated on Wednesday that it would fight to any extent for journalists' rights. He emphasised the need for a united movement to secure journalists' rights, safety and welfare. In response to a call by the Indian Journalists Union (IJU), 'Journalists' Demands Day' to be observed on October 2, Balavardhan urged everyone to ensure success of the protest here in accordance with the



call from the TUWJ State unit (an IJU affiliate). At a club meeting, Balavard-

han, general secretary Parashuram, TUWJ (IJU) constituency general secretary

P Balaraju, Vice President and Joint Secretary Rajendra Prasad spoke. They called

upon all journalists to turn out in large numbers for the protest at Gandhi Chowk here and make it successful. The demands include long-pending issue of housing plots, payment of monthly honorarium and preventing attacks and intimidation. The meeting was attended by publicity secretaries At-eeq Pasha and Rajesh, committee members Mannem, Rambabu, Nagaramulu, Tarun, Lakshminarayana, Ramesh, Bhaskar, Yellasa-my, Chandrayudu, Krishna, Ramakrishna, Buchanna and M. Gopalakrishna.

AP pitches opportunities for investment at Mumbai roadshow

K VARAPRASADA RAO
AMARAVATI

THE state government, in association with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), organised a major investment promotion roadshow in Mumbai on Wednesday, showcasing investment opportunities in the State and seeking to forge new partnerships with domestic and international businesses.

Minister for micro, small and medium enterprises Kondapalli Srinivas was the chief guest at the roadshow, which was attended by representatives of prominent industrial associations, trade organisations, foreign trade bodies and business groups.

Addressing the gathering, Srinivas said Andhra Pradesh offered a combination of land availability, natural resources, infrastructure, ports and

- Govt, CII showcase opportunities across 10 key sectors
- Minister Srinivas highlights land, ports and logistics infrastructure
- Roadshow aimed at drawing Maharashtra investors to Vizag CII conference

logistics connectivity that could support large-scale industrial investments.

He said the State government was committed to facilitating investments through entrepreneur-friendly policies and ensuring a favourable business environment.

The roadshow focused on



Minister for MSMEs Kondapalli Srinivas with members of the business community at an investment promotion roadshow in Mumbai on Wednesday

investment opportunities in BFSI and FinTech, textiles, pharmaceuticals and life sciences, chemicals and petrochemicals, ports and shipping logistics, food processing and FMCG, Global Capability Centres (GCCs), data centres and renewable

energy. The minister said the government was pursuing a 3S approach — speed of doing business, service and stability — to improve the investment climate and provide greater certainty to investors.

The Mumbai event was

organised as part of the State government's broader investment mobilisation strategy and also served as the opening platform for the CII Partnership Conference, scheduled to be held in Visakhapatnam on November 12 and 13.

Srinivas said the government expected the Mumbai roadshow to encourage leading companies and investors from Maharashtra to participate in the Visakhapatnam conference. The interaction with the business community in Mumbai, he said, would help broaden the scope for investments and partnerships in Andhra Pradesh.

The government is using a series of investor outreach programmes to present sector-specific opportunities and build interest ahead of the Visakhapatnam conference.

State brings healthcare to seniors' doorsteps

- Health minister Satya Kumar says Andhra Pradesh conducted over 1.10 crore health check-ups for citizens aged above 60 during 2025-26, alongside more than 6 lakh physiotherapy services
- Special geriatric clinics are being held every Thursday at PHCs, with dedicated elderly wards in district hospitals and referral support for advanced treatment

M V SYAM SUNDAR
AMARAVATI



hospitals. He said special geriatric services were being conducted every Thursday at primary health centres for people aged above 60. Those requiring advanced treatment were being referred to higher-level hospitals. Special geriatric wards had been established at district hospitals, while area hospitals in places without district hospitals were also providing such services.

According to the government, 1,10,01,508 health check-ups were conducted among elderly people across the state during 2025-26, including 6,12,601 physiotherapy services. During 2026-27, 52,79,669 OP, IP, physiotherapy and other services have so far been provided to senior citizens.

As part of community-based healthcare, special medical teams visited 74 government-recognised old-age homes and conducted comprehensive health assessments.

The teams included specialists in general medicine, psychiatry, gynaecology and other areas.

The assessment identified depression-related problems in 18.8 per cent of the elderly, frequent falls in 9.8 per cent, and memory-related problems in 7.5 per cent.

About 2.1 per cent had

both memory problems and depression, while 6.4 per cent had more than one age-related health problem. Others reported difficulties with activities such as cooking, shopping, travelling, going outside and performing routine tasks independently.

Those identified with health or psychosocial problems were provided counselling, treatment and other support services. Mental health professionals also participated in the visits.

The minister said rehabilitation workers were being encouraged to visit at least five elderly people living near community health centres every week to provide physiotherapy and other services.

He said October would be observed as a special month for elderly healthcare, with awareness programmes on healthy ageing, early disease detection, hypertension, mental health, physiotherapy, rehabilitation and geriatric care.

A comprehensive geriatric assessment tool-based questionnaire would also be used at district and area hospitals to collect health information from at least 1,000 elderly people and provide treatment based on their needs.

BJP to host Khadi Mela in Vijayawada on Gandhi Jayanti

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

TO mark Gandhi Jayanti on October 2, the BJP will host a Khadi Mela at the IV Palace in Vijayawada. Organised under the banner 'Khadi for Nation, Khadi for Fashion', the event forms part of the party's Seva Sankalp Abhiyan, led by AP BJP state president P V N Madhav.

Announcing the event, state BJP spokesperson Mullapudi Renuka said that last year's exhibitions across Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Tirupati and Rajamahendravaram received overwhelming support, including a visit from Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu.

This year's mela, located on the

- Mela to be held at IV Palace under the theme 'Khadi for Nation, Khadi for Fashion'
- Event will showcase varying handlooms and feature cultural programmes, with BJP urging families to support local weavers
- AP's handloom heritage, including Ponduru Khadi, Mangalagiri and Venkatagiri, will be highlighted as part of the 'Vocal for Local' push

first floor of IV Palace, will feature handloom showcases along with morning and evening cultural pro-



BJP state unit official spokesperson Mullapudi Renuka speaking to the media in Vijayawada on Wednesday

grams. Renuka urged families to attend and support local weavers, emphasizing that Khadi is more than just a fabric—it is an enduring symbol of Swadeshi, self-reliance and national pride.

She pointed out that handloom and cottage industries remain India's

largest source of employment after agriculture, providing vital dignity and income to rural households, particularly women. Thanks to expanded digital marketing, financial aid, and modern outreach, the sector's national turnover has surged from Rs 33,000 crore in 2013-14 to nearly Rs 1.7 lakh crore today. Renuka also noted the Andhra Pradesh government's active support for weavers through initiatives like Nethanna Sevalo, power subsidies, pensions, and easy credit.

She also referred to the heritage of AP's textile tradition, pointing to Ponduru Khadi's prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag, alongside key handloom hubs in Mangalagiri and Venkatagiri.

Jagan assures legal support to farmers over 'Lanka lands'

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TADEPALLI

FARMERS from Lankapalli village in Pamidimukkala mandal of Krishna district sought the support of YSRCP president Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy over a dispute involving nearly 600 acres of 'Lanka (island) lands' or river island lands. The farmers, who met him at party central office here on Wednesday, told Jagan that their families had been cultivating the lands since 1952, but their rights were being ignored. They said local TDP leaders and revenue officials had issued pattadar passbooks in the names of TDP leaders and their benamis, and claimed Pamidimukkala tahsildar K Naveen Kumar had overseen the process.

They urged YSRCP to press for a comprehensive inquiry and stand by them until justice was delivered. After hearing their grievances, Jagan assured them that the party would provide the necessary legal assistance and support efforts to protect their rights. Speaking to the media, former MLA and YSRCP leader Kaile Anil Kumar said TDP leaders in Pamaru are attempting to take over nearly 350 acres of SC Society Lanka lands through resurvey, forged documents and pattadar passbooks issued in names not found in original records.



Lankapalli farmers meet YSRCP president Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy seeking his support on the land dispute, at Tadepalli on Wednesday

After meeting Jagan Mohan Reddy with affected farmers, he demanded immediate government action. Anil said Pamaru has about 1,200 acres, with genuine farmers cultivating around 250 acres, while another 350 acres are being transferred to others under the supervision of local leader Ganta Suresh and with the backing of MLA Varla Kumar Raja. He said 600 acres of SC Society land are also being shown as government land, including about 100 acres proposed for sand excavation. He said nearly Rs 300 crore worth of public resources are being targeted through land, sand and soil dealings. He warned that YSRCP would approach the courts and seek cancellation of illegal passbooks and a judicial inquiry.

Atchanna hails Centre's rabi MSP hike for 2027-28

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

AGRICULTURE minister K Atchannaidu welcomed the Centre's decision to increase the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for rabi crops for the 2027-28 marketing season, saying it would provide greater price security to farmers.

The decision was approved at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

According to the minister, the Centre has fixed the MSP at Rs 2,610 per quintal for wheat, Rs 2,286 for barley, Rs 5,958 for gram, Rs 7,390 for lentil (masur), Rs 6,613 for rapeseed and mustard, and Rs 7,215 for safflower.

Compared with the previous season, the MSP for safflower has been increased by Rs 675 per quintal, rapeseed



and mustard by Rs 413, lentil by Rs 390, barley by Rs 136, gram by Rs 83 and wheat by Rs 25.

Atchannaidu said the higher MSPs for pulses and oilseeds would encourage farmers to diversify their crops and help strengthen returns from agriculture.

He said both the Centre and the state government were committed to ensuring that farmers received remunerative prices that covered

their production costs and provided a reasonable return.

Increasing farmers' incomes, making agriculture more profitable and protecting farmers from market price fluctuations should remain key priorities, he said.

The minister said the state government was ensuring timely availability of seeds, fertilisers and other agricultural inputs. It was also prepared to intervene in markets whenever necessary to help farmers secure remunerative prices for their produce.

He said the state government was working in coordination with the Centre to promote farmers' welfare and the development of the agriculture sector.

The Centre and the state were moving forward together to provide greater financial security to farmers and make agriculture a more profitable livelihood, Atchannaidu said.

TER eyes integrated growth across key sectors

PRADEEP VENNELAKANTI
TIRUPATI

THE emerging space, defence, manufacturing, logistics and tourism sectors are set to play a key role in shaping the Tirupati Economic Region's (TER) development roadmap up to 2047.

The state government is preparing a comprehensive development plan for the region by incorporating inputs from elected representatives, industry, academia, officials and other stakeholders. TER CEO M Mukesh Kumar Meena said that the plan would focus on local requirements, development gaps and investment opportunities.

Addressing a stakeholder workshop at the Tirupati collectorate on Wednesday, Meena said the exercise should go beyond data collection and preparation of a report and result in an actionable plan reflecting ground-level needs. KPMG has been appointed as the

strategic support agency for preparing the TER Development Plan 2047.

Representatives from Tirupati, Chittoor and Nellore districts, including collectors, MLAs, industrialists, academicians and experts, participated in the day-long consultation.

Meena highlighted the potential of the region in space, defence, manufacturing, logistics, agriculture, tourism and services. He proposed linking the emerging space and defence clusters in the Tirupati-Nellore belt with research, manufacturing, testing and launch facilities. With a space city coming up over nearly 2,500 acres, he suggested an R&D park involving IIT and IISER and called for policy support for land, buffer zones and infrastructure.

He also proposed examining a bonded corridor connecting ports, airports and industrial areas and integrating cargo, repacking and distribution facilities to

- Tirupati Economic Region CEO Mukesh Kumar Meena says the plan should address ground level needs and development gaps
- Space, defence, manufacturing, logistics, agriculture, tourism and services identified as key growth sectors

improve logistics.

Planning department joint secretary Anantha Shankar said an assessment of the economic conditions, growth potential and per capita income of the nine districts forming the TER had been carried out up to the mandal level. Though the region accounts for more than half of the State's geographical area, it contrib-



TER CEO Mukesh Kumar Meena, planning department joint secretary Anantha Shankar, Tirupati collector S Venkateswar and MLA Arani Srinivasulu at the stakeholder workshop in Tirupati on Wednesday

utes around one-third of its GSDP, he said.

Tirupati collector Dr S Venkateswar said the district's industrial ecosystem covered nearly 15,000 acres and stressed the need for better connectivity between industrial areas and major highways. Chittoor collector Sumit Kumar said 2,000 to 2,500 acres was available for industrial parks and called

for advance planning of power, water and road infrastructure.

Nellore collector Himanshu Shukla sought industry-linked skill programmes in welding, solar ingot and wafer manufacturing, drone technology and gantry crane operations. He also stressed stronger power infrastructure for emerging sectors such as green hydrogen and

data centres.

Tourism proposals included a circuit covering Tirumala, Srikalahasti, Kanipakam, Talakona and Horsley Hills, besides improved accommodation, transport and digital booking facilities. Sullurpeta MLA Nelavala Vijayasree sought a master plan for Pulicat and Sriharikota, while forest officials stressed compliance with sanctuary regulations and required clearances.

MLC Kancherla Srikanth sought stronger college-industry links through internships and skill programmes. Satyavedu MLA Adimulam sought better infrastructure in the industrial belt, including a bypass to Sri City.

Officials said the TER plan would cover industry, healthcare, education, infrastructure, logistics, skills and innovation, with around 50 to 60 key projects likely to be identified based on regional gaps and opportunities.

PAWS ON THE BEAT State police induct 36 dual-skilled canines



Home minister V Anitha appreciates the skills of a police dog at the passing-out parade of the 23rd batch of canines and handlers at the ISW Canine Training Centre in Mangalagiri on Wednesday. DGP Harish Kumar Gupta is also seen.

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

POLICE dogs play a crucial role in crime detection along with modern technology and forensic evidence, home minister Vangalapudi Anitha said on Wednesday.

She was speaking at the passing-out parade of the 23rd batch of canines and handlers held at the ISW Canine Training Centre of the 6th Battalion in Mangalagiri. DGP Harish Kumar Gupta attended the event as the guest of honour.

The home minister said 36 dogs had undergone specialised training for 10 months and were now ready for deployment. The state police currently had 218 trained dogs in service, while around 78 dogs had been trained during the past two years.

She said trained canines could detect narcotic substances through smell even when they were packed in multiple layers. Their role in detecting narcotics also helped protect youngsters from the harmful effects of drug abuse. Anitha said the government was focusing on both visible and invisible policing, technology, forensic services and the canine wing to strengthen crime prevention and investigation. The objective was to ensure that offenders did not escape and that investigations were supported by timely forensic and scientific evidence.

DGP Harish Kumar Gupta said canines had become highly reliable partners in policing. He said the 36 dogs inducted

into the police force had been trained in dual skills to meet emerging crime and internal security requirements. Of the 23rd batch, 13 dogs were trained in explosive detection and tracking, while another 13 received dual training in narcotics detection and tracking. Seven dogs were trained in explosive detection, two in cadaver detection along with search and rescue (SAR), and one in assault and explosive detection.

For the first time, dogs trained in cadaver detection and search and rescue were being inducted into the Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), the DGP said. The training was conducted in coordination with the Taralu CRPF Dog Breeding and Training Centre in Bengaluru. Belgian Malinois and Dutch Shepherd breeds were also being introduced for dual-purpose duties.

Gupta said dogs of the 22nd batch, deployed in 19 units around 10 months ago, had already contributed to results in 97 cases. Home minister Anitha presented prizes to dogs that excelled in various areas of training. Senior police officials, including CID chief Ravi Shankar Ayyanar, ACB chief Atul Singh, intelligence chief Mahesh Chandra Laddha, additional DGP (law and order) N Madhusudana Reddy, IGs B Rajakumari, Kanthirana Tata and K V Mohan Rao, SP K Arif Hafeez, senior police officers, ISW personnel and veterinary surgeon Dr Pratap Surapaneni attended the programme.

India cautions US against Pak’s role in promoting terror

INDIA has rightly warned the United States against its growing bonhomie with Pakistan. Speaking at the Asia Society Policy Institute, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said, “There are very few countries which have been subjected to the kind of terrorism that we have from a neighbour as part of a deliberate, conscious policy over many, many decades.” Though he didn’t name Pakistan, as such, the reference was obvious, especially because the US itself has suffered because of Pakistan’s dalliance with jihadist terror. It is a well-known fact that Islamabad and Rawalpindi, the political and military capitals of Pakistan, have played both sides of terror; they aided, armed, and abetted jihadists on both its eastern and

western fronts, while feigning to help the American efforts to fight Islamists like Osama bin Laden and the Taliban. “Now, if something which matters so deeply to us, there isn’t enough understanding or appreciation or empathy of that, I think that creates a problem too. That you know if... one of my primary concerns is not fully appreciated by my partner, then clearly there is an impact of that on the relationship,” Jaishankar said, alluding to India-US ties.

He has a point. Washington has been claiming, and rightly so, that Tehran has been promoting jihad in the region; in fact, this is one of the factors resulting in the US-Israel alliance’s attack on Iran. At the same time, President Donald Trump was

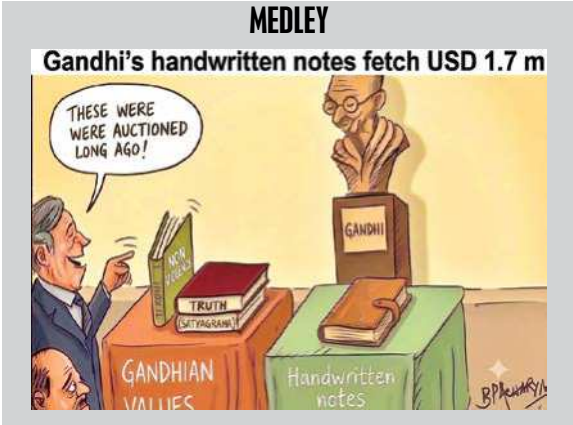
cosying up with Pakistan, especially its Field Marshal Asim Munir, who is the jihadist-in-chief of the notorious ‘terroristan’. Unfortunately, Pakistani leaders’ flattery and shenanigans fooled the world’s most powerful man. The dealings between Trump’s family members and the Pakistani establishment also reportedly cast their shadow on the US-Pakistan ties. While we have unambiguously conveyed our displeasure over the improving US-Pakistan relations, we must not go overboard, which we sometimes do—the recently concluded BRICS Summit in New Delhi being a case in point. Diplomacy is an exercise in balancing interests, not in expressing emotions. The US will pursue its own strategic, economic,

and geopolitical interests, just as India must pursue its own. Washington’s engagement with Islamabad may be uncomfortable for New Delhi, but it does not automatically follow that New Delhi should allow this discomfort to define the entire India-US relationship.

The two countries have substantial convergences in the Indo-Pacific, defence, technology, trade, energy security, and counterterrorism. These interests cannot be wished away because of fluctuations in America’s Pakistan policy. New Delhi should continue to remind Washington of Pakistan’s record of supporting and sheltering terrorist organisations, while avoiding the temptation to view every American-Pakistan in-

teraction as a diplomatic setback for India. At any rate, Americans are not so ignorant as to be unaware of Pakistan’s duplicity. India should also resist the urge to turn every multilateral forum into an arena for settling bilateral scores.

The BRICS Summit demonstrated the pitfalls of allowing geopolitical disagreements to overshadow larger economic and developmental objectives. India’s growing global stature demands strategic composure. One need to react to every move by another power; it must assess that move passionately, protect its core interests, and keep its diplomatic options open. That is the approach New Delhi should adopt towards the renewed US-Pakistan bonhomie.



LETTERS

Mining policy should think of affected communities

With reference to “Centre must pay heed to mineral-rich states” (THI, Sept 30). Mining can generate investment, employment and revenue, but the benefits should not come at the cost of communities living around mineral deposits. States hosting these resources face displacement, environmental degradation and pressure on local infrastructure. Any new mining framework should therefore include stronger safeguards for the affected communities. A defined share of mining-related revenue could be directed towards local health, education, roads and rehabilitation. Environmental clearances must remain rigorous and should not become a mere formality in the interest of faster extraction. The Centre and states should jointly monitor compliance and publish regular reports. A development model that combines mineral extraction with environmental responsibility and local welfare would make mining more sustainable and socially acceptable.

A Myilsami, Coimbatore-641402

Govt must spell out future mining arrangements

THIS refers to “Centre must pay heed to mineral-rich states” (THI, Sept 30). The disagreement over the proposed mining law also highlights the importance of policy certainty. Investors need clear rules, and governments must ensure that states are not suddenly deprived of legitimate revenue or decision-making space. Frequent changes in taxation, royalties or regulatory arrangements can create uncertainty for both industry and governments. The Centre should publish a clear framework explaining how existing and future mining arrangements will be treated. A formal consultation mechanism with mineral-producing states could prevent disputes before they reach the courts. Any retrospective financial implications should be handled carefully and transparently. Predictability, fair revenue-sharing and institutional dialogue can provide industry with confidence while respecting the constitutional position of states.

Swathi Senthilkumar, Coimbatore

Protect economic interests first

Regarding “Centre must pay heed to mineral-rich states” (THI, Sept 30), the proposed changes deserve examination from the standpoint of cooperative federalism. Natural resources may have national economic significance, but the states where minerals are extracted deal directly with the consequences of mining. Their participation in policy formulation is therefore essential. The Centre should convene a structured dialogue with mineral-rich states, industry representatives, local bodies and affected communities before implementing major changes. Differences over the law should be resolved through negotiation rather than prolonged political confrontation or litigation. At the same time, states should provide predictable approvals and ensure that regulatory processes remain efficient. A mutually agreed framework can protect national economic interests while giving states adequate fiscal space and communities a fair share of the benefits generated from their natural resources.

B A Neboba, Perundurai-638 052

Tech firms must adopt energy-efficient systems

THIS is further to the column “Creativity is destroying the environment” (THI Sept 30). Artificial intelligence is celebrated for the convenience it provides, but its environmental cost remains largely unexamined. Training GPT-3 alone is estimated to have evaporated about seven lakh litres of fresh water, and by 2027 global AI demand could equal the annual water use of 30 to 47 million people. In a country where nearly 60 crore people face severe water shortage, this cannot be ignored. Policymakers and technology companies must adopt energy-efficient systems, responsible water use and transparent disclosure.

Divyanshu Dhakad, Dhenkanal

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Congress launches Bharat Jodo 2.0 padyatra from Shikaripura

SHIVAMOGGA: The Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) on Wednesday launched its ‘Bharat Jodo 2.0’ padyatra from Shikaripura in Shivamogga district, targeting 84 Assembly constituencies where the Congress was defeated in the 2023 Karnataka elections. The padyatra is being led by KPCC president B.K. Hariprasad and is planned as an 84-day programme covering 29 districts. Congress leaders said the initiative is aimed at strengthening the party organisation and increasing direct interaction with people in constituencies where the party lost in the previous Assembly election. The programme was launched from Kittadahalli in Shikaripura taluk. The march proceeded through Mattikote, Hosanagar Cross and Nelavagilu before heading towards Shikaripura town. According to Minister Madhu Bangarappa, around 10 km will be covered during the first day’s padyatra.

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

TALKING OF MANY THINGS



DR MOHAN KANDA

WHILE many things are needed for people to lead happy and contented lives, food, shelter, and clothing are universally accepted as the basic minimum requirements of human beings. There is in fact this adage in Telugu, which says that to have a home of one’s own and to perform a marriage in the family are the most important challenges in an individual’s life. In what follows, an attempt has been made to understand the role played by a shelter.

A shelter protects living beings from rain, strong winds, extreme climatic conditions, predators, and environmental dangers.

A home, on the other hand, is much more than a mere shelter. It is vital because it provides physical safety, emotional comfort, and a stable foundation for personal and family life. It is also a place of love, acceptance, and deep emotional support and offers a secure environment for all living beings. A home also serves as a central gathering place that binds family members together.

Organisations like Habitat for Humanity work globally to help families secure all lasting benefits in one’s house.

Primitive shelters have

evolved into modern homes through major shifts in materials, permanence, and technology driven by human civilization. Prehistoric humans used natural geological formations, while nomadic groups built lightweight temporary huts using wood branches, animal hides, bones, and grass that were easy to assemble and dismantle. Once humans mastered the art of creating fire, some 400,000 years ago internal hearths transformed shelters into social hubs for cooking, warmth, and art.

After farming led to permanent settlements around 10,000 to 12,000 years ago, communities began to use sunbaked mud bricks, clay, and stone to build stronger walls, multi-room layouts, and courtyards for privacy.

In the medieval ages, engineering led to innovations and complex multi-storied concrete structures came up with piped water, and civic planning. Housing later diversified into peasant cottages, urban timber-framed townhouses, and fortified stone castles.

The advent of the industrial and modern eras, marked by industrial mass production, steel, iron, mass-produced brick, and glass was marked by high-density urban housing and skyscrapers.

Functional planning led to the contemporary smart and sustainable homes.

Modern residences use smart technology and green architecture, informed by climate automation, energy management, and high-speed connectivity, with eco-friendly designs using solar power, sustainable composite materials, and green roofs to fight climate change.

Providing concessional

Homemakers are people who manage a household and care for a family as their main daily occupation instead of working for external income. Their responsibilities include raising children, supporting family members, and acting as primary care givers. They also take care of cooking meals, cleaning, organizing spaces, and handling day-to-day operations.

housing loans from banking and financial institutions besides providing subsidised homes for the poor are now important socio-economic priorities for the central and state governments.

The word ‘home’, by itself, or in conjunction with other words, is also used to stand for several other things in different contexts and situations. For example, the stadium where a local, or ‘home’, team plays its matches is known as the ‘home-ground’. Also, idiomatically, an area, environment, or topic that people know very well is called the ‘home’ ground, as they feel secure and in control because they understand the surroundings or the topic. A ‘home run’ in softball is another similar term.

An ‘At Home’ invitation stands for a highly traditional, formal style of invitation used to indicate that the host is holding a social gathering. Historically popular in 19th and 20th century high society, the format has evolved over time. The President of India and the Governors of States traditionally host an At Home, every year on Republic Day.

That expression, incidentally, triggers a somewhat unhappy though amusing memory. It was the 1976 Republic Day, and I was the Secretary to the Governor of Andhra Pradesh, Sharda Mukherjee. She was very protocol conscious and fastidious about things needing to look absolutely spic and span on such occasions. Elaborate arrangements were in place for the garden party.

It was time for the Chief Minister to arrive and be received by the Governor, a sudden downpour happened, bringing with it absolute disaster. All the invitees had to rush into Raj Bhavan’s Durbarr Hall. Alternative arrangements were made hastily, which, by no means, were up to the standards the Governor had expected. And, the Chief Minister, a person given to wry satire and known never to lose an opportunity to have a dig at others, sarcastically complimented me for lacking the quality of anticipation!

In a similar manner, to be ‘homely’ means to look plain or unattractive in the United States, although it refers to being cozy, comfortable, and unpretentious in the UK. The expression ‘homing instinct’ stands for an animal’s natural, built-in ability to find its way back to its home, nest, or

breeding ground after traveling a long distance away.

Animals do not need a map or prior training, as they possess the innate ability to know how to return to their homes, using natural tools such as the sun, stars, the Earth’s magnetic field, smells, and visual memory, to navigate. Pigeons, for instance, are famous for flying hundreds of miles back to their exact loft, as are salmon fish, which swim across vast oceans and find the exact freshwater stream where they were born. Domesticated cats and dogs are also known to travel considerable distances across unfamiliar places to return to their owners. Yet another example is that of migratory birds, such as swallows and geese, which return to the same nests year after year.

An example of the word ‘home’ being used in conjunction with other words is ‘homework’, which is a set of academic tasks assigned to students by their teachers to be completed outside of regular class hours. And ‘homemade’ refers to anything made at home, on the premises, or through your own personal efforts rather than being mass-produced in a factory or bought from a store.

Homemakers are people who manage a household and care for a family as their main daily occupation instead of working for external income. Their responsibilities include raising children, supporting family members, and acting as primary caregivers. They also take care of cooking meals, cleaning, organizing spaces, and handling day-to-day operations. In addition, they attend to housekeeping chores, such

as shopping for household needs, budgeting, and maintaining the home environment.

In India, the Union ‘Home’ Ministry is a government department responsible for a country’s internal security, domestic law and order, and public safety.

The virtues of a home have often been a favourite subject matter for authors and composers. ‘Home Sweet Home’, for example, is an expression used when someone returns home after being away to show that they are happy to be back. The expression “Be it ever so humble, there’s no place like home”, is another example, which originates from the song “Home, Sweet Home!”, written for an opera.

The reference I made earlier in this article to the homing instinct, makes me recall an incident which caused me acute embarrassment when I was on a visit to the wonderful city of Kiel in Germany years ago, in connection with a lecture to be delivered in the University there. I have been blessed with the great virtue of being able to lose my way home, even within the colony where we reside in Hyderabad. And the city of Kiel afforded me a great opportunity to test the power of that trait of mine. In the four days that I spent there, not even on one occasion, out of a hundred or so, did I fail to break out into a nervous sweat, out of fear that I would never find my way back to the hotel where I was staying.

Each time, invariably, I just managed to return to it, having desperately sought directions from at least a dozen passersby!

(The writer was formerly Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh)

The architecture of inclusion: How Sukumar Sen built a republic of voters

NOMULA SRINIVAS RAO

“Democracy begins not with the politician. It begins with the voter.”

In 1950, a newly sovereign nation embarked on the most ambitious democratic experiment in human history. India was a vast, deeply diverse landscape recovering from the trauma of Partition, where nearly 85 per cent of the population was illiterate and infrastructure was virtually non-existent. There were no digital databases, no standardised identification cards, no automated networks, and no modern technology.

Into this monumental void stepped Sukumar Sen, an ICS officer appointed as India’s first Chief Election Commissioner (CEC).

Tasked with executing the inaugural general election, Sen did not merely manage a bureaucratic process; he helped build the foundational instinct of Indian democracy. His mission was as radical in its simplicity as it was staggering in its scope: find every citizen, register them,

and give them a voice. Today, as contemporary political discourse grows increasingly obsessed with lists, exclusions, and deletions, returning to Sen’s original vision offers a vital reminder of what it truly takes to sustain a government of the people.

The enrolment epic

The logistics facing Sen and his team were unprecedented. India’s electorate in 1950 spanned over 17 crore voters—a demographic larger than the combined populations of the United States and western Europe at the time. To enroll them, thousands of election workers traveled on foot, by bullock cart, on horseback, and aboard boats. They trekked across the snow-bound valleys of Himachal Pradesh, crossed the arid expanses of Rajasthan, and navigated the dense forests of the Northeast.

They went door to door and village to village to compile the electoral rolls from scratch. When social stigmas prevented many women in northern states from giving

Technology is a powerful amplifier, but it must serve the original ethos established in 1950. A database should be a bridge to participation, never a barrier. When administrative systems prioritise procedural rigidity over universal access, they risk eroding the trust that Sen worked so tirelessly to forge.



Sukumar Sen

of formal education, could cast a secret ballot with dignity and confidence.

Building vs. maintaining- The founding instinct:

Sukumar Sen and the architects of early India did not inherit a functional democracy; they had to construct one out of hope, determination, and civic faith. Because they built it from the ground up, they understood a fundamental truth that often gets lost in modern administration: the strength of a republic is measured by its capacity to include, not its efficiency at weeding out.

The state seeks out the voter

In recent decades, admin-

their individual names to male officials—offering only their relations as “mother of X” or “wife of Y”—Sen refused to accept the compromise. He insisted that every citizen must be recognized in their own right, and delayed registration drive timelines until millions of women were properly named and cataloged on the rolls.

To overcome widespread illiteracy, Sen’s team devised an intuitive visual language. They introduced distinct symbols for political parties—a pair of bullocks, a tree, an elephant—and color-coded ballot boxes so that every individual, regardless

OUTRAGE IN PATHIKONDA

Grieving father demands panchayat action

HANS NEWS SERVICE
PATHIKONDA

IN a heartbreaking demonstration of grief and outrage, a father staged a protest with his 19-month-old son's body in front of the MPDO office on Wednesday, blaming severe village sanitation issues for the child's tragic death from dengue.

The toddler, Revanth— younger son of Narasa Naidu and Kavitha from Devanakonda mandal headquarters in Kurnool district—contracted a high fever a week ago.

Diagnosed with dengue, he was shifted to Kurnool Government General Hospital for advanced care, but tragically passed away during treatment.

A heartbroken Narasa Naidu alleged that he had repeatedly alerted the gram panchayat secretary and local staff over the past month



A father staging a protest with his deceased son's body in front of MPDO office seeking justice on Wednesday

regarding overflowing filth, foul smells, and neglected sanitation in their locality, only to be met with inaction.

Staging the protest with the child's remains, he demanded an official inquiry and strict action against negligent personnel.

Responding to the agitation, MPDO Jyothi, CI Venugopal, EORD Gopal, and other local authorities rushed to the scene. Expressing profound grief, they assured the family that comprehensive sanitation clean-ups would be

executed within 15 days and coordinated efforts launched to curb the menace of pigs and monkeys near water tanks.

While health officials noted that the direct causal link between the village sanitation and the dengue contraction remains under medical review, villagers are closely monitoring the implementation of the administration's promises.

“What happened to my son should not happen to another child,” a tearful Narasa Naidu pleaded.

Minister Keshav turns teacher as part of Yuvatha Bhavitha prog

- Minister Payyavula Keshav visits the Government Degree College in Uravakonda
- Steps into a first-year B.Com classroom, teaching students and sharing personal life lessons to inspire determination
- Drawing from his own school days when he turned humiliation into a three-month challenge, he urged students to convert setbacks into opportunities

HANS NEWS SERVICE
URAVAKONDA

STATE Minister for Finance, Planning, Commercial Taxes, and Legislative Affairs, Payyavula Keshav, stated that students would achieve success in life if



Minister Payyavula Keshav taking a selfie with students during his visit to the Government Degree College in Uravakonda as part of the 'Yuvatha Bhavitha' programme, on Wednesday

they moved forward with hard work and determination.

Visiting the Government Degree College in Uravakonda on Wednesday as part of the Yuvatha Bhavi-

tha program, the Minister stepped into a first-year B.Com classroom to briefly take on the role of a teacher, imparting valuable academic and life lessons. Encouraging students

to set clear goals, Minister Keshav advised them not to be disheartened by insults or failures, but to transform setbacks into stepping stones. Sharing personal ex-

periences of overcoming early humiliation, he urged students to view skepticism from others as an opportunity to demonstrate their talent. He emphasized that rural youth possess immense hidden talent and can scale great heights with proper dedication.

Furthermore, the Minister revealed that special attention is currently being directed toward upgrading essential infrastructure and amenities, such as drinking water and restrooms, across government degree colleges.

His interactive and engaging classroom session resonated deeply with the undergraduates, reinforcing the message that true success stems from perseverance, self-confidence, and persistent effort rather than mere luck.



Madakasira meet launches innovative mulberry biochar project

HANS NEWS SERVICE
MADAKASIRA

A farmers' participatory meeting was held in K Gundumala village on Wednesday to launch a project converting mulberry plant residues into biochar.

Jointly organized by Resonia Ltd., Prithivi Carbon Solutions, and the Sericulture Department, the initiative aims to restore soil health and boost crop yields. Former MLC Gundu-

mala Thippeswamy, Child Rights Commission Member Dr Srinivasamurthy, and Joint Director Shobha Rani addressed the gathering, emphasizing organic soil enrichment.

Prithivi Carbon CEO M Suryanarayana Murthy explained the 'Kon-Tiki' pyrolysis method. Supported by District Collector A Shyam Prasad, the event featured a live unit inauguration and drew 400 farmers.

Motherson recruits 89 students at Ananthalakshmi college

HANS NEWS SERVICE
ANANTAPUR

CHENNAI-BASED multinational Motherson Automotive Technologies and Engineering conducted a campus recruitment drive at Ananthalakshmi Engineering College, drawing 250 final-year B.Tech students.

HR Manager Dinesh outlined the company's global operations across 47 countries and diverse

sectors. Following written tests, group discussions, and interviews overseen by Placement Director Dr M Surendra Naidu, 89 students were selected as Trainee Engineers with a ₹3 lakh annual package.

College Chairman M Anantharamudu, Principal Dr Kutala Srinivasulu, and faculty members warmly congratulated the successful candidates for securing promising professional futures.



53 Devpt works worth Rs 20.87 crore inaugurated

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BUKKAPATNAM

PUTTAPARTHI MLA Palle Sindhura Reddy and former minister Dr Palle Raghunatha Reddy inaugurated 53 development works worth ₹20.87 crore during the 'Palle Panduga 3.0' program in Bukkapatnam Mandal.

Welcomed warmly by villagers, the leaders stated that public happiness guarantees an

Alliance sweep in the constituency. Highlighting the government's focus on rural progress, the MLA inspected infrastructure projects, interacted with citizens, and visited local schools. Engaging directly with students, she reviewed educational facilities and joined an archery activity, while urging officials to ensure high-quality and timely completion of all works.



Collector calls for garbage-free Hindupur

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HINDUPUR

DISTRICT Collector Shyam Prasad launched the 'Swachhata Hi Seva - 2026' campaign in Hindupur on Wednesday, urging citizens to build a clean society.

The Collector inspected a student 'Waste to Wealth' exhibition and distributed prizes for environmental competitions.

To honor frontline staff, he inaugurated a free medical camp providing check-ups to 600 sanitation workers in partnership with MIMS Hospital. He also flagged off six new eco-friendly e-autos to boost door-to-door garbage collection efficiency and reduce pollution, while appealing to residents to segregate wet and dry waste.



Prompt resolution of SC/ST issues demanded by Collector



HANS NEWS SERVICE
ANANTAPUR

DISTRICT Collector O Anand directed officials to resolve SC and ST grievances promptly during a Vigilance and Monitoring Committee meeting on Wednesday.

MP Ambica Lakshminarayana urged revenue staff to clear pending land disputes through constituency-wise reviews.

MLA Daggupati Venkateswara Prasad stressed

transparent administration, while SP Jagadish promised unbiased investigations into atrocity cases.

Committee members highlighted issues including temple entry restrictions, amenities in Ambedkar Residential Schools, and pensions for Urumulu artists.

The Collector reviewed previous actions and called for swift coordination among police, revenue, and prosecution departments to ensure justice.

Construction safety under scrutiny after fatal crane accident in Tirupati

PRADEEP VENNELAKANTI
TIRUPATI

QUESTIONS over construction safety and municipal supervision have come to the fore in Tirupati following the death of three workers in a crane accident at a hotel construction site on DBR Road, prompting the Municipal Corporation to suspend two town planning officials.

Municipal Commissioner M Jaya Krishna said the action was taken after a preliminary inquiry found lapses in monitoring the construction activity.

He said a detailed and transparent inquiry would be conducted by senior officials to determine the circumstances leading to the accident and fix responsibility. The accident occurred on Tuesday near Sri Convention Centre when a crane tilted while lifting a large tree and fell into a deep foundation pit. The crane and tree trapped workers inside the excavation, killing three and injuring three others.

The construction site is located between the Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Municipal Corporation Government School and Sri Convention Centre. Excavation for basement construction had reportedly reached a depth of 34 to 40 feet, raising concerns over the safety of the adjoining school and the monitoring of the work.

A portion of the school compound wall was reportedly damaged during the excavation, while residents had allegedly raised concerns over the construction activity. The inquiry will examine whether the excavation was adequately supervised and whether the damage to the school premises was inspected by the authorities.

The Commissioner has directed engineering officials to assess the structural condition of the municipal school building and submit a detailed report. The inquiry is also expected to examine reports of rock removal at the site and establish whether any blasting was carried out. If blasting took place, officials will verify whether the required permissions were obtained. No conclusion has been reached on the issue pending verification.

Police said the crane lost balance while lifting the tree after it could not bear the load, causing it to plunge into the foundation pit. Officials will also examine the permissions obtained for construction activities near the school, the monitoring of the excavation and the circumstances under which the crane was allowed to enter the school premises. Jaya Krishna said strict action would be taken against officials or staff found responsible for lapses. He also warned builders against undertaking construction without mandatory permissions or violating prescribed safety and building regulations.

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An overturned crane and rescue machinery at the hotel construction site on DBR Road in Tirupati. The fatal accident claimed three lives



Comprehensive assessment of welfare and development progs held

KADIRI: Joint Collector Maurya Bharadwaj chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Kadiri Municipal Office on Wednesday.

Acting as Special Officer, he evaluated town planning, engineering, sanitation, and revenue operations. He directed officials to maintain strict cleanliness, ensure functional street lighting, and accelerate outstanding tax collections.

A special review assessed ₹29 crore worth of development works sanctioned under the Hybrid Annuity Model scheme, with strict instructions to complete projects on time while maintaining high quality. Municipal Commissioner Ajay Kumar and local staff participated in the discussions.

Youth festival celebrates talent and creativity in Nandyal

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NANDYAL

DISTRICT-level youth festivals serve as an invaluable launchpad for young talent, providing a vibrant platform for students to showcase their creativity and skills while contributing to the vision of Viksit Bharat, said District Collector G Rajakumari on Wednesday. The Collector, alongside Nandyal MP Byreddy Shabari and Allagadda MLA Bhuma Akhila Priya, inaugurated a district-level youth talent exhibition organized by the District Youth Welfare Department at SVR Engineering College in Ayyalur Metta.

The event featured spirited competitions in folk dance, folk singing, street plays, painting, and poetry writing. Addressing students, Collector Rajakumari advised youth to cultivate discipline, leadership, and practical skills alongside education, noting that district-level victors will advance to state and national competitions. MP Byreddy Shabari urged young participants to build leadership qualities to support national development goals under Viksit Bharat 2047 and Swarna Andhra 2047, while encouraging



The Collector, along with Nandyal MP Byreddy Shabari and Allagadda MLA Bhuma Akhila Priya, inaugurating a district-level youth talent exhibition organised by the District Youth Welfare Department at SVR Engineering College in Ayyalur Metta here on Wednesday

them to capitalize on emerging Rayalaseema employment avenues. Echoing these sentiments, Allagadda MLA Bhuma Akhila Priya emphasized that youth aspirations must be actively nurtured. She noted that the government is aggressively attracting industrial investments to boost local infrastructure and create sustainable job opportunities, allowing regional youth to build careers in their home districts. She also advised students to leverage technology and social media constructively.

District-level roller skating competitions set for Oct 3

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KURNOOL

THE Kurnool District Roller Skating Association will organize district-level roller skating competitions on October 3, following directives from the State Roller Skating Association.

The events aim to showcase young talent and select representatives for the upcoming state-level championship.

According to a joint statement issued by Additional Secretary A Puneeth Chowdary and CEO P Sunil Kumar, the competitions encompass both inline and quad skating formats across road



For representation purpose only

race and rink race categories. Road races are scheduled on Khana Khazana Road at B Camp, while rink races

will take place at Indus valley street. Skaters between the ages of five and 20 years are eligible to participate.

Winners of these district trials will earn the opportunity to represent Kurnool district at the prestigious 38th State-level Roller Skating Championships, which are set to be held in Kakinada starting October 31.

Association representatives have called upon skating enthusiasts from across the district to register and display their skills.

Organizers emphasized that the tournament serves as an exceptional platform for young athletes to gain valuable competitive exposure, hone their athletic abilities, and advance to higher levels of competition.

‘REBEL RANIS’

Brings four powerful women to life through dance

Keelaka Dance Company's 'Rebel Ranis' brings together the stories of Kaikeyi, Sita, Karaikkal Ammaiyar and Draupadi in a vibrant blend of dance, theatre and music. With powerful performances and striking visuals, the production looks beyond familiar legends to explore four women who challenged the boundaries of their time

ANNA RAO GANGAVALLI

Ranghoomi Auditorium recently witnessed a dance theatre production, 'Rebel Ranis', by Keelaka Dance Company. The production was the result of a collaboration between senior Bharatanatyam guru Jyotsna Lata Shourie and her senior student Aneesha Grover from Delhi. The script was by Aneesha and the choreography by Jyotsna Shourie. The focus was on four characters: Kaikeyi, Sita, Karaikkal Ammaiyar and Draupadi. These are the heroines who narrate and play out their stories, presenting an intensely emotive slice of life, not legend, as seen from an insider's perspective. Shattering stereotypes, the subtly tailored kaleidoscopic visualisation, brimming with colour, made for an exhilarating experience. From the start, the audience was gripped and drawn in, and the tightly packed hour-and-fifteen-minute timescale did not allow for any let-up in pace. The

dialogue and dance were seamlessly fleshed out in a bravura fin-de-siècle tone, as the Rebel Ranis briefly spoke and the incandescent energy of the dance took over. The drama opened with the four heroines perched on high seats, exchanging their stories in a witty dialogue. The thread linking them is the fact that they all stretch the boundaries in a male-dominated society: Kaikeyi, being a warrior queen versed in politics; Sita, the slayer of Ravana in the apocryphal Adbhut Ramayan; Karaikkal Ammaiyar, who gives up all societal norms in search of Shiva; and an assertive Draupadi, who breaks taboos. A melange of music styles, from jazz to Carnatic, embellished the soundscape, including the Ravanashatakam, heralding the dramatic entrance of Ravana. The Shiva Panchakshari appropriately set the mood for Karaikkal Ammaiyar. Aneesha Grover was Kaikeyi in the first sequence as she described her upbringing. In a violet aharya, she was portrayed as learning



all the skills as a princess that were identical to those of a male counterpart. Her father, Aswapati, wished her to gain experience in warfare and politics. However, these talents proved to be more of a burden than appropriate to the role she was destined to play. Apart from the occasion when she accompanied Dasaratha to the battlefield,

where she proved her valour by helping him win, thereby obtaining the boons that would prove to be her bane, she was relegated to wifely duties in the antahpura of the royal household. The memory of a matching duet showcasing her martial skills with Dasaratha is all that lingers. Her sagacity and courage are forgotten, diminished in



the savage arc of the terrible act of sending Rama, Lakshmana and Sita into exile. We hear, in her own words, a trenchant justification. Nandita Kaalan Mehra as Sita dominated the next scene. She was no fragile queen needing the solace of a protecting male presence. The 'Adbhut Ramayan', from a Shakta perspective, envisages the story of her victory over a thousand-headed Ravana reigning in Pushkar, more terrifying than the Lord of Lanka. Nandita's orange-and-green dress was elegant. Rama and Ravana, played by male Chhau dancers Sagar Vashisht and Benjamin Jacob, gave a scintillating display of somersaults and cartwheels as they lunged and leaped in the battlefield scene, creating fireworks on stage with their athletic display. Fit and chiselled, they duelled with vigour, and finally an exhausted Rama is overpowered and rendered unconscious by his antagonist. Nandita's aquiline countenance flashed with

rage as Sita's gentle visage transformed. The cosmic form of the multi-armed Goddess Mahakali, warrior of darkness, emerges. Laughing hysterically, with bloodshot eyes and an outstretched tongue denoting her ferocity, she charges into the demon and his army ranks, decapitating the Asura's thousand heads in a flash and destroying his armies. Ravana's myrmidons in black capes sported face masks resembling an amalgam of silvery metal and ruby-stained glass, giving an Art Deco look. They pranced and capered, looking like fiends from Dante's Inferno. Nandita, to sum up, depicted a Sita who would not have needed Lakshmana to ward off Surpanakha but would have been quite capable of doing so herself! Amrita Sivakumar, in a green-and-yellow dress, gave a finely etched portrait of the great Saiva saint Karaikkal Ammaiyar. She liberates herself from a mundane housewifely existence by the grace of Shiva.

As she prays to the Lord in despair, requiring a mango to serve to her husband, divine grace makes it appear. She gives up all the norms of human society to smear ashes on herself, denoting complete renunciation, to follow the ascetic path to self-realisation. She does not care in the least, even shunning clothing, wandering ardently and unclad in search of the Lord. Harini Iyer was Draupadi in a draped pink saree. She explains that, though being fire-born, she had to undergo the travails of a life full of perils while still being the rock-like support of her five husbands, enduring even the unendurable. A leering, malevolent Duryodhana, sly Shakuni and a dignified figure of pathos, Yudhishthira, stole the scene. (Sagar Vashisht, Ravi Yadav and Benjamin Jacob.) As the dice fall with a guillotine-like regularity, all the wealth of the Pandavas evaporates. When Draupadi herself is staked and lost, Duryodhana, intoxicated with victory, decides to hu-

miliate their queen. He staggers in a louché, unsteady manner, indicating his bare thigh with a repulsive gesture. Leering malice oozed from Dussasana as he evinced satisfaction in physically dragging Draupadi to the palace hall. He is whirled around and collapses with the intervention of Krishna as he dismally fails in trying to disrobe the Pandavas' consort. A Tamil jazz song, whose lyrics embroidered upon the theme of unleashing righteous wrath and which was sung by Harini Iyer, became the leitmotif of the finale. It received a standing ovation as the production signed off with a grim recital of the statistics of atrocities against women being committed in contemporary India. It was a warning against the complacency of a society residing in the illusion of having achieved feminine empowerment, which is still a distant goal for many. Dolly Thakore graced the occasion as a guest and congratulated the artistes on their proficiency.

Farah Khan opens up about raising three kids and being part of the 'sandwich generation'

Farah Khan has opened up about raising her three children while navigating the responsibilities that come with being part of the "sandwich generation" — a phase of life where one often finds themselves caring for both their children and aging parents. Reflecting on the experience, the filmmaker also shared a heartfelt message about recognizing and supporting caregivers, and said she hopes her children learn to acknowledge those who put the needs of their loved ones first. Sharing a couple of her photos with her triplets, Farah wrote, "Me with my three I am part of the sandwich generation. At that age when we either are caregivers to our parents or to our kids... sandwiched in between! One day these three will be sandwiched too, looking after me, n their kids. I am not being dramatic, that's just what it is, n



frankly good luck to them because I am going to be a nightmare." "Today, if u look after someone u love, u do it with nothing. Nobody asking how ur holding up, because everybody is asking about the patient, n quite rightly. We don't think about these people much. We just say she's a good daughter; he's a devoted son. As

if it's a personality trait n not the hardest job either of them will ever do. I don't want that to be what my children inherit. I'd like them to ask the person doing the caring how they are." <She added, "N that starts very small. One question, or even a little hug of acknowledgment.. every strong person sometimes needs to be cared for too. This is something we'll all go through at some point This is for all the caregivers, the pure souls out there putting everyone else first.. hope ur ok n taken care of too This film by @mrmedhq made me think about my kids and all these caregivers. Send it to someone who needs to know they've been seen." Farah Khan and her husband, filmmaker Shirish Kunder, are parents to three children, triplets who were born in February 2008 through in vitro fertilization (IVF).

Dia Mirza on parenting her son

'I strive to teach him the values of care, respect, empathy and kindness'

Bollywood actress and environmentalist Dia Mirza has opened up about the values she hopes to instill in her son, Avyaan. She emphasised the importance of empathy, kindness, respect for boundaries, and understanding consent from an early age. Sharing her thoughts on parenting, Dia said she strives every day to teach her son the importance of treating others with care and respect. "Every single day, I strive to teach my son the value of care, respect, empathy and kindness towards all," she said. The 'Rehnaa Hai Terre Dil Mein' actress stressed that teaching children about consent goes beyond simply understanding the word "no". She said her son should also learn to recognize subtle signs of discomfort and respect personal boundaries. "That means helping him understand how to respond to rejection, respect boundaries, and recognize and honour even the subtle ways in which a person may convey discomfort," she said. Dia further explained that consent should be understood as an active and willing choice rather than merely the absence of refusal. "I want him to understand that consent is not merely the absence of a 'no'; it is the presence of a willing and comfortable



'yes,'" she added. The actress also highlighted the importance of teaching children that nobody is obligated to give them attention, affection, or intimacy. She said rejection should not be viewed as an insult or something that needs to be challenged or negotiated. "That no one owes him their attention, affection, or intimacy, and that rejection is neither an insult nor something to be challenged, negotiated, or taken personally," Dia said. Calling it an important responsibility for parents raising sons, Dia said such conversations can contribute towards creating a safer and more equitable environment for girls. "This

is something every parent raising a son must strive for today. Only then can we build a world that is safer, more equitable, and healthier for our girls," she concluded. Dia Mirza also shared an image carrying the message: "Don't raise girls to avoid harm. Raise boys who won't cause harm." Dia Mirza is a mother to two children—her biological son, Avyaan Azaad Rekhi, and her stepdaughter, Samaira Rekhi, whom she shares a close bond with. Avyaan is Dia's son with businessman Vaibhav Rekhi. Samaira is Vaibhav Rekhi's daughter from his previous marriage and is Dia's stepdaughter.

CROSSWORD

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DOWN

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Edges (4)

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Star Wars princess (4)

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Stupid, clumsy fellows; louts (4)

5

Gaelic (6)

6

Chinese dynasty (3)

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City of Brazil (abbr) (3)

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Harvest (4)

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Skillfully (4)

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Ways of walking (5)

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Tyre inflators ? (5)

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Solution to September 30

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Solution to September 30

From coding to critical thinking:

What future engineers need to learn

SHARATH SIRIVOLU

Engineering has always been about solving problems. But the way engineers solve problems is changing. Technology is evolving quickly, and tools such as artificial intelligence are becoming part of everyday engineering work. This does not make engineering skills less important. Instead, it changes what those skills need to include.

For the next generation of engineers, knowing how to code will remain valuable. But being able to think, question, understand and adapt will be equally important.

Coding Is Just the Beginning

Coding has traditionally been one of the most important skills for engineering students, particularly as technology has become central to almost every industry. However, as AI-powered tools become capable of supporting coding and other technical tasks, engineers will need to look beyond writing code.

The real value lies in understanding what needs to be built, why it is needed and how it can solve a particular problem. Technology should be treated as a tool to achieve an outcome, rather than the outcome itself.

This shift means students need to focus on building a strong foundation in problem-solving alongside



their technical skills.

Learning to Ask the Right Questions

One of the most important skills an engineer can develop is the ability to ask the right questions. Before looking for a solution, engineers need to understand the problem. What is causing it? Who is affected by it? What information is available? What information is missing? Are there different ways to solve it? This requires curiosity and research. Engineers need to be comfortable gathering information, examining different possibilities and making decisions based on what they learn.

Understanding the World Behind the Technology

Technical knowledge becomes more valuable when it is combined with an understanding of the field in which it is being applied. An engineer working in

healthcare, for example, needs to understand the needs of patients, doctors and healthcare systems alongside the technology being developed. Similarly, engineers working in manufacturing, mobility or energy need to understand the challenges and priorities of those sectors. Equally important here is also the understanding of how the technology works. This is almost always rooted in the fundamental engineering principles. For example, an AI system is a composite of foundational principles drawn from mathematics, data, network communications and hardware system areas. Domain knowledge helps engineers move

from building something that works to creating something that is genuinely useful.

Solving Problems from the User's Perspective

Good engineering is not only about technical performance. It is also about how people experience and use a solution.

Design thinking can help engineers look at problems from the user's perspective. It encourages them to understand needs,

explore different ideas, test solutions and improve them based on feedback.

Giving students opportunities to work on real-world projects can help develop this mindset. Practical experiences teach lessons that cannot always be learned through textbooks or classrooms. Empathizing with a user (putting yourselves in their shoes) and understanding the problem they are trying to solve remains a key human-skill to hone early in the career.

Preparing Engineers for a Changing Workplace

Future engineers will also need to communicate clearly and work with people outside their own areas of expertise. An idea has greater impact when an engineer can explain it to a customer, researcher, business leader or colleague in a way that everyone can understand.

They will also need to keep learning. The tools used today may change significantly over the course of a career, but the

ability to learn, adapt and solve new problems will remain relevant.

The engineer of the future, therefore, will not be defined only by how well they code. They will be defined by how well they understand problems, ask questions, connect technology with real-world needs and turn ideas into meaningful solutions.

(The author is Head of R&D Centre for Application & Research - ZEISS Meditech)

UoH enters top 1,000 in THE World University Rankings 2027

The University of Hyderabad (UoH), an Institution of Eminence, has improved its position in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2027, moving into the 801–1000 global band from the 1001–1200 range in the previous edition.

The latest ranking, released today, places UoH among the world's top 1,000 universities in what THE describes as its largest rankings edition to date. The improvement marks a continued upward movement for the university in international rankings and highlights its focus on research, teaching and academic development.

The THE World University Rankings 2027 evaluate a record 2,297 universities across 118 countries and territories, compared with 2,191 institutions across 115 countries and territories in the 2026 edition. India remains the second most-represented country in

the rankings for the second consecutive year, with 143 institutions included.

THE evaluates research-intensive universities using 17 performance indicators grouped into five broad areas: Research Quality, accounting for 30 per cent; Teaching, 29.5 per cent; Research Environment, 29 per cent; International Outlook, 7.5 per cent; and Industry, 4 per cent.

The assessment draws on institutional data submitted and approved by participating universities, Elsevier bibliometric information and responses from THE's annual Academic Reputation Survey.

According to data used for the 2027 rankings, UoH has 5,575 students, with a ratio of 13.2 students per staff member. The university has a gender distribution of 46 women to 54 men.

UoH has also secured positions across several subject areas in THE's 2026 subject



Students explore real-world applications for innovative ideas

Students developing new ideas and solutions are gaining opportunities to test their concepts against practical industry expectations through innovation-focused competitions and programmes.

Following the inaugural competition held in Hyderabad, organisers are preparing to expand the programme format to national organisers in other regions. The initiative is designed to give more students an opportunity to present their ideas, explain how their concepts address real-world problems and receive feedback from professionals with industry experience. A key part of the programme is the interaction between students and experts. Rather than focusing only on competition results, the format provides participants with an opportunity to discuss their ideas directly with professionals and understand how concepts may be viewed from a market perspective. Experts involved in the programme provided students with feedback on areas including the relevance of their ideas, potential applications and the challenges involved in developing concepts beyond the classroom. Such interactions can help students understand the difference between an initial idea and a solution that could potentially address a specific need. The Hyderabad competition served as the first stage of the programme, bringing stu-

TODAY IS INTERNATIONAL MUSIC DAY

How music inspires, connects and heals

Music is a universal language that has the power to encourage, inspire, and bring people together. No matter what language we speak, where we come from, or what our background is, music can create a sense of connection. A familiar song can bring back memories, lift our mood, or help us feel that we are not alone.

Music plays an important role in our everyday lives. We listen to it when we are happy, sad, excited, or simply looking for a moment of relaxation. Singing and playing

musical instruments can also give people a way to express their thoughts and feelings. In schools and communities, music can encourage teamwork and friendship because people work together to create something meaningful.

Studies have also shown that music can have positive effects on both the brain and the body. Listening to music may help reduce stress, improve mood, and support relaxation. Certain types of music can help people feel more focused and motivated, while calming music may help

create a peaceful environment. Learning to play an instrument or singing can also engage different areas of the brain and support memory, attention, and coordination.

The benefits of music are not limited to listening. When people sing, dance, play instruments, or take part in musical activities, they can experience positive physical, mental, and emotional responses.

Group activities such as choirs, bands, and concerts can create a strong feeling of belonging and cooperation.





This is my first Asian Games and I won mixed and team medals. I could not have asked for more. I did not have much time between the women's team gold and the mixed final. I was in a rush and we just got time to sit there and prepare ourselves

-Chikitha Taniparthi, Telangana archer

Sports Nation

Asian Games 2026

Golden hat-trick in compound archery

Indian mixed, women's and men's teams claim top finish; cherry on top was the mixed combination of Chikitha Taniparthi and Sahil Jadhav, also securing an Olympic quota place for the country

NAGOYA: India's compound archers displayed admirable poise under pressure to complete a golden sweep in the Asian Games team competitions, successfully defending their crowns in men's, women's and mixed events here on Wednesday with performances that ranged from domineering to gritty.

Cherry on top was the mixed combination of Chikitha Taniparthi and Sahil Jadhav also securing an Olympic quota place for the country following their top finish.

India thus became the first country to qualify for the 2028 Olympics in the compound mixed team event, which will mark the disci-



The Indian women's compound team celebrate with their gold medals



pline's debut in the Los Angeles Games.

The women's trio of Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Chikitha and Prithika Pradeep kicked off the gold rush that culminated with the men's combination of Kushal Dalal, Sahil Jadhav and Ganesh Mani Ratnam Thirumuru rally-

ing to outwit the Chinese trio of Jiahao Liao, Jinyi Liu and Jingyu Shi in the finals 238-237. For Chikitha and Sahil, the day brought two gold medals as they had earlier showed nerves of steel to prevail over Korea's Jungyoon Park and Choi Eun Gyu in a thrilling mixed team final, winning 158-157 after a shoot-off.

The Indian duo had entered the gold-medal match after beating Thailand 156-155 in the semifinals.

This was after the Indian women's compound team produced a sensational performance to outclass the Chinese trio of Wunier, Yue Wang and Fangyao Wei 238-234 and retain its gold with a world record-equaling score. Jyothi, Chikitha and Prithika dominated the women's summit clash to secure the top spot on the podium. Of these, Jyothi was a part of the gold-winning women's team in Hangzhou as well.

The Indians equalled the world record held by South Korea in achieving the feat. Korea had secured the record total during the Incheon Asian Games in 2014.

Sunil wins second bronze

NAGOYA: Sunil Kumar became the first Indian Greco Roman wrestler to win two Asian Games medal after clinching a bronze in the men's 87kg event but Nisha Dahiya endured a medal-less campaign on the opening day of the wrestling competition here Wednesday. Sunil assured his podium place with a technical superiority win (9-0) over Philippines' Roberts Callum Johnston, who



was no match to the strength and technical skill of the Indian. Locking his rival's right arm, Sunil effected two take downs to quickly open up a 4-0 lead. A defensive

Johnston was put on ground in 'Par Terre' position from where Sunil made more scoring moves to finish the bout in the first period itself. Sunil had won a bronze in Hangzhou 2023 Games, ending a 13-year wait for India for medal in the Greco Roman style.

Indian women in hockey final

NAGOYA: The inform Indian women's hockey team placed itself on the verge of ending a 44-year wait for an Asian Games gold, beating South Korea 2-0 to enter the final of the continental showpiece here on Wednesday. Ishika Chaudhary (44th minute) and skipper Salima Tete (48th) were the goal scorers for India. India are now just a victory away from securing its only second Asian Games women's hockey gold medal.

The previous triumph came way back in the 1982 New Delhi games. India will take on defending champions China in the final on Friday. China beat Japan 4-2 in a shoot-out after both sides failed to break the deadlock in the entire 60 minutes of the first semifinal. South Korea will face Japan in the bronze medal match.



Squash: India assured of medals

NAGOYA: The Indian men's and women's teams eased into the Asian Games semifinals with convincing wins over Kuwait and Singapore respectively, assuring themselves of a medal here on Wednesday. The Indian men, top seed and defending champions, collected a 2-0 win over Kuwait in the quarterfinals. Among the two singles, Veer Chotrani had to dig deep against Bader Almoghrebi before prevailing 12-10, 8-11, 11-0, 11-5 in a 34-minute contest. Abhay Singh, India's highest ranked players and silver medalist in the singles competition, sealed the tie 11-3, 11-4, 11-8 win over Ammar Altamimi. In the women's singles, the Anahat Singled team tamed Singapore 2-0 in its quarterfinal.

Nagal moves to last eight

NAGOYA: Indian tennis player Sumit Nagal advanced to the men's singles quarterfinals at the Asian Games with a fluent 6-3 6-2 win over Uzbekistan's Sergey Fomin here on Wednesday, while Dhakshineswar Suresh bowed out after losing his third-round match. The 249th-ranked Nagal, seeded seventh, controlled the contest against Fomin and moved into the last eight with a straight-set victory.

India renew hockey rivalry against Pak

KAKAMIGAHARA: Defending champions India will renew the fiercest rivalry in men's international hockey when they take on Pakistan in a mouth-watering semifinal of the Asian Games here on Thursday, with eyes firmly set on securing a direct ticket to the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

Neeru-Kynan pair wins trap mixed team gold

NAGOYA: The Indian pair of Neeru Dhandu and Kynan Chenai clinched the Asian Games trap mixed team gold on Wednesday, smashing the continental record in the process and ensuring that the last leg of country's shooting campaign here makes up for the early disappointments to an extent.

The Indian team shot a score of 34 in the final after qualifying in the fourth position. Qatar's Mohammed Al-Rumaihi and Ray Bassil took the silver with a score of 32.



The medal marks a remarkable end to the Asian Games campaign of the 26-year-old Neeru, who became India's first woman shooter to claim an individual trap medal at the showpiece with her gold that came on the back of an Asian record-shattering score on Tuesday.

LOVLINA TO FIGHT FOR GOLD

NISHIO: Lovlina Borgohain scripted history by becoming the first Indian woman boxer to reach back-to-back Asian Games finals, while debutants Priya Ghanghas and Kapil Pokhariya settled for bronze medals here on Wednesday. Last edition's silver-medallist Lovlina edged reigning 70kg world champion Natalya Bogdanova of Kazakhstan 3-2 in a closely fought 75kg semifinal to assure herself of at least a silver.

However, 20-year-old Priya, making her Asian Games debut, went down 1-4 to former world champion Yang Chengyu of China in a bruising 60kg semifinal.

Another Indian debutant, Kapil suffered a similar 1-4 defeat against reigning world champion Turabek Khabibullaev of Uzbekistan in the 90kg semifinal to settle for bronze.

India will thus have three boxers -- Lovlina, Parveen Hooda (65kg) and Ankush Panghal (80kg) fighting for gold in Friday.



Family preserves man's body in freezer for 4 yrs, spends Rs 50 lakh

MUMBAI

THE family of an 80-year-old Mumbai man who died four years ago has preserved his body due to 'deep emotional attachment', spending over Rs 50 lakh in the process, police said on Wednesday.

Ruling out any foul play, the

Ruling out any foul play, the police said the man passed away in 2022 after suffering from cancer, kidney failure and other age-related ailments

police said the man passed away in 2022 after suffering from

cancer, kidney failure and other age-related ailments.

The family initially kept the body in a freezer in their home in Mumbai's Malad area, said an official from Kurar police station.

According to the police, the man's wife and two children, one of whom is a lawyer, decided against performing the last rites due to 'deep emotional

attachment'.

When their residential building underwent redevelopment, the family moved the body to a local dispensary, which closed down about a month ago, they said.

"The family has spent more than Rs 50 lakh to keep the body preserved and was explor-

ing options to send it to a facility in the United States offering long-term cryopreservation services," a police official said.

Cryopreservation broadly refers to storing cells, tissues or organs at extremely low temperatures.

Police uncovered the unusual case after receiving a tip-off.



One chapter has ended: Pahalgam victim's daughter on Moosa death

MUMBAI: Asavari Jagdale, daughter of Pahalgam terror attack victim Santosh Jagdale, on Wednesday expressed gratitude to the Indian Army and security agencies following the killing of Pakistani Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist Hashim Moosa in an encounter in Jammu and Kashmir's Budgam.

Speaking to ANI, Jagdale said she considered the day one of the happiest for her, recalling the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people were killed.

"Today, I will consider it the happiest day for me. On April 22, 2025, the way our people were killed in the Baisaran Valley, 26 lives were lost. They were killed after asking about their religion. The way they brutally killed our people, today I came to know that the mastermind behind it has been eliminated in an encounter. I would say this should be the happiest day for the country," she said. Expressing her gratitude



towards the security forces, she said, "I want to thank the Army and all the intelligence forces working on this. I request you to continue this operation and eliminate all the terrorists in this country until the last terrorist is eliminated." Jagdale recalled that she had performed her father's shradh (death anniversary ritual) the previous day and had spoken to

his photograph about the ongoing operations against terrorism. "Yesterday was my father's shradh, and I was talking to him. I told him that whatever operations are happening against terrorism are because of the sacrifice of all of you. The 26 people who were killed, the sacrifice of those 26 people is the reason these operations are taking place," she said.

Maha govt orders banks not to visit farmers for loan recovery

PUNE: Maharashtra Revenue Minister Chandrashekar Bawankule directed banks not to visit farmers' homes for loan recovery due to the prevailing drought situation and asked officials to explore whether the RBI could issue a circular suspending such recovery proceedings.

During a meeting of the Bawankule-headed drought relief cabinet sub-committee on Tuesday, directives were also issued for implementing a 10 per cent water cut in urban areas and to maintain the conserved water as a buffer until June next year, according to an official release.

At present, water is being supplied through 560 tankers in the state, it stated, as the panel members suggested proper planning to preserve drinking water supplies for 10 months, before the next monsoon.

The Maharashtra government has declared drought in 265 of its 358 talukas, or 74 per cent of the state, amid rainfall deficit, and announced relief measures,



including crop loan restructuring, land revenue concessions, and power bill subsidies.

It has activated 'Trigger-1' under its manual for drought management 2016 (updated in 2020) and Drought Management Code to declare drought conditions and initiate relief.

Trigger-1 is the first stage in the state's drought framework, activated by a rainfall deficit of more than 25 per cent combined with a prolonged dry spell of 21 days.

According to Principal Secretary Vinita Ved Singh, scarcity conditions have been reported in 265 talukas of the state based on information received from divisional commissioners. Drought conditions have become evident under the 'Trigger-1' criteria, while 43 talukas have qualified under 'Trigger-2'.

'Jail Bharo Andolan' on Oct 2 from Shivaji Park

MUMBAI: Cockroach Janta Party founder Abhijeet Dipke on Wednesday announced that a "Jail Bharo Andolan" will begin from Mumbai's Shivaji Park on Gandhi Jayanti, alleging that the Election Commission's functioning was not in the interest of the country.

After reaching Mumbai, Dipke said that the protest movement would start from Shivaji Park on October 2 and appealed to all political parties to participate in the agitation.

He alleged that the "dictatorship" of the Election Commission was a matter of concern and claimed that collective efforts were needed to bring change in the country.

Supporting the remarks made by NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar regarding alleged misuse of artificial intelligence (AI) in elections, Deepak said that everyone should come together to address concerns related to the electoral process.

Eiffel Tower chief to quit after exclusion of female staff

PARIS: The head of the company that operates the Eiffel Tower is to leave his post at the end of the year after female employees were excluded from a visit by a Hindu religious group at the Paris landmark.

Patrick Branco Ruivo, director general of the Société d'Exploitation de la Tour Eiffel (SETE), will step down following an investigation by an independent firm into operational failures surrounding the group's visit on September 5.

The investigation found that the failures had led to female members of staff being kept away from the delegation, which SETE described in a statement as an "unacceptable situation". Ruivo has headed the company since the end of 2018.

The 330-metre (1,083-foot) tower, one of Paris's most recognisable landmarks and a major tourist attraction that draws around seven million visitors each year, was closed on



September 7 after staff went on strike. A union official described the management instructions surrounding the visit as "unacceptable". Tensions had risen among employees after management instructed female workers not to come into contact with members of the delegation from Bochasawanasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha.

Known as BAPS, the organisation is a global religious and civic group within the Swaminarayan tradition of Hinduism. Its members had been in Paris for celebrations marking the inauguration of a traditional Hindu stone temple.

BAPS did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the announcement.

"Ayush is not merely a cultural inheritance but a dynamic and high-growth engine of India's economy. The Ayush sector is poised to play an increasingly important role in healthcare, wellness, employment and global economic engagement, while contributing to our vision of a healthy and self-reliant India."

-Prataprao Jadhav, Union Minister of State (IC) for Ayush

BIZ BRIEFS

Diageo unveils updated product

Diageo India has revamped McDowell's No.1 with an upgraded blend combining imported Scotch, Indian malts and grain spirits, alongside redesigned packaging and a refreshed visual identity. Ruchira Jaitly, CMO, Diageo India, said: "Today's whisky drinker is redefining value. It's no longer just about affordability, but also about quality, craftsmanship and experience. Socializing is at the heart of how India drinks, and consumers want a whisky they can proudly share with their circle, one that reflects who they are."

OPPO launches K14 Plus in India

OPPO India has launched the K14 Plus, powered by MediaTek Dimensity 7360 MAX, with a 1.5K 144Hz AMOLED display, 8,000mAh battery, 45W charging, 50MP OIS camera with 4K video and 5,000mm² vapour chamber cooling. It offers up to 8GB RAM, 256GB storage, IP69K/IP69/IP68/IP66 protection and ColorOS 16. Available in Solar Orange and Star White, it goes on sale October 8 via Flipkart and OPPO's e-store, starting effectively at Rs 25,999 with bank discount.

ICICI Prudential's death claims rise

ICICI Prudential Life said its average individual death claim stood at Rs15 lakh in FY2026, up from about Rs10 lakh in FY2021. The insurer said the average payout has remained around Rs14-15 lakh over the past four years. Sarang Gokhale, Chief - Underwriting and Retail Claims, ICICI Prudential, said: "Life insurance is built on a simple promise to provide financial security to families when they need it the most."

Amazon sale from October 7

Amazon India has announced Navaratri-focused offers ahead of its Great Indian Festival beginning October 8, with discounts of up to 70 per cent across fashion and beauty brands. Prime members can get up to 10 per cent additional benefits. The platform is also offering AI-powered shopping tools, including Rufus, Lens AI, price tracking and review highlights, while Amazon Now provides rapid delivery of festive essentials across more than 65 cities.

Bontrue Furniture gets recognition

Hyderabad-based Bontrue Furniture won the "Excellence in Customer Trust & Care - Furniture Retail" award at the Times Business Awards 2026. Former India women's cricket captain Mithali Raj presented the award to director Rakesh Patel at Novotel HICC on September 26. Rakesh Patel, Director, Bontrue Furniture, said: "This award belongs to our customers. More than 18,000 families have trusted us with their homes, and over 6,500 of them took the time to tell others about it."

Venu Srinivasan takes Tata Trusts row to Maha Charity Commissioner

Questions Noel Tata's perpetual trusteeship, Neville Tata's appointment

MUMBAI

THE widening boardroom dispute at Tata Sons has spilled into Tata Trusts, with trustee and Tata Sons nominee director Venu Srinivasan seeking a regulatory inquiry into the governance of the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT), one of the charitable entities that collectively control about 66 per cent of Tata Sons.

In a letter to Maharashtra's Charity Commissioner, Srinivasan has questioned the appointment and continued status of Noel N. Tata as a perpetual trustee, the appointment of Noel Tata's son Neville Tata, and what he described as attempts to constrain his independent role as a nominee director on the Tata Sons board.

At the centre of the dispute is a September 16 SDTT circular resolution that Srinivasan said sought to prevent him from participating in or voting on the proposed listing of Tata Sons. He described it as an attempt to "prevent me from exercising my independent judgement and vote".

The following day, at a Tata Sons board meeting,



Venu Srinivasan

Srinivasan supported the reappointment of Chairman N Chandrasekaran for a third five-year term and backed moving ahead with the listing process. Noel Tata opposed both positions. The board passed the resolutions, with the Chandrasekaran vote requiring a casting vote. Tata Trusts later disputed the validity of the board decisions, maintaining that its nominees were required to agree on such matters.

Srinivasan has also questioned the Trusts' involvement in Tata Sons' commercial affairs. Referring to a September 17 Tata Trusts statement that all available options, and not listing alone, should be explored, he

Noel Tata flags concerns over Tata Sons listing plan

MUMBAI

TATA Trusts Chairman Noel Tata has urged the Tata Sons board to review a restructuring proposal aimed at avoiding a stock market listing of the holding company.

Noel Tata said he remained hopeful that the Reserve Bank of India would reconsider its decision to classify Tata Sons as an upper-layer non-banking financial company (NBFC).

According to him, listing Tata Sons would fundamentally change the way the Tata group



Noel Tata

has operated for decades and could create a conflict between investor expectations for profits and the philanthropic objectives of Tata Trusts.

Tata Trusts, which owns 66 per cent of Tata Sons,

has proposed merging Tata Electronics Systems Solutions and Tata Consulting Engineers with Tata Sons. The restructuring would give Tata Sons its own operations and revenue and could allow it to avoid classification as an NBFC or core investment company. Tata Sons was placed on the RBI's upper-layer NBFC list in September 2022 and was given three years to list. The company subsequently cleared its debt and applied in 2024 to surrender its core investment company status and remain private.

alleged that the Trusts and their operating team had assumed a direct role in commercial and strategic matters concerning Tata Sons.

He argued that such involvement could conflict with the charitable objectives of SDTT and poten-

tially expose it to tax consequences. He alleged that the Trust was being exposed to "potentially immense fiscal consequences" and described the conduct as mismanagement of its affairs and property.

Srinivasan has sought

an immediate inquiry into SDTT's administration and governance, including Noel Tata's perpetual trusteeship, Neville Tata's appointment, his own exclusion from decision-making and the Trusts' involvement in Tata Sons' commercial affairs.

Fiscal deficit hits 41.9% of FY27 target by August

NEW DELHI: THE central government's fiscal deficit stood at Rs 7.1 lakh crore or 41.9 per cent of full year target at the end of August, according to data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) on Wednesday. The deficit was at 38.1 per cent of Budget Estimates (BE) of 2025-26 during the corresponding period last year. In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit, or the gap between the government's expenditure and revenue, was Rs 7,10,249 crore during April-August period of the 2026-27. According to the CGA, the Centre's net tax revenue up to August 2026 was about Rs 8.38 lakh crore, or 29.2 per cent of the corresponding BE of 2026-27 of total receipts. In the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year, the net tax revenue was at 28.6 per cent of that year's BE. The data on monthly accounts showed that the total expenditure during the first five months was at about Rs 20.78 lakh crore, or 38.9 per cent of BE. In the year-ago period, it was at 37.1 per cent of BE. The Centre has set a fiscal deficit target of 4.3 per cent of the GDP or Rs 16.96 lakh crore in the current fiscal.

Bank credit to industry up 18.2% : RBI data

MUMBAI: Bank credit to industry grew 18.2 per cent in August, up from 7 per cent in the same period last year, according to Reserve Bank data released on Wednesday.

The RBI has released data on sectoral deployment of bank credit for August 2026, collected from 41 select scheduled commercial banks, which together account for about 95 per cent of the total non-food credit by all SCBs.

On a year-on-year (y-o-y) basis, non-food bank credit grew 18.8 per cent as on the fortnight ended August 31, 2026, compared to 10.2 per cent during the corresponding fortnight of the previous year (September 5, 2025).

"While credit to 'large' and 'medium' industries grew at an accelerated pace, 'micro and small' industries sustained steady expansion," the RBI said.

Lighter cars get relief under new CAFE norms

Centre drops separate small-car concession, adopts flatter weight-based formula

NEW DELHI

THE government has notified the third phase of Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE-III) norms for passenger vehicles, giving lighter cars relatively softer efficiency targets while requiring greater improvements from heavier vehicles.

The norms, notified by the Ministry of Power, will come into effect from April 1, 2027 and remain applicable until March 31, 2032. They will cover new passenger vehicles manufactured or imported for sale in India.

The revised framework replaces the proposed special concession for small cars with a flatter weight-based target curve, providing lighter vehicles greater relief compared with the Septem-



ber 2025 draft. The reference weight has been raised from 1,082 kg under the existing norms to 1,229 kg, an increase of around 13.6 per cent.

The September 2025 draft had proposed a 3 gram per km deduction in declared CO2 emissions for petrol cars weighing up to 909 kg, with engine capacity up to

1,200 cc and length up to four metres. The final norms have dropped this separate concession.

The new framework targets more than 16 per cent improvement in fuel efficiency over the five-year period. The fuel-consumption benchmark will tighten from 3.996 litres per 100 km in 2027-28 to 3.3273 litres per 100 km in 2031-32, an improvement of around 16.7 per cent.

The norms provide multiple compliance routes, including incentives for electric vehicles, hybrids, flex-fuel vehicles, alternative fuels and fuel-saving technologies.

Battery electric vehicles, range-extended EVs, plug-in hybrids, strong hybrids and flex-fuel vehicles will receive

volume derogation factors, or "super credits", in fleet-average calculations.

The framework also introduces a Carbon Neutrality Factor to recognise renewable and low-carbon fuels such as ethanol-blended petrol, biofuels and CBG. Recognised fuel-conservation technologies have been expanded from four to 12.

Manufacturers can meet obligations through specified two-year or three-year compliance blocks. Those exceeding targets can carry forward credits, trade them with other manufacturers or sell them through the Bureau of Energy Efficiency's buyout mechanism.

Manufacturers selling fewer than 1,000 units annually will remain exempt from fleet-average obligations.

AI to reshape, not erase, India's BPM industry: Nasscom

NEW DELHI

ARTIFICIAL intelligence has not made India's business process management (BPM) industry obsolete as many had feared, but is instead driving one of the sector's most significant reinventions, Nasscom President Rajesh Nambiar said on Wednesday. Speaking at the Nasscom BPM Confluence 2026 here, Nambiar said the industry now has an opportunity to



become the world's "intelligent operations and transformation hub". He recalled that when generative and agentic AI emerged about two years ago, many had predicted that the BPM industry would "be history" and that companies

would be completely wiped out. "But two years hence, we know that that wasn't anywhere close to the truth," he said, adding that the industry has "actually gotten better" and would improve further. Nambiar acknowledged that a significant part of the work done in the sector, including routine transactions, standard workflows and basic customer interactions, would be automated by AI agents. However, he said the question was not

what AI would do to BPM, but what the industry could become because of it. Noting that Indian BPM industry's revenue was close to USD 60 billion last year, Nambiar said the more important story lay beneath the numbers. AI and analytics, cloud-based operations, domain-specific platforms and automation-led outcomes were becoming more important than call centres, where the industry originated, he said.

Adani-backed Vishakha Renewables eyes ₹1,250-cr IPO

NEW DELHI: Adani Group-promoted Vishakha Renewables Ltd has filed draft papers with capital markets regulator Sebi to raise Rs 1,250 crore through a fresh issue of shares, as the solar component maker looks to pare debt.

The proposed initial public offering (IPO) also comprises an offer-for-sale (OFS) of up to 1.82 crore equity shares by promoters and an existing shareholder, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) filed on Wednesday. Adani Properties Pvt Ltd, a promoter of Vishakha Renewables, is also offloading

shares in the OFS.

The company may also consider a pre-IPO placement of up to Rs 250 crore. If such a placement is completed, the size of the fresh issue will be reduced accordingly. The Vishakha Group-promoted firm plans to utilise Rs 900 crore of the net proceeds from the fresh issue towards repayment or pre-payment of certain borrowings, while the remaining funds will be used for general corporate purposes. As of June 30, 2026, the company had consolidated outstanding borrowings of Rs 2,700.57 crore.



D. Sridhar Babu, IT Minister of Telangana with officials of DoorDash in Hyderabad on Wednesday

DoorDash picks Hyderabad for first India hub

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

US-based DoorDash, one of the world's leading local commerce platforms on Wednesday opened its talent hub here, its first India office. The company is starting with 500 professionals and plans to scale its headcount to more than 3,000 within next two years, a company release said.

Telangana Industries and Commerce Minister D Sridhar Babu inaugurated the facility alongside Ravi Inukonda, Chief Financial Officer at DoorDash, Jenna Kohnke, Senior Director, Workforce Strategy and Talent Acquisition Operations at DoorDash and Sai Krishna, IT Advisor to Telangana government.

The Hyderabad hub will initially house Customer Experience and Integrity (CXI) and General and Administrative teams, it said. Its CXI

operation will be DoorDash's third internal CXI service centre globally. The hub will support DoorDash's global operations and help deliver reliable experiences for consumers, merchants, and Dashers across DoorDash's geographies, it said. Team members in Hyderabad will support a global platform that serves over 56 million monthly active consumers across geographies with a combined population reaching over one billion people, it further said. Sridhar Babu said DoorDash choosing Hyderabad to build capabilities to drive its rapid growth is a strong validation of how the city has evolved as a global talent hub. "As one of the world's leading local commerce platforms, with operations across 40 plus countries, DoorDash is a strong addition to Hyderabad's growing hyperlocal digital commerce ecosystem."

Two Timex World Stores opened in Hyderabad

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

WATCHMAKER Timex Group India Ltd., has announced the launch of its first Timex World stores in Hyderabad. Located in Habisguda and Himayat Nagar, the new stores will offer customers access to an extensive portfolio of globally renowned and homegrown watch brands under one roof.

Deepak Chhabra, MD, Timex Group India, said: "As consumer preferences evolve, we continue to see strong value in in-person retail, particularly for categories like watches where customers want to discover collections and experience products firsthand. With the launch of our first Timex World stores in Hyderabad, we are creating a dedicated destination that brings together choice, convenience and a seamless brand experience. Hyderabad is an important market for us, with a growing base of discerning consumers and strong demand for global and premium brands." Designed as a one-stop destination for watch enthusiasts, the new Timex World stores showcase a diverse collection spanning everyday essentials, fashion-forward styles, and premium timepieces. Consumers can explore collections from Timex, Helix, GUESS, Gc, Aston Martin and Daniel Wellington, catering to a wide range of styles and price points.

Apple Pay joins India's digital payments race

NEW DELHI

US technology major Apple has entered the Indian digital payments market with the launch of Apple Pay in collaboration with Axis Bank.

The service is available on iPhone, iPad and Apple Watch, with support for Mac coming soon, Apple said on Wednesday.

"India is home to a dynamic and digitally savvy population that continues to embrace a cashless future while expecting the highest standards of security and privacy, and we're so excited



to bring Apple Pay to users in India today," said Jennifer Bailey, Apple's vice president of Apple Pay and Apple Wallet.

Customers with Axis Bank-issued Visa and Mastercard credit cards can add their cards to Apple Pay and make payments at stores, in

apps and on the web without entering PINs or OTPs at checkout.

Apple said the service will be accepted by millions of merchants across India, including Apple Store locations, Blinkit, Chaayos, Comet, Croma, Interflora, Igigo, Le15 Patisserie, Reliance brands, Tata 1mg and Zomato.

The company has also worked with payment service providers including Cashfree, JusPay, Mswipe, Paytm, PayU, Pine Labs, Razorpay and Worldline to enable Apple Pay across their merchant networks.

Apple said card numbers are not stored on the device or its servers and are not shared with merchants. Instead, a unique Device Account Number is assigned, encrypted and securely stored in the device's Secure Element. Transaction details are also not retained by Apple. If an iPhone is lost or stolen, users can use the Find My app to locate, lock or suspend payments from the device. Apple Pay is currently available in more than 90 countries and regions and works with more than 11,000 bank and network partners globally.



OTT crisis in Tollywood

SHRINKING STREAMING DEALS THREATEN BIG-BUDGET FILMS

SUHAS SISTU

For years, online video platforms have taken up a crucial role in the economics of Tollywood, with post-theatrical streaming deals serving as an important source of recovery for producers. But the way in which the streaming market is evolving is now compelling the Telugu film industry to reevaluate its reliance on digital revenues.

It especially has ramifications for medium-budget films, which previously relied

on lucrative OTT deals to offset the costs of production. The notion that streaming agreements could cushion weak box-office performances has also led to the criticism that filmmakers were taking fewer risks with theatrical prospects.

That assumption seems to be proving out. Streaming platforms are becoming more reluctant to spend large amounts of money on acquiring films, and OTT budgets reportedly are being trimmed and deals increasingly tied to a film's theatrical

performance and commercial viability.

For example, Yash's Toxic OTT valuation has reportedly dropped significantly from an initial pre-release offer of Rs150 Cr down to around Rs30 Cr following its underwhelming theatrical run.

The ramifications go beyond mid-range productions. Even big-budget Telugu films are being threatened as producers expect substantially higher digital valuations than what streaming platforms are willing to offer. Such a disparity could leave films

that are mounted on ambitious budgets in financial distress. Speaking on it, '1948 Akhanda Bharat' director Eswar said, "The OTT market is definitely going through a correction. Earlier, filmmakers could factor in a strong digital deal while planning their budgets, but that safety net is becoming smaller. For young directors like us, this is actually a reminder to focus on the script and make films within realistic budgets. A film should first work for the audience in theatres, and OTT should be seen as an

additional revenue stream rather than the foundation of the entire business model."

If the trend persists, theatrical revenue could again become the default priority for producers looking to recoup their investments. It would also compel filmmakers to be more disciplined with their budgets and give more thought to content and theatrical appeal.

For Telugu cinema, the shifting OTT landscape could thus be a major turning point in how films are planned, financed and marketed.



'Ranabaali: The History We Forgot' episode highlights untold stories of British India

The second episode of the Ranabaali – Never Forget the Truth documentary series, The History We Forgot, is out on the YouTube platform. Starring Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna, the episode uncovers lesser-known facts about India's history under the British rule.

In the episode, the lead actors discuss the exploitation of India's agriculture produce and take a close look at the railway network laid down during the colonial period. While Vijay Deverakonda talks about the narrative around the introduction of railways in the country, the documentary reveals the other side of the coin. The



actress plays an essential role in the documentary film. Rashmika Mandanna shares her research for the role in Ranabaali and

states that sifting through the annals of history and getting into the events that occurred long ago made her more empathetic to the

struggles of people from long ago.

Ranabaali's four-episode documentary aims to uncover forgotten tales

of the bygone era that are intrinsically linked to the movie's universe. Apart from The History We Forgot, the third episode titled The Men We Forgot will be out on October 2. The release date of the finale, The Last Load, will be announced soon.

The film is directed by Rahul Sankrityan. It stars Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna who share their insights about the country's history via a prism of pertinent questions. The film is produced by Naveen Yerneni and Y. Ravi Shankar under the banner of Mythri Movie Makers, presented by T-Series and will be released worldwide on October 16, on the day of Vijayadashami.

'Tatvam' director Arjun Kola promises a thrilling murder mystery

Director Arjun Kola is confident that the suspense and mystery in Tatvam will keep the audience on tenterhooks. The murder mystery stars Dinesh Tej and Dashwika K. jointly produced by Vamsi Seemakurthi and Swetha Pashupate under their Trayathi Ishani Creations and S.K. Productions.

In the run-up to the October 2 release, Arjun Kola unveiled that their initial plan was to make a rural drama centered on a village panchayat. They later added murder, mystery, and courtroom thriller elements as they worked on a story based on a case in a village context.

The director explained the meaning of the title Tatvam,



saying that it stood for the conflict between truth and lies. He observed that the protagonist unravels the truth in the narrative, which exposes a person's true na-

ture, besides delving into the minds of the characters.

Arjun further revealed that they encountered several obstacles during the production. The cast and crew involved in a car crash while promoting the film caused another postponement. However, the team resumed promotional campaigns and set October 2 for the release.

The director also praised Chetan Bharadwaj's background score, which plays a critical role in the second half of the film as the mystery deepens.

Arjun, who gave up a career in software to pursue movies, announced plans to make Dwarapudi Days, a melodrama set in the Godavari region.

Priyanka Jawalkar grabs attention in sheer pink saree

Priyanka Jawalkar stunned in sheer pink saree. The actress is garnering love for flaunting a pretty traditional look on her social media. Even though she has been seen in cameo roles in many of the web shows that she has been a part of, this picture has definitely got a lot of attention and likes! For the pictures, Priyanka went with a sheer hot-pink saree and paired it with a sleeveless ikat-style blouse that had pretty straps. She was seen posing elegantly in front of a window, where the camera captured the soft lighting on the actress. For styling, the actress kept her looks minimal but still stood out in the pictures. She accessorized with colourful glass bangles in teal, mustard and pink. A touch of makeup, including a minimal black bindi, subtle eye shadow and nude lip balm, completed the beauty's look, while soft and loose wavy hair gave her a pretty finishing touch. The pretty traditional attire along with minimal styling has surely helped Priyanka Jawalkar get a lot of appreciation for her latest photo-shoot.



Satya, Yogi Babu team up for comedy entertainer 'Golden Bhagyam'

Golden Bhagyam stars Telugu comedian Satya and Tamil comedy star Yogi Babu, in a unique comedy entertainer directed by Rangabali fame Pawan Basamsetti. Recently, the makers unveiled the title reveal glimpse, showcasing the film's special Telugu-Tamil concept. Produced by Nagarjuna Reddy and Pawan Basamsetti under Dream Movie Makers and Nayavayu Chitralu, it is the maiden production venture of both the banners. The film is described as 'Telumil' which combines the Telugu and Tamil language and stars the popu-

lar stars from both the industries.

The glimpse starts with a funny conversation between a Telugu man who enjoyed biryani and a Tamil man having idli with sambar, who claim that their respective cuisine is the best. Later, they argue which one is the best cuisine and eventually the funny introduction of Satya and Yogi Babu in white dress starts. Interestingly, in the video, Satya speaks Tamil while Yogi Babu speaks Telugu. It is said that the film has a love, crime and action track with a comedic take on it. Jayashree and Athiraj play the female leads



while Vennela Kishore, Sudharshan, Kishore Tirumala, Rohini, Tanikella Bharani and Sunil Reddy play pivotal roles. Bablu Aju has been roped in for cinematography while the music has been composed by Pawan CH.

'Impure' producer Varahi backs her film with her mother's wedding savings

Impure marks Varahi Mallipamula's debut as a producer, actor and writer, with the film being born from an unusual source of funding - her mother's wedding savings.

Set for a limited Pan-India theatrical release on October 2, the independent film delves into gender, social expectations and the struggles of women. Born in Kakinada and raised in Pennsylvania, Varahi currently splits her time between New York and holds a double major in Engineering and Journalism from Penn State. Despite working in the technology sector in New York, Los Angeles and London,

she continued to pursue filmmaking, penning the first draft of Impure six years ago.

The film follows a woman whose wedding is cancelled after her in-laws discover that she is not a virgin. Varahi said she spent years pitching the women-centric story before deciding to produce it herself. She also starred Telugu actor Yasha Muthuluri in the lead role.

Impure features music by Grammy-nominated artists Raja Kumari and Karan Pandav, with cinematographer Gnana-sekhar VS capturing Telugu locations in an artistic visual approach. Nishanthi Evani makes her directorial debut with the film. The movie premiered at TCL Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles before an



East Coast premiere at Cinema Village in New York.

'Chakkora - Lunar Love Bird' clears censor with U/A certificate

Chakkora - Lunar Love Bird, the upcoming romantic musical entertainer, has cleared its censor formalities and bagged a U/A certificate. Written and directed by Manga Srinivas, the film is produced by Dr. Chintada Hemarao under High Joy Commercials and made under the VIP - Vintage Iconic Pictures banner.

The censor board members reportedly appreciated the team for coming up with a youthful family entertainer without any cuts. The film has a crisp runtime of 2 hours, 17 minutes and 58 seconds while its screenplay was appreciated for keeping the narrative engaging. Starring Sravan and

Malaika T Vasupal in the lead roles, Chakkora - Lunar Love Bird has Anushka Luhar, Yamini, LB Sriram, Suman, Brahmaji, Indraj, Mani Chandana, Nellore Sudarshan, Prabhavathi, Madhavi Prasad, Janardhan and others in pivotal roles.

The film is slated to have a worldwide theatrical release on October 9 through Sri Lakshmi Pictures. In the meanwhile, the movie's audio rights have been acquired by T-Series Music.

After the previous promotional material, the censor clearance adds to the anticipation over the film that promises to blend romance, music and family-oriented entertainment.



'Anakapalli' interval and climax will surprise audience: Lagadapati Sridhar

The upcoming Telugu film Anakapalli is all set for the worldwide theatrical release on October 2, as the makers assure to present an entertainment-filled drama of love, family, action, and suspense. In this regard, the team of the film interacted with the media and shared glimpses of the film.

Lagadapati Sridhar appreciated the team's hard work and assured that the film has a good commercial value. He revealed



that the film was initially planned to release this August,

but it underwent several improvements after the screening

and the audience's response. He further added that the interval and climax of the film will surely amaze the viewers.

The film, which will hit the screens in October, is produced by Kandregula Naidu and Thrinadha Rao Nakkina, Bhavya Sri Movie Makers, and Nakkina Narratives. It stars Vikram Sahidev, Sandhya Vasishtha, and Tarak Ponnappa in leading roles. Directed by Khagesh Tammineni, Thrinadha Rao Nakkina

has written the script.

Thrinadha Rao Nakkina described the film as a love drama with an intriguing family mystery and emotions. He further praised Vikram's hard work and assured that the film will make the actor famous. He also shared that the film has got good pre-shows bookings.

Producer Kandregula Naidu and Sandhya Vasishtha also shared that they expect the film to be a hit among the audience.