

Feudal ideology has no place in Telangana, says Bhatti

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

TELANGANA Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka made it clear that Telangana society would not tolerate feudal and discriminatory ideology under any circumstances. Strongly condemning the manner in which BRS leadership behaved in the Legislative Assembly in a way that insulted the Speaker, he said it was painful that the same mindset continued to be displayed afterwards, severely criticizing BRS leaders conduct in the House.

Bhatti Vikramarka said he had expressed deep anguish on Tuesday over inappropriate remarks made against the Speaker, adding it was even more distressing that within 24 hours posts emerged showing BRS leaders and cadres carrying out a purification ritual on roads walked by Dalits. He emphasized this was not merely an insult to Dalits, but an act hurting the self-respect of entire Telangana society.

Deputy Chief Minister condemns BRS conduct in Assembly and alleged purification ritual following Dalit road walk



Bhatti Vikramarka noted national developments were

worrying, stressing that under the Constitution framed by BR Ambedkar everyone remains equal regarding fundamental rights. He recalled that about a month ago, after Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge attended a

meeting in Uttarakhand, BJP leaders purified the same ground, criticizing the BJP for failing to condemn the act despite Kharge leading a party central to India freedom struggle.

He alleged such actions

reflected a farmhouse feudal mindset, questioning whether a party harboring such ideology had ruled Telangana for ten years.

Bhatti Vikramarka expressed concern over whether the country was moving towards medieval conditions. Reaffirming government commitment to constitutional equality, he asserted that feudal attitudes have no room in progressive governance.

The Deputy Chief Minister urged democratic forces to unite against discriminatory practices, ensuring public discourse remains respectful while safeguarding social justice and constitutional ideals across Telangana.

NIA seeks Army personnel data over missing service weapons in Bolaram

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

NATIONAL Investigation Agency officials probing the missing service weapons incident at Army premises in Bollaram have sought military personnel data to secure vital leads. Meanwhile, Bollaram police provided their complete investigation dossier, including call data records and forensic clues reports, to the agency for further analysis. Although the agency has not registered a separate case, officials questioned senior military officers and Madras Regiment personnel regarding recent weapon usage and security protocols. Investigating teams stated that probing operations remain ongoing, with multiple specialized agencies joining forces to resolve the case swiftly.



Sources revealed that investigators inquired about past security breaches on military premises while placing prime suspects under close surveillance. Various possibilities were discussed thoroughly with senior military officials to establish leads, leveraging advanced technology to identify perpetrators based on physical and

digital evidence. The joint operation aims to trace the missing armaments and reinforce security measures across defence installations in the region. Field officers confirmed that inter-agency coordination will continue until the missing weapons are recovered and culprits brought to justice under applicable security frameworks.

Dhanpal seeks Rs 200 cr for Nizamabad development

Urban MLA submits memorandum to CM seeking funds for infrastructure and civic project

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NIZAMABAD

URBAN MLA Dhanpal Suryanarayana has urged Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to sanction funds for various development works in Nizamabad city. He met the Chief Minister at the Assembly on Wednesday and submitted a memorandum outlining the constituency's requirements.

The MLA sought Rs 200-crore special development fund for Nizamabad and requested sanction of a Young India Integrated School and a Pharmacy College at Telangana University.

He also urged the government to sanction outer ring roads to ease traffic congestion and implement the Mas-



ter Plan for Indur. He sought pending bills for Kalabharathi, modernisation of Rajaram Stadium, and an indoor stadium.

Dhanpal further requested

development of Indur Khilla Ramalayam, infrastructure improvements at the District General Hospital and modernisation of the Nizamabad bus stand.

MBA, MCA freshers welcomed at Sree Chaitanya Engineering College

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KARIMNAGAR

AN orientation programme was organised for first-year MBA and MCA students newly admitted to Sree Chaitanya Engineering College, Karimnagar. Sree Chaitanya Educational Institutions Chairman Muddasani Ramesh Reddy inaugurated the programme by lighting the ceremonial lamp.

Addressing the students, Ramesh Reddy advised them to attend college regularly and urged parents to closely monitor their children's academic progress. He said students with strong knowledge and professional skills would have better opportunities during campus recruitment drives

Chairman Muddasani Ramesh Reddy urges students to focus on academics, health and career skills



conducted by the college. College Director Karra Narender Reddy advised parents to give priority to students'

health and provide nutritious, balanced food to improve concentration and memory. He also urged students to re-

main focused and dedicated to their studies and avoid activities that could distract them from academics.

SIR revision must be error-free, transparent: CEO

Every eligible voter to be included; deceased and permanently migrated names to be removed as per rules



HANS NEWS SERVICE
KHANAPUR

STATE Chief Electoral Officer Sudarshan Reddy directed officials to complete

the Special Integrated Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls within the stipulated time, ensuring transparency and accuracy. He reviewed the process at Ambedkar

Bhavan in Nirmal town on Wednesday along with District Collector Bhavesh Mishra.

Reddy instructed officials to ensure that every eligible voter is included, while names of deceased and permanently migrated persons are removed according to Election Commission guidelines. He directed BLOs to carefully verify household details and correct errors in names, ages and addresses.

He also called for awareness campaigns encouraging youth aged 18 and above to register as voters and urged citizens to verify their names on the rolls. Collector Bhavesh Mishra said the revision was being conducted strictly as per guidelines.

Repaired bus on trial runs amok, injures man

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KODAD (SURYAPET)

A routine trial run of a repaired RTC bus turned into a serious accident at the RTC depot in Kodad town on Tuesday night, leaving a conductor critically injured.

According to reports, the bus was being taken for a trial run after repairs when it reportedly went out of control and hit conductor Kommu Kotaiah, who was in the depot parking area taking his motorcycle.

He sustained severe injuries, particularly to his leg, which was reportedly crushed in the accident. Kotaiah was immediately shifted to a hospital for treatment. Later, he was reportedly moved to a private hospital in Hyderabad for better medical care.

The incident has raised serious questions over safety procedures and supervision at the depot. Staff members alleged that a repaired bus should be test-driven by an experienced and trained

driver. However, they claimed that an outsourcing assistant mechanic was driving the bus at the time of the accident.

Employees also alleged that buses were being driven by assistant mechanics despite them allegedly lacking the required driving experience and qualifications. They further accused depot officials of failing to properly supervise such activities.

Fellow employees reportedly blamed the alleged negligence of Leading Head Dasarath for the incident, while workers' unions alleged that outsourcing personnel had not been provided adequate training before being assigned such duties.

The incident has sparked concern among depot staff, who has demanded that senior RTC authorities conduct a detailed inquiry, identify those responsible and take appropriate action. They also urged officials to ensure that only properly qualified and trained drivers are permitted to conduct trial runs of repaired buses.

Prof Sujatha takes charge as SU academic audit cell director

New Director pledges to strengthen academic standards and ensure effective functioning of university activities

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KARIMNAGAR

PROF Surepalli Sujatha has assumed charge as the new Director of the Academic Audit Cell at Satavahana University (SU). Vice-Chancellor Prof Umesh Kumar formally handed over the charge to Prof Sujatha at the university's administrative building on Wednesday. Registrar Prof

Satish Kumar and VC OSD Dr D. Harikanth were present on the occasion. The Vice-Chancellor congratulated Prof Sujatha and wished her success in her new responsibility. Speaking after taking charge, Prof Sujatha said she would focus on improving academic standards and ensuring the effective implementation of academic activities across the university.



Prof Sujatha has earlier served as Dean of Social Sciences, Principal of the Arts College and Director of the

Directorate of Admissions. She is currently Head of the Department of Sociology and UGC Affairs Nodal Officer.

Faculty members, non-teaching staff and students congratulated her on the new assignment.

Youth promotes clay Ganesha to protect environ

HANS NEWS SERVICE
MAHABUBNAGAR

A young man from Shivashakti Nagar, Srikanth Chary, has been promoting eco-friendly clay Ganesha idols as an alternative to Plaster of Paris (PoP) idols for the past 17 years.

Srikanth began making and promoting clay Ganesha idols in 2010, when he was pursuing his first year of B.Tech. Concerned over the water pollution caused by the immersion of PoP idols during Vinayaka Chavithi, he decided to encourage people to choose environmentally friendly clay idols.

He has been arranging hundreds of clay Ganesha idols every year with the help of skilled artisans from Kolkata. The initiative not only promotes environmental protection but also provides employment opportunities to traditional idol makers.

With the support of his brother Anil Chary, the clay idols are being sold near the Shivashakti Nagar Shiva Temple in Mahabubnagar, beside Sunkulamettu Temple in Gadwal and in Kalwakurthy. Despite working in the IT sector, Srikanth continues his environmental initiative every year. His efforts have received encouragement from youth and elders in the locality. "Celebrations should not come at the cost of nature. People should opt for clay Ganesha idols and avoid PoP idols



and plastic materials to protect our water bodies and environment," Srikanth Chary said. His 17-year-long effort has become a local environmental awareness initiative, inspiring people to celebrate Vinayaka Chavithi responsibly and in harmony with nature.

OFFICE OF THE RAMAGUNDAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
PEDDAPALLI DISTRICT
NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Lr.No.E/18/Eo/RMC/2026Dt: 09.09.2026

Expression of interest is invited in sealed covers from experienced (in similar type of works) consultants for Preparation of DPRs for various developmental works for the year 2026-27 in Ramagundam Municipal Corporation under any grants for 2026-27 year in Ramagundam Municipal Corporation. They can apply for RFP Document by submitting the Demand Draft of Rs. 5,000/- in favor of The Commissioner, Ramagundam Municipal Corporation. Last date for the issuing of schedule Dt:28-09-2026. Time: 3:00 PM Last date for submission of sealed expression of interest Dt:29-09-2026. Time: 4:00 PM

Conditions:-1. Consultant should be empanelled in any dept in any state. 2. Should have worked not less than Rs. 100.00 crores project in single ULB in Last 3 Years in Telangana. State. 3. The firm should have Rs.5.00 Crores of average as financial turnover in last Five years. 4. Experience consultants in similar nature of works shall only be considered. 5. The firm fulfilling /Agreeing above conditions only need to apply. 6. Commissioner, Ramagundam Municipal Corporation has all powers to accept or reject the sealed E.O.I. Any other details contact on Engineering section Ramagundam Municipal Corporation in Working hours.

Contact Mobile No :- Superintending Engineer (9849906339)
Executive Engineer (9494464801)

Sd/- Commissioner(FAC)
Ramagundam Municipal Corporation

DIPR No. 9633-PP/CL/ADVT/2026-27 Dt: 09.09.2026

R-1/PR/Act-06/Public Notice-04/ FY 2026-27/1 all

Ministers meet Governor, complain against BRS over ‘purification’ ritual

Adluri Laxman alleges caste discrimination, seeks Governor’s intervention

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

A delegation of Ministers led by Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka met Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla at Lok Bhavan on Wednesday and submitted a complaint over the alleged “purification” ritual carried out by BRS leaders at Erravalli.

The ministers apprised the Governor of the conduct of BRS MLAs and MLCs on the first day of the Assembly session, particularly the alleged objectionable remarks directed at Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar.

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti, Ministers Duddilla Sridhar Babu, Seethakka, Adluri Laxman, Ponnam Prabhakar and



Mohammed Azharuddin were among those who met the Governor.

Minister Adluri Laxman accused the BRS of displaying an “arrogant and feudal attitude” and alleged that BRS MLCs had verbally abused the Speaker

and his mother.

He alleged that the reported “purification” of the road near KCR’s farmhouse, after Dalits staged a protest by playing traditional drums, reflected an anti-Dalit mindset.

“We complained to the

Governor about the practice of untouchability exhibited by KCR,” Laxman said. He questioned whether the reported purification ritual was carried out at the direction of former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao (KCR).

“Is the humiliation of Dalits happening at KCR’s behest? If KCR did not order it, why is he remaining silent?” he asked, demanding a clarification from the BRS chief.

Laxman said the Assembly Speaker had responded to a complaint lodged by BRS women MLAs, ordered an inquiry and assured that action would be taken against those found responsible.

He asserted that there was no place for untouchability or caste discrimination in a people’s government and said such incidents would not be tolerated.

The minister said the delegation had specifically approached the Governor to bring the alleged conduct of BRS leaders to his notice.



A delegation of BRS MLAs and MLCs call on Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla at Lok Bhavan in Hyderabad on Wednesday

BRS leaders take police ‘atrocities’ row to Governor

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

BHARAT Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leaders met Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla on Wednesday to bring to his attention recent state incidents, including alleged insults to female legislators, death threats directed at party chief K Chandrashekar Rao, and the suspension of two party MLCs, seeking his direct intervention as constitutional head.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, BRS Working President KT Rama Rao stated that the delegation briefed the Governor on prevailing political conditions in Telangana. Expressing outrage over police intercepting leaders on main roads while heading towards the Assembly, he criticized law enforcement for behaving inappropriately towards female legislators, adding that video footage of police aggression against former Minister Sa-

- **Women legislators’ alleged harassment**
- **KCR death threats and MLC suspensions raised with Shiv Pratap Shukla**

bitha Indra Reddy was presented to the Governor.

KTR stated that the delegation explained how police created a Dushshasana parvam by pulling the sari of MLA Sunitha Lakshma Reddy. Wearing a black shirt in protest, he emphasized that BRS leaders maintain deep respect for the Speaker while noting that citizens and public representatives alike faced severe humiliation. The Governor was informed that Congress cadres were allegedly urged to gather at the residence of former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao to assault him.

According to KTR, the Governor assured the delegation that an inquiry would be

conducted into issues raised outside the Assembly, while examining matters related to legislative proceedings.

Relying on this assurance, the opposition expects constitutional intervention to halt ongoing aggression. The BRS delegation clarified that members faced attacks simply for demanding the fulfillment of public promises and seeking justice.

Formal complaints have already been lodged regarding AI-generated images and videos circulated by political opponents, with the party warning of strict legal action against those utilizing fabricated material to file false charges.

KTR added that if state authorities fail to deliver justice, BRS leaders will approach the National Commission for Women at the national level to lodge formal complaints, ensuring accountability for police misconduct and political harassment targeting female representatives.



DC inspects SC boys’ hostel

HANS NEWS SERVICE
WANAPARTHY

COLLECTOR Adarsh Surabhi conducted a surprise inspection of the SC boys’ hostel in the 30th ward of the town on Wednesday. He inspected the newly constructed kitchen and store-room; examined quality of the construction and materials being used, offering specific instructions to the concerned officials. Surabhi emphasised that work must strictly adhere to the prescribed estimates; no additional works beyond those estimates should be undertaken. He instructed that the building must be made operational within the next month.

The Collector inquired about the facilities available to the students. He instructed officials to take measures to provide better accommodation and basic amenities for them. There should be no compromise regarding the food provided.

Dalits up in arms over ‘purification’ of road ‘after dappu protest at Erravalli

MLA Medipally Satyam seeks SC/ST Atrocities case against KCR, BRS workers

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

CHOPPADANDI MLA Medipalli Satyam said he had lodged a complaint over the alleged purification of a road at Erravalli following a protest by Dalit groups, describing the incident as an inhumane act and an instance of caste discrimination.

Satyam alleged that Dalits had staged a democratic protest at Erravalli by playing dappus (traditional drums), following which BRS workers, allegedly acting on the directions of former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao (KCR), sprinkled turmeric water on the road on the grounds that it had been “polluted” by the presence of Dalits. He said media reports had also highlighted the incident and alleged that the act amounted to an insult to lakhs of Dalits.

Satyam also condemned the alleged use of objectionable language against Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar by BRS leaders.



Choppadandi MLA Medipalli Satyam lodges a complaint at Saifabad police station over the alleged purification of a road at Erravalli following a protest by Dalit groups

“Purifying the land merely because Dalits had walked on it amounts to a crime,” he said. He added that he had lodged a complaint against those allegedly involved and demanded that the police register a case under the SC/ST (Prevention

of Atrocities) Act.

Meanwhile, Senior Congress leader and Madiga-Mala Associations JAC Chairman Devani Satish Madiga said he had filed an SC/ST Atrocities complaint against KCR and BRS workers over the alleged incident.

He alleged that BRS workers sprinkled turmeric water on the road leading to KCR’s farmhouse after members of the Madiga and Mala communities took out a dappu procession from Varadaraja Palli village to the farmhouse.

A Zero FIR has reportedly been registered at Saifabad Police Station against KCR and BRS workers, he said.

Satish Madiga also announced plans to conduct a milk purification ceremony at the 125-foot Ambedkar statue, stating that the ritual was proposed because former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) had touched the statue.

He appealed to the government to provide a mega crane to facilitate the ceremony, which he said would be performed by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy.

He said the proposed programme was intended to condemn caste discrimination and assert the dignity and equality of Dalit communities.

Shadnagar MLA clarifies remarks on KCR, condemns abusive language

- **Shankar says wishing death on anyone is unjustifiable**
- **Condemns caste-based and abusive remarks**

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

SHADNAGAR MLA Veerlapalli Shankar on Wednesday clarified his recent remarks concerning former Chief Minister and BRS chief K Chandrashekar Rao (KCR), stating that wishing for anyone’s death was completely unjustifiable.

Speaking to the media, Shankar strongly condemned the alleged use of abusive and caste-based language against Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar and women ministers.

Shankar criticised what he described as reckless and vulgar remarks against constitutional authorities. He said he was deeply distressed by the alleged conduct and had demanded that KCR attend the Assembly and participate in discussions on issues concerning the state.



The MLA asserted that Telangana belonged to its four crore people and not to any particular family. He also criticised alleged personal attacks on the Chief Minister and his family members.

“You have women in your own family. Would you speak like this in front of them?” Shankar asked, condemning the alleged use of profane language in political discourse.

Shankar released video clips purportedly showing BRS working president KT

Rama Rao (KTR) making an objectionable remark about Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during a speech in Karimnagar three days ago.

Referring to Sonia Gandhi’s support for the formation of Telangana, Shankar questioned the use of such language against her son. He urged political leaders to maintain restraint and dignity while expressing differences and said public discourse should not descend into personal or abusive attacks.

BJP WILL COME TO POWER IN TELANGANA, SAYS BANDI SANJAY

HANS NEWS SERVICE

BHADRACHALAM: Claiming that the people are looking for a double-engine government in the State, Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar asserted that the BJP was certain to come to power in Telangana in the next Assembly elections. Addressing a BJP

workers’ gathering here on Wednesday, Sanjay alleged that the previous BRS government was worse than the rule of the Razakars and claimed that the Congress government has already lost public support within a short period. “Earlier, a family looted the state; now ministers and MLAs are looting it,” he alleged.

Sanjay said the BJP, which was once mocked for having only two Lok Sabha seats, had subsequently formed the government at the Centre three consecutive times under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In contrast, he claimed, the Congress, which once had a nationwide presence, has been reduced to a handful of

states.

“The Congress’ game will be over and its shop will be shut in the four states this time,” he said, referring to upcoming elections.

The Union Minister alleged that several thousand crores of rupees had been sanctioned by the Centre for the erstwhile Khammam district,

but local ministers were taking credit for the funds.

He also raised the issue of lands placed under the prohibited list under Section 22-A, claiming that lakhs of acres were affected and poor people were facing difficulties. He demanded that the government address the issue immediately.

Mahesh clears the air, says KCR may face trouble from kin, not Cong

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

TELANGANA Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud on Wednesday said the Congress party respected BRS chief and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) and had never wished him ill. Addressing the media at the Assembly media point on Wednesday, Goud said the Congress wished KCR a long and healthy life. He noted that as Leader of the Opposition, KCR was being provided security by the government second only to that of the Chief Minister.

Goud said respecting opposition leaders was part of the Congress culture and cited former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and senior Congress leader S Jaipal Reddy as examples.

Congress respects KCR, never wished him ill, TPCC chief says



He recalled that the Congress government had facilitated medical treatment for Vajpayee when he was unwell and supported Jaipal Reddy during his medical treatment. He also said that after Congress came to power in Telangana, KCR was shifted

to a hospital through a “Green Channel” after he reportedly suffered a fall at his residence. Goud said it was inappropriate to blame the Congress for issues concerning KCR’s personal or family matters and alleged that KCR had rarely attended Assem-

bly proceedings.

Goud condemned the reported performance of ‘Pinda Pradanam’ for a sitting Chief Minister by BRS, calling such political practices inappropriate and unhealthy for democratic discourse. The TPCC president de-

manded an explanation from BRS leader T Harish Rao over allegations that he commissioned occult rituals allegedly aimed at affecting KCR’s health.

Referring to remarks attributed to K. Kavitha in a video clip, Goud said the allegations required clarification. He also termed comments made by BRS leader Tata Madhu objectionable.

Goud said the Congress had a history of empowering Dalits by appointing members of the community to the country’s highest constitutional positions.

He urged political parties to maintain dignity and a humanitarian approach in public life.

TTD announces first-of-its-kind insurance cover for devotees

- Board approves a ₹2 lakh insurance for devotees who die of natural causes in Tirumala
- Compensation for devotees who die in accidents goes up from ₹3 lakh to ₹10 lakh

PRADEEP VENNELAKANTI
 TIRUMALA

THE TTD trust board has announced that it will introduce a first-of-its-kind initiative in the country by approving a Rs 2 lakh insurance cover for the families of devotees who succumb to natural causes during their stay in Tirumala.

The scheme will be implemented in association with the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), providing financial assistance to the families of pilgrims who die of natural causes in Tirumala. Under the scheme, the TTD will pay the insurance premium, ensuring a Rs 2 lakh benefit for the family of a devotee who dies of natural causes while in Tirumala. The temple body already extends accident insurance assistance to the kin of devotees killed in road accidents on the Alipiri-Tirumala route in specified cases.

The decision was taken at the TTD trust board meeting held at Annamaiah Bhavan in Tirumala on Wednesday under the chairmanship of BR Naidu. TTD Executive Officer M Ravichandra and other senior officials attended the meeting.

Explaining the board decisions after the meeting, the Chairman and EO said the measures were aimed at strengthen-



ing pilgrim welfare, improving employee benefits and advancing environmental initiatives.

The board also enhanced the insurance compensation for devotees who die in accidents from Rs 3 lakh to Rs 10 lakh. It approved medical facilities under the Employees Health Fund (EHF) for employees covered by the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) and Modified Contributory Scheme (MCS), bringing them on par with those covered under the Old Pension Scheme (OPS). Salary revisions for employees belonging to 48 categories were also approved.

In a move aimed at promoting sustainable waste management, the board approved a proposal to convert food waste generated at the Annaprasadam complex, canteens and hotels into bio-gas. Indian Oil Corporation Limited

(IOCL) has offered to undertake the conversion using a water hydrolysis process. The TTD approved handing over the operation of the biogas plant to GPS Renewables at a cost of Rs 2.80 crore.

With the anticipated rush during peak periods, the TTD has also sent proposals to the government seeking approval for 400 additional outsourcing posts to accelerate laddu production. The board sanctioned Rs 1.60 crore for three years towards transportation charges for additional sanitation personnel deployed in Tirumala.

The board further approved gold plating works for the Padma Peetham of Goddess Padmavathi at Sri Kalyana Venkateswara Swamy temple in Narayanavanam. It also sanctioned Rs 17.05 crore for gold plating the Dwajasthambam and Bali Peetham at the Sri Padmavathi Ammavari Temple in Chennai. The licence period of the TTD building in Tirupati allotted to the Telugu and Sanskrit Academies was extended by three years, from November 2, 2026, to November 1, 2029.

Additional EO Ch Venkaiah Chowdary, JEOS Dr A Sarath and Prabhala Gopinath, CVSO KV Murali Krishna and TTD board members were present at the meeting.

Dhoolpet's Ganesh craft hub faces a readymade challenge

MM FAROOQUI
 HYDERABAD



PREPARATIONS are in full swing ahead of the 11-day Ganesh Chaturthi festivities, which is starting from September 14. As preparations for the festival gather momentum across Hyderabad, the city's idol markets are witnessing a major shift towards readymade Ganesh idols, with a significant number being brought in from Maharashtra and other nearby districts. Even Dhoolpet, which is traditionally regarded as Hyderabad's hub of idol makers and skilled artisans, is now increasingly selling readymade idols instead of manufacturing them locally.

Unlike in the past, artisans, who used to spend several days crafting the idols for the Ganesh Festival, are now procuring the readymade idols from other states to earn more money effortlessly.

Ganesh idols from other states have sprouted up in every nook and corner of the city, as these local artisans, who have been crafting the idols for many decades are now selling idols transported from Sholapur, Pune, Nashik, Malegaon and

several smaller towns and villages in Maharashtra.

According to the idol-making community, nearly 90 per cent of the Ganesh idols currently available in the market are being transported from Maharashtra. Telangana Idol Makers Welfare Association Vice president Kailash Singh Hazari, an artisan, said that orders for making idols from locals have gone down from the last few years. "Earlier, we artisans used to craft idols and

sell them during the festival. But now, if an artisan makes an idol without receiving an order from people in the city, we face huge losses," said Kailash Singh. He added, "We are facing huge losses after spending lakhs of rupees on making the idols." In Dhoolpet, only a handful of people are now making Ganesh idols based on specific customer orders. Most of the idols are being brought from outside and sold here," said Ram Murthy, another artisan.

Hyd to host national conclave on RTI reforms

HANS NEWS SERVICE
 HYDERABAD

THE Telangana Information Commission (TGIC) will organise a two-day National Conference on 'Operational Uniformity in Implementation of RTI: Challenges and Solutions' at the Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI), Hyderabad, on September

10 and 11. Sponsored by the National Federation of Information Commissioners in India (NFICI) and organised in collaboration with ASCI, the conference will bring together Chief Information Commissioners, Information Commissioners, legal experts, policymakers and senior administrators from across the country. Around 20 State

Chief Information Commissioners are likely to participate. Governor Shiv Prathap Shukla will be the chief guest at the inaugural session and deliver the keynote address. The conference will focus on strengthening implementation of the Right to Information Act, 2005, with emphasis on uniform procedures, reducing pendency, timely disposal of

cases, effective hearing mechanisms, proactive disclosure under Section 4, digitalisation and capacity building of Public Information Officers and First Appellate Authorities.

Discussions will also address preventing misuse of RTI without restricting legitimate citizen access and strengthening the independence and effectiveness of Information Commissions. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy will attend a dinner interaction with the Central Chief Information Commissioner and State Chief Information Commissioners on September 10.

ED raids K'taka minister

Continued from P1

Investigators are examining whether Jarkiholi allegedly used his influence to facilitate the licences and whether funds generated through the alleged irregularities were subsequently transferred or invested abroad.

During the earlier investigation into the raids conducted on Manjunath's prop-

erties, the agency reportedly detected cash, gold and foreign currency, with about Rs 3 crore in suspected illegal foreign funds also coming under scrutiny.

Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar termed the ED searches on properties linked to the minister as "politically motivated". He also questioned the timing of the searches, which came a day

before the Congress government led by him completes 100 days in office.

Asserting that he would stand by Jarkiholi, who he said had done no wrong, the CM said he had cautioned all his ministers and party legislators about possible action by Central agencies against them. He claimed that his government and the party were being "targeted".

'Al could kill us all by end of decade'

Continued from P1

"At OpenAI, many have not deeply internalized the civilizational stakes. At Anthropic, the stakes are well-understood," he claimed. He added that Anthropic, despite understanding the dangers, is "locked in a race to get there first - they believe no one else will act responsibly, so they must do it themselves, despite the risk."

Iran captures US sub after attack on 5 oil tankers

Continued from P1

The submersible vehicle is equipped with the world's most modern subsurface vehicle technology, it said, and released a video of the captured vehicle.

In a separate statement, the IIRGC also claimed that its air defence systems had shot down an MQ-9 Reaper drone over the Strait of Hormuz, Sepah News reported.

Following the IIRGC's announcement, the US military also released a statement saying one of its underwater drones "malfunctioned" over a day earlier during a survey of regional waters, without mentioning whether the device was the one seized by Iran. "It was surveying regional waters in support of ongoing operations. The defective drone was an older model that neither collected sensitive data nor carried any classified sonar or radar equipment," a Pentagon spokesperson said. The US military is investing heavily in unmanned naval systems, including underwater and surface vessels, as it seeks cheaper ways to monitor vast areas of ocean, gather intelligence, and track adversary ships and submarines without putting sailors at risk.

Ghatkesar-Kazipet multitracking project gets Centre's nod

Continued from P1

The Secunderabad (Ghatkesar)- Kazipet multitracking project is aimed at increasing rail capacity on one of Telangana's important and heavily utilised corridors. The works are planned to be completed by 2029-30. The additional railway capacity is expected to ease congestion, improve train operations, and enhance the reliability of passenger and freight services in the State. The corridor is also important for the movement of commodities, including coal, cement, iron and steel,

containers, automobiles, foodgrains, petroleum products, and fertilisers.

The project is part of a larger railway capacity-enhancement programme covering 17 districts across Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Together, the five approved projects will add about 540 km to the existing Indian Railways network.

In Telangana, the multitracking works are expected to strengthen connectivity towards the northern parts of the state and improve the movement of people

and goods between the Hyderabad-Secunderabad region and Kazipet.

The new projects have been planned under the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, with emphasis on multimodal connectivity and logistics efficiency.

According to SCR authorities, the improved railway network is also expected to benefit connectivity to important tourist and religious destinations in Telangana, including Yadagirigutta, Bhongir Fort, Surendrapuri and Swarnagiri Temple.

India, US trade pact to be signed soon: Commerce Secy

Continued from P1

There are a few things which both sides are discussing, but it will be signed at an appropriate time," he told reporters here. He explained that India, which operates on most-favoured-nation (MFN) tariffs, has greater flexibility in offering preferential access, while the US is currently operating with executive tariffs. "From the Indian side, because we are operating on MFN (most favoured nation) tariffs, it is easier to do so. From their

(US) side, they are operating on executive tariffs. So, they are building an architecture, which will create those differentials and create a preferential market access. So, at an opportune time, we should be able to sign," he said. Agarawal added that bilateral trade between India and the US was continuing to grow.

Goyal has recently said that details of the Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) would be announced once Washington offers India preferential terms compared

with its competitors.

In trade terminology, an MFN tariff refers to the standard import duty imposed by a country on goods from another country in the absence of a trade agreement providing lower tariffs.

The US has imposed an additional 10 per cent import duty over and above its MFN tariff on several countries, including India, under a Section 301 probe concerning forced labour. The additional duty came into effect on July 24.

Extra 'F' in CNR Rao's name triggers SIR notice

Continued from P1

His entry in the previous electoral roll reads "Prof. CNR Rao," while the current one has it as "Proff. C.N.R. Rao," adding an extra "f" to the title. This week, the ECI withdrew a notice issued to Padma Shri awardee Harekala Hajabba regarding a discrepancy in his name found during the SIR in Karnataka. Hajabba was asked to appear at a gram panchayat on September 11 with original documents, and an accountant was to be present during the verification. His name in the 2002 electoral roll and subsequent records differed from the full name he provided during the SIR enumeration.

Hajabba said officials visited his residence after the notice became public and took it back, telling him they would examine the matter and get back to him. His documents since 2004 carried his name as Harekal Hajabba.

The discrepancy arose because his name appeared as only Hajabba in the 2002 electoral roll, while his subsequent records identify him as Harekala Hajabba. His Aadhaar card, ration card, passport, and voter ID carry the name Harekala Hajabba.

The same name also appears in documents relating to his Padma Shri and other awards. Hajabba, a fruit seller turned education campaigner from Newpadapu in Mangaluru, became nationally known after using savings from selling oranges to establish a primary school in his native village. He received the Padma Shri, India's fourth-highest civilian award, in 2020 for his contribution to education.

Over 4.381 million notices are expected to be issued as part of the SIR, which began in Karnataka on June 30, to voters whose names fall under the "no mapping" and "anomalies" categories. The disposal of claims and objections will continue until October 22. The final electoral roll is scheduled for publication on October 27.

Union Cabinet okays Rs 20,804-crore railway projects across 9 states

Continued from P1

Five projects worth around Rs 10,021 crore have been approved across Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The projects will add around 540 km to the railway network and cover 17 districts, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

The projects include the third and fourth lines between Arakonam and Renigunta, third and fourth lines between Whitefield and Bangarapet, doubling of the Hosur-Omalur section, doubling of the Salem-Karur-Dindigul section, and 110 km of multitracking between Secunderabad (Ghatkesar) and Kazipet. The projects are expected to improve connectivity to around 2,121 villages with a combined population of about 52 lakh. The government said they will also strengthen connectivity to destinations including Tirupati, Kolar Gold Fields, Mettur Dam, the Kodaikanal Hills and Sathyamangalam Wildlife Sanctuary.

The southern projects are expected to support incremental freight movement of around 47 million tonne per annum (MTPA). The government estimates that they could reduce oil imports by about 80 million litres and carbon dioxide emissions by around 420 million kg.

The remaining three projects, worth Rs 10,783 crore, will be implemented across West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. They comprise the fourth line between Kharagpur and Jharsuguda (Bagdehi), the fourth line between Katni and Pendra Road, and the third line between Bilaspur (Uslapur) and Pendra Road.

These projects will add around 656 km to the railway network and cover 14 districts. They are expected to improve connectivity to around 4,790 villages with a combined population of nearly 56 lakh, while also easing congestion and improving line capacity.

The additional infrastructure is expected to strengthen connectivity to tourist destinations including Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, Amarkantak Temple, Achanakmar Tiger Reserve and Ratanpur Mahamaya Temple. The routes are also important freight corridors for commodities such as coal, cement, iron and steel. The three projects are expected to enable incremental freight movement of around 27 MTPA. They could also reduce oil imports by around 120 million litres and carbon dioxide emissions by about 620 million kg, according to the government.

22 BRS MLAs suspended

Continued from P1

This community has no power. Are we in a civilized society or barbaric society? Nobody is afraid of your challenges and threats. How long will you live with such attitude?" the Deputy CM asked.

Legislative Affairs Minister D Sridhar Babu said that the party does not endorse the comments (made against KCR) and also their comments on Rahul Gandhi. He said, "No one will want anyone's death. KCR should be good and live for 100 years and should be in the Opposition. Our party will not seek anybody's death. How can anyone take up 'shuddikarana'? What era are we living in? Need time to run

Assembly. It is not proper to threaten the Speaker.

With the pandemonium continuing in the House, the Speaker suspended the 22 BRS members after Sridhar Babu moved the motion. The members suspended for the remainder of the session are: Anil Jadhav, T Harish Rao, G Jagadish Reddy, G Kamalakara, P Kaushik Reddy, Madhavaram Krishna Rao, Kova Lakshmi, Manik Rao, Chinta Prabhakar, Kotha Prabhakar, Vemula Prashanth Reddy, Marri Rajashekar, Palla Rajeshwar Reddy, P Sabita Indra Reddy, K Sanjay, T Srinivas Yadav, D Sudheer Reddy, V Sunitha Lakshma Reddy, KT Rama Rao, Kaleru Venkatesh, Vijeyudu and KP Vivekanand.

BRS plans statewide protests

BRS leaders are planning to take up state-wide protests against their suspension from the Assembly for the entire monsoon session. According to sources, the party leaders, including MLAs and MLCs, have been asked to come to the residence of KT Rama Rao on Thursday for a breakfast meeting. The party leaders will decide on the future course of action.

A senior leader of the party said that the leadership was upset that the MLAs were suspended without any reason. The party leaders would take up burning of effigies of the government and Chief Minister during their protests.

Continued from P1

The Chief Minister said the investigation would cover the sequence of events beginning with a meeting allegedly held at a farmhouse on September 6, followed by the alleged verbal attack on the Speaker and the reported 'shuddhikaran' (purification) ritual at Erravalli. The Chief Minister announced that Hyderabad Joint Commissioner Vijay Kumar will probe the alleged incidents of untouchability. "We will legally punish everyone who insulted Dalits. We will conduct a comprehensive inquiry into the series of events, starting from the meeting held at the farmhouse," Revanth Reddy said.

Revanth Reddy said Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar, who belongs to the Dalit com-

munity, was subjected to objectionable verbal abuse. He questioned how anyone could insult a mother, irrespective of political differences, and asserted that the government would not tolerate caste discrimination or oppression. He said political parties had advised those responsible to apologise to the Speaker and correct their remarks. According to the Chief Minister, the alleged remarks hurt the sentiments of the Dalit community, prompting members to stage a protest by beating dappus (traditional drums).

Revanth Reddy said the protesters had gone to the site to register their opposition and demand an apology and claimed they neither attacked nor verbally abused anyone.

The Chief Minister alleged that BRS chief and former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR), instead of apologising, ordered another act, referring to the reported shuddhikaran ritual at the farmhouse. He also referred to a social media post by BRS leader Sandhya Rao, who allegedly stated that the ritual was conducted at KCR's behest.

"It is not the ground that needs purification; the deep-seated malice and prejudice in their minds need to be cleansed," Revanth Reddy said, stressing the need to eradicate caste-based prejudice and untouchability.

Revanth Reddy alleged that KCR had summoned BRS MLAs and MLCs to his Erravalli farmhouse ahead of the

Assembly session and claimed that the meeting was part of a plan to obstruct the proceedings. He said the Assembly had been convened to discuss public issues, including matters concerning '22A' lands, and alleged that the opposition sought to prevent such discussions because of their potential political impact.

The Chief Minister warned that those responsible for the alleged conspiracy would face legal action. "Courts may grant bail, but society will not," he remarked.

The Chief Minister ordered an inquiry also into the alleged harassment of women during a protest near the Assembly. Details of alleged attacks on personnel performing their duties would also be

collected, he said.

Revanth Reddy said the investigation would cover both those who allegedly issued instructions and those who carried them out. Criminal cases would be registered against those found responsible and strict action would follow, he said. The Chief Minister compared the Telangana developments with an incident in Uttarakhand, recalling that a complaint had earlier been submitted to the President condemning that incident. He alleged that some individuals in Telangana entered the Assembly premises and attacked employees on duty. He pointed out that the remarks in question against the Speaker and his mother had been widely condemned.

Iran conflict escalates; India must respond appropriately

IF there is one region that is perennially in turmoil, it is the Middle East. A cocktail of factors—religious conflicts, disputes between superpowers, and, of course, oil—keeps it in the news all the time. After a full of a few weeks, with Washington focusing on economic strangulation rather than kinetic action, the region has heated up again, as the US military struck five Iranian oil tankers on Tuesday. This happened, according to the US Central Command (CENTCOM), “after the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) targeted a US Navy warship with ballistic missiles twice over the past two days.” The US warship successfully evaded the attempted Iranian attacks and continued to patrol regional waters. No American personnel were harmed, it added.

There is also a report of Iran firing about 20 ballistic missiles towards Jordan, targeting two US military bases. Meanwhile, the pro-Tehran Houthis in Yemen have also launched ballistic missiles toward Israel. They also launched a wave of attacks on Saudi Arabia on Tuesday, wounding over 70 people and igniting fires at oil facilities and utilities in the kingdom.

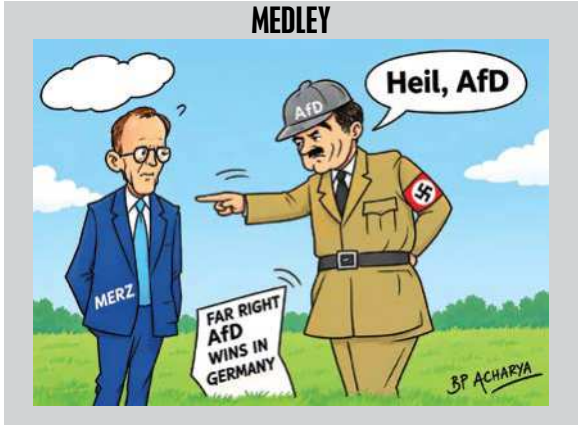
Tensions seem to be escalating. It looks like conflict will stay that way for some time. The reason is that US President Donald Trump is unwilling to fight the war all-out, with American troops on the ground. This is in tune with his opposition to the ‘forever wars’ that the US has fought many a time. His core base, the MAGA crowd,

hates America’s wars in faraway lands, gobbling up resources and killing young soldiers. Besides, his party, the Republican Party, must face midterm elections soon. At the same time, Trump doesn’t want to let Iran off the hook. Hence the blow-hot-and-cold nature of the ongoing war in the Middle East.

The escalation has affected crude prices, which hit a six-week high. Brent futures are touching the \$100 mark. Owing to our heavy dependence on crude imports, the government has changed the composition of its top five suppliers, with Brazil and Venezuela replacing the US and Nigeria. Russia, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) stay the top crude sellers.

The government must chalk out short, middle, and long-term strategies to end or at least curtail the country’s excessive dependence (around 88 per cent) on imported crude. In the short term, the priority should be to diversify sources of supply, build adequate strategic petroleum reserves, and maintain flexibility in purchasing crude from different markets so that geopolitical disruptions do not immediately translate into domestic price shocks. The government should also strengthen bilateral energy partnerships with major oil-producing countries and explore long-term contracts at competitive prices. In the medium run, India needs to accelerate the transition towards cleaner and more efficient sources of energy. Greater

investment in electric vehicles, public transport, biofuels, natural gas, solar and wind power can gradually reduce the demand for imported petroleum. At the same time, domestic exploration and production should be encouraged through stable policies, faster clearances and appropriate incentives, without compromising environmental safeguards. The long-term answer lies in reducing the economy’s structural dependence on fossil fuels. India must expand renewable energy, battery storage, green hydrogen, and other emerging technologies. A broader and more resilient energy mix would not only reduce the import bill but also protect the economy from wars, sanctions, and volatile global oil prices



LETTERS

Delhi PGs are deathtraps

THIS is further to ‘Delhi building collapse was waiting to happen’ (THI Sept 9). The Satya Niketan building collapse in the national capital that has been the PG for students studying in the Delhi University was so pathetic to watch which proved to be a virtual death trap for students with big expectations to make big in life. Similar incidents of fire accidents and building collapse are happening in Delhi NCR, resulting in no follow up action being taken to prevent such tragedies from happening. It is reported that ten or more buildings have been earmarked for demolition in the area, which is a positive development. Meanwhile, there must be a thorough check of PGs in Delhi to assess their structural health, and other safety precautions. The vulnerable ones must be declared unsafe. The Delhi University, on its part, must create more hostel accommodations for students whose numbers are growing every year.

K R Parvathy, Mysuru

Preventive measures must be the norm

APROPOS ‘Delhi building collapse was waiting to happen’, the Satya Niketan tragedy is painfully predictable, and the response is equally predictable. Politicians express shock, officials promise inquiries, FIRs are filed, and then everyone moves on until the next tragedy. This pattern has repeated itself far too many times. The heart of the problem is that urban governance remains a low priority for our leaders, who are busy with populist schemes and emotive distractions. Illegal constructions flourish, often with the tacit approval of those in power. We cannot keep treating safety as an afterthought. What we need is continuous enforcement, transparent building approvals, regular structural audits, and real accountability for officials and politicians who allow violations. Students and citizens deserve better than a system that only acts after lives are lost. Prevention must finally become the norm.

K Chidanand Kumar, Bengaluru

Building safety is a collective responsibility

THIS refers to “Delhi building collapse was waiting to happen”. Building safety cannot be ensured by municipal officials alone. Residents, tenants, landlords and local associations also have an important role in identifying warning signs such as cracks, water seepage, unauthorised extensions and damaged structural members. Delhi could establish a simple complaint system through which photographs and location details can be submitted and tracked until action is taken. Municipal authorities should publish inspection outcomes and deadlines for corrective measures. Public awareness programmes can also help residents understand when a building requires professional assessment. Such participation would make safety a continuous community responsibility rather than a matter left entirely to government agencies. Prevention becomes more effective when citizens can see that their complaints lead to timely action.

S P Suganya Devi, Coimbatore

Trafficking menace not among govt priorities

THE ‘Silent auction of innocence’ (THI Sept 9) piece by Nomula Srinivas Rao reflects a system that has accepted its failure. Traffickers move children across states, while the rescued victims are dumped into underfunded shelters, and often re-trafficked. If the state can build surveillance for elections, it can trace missing children. The problem is not technology, but non-prioritisation. Until we have real legislation, inter-state data sharing, and proper support, we are tending to look the other way.

Aayush Shandilya, Dhenkanal

thehansreader@gmail.com

BENGALURU ONLINE

Cabinet decides to reintroduce students’ elections in varsities, colleges

BENGALURU: The Karnataka Cabinet on Wednesday decided to reintroduce students election in the universities and colleges, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara said. Political parties will not be allowed to take part in these elections, he said. “Student elections were earlier held in colleges but were subsequently banned. We have now decided to reintroduce elections in universities and colleges,” Parameshwara briefed reporters after the cabinet meeting. He explained that in each college, there will be one student president, two vice-presidents, including one woman, one general secretary, two joint secretaries, including one woman, and an executive committee of six members, including two women. There will be no reservation in these elections as the government does not want to promote caste-based elections among students, the Deputy CM said. The detailed modalities regarding when and how the elections will be held will be decided later, he added.

Parameshwara clarified that the students’ elections are not mandatory for colleges and it can happen only if students want it. “If students don’t want it, they can decide not to have it. The management cannot decide.

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

Raising a toast to the mesmerising culinary art



COOKING is the art, science, and craft of preparing, heating, and combining raw ingredients to make them safe, digestible, and flavoury; a vital life skill that directly impacts our health, saves money, builds self-reliance, and connects us to different cultures.

Culinary art is the professional discipline and creative practice of preparing, cooking, and presenting. Serving food is a creative form of expression.

The practice of preparing safe, tasty and nutritious meals, and the need to consume simple, fresh and healthy food together with seasonal vegetables and fruits, has been connected with spiritual matters in various faiths across the world, including Hinduism, Christianity, Islam and Greek.

And, according to Greek mythology, Prometheus, the Titan, while not a cook himself, stole fire from Mount Olympus and gave it to humanity. By doing so, he taught mortals how to use fire to cook food and transition from raw diets to civilization.

Among the well-known practitioners of the culinary art are Gordon Ramsay and Sanjeev Kapoor.

In the books of the inimitable P G Wodehouse, Anatole is the supremely skilled

French chef, who is described as ‘God’s gift to gastric juices’.

Many people are known to be fond of good and tasty food. In that sense, a ‘gourmet’ is one who appreciates high-quality, sophisticated food, drink, or who judges fine culinary experiences. In a similar sense, ‘foodies’ is a person who has an enthusiastic, refined, or passionate interest in food, eating it not just out of hunger, but as a hobby or lifestyle.

This is perhaps why there is the famed saying, “the way to a man’s heart is through his stomach”, meaning that cooking delicious food is a good way to win someone’s love and affection.

Mythologies of various cultures in the world contain references to famous persons who excelled in culinary art. In Mahabharat, Bheema is known to be a great cook. In fact, when the Pandava princes need to remain incognito for a whole year and are forced to seek shelter in the court of King Virata, Bheema chooses to don the guise of a cook. Meanwhile, Nala, who ruled the Nishada Kingdom, is renowned not only for his valour and wisdom, but also his mastery of the culinary arts.

A good, tasty, nutritious, and balanced spread is recommended across cultures. In the western countries, a 7-course meal is a structured fine-dining experience where seven distinct dishes are served sequentially in a specific order to guide and balance the diner’s palate.

Likewise, in Indian tradition and Ayurveda, there is the term ‘Pancha Bhakshya’ which describes a complete and balanced meal or a grand royal feast, which, when paired with ‘Paramanna’ or sweet rice pudding, repre-



sents a feast that satiates all the five senses and aids proper digestion.

As one looks around the various regions of the world, including India, one encounters many a specific style, method or manner of cooking typical of that place.

Chinese cuisine is known for its diverse culinary tradition, encompassing distinct, regional styles, historical influences and fundamental flavour profiles developed across the country’s geographical landscape.

Rice is the primary staple in the southern and semi-tropical regions while wheat, millet and barley dominate the dryer, northern climates. Dishes frequently build flavours using aromatics and seasonings that are known to be high in protein content.

Mexican cuisine, on the other hand, is celebrated for the ingredients of corn, fresh chilies, avocados, and is fa-

mous for the recognition accorded by UNESCO.

Another example is that of French cuisine, which is defined by foundational cooking techniques, fine pastries, sauces, and local cheeses.

Yet another example is the Italian variety, known for fresh Mediterranean ingredients, pasta, and regional pizzas ranked highly on global food lists which feature iconic national dishes, top-rated recipes, and culinary staples from every corner of the planet

And Indian cuisine is acclaimed for spice blends, vegetarian options and distinct regional variations.

Just as in the case of music, dance, sports and games or literature, every nation has its favourite dish. Many such delicacies have gained popularity across the world.

The Pad Thai, a stir-fried rice noodle dish from Thailand, with its sweet, salty,

Just as in the case of music, dance, sports and games or literature, every nation has its favourite dish. Many such delicacies have gained popularity across the world. The Pad Thai, a stir-fried rice noodle dish from Thailand, with its sweet, salty, and sour flavours certainly ranks high in that list. For those who are meat eaters, the Italian Carbonara Pasta, with pork, eggs, cheese, and black pepper would be a close competitor. Not far behind is the Haee of England, the Beef Poh of Vietnam and the Taco Adobada of Mexico.

and sour flavours certainly ranks high in that list. For those who are meat eaters, the Italian Carbonara Pasta, with pork, eggs, cheese, and black pepper would be a close competitor. Not far behind is the Haee of England, the Beef Poh of Vietnam, and the Taco Adobada of Mexico. Also, figuring in the list not for taste, but for popularity and following, is the omnipresent Burger of the USA. Not to be left far behind is the traditional Japanese dish sushi. And, as far as India is concerned, everyone knows that the all-time favourites from different parts of the country, but enjoyed by everyone are butter chicken, biryani, masala dosa, pav bhaji, rasagolla and gulab Jamun. Incidentally, many phrases and idioms relating to the practice of cooking find application in the English language. We have the idiom ‘in a soup’ meaning to be in a difficult, awkward or troublesome situation; ‘half baked’ stands for an idea or plan which has not been fully thought out; a ‘flash in the pan’; ‘out of the frying pan into the fire’; ‘soup to toothpick’ or ‘soup to nuts’, stands for the complete sequence of events in a full meal.

A cookbook or cookery

book is a culinary reference work that contains a collection of recipes and instructions for food preparation. Cookbooks serve as comprehensive guides that may include cooking techniques, ingredient information, nutritional data, and cultural context related to culinary practices.

The pleasures of good spread have often been the subject matter of praise in poetry, prose and cultures across the world. Perhaps the most popular among them is the amazing variety and dimension of the dishes prepared for a royal wedding in the yesteryear runaway cult Telugu movie Maya Bazaar.

Bob Hope, the well-known American comedian, actor, entertainer and producer, acts as a hunter in one his movies titled ‘Call me Bwana’. In one scene, his mother-in-law prepares breakfast for both and serves it to him. Noting his expression after tasting one morsel of the food, she exclaims that, after all, she is an interior decorator and not a cook. And Bob wryly retorts, “Just think what you are doing to mine!”

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

Reservation must reach the last person: Reform, don’t abolish



REKHA BOYAPALLI

INDIA needs a more intelligent affirmative-action architecture: preserve protection against discrimination but deliberately widen first access to families and communities still waiting for opportunity. India’s affirmative-action journey predates the Republic. In 1902, Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj of Kolhapur reserved 50 per cent of government posts for backward classes, recognising that formal equality meant little when entire communities lacked access to education, administration and power. After Independence, B R Ambedkar and the Constitution gave this principle a durable democratic framework: equality sometimes requires corrective measures where history has produced structural exclusion.

Reservation is not a poverty scheme:

Reservation should not be confused with poverty alleviation. Its central purpose is social

inclusion, representation and protection against entrenched discrimination. A family may gain education or a government job and still encounter caste identity in workplaces, housing, social networks and marriage. One successful generation therefore cannot automatically be treated as proof that discrimination has disappeared.

Who is still waiting?

At the same time, supporters of reservation must confront an uncomfortable question: are the benefits circulating widely enough within eligible groups? Families that have already acquired education, information and networks can often compete more effectively, while a first-generation student from a deprived family may never reach the starting line. The answer is neither to stigmatise repeat beneficiaries nor to abolish reservation. It is to improve its distribution.

A first-opportunity window:

A pragmatic reform would create a ‘first opportunity’ window within the existing reservation categories. Around 25–35 per cent of opportunities should be prioritised for first-time or first-generation beneficiary families. If adequate candidates are unavailable, those opportunities should flow back to the wider



parent category rather than remain vacant. Previous beneficiaries would not suddenly lose all protection; instead, the system would ensure that a meaningful share reaches families that have never received its benefits.

Apply deprivation measures across categories:

The same logic can travel upward across the opportunity structure. Rural or remote schooling, low family income and assets, parental education, first-generation graduate status and poor access to quality schools can disadvantage candidates even outside caste-reserved categories. These factors should supplement—not replace—caste-based safeguards. A transparent opportunity or deprivation index could operate horizontally across categories, because a wealthy rural household and a poor urban household cannot sensibly be treated as identical simply by geography.

Political representation also needs circulation:

The principle should also inform political representation. Within constitutionally reserved political opportunities, India should debate mechanisms that encourage first-generation political entrants and sections that remain under-represented, rather than allowing representation to become concentrated in a small set of political families or networks. A 25–30 per cent first-opportunity principle deserves serious study here too, although any such mechanism would require careful constitutional and legislative design.

Beyond endless sub-caste fragmentation:

The Supreme Court’s 2024 Davinder Singh decision opened constitutional space for sub-classification within Scheduled Castes (SCs). That can help governments address unequal access, but India should be cau-

Policy notes: The suggested 25–35 per cent first-opportunity window and deprivation index are proposals for public debate, not current law. Political implementation would require constitutional and legislative scrutiny.

tious about answering every inequality by permanently multiplying caste compartments. Policy should increasingly ask measurable questions: Who has received opportunities? Who remains excluded? Which families are first-generation entrants? Where is representation still weakest? The goal should be circulation of opportunity, not permanent social fragmentation.

Reform is better than ‘reservation hatao’:

The August anti-reservation mobilisation around Jantar Mantar reflects genuine public dissatisfaction, including demands for greater attention to economic disadvantage. Such concerns deserve democratic debate. But abolishing caste-based affirmative action because its benefits may be unevenly distributed would confuse a problem of design with a failure of purpose. The answer to imper-

fect affirmative action is better affirmative action.

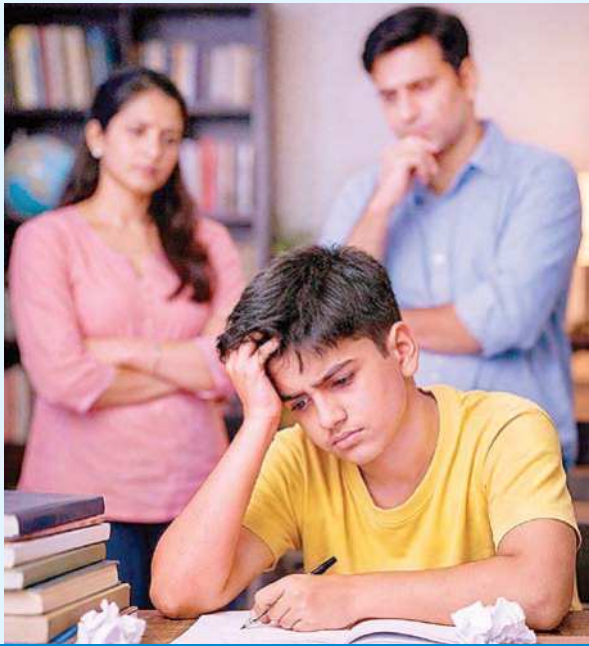
Make reservation less necessary:

The ultimate success of reservation should be measured by whether society gradually needs less of it. That requires far more than quota engineering. India must equalise school quality, enforce anti-discrimination norms in employment and housing, weaken caste barriers in marriage and social networks, and reduce unnecessary caste signalling in routine public life—while retaining caste data where needed to measure exclusion and enforce rights. A mature policy should neither romanticise reservation nor demonise its beneficiaries. It should keep opening doors until birth no longer determines opportunity.

(The writer is Vice-President of Telangana Pradesh Mahila Congress)



Let them navigate: Why teenagers need space to make their own choices



Teenagers need guidance, but they also need room to make choices, test ideas and learn from small failures

HARISH PARAMESWARAN

Every parent has heard it: “I have other commitments.” The commitment might be a group call, a game with friends or simply time spent doing something that adults may not consider particularly important. But these moments matter. They are part of how teenagers build friendships, practise independence and learn to navigate life without someone evaluating every decision.

Parents have always worried about how much freedom to give their children. Yet growing up requires more than academic success. Teenagers also need opportunities to make choices, handle disagreements, manage their time and understand the consequences of their decisions.



THE FAMILY BUSINESS OF EXPECTATIONS

Between the first school performance and the repeated question, “What do you want to be?”, parents can gradually develop a set of expectations for their children. These expectations often come from love and a desire to see their children secure and successful. Sometimes, however, parents may also project their own experiences or unfinished ambitions onto the next generation. Having hopes for children is natural. The challenge begins when a hope becomes a fixed destination, with little room for a different interest or career path. When every decision is made for them, teenagers may become good at meeting expectations without necessarily learning how to make decisions independently. A student who performs well academically but is afraid to ask questions, explore unfamiliar subjects or make mistakes may be missing an important part of education. Learning is not only about getting the correct answer. It is also about asking questions, testing ideas and understanding why something did not work.



LANTERNS, NOT ROCKETS

A sky lantern does not rise by fighting every movement of the wind. It adjusts to the conditions and continues upwards, sometimes moving sideways before finding its direction.

Teenagers can need something similar: guidance without complete control. When a parent says, “I want you to become a doctor,” the statement may be about more than a particular profession. It may reflect hopes for financial security, stability and respect. Understanding that underlying concern can open a more productive conversation.

A teenager might respond by asking, “I understand that you want me to have a secure future. Can we talk about what that means and explore different ways of getting there?” That shifts the discussion from disagreement to negotiation.

Parents can also begin with curiosity. Asking, “Why do you want to try this?” creates an opportunity to understand a child’s thinking before saying no. Curiosity can help build trust and make difficult conversations less confrontational.



A SMALL TOOLKIT FOR NAVIGATING CHOICES

- Start with a shared goal: “We both want me to do well” can create a better starting point than “You never listen.”
- Suggest a trial: Trying something for a term or a few months can be less intimidating than making a permanent decision.
- Bring a plan: Interest becomes more convincing when accompanied by a practical plan for managing time, studies and responsibilities.
- Allow small failures: A manageable mistake during the teenage years can become an opportunity to develop resilience, reflect and try again.

Let the lantern wobble. A change in direction does not necessarily mean that a teenager is losing their way. Sometimes, it is part of learning how to navigate.

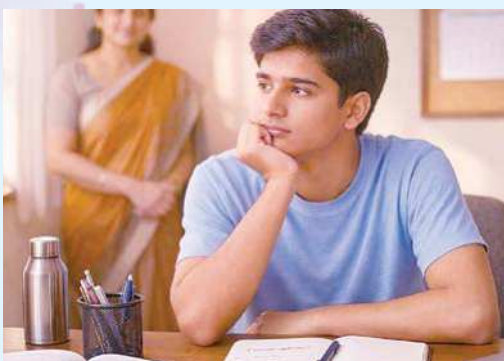
FOR PARENTS, IN THE MARGINS

A parent’s “just a suggestion” can sometimes sound much stronger to a teenager than intended. The way advice is delivered matters.

If a child’s ambition sounds smaller than a parent’s expectations, it is worth asking whether it is genuinely less ambitious or simply unfamiliar. Different interests do not automatically mean lower aspirations.

Parents can provide boundaries while still allowing teenagers to participate in decisions that affect their education and future. The objective is not to remove every obstacle or prevent every mistake. It is to help young people develop the judgement and confidence to handle challenges when parents are no longer there to make every decision for them. Education, after all, is not only preparation for examinations or careers. It is also preparation for making choices, responding to setbacks and finding a direction of one’s own.

(The author is a Talent Strategy leader at KniTT, and Co-Founder of edutech startup)



IISc’s FSID strengthens focus on research, innovation

The Foundation for Science, Innovation and Development (FSID) at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has announced a new leadership structure aimed at strengthening its work in research, innovation and technology-based entrepreneurship.

Ompakash Subbarao has been appointed as the organisation’s Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Under the new model, Subbarao will oversee FSID’s operations and external engagements, while Prof

Suryasarathy Bose, Professor-in-Charge, will provide institutional oversight and serve as the link between FSID and IISc. An IISc alumnus, Subbarao has worked across technology, industry, public digital infrastructure and innovation. Before becoming CEO, he served as CEO of CORE Labs at FSID, where he worked on research and innovation collaborations connecting scientific expertise with industry requirements. FSID’s activities are centred on two areas—

innovation and incubation. Through these initiatives, the organisation seeks to support the translation of scientific research into practical applications and provide an environment for developing technology-focused startups.

The organisation has also been expanding opportunities for collaboration between researchers, companies and startups through its Innovation Hub (iHUB). The facility provides research and development laboratories for industry partners and infrastructure for incubated startups. BEML, Toyo Ink and Schaeffler are among the companies that have established research facilities or workspaces at iHUB.

For students, researchers and aspiring entrepreneurs, such initiatives can provide opportunities to engage with applied research, technology development and innovation beyond the academic laboratory. Industry-linked projects can also expose researchers to practical challenges and the process of developing technologies for wider use.

IIT Kharagpur students design and fly aircraft in international competition

The Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur (IIT Kharagpur) made its debut at the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) Design/Build/Fly Competition in Wichita, Kansas, securing the 39th position globally and fifth in Asia. The institute also recorded the highest total score among participating Indian teams.

The competition brought together university teams from 12 countries, with 98 teams submitting design reports and participating in the fly-off. IIT Kharagpur was represented by a 21-member student team that designed, built, tested and flew an aircraft within four months.

The competition provided students with practical experience across multiple areas of aerospace engineering, including aerodynamics, aircraft structures, propulsion, avionics, computer-aided design, manufacturing and flight testing. The project required students to



work through design and engineering challenges within a defined timeline and prepare their aircraft for competition flights.

The team received support from the Department of Aerospace Engineering and the Aerial Robotics Kharagpur (ARK) Lab, along with mentorship from Prof Arnab Roy, Anup Ghosh, Naba Kumar Peyada, Prof Sandeep Saha and Prof Somesh Kumar.

The 2026 edition marked the 30th year of the AIAA Design/Build/Fly Competition. Of the 175 proposals submitted and

evaluated, 102 teams were invited to submit design reports. A total of 98 teams submitted reports, while 89 teams attended the fly-off, including 17 international teams. More than 1,200 students, faculty members and guests attended the event, and 83 of the participating teams completed the technical inspection. The competition recorded 197 official flight attempts, of which 143 resulted in successful scores. Seventy-three teams achieved at least one successful flight score, while 17 teams completed all four missions,

comprising one ground mission and three flight missions. This year’s theme was a “Banner Towing Bush Plane”. The first flight mission required teams to complete three laps within five minutes. The second, a charter flight, evaluated the number of passengers and cargo carried, laps completed and battery capacity. The final mission involved towing a banner, with scores based on banner length, laps flown and the aircraft’s wingspan. Teams also had to complete a ground mission demonstrating how efficiently they could load and unload passengers and convert the aircraft into a banner-towing configuration. The University of Ljubljana secured first place, followed by the University of Washington-Seattle and the University of California, Los Angeles. For IIT Kharagpur, the competition offered students an opportunity to apply classroom learning to aircraft design, manufacturing and flight operations in an international engineering setting.

Today is National Swap Ideas Day How sharing thoughts can lead to change

Ideas often begin as simple thoughts—something that could make a classroom better, solve a small problem at home, or improve the way people work together. But an idea becomes more useful when it is shared, discussed and developed. Talking about ideas with friends or family can help us look at familiar problems from a different point of view.

An easy way to start is to set aside some time to “swap ideas”. Pick a topic that interests everyone and let each person suggest a change they would like to see. It could be something small, such as organising a study space, reducing food waste or planning a family activity. It could also be a larger idea, such as making a school more environmentally friendly or finding ways to help people in the community.

The important part is to listen as well as speak. Someone may suggest an approach that you had not considered, while another person may identify a



challenge that needs to be addressed. Instead of immediately deciding whether an idea is good or bad, ask questions: What problem does it solve? Who could benefit? What would be needed to make it work? Can it be tried on a small scale first? For students, swapping ideas can also support learning beyond textbooks. Group discussions encourage communication, listening, creativity and problem-solving. They can help students understand that there may be several possible answers to a problem and that improving an idea often takes more than one attempt. Not every idea will become a major project, and that is perfectly fine. Even an unsuccessful suggestion can lead to another thought or help someone understand what does not work.



Monsoon care tips for pretty hands this season



Hydrate



SHAHNAZ HUSAIN

Your hands are involved in nearly every task you undertake. We rely on them for working, cooking, cleaning, eating, writing, using tools and devices, self-care, and even for conveying our thoughts during conversations. Excessive moisture and humidity during the rainy season come with their own set of challenges, especially for our hands.

Dry hands are a common concern at this time of year due to dehydration, as a lot of water content is lost through excessive sweating. Due to dampness and fluctuations in humidity, hands frequently face issues like fungal infections between the fingers, joint stiffness, and dry skin irritation during the rainy season.

1. Hydrate

Hydrate your hands using hand cream or moisturiser. It can be a saviour, especially when you're working around water, like in the kitchen.

For especially dry hands, an overnight routine can help provide extra hydration. Apply a thicker layer of moisturiser before bed and wear soft cotton gloves. This allows your skin to absorb and lock in moisture overnight, leaving your hands feeling soft and

The monsoon season can leave your hands and nails vulnerable to dryness, irritation and infections. A little extra care can help keep them soft, healthy and beautifully groomed throughout the rains

nourished in the morning.

To keep your hands hydrated during the rainy season, apply a lightweight, non-sticky moisturiser right after every hand wash to trap water in your skin before it evaporates.

Mix coconut oil, sea salt, and vitamin E oil. Scrub your hands with the mixture for 5 minutes in a circular motion. Clean with warm water and pat dry.

Add lemon juice to a few drops of your regular hand wash in a bowl of warm water. Soak your hands in the mixture for 10–15 minutes every night before bed. Pat dry and apply moisturiser to get clean and soft hands.

2. Keep Your Hands Clean During Monsoon Season

Hand hygiene becomes even more crucial for staying healthy and preventing the spread of germs during the monsoon season. Clean your hands meticulously for at least 20 seconds with mild, fragrance-free soap and running water before eating,



Keep your hands clean during monsoon season



Exfoliate your hands with a mild scrub

after using the restroom, and immediately after coming home from outside.

Use germ-protection handwashes that provide 99.9% germ protection. They cleanse tough dirt and grime to leave your hands squeaky clean. Make sure that the handwash is made with 90% natural-origin content and doesn't contain parabens, silicones, triclosan, or triclocarban. Regular handwashing removes these microbes, significantly reducing the risk of monsoon-related illnesses like colds and flu, which spread easily through contaminated hands and water.

3. Exfoliate Your Hands with a Mild Scrub

Exfoliating your hands during the monsoon season helps remove dead skin cells and grime that stick to humid skin. Exfoliation helps remove dead skin cells and impurities, keeping your hands smooth and soft. Use a gentle scrub specifically designed for hands and feet at least twice a week. Pay attention to rough areas to prevent the buildup of dead skin. Apart from properly cleansing your hands with a mild cleanser, make sure you

don't miss out on the nails, as they can accumulate a lot of bacteria during the season. Get a nail brush that comes with small, tough bristles to clean under the nails and soft bristles to clean the top of the nails.

Homemade Hand Scrubs Coconut Oil, Sea Salt and Vitamin E Oil:

Mix coconut oil, sea salt, and vitamin E oil. Scrub your hands with the mixture for 5 minutes in a circular motion. Clean with warm water and pat dry.

Coffee, Coconut Oil and Sugar Scrub:

Mix 3 tablespoons of coffee, 2 tablespoons of coconut oil, and 1 tablespoon of sugar in a glass jar. Gently apply it to your hands and massage them. Rinse off after 2–3 minutes with warm water.

Coconut Oil, Honey, Sugar, Sea Salt and Lime Juice Scrub:

Take 1 tablespoon of coconut oil, 1 tablespoon of honey, 1/4 cup of sugar, 1/4 cup of sea salt, and a few drops of lime juice. Mix one tablespoon each of coconut oil and honey. Then add the sea salt and sugar and mix well. Now add the lime

juice and blend for 20–30 seconds. Gently rub the scrub on your hands for a minute or two and then rinse it off. Exfoliate your hands only once or twice a week to avoid damaging your skin barrier.

4. Take Extra Care of Your Cuticles

Nails take the most hit during the rainy season. The monsoon calls for special care of the nails to avoid damage due to red, swollen, and itchy skin around them. The skin becomes sweaty or infected due to overexposure to water, and as a result, both fingernails and toenails can be affected by the rains.

Painting your nails is like therapy. Trying out new nail colours and designs is something that just makes you feel groomed and uplifted. When your nails are groomed in invigorating hues, you automatically get a dose of colour therapy that is just great for your mood.

The monsoon season calls for special care of the nails to avoid infection and chipping. The monsoon can lead to rough, brittle, and discoloured nails. Well-kept nails are a part of our presentation and look. Be it any occasion, we all know how essential it is to maintain them.

(The author is international fame beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India.)



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ACROSS

1 Early stage of the foetus (6)

7 The father of Communism and author of Das Kapital (4,4)

8 Hindu god of love (4)

10 Tempestuous (6)

11 Impious (6)

14 To understand (3)

16 "The ___ has landed" (5)

17 Surrounded by (4)

19 Exploits (5)

21 Hocks (5)

22 The evening star (5)

23 Have clothes on (4)

26 Central west coast of ancient Asia Minor (5)

28 Overact (3)

29 Mediterranean country (6)

30 Holds dear (6)

31 Charged particles (4)

32 Summit (8)

33 Obligations (6)

DOWN

1 German town - "as seed" anagram? (6)

2 Brought up (6)

3 Alright (4)

4 Uranus, Neptune, Jupiter et al (7)

5 Gog and ___; the old-time pair? (5)

6 A daisy, the marguerite (2-3)

8 Tributary of Ganges (4)

9 Name Mrs. (3)

12 Ovens (3)

13 South American animal (5)

15 Clinch (3,2)

18 Important (5)

19 Air mover (3)

20 Responses abbreviation (3)

21 Our national bird (7)

22 Contend with (3)

23 A nut with a hard crinkled shell (6)

24 Running birds (4)

25 Waterside plants (6)

26 Inuit dwelling (5)

27 More recent (5)

28 Monetary unit of Vietnam - "o ha" anagram? (3)

30 Competed (4)

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Solution to September 9

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Solution to September 9

Saba Pataudi shares rare 1980s family album featuring young Sharmila Tagore & family

Bollywood veteran star Sharmila Tagore and the Pataudi family's priceless memories from the 1980s were shared by Saba Pataudi on Wednesday.

The jewellery designer shared a series of rare childhood pictures featuring her mother Sharmila Tagore, father, Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi, siblings Saif Ali Khan, Soha Ali Khan, and herself.

Taking to her social media account, Saba posted a carousel of unseen family pictures from the 1980s.

The opening picture shows a smiling Sharmila Tagore with husband Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi and their three children during a family gathering. The other pictures capture young Saif, Soha and Saba sharing candid moments with their mother.

The post also includes pictures of a young Sharmila Tagore with her children, and many more adorable sibling moments of Soha and Saba. The photos also comprise of recent moments of Saba with Saif Ali Khan.

For the uninitiated, Mansoor Ali Khan who passed away in 2011, was a stalwart cricketer. Talking about Sharmila Tagore, the actress who hails from the family of Guru Ravidranath

Tagore, was a very successful actress of the late 60s and early 70s era of Bollywood.Soha Ali Khan and Saif Ali Khan are successful actors from the Hindi film industry while Saba chose to stay away from cinema professionally.

For the uninitiated, Bollywood star Kareena Kapoor is the sister-in-law of Saba Pataudi. She is married to Saif Ali Khan and the couple are parents to two sons, Taimur Ali Khan and Jehangir Ali Khan.

Actor Kunal Kemmu is the brother-in-law of Saba with him being married to Soha Ali Khan.

World Archery Para Series

India win two gold, four bronze medals

Reigning Paralympics champion Harvinder Singh and world No. 1 Sheetal Devi led the charge as India signed off their World Archery Para Series Stage III campaign on a high

AHMEDABAD

REIGNING Paralympics champion Harvinder Singh and world No. 1 Sheetal Devi led the charge as India signed off their World Archery Para Series Stage III campaign on a high, winning two gold and four bronze medals, on the final day, here on Wednesday.

World No. 1 and reigning world champion Sheetal Devi held her nerve in a dramatic shoot-off to win the para compound women's individual gold, while double Paralympics medallist Harvinder, paired with Bhawna, helped India to gold in the para recurve mixed team event.

In the recurve mixed team final, double Paralympics medallist Harvinder and Bhawna



made short work of China's Liang Qiurong and Xia Lei, winning 6-0 in straight sets.

India took the opening set 35-31 before winning the second 36-33 and completing the clean sweep with a 34-32 victory in the third.

Bhawna then added another bronze in an all-Indian para recurve women's bronze-medal play-off, defeating compatriot Rajshree Rathod 6-0.

Sheetal returned in the evening session and produced a

composed performance against Kazakhstan's Aizada Seidan in a thrilling compound women's individual final. Both the archers started with perfect 30s and remained locked at 59 after the second end, with both shooting 29. Aizada then edged ahead by a point in the third end after shooting 28 to Sheetal's 27.

The fourth end ended 29-29, before Sheetal produced a 29 in the final end against Aizada's 28 to level the scores at 144-all and force a shoot-off.



Alcaraz's US Open title defence ends

Shelton's win sets up a match in the last four with compatriot Frances Tiafoe, boosting home hopes of a first American men's Grand Slam champion since 2003

LOS ANGELES

BEN Shelton beat defending champion Carlos Alcaraz 6-7(5), 6-1, 6-3, 1-6, 7-6(10-7) in the early hours of Wednesday to reach the U.S. Open semi-finals in the latest-finishing match in tournament history.

Shelton's win sets up a match in the last four with compatriot Frances Tiafoe, boosting home hopes of a first American men's Grand Slam champion since 2003. Seven-times major champion Alcaraz arrived at Arthur Ashe Stadium with a 13-0 Grand Slam record against U.S. men but found Shelton tough to break down in a match that

began at 11.05 p.m. on Tuesday and finished at 3.33 a.m. on Wednesday.

"For me it's always about the people in the crowd," Shelton said in explaining how he got through the gruelling contest.

"Whether it's my coaches and my team there, all my family and friends here, or the city of New York that showed up tonight till 3 a.m. with the USA chants until the very end.

"That's what kept me going, and that's what got me this win tonight. "It's incredible. I always say that this is the greatest sports city in the world. I say that this is the greatest stadium in the world."

Alcaraz clinched a tight first-set tiebreak and looked to have all the momentum but uncharacteristic sloppiness allowed Shelton to breeze through the next set before the American tightened his grip on the quarter-final by taking the third.

ASIAN GAMES: 400 ATHLETES EVACUATED



Hundreds of athletes and officials were briefly evacuated after heavy rain battered Nagoya, but the city's mayor on Wednesday ruled out any disruption to the Asian Games. Torrential rain flooded roads and water entered some of the venues for the multi-sport event, scheduled from September 19 to October 4. Around 400 people, including staff and athletes, had to be evacuated due to the heavy rain, but they later returned and no injuries were reported, an Asian Games official told Reuters.

Nyra youngest Indian to qualify for Nationals

NEW DELHI

DELHI shooter Nyra Sharma, aged just 10 years and three months, has become the youngest Indian to qualify for the National Championship.

Nyra secured her place in 10m air rifle after scoring 363/400 at the recently concluded All India Inter School Shooting Championship in Bhopal. Nyra trains at the TOPGUN Shooting Academy in Delhi and will now prepare for the National Championship, scheduled to be held later this year. Her rise has been remarkably swift. She made her competitive debut at the Delhi State Championship in June, followed by the India Open in July at Dehradun. At only her third competition, she produced the score that earned



her a place at the Nationals. Speaking about the achievement, Nyra's father, Prashant Sharma, said, "As a father, I feel immense pride and gratitude on seeing Nyra become India's youngest shooter to qualify for the Nationals. This remarkable achievement is the result of her hard work, discipline,

and determination, along with the guidance and support of TOPGUN Shooting Academy."

For a shooter who entered competitive sport only a few months ago, qualifying for the Nationals at just 10 years old marks an exceptional beginning to her competitive career

IOA to probe Lakra's harassment charge

NEW DELHI

THE Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has constituted a four-member independent inquiry committee headed by retired High Court judge Deepa Sharma to probe the allegations of harassment and intimidation levelled against Hockey India secretary Bhola Nath Singh by former women's team captain

Asunta Lakra.

The panel, formed following a directive from the Sports Ministry, includes former track-and-field athlete Vandana Rao, former women's hockey team captain Mamta Kharb, and lawyer Sitwat Nabi as members.

Lakra, who is also a member of Hockey India's Executive Board, had accused Singh of threatening and har-

assing her after she objected to the alleged sexual harassment of girls in Jharkhand at the hands of local coach Sudhir Golla.

Hockey India has been directed to handle all requisite payments concerning the committee's honorarium, travel, accommodation, and incidental expenses.

"Hockey India is also requested to extend its full co-

operation to the committee and to ensure that all relevant documents, information and such other assistance as may be required is made available to the committee in a timely manner..." IOA President PT Usha's letter to HI stated.

The dispute between between Hockey India and Lakra had taken an ugly turn after the national federation's ethics committee is-



sued a show cause notice and launched an inquiry against the former captain after she was accused of threatening young player Albela Rani Toppo, who is also from Jharkhand.

TOP COURT: ENFORCE SEAT BELT LAW STRICTLY

The law is very clear on seat belts. The question is implementation. How can we ensure that every citizen and every driver in this country complies with it?

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said there are adequate laws mandating wearing seat belts while a vehicle is in motion and it is the duty of the law enforcement agencies to ensure compliance.

The observation came from a bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and

V Mohana, which was hearing a petition seeking directions for mandatory wearing of seat belts in vehicles.

The petitioner's counsel told the bench that many deaths and injuries from road accidents could be prevented if the law mandating seat belt use was followed.

He said that despite the law, a number of vehicles have non-functional seat

belts because of fancy seat covers or other modifications.

The bench said, "The law is very clear on seat belts. The question is of implementation. How can we ensure that every citizen and every driver in this country complies with it?"

The top court asked the petitioner to send his suggestions on the issue to the com-

petent authority.

"It is the work of the law enforcement agencies to ensure compliance," it said.

Referring to Rule 138(3) of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, the bench said it requires the driver, the person seated in the front seat or the persons occupying front-facing rear seats to wear seat belts while the vehicle is in motion.

The petitioner's counsel argued that negligence of people and weak enforcement of law lead to serious injuries and even deaths in road accidents across the country.

The bench noted that there are adequate laws concerning road safety measures, including wearing of seat belts while a vehicle is in motion.

It said non-compliance of

law by people or failure of law enforcement agencies in taking appropriate action against the defaulters was essentially a question of maintenance of law and order.

The bench disposed of the plea while granting liberty to the petitioner to forward a copy of his petition to the concerned authority to consider the suggestions given by him.



Faridabad: Infant dies after drowning in water bucket

FARIDABAD

IN a tragic incident, a one-year-old boy died after drowning in a water-filled bucket while playing at his home in Jeevan Nagar Part-2, Faridabad, police said on Wednesday.



The deceased child was identified as Aryan.

Aryan's grandmother, Meena, said that at the time of the incident, the child and her mother were upstairs at home. While her mother was in a room, Aryan was playing outside. His father was away at work.

While playing, he wandered towards a bucket full of water kept near the bathroom and fell into it headfirst.

"After some time, I realised something was amiss when I could no longer hear any sound from the child," Meena said, adding that when she went to check on Aryan, she found him in the bucket.

She said that they then rushed Aryan to a government hospital, from where he was referred elsewhere. Aryan was then taken to a private hospital, where doctors declared him dead, Meena added.

"The child's body has been placed in the mortuary at ESIC Medical College and Hospital for a post-mortem examination. Further action will be taken based on the post-mortem report," said a senior police officer of Mujesar police station.

'UP govt docs can now serve till 70'

LUCKNOW

GOVERNMENT doctors in Uttar Pradesh will now be able to continue providing services through reappointment until the age of 70, Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak has said.

Pathak -- who also holds the health portfolio -- said the move is aimed at further strengthening government healthcare services in the state.

Under the existing system, government doctors can serve until the age of 65. Following Pathak's direction, the health department has now initiated the process of issuing an order to facilitate their reappointment up to the age of 70, according to an official statement.

Government hospitals, community health centres (CHCs) and primary health centres (PHCs) in the state receive a large number of patients daily. Extending the services of experienced doctors would provide patients with better medical consul-



tation and treatment, while also easing the pressure on hospitals and health centres, the deputy chief minister said on Tuesday.

"The Provincial Medical and Health Services cadre is the principal medical cadre of the Health Department and includes medical officers and specialist doctors who play a crucial role in providing healthcare services at government hospitals, CHCs and PHCs," Pathak said.

He said allowing eligible and experienced doctors to serve until the age of 70

would enable patients to directly benefit from their expertise.

The arrangement would be particularly useful in departments facing a shortage of specialist doctors, and would also help strengthen healthcare services in rural areas, he said.

Pathak said the additional chief secretary, health department, has been directed to expedite the process of issuing orders regarding reappointment of doctors after retirement, up to the age of 70

Food licenses of Rly catering, ISKCON suspended

MUMBAI:

The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Wednesday suspended the licenses of a supplier linked to a railway caterer, a dairy unit and multiple eateries at a religious centre in Juhu for alleged violations of food safety norms. Improvement notices issued to four others. Licenses of three food establishments operating at ISKCON, Juhu, suspended. Serious irregularities found in the milk business, Kharghar; license suspended. Licenses were also suspended for 20 renowned food establishments (hotels, restaurants, etc.): 6 in Mumbai, 3 in Konkan Division, and 11 in Pune Division," FDA stated. According to the Maharashtra FDA, "Inspection of food establishments, specifically base kitchens and food plazas supplying food to railway passengers conducted by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)." The food license of a hospitality and catering company was suspended and improvement notices were issued to four others. The enforcement drive also hit the dairy sector, with authorities suspending the license of a Kharghar-based milk business after uncovering alleged operational irregularities.

5,326 missing; Nepal toll climbs to 1,365

CHITWAN

THE death toll from the devastating flash floods in Nepal climbed to 1,365 on Wednesday as more bodies were recovered from the affected areas, authorities said.

Rescue teams continued to search for 5,326 people, including at least 589 foreign nationals, who remain missing, according to a Nepal Police news bulletin.

Rescue teams recovered 363 bodies from Chitwan district, 226 from Nawalparasi East, 222 from Nawalparasi West, and 197 from Nuwakot.

Similarly, 174 bodies were recovered from Rasuwa district, 75 from Gorkha, 70 from Dhading and 38 from Tanahu.

So far, 102 bodies have been handed over to the family members after completing the identification process, police said.

Security personnel have safely kept 1,147 unidentified bodies underground in accordance with all prescribed protocols, including the collection of DNA samples to facilitate their identification.

The flash floods, triggered by an ice-rock avalanche near the Nepal-Tibet border on August 26, devastated towns and villages in northern and central Nepal.



TIRUMALA BRAHMOTSAVAMS

CM to offer silk robes to Lord Venkateswara on Sept 15

● On the occasion of Srivari Brahmotsavams, Naidu will inaugurate 25 electric buses donated to TTD by Reliance

● Chairman BR Naidu says TTD will maintain a buffer stock of 10 lakh Srivari laddus to meet the expected demand

● This year, cultural programmes will be presented by 27 groups from 25 states, along with artists from Singapore and Germany, during the Vahana Sevas

PRADEEP VENNELAKANTI & DUSI VENKATESWARA RAO
TIRUMALA

CHIEF Minister N Chandrababu Naidu will present silk robes to Lord Venkateswara on behalf of the state government during the annual Srivari Brahmotsavams at Tirumala on September 15. The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has completed prep-



TTD chairman B R Naidu, EO M Ravichandra, additional EO Ch Venkaiah Chowdary and board members releasing Srivari Brahmotsavams booklet in Tirumala on Wednesday

arations for the nine-day festival. Speaking to the media after the TTD trust board meeting in Tirumala on Wednesday, chairman B R Naidu and executive officer M Ravichandra said that the annual Brahmotsavams will be celebrated from September 15 to 23. The festivities will formally begin with Ankurpanam at 7 pm on September 14, followed by the Dwajaroohanam ceremony between 5.30 pm and 7 pm on September 15 in Meena Lagnam. Following Dwajaroohanam, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu will offer the traditional silk garments to Lord Venkateswara. He will

later take part in the Pedda Sesha Vahana Seva scheduled for 9 pm. On September 16, the Chief Minister is scheduled to inaugurate 25 electric buses donated by Reliance to TTD and unveil the TTD calendars and diaries for 2027. In view of the Chief Minister's visit, elaborate security arrangements have been put in place at Tirumala. The chairman said all arrangements had been completed to conduct the annual Brahmotsavams on a grand scale and ensure that devotees do not face difficulties during the festival. With a large number of pilgrims expected to converge on Tirumala, the temple ad-

ministration has strengthened arrangements across darshan, accommodation, Annaprasadam, transport, security, medical services, sanitation, power supply and floral decorations. Special focus has been placed on the Garuda Seva, which is expected to draw a particularly heavy pilgrim turnout. While 6.13 lakh devotees were served Annaprasadam during Garuda Seva last year, TTD has made arrangements to cater to around 9.30 lakh devotees this year, representing an increase of nearly 52 per cent. Security will be maintained by around 5,600 personnel, including 3,000 police personnel. The temple administration has also decided to maintain a buffer stock of 10 lakh Srivari laddus to meet the increased demand during the Brahmotsavams. Sanitation arrangements have been stepped up as well, with the number of sanitation workers in Tirumala being increased from 3,000 to 3,300 during the festival period. The Brahmotsavams will also feature a series of cultural programmes ahead of the Vahana Sevas. Artists representing 27 groups from 25 states, besides performers from Singapore and Germany, are expected to participate. TTD has earmarked Rs 1.60 crore towards their travel and accommodation. Meanwhile, the 2026 booklet containing details of the annual Srivari Salakata and Navaratri Brahmotsavams was unveiled during the board meeting. TTD Chairman BR Naidu, Executive Officer M Ravichandra and board members jointly released the booklet. It may be noted that the Navaratri Brahmotsavams are scheduled to commence on October 12. The chairman said that TTD officials are coordinating closely with the police and district administration to manage the movement of pilgrims and provide essential facilities throughout the festival.

LIQUOR TRANSPORT CASE

Govt sanctions ED prosecution of former APSBCL MD



● ED alleges Vasudeva Reddy engineered unauthorized centralised transport policy and inflated costs

● Govt says prima facie material exists for prosecution in money-laundering case

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

THE state government has accorded sanction for the prosecution of former Andhra Pradesh State Beverages Corporation Limited (APSBCL) managing director Dontireddy Vasudeva Reddy in a money-laundering case linked to alleged irregularities in the liquor transportation tender process. The state government on Wednesday granted permission for prosecution of Vasudeva Reddy in a case registered by the Enforcement Directorate under Section 197(1) of the CrPC, corresponding to Section 218 of BNSS (in connection with ECIR/HYZO/17/2026). The ED case followed FIR No. 11/2026, registered by the APCID on February 10, against Vasudeva Reddy and others in connection with alleged irregularities in the APSBCL liquor transportation tender process. Vasudeva Reddy was appointed managing director of APSBCL in September 2019 and was subsequently appointed commissioner of distilleries and breweries in the State government. The vigilance and enforcement investigation, as referred to by the ED, alleged that Vasudeva Reddy, in

collusion with private individuals and alleged benami entities, replaced the existing decentralised district-wise liquor transportation system with a centralised state-level transportation policy without obtaining the required government approval. The existing mechanism functioned through district-level committees and agreements. The ED investigation alleged that the decentralised system was dismantled and replaced with a centralised transportation arrangement based on allegedly false and misleading recommendations regarding transportation rates and labour-handling issues. According to the the government, the centralised policy was implemented without categorical government approval for deviating from the existing framework. The government alleged that repeated extensions were granted to the transportation contracts awarded to Sigma Supply Chain Solutions Private Limited (SSCSPL) beyond their original tenure without mandatory government approval or intimation to the competent authorities. The alleged manipulation resulted in transportation costs increasing from an average of about Rs 19.68 per carton box to as high as Rs 35.57 per carton box, causing an estimated wrongful loss of Rs 195.33 crore to the government exchequer, according to the material examined by the government. The ED also alleged that proceeds generated through the transportation contracts were layered and diverted through shell entities and alleged fake vendors, including Bonvour, Casta Pink, Ezylod Network Pvt. Ltd. and RK Logistics, for allegedly concealing the origin of funds and distributing kickbacks

and commissions among the accused, their associates and relatives. In the final phase of the APSBCL transportation arrangement, the contract was allegedly awarded to Prasaad Transports, which the investigation described as a front entity allegedly used by Vasudeva Reddy's brother-in-law, Vijaya Narasimha Reddy Marella (VNR), to participate in the tender process. The order said the investigation found that the firm allegedly lacked the required experience, infrastructure and operational capability for liquor transportation but was positioned as the successful bidder through alleged manipulation of the tender process. The ED alleged that Vasudeva Reddy, while serving as APSBCL managing director, facilitated the award of the contract to the entity, enabling alleged unlawful financial gains to himself, his relatives and associates. The Enforcement Directorate stated that sufficient material had been collected during the PMLA investigation indicating Vasudeva Reddy's alleged involvement in money laundering. He was arrested by the ED on June 11, 2026, under Section 19 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act and was subsequently remanded to judicial custody by the Special Court dealing with PMLA cases. The joint director of the Enforcement Directorate subsequently sought sanction from State government to prosecute him for the offence of money laundering under Section 3 of the PMLA, punishable under Section 4 of the Act. After examining the records, the government has now formally accorded sanction for the prosecution of Vasudeva Reddy for the alleged offence of money laundering case.

SWACHH VAYU SURVEY

Guntur, Vijayawada Ward-60 secure All-India No 2

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AMARAVATI

ANDHRA Pradesh has recorded an improvement in the Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan (SVS)-2026, with Guntur city and Ward-60 of Vijayawada securing All-India Rank 2 in their respective categories. Conducted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change under the National Clean Air Programme, the survey assesses non-attainment cities on air-quality improvement measures. All 13 Non-Attainment Cities in Andhra Pradesh participated, while 726 wards were covered under the

ward-level assessment. At the city level, Guntur secured Rank 2 under Category-II with a score of 195, improving sharply from Rank 6 in SVS-2025. It is Guntur's best performance so far, surpassing its earlier Rank 3 in 2023. The city also received a Rs 25 lakh national award. At the ward level, Vijayawada Ward-60 secured All-India Rank 2 under Category-II and received a Rs 30 lakh cash award. At the State level, Guntur Ward-42 and Vijayawada Ward-31 received recognition under Category-II, while Nellore Ward-06 was recognised under Category-III.

The survey also reflected wider improvement across Andhra Pradesh. Eluru jumped from Rank 31 to Rank 4, Nellore from 18 to 9, Vijayawada from 13 to 8, Vizianagaram from 8 to 6 and Srikakulam from 16 to 11. Municipal administration and urban development minister P Narayana said the results reflected the State government's sustained efforts to improve urban living conditions. He said the government would further strengthen measures relating to road-dust control, scientific waste management, emission reduction and public participation.

Principal secretary S Suresh Kumar said the improved rankings resulted from close monitoring, coordination among departments and sustained field-level implementation. The assessment covers measures against biomass and waste burning, road and construction dust, vehicular and industrial emissions, besides public awareness and reduction in particulate matter. The national awards were announced on Swachh Vayu Diwas on September 7, following scrutiny and field verification by the Central Pollution Control Board and the MoEF&CC.

Rs 281 cr okayed for Totapuri mango support price

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VIJAYAWADA

THE state government has given approval to the AP State Cooperative Marketing Federation (AP Markfed) to process Rs 281 crore through working capital or short-term loans towards the support price for Totapuri (Collector) variety mangoes during the 2026-27 marketing season. To this effect, agriculture and cooperation department ex-officio special chief secretary B Rajasekhara issued G O Ms No 47 on Wednesday. The order was issued with the concurrence of the finance department. According to the

government order, the funds will be utilised for implementing the Price Deficiency Payment (PDP) under the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) in Chittoor, Annamayya, Tirupati and Kadapa districts. The assistance will cover 7.03 lakh metric tonnes of Totapuri mangoes at Rs.4 per kg, involving an estimated expenditure of Rs.281 crore. The initiative is aimed at providing support to mango growers in the four districts through the price deficiency payment mechanism. The director of horticulture and sericulture had earlier requested the sanction and release of funds for imple-

menting the scheme. After examining the proposal, the government gave its concurrence to AP Markfed to arrange the required funds through working capital or short-term loans. The managing director of AP Markfed, Vijayawada and the director of horticulture and sericulture have been directed to take necessary action in this regard. The horticulture department has also been instructed to initiate the process of claiming reimbursement of the Government of India assistance after disbursement and ensure timely payment of interest and repayment of the principal amount.

Cyber crime fight gets major boost with C4 centre

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

DIRECTOR General of Police (DGP) Harish Kumar Gupta on Wednesday inaugurated the Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (C4) of the NTR District Police Commissionerate at the Krishnalanka police station in Vijayawada. On the occasion, DGP Harish Kumar Gupta and NTR District Police Commissioner SV Rajasekhara Babu performed special pujas. The centre has been established with the support of the AP Police Housing Corporation under the guidance of NTR District Police Commis-



DGP Harish Kumar Gupta, along with NTR district police commissioner S V Rajasekhara Babu, AP Police Housing Corporation managing director M Ravi Prakash, DCPs and others, unveiling the plaque marking the inauguration of the Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (C4) at Krishnalanka police station in Vijayawada on Wednesday

sioner SV Rajasekhara Babu, with Cyber Crime DCP K Krishna Prasanna supervising the initiative. Cyber Crime

ACP Bhanu Prakash Reddy and his team developed the facility on the third floor of the Krishnalanka police sta-

tion with corporate-style infrastructure. Speaking on the occasion, DGP Harish Kumar Gupta said cyber crimes had emerged as a serious challenge in the State, similar to the problem of drugs. He said the government had already taken steps to control the drug menace and was now focusing on strengthening the fight against cyber crimes. He said a Cyber Guard policy was being introduced in Andhra Pradesh and a State-level cyber war room would be established soon. Similar C4 centres would be set up in every district, along with specialised teams, he added. The DGP said 20 cyber con-

stablets would be appointed in every district to strengthen cyber crime detection and investigation. He stressed the importance of reporting cyber fraud immediately and urged victims to call the national cyber crime helpline 1930 or lodge complaints directly through the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal www.cybercrime.gov.in. Police Commissioner SV Rajasekhara Babu said the C4 centre would analyse every piece of information, from a victim's complaint to the digital trail of the accused, and follow every available lead to prevent cyber crimes and ensure justice to victims.

Jagan maps 2027 padayatra, sounds 'Kurukshetra' bugle

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

YSRCP president Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Wednesday announced plans for a statewide padayatra in September or October 2027, declaring that the party was preparing for a major political battle against the Chandrababu Naidu-led NDA government. Addressing YSRCP local body representatives and leaders from the Parchur Assembly constituency at the party central office, Jagan said people had already begun comparing the five years

of YSRCP rule with the present government and were recognising the difference. He claimed that the YSRCP had implemented 99 per cent of its election manifesto promises. In contrast, he alleged that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and deputy chief minister Pawan Kalyan had issued election bonds carrying their signatures but failed to honour the promises after coming to power. Jagan highlighted his government's village secretariat and volunteer systems, claiming that governance and welfare were taken to

- YSRCP chief claims people are comparing his rule, with Chandrababu government
- Targets NDA over alleged failure to honour major election promises
- Alleges delay in local body polls and misuse of police machinery

people's doorsteps without discrimination or corruption. Listing the



YSRCP chief Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy addressing the Parchur party leaders from Assembly constituency at the party central office in Tadepalli on Wednesday

government's initiatives, he referred to Nadu-Nedu reforms, bilingual education, digital classrooms, TOEFL training and tablets for Class VIII students. He said Aarogyasri coverage was expanded from about 1,000 to 3,300 procedures, with treatment coverage of up to Rs 25 lakh, while Village Clinics, the Family Doctor programme and 18 new medical colleges were also taken up. He also highlighted Rythu Bharosa Kendras, e-Crop registration and price-monitoring mechanisms for farmers. Launching a sharp attack on the NDA government,

Jagan accused it of failing to fulfil promises including Rs 15,000 for every school-going child, Rs 18,000 annually under Aadabidda Nidhi, Rs 26,000 for farmers, Rs 48,000 annually under Cheyutha and Rs 3,000 monthly unemployment allowance. "The people are now seeing the difference between a government that kept its word and one that failed to honour its promises," he said. On local body elections, Jagan alleged that the government was using the issue of 34 per cent BC reservations and the Special Intensive Revision of elec-

toral rolls as excuses to delay the polls. He also accused the government of misusing police and official machinery against those questioning it. Calling the coming political confrontation a "Kurukshetra Sangramam," Jagan urged party cadres to stand with the people and resist what he described as repression and misuse of power. "Whenever and however elections are held, YSRCP will stand with the people. If elections are conducted fairly, YSRCP will emerge victorious. Even otherwise, we will fight strongly," Jagan said.



‘Epic – First Semester’ is a beautiful journey: Anand Deverakonda



Vijay Deverakonda and director Sandeep Reddy Vanga along with the ‘Epic-First Semester’ team at the film’s pre-release event held in Hyderabad

Anand Deverakonda and Vaishnavi Chaitanya, who went viral together in Baby, are back as a pair with the upcoming youthful entertainer EPIC – FIRST SEMESTER. The movie directed by Aditya Hasan and produced by Suryadevara Naga Vamsi and Sai Soujanya is all set to hit the theatres on September 11, 2026.

While talking about the film, Anand called EPIC – FIRST SEMESTER a ‘beautiful journey’ as opposed to a regular love

story. The film chronicles love, family, career, and responsibilities of a middle-class youngster who goes abroad from Wanaparthy in search of his future.

Anand plays Aditya, an innocent young man torn between personal dreams and parental expectations. But his life takes a complete turn when he falls in love and gets into a live-in relationship. As per the actor, the situations have been portrayed in a very naturalistic angle so that the family audiences can easily connect to the story, without



any kind of discomfort.

Anand even stated that he could connect to his character on a personal level as he too had completed his studies in the US. He had left his home town for higher education and taken the road less travelled in order to make a better life for himself.

Vaishnavi plays Kadali, who embodies the hidden

struggles and responsibilities behind a cheerful facade.

Anand even clarified that EPIC is not a sequel to Aditya Hasan’s popular 90s web series, though it is indeed a part of the same universe. As per the actor, the film has the power to connect to different generations owing to its relatable emotions and realistic humour.

‘Mandaadi’ clears censor with U/A, set for a grand release

The much-awaited movie Mandaadi is all set for a grand release today. Starring Suhas and Soori in the lead roles, the movie directed by Mathimaran Pugazhendhi and produced by Elred Kumar of RS Infotainment is ready for an exclusive release in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Hindi.

The film has cleared censor with U/A certificate. The authorities were quite happy with the film especially with the boat sequence which was shot realistically in the sea.

Starring Mahima Nambiar in the female lead, the film also features Sathyaraj, Ravindra Vijay, Mithun, Bala Saravanan and others. Moreover, the film has good technical departments with cinematography by Kathir, GV Prakash Kumar’s background score, and action choreography by Peter Hein, Dilip Subbarayan and Mahesh Mathew.

Besides all that, the promotional events of the film have created a great hype around it. The songs and the teaser have got a good response from the audience, and the recently released trailer has already given a peep into the thrilling world of Mandaadi.

Besides, Mythri Movie Distributors LLP is all set to release the film on a large scale in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. According to the latest reports, the bookings are happening fast in these states, especially on BookMyShow.

Finally, the interesting concept and realistic action along with the great technical values will surely make the film a hit. Moreover, with its wide release in multiple languages, Mandaadi is all set to make a mark and create a great opening for Suhas and Soori.



‘Sigma’ 3rd single is full of energy

The makers of Sigma have released the much anticipated “Rage Of Sigma” song, which has added more excitement and hype to the upcoming film. It has gained a great response on social media after its release.

This high energy number has been sung by Sean Roldan and scored by Thaman S has left everyone excited for the film.

The film, which is set to release worldwide on October 2nd has been produced on a large scale by Lyca Productions and A. Subaskaran. It stars Sundeep Kishan in the lead role and marks Jason Sanjay’s directorial debut.

The earlier released songs Sigma Style and Ayyayyo Ammadi have managed to create good talk back about the film due to their differing music styles.

The film also features Faria Abdullah, Raju Sundaram, Sampath Raj, Shiva Pandit, Anbu Thasan and Yogi Babu in prominent roles.

Krishnan Vasant has been appointed as the cinematographer for the film, which has been edited by Praveen K.L and VFX by Hariharasudhan. The music has been composed by Thaman S. Set for October 2nd release, Sigma has all aspects to deliver a great experience for the viewers on the big screen.

‘Haiku’ teaser: Aegan and Sridevi lead a vibrant romantic entertainer

The teaser of Haiku, a romantic entertainer starring Aegan, Sridevi and Femina George, has been unveiled by popular romantic hero Harish Kalyan. The upcoming Tamil romantic entertainer, which is produced by Vision Cinema House, is written and directed by Yuvaraj Chinnasamy, and slated to release worldwide on October 23, 2026, has been unveiled.

The teaser showcases the fresh chemistry between Aegan and Sridevi as well as a stunning appearance by Femina George towards the end. Aegan plays an urban lover in this stylish yet innocent avatar in a vibrant love story, having delivered natural performances in his previous starrer, Kozhi Pannai Chelladurai.

Music composer Siddhu Kumar’s soothing background score with violin, classic ragas, and contemporary fusion adds to the romantic mix. A breezy presentation that makes for a fresh take on love and relationships is likely to enchant the viewers with its vibrant visuals.

In the meanwhile, the film’s post-theatrical digital streaming rights have been acquired by Netflix for a reported fancy price even before the completion of its shoot.

Dr. D. Arulanandhu and Mathewo Arulanandhu are producing the film. Meanwhile, Priyesh Guruswamy has done the cinematography, Sakthi Praneesh has edited and Prem has designed the art.



Producer Madhu Kalipu expresses confidence about ‘Mahendragiri Varahi’

Mahendragiri Varahi starring Sumanth and Aishwarya Rajesh is all set to release globally on September 11. The devotional action thriller is directed by Santosh Jagarlapudi and stars Siddhu Jonnalagadda in a special role. The film is produced by Kalipu Madhu and Laxman on Rajashyamala Entertainments and Bridge Films.

Producer Madhu Kalipu expresses confidence on the film’s production and says that it has been made on a huge scale and budget without any compromise on the narration. He says Mahendragiri Varahi is a unique devotional action thriller which will surprise the audiences with its grand production value and an entirely new genre.

The film has Goddess Varahi as the central theme and a star-studded cast. As per Madhu, Sumanth has delivered his best performance in his career, Aishwarya has done a dramatic role that looks like a Goddess and Siddhu’s character in the film should also surprise the audience.

The film’s VFX, which is said to be the highlight of



the film, has been worked on extensively. There is nearly an hour of VFX in the film which has been done at the Annapurna Studios. The VFX team has created the effects with realistic graphics. The music and background score of the film are also supposed to be a major strength.

The film’s locations have also been shot in extensively. The team has done a lot of work to get permits to shoot in Ramachandrapuram Fort, Muchintal, Gandikota, and other places in Odisha. The team also constructed a massive set for the temple sanctum. The makers plan to release the film in nearly 900 screens globally, while OTT deals were also finalized after the teaser’s launch. Additionally, the producer is also planning to work on another film with Santosh Jagarlapudi in addition to a bilingual horror film with a Hollywood studio.

‘Lust Stories 3’ trailer filled with love, desire and drama

The much-awaited Lust Stories 3 is all set to premiere on Netflix, and the recently released trailer has only spiked more the expectations from the anthology. The third edition of the anthology will have four stories highlighting love, relationships, desires and emotions.

Directed by Vikramaditya Motwane, Kiran Rao, Shakun Batra and Vishal Bhardwaj, the anthology has an ensemble cast that includes Radhika Apte, Konkona Sen Sharma, Aditi Rao Hydari, Radhika Madan, Sana Thampi, Vijay Varma, Abhishek Banerjee,



Siddharth, Ali Fazal and Gurfateh Pirzada.

The trailer introduces

multiple couples dealing with complicated relationships while

facing their desires and vulnerabilities.

Apart from the couple-centric stories and the emotions, the stories seem to combine humour and drama, which is sure to make for an enthralling watch.

Siddharth and Aditi Rao Hydari, as well as Ali Fazal and Radhika Madan, feature heavily in the trailer, while Radhika Apte and Konkona Sen Sharma also spark the curiosity. The third edition seems to carry forward the tradition of the first two, with the female leads taking on the core of the stories.

The anthology is set to stream on Netflix from September 18.

‘Kalyanam Kamaneeeyam Jeevitham’ trailer promises love, family emotions and thrills

The trailer of Kalyanam Kamaneeeyam Jeevitham was unveiled at a grand event in Hyderabad, spiking the anticipation levels for the upcoming Telugu film. Movie star cast includes Khan Durani and Sahithi Avancha. Directed by Ravi Lokireddy and produced by Paila Prasada Rao and Kishore Gundala of VIVIFY Media Film Factory, the film is all set for a worldwide theatrical release on the 18 th of this month.

The movie has love, family emotions and thriller as the main elements and tracks the journey of a couple who get into trouble with the entry of a third party into their lives. It promises to engage viewers with loads of twists and turns, all without losing out on family-appropriate themes.

Director V.V. Vinayak, who was present as chief guest at the trailer launch, complimented the newcomers and wished that it becomes a massive success. Producers K.L. Damodara Prasad and Prasanna Kumar also praised the trailer and

urged people to support new talents. Music director Sri Murali Karthikeya is optimistic about his songs and background score that will be a major attraction, he says. Hero Khan Durani says he started doing films after spending some time learning and working in cinematography and other film departments. Sahithi Avancha says that the team has worked hard to deliver a story that would appeal to the youth as well as the family audience. Rajavamsi is releasing the film across the Telugu states.

