

FGG seeks fast-track prosecution in ACB trap cases

- Seeks review of cases pending solely for prior approval
- ACB registers 20–25 cases every month, says FGG
- Prosecution approval reportedly refused in 22 cases
- FGG alleges Secretariat lobby is shielding accused officials
- Forum warns delays could encourage corruption

MOULI MAREEDU
HYDERABAD

THE Forum for Good Governance (FGG) has urged the Chief Secretary to direct the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) to proceed with the prosecution of officials booked in trap cases without insisting on prior approval under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, wherever such approval is not legally required. The forum has also sought

instructions to all concerned Secretariat departments to review cases pending solely for want of prior approval and return them to the ACB for necessary action wherever such approval is not mandatory.

FGG secretary M Padmanabha Reddy said corruption in administration remained a serious concern in Telangana. The common man was often compelled to pay bribes even to obtain services and benefits to which they were legally entitled, he said.

He said the Telangana ACB was doing commendable work at the field level by registering an average of 20 to 25 cases every month. However, he alleged that inquiry reports submitted by the ACB Director General seeking permission to prosecute accused officials faced undue delays and interference at the government level.

Even clear-cut trap cases, in which officials were allegedly caught red-handed while accepting bribes, had

remained pending for years and were eventually referred for departmental inquiries, he said. This forced the ACB to withdraw or discontinue prosecution proceedings before courts, he alleged.

Reddy further stated that permission to prosecute had reportedly been refused in 22 cases over the past couple of years, with the ACB being directed to withdraw the cases.

He alleged that the Telangana Secretariat was acting as a protective shield for officials implicated in ACB cases, sending the wrong signal to government employees and potentially encouraging corrupt practices.

Pointing out that some officials had been booked by the ACB more than once, Reddy said the FGG had submitted several representations urging the government to grant prosecution approval whenever sought by the ACB. He alleged that a strong lobby within the Secretariat was working to protect officials facing corruption charges.



CMC steps up anti-larval drive to curb mosquito menace

GOUDA SWEYACHANDRA
HYDERABAD

THE Cyberabad Municipal Corporation (CMC) is stepping up anti-larval operations (ALO) to curb mosquito breeding and prevent the spread of vector-borne diseases such as dengue and malaria. As part of the campaign, officials are carrying out anti-larval measures in water bodies and other potential mosquito-breeding sites. The operations aim to eliminate mosquito larvae before they develop into adult mosquitoes, reducing mosquito populations and the risk of disease transmission.

The civic body is conducting regular inspections to identify breeding sources and treating stagnant water wherever necessary. These preventive measures are particularly important during periods

when water accumulation creates favourable conditions for mosquito breeding.

The corporation has urged residents to support the campaign by maintaining cleanliness in and around their homes. People have been advised to remove stagnant water, keep water storage containers tightly covered, and clean flowerpot trays and unused containers regularly to prevent water accumulation. Officials stressed that public cooperation is essential for effective mosquito control. While the civic body continues its anti-larval operations, residents can help prevent mosquito breeding by adopting simple precautionary measures. The CMC has called upon citizens to join hands with the civic authorities to build a cleaner, healthier and mosquito-free Cyberabad.

KAVITHA PICKS SRIKANTH GOUD FOR GRADUATES' MLC POLL

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) has announced Srikanth Goud as its candidate for the Nalgonda-Warangal-Khammam Graduates' Constituency in the upcoming Telangana Legislative Council elections. Party president Kalvakuntla Kavitha announced his candidature on the occasion of Dasara, marking the party's first entry into a direct electoral contest since its formation. The TRS has also decided to contest the Hyderabad-Rangareddy-Mahbubnagar Graduates' Constituency, signalling its plans to enter the electoral fray in both graduates' constituencies.

Eatala demands relocation of Jawahar Nagar dump yard

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

MALKAJGIRI BJP MP Eatala Rajender has demanded the relocation of the Jawahar Nagar dump yard away from residential areas, citing health risks associated with methane emissions and toxic air. He announced a meeting with affected residents on October 23, a roundtable with environmentalists and intellectuals on October 25, and a padayatra against the dump yard from October 27.

Rajender said the dump yard, originally designed to serve a population of two lakh, was now receiving waste generated by 1.6 crore people. He alleged that groundwater within a 25-km radius had become toxic and that residents living within 30 km were suffering from lung and skin problems.

Citing a report attributed to the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Law, the MP said Jawahar Nagar ranked fourth among 25 major methane-emitting sites across 18 countries.

He urged the government to adopt modern waste-management technologies and find a permanent solution to the problem. Rajender also called on Chief Minister A Revanthy Reddy to intervene and address the concerns of residents affected by the dump yard.

Dasara liquor sales soar to ₹755 crore in Telangana

- Last year's festive sales stood at ₹698 crore
- October 19 records the highest single-day sales of ₹303.40 crore
- Sales include 6.83 lakh cases of liquor and 10.44 lakh cases of beer
- October sales reach ₹2,055 crore by October 19
- Excise Department expects record sales this month

PATAN AFZAL BABU
HYDERABAD

LIQUOR sales in Telangana recorded a massive increase during the Dasara festival, with sales worth Rs 755.14 crore during the festive pe-



riod. Last year, liquor worth Rs 698 crore was sold during the same festive period.

State Excise and Prohibition Department officials said liquor worth Rs 303.40 crore was sold across all licensed liquor outlets on October 19, the day before the

festival.

Liquor worth Rs 102.17 crore was sold on October 14, while sales stood at Rs 126.32 crore on October 16, followed by Rs 223.25 crore on October 17. Although sales dipped on October 18 due to the Sunday holiday,

they surged to Rs 303.40 crore on October 19. Total sales during these four days amounted to Rs 755.14 crore.

In all, 6.83 lakh cases of hard liquor were purchased during the four-day period. Beer sales were even higher, reaching 10.44 lakh cases. By

October 19, total liquor sales for the month had reached Rs 2,055 crore.

Sales stood at Rs 3,209 crore in September and Rs 3,482 crore in August.

Excise Department officials expect October sales to be the highest, given the surge during the Dasara festival. Sales this year have surpassed those recorded during the previous Dasara. Liquor worth Rs 698 crore was sold over four days last year, compared with Rs 755.14 crore this year, marking a significant increase.

It may be mentioned that the Excise Department is the State's second-largest revenue-generating department after the Registration and Stamps Department. The government has been focusing on increasing revenue from liquor sales by permitting new bars and restaurants and raising the prices of foreign liquor.

DGP recalls sacrifices of police martyrs

MOULI MAREEDU
HYDERABAD

STATING that the government places high priority on the welfare of police families, the Director General of Police (DGP) CV Anand on Wednesday said that the sacrifices of police martyrs, who laid down their lives in the line of duty to ensure public safety, will always be remembered.

The DGP paid tributes to police martyrs at an event held at the Goshamahal Stadium on the occasion of Police Commemoration Day.

The DGP said that Telangana has been a land of movements, where hundreds of police personnel sacrificed their lives while confronting violence perpetrated by Naxalites. He emphasised that it is because of their courage and valour that law



Director General of Police CV Anand addressing the media in Hyderabad on Wednesday

and order have improved in the state, paving the way for development.

Anand highlighted that the act of hoisting the national flag in remote, rugged areas—such as the 'Karregutalu' (hilly, forested terrains)—stands as a testament to the unwavering determination of

the police force.

Recalling an incident from 1997, when he served as the Superintendent of Police for Nizamabad, he noted that 126 police personnel were martyred—losing their lives in landmine blasts, armed encounters, and direct attacks on police personnel.

Sanitation workers' welfare, safety reviewed

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

HARDEEP Singh Gill, Member of the National Commission for Safai Karmacharis, Government of India, reviewed the welfare, safety and service conditions of sanitation workers and the maintenance of Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) toilets with Malkajgiri Municipal

Corporation (MMC) officials on Wednesday.

The meeting was attended by Vikas Mahato, Zonal Commissioner, LB Nagar Zone, and other senior officials.

Key issues discussed included timely payment of salaries, insurance coverage, welfare benefits, recruitment procedures and proper maintenance of BOT toilets across

the corporation limits.

During the review, Gill stressed the need to ensure timely salary payments and provide sanitation workers with insurance coverage and eligible welfare benefits in accordance with government rules and guidelines.

Officials were also advised to ensure a safe, dignified and supportive working environment for sanitation workers.

Seethakka calls for water conservation drive to tackle El Niño

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

PANCHAYAT Raj Minister Seethakka on Wednesday directed officials to utilise the employment guarantee scheme extensively for water conservation and storage in view of the potential impact of El Niño on Telangana.

She said the government was taking proactive measures to prevent water scarcity amid rising temperatures and declining rainfall. Regular reviews had been conducted with officials from various departments over the past six months to strengthen water conservation efforts, she added.

The minister inspected Ramappa Lake and the associated defluoridation project in Venkatapuram mandal of Mulugu district. She said the lake currently held water up to a level of 29 feet.

She revealed that the government was exploring the possibility of pumping water from the Godavari to augment supplies to the lake and surrounding areas. She directed officials to release water within the next two days in accordance with the annual operational schedule aimed at improving storage levels.

Seethakka said plans were

under way to treat water from Ramappa Lake through the defluoridation project and supply it for drinking purposes. Officials were continuously monitoring water supply systems, villages dependent on the lakes and groundwater levels, she added.

The minister said natural phenomena such as excessive rainfall and drought could not be completely controlled and cautioned against exploiting such situations for political gain by criticising the Congress government. Changes in Pacific Ocean temperatures influenced weather patterns, she said, stressing that tackling such challenges required collective efforts. She said the government was prioritising water conservation through percolation pits, recharge trenches, small ponds, check dams, restoration of village tanks and borewell recharge. The minister urged sarpanches and villagers to take up extensive water conservation works under the Employment Guarantee Scheme, increase worker participation and make effective use of available opportunities. Enhancing water storage now would help mitigate potential shortages in the future, she said.



GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA Office of the Director, Heritage Department, (Formerly Archaeology and Museums Dept.) Government of Telangana, Gunfoundry, Hyderabad						
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (NIT) (1 st CALL)						
File No. B1/543/2026		Dated: 19-09-2026				
Sl No.	Name of the Work	Estimate of contract value of work put to tender	Period of completion of work	E.M.D. to be paid in the shape of Demand Draft obtained from National Bank 1% of the Estimate Contract Value of work along with Bid Documents	Bid document download Date & Time	Bid submission Closing Date & Time
1	Conservation and Restoration works to Racha konda Fort at Rachakonda (V) Nanyanapur (M) Yadadri Bhuvanagiri Dist. B1/1001/2026	24,47,640/-	03 Months	24,47,640/-	20-10-2026 (Till 10:00 AM)	21-10-2026 (Till 02:00 PM)
2	Re-setting work to sub temple, compound wall, Construction of new pedestals, Security room at Chaya Someshwara Swamy temple at Panagal (V) in Nalgonda District B1/1005/2026	20,30,294/-	03 Months	20,30,294/-	20-10-2026 (Till 10:00 AM)	21-10-2026 (Till 02:00 PM)
3	Removal of rank vegetation and minor repairs, construction of Pedestals, labelling, security room of group of temples at Ghanpur (V&M), Jayashankar Bhupalapally (District). B1/1000/2026	16,06,857/-	03 Months	16,06,857/-	20-10-2026 (Till 10:00 AM)	21-10-2026 (Till 02:00 PM)
4	Archaeological Scientific clearance of excavated Structures, Minor repairs to the Structures, Display of Boards etc., at Buddhist Stupa, Phanigiri (V), Nagaram (M), Suryapet District. B1/1002/2026	8,17,530/-	03 Months	8,17,530/-	20-10-2026 (Till 10:00 AM)	21-10-2026 (Till 02:00 PM)
5	Providing public amenities and other urgent requirements for introducing the entrance fee ticket at the Fort and Mosque (Built for Zafaruddin by French engineers), Jagtial (V & M), Karimnagar District. B1/1003/2026	8,17,530/-	03 Months	8,17,530/-	20-10-2026 (Till 10:00 AM)	21-10-2026 (Till 02:00 PM)
6	Providing public amenities and other urgent requirements for introducing the entrance fee ticket at the Fort and Mosque (Built for Zafaruddin by French engineers), Jagtial (V & M), Karimnagar District. B1/1003/2026	20,29,039/-	03 Months	20,29,039/-	20-10-2026 (Till 10:00 AM)	21-10-2026 (Till 02:00 PM)
7	Renovation works and Construction of Security room at Khammam Fort in Khammam District. B1/1006/2026	20,45,455/-	03 Months	20,45,454/-	20-10-2026 (Till 10:00 AM)	21-10-2026 (Till 02:00 PM)
8	Construction of new Pedestals, erection of Sculptures, fixing of labels and Security Room in the premises of Kolanupaka temples at Kolanupaka (V), Alur (M), Yadadri Bhongir (Dist) B1/1004/2026	7,94,021/-	03 Months	7,94,021/-	20-10-2026 (Till 10:00 AM)	21-10-2026 (Till 02:00 PM)
For further Details Please visit: tender.telangana.gov.in						
Sd/- Prof. Arjun Rao Kuthadi DIRECTOR						
DIPR R.O. No.: 12170-PP/CL/ADVT/2026-27 Dt: 21.10.2026						

Durga idol immersions: Traffic curbs around Tank Bund

DIVERSIONS IN FORCE FROM 3 PM ON OCTOBER 21 TO 6 AM ON OCTOBER 24

MOULI MAREEDU
HYDERABAD

THE Hyderabad Traffic Police have announced traffic diversions around Tank Bund, Necklace Road and adjoining areas in view of Durga Matha idol immersions at People's Plaza, Garden Point, Park and Sanjeevaiah Park. The restrictions will remain in force from 3 pm on October 21 to 6 am on October 24, with changes made according to local traffic conditions.

Traffic from Panjagutta and Raj Bhavan Road towards Khairatabad Flyover will be diverted at V.V. Statue towards Nirankari Junction. Vehicles heading towards the Secretariat from Iqbal Minar will be diverted via the Telangana Thalli Flyover towards Lower Tank Bund.

Traffic from Liberty towards the Secretariat

will be diverted towards Upper Tank Bund, while vehicles from Upper Tank Bund heading towards Necklace Road and Nallagutta Bridge will be redirected via Sonabi Abdullah Masjid, Karbala and Ranigunj.

Motorists have been advised to avoid V.V. Statue, Old Saifabad Police Station, Ravindra Bharathi, Basheerbagh, Liberty, Old Ambedkar Statue, Upper Tank Bund and Nallagutta X Roads due to expected congestion. Citizens have been advised to use alternative routes and follow updates on the Hyderabad Traffic Police Facebook page and X handle, @HYDTP. For emergency travel assistance, they may contact the traffic helpline at 9010203626, D. Joel Davis, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), Hyderabad, said in a statement.



Durga idols being immersed in Hussain Sagar in Hyderabad on Wednesday
Photos: Adula Krishna

Revanth will continue as CM, says TPCC chief

- Congress will remain in power till 2039, says Mahesh Kumar
- No urgency to appoint a BC Chief Minister
- Congress will make a BC leader CM in future
- Rahul Gandhi's vision drives the BC agenda
- BJP yet to appoint a BC state president

VENKATESHWARLU
KOLISHETTY
HYDERABAD

TELANGANA Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) chief B Mahesh Kumar Goud stated that, thanks to the performance of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, the Congress party will win the upcoming elections, and Revanth Reddy will continue as Chief Minister. He added that there is no rush for a change in leadership, noting that a person from a Backward Class (BC) community will eventually become the Chief Minister in the future. Expressing confidence, the



TPCC chief asserted that, given the welfare schemes implemented by the government and the governance of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, the Congress party will remain in power not just until 2034, but potentially until 2039. He reiterated that a BC individual will certainly become the Chief Minister of the state, and that this will be made possible only by the Congress party.

Emphasised that while a BC individual will one day lead the state as Chief Minister; Mahesh Kumar Goud, while speaking to a section of media, said that there is no urgency or set deadline regarding this transition.

He remarked that in the Congress party, one can never predict what might happen or when. He also noted that the focus on the BC

agenda stems from the vision of Rahul Gandhi.

Regarding Revanth Reddy's statement that he would remain Chief Minister until 2034, Goud explained that it was intended to instill confidence among the party cadre, and there is nothing wrong with that. He questioned whether the BRS party could ever make a BC person the Chief Minister. Furthermore, he pointed out that the BJP, which claims it would appoint a BC Chief Minister if it came to power, is currently unable to even appoint a person from a BC community as its own state unit president. He stated that while BC leader Bandi Sanjay held the position of state president, Kishan Reddy took over that role—just as he had previously taken the seat once held by Bandaru Dattatreya.

BJP to counter Rahul Gandhi's 'vote chori' campaign

K CHANDRASHEKAR
HYDERABAD

BJP Parliamentary Board member K Laxman on Wednesday said that the BJP would conduct a nationwide 'Loktantra Bachao - Bheedtantra Hatao' awareness campaign from October 23 to November 5.

Laxman said that this initiative was a response to the protests and chaos orchestrated by the Congress party led by the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, which include allegations of 'vote chori', opposition to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls, and demands for the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

Laxman remarked that Rahul Gandhi, disregarding the responsibilities of his position as the Leader of the Opposition, had resorted to engaging in low-level, regressive politics.

He stated that with the objective of exposing Rahul Gandhi's politically motivated agenda, the BJP would conduct consultative dialogues across major cities and assembly constituencies.

These discussions will involve youth, students, influential intellectuals, doctors, lawyers, legal experts, and former judges. He added that the party will organise workshops and essay-writing competitions in educational



Laxman announces nationwide campaign from October 23 to November 5, with campus outreach and discussions on constitutional values

institutions such as colleges, universities, and schools focusing on the nation's development and the values enshrined in the Constitution, thereby ensuring the public is well-informed about the realities. The BJP leader stressed that the Constitution was not the private property of any single family or political party, and the public's trust in it will not be allowed to be undermined.

He noted that country's Constitution and electoral system, the foundations of the world's largest democracy were respected globally. However, Rahul Gandhi's attempts to mislead the youth for his own narrow political interests, at the expense of national interests, will not be permitted to succeed, he said.

He asserted that the Leader of the Opposition must understand that democracy in the country was governed by the Constitution, not by

'mob rule.' He further stated that as India, now the world's fourth-largest economy advances rapidly, Rahul Gandhi was attempting to erode public trust in constitutional institutions and the electoral process.

He was allegedly using foreign funding to incite violence and chaos, and the BJP intends to expose this reality to raise public awareness. He remarked that the Congress party and Rahul Gandhi are unable to digest the fact that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, having secured three consecutive electoral victories, has provided a clean, untainted administration while serving the nation.

Dasara stage has never been used for politics: Jagga Reddy

- I never speak politics or ask for votes during Dasara celebrations: Senior Cong leader
- 'However, I will share what is in my heart with the people'
- 'It is people of Sangareddy who raised me from the level of a councillor to where I am today'
- Jagga Reddy makes interesting remarks at Dasara celebrations in Sangareddy

HANS NEWS SERVICE
SANGAREDDY



their medication regularly. He said that sons, daughters, and daughters-in-law have a responsibility to take care of their parents' health in old age.

Reddy, along with his family members, participated in the Dasara celebrations organised under his leadership at Ambedkar Stadium. He spoke emotionally about family values, the health of elders, and his long-standing bond with the people of Sangareddy.

The Dasara festivities were celebrated on a grand scale. The annual event, organised by Reddy, witnessed a magnificent turnout. Celebrations began with a special bhajan at the Ram Mandir. Reddy joined members of the Ram Mandir Bhajan Mandali

and devotees.

Later, following tradition, a procession carrying the sacred "Shami" ritual offering moved from Ram Mandir to Ambedkar Stadium where extensive arrangements were made for the celebrations. Under the guidance of Maheshwara Sharma Siddhanti, Reddy and his family performed the traditional Jammi Puja.

The Ravana Dahanam emerged as a major attraction. Thousands watched the spectacle with enthusiasm. Fireworks illuminated the night sky, while an impressive drone show captivated the audience. A musical concert by renowned playback singers further enthralled the gathering.

Reddy recalled his political journey and association with Sangareddy. "Many

people think I have a lot of money. Whatever money I earn, I spend every year on organising festivals for the people of Sangareddy. Forty years ago, when I was young, I participated in Dasara celebrations on this very ground along with my friends. From then until now, my bond with Sangareddy has remained strong. It is the people of Sangareddy who elevated me from the position of a councillor to where I am today," he said.

He went on to say that he had never used the Dasara platform for political purposes. "I have never spoken politics or sought votes from this stage. However, I always share what is in my heart with the people," he remarked.

Reddy said, "my family

is not limited to my wife and children. I consider all the people of Sangareddy as members of my family. That is why I celebrate festivals with everyone every year." He stressed that children should pay greater attention to their parents' health as they grow older. Particularly in cases of hypertension and diabetes, elders must be encouraged to follow doctors' advice and take medicines regularly. He warned that spending crores of rupees after serious complications arise would be of little use if preventive care is neglected.

Reddy conveyed that festivals are not merely about entertainment and celebrations but also about strengthening family bonds, affection and togetherness.

Niranjan Reddy asks Congress to expedite PRLIS works

K CHANDRASHEKAR
HYDERABAD

BRS senior leader S Niranjan Reddy on Wednesday claimed that the flow of water from Narlapur to the Elluru reservoir was made possible by decisions taken during the BRS government's tenure. He said the then KCR government had installed sluice gates at Narlapur Reservoir following his efforts.

Reacting to Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao releasing water from Narlapur Reservoir on Wednesday, Niranjan Reddy said the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme (PRLIS) had been designed with interlinks to address the limited capacity of canals originally constructed under the Kalwakurthy Lift Irrigation

(KLI) scheme and ensure adequate water supply to farmers.

The interlinks included Narlapur to Elluru, Yedula to the Buddaram canal, and the Vattam reservoir to the KLI canal, he said.

"During the BRS regime, we made efforts to rectify the injustices caused by the Congress party. Water is still available in the Srisaillam project. If the government is sincere, it should remove the soil obstructing Package 3 and allow water to flow," he said.

Niranjan Reddy maintained that there was no problem operating the existing pumps, but difficulties arose when all 10 pumps were run simultaneously. The pumps at Yedula and Vattam were ready, and water could be transported

up to Karivena, he said, adding that each reservoir could store five TMC of water.

The remaining works could be completed by next year, he claimed. Removing the soil obstructing Package 3 would ensure an uninterrupted flow of water, he added.

The BRS leader questioned why the PRLIS works had remained stalled for three years, why tenders for canals issued during the BRS regime had been cancelled, and why fresh tenders had not been invited since then.

He also questioned the appointment of officials who had previously worked against Telangana's irrigation projects as advisers to the State government on irrigation.

Despite the BRS repeatedly demanding completion of the PRLIS over the past three years, Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao had not spoken up on the issue even once, Niranjan Reddy alleged.



GHMC gives floral waste an eco-friendly makeover

- GHMC collects over 5 MT of Bathukamma floral waste
- Flowers transported to composting yards
- Floral waste converted into organic compost
- Ganesh immersion flowers recycled separately
- Dried petals being used to make dhoop, incense sticks and colours
- Chemical-free process promotes eco-friendly waste management

MM FAROOQUI
HYDERABAD

THE Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has collected over five metric tonnes (MT) of floral waste during the Bathukamma celebrations in Hyderabad. The collected waste has been transported to designated composting yards for processing into organic compost.

The initiative aims to promote sustainable waste management and encourage the responsible disposal of flowers used during the state's traditional Bathukamma festival.

Bathukamma, celebrated with floral arrangements and cultural festivities, generates considerable quantities of flower waste. By collecting and processing this waste,



File photo

GHMC seeks to prevent improper disposal and convert organic material into a useful resource.

An officer at GHMC said that the collected flowers will

be processed into organic compost, supporting the re-use of biodegradable waste and promoting environmentally friendly practices. The civic body also aims to en-

courage eco-friendly festival practices and create awareness about responsible waste disposal.

According to GHMC, the initiative was taken up

during Ganesh immersion across major immersion points in the city, with municipal teams separately collecting flowers and garlands. The flowers and garlands were removed from trollies and placed in separate bags for recycling.

The collected flowers were washed and dried. The stems and petals are then separated, with the dried petals processed into powder. The flower powder is subsequently used to manufacture dhoop, incense sticks and colours. The process does not involve the use of chemicals.

The initiative is aimed at reducing the amount of floral waste generated during the festivals and ensuring that flowers offered as part of the celebrations are put to productive use.

Three event organisers held over student's death

Police find safety lapses in lighting pole installation at MVSR College Dandiya event

MOULI MAREEDU
HYDERABAD

THE Adibatla police arrested three persons associated with Saket Event Management Company in connection with the death of a student and injuries to 25 others after a lighting pole collapsed during a Dandiya event at MVSR Engineering College on the outskirts of Hyderabad.

The deceased, Soni Narayana Das, succumbed to her injuries while undergoing treatment. The other injured students are receiving medical care.

Shamshabad Zone DCP Rajesh, addressing the media at his office in Shamshabad, said the investigation had revealed serious lapses in the

installation of the lighting structure. Police found that the heavy pole had been erected without adequate support or a firm foundation.

Investigators seized mobile phones, event management agreement documents, screenshots of financial transactions, a 19-metre-long truss structure and an allegedly unauthorised DJ sound system.

Police have also registered a case against the MVSR College management for allegedly failing to ensure student safety and allowing the event without proper permissions and supervision.

Officials warned that negligence compromising student safety would not be tolerated and said the investigation was continuing.

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Branch-wise loan details, along with customer details are available with the respective branches / annexure.

District: BHADRAKOTI KOTHAGUDEM Auction Centre Address: CCAPRI LOANS, FIRST FLOOR H NO 6-8-101, NO 142 RATNA COMPLEX, BANK STREET KOTHAGUDEM TELANGANA - 507318
KOTHAGUDEM BANK STREET-TS : L30100042687709, L3010004263995, L30100041867936, L30100042989053
L30100041261649 YELLANDU-JAGDAMBA CENTER-TS : L301000424337071

District: KHAMMAM Auction Centre Address: CAPRI LOANS, HOUSE NO 8-3-203/1 FIRST FLOOR, HIZAMPET JAMMIBANDA KHAMMAM TELANGANA - 507001
KHAMMAM-HAVELI-TS : L30100041012930, L3010004335591, L3010004335649 KHAMMAM-JAMMIBANDA-TS : L3010004096641, L3010004056441, L3010004772343, L3010004772332

District: MEDCHAL MALKAJGIRI Auction Centre Address: CAPRI LOANS, GROUND FLOOR, 3-8-44/A SUREYDAVA COLONY, MANISODABAD LB NAGAR HYDERABAD TELANGANA - 500089
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District: MEDCHAL MALKAJGIRI Auction Centre Address: CAPRI LOANS, FIRST FLOOR H NO 5-12-5, PLOT 776/A MANGAPURAM COLONY HB COLONY MAIN ROAD PO MOULALI HYDERABAD TELANGANA - 500040
HYDERABAD-H B COLONY MOULALI-TS : L3010004079991, L3010004022371, L30100041052081, L3010004101021, L3010004102591, L30100041799456, L3010004123771, L30100040779403, L30100042198053

District: NALGONDA Auction Centre Address: CAPRI LOANS, H NO 5-15/1 BALAJI BORROILED MODERN RICE MILL, DEVARAKONDA ROAD, MIRVALAGUDA NALGONDA, TELANGANA-508004
DEVARAKONDA-GANDHI NAGARS-TS : L3010004143962, L3010004143965, L3010004143965, L3010004143965
KONDAMALLEPALLY-SAGAR ROAD-TS : L30100040870023

District: VIKARABAD Auction Centre Address: CAPRI LOANS, H NO 4-1/1, FIRST FLOOR, ABOVE APOLLO HOSPITAL CHINCHOLI ROAD TANDUR TELANGANA - 501414
PANGI-VIKARABAD-TS : L3010004102681, L301000418648, L3010004143394, L30100041424831, L301000407799053, L30100041952671, L30100042063368 TANDUR-CHINCHOLI ROAD-TS : L3010004196532

The auction will be conducted branch-wise at district level through the authorized auctioneer, **Shriram Automall India Limited (SAMIL)**, in compliance with applicable regulatory guidelines.
Interested bidders may visit <https://gold.samil.in> for registration, participation, and detailed terms & conditions

Auction Timing: Between 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM on 27-October-2026.

The Company capri global capital limited is having the right to postpone the auction on subsequent dates on the same terms and conditions without any further notice.

In the event the auction remains unsuccessful due to any reason, the Capri Global Capital Limited reserves the right to conduct a subsequent auction through online mode via the authorized auctioneer's **Shriram Automall India Limited (SAMIL)**.

Note: Borrowers may redeem/release their pledged gold ornaments by clearing all dues on or before the auction date, during business hours of the respective branch, failing which the ornaments will be auctioned without further notice.

Capri Global Capital Limited has the authority to remove any of the Loan account from auction list without prior information and has a right to cancel without prior intimation.

DATE: 22-October-2026. For Capri Global Capital Ltd (Gold Loan)
PLACE: TELANGANA

Bus operators look beyond Telangana to cut tax costs

- Buses from Nagaland, Odisha, Arunachal Pradesh and Puducherry operate in Hyderabad
- Operators cite lower taxes in other states and Union Territories
- Transport Department proposes cutting quarterly AITP bus tax from Rs 4,000 to Rs 1,800 per seat
- Telangana has only 110 AITP-registered buses
- Around 68 buses moved out in 2023, 15 in 2024 and 13 in 2025
- Operators hope a tax cut will encourage local registrations

MM FAROOQUI
HYDERABAD

HIGH taxes in Telangana are prompting private transport and tourist bus operators to register their vehicles in other states and Union Territories, where the tax burden is comparatively lower. The trend was particularly visible during the Dasara festival rush, when a majority of private and tourist buses operating in the city were found to be registered outside Telangana.

Annual motor vehicle tax and quarterly taxes in Telangana are reportedly driving transport agencies to purchase and register contract carriage buses in other jurisdictions, particularly Union Territories that levy lower charges.

Buses operating from



Hyderabad to other districts and states were seen carrying registration numbers from Nagaland (NL), Odisha (OD), Arunachal Pradesh (AR) and Puducherry (PY), among others.

According to transport agencies, operators are choosing these jurisdictions to reduce their financial burden. After completing the required formalities, they bring the buses to Telangana and operate them under the applicable All India Tourist Permit (AITP).

A representative of a transport agency said, "The taxes and fees in Telangana are a significant financial burden for operators. Registering buses in other states or Union Territories with lower charges reduces the burden. We would prefer to register our vehicles in Telangana if the government offers a lower tax structure."

Another transport representative said purchasing buses in other states was not their first choice, but operating costs remained a major concern. A reduction in the tax burden, the representative said, could encourage operators to register more buses in Telangana and provide relief to the transport sector.

Meanwhile, official sources said the Telangana

Transport Department was considering measures to reduce taxes on contract carriage buses. Transport Commissioner K Ilambathi has sent a proposal to the State government, which is under consideration.

The department has proposed reducing the quarterly tax on AITP buses from Rs 4,000 to Rs 1,800 per seat. Union Territories charge less than Rs 500 per seat in quarterly tax, while several neighbouring states levy between Rs 1,800 and Rs 3,000, making them comparatively cheaper than Telangana.

If implemented, the proposed reduction could ease the financial burden on transport agencies and encourage operators to purchase and register more buses in the State.

Sources said Telangana has only 110 AITP-registered buses. The movement of buses to other states and Union Territories was particularly noticeable in 2023, when 68 buses moved out of Telangana. Another 15 buses shifted in 2024 and 13 in 2025.

The buses obtained no-objection certificates to transfer their registrations to Nagaland, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and other states and Union Territories.

TPCC WORKING PRESIDENT POSTS REMAIN IN LIMBO

- Aspirants turn to Governor's quota MLC seats and nominated posts
- Padmashali quota triggers competition among leaders
- BC, SC and ST leaders eye the remaining two MLC seats
- Social representation and political factors likely to influence selection
- Continued delay fuels uncertainty among working president aspirants

VENKATESHWARLU
KOLISHETTY
HYDERABAD

NEARLY three years after the Congress came to power in Telangana, the appointment of TPCC working presidents remains pending. With no clarity on the appointments, several aspirants have reportedly shifted their focus to Governor's quota MLC seats and nominated posts.

Two years have passed since B Mahesh Kumar Goud took charge as Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president, but



no working presidents have been appointed. While the Congress high command is reportedly interested in filling the positions, the state leadership appears to be in no hurry. Party sources suggest that the appointments of Working Presidents may take place after the selection of nominated posts and Governor's quota MLCs is completed.

The names of Ch Vamshi Chand Reddy, N Padmavathi Reddy, C Rohin Reddy, Naini Rajender Reddy, Fay-eem Qureshi, SA Sampath Kumar, S Indira, Preetham Nagarigari, Porika Balaram Naik, Bellaiah Naik, Azmathullah Hussaini, S Obaidullah Kotwal and M Sunitha Rao had earlier figured among the likely contenders for TPCC working president posts. However, several Working Presidents

aspirants are now reportedly pursuing MLC and nominated positions.

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's announcement that one Governor's quota MLC seat would be allocated to the Padmashali community has triggered competition among several leaders.

Eravatri Anil, Sangishetty Jagadishwar Rao, Punna Kailash Netha and Jakkani Anitha are among those reportedly seeking the position in Padmashali quota. Dr Pavithra Vani, daughter of freedom fighter Konda Laxman Bapuji, is also being considered.

The remaining two Governor's quota MLC seats have attracted interest from leaders belonging to Backward Classes (BCs), Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs).

Among the BC aspirants

are Neelam Madhu, Nerella Sharada, M Sunitha Rao, Sathu Mallesham, Changanani Dayakar, Lokesh Yadav, Charan Kaushik Yadav and Gouri Sathish. From the SC community, Preetham Nagarigari, SA Sampath Kumar, S Indira and Dommata Sambiah are reportedly in the race, while Bellaiah Naik is among the ST aspirants. The final selection is expected to take into account social representation, political considerations and the contributions of the aspirants.

It may be recalled that following Mahesh Kumar Goud's appointment as TPCC chief, some party leaders had argued that working presidents were unnecessary in a state where the Congress was in power. The leadership later indicated that appointments for Working Presidents would be made, raising expectations among aspirants. However, no appointments have materialised so far.

On the other hand, several months ago, speculation within the Telangana Congress suggested that differences between state leaders and AICC general secretary in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan had contributed to the delay in appointing Working Presidents. However, even after Natarajan reportedly left for London on September 18 to pursue higher education, there was no progress on the appointments of Working Presidents.

TPCC chief Mahesh Kumar Goud has repeatedly assured party leaders that working presidents would be appointed soon. Nevertheless, the continued delay has fuelled uncertainty among aspirants.

A Congress leader observed that several contenders had gradually shifted their attention from working president posts to Governor's quota MLC seats and nominated positions, which are expected to be announced soon.

With the selection of MLCs and nominated posts taking centre stage, the future of the TPCC working president positions remains uncertain, leaving aspirants to explore alternative opportunities within the party and government.

Telangana's state birds freed from captivity

MOULI MAREEDU
HYDERABAD

HYDERABAD police rescued four Asian paradise flycatchers, the state bird of Telangana, during raids at three locations in the city on Wednesday.

Hyderabad Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar said two paradise flycatchers kept in cramped cages near a temple at Langar Houz Bapughat were rescued and handed over to forest officials at KBR Park.

Another bird was rescued from a cage tied to a tree near the Sri Chitragupta Swamy Temple in Chatrinaka, while the fourth was found in a cage near the Balajinagar Temple in Mangalhat. All the rescued birds were handed over to forest officials, and legal action was being initiated

against those responsible in coordination with the Forest Department.

Sajjanar said the Asian paradise flycatcher, which should soar freely in the sky, had been confined to iron cages by some individuals for selfish reasons during the Dasara festival. Despite prior warnings that cruelty towards animals would invite strict legal action, some people had ignored the advisory and subjected the birds to severe distress, he said.

"Binding a helpless bird in the name of a festival, depriving it of food and water, and subjecting it to torture does no good to anyone," the Commissioner said.

He urged people not to encourage inhuman practices that deprive birds of their freedom and promote illegal hunting for monetary gain.

Telangana BJP to take out padayatra against Cong on Nov 1

HYDERABAD: The Telangana BJP will take out a padayatra on November 1 against the Congress over its opposition to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, State BJP president N Ramchander Rao said on Wednesday.

Speaking during an informal interaction with the media in Hyderabad, Rao said he would meet all district presidents at the party's State office on Thursday. He added that the BJP was organising various programmes across the districts. The BJP leader also said the party would announce its candidates for the two MLC seats within two days. State in-charge Sunil Bansal is scheduled to visit Telangana on October 24, and the candidates are likely to be finalised after his meeting with party leaders.

"We will send the names of candidates to Delhi on the morning of October 24. The candidate of PRTU is still not clear. The final decision rests with the high command," Rao said.



TPCC chief B Mahesh Kumar Goud releasing the Palapitta at Uppal Mini-Stadium on Tuesday

Forest Department registers case over release of Palapitta at Uppal Mini-Stadium

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

allegedly involved in the incident.

A case (POR No. 16-03/2025-26) was registered on October 21 under relevant provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and Section 35 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), according to officials.

The Forest Department has issued notices to the individuals concerned, and an investigation is underway. Officials said further legal action would be initiated upon completion of the investigation, after which the accused would be produced before the jurisdictional magistrate.

DRI busts gold smuggling racket, five arrested

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

outskirts of Vijayawada. The officials found that the foreign currency was part of the sale proceeds of the smuggled gold.

In a follow-up operation, three alleged gold carriers travelling towards Hyderabad in a public bus were intercepted at a toll plaza. Three gold bars weighing approximately 3.1 kg were recovered from them. The bars had been concealed in a pouch tied around their waists.

All five accused, allegedly involved in procuring and transporting the contraband, were arrested and produced before the jurisdictional magistrate, who remanded them to judicial custody.

VH presents prizes to winners at Bathukamma Kunta

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE Amberpet Devasthan Seva Samithi organised several events at Bathukamma Kunta on the occasion of the Suddala Bathukamma festival. Government Advisor V Hanumantha Rao attended the event as the chief guest and presented prizes to the winners of the celebrations.

Cash prizes of Rs 5,000, Rs 4,000, Rs 3,000, Rs 2,000 and Rs 1,000 were awarded to the participants securing first, second, third, fourth and fifth places, respectively.

The prizes were distributed by PCC Secretary Shambhula Srikanth Goud and Khairatabad District Mahila Congress president Shambhula Usha Sri Srikanth Goud. Former corporator Pulla

Narayana Swamy and members of the Amberpet Devasthan Seva Samithi committee also attended the programme.

The celebrations highlighted the cultural and traditional significance of Bathukamma, Telangana's floral festival, which brings women and communities together in a spirit of devotion and festivity.



Government Advisor V Hanumantha Rao presenting awards to the winners at Bathukamma Kunta

DEVOTION MARKS DURGA IDOL PROCESSION

Devotees in traditional attire capture memorable moments with beautifully decorated idols of Goddess Durga at Keys High School Grounds, Secunderabad, during the Goddess Durga idols immersion procession organised by the Bangiya Sanskritik Sangha in Hyderabad on Wednesday

Photos: Srinivas Setty

Bhagwat's Dasara message highlights Hindu undivided family

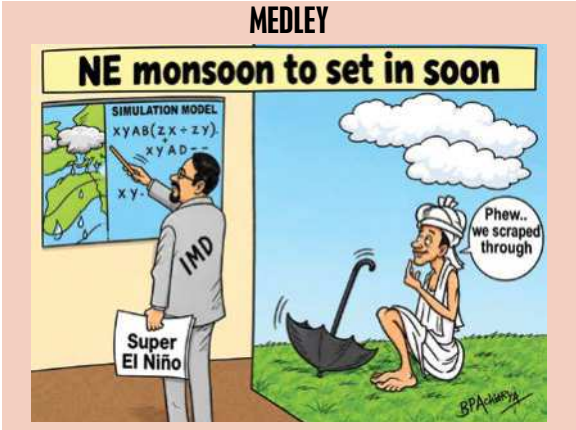
HEAD of RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's annual Dasara speech on Tuesday morning, there were speculations among anti-government commentators and analysts that there would be hints of a rift within the saffron brotherhood. The invitation to former vice-president Jagdeep Dhankhar and the proprietor-editor of a prominent eight-leaning newspaper, whose ties with the government have recently reportedly been strained, kept the rumour mill churning. Dhankhar's unceremonious removal last year—though it was technically a resignation on health grounds—resulted in his complete marginalisation in the Sangh ecosystem. The newspaper has been publishing donation theft news in Ayo-

dhya very prominently, which was seen as an attempt to annoy the Narendra Modi regime. The speculation, however, seems to be the result of wishful thinking rather than information and intelligence. At least, Bhagwat has not said anything that can be called critical of the government. In fact, he has come to the rescue of the powers that be by trying to link the ongoing violent protests in France and other European countries, and the earlier ones in Bangladesh and Nepal, with the agitation in India, thus validating the government's narrative that the movement against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar is politically motivated. "A storm has blown in the west. Look at what transpired in France,

Bangladesh and Nepal. Regime change will not happen in India. Such attempts continue in India as well. India has moved forward with steadfast resolve, and the collective vitality (purushartha) of its society has grown," he said. This must be music to the government's ears. "Problems arise and movements take shape; however, these should be directed toward finding solutions. The primary objective must be a resolution. Our actions should not sow animosity, and the boundaries of propriety (maryada) must be respected," he said. RSS functionaries are known not to name persons or groups; in this case, the use of the term maryada must be seen as a rebuke to the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP). During its successful agitation

against the then education minister Dharmendra Pradhan in July, many activists used foul language (amaryadit bhasha, in RSS lingo). Whatever the RSS may be thinking, it doesn't look like regime change. The organisation may have its differences with the government, and its leaders may occasionally be displeased with the way the BJP functions, but such discontent should not be mistaken for a desire to dislodge the regime. The RSS has invested decades in building the political and ideological ecosystem of which the BJP is the principal beneficiary. Besides, Sangh functionaries, their friends and families have also benefited hugely. To expect that it would now seek to destabilise this symbiotic relationship will

be unrealistic. The Sangh may want the government to be more attentive to the concerns of Gen Z and even the demands of CJP, but it is unlikely to jeopardise saffron hegemony because of such issues. Indeed, the RSS has little to gain from destabilising a government led by a party that has brought its ideological project closer to the centre of national politics than ever before. Any serious confrontation would risk weakening not merely the BJP but the larger Sangh Parivar, while potentially creating political opportunities for its ideological adversaries. The RSS's preference has traditionally been to settle differences through organisational channels rather than advertise them in public domain.



LETTERS

A century of remarkable service

HAVING completed 100 years, the RSS stands at an important milestone in its journey. Its values of discipline, patriotism and selfless service, reflected in its work in education, disaster relief and community welfare, deserve appreciation. As it enters its second century, these contributions offer an opportunity to strengthen public trust further. Greater engagement with different communities, particularly minorities and disadvantaged sections, can broaden its social reach. Its efforts to promote national unity and preserve India's cultural heritage can become more meaningful through respect for diversity and constitutional values. Encouraging dialogue and mutual understanding will also help bridge social differences.

A Myilsami, Sullur (P O), Coimbatore-641402

India-US trade deal brings relief

THIS refers to "US close to finalising trade deal with India" (THI, Oct 21). The indication that the deal is "pretty close" comes as a timely relief. With the US being India's largest trading partner, any reduction in tariff uncertainty will help exporters, especially in textiles, pharma and IT, to plan better. It will also ease pressure on the rupee and support investor confidence. However, a quick deal should not mean a weak deal. India must ensure protection for sensitive sectors like agriculture and dairy, and secure clarity on H-1B and data issues.

S D Tejaswani, Bengaluru

EC data exposes Cong hypocrisy

THIS refers to news that the Election Commission has found over 30,000 voters as "ineligible" for final inclusion in the electoral roll. This means, out of the 92.65 lakh, who were issued notices for being ineligible, around 30,407 are 'fit to be removed from the rolls', including voters having no mapping and logical discrepancies. This information by the ECI should help demolish the mischievous campaign against the S I R and 'vote chori' propaganda of the Congress, INDIA block and the CJP. One hopes the rant for the resignation of CEC and the itch for regime change would end for the Congress as there are no takers for their stupid allegations and vicious propaganda.

Sakunthala K R, Hyderabad

Nip political dissent in the bud

PROPOS, "France protest fire sings Europe". Protests are a democratic right, but violence, vandalism and intimidation cannot be justified in the name of political dissent. The unrest spreading across European countries should concern governments and citizens alike. Governments must distinguish peaceful protesters from those who exploit public grievances to promote disorder. At the same time, dismissing every protest as politically motivated would be equally unwise. Authorities should address legitimate concerns about education, employment and the cost of living through dialogue and transparent action. Firm, impartial law enforcement, coupled with responsive governance, is essential to prevent peaceful dissent from becoming organised violence.

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Police department not a servant: Kharge asks RSS to seek permission

BENGALURU: KARNATAKA Home Minister Priyank Kharge on Wednesday launched a sharp attack on the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), questioning whether the Police Department was subservient to the organisation.

Reacting to a letter submitted by the RSS informing the police about its proposed march, Kharge said the organisation had provided information rather than formally seeking permission for the event. "The letter says that they are informing the police, not seeking permission. Let them seek permission. Is the Police Department their domestic servant?" he asked. Kharge also questioned RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's statements on changing the existing governments and politics, asking who had authorised him to speak about a change of regime and political matters.

"What regime change are they talking about? How can regime change happen? The Chief Election Commissioner is theirs, the EVMs are theirs, and the voter list is theirs. Can these be changed? Form 6 is theirs, and Form 7 is theirs. There is still no answer to the question: Why does the Chief Election Commissioner have judicial immunity?" he said, referring to Forms 6 and 7 associated with electoral rolls.

"There is a conspiracy to ensure that they remain in power permanently. This has already been exposed. Isn't the fact that people are taking to the streets today evidence of this?" he said. He suggested that this was the reason some people were behaving with such confidence. Keeping up his attack on the organisation, he said: "Which evil force are we talking about? Who is the one developing links with Pakistan?"

He also called for an examination of the organisation's history and questioned what protests it had undertaken in the past. Kharge further said that protests taking place in foreign countries should not be compared with those in India, as the issues involved were different.

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

TALKING OF MANY THINGS



TODAY'S world offers young and qualified people many opportunities for rewarding and productive careers. From medicine or engineering, through law, accountancy, and the civil services or journalism to politics, there are innumerable choices.

Counting out politics, which has been described as the 'last resort of scoundrels' by Dr Samuel Johnson, journalism as a career offers an exhilarating mix of frontline storytelling and profound social impact; paired, however, with severe physical, digital, and psychological risks. Since it is all about uncovering the truth, bringing hidden stories about systemic corruption and unheard voices out into the open, and into the public eye: catalysing societal change, holding power accountable, and giving a platform to the resilient or marginalized. Journalism, thus, offers deep personal fulfilment and excitement through storytelling. The life of a journalist is heady and dynamic and is characterised by an ever-changing daily environment where no two days are identical.

Among the pleasurable things the profession offers is the joy of sharing an unspoken bond and deep solidarity with fellow reporters navigating high-pressure deadlines across the globe.

The flip side, however, can hardly be ignored, as the occupation also comes with low starting pay and intense deadline stress. And those are just trivial concerns. Because exposure to hazards such as possible physical danger and, on occasion, even violence, especially in conflict zones, unstable environments, or targeted crackdowns, is not uncommon. Industry instability often poses issues. And, what with one having to navigate dwindling legacy newsroom budgets, deal with the relentless pressures of a 24x7 algorithmic news cycle, and handle rampant disinformation, especially in the form of fake news, a false, misleading, or fabricated information that is presented to look like a legitimate news report, it can be a severely trying job. Dealing with the chronic stress of tight deadlines, the vicarious trauma that invariably follows the covering of tragedies, and institutional or legal harassment can take their own severe toll on one's psychological reserves.

Meanwhile, despite growing numbers, women journalists often encounter deep-seated patriarchal structures, unequal assignments, a lack of representation in leadership, and the added pressure of balancing demanding news cycles with family expectations. They must balance the demands of reporting with the risks of working on the ground.

A well-known woman reporter says that, when she decided to pursue journalism, leaving behind what was considered a dream job for an engineering graduate, her mother worried that the profession was not safe for a woman. Even years later, the fear had not changed. The mother still had only one question for her daughter after

The flip side, however, can hardly be ignored, as the occupation also comes with low starting pay and intense deadline stress. And those are just trivial concerns. Because exposure to hazards such as possible physical danger and, on occasion, even violence, especially in conflict zones, unstable environments, or targeted crackdowns, is not uncommon. Industry instability often poses issues.

every assignment, "Did you get home safely?"

Studies have shown that a high percentage of female reporters face multiple forms of attacks, leading many to consider leaving the profession. For instance, when reporting from conflict zones, protests, or restrictive regions, such as under Taliban ruled Afghanistan or during volatile local protests, female reporters face heightened risks of assault, detention, and targeted violence.

Other issues they face include marginalization and undervaluation: Non-privileged or rural reporters often lack institutional backing to combat systemic harassment, while others face professional scepticism that forces them to constantly over-prove their competence

To mark this year's International Women's Day celebrations, a seminar themed 'Women in the Media: Pages from the Past', was held in Karachi.

An effective and legally valid informal tool for exposing public corruption, known popularly as a 'sting' operation first appeared on the scene of investigative journalism in 2001.

By conducting 'Operation West End', which is widely regarded as India's first major high-profile sting, journalists from 'Tehelka' posed as arms dealers to expose widespread corruption in defence deals, forcing the resignation of the then-BJP president Bangaru Laxman and several military

officials.

In my own experience, I had the privilege and honour of interacting with at least two eminent journalists. One was Anees Jung an Indian author, journalist and columnist, whose most known work, 'Unveiling India' was a chronicle of the lives of women in India, noted especially for the depiction of Muslim women behind the purdah. The other was Olga Tellis, a veteran Indian journalist and social activist best known for leading the landmark constitutional case, whose verdict remains one of the most significant judgments in Indian legal history. After authorities threatened to forcibly evict pavement and slum dwellers in Bombay, Tellis and the affected residents filed a writ petition while disposing of which the Supreme Court ruled that the Right to Livelihood is an essential part of the Right to Life guaranteed by the Constitution. I still cherish the memory of her interviewing me while I was assisting the District Collector of Guntur district in rescue, relief and rehabilitation operations in the aftermath of the cyclone and tidal wave that ravaged the East Coast of the state in 1977.

While in service, I experienced the power and inference of the media on many occasions. One was when I was serving as Collector of Krishna district in Andhra Pradesh. A newspaper report spurred me into action which, while taken in good faith, created livelihoods for

A strategy for nation building that should change the global order of consumption



DR KARNATI KIRAN KUMAR

THE global order of consumption has been changing over the years. New innovations have made some countries economically and politically strong besides changing the consumption patterns of developing and underdeveloped countries.

The wars of the 19th century to recent global conflicts have been intended to control resources and secure their procurement for technological or machine-made products, which are prominent in the process of economic development. Over the centuries, many countries were colonised. In the 18th and 19th centuries, western countries, such as Britain and Portuguese, among others, invaded and conquered various countries. As a result, crapping patterns and consumption habits in colonized countries changed in contrast to their traditional consumption patterns. Changes in people's consumption patterns led to occupational destruction and a sudden surge of unemployment in colonized countries. India was one of the colonized countries that was exploited immensely over the century.

A dominant strategy needed: The growth and development of the nation depend on the dominant perspective of the policymakers. Policymakers should opt for a policy suitable for the nation's progress, rather than simply adopting and imposing other nations' policies and ideologies. Sometimes, the origin of policymakers is a matter of concern. A policymaker from a rural area can understand rural issues and find solutions to resolve the issue. Furthermore, those from urban backgrounds can develop effective policies for urban development. Historically, we failed to understand this logic, tried to imbibed another ideology, and failed to implement it. As a result, it has led to the failure of many public welfare programs and caused the persistence of structural unemployment and poverty.

Break the misconceptions:

The thought process in the country should change from importing goods and services to exporting them, so the world should depend on Indian goods and services. The country's innovations should be adopted by other countries rather than confined to the nation's use. India's path-breaking innovations, such as EVM voting machines, came into existence in the 2004 Lok Sabha elections to ensure the smooth conduct of the electoral process in the largest democracy. Before 2004, the election process was chaotic, with the pouring of ink in the ballot boxes, firing, stealing

of them, crimes and physical attacks on officers. Since 2004, the electoral process in the country has undergone drastic changes, resulting in the election being conducted smoothly using indigenous technology. We failed to supply those innovations for introduction in other countries to ensure the smooth conduct of elections. Rather, our politicians are creating misconceptions about EVMs even after they have won elections. Moreover, the UPI digital payment system is another path-breaking innovation that we can use widely within the country, and the central government has also succeeded in introducing it in some countries to enable seamless transactions and benefit our fintech sector. By comparison, we failed to spread it across the world as other developed countries do with their Innovations.

In the world of competition and technological advancements, India happily adopted ATMs, credit cards, debit cards, digital technologies, and social media platforms from other countries without any misconceptions about their use. When it comes to Indian technological innovations, some political leaders create and endorse chaos without fact checking.

Getting into the details:

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Indian companies developed vaccines such as Covishield (Serum Institute of India), Covaxin (Bharat Biotech), and Corbevax (a heter-



ologous booster option) to protect people and prevent the spread of the virus. But again, misconceptions spread and caused many deaths during the second wave. The misconception is whether it is an Indian organ or of foreign origin; it should be cross-checked with the government, and a comment should be made on it. But some people always start a game to make the situation worse and want to make themselves better off at the expense of others. There are many other innovations in the country. We failed to make it a global product rather we confined ourselves to India, and some lost existence.

Lack of vision:

The nation's politics should not come at the expense of the country's growth and development. At the micro level, our politicians are more interested in getting into power and acquiring assets for themselves. At the same time, at the macro level, it lacks responsibility for national growth and development. If one political party says a developed economy can be achieved by following one growth model, and the other political party says the nation should adopt a strategy for growth and development by following another development model. However, it should

not undermine the economy's performance on either side. As competition between political parties exists, so too does competition among countries for control and command of markets and resources. Political parties and politicians need to craft their manifestos with national interest in mind rather than seeking power for its own sake. On the other hand, business tycoons in developed countries seek to expand their markets by dominating and controlling politics in developing and underdeveloped countries. Individuals or political parties (ruling and opposition) should not be their mouthpiece at the expense of domestic business and common people's lives.

Time for introspection:

Regime change and deep states are underway in south Asia. In recent times, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal saw a surge in youth protests that created chaos and badly affected their economies. The disruption of a peaceful environment and political unrest will create negative economic consequences, such as low FDI and Investment, unemployment, inflation, and low purchasing power, ultimately leading to poverty. As witnessed in Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Nepal.

Bangladesh is the best example for understanding the impact of the political unrest on the economy. As per reports, the Bangladesh economy was about to get middle income status, but it has fallen to lower

income status due to the political unrest in the country. Prior to that infrastructure building, the ready-made garment industry drove strong and consistent growth, averaging six to seven per cent, annually. According to a recent RBI report, "South Asia economic update" revealed that Bangladesh's overall GDP increased by an estimated 3.4 percent in FY2026-2027, which is the third year in a row that it has slowed down. Private investment shrank for the second year in a row as difficulties in the energy sector, banking sector weakness, tighter fiscal constraints, high production costs and subdued credit growth. The rate of inflation has continued to be higher than eight to 10 per cent. If anything is wrong in the system that can be corrected through the electoral process. No protest should disturb the smooth progress of economic progress.

India can become Viksit Bharat when Indian goods and services flood into the international markets with the absolute trade advantage. The business in the country should target the domestic and international markets. The Indian business community should collaborate with academia. That will bring new innovations to change the world order of consumption. At the same time, India must utilise own demographic dividend for nation-building.

(The writer is Assistant Professor (School of Economics), University of Hyderabad)

Punjab CM detained at Delhi airport, fined ₹50K

NEW DELHI: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Tuesday alleged that Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann was detained for nearly three hours at Delhi's Indra Gandhi International Airport after returning from Paris, before officials issued him a challan of Rs 50,000, claiming they were under "tremendous pressure from above".

The party has accused the Centre of deliberately humiliating Mann and creating hurdles in Punjab's progress, linking the alleged incident to repeated denials of political clearance for the chief minister's foreign visits. Baltej Pannu, AAP's media in-charge in Punjab, alleged that Mann was kept waiting at the airport under the pretext that his luggage was still arriving and being checked. "When Mann returned from Paris and arrived at the Delhi airport,



he was deliberately detained for three hours. Excuses were made that 'your luggage is still arriving' and 'your luggage is still being checked'," Pannu said in a statement.

He further claimed that officials approached Mann just as he was about to leave the airport after loading his luggage into a vehicle. "After three hours, when Mann was allowed to leave and was about to depart after placing his luggage in a vehicle, officials came running after him and said that they were under 'tremendous pressure from above'," Pannu alleged.



eMudhra's security code compromised

NEW DELHI: Indian digital certification authority eMudhra has revealed that private keys associated with its certificates have been compromised, which verify trusted digital assets and ensure secure online data transmission, according to an advisory from the cybersecurity watchdog Cert-In. Noting that eMudhra operates its Indian services, including eSign, and a global certificate business, government sources said that the problem arose in the global business, and that the impact on India is expected to be "limited".



MLA Rajesh Reddy participates in Bathukamma celebrations at Tank Bund in Nagarkurnool on Tuesday



Dasara celebrations held with grandeur

HANS NEWS SERVICE NAGARKURNOOL

BATHUKAMMA FESTIVITIES ADDED COULOR TO FIESTA

DASARA celebrations were held with great enthusiasm at Tank Bund in the town on Tuesday.

The venue was decorated with colourful lights, while special arrangements were made for Bathukamma displays.

Selfie points, a water

fountain and other attractions added to the festive atmosphere. Nagarkurnool MLA Dr Kuchukulla Rajesh Reddy personally supervised the arrangements to make the venue attractive for the celebrations.

As part of the festivities,

Kuchukulla participated in the Bathukamma celebrations along with his wife, Saritha Reddy. Thousands of people gathered at Tank Bund, performed the traditional Jammi tree worship and exchanged Vijayadashami greetings.

Women participated in large numbers, carrying colourful Bathukammas and celebrating the festival with traditional fervour.

Special cultural programmes organised at the open auditorium near Tank Bund attracted large crowds. The performances

added to the festive spirit, with women, youth and families participating enthusiastically. The celebrations reflected Telangana's rich cultural heritage and traditions, transforming Nagarkurnool Tank Bund into a vibrant festive venue.



Court orders CJP leaders' release

NEW DELHI: A Special Executive Magistrate (SEM) on Wednesday ordered the release of CJP leaders Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka following the expiry of their judicial custody in connection with the October 14 protest at Jantar Mantar. The two leaders were produced before the magistrate, where their surety documents were also submitted during the proceedings.

Agri pumpsets jump 38% in 12 yrs

Continued from P1

Farmers have been getting regular alerts on the rains and the El Nino conductions in recent times. Fearing non-availability of irrigation facilities during the dry spell, officials said, farmers were knocking on the doors of the Energy Department for new agricultural pumpset connections.

Energy wing officials have warned that the number of pumpsets could increase to 35 lakh over the next three years if weather conditions don't turn conducive. Energy expert and member of the State Advisory Committee to Telangana Electricity Regulatory Commission M Venugopala Rao said that the increasing number of pumpsets is the result of the increasing agriculture-related activities.

According to him, the farmers are depending on ground water for farming as irrigation projects cannot immediately meet the increasing irrigation needs.

Will fill all vacant posts in police wing by 2028: CM

Continued from P1

Calling upon the police to deal with the cases involving women and children with greater sensitivity, Revanth Reddy emphasised that there should be no delay in delivering justice to victims. "Ensuring the safety of women is not solely the responsibility of the Police Department. Every individual in society should also take the responsibility of

women's safety."

The Chief Minister expressed his concern over the drug menace and appealed to the police to ensure that youth do not fall victim to the drug abuse. He commended the 'Eagle Force' for their unstinted efforts in curbing drug trafficking and appreciated the DGP's endeavour in this regard. Since the maintenance of law and order is cru-

cial for the development of the state, the Chief Minister said, the state government is giving top priority to strengthen the Police Department.

Revanth Reddy highlighted the initiatives taken to strengthen the police wing. "We are leveraging modern technology in the Police Department to effectively address new challenges. Besides, the human-centric approach

of the police force must remain unchanged, the Chief Minister said.

The Telangana Standards Authority for Food and Essential Drugs (TG SAFE) unit had been established to take a firm and uncompromising stance against food adulteration, he underlined.

Remembering the martyrs of the Police Department who had laid down their lives

while discharging their duties, the Chief Minister said: "Discipline is police strength and integrity is their honour. The sense of security police provide to the public is the greatest recognition to the cops. Police are not alone in their grief. The state government stands with the bereaved family and the entire society of Telangana also stands with you".

BRS alleges irregularities in allotment of Indiramma housing

HANS NEWS SERVICE KHAMMAM

BRS Rajya Sabha member Vaddiraju Ravichandra on Wednesday called upon party cadres to participate in large numbers in a protest against alleged irregularities in the allotment of Indiramma houses to the poor at the district Collectorate on Thursday.

The Left parties will also join the protest programme.

Addressing a preparatory meeting at Telangana Bhavan here on Wednesday, Ravichandra alleged that the Congress government was discriminating against eligible poor families in the allocation of houses. He appealed to BRS workers and leaders to make the protest scheduled for October 22 a success. The meeting was attended by MLC Tata Madhusudhan, former MLA Sandra Venkata Veeraiah, former Zilla Parishad chairman Lingala Kamal Raj and other party leaders.

Ravichandra welcomed the Left parties' decision to join the protest, stating that their participation would help highlight the alleged injustice being done to eligible beneficiaries. He said he would discuss the issue with BRS working president KT Rama Rao and pursue legal action seeking the repeal of Government Order 33, which, he alleged, had facilitated the formation of Indiramma housing committees dominated by Congress leaders.

The Rajya Sabha MP

alleged that the committees were being used to accommodate Congress leaders and prevent them from migrating to the BRS. He questioned the government's decision to abandon the lottery-based allotment system, claiming that the present approach had created scope for arbitrary decisions and deprived deserving poor families of housing benefits.

Recalling the previous BRS government's housing programme under former chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao, Ravichandra said double-bedroom houses had been constructed and allotted through a lottery system, which, according to him, ensured a fairer process irrespective of political affiliations.

He alleged that the present government was resorting to police pressure to deter Congress leaders and workers who were considering joining the BRS amid dissatisfaction with the administration. He also criticised the three ministers representing the district, accusing them of failing to adequately address the concerns of poor families. Ravichandra urged BRS cadres to gather at the Khammam Collectorate with party flags and participate in the protest to demand fair allotment of houses to eligible beneficiaries and the cancellation of the Indiramma housing committees.

Party leaders Pagadala Nagaraju, Bellam Venu, Khamar and others were present at the preparatory meeting.

Foreign forces behind regime change narrative: BJP

NEW DELHI: The BJP on Wednesday alleged that a "clear nexus" had emerged between forces within and outside India that were opposed to the country's growing global influence. Party national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi accused them of seeking to destabilise the country by creating social divisions and attacking its cultural and religious traditions.

Addressing the media at the BJP headquarters, Trivedi said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Vijayadashami message had highlighted three defining characteristics of such forces: "loot after coming to power, division in society and hatred towards Indian culture and Hinduism".

He alleged that some groups were pursuing campaigns against Sanatan Dharma and "global Hindutva", while also questioning the credibility of Indian

institutions. Trivedi cited repeated allegations concerning the SBI, SEBI, vaccines, EVMs and electoral bonds as examples of what he described as a pattern of attempts to discredit institutions. Using the imagery of Ravana's multiple heads, Trivedi argued that such campaigns could not be understood merely through their individual demands. "Fulfil one demand and another demand will emerge," he said, arguing that the "real source" behind different protests and campaigns had to be identified.

He alleged that forces opposed to India's progress were using different "disguises" and that their stated demands were not their ultimate objective. Referring to calls for "regime change", he alleged that some of these forces ultimately sought to promote violent conflict, political destabilisation and social fragmentation.

Macron blasts Trump for stupid claims on riots

PARIS: President Emmanuel Macron said on Wednesday that foreign leaders - including those "on the other side of the Atlantic" - were seeking to exploit France's tense social climate for political gain following a weekend of street violence and looting.

Protests over soaring living costs have led to widespread rioting and looting that have drawn worldwide attention and shocked many French citizens.

US lawmakers urge FBI to probe temple shooting plot

POTENTIAL FEDERAL HATE CRIME

WASHINGTON: A bipartisan-free Democratic-led group of 105 US lawmakers has urged the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to investigate an attempted mass shooting at a Hindu temple in Aurora, Illinois, as a potential federal hate crime, citing concerns over anti-Indian, anti-Hindu and broader anti-South Asian hostility. Alexandros Paporakis, 19, was arrested on October 11 for plotting a mass shooting at the Sri Venkateswara Swami (Balaji) temple.

Led by Indian American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, the lawmakers sent a letter dated October 20 to FBI Director Kash Patel seeking details of the Bureau's investigation into the alleged plot at the Sri Venkateswara Swami (Balaji) Hindu temple.

They also called for greater scrutiny of credible online threats against Indian Americans, Hindu Americans, Sikhs and other South Asian communities.

PM reviews state of economy with FM, EAC-PM members

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday held a meeting with permanent members of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Finance ministry officials to discuss the state of the economy, sources said. "The meeting was on the current state of the Indian economy.

Rubio pushes energy ties, Venezuelan crude

Continued from P1

Rubio, accompanied by his wife, Jeanette Doudes Rubio, toured the world's largest single-site oil-refining complex, the Vantara wildlife rescue and conservation centre, and Reliance's emerging clean-energy manufacturing hub, people familiar with the visit said. He spent a few hours in Jamnagar before departing for the United States. Almost the entire Ambani family, led by billionaire Reliance chairman Mukesh Ambani, welcomed the US delegation.

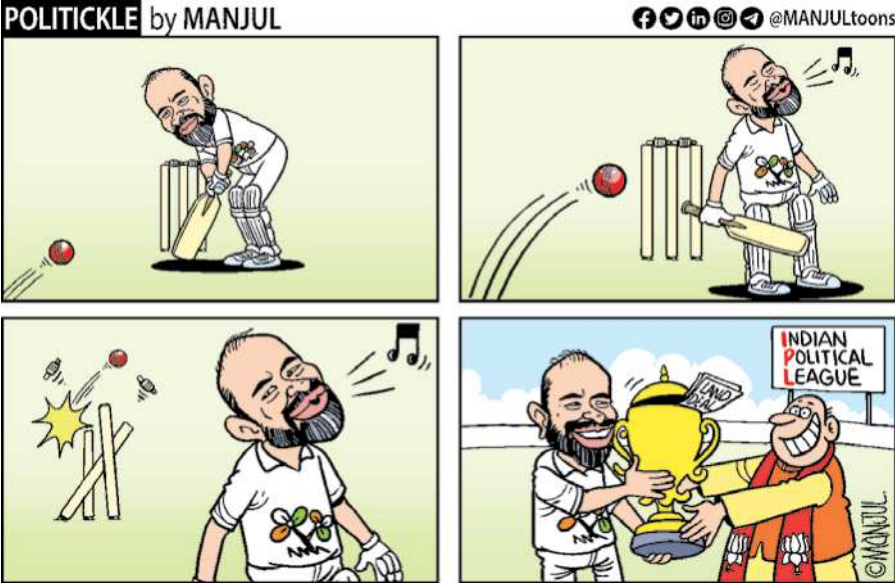


Run-up to TG's Global Summit '26 'Curtain raiser' events mulled in metro cities

PATAN AFZAL BABU

HYDERABAD: The Telangana government has finalised an action plan for a focused multi-city campaign for three days leading up to the "Invest Telangana Global Summit 2026" starting December 7, including curtain-raisers in Hyderabad, Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru. Several film stars and big celebrities would be roped in for a campaign to make the summit, being at-

tended by a large number of investors, a big success. A big Air Show is being planned to mark the finale of the summit on December 9. A glittering event would also be part of the summit to showcase Telangana's cultural grandeur to the world. The curtain-raiser events for the 'Invest Telangana Global Summit' are being organised on a grand scale particularly in Hyderabad on October 24 and in Delhi on October 29.



Rubio dismisses India protests as internal matter

MUMBAI: US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Wednesday refused to comment on the recent protests against the Election Commission, terming it an "internal political matter". Rubio, currently in India on an official visit, was also dismissive of the reference to UN experts' criticism of the protests. According to a release issued by the Department of State on Wednesday, Rubio also said that the UN "experts are the oxymoron." "It's

a domestic political matter. I'm not going to get involved in their politics. This is a democracy.

They have elections here, so I'm not going to opine on their domestic political matters," he said in response to a question on protests from the opposition and students in India. Rubio said that even the US witnesses protests every day and that they are reflective of the political discourse and differences of opinion.

SBI probes suspected dark web exposure of 3,897 customer records

NEW DELHI

THE country's largest bank, SBI, on Wednesday said it is investigating the suspected exposure of 3,897 customer records containing personally identifiable information on the dark web, following alerts it received on October 16 from its threat intelligence service provider, the Defence Cyber Agency, and CERT-In.

A preliminary analysis of around 3.75 lakh records available on the dark web identified 3,897 customer records containing sensi-

tive information, including registered mobile numbers, dates of birth, names, gender, email addresses and residential addresses, State Bank of India (SBI) said in the regulatory filing on Wednesday.

The exposed information reportedly also included branch and Customer Information File (CIF) identifiers, lead IDs, and metadata associated with loan and lead records and other related files. It said a detailed investigation was required to establish the authenticity and completeness of the exposed



data, determine the potential source and extent of the exposure, and assess the associated risks to customers and the bank.

SBI said it had promptly

activated its cyber incident response and containment protocols. It had also engaged an independent cybersecurity agency empanelled by CERT-In to conduct

a comprehensive assessment and investigate the alleged compromise.

The incident has had no material impact on the bank's core business operations, financial performance or business continuity, the filing said, adding that its core business functions continued to operate normally without disruption.

A detailed assessment is underway, and the bank is implementing appropriate remedial and preventive measures, it said.

HDFC probe finds senior execs leaked confidential info

NEW DELHI: HDFC Bank's internal investigation has found evidence that two senior executives disclosed confidential business strategies and potentially market-sensitive information to outsiders. The investigation is still underway, with the bank examining whether the information was misused, according to the report. The

executives, who oversee key businesses and functions at the lender, have been formally informed of the findings. It was not immediately clear what disciplinary action would follow. An HDFC Bank spokesperson acknowledged the internal review but declined to comment on its findings or identify the executives involved.

India, US trade deal to be much different: Trump

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump said that India and the US are "pretty close" to reaching a trade deal, which will be much different than the earlier pacts.

Speaking to reporters at the Oval Office on Tuesday, Trump said India and the US were pretty close to making a trade deal. "They want to make a deal. We're going to make a deal. Pretty close, yeah," Trump said in response to a question.

How commerce students can build a career pathway in global finance

PRATHAM BAROT

India's study-abroad landscape is evolving as students increasingly assess international education through career outcomes, affordability, specialised skills and professional opportunities. While overseas universities remain an option for academic exposure, students are also examining how degrees and professional qualifications can work together to support their long-term career goals.

In an August 2026 parliamentary reply, the Ministry of Education, citing Bureau of Immigration data, reported that 6,19,264 Indians listed "study/education" as their purpose of travel abroad in 2025, compared with 7,60,060 in 2024 and 8,94,758 in 2023. These figures provide a snapshot of changing overseas travel for education, although they do not alone explain students' decisions or the factors behind the trend.

For commerce students, career planning increasingly involves understanding the skills required across financial analysis, investment management, corporate finance, risk manage-

ment, auditing, compliance and financial technology. A conventional commerce degree provides a foundation in accounting, economics, business and finance, while specialised qualifications can help learners deepen their knowledge in particular areas.

Combining academic learning with professional qualifications

Global finance certifications are one option students may consider alongside university education. Depending on the qualification, they can provide structured learning in specific financial disciplines, professional practices and industry frameworks.

These certifications serve a different purpose from academic degrees. A degree generally offers broader theoretical and conceptual grounding, while a specialised professional qualification may focus on particular competencies relevant to a chosen field. The value of either depends on the course content, recognition, eligibility requirements, costs and the career path a student intends to pursue.

For students interested in international finance, understanding global business practices, capital markets, regulatory environments and technology-led financial services can be useful. However, qualifications alone do not guarantee employment or international mobility. Practical experience, communication skills, analytical ability and familiarity with the requirements of individual roles also matter.

The shift reflects a wider approach to education in which students assess how each learning opportunity contributes to their professional development, rather than viewing qualifications as isolated achievements.

International education opportunities within India

International education is also becoming more accessible through pathways that do not necessarily require students to relocate overseas. In June 2026, the Ministry of Education announced approvals for three international universities to establish campuses in India, with proposed programmes spanning areas including finance, economics and business management, alongside

other disciplines.

Such developments add to the range of options available to students considering international curricula and learning environments. Prospective applicants still need to assess programme recognition, faculty expertise, fees, admission criteria and the opportunities available through each institution.

Building a career pathway

For commerce students, education can be viewed as a combination of complementary experiences: an academic degree, a relevant professional qualification, internships or projects, and exposure to different business environments.

Each element can address a different learning need. University study builds conceptual understanding; certifications may provide specialised knowledge; internships help students apply classroom learning; and international exposure can offer insights into varied professional practices.

This approach also requires students to be selective. Before enrolling in a certification, they should examine its relevance to their intended roles, the time and financial commitment involved, and



Combining academic learning with professional qualifications and hands-on experience can help commerce students develop skills relevant to financial analysis, investment management, risk and corporate finance

whether employers in their chosen field recognise it. Comparing curricula and speaking with academic advisers or working professionals can help them make informed decisions.

A more outcome-oriented approach to education

The changing education landscape places greater emphasis on how students connect learning with their career objectives. For those pursuing commerce and finance, global certifications can be one component of that process, provided they complement rather than simply duplicate existing qualifications.

Ultimately, effective career planning is not about collecting the largest number of credentials. It is about identifying the knowledge and experience needed for a particular professional direction and choosing educational opportunities that address those needs. As students consider domestic and international options, the focus is increasingly on building a coherent pathway from academic learning to practical capability and long-term career development.

(The author is CEO & Co – Founder, Zell Education)

Drone racing, robot battles and AI innovations to take centre stage at BITS Pilani Hyderabad's ATMoS '26

HANS NEWS SERVICE

More than 20,000 attendees, over 100 student technology projects, combat robots and high-speed drone racing will feature at ATMoS '26, the national techno-management festival of BITS Pilani Hyderabad Campus, from October 23 to 25. Themed Augmented Ascension, this year's edition has Synchrony Financial as its title partner.

The three-day festival is expected to draw attendees from more than 60 institutions across India, including IIT Hyderabad, IIIT Hyderabad and BITS Pilani, Goa Campus. Organised annually since 2012, ATMoS stands for Assimilation of Technically Motivated Souls and aims to identify and nurture young talent in technology and management.

Artificial intelligence will be a major focus of the festival. The Computer Science Association will organise an AI Hackathon

challenging student teams to develop AI-driven solutions to pressing social problems. Synchrony Financial will also host a workshop on AI in financial security, exploring applications in credit scoring and risk analysis.

The Tech Expo, organised by the campus Innovation Cell, will showcase more than 100 student projects in artificial intelligence, robotics and software development. Interactive demonstrations and expert judging will provide a platform for students to present their innovations.

RoboWars will bring more than 20 combat robots from across the country into the arena for head-to-head battles. The BITS Drone Racing League returns for its third edition, featuring more than 15 drones flown by professional first-person-view (FPV) pilots. Organisers describe it as the largest field on the South India circuit.

Engineering enthusiasts

can also look forward to the SAE BPHC Auto Expo and Time Attack Race, where student teams will race custom-built all-terrain vehicles against the clock.

Beyond the technical competitions, ATMoS' national outreach initiatives include Innovave, a talent hunt that has attracted more than 5,000 participants from across India.

Polympiad, a STEM initiative for younger learners, aims to nurture scientific curiosity. Workshops, technical talks and recreational activities will take place throughout the festival. The entertainment programme will feature stand-up comedian Nishant Suri on October 23, followed by a live set by the Mysore Express band, DJ nights and a laser mapping show. Bollywood playback singer Amit Mishra will headline Artist Night on October 24, bringing a live musical performance to the campus.



Today is International Stuttering Awareness Day

Building confidence through understanding



Stuttering is a speech fluency disorder that affects the flow of speech, causing repetitions of sounds or words, prolonged sounds, or moments when a person finds it difficult to speak. Although it can occur at any age, it often begins during childhood, when language and communication skills are developing. Raising awareness about stuttering is important to create supportive environments in schools, colleges and communities.

For students who stutter, everyday situations such as answering questions in class, participating in discussions, giving presentations or speaking with unfamiliar people can sometimes become challenging. Fear of being interrupted, teased or judged may affect their confidence and willingness to participate. However, stuttering does not reflect a person's intelligence, knowledge or ability to communicate effectively.

The role of schools and educators

Schools play an important role in

promoting understanding and inclusion. Teachers can support students who stutter by giving them enough time to express themselves, listening patiently and avoiding completing their sentences. They can also discourage teasing and bullying while ensuring that classroom activities provide equal opportunities for participation. Students should be encouraged to understand that people communicate in different ways. Awareness sessions, classroom discussions and activities promoting empathy can help reduce misconceptions and create a more accepting learning environment.

Creating a more inclusive future

Stuttering awareness is not about asking people to hide their speech differences. It is about ensuring that everyone can communicate without fear of embarrassment or discrimination. With patience, understanding and appropriate support, schools and communities can help people who stutter participate confidently in education and everyday life.

IIT Hyderabad trains MBBS students in AI applications in medicine and drug development

HANS NEWS SERVICE

The Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IIT Hyderabad) conducted a 10-day academic training programme on 'AI in Medicine, Drug Development and Biology' for 15 final-year MBBS students from Apollo Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (AIMSR), Hyderabad. The programme introduced students to the applications of artificial intelligence (AI) in clinical practice, biomedical research and drug discovery.

Organised by the research group of Prof. G. Narahari Sastry, faculty member in the Department of Biotechnology and Dean (Sponsored Research and Consultancy) at IIT Hyderabad, the programme combined lectures, demonstrations, mentoring sessions and hands-on projects. The AIMSR delegation was led by Dr. K. Manohar, Dean (Academics); and Dr. Patchva Dorababu, Professor of Pharmacology and Research Coordinator.

The training aimed to familiarise medical students with computational methods and machine learning tools, which are not typically a central part of conventional medical education. Participants explored how data-driven approaches could help investigate clinical questions and support biomedical research.

As part of the programme, students worked on exploratory projects using existing open-access datasets. The topics included early cancer identification through long-term blood parameters, antibiotic prescription informed by antimicrobial resistance profiles, disease detection using medical images, and prediction of metabolic disorders based on clinical and demographic factors.

The projects also highlighted the importance of medical expertise in interpreting data, evaluating model predictions and understanding the limitations of AI-based tools. Discussions identified gaps in the availability of open clinical datasets representing the Indian population, alongside potential areas for future research. These included

The training aimed to familiarise medical students with computational methods and machine learning tools, which are not typically a central part of conventional medical education. Participants explored how data-driven approaches could help investigate clinical questions and support biomedical research. As part of the programme, students worked on exploratory projects using existing open-access datasets. The topics included early cancer identification through long-term blood parameters, antibiotic prescription informed by antimicrobial resistance profiles, disease detection using medical images, and prediction of metabolic disorders based on clinical and demographic factors.

personalised medicine using genomics, early detection of non-communicable diseases, medical image analysis, decision support during critical surgeries, and simulations and virtual reality for surgical training.

IIT Hyderabad Director Prof. B. S. Murty said interdisciplinary training and research involving emerging AI technologies were important for addressing complex challenges.

He encouraged medical students and practitioners to participate in campus training programmes and explore collaborative research opportunities.

Prof. Sastry said the programme included research-oriented projects culminating in presentations and three-minute videos, allowing students to investigate scientific questions, apply analytical thinking and communicate findings.

Dr. Manohar highlighted the potential of technology to complement clinical examinations and strengthen disease diagnosis, including earlier identification of conditions such as diabetes. Dr. Kundoor said exposure to IIT Hyderabad's research could help students contribute clinical perspectives to projects involving medical devices, clinical models and biochemical pathways.

Both institutions intend to continue their collaboration through foundational AI training and opportunities for joint research in diagnostics, drug development, biology and patient care.





If he (Sooryavanshi) gets a chance in this series, we've seen what he can do and opponents have found it quite hard to stop him. I know in England, they went quite short and hard at a lot of the Indian batters. I think we've seen him in the IPL and how aggressive he can be. So we've got some plans for him if he happens to play

-Mitchell Santner

Gavit leads India's gold-silver finish in men's 100m T47 event

Medal rush continues in para-athletics; Ayush, Praveen, Khilari add to gold tally

NAGOYA: India's Dilip Gavit won the men's 100m T46/47 combined event gold medal at the Asian Para Games while compatriot Mohammed Morssinganakath Basil clinched the silver in the same event here on Wednesday. The 23-year-old Gavit, a T46 athlete, clocked 10.69 seconds to finish on top. Basil, a T47 athlete, clinched the silver with a Games record time of 10.72 seconds.

China's Kangjun Shi (T46) won the bronze, clocking 10.80 seconds. Athletes of two or more classifications can be clubbed together in a combined event to ensure that there are enough number of participants. T46 and T47 categories are for athletes



with upper limb impairment. The primary difference between T46 and T47 comes down to the severity and location of the upper limb impairment.

T46 applies to athletes with a more severe unilateral or bilateral impairment affecting the shoulder or elbow -- roughly equivalent to an above-elbow amputation -- whereas T47 is for

athletes with a less severe impairment affecting the wrist or below the elbow -- roughly equivalent to a below-elbow amputation. Gavit had won a 400m gold at the previous Para Asiad in China, besides a 100m gold in the Glasgow Para Commonwealth Games earlier this year.

There was no stopping the Indian juggernaut as

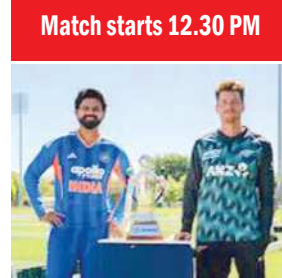
10 more medals, including three gold, were added to the tally on the third day of competitions here on Wednesday. Ayush Verma gave India the first para-athletics gold of the day in the men's shot put F53 event, followed by Praveen Kumar (men's high jump T44/64) and Sachin Khilari (men's shot put F46). India also grabbed four silver medals in the morning session through Banti (men's high jump T44/64), Bhagyashri Jadhav (women's shot put F34), Mohd Yasser (men's shot put F46) and Manjeet (men's javelin F12/13). Anubhav Choudhary (men's 100m T35), Parveen (men's shot put F46) and Rakesh-hai Bhatt (men's 100m T37) won a bronze each.

India look to beat travel fatigue in T20 opener against Kiwis

CHRISTCHURCH: Unbeaten in their last two T20 series here, the Shreyas Iyer-led India would rely heavily on their batting firepower to outwit New Zealand even though the relatively inexperienced tourists have got barely two days to rest, acclimatise and train for the five-match rubber beginning here on Thursday. Their most recent T20 clash on New Zealand soil was in 2022 in Napier where the rain-interrupted match ended in a tie via the Duckworth-Lewis method.

The series, however, was claimed by India who managed to win the only game that was not wrecked by inclement weather.

In the line-up of batters chosen for the upcoming assignment, only four have previously played T20Is in New



Zealand. That includes skipper Iyer, Ishan Kishan, Sanju Samson, and Shivam Dube. Therefore, even though the likes of Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma and 15-year-old sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi are known marauders, the nippy and seaming conditions in this part of the world would need some adjustment.

For Iyer, the challenge would be to prove himself in a challenging away assignment after his tenure began with

back-to-back losses in Ireland and England.

Mitchell Santner's New Zealand would be eager to make it as difficult as possible for Iyer, who is coming here after India's second successive gold-winning run at the Asian Games and a drawn hard-fought home series against the West Indies.

However, if the New Zealand series follows the script that unfolded in the UK earlier this year, pressure will only mount on Iyer, who is expected to lead India in the T20 World Cup to be held in Australia and New Zealand in two years' time. A confident Iyer said his team is used to playing in different conditions, having taken a long flight from India hours after sharing the home series against the West Indies.



We have plans for Sooryavanshi: Santner

CHRISTCHURCH: New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner conceded that Vaibhav Sooryavanshi would be "quite hard to stop" if he plays for India in the five-match T20 International series beginning here on Thursday, but his team has some plans to deal with the young batting sensation.

Sooryavanshi has been used sparingly since being picked for the tour of UK earlier this year, largely because regular openers Abhishek Sharma and Sanju Samson have done the job quite well.

Santner said should the 15-year-old make the playing XI in the series here, some research has been done to figure out his game. "He (Sooryavanshi) did not play in the last series (against West Indies), but we know how good he is, in IPL. We know other players like Abhishek are doing very well. But he (Sooryavanshi) has a huge part to play for India, whether it's in this series or not, but in future," Santner said. "If he does get a crack at this series, we've seen what he can do and guys have found it quite hard to stop him. I know in England, they went quite short and hard at a lot of the Indian batters. I think we've seen him in the IPL and how aggressive he can be. So we've got some plans for him if he happens to play."

Santner was also asked about the return of veteran pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar in the Indian T20I team after a nearly four-year absence. The home skipper said he expects Bhuvneshwar to love the conditions here. "I think Bhuvu will love these conditions in New Zealand. If there's anything in the wicket, he finds something out of it. On some flat ones in India, he still managed to nip the ball and swing the ball, so I think with the new ball out here, especially, it'll be a challenge (for New Zealand).

Indian bowling has been lacking experience: Iyer

CHRISTCHURCH: India T20 captain Shreyas Iyer on Wednesday said the team's bowling attack had been lacking experience in recent past and veteran pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar's return would help address this issue. The 36-year-old Bhuvneshwar



Bhuvneshwar Kumar

has returned to the Indian T20I set-up after four years after being named in squad for the five-match T20I series against New Zealand, beginning here on Thursday.

"Bhuvu brings a lot of experience to the team. And we were lacking that, especially after the IPL. We had a lot of new bowlers," Iyer said at the pre-match press conference. "But in T20, if you see his career graph, he has won the IPL in each of the last two years.

So, he has a very good idea of how to dominate this format." In the absence of pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, India's T20I bowling attack featuring fast bowlers Mayank Yadav, Prince Yadav, and Gurnoor Brar has faced scrutiny after repeatedly conceding big totals on flat tracks.

Bhuvneshwar, known for his ability to generate swing and seam movement, has collected 90 scalps across 88 T20Is. In the IPL, he played a key role in the Royal Challengers Bengaluru's back-to-back titles, taking 17 wickets in the 2025 season and 28 in 2026.

Harmanpreet breaks down after knock against Zim

RAIPUR: Former India captain Harmanpreet Kaur fought back tears after ending a prolonged patch with a blistering unbeaten 91 off 41 balls against Zimbabwe in the third and final T20I here but later regained composure to credit her turnaround to the hours she spent practising in the nets. Harmanpreet, who stepped down as India captain across formats earlier this month, had not scored a half-century in her last 10 matches. She did not have much success with the bat in the Women's T20 Asia Cup as well as the Asian Games, despite India winning both titles comfortably. "It feels great. Just wanted to enjoy myself, and great that I got some time in the middle and really enjoyed myself on the field," Harmanpreet told the host broadcaster during the innings break. The 37-year-old was not able to control her tears in a post-innings chat with the on-air commentators. WV Raman, who was also the head coach of the Indian women's team, was speaking with Harmanpreet when the latter broke down and left abruptly tossing the microphone away. "I just wanted to bat as long as possible, and glad that I was able to do that. I think I should give credit to you also (to WV Raman). "The moment we came, you stepped in and you said, 'Now you do what you want to do,' and that's what I want to do, and really want to enjoy myself. Thanks for those words." Harmanpreet said there is no pressure on her anymore, having resigned as captain.



Sheetal-Payal pair wins silver

NAGOYA: The teenage Indian pair of Sheetal Devi and Payal Nag clinched a silver medal after losing the compound women's doubles final on Wednesday, while Swati Chaudhary and Adil Mohamed Nazir Ansari won bronze in the mixed team W1 recurve event Sheetal, who was born without arms, and Payal, a quadruple amputee, went down 141-150 to China's Xu Xueqing and Zhao Jing in the gold-medal match. The 19-year-old Indians struggled to keep pace with their Chinese opponents after the opening end, playing catch-up for the remainder of the contest. Paris Paralympics bronze medallist Sheetal was more consistent, shooting four 10s, but Asian Games debutant Payal could not match her partner's accuracy, managing just 9s and 8s before finishing with a 7 on her final arrow.



SUKHCHAIN BAGS BRONZE

NAGOYA: India's Sukhchain settled for bronze in the men's javelin throw F55 event after managing a modest 29.94m throw in a competition dominated by China's Zhou Feifei. The 32-year-old was well below his best as Zhou clinched gold with a throw of 37.63m, breaking the 22-year-old world record of

35.30m. Zaker Zafar of Iran took silver with a personal best of 36.00m, leaving Sukhchain trailing the top two by a considerable margin. Indian swimmer Himanshu Nandal clinched his second bronze medal, finishing third in the men's 100m breaststroke S11 event. The 22-year-old from Rohtak, Haryana, who

has been completely visually impaired since birth due to an optic nerve failure, clocked 1:20.72 seconds. China's Yang Bozun won the gold in a Games-record time of 1:12.69, while Japan's Keiichi Kimura took silver in 1:12.72. Himanshu had opened his medal account on Tuesday, clocking 5:10.91 to



finish third in a four-swimmer field in the men's 400m freestyle S11 event.

Tiger Shroff firing: 3 accused sent to police custody till Oct 31

MUMBAI

A Mumbai court remanded three accused in the Tiger Shroff firing case to police custody till Oct 31.

Three key accused apprehended in connection with the firing at actor Tiger Shroff's car were brought to Mumbai from Kota in Rajasthan early on Wednesday, police said.

Police brought them by

road from Kota to Mumbai and, upon arrival, immediately took them to GT Hospital for a mandatory medical examination, an official said. Following the medical check-up, the accused were escorted to the Mumbai Crime Branch's Anti-Extortion Cell (AEC) office for interrogation. The accused have been identified as Rehan alias Sukka, from Sonipat in Haryana; Ritik Kurmi

The apprehended accused were brought to Mumbai from Kota in Rajasthan early on Wednesday

alias Roshan, originally from Begusarai in Bihar and living in Mumbai; and Phool Singh from Haryana, the official said. The Kota city police had handed them over to Mumbai Police, which formally arrest-

ed them and produced them before a magistrate there. The court granted transit remand to take them to Mumbai. Meanwhile, advocate Ajinkya Mirgal arrived at the AEC office in Mumbai on Wednesday

morning, informing officials that he would represent the accused as their defence counsel in the case. At least two men fired gunshots at Shroff's car in Mumbai's Juhu area on Sunday evening before speeding away on a motorcycle. The actor escaped relatively unhurt, while his driver and a bystander were injured. According to Mumbai Police, five to six rounds were fired

at the car. A motorcycle, allegedly used by the shooters, was found abandoned in Andheri. The accused fled to Surat and once there, boarded a Jaipur-bound train. The three were supposed to go to Delhi on a bus and then flee to Nepal. The Mumbai Police have registered a case under the provisions of attempt to murder and the Arms Act. According to the police, Rehan was



in touch with Anil Pandit, an alleged associate of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, which

claimed responsibility for the attack in an unverified social media post.

Suvendu blames Oppn for Durga puja stampede

KOLKATA

WEST Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Wednesday accused Opposition parties of using the Chorbagan Durga Puja stampede for political gain instead of reaching out to the victims and those injured in the tragedy.

Adhikari made the remarks while visiting the family of Priya Samaddar, one of the 19 people killed in the stampede, at their home in New Barrackpore in North 24 Parganas district. He handed over Rs 25 lakh in compensation to the bereaved family on behalf of the state government.

The stampede at the Chorbagan Durga Puja pandal in north Kolkata claimed 19



The stampede at the Chorbagan Durga Puja pandal in north Kolkata claimed 19 lives and left 25 people injured

lives and left 25 people injured.

When asked about criticism regarding the government's response and the police arrangements at the pandal, Adhikari questioned whether opposition leaders had done enough to support the victims.

"Which opposition is there? Only the Leader of the Opposition, Ritabrata

Banerjee-led faction exists," he said.

He also questioned whether the Trinamool Congress, the CPI(M) and other opposition parties had visited the families of the victims or those injured in the incident.

"Did any such opposition party go to the Kolkata Medical College morgue or the Medical College Hospital after the stampede?" he asked.

Another book stall vandalised, members assaulted: CPM

KOLKATA: Several books were damaged in an alleged attack on their book stall at Islampur, West Bengal, on Tuesday, the CPM has alleged.

The CPM said that Jayanta Deb, a local party member, was among those who were injured in the incident.

However, the police said the situation was under control.

Every year, several book stalls are installed near Durga Puja pandals in West Bengal by the CPM. These book stalls have been facing attacks in the last few days, while some have been dismantled citing the lack of requisite permission.

BJP state president Samik Bhattacharya has reiterated that his party does not support acts of vandalism by its members.

West Bengal chief minister Suvendu Adhikari had earlier directed Durga Puja committees to deny permission to CPI-M book stalls if they used the term "Sharodotsav" (autumn festival) instead of "Durga Puja" on banners and hoardings.



Boat capsizes during idol immersion in Kota; 2 dead

KOTA: The bodies of two young men were recovered after a boat carrying seven people capsized during a Durga idol immersion ceremony in a canal in Rajasthan's Kota, with rescue teams resuming the search operation on Wednesday morning. The bodies of Suraj Singh (22) and Vikas Verma (22), both Kota residents, were recovered during the search operation that resumed at 5.30 am, ASP Kota City Subhash Chandra Mishra and SDRF officials Ekta Mahipal confirmed.

The search is underway for the two remaining missing youths, Rahul Joshi (18) and Ashu Joshi (19), who are cousins and residents of Sanjay Nagar in Kota city. The boat capsized near Steel Bridge under the Borekhedha police station limits around 5.30 pm on Tuesday during a Durga idol immersion ceremony. Of the seven people aboard, three -- Deepak, a woman identified as Maankanwar, and the boatman, Suresh -- managed to swim to safety and were rescued by passersby. The search operation was called off at 11.30 pm on Tuesday in accordance with standard operating procedures (SOPs) and resumed at 5.30 am on Wednesday, Mishra said. The two recovered bodies were found close to each other, around 200 to 300 metres from the accident site, he said, adding that they were sent to a mortuary for post-mortem.



Naxal menace ended in MP because of brave soldiers: CM

BHOPAL: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Wednesday hailed the "vital role" played by the police and armed forces in maintaining national security, and said because of courageous soldiers, the state succeeded in ending the Naxal menace which it endured for over three decades. He also praised the police for enhancing Madhya Pradesh's reputation through their efficiency. "It is a moment of great pride for us that our state has now succeeded in overcoming the scourge of Naxalism, which it had been enduring for nearly 35 years. It was a difficult period, fraught with many challenges. However, our brave and courageous soldiers made the state proud with their indomitable courage, valour, and dedication," Yadav said. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the guidance of Union Home Min-



ister Amit Shah, the state has successfully tackled and overcome the serious challenge of Naxalism, he said. The country observes the Police Commemoration Day on October 21 to remember the sacrifices of the police personnel, Yadav added. This day reminds us how important the role of our police force and armed forces is in maintaining national security, peace, and social order, according to him. "The police and the armed forces have a special significance in our history. In our eternal culture, bearing arms does not merely mean a display of power, but rather a pledge to protect society and the nation.



Womenia



Daily habits that quietly damage your skin

Skin ageing is a natural process, but certain everyday habits can accelerate the appearance of wrinkles, fine lines, pigmentation and dullness. From smoking and excessive sugar consumption to poor sleep and hot showers, small lifestyle choices can have a lasting impact on your skin's health and radiance



SHAHNAZ HUSAIN

Skin ageing is a natural process, but certain lifestyle choices can accelerate visible signs of ageing. Fine lines, wrinkles, age spots, dryness and loss of elasticity may develop over time, influenced by genetics, sun exposure, diet and everyday habits.

While a good skincare rou-

time is essential, healthy skin also depends on how we care for our bodies. Habits such as smoking, taking excessively hot showers, poor sleep and consuming too much sugar can affect skin health. Here are five common habits that may contribute to premature skin ageing and simple ways to minimise their impact.

1. Smoking

Smoking is strongly associated with premature skin ageing. Tobacco smoke contains harmful chemicals that contribute to oxidative stress and damage collagen and elastin, the proteins responsible for keeping skin firm, smooth and supple.

Smoking also constricts blood vessels near the skin's surface, reducing the supply of oxygen and essential nutrients to skin tissues. This can

interfere with the skin's natural repair processes and contribute to a dull complexion.

Over time, smokers are more likely to develop deeper wrinkles, particularly around the mouth and eyes, along with uneven pigmentation, dryness and reduced skin firmness.

What you can do: Quitting smoking is one of the most effective ways to protect your skin and overall health. Combine this with a balanced diet, adequate hydration and regular sun protection.

2. Taking Hot Showers and Baths

Long, hot showers may feel relaxing after a tiring day, but excessive heat can strip the skin of its natural oils. These oils help maintain the skin barrier and prevent moisture loss. When this protective

layer is weakened, the skin may become dry, tight, rough and more susceptible to irritation. Repeated exposure to hot water can also aggravate existing skin conditions and make fine lines more noticeable. The scalp and hair may be affected too, as excessive heat can contribute to dryness, itching and hair breakage.

What you can do: Choose lukewarm water instead of very hot water and keep showers reasonably short. Apply moisturiser while the skin is still slightly damp to help retain moisture. Use a gentle cleanser and avoid excessive scrubbing.

3. Excessive Screen Time

Smartphones, laptops and tablets have become essential parts of modern life. However, spending long hours in front of screens can indirectly affect

skin health by disrupting sleep and encouraging a sedentary lifestyle.

Digital devices emit blue light, also known as high-energy visible light. Some research suggests that blue light can contribute to oxidative stress and pigmentation under certain conditions. However, the extent to which everyday screen exposure causes premature skin ageing remains uncertain.

Late-night scrolling can also interfere with sleep, leaving the skin looking tired and dull. Poor sleep may affect the body's normal recovery processes and overall well-being.

What you can do: Take regular screen breaks and maintain a consistent sleep schedule. Reduce device use before bedtime if it interferes with your rest. Apply broad-spectrum sunscreen with SPF 30 or higher daily, particularly when spending time outdoors, to protect against established causes of premature skin ageing.

4. Sleeping Position

The way you sleep may influence the development of certain facial lines. Sleeping

on your side or stomach can press the face against a pillow, creating repeated compression and friction. These pressure-related lines are known as sleep wrinkles.

Initially, they may disappear shortly after waking. However, as the skin naturally loses elasticity with age, some lines may become more persistent. Side sleepers may experience pressure-related lines on their cheeks, while stomach sleepers may place additional pressure on their forehead and face.

Although sleeping position is only one possible contributing factor, reducing repeated pressure may help minimise sleep-related creases.

What you can do: If comfortable, try sleeping on your back to reduce direct pressure on your face. Use a clean, smooth pillowcase and change it regularly. Most importantly, aim for seven to nine hours of sleep each night to support overall health and the skin's natural recovery processes.

5. Excessive Sugar Consumption

Consuming too much added sugar may affect skin health through a process

called glycation. This occurs when sugars bind to proteins such as collagen and elastin, forming compounds known as advanced glycation end products. Over time, these compounds can affect the structure and flexibility of collagen, potentially contributing to reduced skin firmness.

A diet high in sugary foods and refined carbohydrates may also contribute to metabolic problems and inflammation. High-glycaemic foods may worsen acne in some individuals, although responses vary from person to person.

What you can do: Limit sugary drinks, sweets and foods containing excessive added sugar. Choose a balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, pulses, nuts and adequate protein. These foods provide nutrients that support normal skin function. Occasional treats are not a cause for concern; consistency and overall dietary

balance matter more.

Build Healthy Habits for Healthy Skin

Healthy skin requires more than expensive products or elaborate beauty treatments. Everyday choices, including avoiding smoking, using lukewarm water, maintaining healthy sleep habits and eating a balanced diet, can support skin health over time.

Sun protection is particularly important. Use a broad-spectrum sunscreen with SPF 30 or higher, reapply as directed and seek shade when outdoors.

Ageing is natural and cannot be stopped. However, by making thoughtful lifestyle changes and following a consistent skincare routine, you can help maintain your skin's health, comfort and radiance at every stage of life.

(The author is an internationally fame beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India)

Pankaj Bhadouria returns to gym after cancer treatment: "Can't wait to snatch back myself from my sickness"



"MasterChef India" winner Pankaj Bhadouria, who was undergoing treat-

ment for cancer, is back at the gym as she looks to reclaim her strength and fitness after battling the illness.

Sharing an optimistic update on her Instagram stories section, Pankaj said she is determined to take back control of her body and promised a "new" version of herself.

She posted a video of herself doing the Bhujangasana in the gym and wrote: "I am back to the gym now! I can't wait to snatch back myself, my body from my sickness. And I will! You and I will meet the 'new' Pankaj very soon!" It was in May, when Pankaj revealed that she has been diagnosed with breast cancer.

Taking to her social media ac-

count, on May 28, Pankaj shared a picture of herself from the hospital where she was seen lying on a hospital bed dressed in a patient gown with medical wires attached to her.

Sharing the post, she wrote, "I have been diagnosed with Breast Cancer. Need your prayers and support."

Pankaj also posted a video from the hospital as she underwent multiple medical tests. In the clip, she was seen sitting in a hospital robe with a medical cannula attached to her hand.

The text on the video read, "Going for tests and more tests.....not a happy place to be."

"I just wanted to share with you all that I have been diagnosed with breast cancer. Since all of you are like an extended family to me, I wanted to share this with you personally. Right now, I truly need your prayers and support. As they say, prayers work miracles. So please keep me in your prayers," said Pankaj.

Pankaj rose to fame after winning the first season of 'MasterChef India' in 2010, becoming the country's first-ever MasterChef winner. Before entering the culinary world, Pankaj worked as an English teacher and reportedly left her 16-year-long teaching career to participate in the cooking reality show. (HANS)

Anushka Sen on representing India globally: Our stories deserve to be heard across the world

Actress Anushka Sen opened up about representing India on a global platform after being named the country's Global Brand Ambassador for the 2026 Newport Beach Film Festival.

Reflecting on the honour, she said, "Our stories deserve to be heard across the world," emphasizing the importance of bringing Indian stories and talent to international audiences. Speaking about the appointment, Anushka said, "Being named the Global Ambassador representing India at the Newport Beach Film Festival is a moment that means more to me than words can express. For me, this is about so much more than a title; it is about the stories we carry, the boundaries we break, and the doors we open for those who come after us."

Emphasising the importance of believing in one's roots and ambitions, she added, "India has incredible talent and stories that deserve to be heard across the world. I want every young Indian to know that you don't have to fit into a certain mold to make your country proud. Where you come from can be your greatest strength, and your dreams should never be limited by your circumstances."

Anushka, who continues to explore opportunities across international entertainment, hopes her journey encourages more young Indians to pursue their ambitions and represent the country on global platforms.



"I feel incredibly fortunate to be experiencing this, and I hope more young Indians get the chance to represent our country on global platforms. If my journey can encourage someone to believe in themselves and take a step towards their dreams, that would mean a lot to me," she shared.

"For me, the real achievement is seeing Indian talent find its place on the global

stage. I feel truly proud to represent my country, and I hope to make this moment count for something bigger than myself," Anushka further explained.

Anushka Sen has been named the Global Ambassador representing India at the 2026 Newport Beach Film Festival. The recognition comes after Anushka became the only Indian to debut in a Korean film project, "Jeju Olle." (HANS)

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ACROSS

1 Slow-growing trees (4)

4 Writhe (6)

8 I am telling you for the ____ time.... (3)

10 South Indian snack (4)

13 Daring (8)

14 Meaning the same as (7)

15 Fit for farming (6)

17 In a dull and boring manner (9)

21 Military inits., 1946-92 (3)

22 Cavity (3)

23 Bashful (3)

26 Tried or essayed (9)

27 Gambling house (6)

28 Honours gained (7)

32 Seven-sided object (8)

34 Experimental (4)

35 Desire to get money in Japan ? (3)

36 Least feral (6)

37 Sharp-sighted (4)

DOWN

1 Japanese sashes (4)

2 Potter's oven (4)

3 ____ put : do nothing, in a way ? (4)

5 Prey (6)

6 Three for Tiberius (3)

7 Violent confusion (6)

9 Sing wordlessly (3)

11 Units of force in CGS system ? (5)

12 Classical Greek style (5)

15 Der ____ (Adenauer) (4)

16 Thailand money (4)

18 Platform (4)

19 As many as (2,2)

20 Take a chair (3)

23 Spout (5)

24 Shouts (5)

25 Old time classic movie ____ Kanya (6)

26 Records (6)

28 Myrna of movies (3)

29 Again (4)

30 Like congers (4)

31 River of Hades (4)

33 Pamela's nickname (3)

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Dasara 2026 brings box-office cheer for Tollywood

SUHAS SISTU

Telugu cinema had a pleasant Dasara 2026 as Jailer 2, Ranabaali and Garividi Lakshmi had a decent opening during the festive season.

Even though the movies were completely different in terms of genre and target audiences, all of them seem to have performed in the same way. It was Rajinikanth's film Jailer 2 that had a massive success during the holiday season. Rajinikanth's movies are always in demand, but the dubbed Telugu version of Jailer 2 seems to be exceptionally popular for some reason. The film has a considerable audience due to the superstar's vast following, and the season complemented the highest-grossing. It was not the time, however,

Deverakonda's Ranabaali has done better than expected on the first Sunday of the holiday season. Even though the film got mixed reviews, it still has a decent audience that keeps it on the charts in the middle of the festive season. It will be essential to see how Ranabaali performs on weekdays after the holiday season since it will demonstrate the film's true value. The most surprising success of Dasara 2026 appears to be Garividi Lakshmi. Since it did not have any star power, the film's steady increase in ticket sales comes as a pleasant surprise. Word of mouth about Garividi Lakshmi has apparently been growing throughout the holiday season. All three films have shown box-office results comparable to those of first Sunday shows. It will be interesting to see how the money earned compares to the number of viewers throughout the entire length of the holiday season. It seems unlikely that anything would surpass Jailer 2 in terms of Rajinikanth's starrer. However, Ranabaali did well on weekdays when combined with the holiday season. Overall, Garividi Lakshmi is proving to be a pleasant surprise in terms of box-office performance. On the other hand, the true trial awaits these films when season comes to an end. Since the week will no longer extended weekends, the of viewers will play an role in films' further



New 'Vrushakarma' poster creates curiosity

Yuvva Samrat Naga Chaitanya's upcoming mythological thriller Vrushakarma is set to release globally in theatres on 4 th December 2026. Directed by Karthik Dandu, the film that blends mythology, mystery and suspense promises to give a unique cinema experience to the movie buff.

As the film readies for the Diwali Cine Season, the makers have come up with a special poster unveiled ahead of Dussehra. In the poster we see Naga Chaitanya as a fierce persona with a thick beard and red tilak, as he stands in a dark background, while a grand multi-armed goddess idol holding a golden spear is also present.

Reportedly, it will be the biggest budget film for Naga

Chaitanya till date. Meenakshi Chaudhary and Sparsh Shrivastava are playing the roles of heroine and antagonist respectively. It has been produced by BVS N Prasad under SVCC in association with Sukumar Writings and presented by Bapineedu and Co-produced by IVY Entertainments. As their shoot concludes, the makers are working on the post-production work which involves technical team comprising of cinematographer Ragul D. Herian, music composer B. Ajaneesh Loknath, production designer Sri Nagendra Tangala and editor Naveen Nooli. They are also expected to come up with more promotional material as the release date nears.

- S Suhas

'Yellamma' locks March 2027 release

Music composer Devi Sri Prasad is all set to make his acting debut with an upcoming devotional rustic action drama Yellamma, which will hit the theatres worldwide on March 5, 2027. The makers of the film unveiled the release date.

The National Award-winning filmmaker Venu Yeldandi, who recently bagged the coveted Balagam, is directing the film. It is presented by Dil Raju while Shirish is producing the film under Sri Venkateswara Creations.

Apart from playing the lead role, Devi Sri Prasad (DSP) will also be seen composing the music of the film. The music maestro's transition from music to acting has drawn immense attention. The first-look poster of DSP as Parshi was released on his birthday, which went viral as he was seen sporting the character in a humble get-up.

The team is currently busy with the preparations as the film is gearing up for its release on the scheduled date. With Yeldandi and DSP on board, the film promises to give an altogether different experience to the audience. Yellamma will release in Telugu, Tamil, Hindi, Malayalam, and Kannada, making it one of the most awaited pan-India films this year.



Sharwanand's 'Bhogi' unveils heart-warming second single

Charming Star Sharwa's upcoming period action drama Bhogi has released the second single titled "Annayya Paanam Lo Poosina Puvvulu," which highlights the bonding of brother with his five sisters.

The movie directed by Sampath Nandi is set in the early 60s on the Maharashtra-Adilabad border. The latest single also provides a peek into the romance between Sharwa and Anupama Parameswaran, who plays the role of one of the sisters alongside Dimple Hayathi.

The song has been composed by Bheems Ceciroleo, who has created an earthy melody, while an Oscar winner Chandra Bose has written beautiful lyrics to depict the bonding between the siblings. Furthermore, the singer Sri Krishna has given a soulful voice to the



track, which has been choreographed by Aneer Master. The video includes village footages and family moments. While Sharwa looks charming in the rustic avatar, Anupama also fits right into the set-up. Moreover, the single follows "Egilivara," which had showcased

the music style of the film. The movie has been produced by KK Radhamohan under Sri Sathya Sai Arts and presented by Lakshmi Radhamohan. It has been captured by Kishor Kumar's lens, and the makers have yet to unveil its theatrical release date.

- P Ravi Teja

Yash impresses with 'Ravana Tandav' from 'Ramayana'

Rocking Star Yash stars as Ravana in a special musical reveal from Ramayana: Rise of a Legend unveiled on Dussehra ahead of the film's worldwide theatrical release on November 5, 2026.

Titled Rise of Asura in Hindi, the sequence spotlights the superstar's striking on-screen presence and stature as Ravana, the powerful and pious king, with an intense devotion and larger-than-life aura. The musical unit takes inspiration from the popular folklore of Ravana and Lord Shiva's Tandav, and draws on the character's mythological moorings.

The Hindi version features vocals by Vishal Dadlani, lyrics by Dr Kumar Vishwas, and music direction by A. R. Rahman and Hiral Viradia while the Telugu version features lyrics by Rakendu Mouli and vocals by Devi Sri Prasad. The units are titled Ravana-



Tandava in Kannada and Ravana Tandav in Tamil and Telugu. Directed by Nitesh Tiwari and produced by Namit Malhotra's Prime

Focus Studios, alongside DNEG and Yash's Monster Mind Creations, the two-part epic stars Ranbir Kapoor as Rama, Sai Pal-

lavi as Sita, Sunny Deol as Hanuman and Ravie Dubey as Lakshman. The sequel is slated to release on Diwali 2027.

- P Ravi Teja

Aadi Saikumar's divine mystery thriller titled 'Aadi Rudra'

Aadi Saikumar's upcoming big-budget mystery thriller has been named as 'Aadi Rudra' with the film's makers releasing an intriguing title poster and motion video on Dussehra. The movie promises to deliver a blend of spirituality, supernatural forces, and suspense.

Reportedly, the project has been produced by Prashanth G Rudrappa under Trishul Entertainments and is written and directed by Navarasan. The poster highlights Aadi wielding a trident with Goddess Durga's image towering in the background while torches bearing flaming circles circle around a ritual ground.

Set in 1960s-1990s, Aadi Rudra's film wants to create a unique period atmosphere while also delving into themes of faith, divin-



ity, and supernatural forces. Motion video's background music, composed by B. Ajaneesh Loknath, heightens its spiritual and suspenseful feel, while cinematography is handled by AJ Shetty.

They intend to start the shoot in January and have more details about the film's star cast and schedule in the coming days. It is expected to be a noteworthy addition to Aadi Saikumar's career.

Aadi Rudra is set to hit the pan-Indian theatre in Telugu, Kannada, Tamil, Hindi, and Malayalam languages targeting a diverse audience.

- P Ravi Teja

'Donga Naa Koduku' teaser unveiled; promises a comedy ride

Mythri Movie Makers is all set to release the film Donga Naa Koduku, which stars Mouli Tanuj Prasanth as the lead actor on November 13. Mythri Movie Makers has released the teaser of the comedy entertainer directed by debutant Sreenu Kambala.

Mouli plays the role of Eeshwar, a B-Tech dropout who prioritizes money over relationships. However, the comical twist of the story is that the elements of robbery and crime get mixed in with romance and suspense. The humorous tiffin incident at the beach between Eeshwar and his girlfriend provides a comic relief to the climax of



the teaser. After his successful debut in Little Hearts, Mouli displays his comic skills with a loads of screen energy. Sushmitha Shetty plays the love interest of the protagonist while Ali and Rajitha play the role of his parents. Raghubabu, Priya

and Gundu Sudharshan play the other key roles in the film.

Produced by Naveen Yerneni and Y Ravi Shankar, the film has been shot by Suriya Balaji and the music has been composed by Sin-jith Yerramilli.

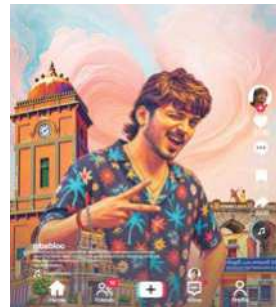
- P Ravi Teja

Sumanth Prabhas' Gen Z entertainer 'Bablu XXL' unveiled

Sumanth Prabhas' yuppy new-age entertainer 'Bablu XXL' created a splash on the social media today with the makers unveiling the title and a vibrant first-look poster of the film which is being produced by Sree Venkateswara Cinemas on Dussehra.

Presented by Puskur Ram Mohan Rao, Bharat N Narang produces and Sonali Narang is the presenter, the film marks writer cum director Saailu Kaampati's comeback after a Rs. 200 crore blockbuster 'Raju Weds Rambai'.

In the poster, young star Sumanth Prabhas is seen in a happy mood with a victory symbol on his right hand and a vibrant floral shirt, with Mancherla's clock tower, an ancient stone bridge and the temple as the backdrop, an Instagram Reels like picture with social media icons as the picture



frame with the hero and heroine seen in a romantic pose on the ancient stone bridge is the first-look image of the film. Gahazy SK plays the leading lady while the film has the presence of superstar names like Radhika Sarathkumar, Jayalalitha and Sivaji Raja among others. Wajid Baig has been roped in for cinematography, Vijay Bhulganin has scored the music, Naresh Adupa has edited the film while Pawan Kalyan Yellapu has designed the Art. The film is currently in the shooting phase.

- S Suhas