| WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2026 | BENGALURU www.thehansindia.com | VOL.7 | NO. 72 | PAGES 12



THE Hans India



NATION\SPORTS
Cop suspended over 'derogatory' remarks against WB CM
In the crowded political landscape of Uttar Pradesh, a new entrant has emerged, former CBI chief M Nageshwar Rao, whose party, Sarvajan Sanatan Party, has sought applications from prospective candidates for upcoming assembly. P10

EDIT
Onus on govt and people for a pollution-free Diwali
Diwali pollution has become an annual grey rhino event—a looming, predictable threat that we all recognise but choose to ignore. Black swan occurrences are unforeseeable, and therefore very difficult to deal with. P6

BUSINESS
AI sell-off abroad sends FPIs rushing back to Indian equities
Foreign investors turned net buyers of Indian equities in November, infusing Rs 53,739 crore in the first nine days after two consecutive months of outflows, driven by the AI-led sell-off in global markets, strong domestic earnings growth and attractive large-cap. P11

ENTERTAINMENT
Sumaya Reddy comes with second production; title to be out soon
Sumaya Reddy announces her second production under her Production House Suma Chitra Arts. The makers have released a special Diwali poster announcing the release of the movie title shortly. P12

Simultaneously published from Hyderabad | Warangal | Tirupati | Vijayawada | Visakhapatnam | Khammam | Kurnool | Delhi
Follow @ / thehansindia / thehansindiaweb / thehansindia / TheHansIndiaWeb / thehansindia

WINDOWS

'Govt spent Rs 473 crore on ads in 3 years, neglecting devpt'

BENGALURU: Karnataka BJP President B Y Vijayendra on Tuesday accused the Congress government in the state of reportedly spending Rs 473 crore on advertisements over the last three years while neglecting development and public welfare. He alleged that the government was spending more than Rs 43 lakh every day on publicity instead of addressing pressing issues such as deteriorating roads, unemployment, farmers' distress and pending payments to contractors.

"Development zero, publicity hero! The Congress government in Karnataka has reportedly blown a staggering Rs 473 crore on advertisements in just three years. That is more than Rs 43 lakh every single day -- not for building roads, creating jobs or supporting farmers, but for projecting its own image," Vijayendra said in a post on 'X' citing media reports.

He alleged that the government had perfected the art of publicity while failing in governance, pointing to rising milk prices, bus fares, electricity charges and the cost of essential services. "Farmers are battling uncertainty, drought and financial distress, our youth are struggling to find employment, Bengaluru's roads are crumbling, and contractors are desperately waiting for their legitimate pending payments," he said.

The BJP leader also questioned the implementation of the Congress government's five guarantee schemes, alleging that they were facing financial and implementation challenges. "Instead of ensuring timely delivery and addressing people's concerns, the government appears more interested in advertising its promises than fulfilling them," he said.

Alleging that the government cited financial constraints when it came to development but had no such constraints for publicity, the BJP chief asked whether this was what the people of Karnataka voted for. "People are not asking for the Chief Minister's photograph on every newspaper page. They are asking for better roads, affordable living, employment for their children, timely payments to contractors and genuine support for farmers," he said.



IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Replace all AQI monitors with two-digit meters. The AQI will never exceed 99!

POLLUTION IN DELHI-NCR

Rising vehicular emissions demand urgent action: SC

Hans News Service
New Delhi

THE sharp increase in vehicular emissions warrant urgent intervention, the Supreme Court has said while directing the governments of Delhi and three neighbouring states to apprise it about the steps taken to prevent the entry and operation of over-age vehicles within the National Capital Region.

The apex court directed the governments of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Haryana, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and the Delhi Police to file detailed responses indicating any further short-term and long-term measures proposed or contemplated to mitigate vehicular emissions and reduce their contribution to the deteriorating air quality in Delhi-NCR.

It also directed them to file responses on measures presently in place to identify, monitor and regulate vehicles that do not conform to the prescribed emission standards, including the enforcement



of Pollution Under Control (PUC) certification requirements.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana asked these authorities to apprise it about the existing regulatory framework and enforcement mechanisms governing the entry and plying of commercial and non-commercial vehicles within Delhi and the NCR, particularly those originating from neighbouring states.

The top court passed the order on November 6 while hearing a suo motu case on curbing air pollution in the NCR.

The bench noted that data presented before it indicated a substantial decline in incidents of stubble burning across Delhi and the states of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan. "While this development is certainly laudable, the same data also brings to the fore a converse and equally pressing concern, namely, the sharp increase in issues attributable to vehicular emissions," it said.

PAK BLAMES INDIA AFTER DIWALI FEST

LAHORE: Pakistan blamed poor air quality this week on pollution drifting from neighbouring India, where firecrackers set off during the festival of Diwali over the weekend blanketed much of the north in toxic smog. The northern Pakistani city of Lahore topped Swiss group IQAir's ranking of the world's most polluted major cities for a second day on Tuesday, with an air quality index (AQI) of 263, categorised as "very unhealthy".

Sonowal inaugurates Yamuna cruise service

- **The cruise will operate between Sonia Vihar and Jagatpur, covering a stretch of around 4-5 km, Rs 500 per person**
- **The project is being developed to promote river-based tourism along the Yamuna stretch of the Wazirabad barrage**

Hans News Service
New Delhi

UNION Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal on Tuesday inaugurated a cruise service on the Yamuna at Sonia Vihar.



The project is being developed to promote river-based tourism along the Yamuna stretch upstream of the Wazirabad barrage.

The cruise will operate between Sonia Vihar and Jagatpur, covering a stretch of around 4-5 km, with each ride lasting approximately 40 minutes. The ticket has been priced at Rs 500 per person.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said the cruise would bring people closer to the Yamuna, giving Delhi residents an opportunity to enjoy experiences for which they often travel to other cities. Speaking at the event, she said recreational activities, along with light-and-sound shows and the cruise service, would provide people an opportunity to spend quality time with their families.

Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Shantanu Thakur, Delhi BJP president Harsh Malhotra and other cabinet ministers were also present at the inauguration. Union minister Sonowal highlighted India's achievements over the past 12 years, particularly in the development of waterways, saying the country had made significant progress in the sector. He praised Delhi Chief Minister Gupta's leadership, saying the national capital was developing at a rapid pace despite the government being in office for a relatively short period.

CM distributes LPG aid to 15 lakh beneficiaries

Hans News Service
New Delhi

CHIEF Minister Rekha Gupta on Tuesday released the second annual installment under the Delhi Free LPG Cylinder Scheme to around 15 lakh ration card holders.

The Delhi government had announced earlier that an amount equal to one LPG gas cylinder would be given to eligible beneficiaries in the national capital every year on the occasions of Holi and Diwali. "This is the power of your vote. Direct money has been transferred to your bank accounts. This is a gift from your brother Narendra Modi for Bhai Dooj festival," Gupta said, addressing a crowd at Talkatora Stadium.

According to officials, the government released Rs 142 crore in total for the 15 lakh beneficiaries.

'This is the power of your vote. Direct money has been transferred to your bank accounts. This is a gift from your brother Narendra Modi for Bhai Dooj festival'



Gupta said that her government has been launching welfare schemes, particularly for women, such as the Delhi Lakshmi Yojna, Lakhpati Yojna and free LPG cylinder scheme.

"We are fulfilling all the promises made by us in our manifesto. Trust us, your government stands with you in your bad and good times," she added.

Bhagwat calls for eco-friendly Diwali

NAGPUR: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Tuesday noted that firecrackers used in earlier times were free of harmful chemicals and helped eliminate insects, while lighting ghee-fuelled lamps served to purify the air. Addressing a gathering in Nagpur, Bhagwat called for celebrating an environment-friendly Diwali, asserting that traditional festive practices were deeply rooted in science. The RSS chief's comments come at a time when the air quality in Delhi and several other metro cities has deteriorated to the "poor" and "severe" categories due to the bursting of firecrackers.



Oxford returns remains of 39 Nagas after a century

Dimapur
Texas

THE University of Oxford returned the remains of 39 members of the Naga community, which were held at its Pitt Rivers Museum for more than a century, in a historic repatriation initiative.

The remains were formally handed over to the Forum for Naga Reconciliation (FNR) and the Naga Tribe Hoho at a ceremony held at the museum.

The transfer of title document was signed by Pitt Rivers Museum director professor Laura Van Broekhoven and FNR representative Rev Dr Wati Aier. It was



witnessed by Visier Sanyu on behalf of the FNR and Thejao Vihienuo representing the Naga Tribe Hoho. Following the handover, the ancestral remains were moved from the University of Oxford to begin their journey to Nagaland, according to a statement issued by the FNR on Tuesday.



Trump casts doubts over voting machines after loss

TEXAS: United States President Donald Trump has once again raised doubts over the credibility of the US midterm elections, alleging irregularities in early voting and questioning the role of voting machines. Taking to his social media platform Truth Social, Trump questioned whether the election was conducted honestly and criticised the disparity between pre-election polling and the outcome. 'Does anybody really believe that this "Election" was honest.

SC seeks WhatsApp's action plan to curb digital arrest scams

Hans News Service
New Delhi

THE Supreme Court has asked WhatsApp and other intermediaries to apprise it about their proposed measures to prevent digital arrest scams and related cybercrimes in the country.

In an order uploaded on the website with regard to the hearing conducted on October 29 in a suo motu case titled In Re: Victims of Digital Arrest Related to Forged Documents, a bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant asked WhatsApp and like intermediaries to simultaneously submit their proposals to the I4C (Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre).



The bench, also comprising Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana, has listed the plea for further consideration on November 23.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for WhatsApp, had told the bench the platform had taken preventive measures, including action against 9,400 accounts, and would file an affidavit detailing the steps undertaken.

He had said the platform was working on a software to identify suspicious accounts and warn users.

'Maneka would use expletives, even in the presence of Indira'

Hans News Service
New Delhi

TOWARDS the end of 1973, Sanjay Gandhi was introduced to Maneka Gandhi, "a pretty and vivacious girl, ten years younger than him and still a minor".

Within a year, they were married and Maneka, now 18, became part of the Gandhi family, recalls Sonia Gandhi in her memoir "Belonging: A Journey of Love". She narrates the oft discussed story of the "high-spirited and talkative girl" who became the "Choti Bahu" and the domestic and political fallout that would be termed a "reality show" today.

"Maneka was…full of zest. It was refreshing at first to have a younger sister-in-law in the house. But slowly, the atmosphere began to change, with irritations cropping up in the home," Gandhi writes in the book.

The 526-page book, published by HarperCollins India, covers the arc of Gandhi's remarkable life -- her childhood in post-war Italy, her marriage into the Nehru-Gandhi family, the assassination of her husband Rajiv Gandhi and her entry into politics.

Gandhi, who was addressed by the staff as "Bahurani", would think of Maneka and herself as "equal daughters of the house" with enough space to share between them.

"...but she probably saw it as a putdown. When she spoke rudely, by and large I'd remain silent to keep the peace, but when I felt it had gone too far, I wouldn't hold back and would respond curtly," the famously reticent Gandhi recalls in the book. Soon into the marriage, the differences between Sanjay and Maneka would come to the notice of other members of the family when "the exchange of words between them became noisier and more heated".

When she spoke rudely, by and large I'd remain silent to keep the peace, but when I felt it had gone too far, I wouldn't hold back and would respond curtly

"When annoyed, she would use expletives, even in the presence of my mother-in-law.

Maneka seemed to "settle down" when she began to accompany Sanjay to political functions and programmes, according to the book.

Gandhi writes that Maneka's influence on Sanjay started interfering with his relation with Rajiv. The relationship between the brothers, who were inseparable till a few months ago, turned bitter.



WINDOWS



Online fraud of over Rs 22 cr from bank a/cs exposed

CHENNAI: An online fraud involving the siphoning of Rs 22.10 crore from bank accounts in the state came to light, police said on Tuesday. Currently, efforts are underway to track the transactions and also check the involvement of local bank handlers or compromised credentials used to execute the transfers, police said.

The police suspect the involvement of an international cybercrime syndicate from Nigeria. BJP leader Vinoj P Selvam claimed that this incident raised yet another set of serious questions about the Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay-led TVK government's administrative oversight, accountability and preparedness.

"These are funds meant for rural development, essential services and public welfare. Money entrusted to the government for the benefit of ordinary citizens. How did cybercriminals allegedly penetrate government payment systems? How were transactions worth crores executed? Where were the security checks, financial controls and monitoring mechanisms?" Selvam said on X today.

Taking a dig at the ruling TVK, he said, "Every political party in the world has an IT wing. But Tamil Nadu seems to have witnessed something extraordinary. For the first time, an actor's fan club and its social media army have gone from trending hashtags to running a state government! Unfortunately, managing hashtags and managing a state are two very different things." He said Tamil Nadu needed transparent answers, stronger institutions and a government that can demonstrate its ability to safeguard public funds.

Three die while cleaning wastewater treatment tank

KRISHNAGIRI : Three contract workers suffocated to death while cleaning a wastewater treatment tank at the Tata Electronics Private Limited (TEPL) facility in Hosur in this district, police said on Tuesday.

The deceased -- Kaveri (30) of Hosur, alongside B Akmal (28) and M Sarathi Kumar (28), both hailing from Dharmapuri district -- were exposed to lethal poisonous fumes and severe oxygen depletion while desilting an Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) storage tank on Monday evening.

According to police, Akmal initially peered into the tank to inspect it, only to collapse immediately from gas exposure.

Attempting a rescue, Kaveri directed Sarathi Kumar to check on their fallen colleague, but he fainted upon entry. Kaveri then rushed inside the enclosure himself, succumbing to the toxic atmosphere moments later.

A fourth crew member who observed the tragedy unfold alerted nearby staff.

Rescuers pulled all three individuals from the tank and rushed them to a private hospital in Hosur, where doctors declared them dead on arrival.

The remains were subsequently transferred to the Government Medical College Hospital in Krishnagiri for post-mortem examinations.

Visiting the site to inspect safety protocols, Krishnagiri district collector C Dinesh Kumar confirmed that asphyxiation during sludge removal was the primary cause of death.

He announced that a comprehensive inquiry has been launched into the breach of safety regulations at the plant, which manufactures and assembles components for Apple iPhones.

Tasmac bottle buyback success, says Minister Vignesh

Chennai

PROHIBITION Minister K Vignesh on Tuesday said 53 to 54 per cent of commercial glass bottles were successfully returned since the TASMAC bottle buyback scheme came into effect on November 1.

In a strong reorientation of the state's excise policy, Vignesh explicitly said that high sales volumes from the state-run Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation (Tasmac) should not be portrayed or celebrated as an achievement. The increase in liquor sales is a matter of shame, he emphasised.

"High sales figures are not an accolade for the government," Minister Vignesh asserted, underlining a shift toward a long-term public health strategy aimed at progressively reducing alcohol consumption across the state.

Speaking to reporters here, the minister underscored that rising liquor consumption is a matter of profound social concern and shame rather than a metric of success. As part of the government's harm-reduction roadmap, Minister Vignesh announced an ambitious healthcare initiative to set up dedicated de-addiction and rehabilitation centres across all 234 assembly constituencies in Tamil Nadu. The project aims to provide localised, accessible medical and psychological support for individuals battling alcohol dependency.

Looking ahead, the minister outlined an upcoming regulatory strategy specifically targeted at tapering liquor sales during major festival periods, which traditionally witness massive revenue spikes. He added that the state will simultaneously undertake extensive public awareness campaigns focusing on the severe physical, psychological, and socioeconomic harms of long-term alcohol consumption.

Addressing recent technical disruptions linked to the digital tracking infrastructure, the minister stated that the underlying QR code verification systems were fully functional prior to the November 1 rollout. He promised a rigorous, unbiased investigation into the current glitches to streamline the return mechanism swiftly.



Vijay to hold crucial meet of TVK legislators today

Chennai

CHIEF Minister and TVK founder C Joseph Vijay summoned his party legislators to Chennai for an emergency consultative meeting, party sources said on Tuesday. The high-level meeting scheduled to take place at the TVK party headquarters in Panaiyur, here on Nov 11, will be chaired by CM Vijay. Party general secretary and Minister N Anand and other senior leaders would participate in the meeting that has been called amidst growing political pressure and scrutiny over the conduct of certain legislators, which the leadership fears could undermine the public standing of the six-month-old government. According to sources, the TVK leadership is expected to strictly instruct the party functionaries and MLAs regarding maintaining discipline and public behaviour to ensure their conduct remained dignified and that they remain responsive to public grievances without abusing their authority.

The meeting will address allegations against TVK MLA and Deputy Speaker M Ravisankar, who is drawing flak from political parties following a controversy involving a local resident (Karthik Kumar) who questioned him about basic civic issues, and also a separate unverified complaint regarding messages sent to a government official by the party MLA.



The party is currently conducting an internal inquiry into the matter. Kallakurichi MLA C Arul Vignesh denied allegations of sending inappropriate messages to Kallakurichi collector on Whatsapp, saying "I have not done any such thing. They are rumours. It is not true."

DMK president M K Stalin criticised the ruling TVK, saying Tamil Nadu's "law and order is in ICU" and the "administration is in coma." "There have been 17 murders on a single day. And a TVK MLA is accused of sending obscene text messages to a female district collector. Criminals have no fear under the current government and police have no security either. People's representatives from TVK have no control. In total, the 'part-time' Chief Minister has no responsibility at all," Stalin said on X. Leader of the Opposition DMK Udhayanidhi Stalin sought to know when Chief Minister Vijay will rein in the erring party MLAs. "The Chief Minister, who is in 'sleep mode' without opening his mouth or taking responsibility for any of this, should wake up immediately and take appropriate action," Udhayanidhi Stalin said in a statement.

AIADMK treasurer Dindigul Srinivasan slammed MLA Arul Vignesh for allegedly sending inappropriate messages to a collector, and claimed that the legislator "went to the collector's house in an inebriated condition and harassed her. This is shocking." "The collector who ought to protect the people seems to have no security for her from the ruling party MLA. What a shame," he said.

AMMK general secretary T T V Dhinakaran said in a statement that the TVK leadership appeared to have turned a blind eye to its functionaries engaging in sexual harassment of school girls, and kidnapping their own party members in a car and gang-raping them. "Bribing contractors, assaulting a person who came to petition the MLA about a public problem, sexual harassment of the district collector are among the heinous acts committed by the TVK MLAs who have been elected to serve the people. I request Chief Minister Vijay to conduct a detailed investigation into the complaint against the MLA for sending obscene text messages to a collector and going to her house and behaving in a disgusting manner, and ensure that he gets the maximum punishment if proved guilty," Dhinakaran said.

AIADMK defection row

Speaker begins hearings against 4 ex-MLAs

Chennai

TAMIL Nadu Assembly Speaker J.C.D. Prabhakar will begin hearings on Tuesday into the disqualification petitions against four former AIADMK legislators who resigned from the Assembly and subsequently joined another political party, following a directive from the Madras High Court.

The proceedings, scheduled from November 10 to 12, will examine complaints filed by AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami against former legislators Esakki Subbiah, Maragatham Kumaravel, Jayakumar and Sathyabama.

The controversy originated in the political turmoil that followed the Assembly elections, when the AIADMK split into rival factions led by Palaniswami and former Minister S.P. Velumani. Both leaders submitted separate representations to the Speaker, seeking recognition of their respective groups as the legitimate AIADMK legislative party.

The confrontation intensified during the confidence vote faced by the Vijay-led Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) government. Twenty-five AIADMK legislators belonging to the Velumani faction voted in favour of the government, prompting the Palaniswami camp to demand their disqualification.



Subsequently, four legislators who supported the government resigned their Assembly memberships and joined another party.

The Palaniswami faction urged the Speaker not to accept their resignations and demanded action under the anti-defection provisions. However, a political reconciliation between Palaniswami and Velumani subsequently brought the rival AIADMK factions together. Following the agreement, the party requested the withdrawal of disqualification proceedings against 21 legislators, while maintaining its complaint against the four who had resigned.

The proceedings against the 21 members were subsequently dropped. Dissatisfied with the delay in deciding the remaining petitions, Palaniswami approached the Madras High Court seeking directions for an expeditious decision. The High Court directed the Speaker to examine the disqualification complaints and take an appropriate decision within two months.

Acting on the court's directive, the Speaker has issued notices to the four former legislators and scheduled hearings from Tuesday to Thursday. Lawyers representing both the former legislators and Palaniswami are expected to present their arguments.

The final hearing has been scheduled for November 17, following which the Speaker is expected to announce his decision after examining the submissions.

Significantly, Maragatham Kumaravel and Sathyabama subsequently won byelections and are currently serving as TVK legislators.

Earlier, former AIADMK Ministers M.R. Vijayabhaskar and C. Vijayabhaskar had also resigned their Assembly memberships and joined another political party, reflecting the continuing realignments within Tamil Nadu politics.

Palaniswami questions CM's 'silence' on Mekedatu dam project

Chennai

AIADMK chief Edappadi K Palaniswami on Tuesday condemned Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay's "silence" over recent statements from Karnataka on the controversial Mekedatu dam project. Accusing the state government of "failing" to protect the interests of Tamil Nadu delta farmers and compromising on state water rights, Palaniswami lashed out at Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar for claiming that no external permissions are necessary to construct a reservoir across the Cauvery River at Mekedatu.

In a statement here, the AIADMK General Secretary charged the Karnataka government with "intentionally spreading false information" to deceive the public, asserting that the Supreme Court of India has not granted unmitigated clearance for the project.

Highlighting the previous AIADMK regime's track record, Palaniswami detailed a series of official representations he had sent to Prime Minister Narendra Modi between 2017 and 2018 and emphasised that the AIADMK had consistently urged the central government to completely deny statutory and administrative clearances for any reservoir construction across the Cauvery River. He described the ruling TVK as a "passive bystander" and accused Chief Minister Vijay of maintaining a stoic "silence" instead of delivering a fitting response to Karnataka's unilateral stance.



The AIADMK leader warned that the state government's inaction risked turning the fertile Cauvery delta region into a desert, and sought immediate and robust intervention to protect Tamil Nadu's crucial share of Cauvery waters.

Spl court rejects bail plea of ex-DMK Minister Anbil Mahesh

Chennai

A special court in Chennai on Tuesday dismissed the bail petition of former Tamil Nadu School Education Minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi in an alleged corruption case involving the collection of money from private schools in exchange for approvals and regulatory permits during the previous DMK government.

Special Judge L.S. Sathyamoorthy rejected the petition after accepting the prosecution's contention that the investigation was still at a preliminary stage and further questioning of the accused was necessary.

Mahesh, who has been lodged in Puzhal Central Prison for the past 16 days,



was arrested by the Chennai Central Crime Branch following allegations of large-scale irregularities in granting recognition and other permissions to private educational institutions. The investigation initially focused on private schools association administrator P.D. Arakumar and others before the former minister was subsequently named as an accused.

Anticipating arrest, Mahesh approached the Madras High Court seeking anticipatory bail. However, Justice V. Lakshminarayanan declined to grant relief on October 26, following which police arrested him and secured his judicial remand.

Investigators subsequently obtained three days of police custody to question the former minister regarding the alleged financial transactions. During the bail hearing, senior advocate Abudu Kumar Rajarathnam, representing Mahesh, argued that investigators had failed to produce direct evidence linking his client to the alleged corruption.

He questioned the changing estimates of the alleged collections, claiming that the amount initially cited as Rs 100 crore had subsequently increased to Rs 400 crore, Rs 600 crore and eventually Rs 800 crore. The defence maintained that Mahesh's mobile phone and electronic devices had already been seized, eliminating any possibility of evidence tampering. It also assured the court that he would cooperate with investigators. Opposing bail, government counsel R. John Sathyan alleged that Mahesh maintained close connections with co-accused Muthukumar and Arakumar.

The prosecution claimed that money collected by Muthukumar had been transported to Mahesh's residence by an individual identified as Saravanan, and that investigators possessed video evidence supporting the allegation.

It further submitted that Saravanan remained absconding and additional interrogation was required.

BOOK PROCUREMENT SCAM

DVAC teams hold enquiry at Anna, Periyar libraries

The library book procurement process was found heavily manipulated during the previous DMK regime to benefit unknown entities, bypassing established and reputed publishers

Chennai

DVAC officials on Tuesday launched a detailed inquiry into the alleged scam of procuring books for Tamil Nadu government libraries and inspected the official records at the Anna Centenary Library here and Periyar Arivulagam in Coimbatore. The action follows a complaint filed by the School Education Department with the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC).

Initial verification by the state government indicated that multiple suspicious publishing firms were operating out of a single address. On Monday, School Education Minister A Rajmohan claimed that the library book procurement process was heavily manipulated during the previous DMK regime to benefit unknown entities, bypassing established and reputed publishers. He alleged that a syndicate, in collusion with officials and political figures, systematically procured these low-quality "trash" books to siphon funds and noted that established, reputable publishers were ignored in favour of unknown entities like "Agal Vilakku Pathippagam."

The publisher came under scrutiny last week after writer Perumal Murugan flagged irregularities regarding nearly 1,800 of its books stocked at the newly inaugurated Rs 300 crore Periyar Arivulagam library in Coimbatore. On Saturday, the Agal Vilakku Pathippagam books were removed from the library shelves.

The library book procurement "scam" has triggered a fierce political row, with the ruling TVK blaming the previous DMK government for approving the bulk purchase orders, while the opposition DMK has demanded an impartial probe to pinpoint which specific officials greenlit the fraudulent procurement.

All identified AI-generated books were being removed from libraries across the state, the minister told reporters here. The authorities have sealed approximately 3,000 books in Coimbatore and identified 523 problematic books in the historic Connemara Public Library here. Rajmohan highlighted specific examples of suspicious books, noting generic author bios, missing bibliographic information, and clear evidence of machine-made text and errors. According to sources, the DVAC would fix responsibility on the persons involved in the scam, following the detailed enquiry. The DVAC team under Deputy Superintendent of Police Kandasamy inspected the documents pertaining to the procurement of books during the previous DMK regime at the Anna Centenary Library at Kotturpuram here. A similar examination of official records was carried out by a separate team at the Periyar Arivulagam.



WINDOWS



Crude bomb ruled out in blast at Dr Rajkumar kin's house

CHAMARAJANAGARA: Erode district police have clarified that the explosion reported at the house of a relative of Kannada film icon Dr Rajkumar at Gajanur in Tamil Nadu was not caused by a country-made bomb or crude explosive. According to a press statement issued by the police, a loud firecracker blast shattered the windowpanes of the house.

Meanwhile, Thalavady police have detained five local residents for questioning in connection with the incident. The five were reportedly present near the house when the explosion occurred, and investigators are questioning them to establish their possible involvement.

However, the family members have disputed the police version and insisted that the incident was a crude bomb attack.

They have urged the authorities not to close the case by describing the explosion as a firecracker incident. Speaking to reporters family members questioned how a firecracker could have caused such extensive damage to the property.

They said the doors had been damaged, windowpanes were shattered, and a sofa inside the house had caught fire.

"If it was merely a firecracker explosion, how could the doors be damaged? The glass panes were completely shattered, the door was broken and the sofa caught fire. What happened outside our house was an explosive attack and not a firecracker blast," the family members said.

The explosion occurred at around 10.22 pm on Monday night. Initially, investigators suspected that firecrackers burst during Deepavali celebrations might have caused the damage.

However, the intensity of the blast raised suspicions of a possible crude bomb attack, prompting police to collect samples from the scene.

The latest statement from Erode district police has now added a new dimension to the investigation, with the family's allegations differing from the official explanation.

New luggage tariff in KSRTC buses

BENGALURU: Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has placed a further load on bus passengers.

Those already troubled by the increase in bus ticket fares, now face higher luggage-transport charges beginning Tuesday, 10 November.

Under the revised schedule, the charge for the first five stages rises from Rs. 6 to Rs. 10. For stages 6 to 10, the earlier charge of Rs. 10 becomes Rs. 15, while for stages 11 to 15, the previous rate of Rs. 20 climbs to Rs. 25. Passengers remain entitled to carry luggage weighing up to 10 kg free of cost.

Free carriage is likewise available for heavy articles up to 20 kg.

Extra charges, however, will apply once the prescribed weight limit is exceeded.

The increase is expected to affect daily travellers seriously, especially traders who move at taluk and district levels.

For ordinary citizens already strained by several earlier price rises, the measure adds further economic difficulty.

Passenger jumps onto track, disrupts Purple Line services

Hans News Service
Bengaluru

AN alarming incident took place on Tuesday on the Purple Line at Vijayanagar Metro station. A person stepped onto the track as a Metro train was approaching, causing a delay in traffic on the Purple Line. Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited has expressed regret for the inconvenience presently caused to passengers.

The event occurred at Vijayanagar metro station. Around 1:31 in the afternoon, while the metro train was arriving, the individual got down onto the track, resulting in delayed movement on the Purple Line. An atmosphere of anxiety prevailed for some time after the incident.

BMRCL conveyed details through a post on social media platform X, stating that at about 13:31 hours a passenger jumped onto the up track when a train was arriving at the platform at Vijayanagar metro station. Station officials immediately adopted emergency measures, rescued the person concerned and admitted him to a nearby hospital for medical treatment.

While safety and rescue operations continued, train services were run on the unaffected portions of the Purple Line between Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Station (Majestic) and Whitefield (Kadugodi), and between Mysore Road and Challaghatta, with the intention of lessening inconvenience to the public.

Metro movement on the Purple Line was brought back to normal from 1:58 pm. No disruption occurred to metro services on the Green Line and Yellow Line.

BMRCL, while expressing regret for the inconvenience caused to passengers, also thanked the public for the cooperation and patience displayed on this occasion.



Comprehensive aviation policy to be placed before next cabinet meeting: Min

Hans News Service
Bengaluru

Gadkari responsible for ethanol crisis, alleges M B Patil



THE state government has formulated a comprehensive policy to promote the growth of civil aviation in Karnataka. The policy will be placed before the next Cabinet meeting, Infrastructure Development Minister MB Patil said on Tuesday.

Explaining the policy, he said it covers several aspects, including financial assistance, Viability Gap Funding (VGF) and efficient management of airports operated by the State Government. The policy could serve as a model for the entire country, he added.

The suspension of flight services from Shivamogga Airport is due to shortcomings in the Union Government's UDAN-2 policy. The Centre handed over Mangaluru Airport to the Adani Group and is now moving towards privatising Hubballi Airport. The State spent Rs 1,000 crore on developing the Kalaburagi Airport and handed it over to the Centre, but has not received even a single rupee in return. MP BY Raghavendra, who has been criticising the state government, should take note of these facts, Patil said.

We had suggested extending the UDAN scheme from three years to five years, followed by another five years of joint operation by the State and Union Governments, with both sharing the expenditure equally. This would have yielded better results. However, the Centre did not give due consideration to our proposal. Consequently, flight operations at 17 airports across the country have now been suspended, he said.

It is not appropriate for the State to invest thousands of crores of rupees in building airports only to hand them over to the Union Government. That is why we are managing the airports at Shivamogga, Raichur and Vijayapura ourselves.

Flight services at the previously non-operational Kalaburagi Airport were restored with 80 per cent of the funding provided by the Kalyana Karnataka Region Development Board (KKRDB) and the remaining 20 per cent by the State Government. If Raghavendra is capable, let him arrange similar funding for Shivamogga Airport, Patil challenged.

Gadkari responsible for ethanol crisis

The Union government has created a crisis by allowing ethanol to be blended with petrol beyond the prescribed limits. Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari is primarily responsible for this, Patil alleged.

However, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi has defended the Centre's actions. A comprehensive investigation into the matter is necessary, he demanded.

They refuse to believe me when I speak the truth about ethanol. Let them ask sugar industry leaders such as Murugesh Nirani and Prabhakar Kore.

Did we not send petrol samples to the Union Government's own laboratories for testing? Why, then, should there be any doubt about the test results? he asked.

Ethanol stocks at sugar factories have exceeded their storage capacity. The problem is not confined to Karnataka; Maharashtra is facing the same situation.

The position is relatively better only in Uttar Pradesh. The Union Government encouraged excessive ethanol production but failed to ensure adequate procurement.

The scheme should initially have been introduced on a pilot basis in four or five districts to assess its advantages and disadvantages. Instead, Gadkari introduced the ethanol-blending system abruptly, resulting in the present crisis, Patil alleged.

Prove Sangh links in murders or resign: Tejasvi challenges Kharge

Hans News Service
Bengaluru



BJP MP Tejasvi Surya has challenged Karnataka Minister Priyank Kharge to produce evidence within three days to substantiate his allegations linking Sangh Parivar members to the murders of journalist Gauri Lankesh and rationalist M M Kalaburgi, or resign from his post.

Reacting to Kharge's remarks at a Muslim League programme in Kerala, Surya said securing justice in the high-profile murder cases required seriousness and commitment rather than political speeches. In a social media post, he said the Home Minister's responsibility was to ensure justice under the rule of law and not pronounce prejudiced judgments from political platforms.

Surya questioned the delay in the trials, pointing out that the chargesheet in the Gauri Lankesh murder case was filed in 2018, while the trial began in 2022. The case is now before its seventh judge, and all the accused are out on bail, he said. In the Kalburgi murder case, only 33 of the 139 witnesses had been examined by September 2026, highlighting the slow pace of the proceedings, he added.

He said Congress had been in power in Karnataka for most of the period since the murders and that the state government had constituted the SITs. The Home Department must explain its role in ensuring effective investigations and trials, he demanded.

Surya also questioned Kharge's assurance that the cases would be concluded within six months and those responsible would be sent to prison, saying such statements could raise concerns about judicial independence. He asked Kharge to disclose the names of those allegedly linked to the Sangh who had been chargesheeted and provide evidence within three days or resign.

Kharge had alleged that people associated with the Sangh Parivar were behind the murders and expressed confidence that the accused would be brought to justice within six months.

DIVINITY BECKONS



Union Minister Pralhad Joshi along with his family members performs Mahalaxmi Puja at his office in Hubballi on Tuesday

Second POCSO case filed against priest Father Cyprian Pinto

Women police station registers fresh complaint involving a 13-yr-old

Hans News Service
Mangaluru

A second case stands registered against the 65-year-old Catholic priest attached to St. Vincent Ferrer Church at Valencia for the alleged sexual assault of a minor boy. The Mangaluru Women Police Station recorded the complaint identifying the priest as Father Cyprian Pinto. The complaint states that he sexually assaulted a 13-year-old boy on May 13. The boy, a resident of Permannur village, used to attend Sunday prayers at St. Sebastian Church, and the alleged incident took place while he remained associated with that church.

Police registered the case under Section 75(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Sections 8 and 12 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act. Further investigation has been entrusted to the Assistant Commissioner of Police, Central Sub-Division. The new complaint arrived weeks after another case was registered against the same priest at the Mangaluru South Police Station on October 15.

That earlier case rested on allegations of sexual harassment of a 14-year-old boy.

Police arrested the priest in the first matter and produced him before a court on October 18. The court remanded him to judicial custody until October 30; he was subsequently released on bail. Investigation into that case continues.

Mother, lover among six held for youth's murder in Belagavi

Hans News Service
Belagavi



IN a shocking case of alleged murder driven by an illicit relationship, a woman has been arrested along with her lover and four others for conspiring to kill her 24-year-old son in Belagavi.

The victim, Vijay Narayan, a resident of RT Nagar in Bengaluru, was allegedly murdered because he opposed his mother Meena's relationship with Rakesh, a man from Maharashtra. Police said the accused lured Vijay to Belagavi on the pretext of watching the Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations on November 1 and strangled him with a Kannada flag.

The Malamaruti police have arrested six people, including Meena, Rakesh and his four associates — Sachin, Manoj, Thammanna and Eknath. Meena, who worked as a manager at a beauty parlour in Bengaluru, had allegedly developed a relationship with Rakesh. To prevent Vijay from suspecting their relationship, she had reportedly appointed him as her personal car driver.

However, Vijay came to know about the relationship and strongly objected to it. As his opposition allegedly became an obstacle to their relationship, Meena and Rakesh are suspected to have planned his murder. According to the police, Rakesh and his associates brought Vijay to Belagavi, promising to take him to the grand Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations. On the night of November 1, they allegedly took him to an isolated spot near a highway and strangled him using a Kannada flag before abandoning his body and fleeing.

Meena was in Bengaluru at the time of the murder but allegedly remained in contact with the accused over the phone and received updates about the crime. Rakesh subsequently returned to Bengaluru. The murder came to light after the Malamaruti police found the body of an unidentified youth in an isolated area. Inspector B R Gadd ekar and his team began an investigation and established the victim's identity as Vijay Narayan.

BDA provides another opportunity to purchase sites in Nadaprabhu Kempegowda layout

The BDA began developing Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout in 2010 and formed around 29,000 sites of various dimensions. Between 2016 and 2026, it allotted more than 22,000 sites, including 9,000 sites to landowners

Hans News Service
Bengaluru



THE Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has provided another opportunity to purchase sites in Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout, a major residential area in western Bengaluru.

The BDA decided to conduct an e-auction of residential and commercial corner and intermediate sites in the layout, which already has nearly 90% of its modern infrastructure facilities and connectivity network. While the BDA has also begun the allotment process for Dr. Shivaram Karanth Layout, it has scheduled an e-auction of around 101 sites of various dimensions across different blocks of Kempegowda Layout. Interested buyers have until November 16 to register their interest in participating in the e-auction. The base bidding price has been fixed at Rs. 80,000 per square metre.

The BDA began developing Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout in 2010 and formed around 29,000 sites of various dimensions. Between 2016 and 2026, it allotted more than 22,000 sites, including 9,000 sites to landowners. Although the BDA initially issued a notification to acquire around 4,040 acres of land in the first phase, it has acquired only 2,200 acres so far.

Residents and allottees struggled for several years to secure adequate infrastructure facilities in the layout. Eventually, nearly 90% of the infrastructure work was completed. Major Arterial Roads (MAR) have also been developed. The BDA is also planning to construct a 250-metre-high Skydeck in the layout, which is expected to further enhance property values in the area. Participants in the auction must be Indian citizens. They must upload the required documents, including photographs, signatures, Aadhaar and PAN details, on the auction portal. Applicants must also provide their correct residential address, email address, mobile number and landline number. Bidders registering their names on the e-procurement portal will be considered final, and the sites cannot be transferred to another person's name. A total of 101 sites will be auctioned on an 'as-is-where-is' basis in accordance with the BDA Corner Sites, Intermediate Sites and Other Auctionable Sites Disposal Rules, 1984. Depending on the site serial numbers, the bidding process will take place from November 17 to November 20. Interested applicants can register until 5 pm on November 16.

Successful bidders must pay 25% of the total site value after deducting the Rs. 4 lakh Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) already paid. The remaining amount must be paid within 72 hours of receiving the e-auction advice letter. Failure to make the payment within the stipulated time will result in the BDA forfeiting the Rs. 4 lakh EMD. According to a BDA official, the current real estate market price in Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout ranges between Rs. 9,500 and Rs. 10,000 per square foot.

Abandoned by children, 80-yr-old's plea for justice, dignity goes unheard

His demand is neither property nor luxury. All he seeks are a few meals a day, a safe roof over his head and the dignity to spend the remaining years of his life in peace

- Even authorities did not come to his rescue; after four days of wait at RDO office yield no relief; left disappointed
- Before leaving, he reportedly pleaded with the staff to at least arrange admission to an old-age home if his children were unwilling to provide him shelter



80-year-old Raj Mallayya waiting for the official to hear him, at RDO office in Jagtial on Tuesday



Miryala Rajani
Jagtial

IN a heartbreaking incident highlighting the plight of elderly people facing neglect within their own families, an 80-year-old man from Donkeshwaram village of Beerpur mandal has been running from pillar to post for the past four days, seeking justice and a dignified place to live.

Raj Mallayya, a resident of Donkeshwaram village, lost his wife and is now struggling to find support during the final stage of his life. Despite having four children, he alleges that none of them is willing to take responsibility for his care. While one of his children is settled in the United States, the other three live locally. He claims that he is not even being allowed into their houses and is being deprived of basic necessities such as food and shelter.

With no other option, Mallayya approached the Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) and submitted a petition seeking intervention. Officials reportedly assured him that his children would be counselled to resolve the family dispute. However, no concrete action has been taken so far.

For the past four days, the elderly man has been visiting the RDO office, waiting since morning until evening in the hope of receiving a solution. On Tuesday, he once again waited until late evening to meet the authorities. However, as there was no response from the officials, he was left disappointed.

In a particularly distressing scene, Mallayya, who is unable to walk without support, eventually left the office with the help of two walking sticks. Before leaving, he reportedly pleaded with the staff to at least arrange admission to an old-age home if his children were unwilling to provide him shelter.

His helpless condition and repeated appeals moved several people present at the office. At an age when he should be spending his days in peace and comfort, the octogenarian is being forced to wander from office to office seeking something as basic as food and shelter.

The incident has raised serious concerns over the protection and welfare of senior citizens facing neglect by their own families. Locals have urged the authorities to intervene immediately, counsel his children and ensure that Mallayya receives proper care and protection. They have also appealed to officials to arrange admission to an old-age home without further delay if family reconciliation is not possible. For an 80-year-old man, the demand is neither property nor luxury.

All he seeks is a few meals a day, a safe roof over his head and the dignity to spend the remaining years of his life in peace.



MLA Revuri offers prayers at Bhavani Kumkumeswara Swamy temple

Hans News Service
Hanumakonda

PARAKALA MLA Revuri Prakash Reddy performed special pujas at the renowned Sri Bhavani Kumkumeswara Swamy Temple in Parakala town on Tuesday as part of the Kartika month celebrations.

He offered prayers to the deity and wished the people of his constituency good health, happiness, prosperity and wealth. He expressed hope that the blessings of Bhavani Kumkumeswara Swamy would remain with everyone.

The MLA said Kartika month symbolised devotion and spiritual reflection, with devotees visiting temples to perform special pujas and abhishekams and attain spiritual peace. He also interacted with devotees who had gathered at the temple.

Later, Revuri Prakash Reddy inaugurated the annadanam programme organised at the temple and personally distributed prasadam to devotees. He appreciated the initiative, stating that spiritual and charitable activities promoted unity, compassion and a spirit of service in society.

Election Commission offers fresh opportunity for voter registration

Hans News Service
Kamareddy

ADDITIONAL Collector V. Victor has announced another opportunity for eligible voters whose names are missing from the draft electoral roll to get them included in the final voter list.

Speaking at a meeting with representatives of recognised political parties at the Kamareddy Collectorate on Tuesday, Victor said several eligible voters had been left out of the draft list due to reasons such as being unavailable during enumeration or changing their residence.

He said the Election Commission had provided another opportunity for such voters to register their names in the final electoral roll.

Eligible voters were advised to contact Booth Level Officers (BLOs), Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) or Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) and submit their enumeration forms in the prescribed format by the 21st of this month. Victor urged all eligible voters to utilise the opportunity and ensure their names were included in the final voter list.

Additional Collector (Local Bodies) N.Y. Giri, Election Superintendent Rajeshwar and others attended the meeting.

Karthika Masam celebrations begin at Thousand Pillar temple

MLA Naini Rajender Reddy inaugurates festivities by lighting lamp, highlights spiritual significance

Hans News Service
Hanumakonda

WARANGAL West MLA Naini Rajender Reddy said Karthika month is sacred and promotes spiritual consciousness and devotion among devotees.

The Karthika month celebrations began grandly at the historic Sri Rudreswara Swamy (Thousand Pillar Temple) in Hanumakonda on Tuesday.

Naini, the chief guest representing the state government, offered special prayers to Lord Shiva and inaugurated the celebrations by lighting a lamp. The programme began early in the morning with Uthishtha Ganapati worship during Brahmi Muhurta, accompanied by auspicious music. Mahanyasa Ekadasa Rudrabhishekam was performed using 11 litres of cow's milk, followed by mass Rudrabhishekam.



Naini said women across communities observe Karthika month by lighting lamps and performing prayers. He described visiting the historic temple and participating in special pujas as a spiritually enriching experience.

Former corporators P. Prabhakar, Nagaraju, T. Venkateswarlu and B. Dinna attended. Temple Executive Officer D. Anil Kumar and chief priest Gangu Upendra Sharma blessed the MLA with holy water and vestments.

CPI demands drought-hit status for entire Bhupalpally district

Hans News Service
Jayashankar Bhupalpally

Seeks Rs 30,000 per acre compensation for paddy losses and Rs 50,000 for commercial crops; stages protest at Collectorate



THE Communist Party of India (CPI) has demanded that the Telangana government declare the entire Jayashankar Bhupalpally district drought-affected and provide immediate compensation to farmers who suffered crop losses.

As part of a State Committee call, CPI leaders and farmers staged a protest in front of the District Collectorate on Tuesday, demanding relief for affected farmers across all 12 mandals. Addressing the gathering, CPI district assistant secretary Faindla Shanthikumar and other leaders said declaring only five mandals drought-hit was unfair, as all 12 mandals were facing drought conditions. They cited crop damage across nearly 250 acres in Gurrampet.

The leaders demanded compensation of Rs 30,000 per acre for paddy farmers, Rs 50,000 for commercial crop losses and Rs 10,000 per acre for farmers who adopted alternative crops following government advice.

Rythu Sangham district secretary Mamidala Sammireddy said El Niño conditions had worsened farmers' distress, pushing many into debt as crops dried up. He sought remunerative prices for agricultural produce, control over essential commodity prices and a special relief package from the Centre and State governments.

The CPI leaders warned that their agitation would continue until all affected mandals were declared drought-hit and farmers received adequate compensation. Several CPI and Rythu Sangham leaders and activists participated in the protest.



Nizamabad Collector inspects KGBV, warns staff against menu deviations

Ila Tripathi directs officials to ensure nutritious meals, cleanliness and quality construction

Hans News Service
Nizamabad

DISTRICT Collector Ila Tripathi conducted a surprise inspection of the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) at Mendoora mandal on Tuesday to assess facilities, food quality and administrative discipline.

During the inspection, she checked classrooms, toilets, the storeroom and the quality of food provisions. She also verified staff attendance through the FRS app.

Expressing displeasure over potato curry being served instead of the prescribed carrot curry, the Collector warned staff against deviating from the government-approved menu, stressing that it was designed to ensure students' nutritional needs.

She directed officials to maintain cleanliness, ensure quality food and complete the compound wall construction promptly. Warning of strict action against negligence, she said cleanliness would be reviewed during future surprise inspections.

Later, she interacted with Class 6 students, assessed their learning skills and distributed chocolates and gifts, encouraging them to excel academically.

Gandra demands drought-hit status for five more mandals

Former MLA accuses Congress government of discrimination, seeks irrigation water and fulfilment of promises

Hans News Service
Jayashankar Bhupalpally

FORMER MLA Gandra Venkata Ramana Reddy criticised the Congress government for its alleged discriminatory approach in declaring drought-hit mandals and demanded drought status for five more mandals in the district.

Addressing a press conference at the BRS party office on Tuesday, he said Ganapuram, Mogullapally, Regonda, Chityal and Tekumatla should also be declared drought-affected.

He alleged that the Ganapuram tank was not being filled despite water availability in Ramappa and demanded full capacity filling of Ganapuram and Chalivagu tanks to provide irrigation and drinking water.



Gandra criticised the government for failing to implement six guarantees, fulfil employment promises and release retired employees' benefits.

He also condemned arrests and preventive detention of Opposition leaders, asserting that the BRS would continue its agitation until farmers, employees and unemployed youth received justice.



Harish Rao assures job for Laxman Goud's wife if BRS returns to power

Hans News Service
Hanumakonda

FORMER minister and Siddipet MLA T Harish Rao and Jangaon MLA Dr Palla Rajeshwar Reddy visited the family of Telangana activist and BRS worker Laxman Goud at Konne village in Bachannapet mandal on Tuesday, assuring them of all possible assistance.

Harish Rao said the BRS would provide a job to Goud's wife, Swapna, if the party returned to power. Acting on BRS chief KCR's instructions, the leaders met the family and expressed condolences.

They said financial assistance had been extended and pledged support to his wife, children, parents and brother. Rajeshwar Reddy urged the Collector to examine the family's long-standing land dispute through a field-level survey and ensure justice. He also called for improved electricity and irrigation facilities in Bachannapet.

CYCLONES RAVAGE CROPS IN 4.61 LAKH HECTARES

- 5.23 lakh farmers hit by Cyclone Arnab; 1.86 lakh by Murasu.
- Crop losses estimated at Rs 3,209 crore.
- Agriculture minister Atchannaidu orders faster damage assessment to ensure farmer coverage

Hans News Service
Amaravati



AGRICULTURAL crops over 4,61,194 hectares were damaged due to recent cyclones 'Arnab' and 'Murasu' in Andhra Pradesh.

The cyclone also damaged horticultural crops across 29,960 hectares.

Agriculture minister K Atchannaidu reviewed the damage caused to agricultural and horticultural crops by the recent cyclones during a teleconference with senior officials on Tuesday morning.

Officials reported that, under the impact of Cyclone 'Arnab', crops over 3,27,843 hectares suffered damage in 15 districts, affecting 5,23,136 farmers. The damaged crop area was 30.05 per cent of the 10,90,933 hectares under cultivation in the affected districts. The officials estimated a production loss of 9,78,091 tonnes, resulting in a financial loss of Rs 2,392.84 crore.

In Dr B R Ambedkar Konaseema district alone, 99.19 per cent of the cultivated area was damaged, affecting 94,808 farmers and resulting in a financial loss of Rs 348.88 crore. The estimated requirements under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) are Rs 815.57 crore and Rs 714.96 crore, respectively.

Officials also reported that due to the impact of Cyclone 'Murasu', crops across 1,33,351 hectares were damaged across nine districts, affecting 186,269 farmers. The damaged crop area was 23.71 per cent of the total cultivated area of 5,62,445 hectares. The financial loss is estimated at Rs 816.53 crore, with a production loss of 3,38,302 tonnes. The estimated requirements under the SDRF and NDRF are Rs 321.64 crore and Rs 266.67 crore, respectively.

The officials also stated that due to Cyclone 'Arnab', 23,211.48 hectares of horticultural crops were damaged across 215 mandals and 1,310 villages in 15 districts, affecting 58,990 farmers.

Enumeration has been completed for 23,035.08 hectares (99.24 per cent) involving 58,630 farmers. The enumeration for the remaining 176.40 hectares, involving 360 farmers, is still pending. Out of the 15 districts, 14 have completed 100 per cent of the enumeration, while Krishna district has reached 86.67 per cent.

Officials reported that due to the impact of Cyclone Murasu, 6,748.52 hectares of horticultural crops across 106 mandals and 530 villages in eight districts were damaged, affecting 12,586 farmers. So far, enumeration has been completed for only 2,211.73 hectares (32.77 per cent) involving 3,392 farmers, while the registration of 9,194 farmers covering 4,536.79 hectares remains pending.

Minister Atchannaidu directed officials to conduct a comprehensive field-level assessment of the damages caused by the two cyclones and to identify, on a district-wise basis, the remaining crop area and the number of farmers yet to be registered. He emphasised that the enumeration process must be expedited to ensure that no eligible farmer is left out.

Parties rein in cadre as Pawan announces separation from wife

- Pawan and Anna Lezhneva say they will part ways by mutual consent and remain committed to their children
- YSRCP tells leaders and social media activists to stay away from personal remarks; TDP warns of disciplinary action against IT wing members

K Varaprasada Rao
Amaravati



THE announcement by Jana Sena Party chief and Deputy Chief Minister K Pawan Kalyan that he and his wife Anna Lezhneva have decided to part ways has prompted the YSRCP and the TDP to move swiftly to prevent the personal matter from becoming a subject of political mudslinging on social media.

The YSRCP leadership has instructed its leaders, spokespersons, party cadre and social media activists not to comment on Pawan Kalyan's personal life or circulate content relating to his separation. The directive, issued from the party's central office following instructions from party president Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, calls for restraint in public discussions and on social media platforms.

The party has specifically cautioned its members against responding to posts, joining online discussions or sharing photographs, videos and other material concerning the personal lives of Pawan Kalyan and his family.

Though the communication does not name him, its timing and contents make clear that it was issued in response to the announcement.

The TDP, an alliance partner of the Jana Sena Party, has also declared that it would not tolerate personal attacks or derogatory comments concerning the private lives of leaders belonging to either the alliance or the YSRCP.

Its IT wing, ITDP, warned that disciplinary action would be taken if such remarks were found to have been made through social media accounts affiliated with it. It also clarified that it would not be responsible for personal opinions expressed by individuals.

Pawan Kalyan and Anna Lezhneva announced their decision on Monday night through a joint statement, saying they had chosen to separate by mutual understanding and respect after sharing a significant part of their lives. They said that although their marriage had come to an end, they would remain good friends and devoted parents, with their children's happiness and well-being remaining their priority.

The couple did not disclose the reasons for their decision and appealed to the public and well-wishers to respect their privacy during this personal transition. The statement was circulated in their names, though the announcement was not carried on Pawan Kalyan's official social media handle or the Jana Sena Party's official account.

The separation marks the end of Pawan Kalyan's third marriage. He was earlier married to Nandini and later to actress Renu Desai, with whom he has children. Speculation about differences between Pawan Kalyan and Lezhneva had surfaced earlier, partly because of her absence from some family gatherings, although she had accompanied him at public events.

Farmers can now schedule paddy sales through APAIMS farmer app

Hans News Service
Amaravati

THE state government introduced a new paddy procurement scheduling facility in the APAIMS farmer mobile app, enabling farmers to schedule the sale of their produce directly through their mobile phones during the Kharif 2026 season.

The facility is available to all farmers registered for the current Kharif season. The Government has made the Farmer ID (Rythu Vishesha Sankhya) mandatory for paddy procurement this season, according to Agriculture Director Dr. Manazir Jeelani Samoon.

Under the earlier system, farmers had to approach Rythu Seva Kendras, submit details of cultivation, expected yield and sales, and obtain procurement slots in advance. With the new facility, farmers can schedule their paddy sales from anywhere without visiting offices or waiting in queues. They can select procurement centres under the jurisdiction of the Rythu Seva Kendra concerned with their cultivated land.

He said that farmers can schedule the sale of their entire produce or sell it in installments according to their convenience. After scheduling, the Agriculture Department will verify the details through APAIMS and forward them to the civil supplies department.

The Minimum Support Price has been fixed at Rs 2,461 per quintal for Grade-A paddy and Rs 2,441 for common varieties.

The guidelines were issued through GO No 15 dated October 9, 2026. Field-level officers have been instructed to create awareness through posters, video tutorials and publicity campaigns.

Pawan salutes forest martyrs, calls for their welfare

- They Dy CM and forest minister pays tribute to fallen forest personnel on Forest Martyrs Day
- Hails their sacrifice in protecting forests, wildlife and natural heritage

Hans News Service
Amaravati



DEPUTY Chief Minister and minister for forests and environment Pawan Kalyan on Tuesday paid tributes to forest personnel who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty while protecting forests, wildlife and natural heritage.

"The forests we protect today are the legacy we leave for generations tomorrow. Those who gave their lives defending them have secured a legacy that time can never erase," he said in a post on social media posted by the Deputy CMO on the occasion of State Forest Martyrs Day.

"On State Forest Martyrs Day, I pay my deepest tributes to the brave forest personnel of Andhra Pradesh who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty while safeguarding our forests, wildlife and natural heritage. Their courage in the face of danger, dedication to duty and selfless commitment to protecting nature remind us that conservation is not just a responsibility, but a service to humanity and future generations," he said.

"I also salute every forest officer and frontline personnel who continue to serve in challenging and vulnerable conditions. Their safety, welfare and dignity must remain our collective priority. Their lives were dedicated to protecting nature. Their sacrifice will forever inspire our commitment to preserve it," Pawan Kalyan added.

The state forest department observes the Forest Martyrs Day on November 10 every year in remembrance of P Srinivas, a Karnataka cadre IFS officer hailing from Rajahmundry, who was killed by sandalwood smuggler Veerappan in Namadalli forest range in Chamrajnagar district of Karnataka in 1991.

National Forest Martyrs Day is observed annually on September 11 to honour forest guards, rangers and officers who lost their lives protecting forests, wildlife and natural resources.

The day coincides with the historic Khejarli Massacre of 1730, where 363 members of the Bishnoi community sacrificed their lives to protect the Kejarli trees in Marwar Kingdom.

RTC trains 125 depot managers to prevent revenue losses

- Four-batch programme focuses on financial discipline and transparency
- JMD stresses accountability, plugging revenue leakages and effective depot management

Dasari Srinivasa Rao
Vijayawada



APSRTC JMD M Siva Prasad, executive directors K S Brahmananda Reddy and G V Ravi Varma, during a special training programme for depot managers at the APSRTC head office in Vijayawada on Tuesday

THE Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC) has launched a special training programme for 125 depot managers across the State to prevent technical irregularities, financial discrepancies and revenue losses and strengthen administrative efficiency.

The special training programme is being conducted in four batches from November 10 to 20.

The first batch, comprising 30 depot managers from various regions, commenced its two-day training at the APSRTC Head Office in Vijayawada on Tuesday. The subsequent batches will have 27, 34 and 34 participants, taking the total number of trainees to 125.

The programme is being jointly organised by the APSRTC Transport Academy and the corporation's head office under the supervision of Transport Academy principal Pani Chakra Teja.

APSRTC joint managing director M Siva Prasad, executive director (administration) K S Brahmananda Reddy and executive director (engineering) G V Ravi Varma, along with other senior officials, attended the inaugural session and guided the participants. Addressing the depot managers, Siva Prasad stressed that safeguarding the Corporation's revenue, ensuring transparency and maintaining accountability should be the top priorities of every depot manager. He called for special attention to identifying technology-related irregularities, plugging revenue leakages, regularly reviewing records and financial transactions, and improving coordination among departments.

The training covers key aspects of personnel management, accounts, mechanical operations, commercial and logistics activities, operations and information technology. Senior officials and subject experts are explaining inspection procedures, record maintenance, financial transactions, identification of deficiencies and preventive measures, with a focus on practical depot-level management. Brahmananda Reddy said the initiative was aimed at strengthening financial discipline, curbing technical irregularities and equipping depot managers with the knowledge and skills required for effective management.

BJP gears up for panchayat polls

Dasari Srinivasa Rao
Vijayawada



BJP state president P V N Madhav and other party leaders felicitating newly-elected representatives in the municipal corporations, mandal parishad and zilla parishad elections in Vijayawada on Tuesday

UNION minister Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma called upon BJP leaders and cadres to work towards securing party representation in every mandal and village in the forthcoming gram panchayat elections, stressing the need to strengthen the organisation at the grassroots level.

Addressing a state-level panchayat election preparatory meeting at IV Palace in Vijayawada on Tuesday, he said the party's objective was to create opportunities for ordinary workers to emerge as sarpanches, MPTC and ZPTC members, councillors and corporators. He urged party leaders to ensure that at least one or two BJP-supported candidates were elected as ward members in every village. He also called for a review of the experiences in the recent local body elections and better coordination among NDA partners.

Minister for health, medical and family welfare Y Satya Kumar Yadav asked BJP leaders and workers to begin preparations for the panchayat elections immediately. As the State has thousands of gram panchayats, he said NDA partners should coordinate at the local level and work out mutually acceptable strategies. He called upon district presidents, district in-charges and elected ZPTC and MPTC members to play an active role in strengthening the party and implementing the election strategy.

BJP state president P V N Madhav said the NDA's performance in the recent local body elections reflected the impact of coordination among alliance partners. He said the BJP had contested 33 ZPTC seats and won around 23, while nearly 355 party representatives had been elected across the state. Describing the results as a significant step in the party's expansion, he urged cadres to ensure BJP representation in every village, although panchayat elections are not fought on party symbols.

BJP national vice-president and Rajamahendravaram MP Daggubati Purandeswari said the party's growth from two MPs to the world's largest political party was the result of the dedication and sacrifices of thousands of workers. She urged elected representatives not to forget the cadres who worked for their victory and to remain accessible to them.

The meeting reviewed the BJP's performance in the recent local body elections and discussed strategies for the forthcoming panchayat polls, coordination among NDA partners, expansion of the party at the village level and publicising Central government schemes.

Party general secretary (organisation) for the Telugu states Madhukar offered guidance on strengthening the party organisation. MLC Somu Veerraju, MLAs Ch Adinarayana Reddy and Ramakrishna Reddy, MLC Potula Sunitha, State general secretaries Nagothu Ramesh Naidu, S Dayakar Reddy, Saligrama Lakshmi Prasanna and Matta Prasad, besides State and district leaders and newly elected representatives, participated in the meeting.

SANJAY SUSPENSION EXTENDED TILL END OF TRIAL OR RETIREMENT

AMARAVATI: The state government on Tuesday extended the suspension of IPS officer N Sanjay until the conclusion of criminal proceedings against him or his retirement next year, whichever comes first.

Sanjay, a 1996-batch IPS officer, was placed under suspension in December 2024 over charges of misappropriation and misuse of public funds in the development, maintenance and work of the AGNI (Automated Governance & NoC Integration) NoC web portal while working as the Director General of Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Response and Fire Services. Likewise, he is also accused of "misappropriation of funds" allotted for training police personnel to create awareness among SCs and STs about the rights of victims and provisions of the Prevention of Atrocities (POA) Act, 1989, while working as additional director general of police in the CID.

Cancer drug price cut: AP cracks down on overcharging

- Cancer medicine prices cut by up to 96% across India.
- Health minister orders strict checks on stocks, pricing and billing
- Hospitals, pharmacies warned against hoarding and overpricing

Hans News Service
Amaravati



HEALTH minister Y Satya Kumar Yadav directed officials to ensure that patients in Andhra Pradesh fully benefit from the Centre's decision to reduce the prices of cancer medicines. He ordered continuous monitoring of drug availability and prices, along with intensified inspections of hospitals and medical stores.

The Centre has reduced the prices of 1,364 cancer medicines across the country with effect from Monday. Prices of 671 brands have come down by more than 50 per cent, with the maximum reduction in MRP reaching 96.45 per cent.

Reviewing the implementation measures with health secretary G Veer Pandian, Drugs Control Administration director general Arun Babu and other officials on Tuesday, the minister said even medicines bearing old printed prices must be sold at the revised lower rates. He warned against overpricing, artificial shortages and excessive stocking.

The minister directed cancer hospitals to maintain adequate stocks of prescribed medicines, ensuring that at least one company's product for every drug is available at the reduced price. He also advised patients to purchase medicines according to their immediate requirements rather than hoarding them, which could affect availability for others.

Officials clarified that medicines bearing old MRPs need not be returned to manufacturers or relabelled. However, they must be sold at whichever is lower — the revised price or the price printed on the pack. Hospitals must display manufacturers' revised price lists (Form V) at their pharmacies and on websites and issue bills mentioning the brand, batch number, MRP and amount collected.

Drug inspectors have been instructed to inspect all cancer hospitals and treatment centres in their jurisdictions within seven days. They must verify stock availability, display of revised price lists and bills issued since November 9. Supply agents and super stockists will also be inspected. Complaints about medicine shortages must be addressed within 24 hours by tracing available stocks through district supplier networks. Officials have been asked to initiate legal action against those charging excess prices, withholding medicines or violating regulations. Patients and hospitals can lodge complaints through the Drugs Control Administration's WhatsApp number 8632330909 or email dca-grams@ap.gov.in. The NPPA toll-free number is 1800-111-255.

Onus on govt and people for a pollution-free Diwali

DIWALI pollution has become an annual grey rhino event—a looming, predictable threat that we all recognise but choose to ignore. Black swan occurrences are unforeseeable, and therefore very difficult to deal with. The Covid-19 crisis was a black swan about which no one knew. Hence the untold loss of life and incalculable damage to the economy. The inability to tackle grey rhinos, however, is symptomatic of sclerosis in Indian statecraft, the callousness of the political class, and the irresponsible behaviour of people in general. Like every post-Diwali, news headlines screamed of various parts of the country, especially north India, becoming gas chambers. Delhi and the surrounding National Capital Region (NCR) being the worst affected with PM2.5 readings, which capture levels of smoke, flying off the charts. Many of the capital's air monitoring stations went blank on Diwali night. The missing hours were partially filled the next day by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), showing the smoke level peaked at 3,744 µg/m³, more than 60 times the national 24-hour standard of 60.

Another news report said that in Delhi, which recorded its worst Diwali-day air quality in five years, pollution levels touched nearly 5,000 µg/m³ at some monitoring stations—that is, over 80 times the safe limit. Even the peninsular region was not spared, with Hyderabad's average air quality index (AQI) zooming to 509. Although, coastal Chennai and Mumbai were better, Kolkata was not spared, as AQI spiked above 600. Coastal centres in Gujarat too had very high AQI numbers. At the heart of the problem is the lack of concern in the quarters that matter. Our political elite, cutting across party lines, have almost zero regard for real issues like pollution. Despite harsh commentary in public discourse, media outcry, and severe reprimands by the higher judiciary, the powers that be are insouciant about the lives and health of millions of people who suffer because of debilitating pollution. Little, if anything, has been done to ameliorate the conditions; if there are any short, medium and long-term measures to address the issue, they are not perceptible.

It is time our political masters woke up and took effective steps to rectify the situation. This requires moving beyond the ritualistic responses that follow every Diwali, when governments issue advisories, announce restrictions, hold meetings, and promise action, only for the problem to resurface with renewed intensity the following year. What is needed is a comprehensive, coordinated, and time-bound strategy that addresses every significant source of pollution throughout the year, rather than treating it as a seasonal emergency. Governments must invest in public transport, strengthen last-mile connectivity, enforce emission standards, ensure scientific disposal of municipal and agricultural waste, and penalise industrial violators. Stubble burning, construction dust, vehicular emissions, and firecrackers all demand sustained attention, not selective outrage. Equally important is the creation of an institutional framework that assigns clear responsibility to specific authorities and holds officials accountable for measurable outcomes. Political leaders must also lead by example, instead of shifting blame or indulging in partisan point-scoring. At the same time, people too must do their bit. They must adhere to the norms specified by the authorities regarding bursting of crackers. They need to realise that every government intervention will fail without their support. Environmental protection is everyone's responsibility.

Cultivating resilience: Why crop diversification is Telangana's only scientifically sound climate adaptation

Dr Ramesh Chennamaneni

An unprecedented drought crisis across 365 mandals in Telangana, driven by a post-monsoon El Niño effect and a 17 per cent rainfall deficit, threatens agricultural collapse until July 2027. To initiate a transition of the state from a vulnerable monoculture to a drought-resistant, resilient agricultural economy ensuring the livelihoods of small and marginal farmers, a comprehensive climate adaptation framework is required. This strategy is anchored by the Mandal-Wise Decentralized Alternative Production Package (MDAPP), localised soil-moisture ecological mapping, and aggressively front-loaded financial assistance through a specialized Green Transition Bonus.

THE prevailing. The state government has officially declared 365 mandals across 31 districts as drought affected. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has warned that this unprecedented El Niño-related water and power crisis could persist until next July. This emergency exposes the deep structural vulnerabilities of our agricultural system and demands alternative strategies.

From an ecological perspective, crop diversification serves as a scientifically validated climate change adaptation strategy specifically engineered to combat acute hydrological stress. Replacing continuous paddy with low-water alternatives directly intercepts the drought cycle by altering the microclimate and soil physics of the farm. Deep-rooted alternative crops break up compacted subsoil layers, increasing capillary porosity and maximizing water infiltration when erratic rains do occur. By maintaining ground cover through diverse cropping architectures, farmers drastically lower soil surface evaporation and buffer the field against extreme thermal gradients. Crucially, integrating diverse root profiles optimises water extraction across varying soil depths rather than exhausting the topmost layer, significantly increasing regional water-use efficiency and preserving precious residual moisture within the root zone during extended dry spells. However, transitioning from predictable paddy fields to complex alternative crop systems introduces severe operational hurdles for small and marginal farmers.



For these smallholders, climate adaptation is not just an ecological goal—it is a high-stakes problem of daily farm management, labor allocation, and survival.

The smallholder farm management crisis

The 2026 monsoon concluded with a 17 per cent overall rainfall deficit, leaving 18 out of 33 districts severely deficient. The total kharif crop area dropped from 139.28 lakh acres to 126.06 lakh acres, leaving standing crops withering. While traditional paddy cultivation fell by 18 per cent, the remaining acreage faces disaster. Out of 30 lakh agricultural pump sets, almost 15 lakh have run dry due to the rapidly falling water table.

When the state government appeals to smallholders to avoid paddy and shift to alternative crops like pulses, millets, or oilseeds, it overlooks a critical farm management reality. Small and marginal farmers operate on razor-thin margins. Paddy is highly automated, easy to store, and insulated by guaranteed state procurement.

In contrast, alternative crops require intensive, localized agronomic management: precise sowing windows to catch brief moisture windows, entirely different seedbed preparation, specialized weeding, and delicate handling during harvest. Forcing a smallholder with less than two acres to learn and manage these volatile new crop dynamics without structural support creates a severe policy asymmetry. It expects the most vulnerable stakeholder to absorb 100% of the operational and financial risk.

Localized agroecological realities

Climate change impacts Telangana's distinct agro-ecological zones differently, meaning top-down, uniform advisories broadcasted via Rythu Vedikas fail to match localized realities:

The northern zone: Experiencing erratic rains and rising thermal stress that alter the growing period.

Central zone: Facing severe groundwater depletion that rapidly strips moisture from shallow root zones.

The southern zone: High evaporation rates on shallow soils lead to immediate crop wilting during short dry spells.

To address this, the state must implement a Mandal-Wise Decentralized Alternative Production Package (MDAPP). This framework maps soil taxonomy and aquifer health across all 621 mandals to deliver a tailor-made alternative crop grid specifically optimized for smallholder management.

In zone A (deep black cotton soil with over-exploited groundwater in specific mandals within Adilabad, Nalgonda, and parts of Khammam), high soil water-retention capacity dictates a total ban on Yasangi paddy. This is replaced by long-staple cotton intercropped with pigeon pea, Bengal gram, black gram, green gram, or soybean.

In sone B (red sandy loams with critically low water tables across Mahabubnagar, Medak, and Rangareddy), the low moisture profiles require drought-hardy options like groundnut, castor, pearl millet, finger millet, foxtail millet, sorghum, and sesame.

In zone C (alluvial and medium loamy soils under deficit canal networks in Nizamabad, Karimnagar, and Warangal), flood irrigation must be eliminated in favor of safflower, mustard, green gram, sunflower, and linseed.

To institutionalise this, physical soil health cards must become digital MDAPP Smart Passbooks. When a smallholder registers their land, the portal automatically tags their mandatory crop code, blocks restricted paddy entries, and unlocks tailored input-subsidy modules.

Insulating the smallholder transition

The primary barrier to diversification is the immediate liquidity crunch faced by smallholders when changing cultivation patterns. MDAPP restructures direct benefit transfers by splitting investment support into a two-tier framework: the base Rythu Bharosa support plus a legally ring-fenced Green Transition Bonus (GTB) of ₹3,000 per acre per season, paid exclusively for alternative crops.

To prevent smallholders from falling back on high-interest private moneylenders for new tools and inputs, cash flows are front-loaded. During the pre-sowing phase, 60 per cent of the combined seasonal payout is deposited directly into the farmer's account. The remaining 40 per cent is released 30 days after sowing following automated remote-sensing crop verification. Furthermore, Telangana's 2,600+ Rythu Vedikas must be upgraded into local logistics hubs. Upon registration, smallholders will receive an SMS voucher redeemable at the Rythu Vedika for 100 per cent subsidized, high-yield, drought-resistant seeds developed by PJTSAU. To manage the technical shift in water utilization, alternative crops are paired with Micro-Irrigation Direct-Delivery (MIDD). Any smallholder registered under MDAPP automatically qualifies for a 90 per cent subsidy on drip or sprinkler kits, installed by technical teams within seven days.

Eliminating market volatility

The final anchor of MDAPP eliminates market price volatility. The state must establish a dedicated, legally backed statutory body: the Telangana Alternative Crop Procurement Board (TACPB). Operating under a 120 per cent MSP Procurement Accord, the TACPB will legally guarantee to buy 100 per cent of the alternative crop volume at a 20 per cent premium over Central MSP.

This bonus directly compensates smallholders for the lower physical yields characteristic of pulses and millets relative to paddy. By processing harvests at decentralized Rythu Vedika weighbridges and clearing payments via DBT within 72 hours, Telangana can effectively withstand the serious economic and social vagaries of one of the worst droughts it has been experiencing since decades.

(The writer is a former MLA and former faculty at Humboldt University)

We need to deal with natural calamities more effectively



Ravulapati Seetaramarao

No matter how big the storm is, if N Chandrababu Naidu oversees it, it becomes possible to contain the ferocity. As a chief minister who keeps losses within bounds, he calmly restores what is lost, while the storms gradually cross the coast. When Arnav and Murasu cyclones occurred, those storms extended from afar, and with several precautionary measures in place, the two cyclones that followed quickly caused less loss of life.

When the two struck Andhra Pradesh, Arnav that arrived on October 28 was estimated to cause about ₹4,526 crore in damage. The Murasu cyclone arrived on November 3. However, this damaged copper crops across 52,500 hectares. Preliminary estimates indicate that only about eight people lost their lives due to these two cyclones. The first cyclone reportedly caused crop damage over 90,000 hectares in the southern Odisha region. As always, after the central government officials visited at the ground level, the initial loss estimates were used to decide on financial assistance and other forms of support. Reports indicate that states like Telangana, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu have extended necessary aid to Andhra Pradesh during this crisis.

With the help of the Real-Time Governance Society (RTGS) and technical experts, casualties and property losses were minimised.

When Hudhud struck in October 2014, Chandrababu Naidu stood ahead of the officials with remarkable initiative, guiding in many ways and fighting the storm to safeguard lives, property, and livelihood in the face of the cyclone. Governments strive to lend a hand during crises, sometimes without people noticing, but it is very rare for a leader at the level of the Chief Minister to personally drive aid efforts across the ground. For politicians who think power is to be enjoyed, helping in times of trouble is a duty and a goal; for Chandrababu, this brought immense adulation and admiration from ordinary people as well. The Hudhud cyclone claimed 63 lives and caused damages worth about Rs 22,000 crore. There has always been a worrying factor about what would happen if a cyclone hit a region. Now, in the two Telugu states and in Odisha, people perceive such calamities as a regular threat—though it is a tragedy when they occur. The handling of such disasters often becomes highly challenging, and corruption tends to harden. Yet for ordinary people, and for those who depend on fishing along the coast, daily life becomes a heavy burden. Those who muster the courage to go out to fish face grim conditions, and the hardships persist until they return safely. Therefore, there is a growing need for skilled professionals who can anticipate such disasters through technology, for enhanced cooperation between state and central government officials, and for proactive, strategic measures to be put in place well in advance.



Along with state authorities, agencies functioning at the central level must act with utmost precautions to protect crops from these calamities. Rapid, well-considered strategic decisions that minimise losses have become indispensable. Likewise, government agencies responsible for timely compensation and delivering relief at the field level must increasingly adopt decisive actions. The Prime Minister's Crop Insurance Scheme (Crop Insurance Scheme) was launched by the Centre a decade ago, but its utilisation at the field level remains limited. There are no records showing that the plan is being implemented in a manner intended to compensate farmers for losses caused by climate-induced natural adversities. If the government can bring all farmers under this scheme, it would provide some relief to those who suffered losses. It would be beneficial if states took responsibility for taking this scheme to the farmers and establish government machinery at the field level that provides relief to farmers.

Initially, there was no thought of reclaiming these compensation payments by the governments. However, with the 15th Finance Commission's recommendations, within two years prior, the national and state Disaster Response Funds were reclassified not as relief funds but as part of recovery and reconstruction under this scheme. Governments must consider how appropriate this is. When natural disasters disrupt states in such dreadful ways and push livelihoods into dire straits, the central government should be ready to provide urgent financial assistance and take all possible supportive measures. Only then will federalism and democracy have meaning and usefulness. Co-operative federalism should be actualised as a true federal arrangement in which the central government can function in a manner aligned with democratic values.

Presently, cyclones are occurring on a regular basis in one state or the other. To effectively deal with these natural calamities, and lessen the effect of losses of properties, crops and deaths, separate mechanisms at the state and national levels are urgently called for. Though disaster management machinery is now functioning at both levels, the inadequacy and technical assistance is evident. Hence, a specialised scheme is to be urgently thought of to give a credible helping hand in containing heavy losses. Best governance is then registered in the minds of affected people.

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

LETTERS

Make preventive healthcare a national priority

WITH reference to "India should focus on its health promotion policies," it is alarming that 10–30 per cent of youngsters is reportedly suffering from health-impacting behavioural issues and conditions. While India has a predominantly young population, lifestyle disorders such as obesity, diabetes, hypertension, stress and lack of physical activity are increasingly affecting them. Equally concerning is that only around 45–47 per cent of Indians are covered by some form of health insurance or healthcare financing scheme. Another common misconception among salaried employees is that the employer-provided health insurance of ₹3–5 lakh is sufficient. However, this may fall short in the event of critical illnesses, major surgeries or prolonged hospitalisation. Therefore, every individual should consider taking an independent personal health insurance policy to ensure continuous financial protection. The government should also prioritise preventive healthcare through regular health screenings, nutritional education, awareness campaigns and promotion of physical activity in schools, colleges and workplaces. A healthy younger generation is essential for India's productivity and economic growth, and prevention must become a national priority rather than merely a medical intervention.

Nittala Siva Prasad, Hyderabad-62

Every Indian must be health conscious

APROPOS your editorial 'India should focus on its health promotion'. It is very important that every Indian must be health conscious, in each situation – eating healthy food, indulging in regular physical activities; and not yielding to habits of smoking, tobacco use and excessive use of alcoholic beverages. Nutrition continues to be a big and vital contributor to healthy living; while the have-nots evolved a meaningful regimen when it comes to eating habits, without compromising on nutrition – it is the rich who fall prey to eating all kinds of junk foods that are unhealthy and having less nutritional content in them. The reality of growing atmospheric pollution, use of excessive pesticides in vegetable crops is being seen as a serious threat to health issues and long-term illnesses. The busy lifestyle, growing stress and untimely regimen about eating lunch and dinner are contributing to severe and unprecedented health issues. The irregular sleep pattern is also said to be the cause for growing cardiovascular ailments – heart attack and stroke. The problem of hypertension has become a regular thing for many. Yoga and meditation practices are beneficial while belly fat is said to be the main cause for heart attack and strokes.

S Lakshmi, Hyderabad

TG govt lacks application

The autocratic decision-making mechanism of Telangana contributes to reversing the existing trend of investments in various sectors. The involvement of stakeholders in decision making exercises of this nature is conspicuous and visible to economic analysts. To attract capital investments to a state in a highly competitive environment in our country needs scientific and professional studies with the invitation of suggestions from experts in various fields. In the absence of such exercise, policy reversals in the midstream only decelerates the momentum built over years. The present state government exhibits immaturity and lack of application of mind in its functioning. This in turn has resulted in the unfortunate stagnation of its economy. It requires introspection by the state cabinet to correct its policy making parameters immediately before the damage becomes irretrievable. With drought conditions already breaking the rural economy during this year, Telangana can ill-afford the luxury of stagnation in other economic spheres. Sooner we correct this, better for the state, it will be

M V Nagavender Rao, Hyderabad-4

thehansreader@gmail.com

BENGALURU ONLINE

Prove Sangh links in murders or resign: Tejasvi challenges Kharge



BENGALURU: BJP MP Tejasvi Surya has challenged Karnataka Minister Priyank Kharge to produce evidence within three days to substantiate his allegations linking Sangh Parivar members to the murders of journalist Gauri Lankesh and rationalist M M Kalaburgi, or resign from his post.

Reacting to Kharge's remarks at a Muslim League programme in Kerala, Surya said securing justice in the high-profile murder cases required seriousness and commitment rather than political speeches. In a social media post, he said the Home Minister's responsibility was to ensure justice under the rule of law and not pronounce prejudiced judgments from political platforms.

Surya questioned the delay in the trials, pointing out that the chargesheet in the Gauri Lankesh murder case was filed in 2018, while the trial began in 2022. The case is now before its seventh judge, and all the accused are out on bail, he said. . In the Kalburgi murder case, only 33 of the 139 witnesses had been examined by September 2026, highlighting the slow pace of the proceedings, he added.

He said Congress had been in power in Karnataka for most of the period since the murders and that the state government had constituted the SITs. The Home Department must explain its role in ensuring effective investigations and trials, he demanded.

Surya also questioned Kharge's assurance that the cases would be concluded within six months and those responsible would be sent to prison, saying such statements could raise concerns about judicial independence. He asked Kharge to disclose the names of those allegedly linked to the Sangh who had been chargesheeted and provide evidence within three days or resign.

Kharge had alleged that people associated with the Sangh Parivar were behind the murders and expressed confidence that the accused would be brought to justice within six months.

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

STAGE SET FOR MPP, VICE-MPP ELECTIONS

Dasari Srinivasa Rao
Vijayawada



The NTR Zilla Parishad office near MG Road in Vijayawada

ELECTIONS to the posts of Mandal Parishad Presidents (MPPs) and Vice-Presidents in NTR and Krishna districts will be held on November 19, while elections to the Zilla Parishad Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons will be conducted on November 20. Elections to co-option members of the Mandal Parishads and Zilla Parishads will also be held on the respective dates.

NTR district has 16 mandals with 16 Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituency (ZPTC) segments and 280 Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituency (MPTC) members.

Krishna district has 26 mandals, 26 ZPTC segments and 352 MPTC members. The newly elected representatives will participate in the indirect elections to choose the respective local body office-bearers.

The presiding officers and election authorities concerned will conduct the elections during special meetings convened at the respective Mandal Parishad and Zilla Parishad offices. Notices will be served on all MPTC and ZPTC members by November 14, informing them of the election schedule.

As per the prescribed procedure, elections to co-option members will be conducted first, followed by the election of MPPs and Vice-Presidents in the Mandal Parishads. Similarly, in the Zilla Parishads, co-option members will be elected first, followed by the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.

For the special meetings convened to elect Zilla Parishad office-bearers, Members of Parliament (MPs), Members of the Legislative Council (MLCs) and Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) will also be invited. However, they will not have voting rights, as the election of Zilla Parishad Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons is restricted to eligible ZPTC members. The elections will be conducted through a show of hands. Each Mandal Parishad will elect one co-option member, while each Zilla Parishad will elect two. In the event of a tie, the result will be decided by drawing lots.

Recognised political parties can issue whips through their authorised representatives in the prescribed Annexure-I format, in accordance with State Election Commission guidelines. The whips must be submitted within the stipulated time. However, there is no provision for issuing a whip in elections to co-option members.

The elections will pave the way for the formation of elected leadership in the Mandal Parishads and Zilla Parishads following the recent MPTC and ZPTC elections in the two districts.

Parties prepare for polls to MPP, ZP posts on Nov 19, 20

- The elections to co-opted members, MPP presidents and vice-presidents will be held on November 19
- The elected MPTC members will elect one among themselves as MPP president and another as vice-president


Collector K Dinesh Kumar

Deekshitula Subrahmanyam
Rampachodavaram

THE State Election Commission has issued notifications for conducting indirect elections to the posts of co-opted members, presidents and vice-presidents of 12 Mandal Praja Parishads and the chairperson and vice-chairperson of the Polavaram Zilla Praja Parishad, District Collector K Dinesh Kumar said on Tuesday.

The elections to co-opted members, MPP presidents and vice-presidents will be held on November 19. Similarly, elections to two co-opted members and the ZP chairperson and vice-chairperson will be conducted on November 20. Presiding officers concerned will convene special meetings on the respective dates to conduct the elections, the Collector said. The elected MPTC members will elect one among themselves as MPP president and another as vice-president. Likewise, elected ZPTC members will choose the ZP chairperson and vice-chairperson from among themselves.

Each Mandal Praja Parishad will elect one co-opted member, while the Zilla Praja Parishad will have two co-opted members. Eligible candidates for these positions should belong to religious or linguistic minority communities. The election of co-opted members will be conducted before the elections to the MPP president and vice-president and the ZP chairperson and vice-chairperson posts. The elections to the MPP and ZP leadership posts will be conducted through the Show of Hands method. Members will be required to follow the party whips issued by their respective recognised political parties. However, party whips will not apply to elections of co-opted members, the Collector clarified.

MPs, MLCs and MLAs who are ex-officio members of the respective Mandal and Zilla Praja Parishads will be invited to attend the special meetings.

However, they will not have voting rights in these indirect elections.

Election process of MPP, ZP chairperson reviewed

Hans News Service
Bapatla

THE State Election Commission has announced the schedule for elections to the posts of Mandal Parishad presidents and Zilla Parishad chairperson in the district, Bapatla District collector Dr V Vinod Kumar said.

Addressing a video conference with joint collector, Zilla Parishad CEO, Revenue Divisional Officers, municipal commissioners, tahsildars and MPDOs from the collector's bungalow on Tuesday, he reviewed local body elections, Cyclones Arnab and Murasu, and MLC elections.

He said elections to the posts of MPPs and vice-presidents would be held on November 19. Similarly, elections to ZP chairperson and vice-chairperson posts would be held on November 20. He said one co-opted member would be elected in each Mandal Parishad and two in the ZP. The election of the MPP would be conducted first, followed by the vice-president.

He said the ZP chairperson would be elected first, followed by the vice-chairperson. He directed officials to make necessary police security arrangements. Reviewing cyclone damage, he directed officials of the agriculture, horticulture, drainage, P&R, and R&B departments to conduct a war-footing survey of crop losses and damage to property caused by Cyclones Arnab and Murasu.

Field-level staff were instructed to record damage to houses, property and crops accurately, along with photographs of damaged houses.

Details and bank account information of people staying in rehabilitation centres should be submitted immediately.

Regarding MLC elections for Krishna, NTR, Guntur, Bapatla and Palnadu districts, he directed RDOs and tahsildars to scrutinise applications received for inclusion in the eligible voters' list and forward them to Guntur.

Bapatla, Chirala and Repalle RDOs Harikumar, Narasimha Rao and Sridevi, municipal commissioners and officials from Agriculture, Horticulture, Marketing, Drainage, P&R, R&B and Civil Supplies departments, along with tahsildars, MPDOs, village revenue officers and panchayat secretaries, participated in the video conference.

Release of industrial incentives hailed

Hans News Service
Vijayawada

AP Chambers has welcomed the Andhra Pradesh Government's release of approximately Rs 1,400 crore towards pending industrial incentives, including Rs 22 crore for food processing units, describing it as a timely boost to industries, particularly micro and small enterprises.

In a statement, AP Chambers president Potluri Bhaskara Rao said the initiative would provide much-needed financial relief to MSMEs, improve their working capital availability and strengthen their operational capabilities.

He expressed sincere gratitude to Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu for his proactive leadership and commitment to industrial development. He said the State Government had been promoting an industry-friendly ecosystem through its focus on Ease of Doing Business and Speed of Doing Business. Andhra Pradesh was rapidly emerging as a preferred investment destination, attracting substantial investments through its progressive industrial policies, he observed.

AP Chambers appreciated the government's continued efforts to support existing industries while encouraging fresh investments, generating employment opportunities and accelerating the State's overall economic growth.

Dy tahsildar in ACB net

Dasari Srinivasa Rao
Vijayawada


G Konduru Deputy Tahsildar Pendem Vijaya Kumar, who was caught red-handed by ACB officials while allegedly accepting a Rs 10,000 bribe at his office on Tuesday

THE Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) officials of the Vijayawada Range on Tuesday caught a Deputy Tahsildar red-handed while allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs10,000 at the Tahsildar's office in G Konduru mandal of NTR district.

The accused officer, Pendem Vijaya Kumar (48), Deputy Tahsildar of G Konduru mandal, allegedly demanded Rs 10,000 from a 28-year-old complainant, Chinni Najarenu Rao of Ajit Singh Nagar, Vijayawada, for carrying out official work related to his agricultural land.

According to the ACB, the complainant approached the officer seeking corrections in the Adangal records relating to his land in Survey No 524-B at Vellaturu village and processing of a Pattadar Passbook in his name. The officer allegedly demanded the bribe for extending the official favour.

Acting on the complaint, the ACB registered a case under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, as amended in 2018. A trap was laid by ACB Additional SP Sravanthi Roy and DAP BV Subba Rao at around 2.05 pm on Tuesday at the Tahsildar's office in G Konduru, during which the officer was caught red-handed while allegedly demanding and accepting the amount.

Srabanthi Roy said Vijaya Kumar joined the Revenue Department as a Junior Assistant in 2005 and was promoted as Revenue Inspector in 2011. He was promoted as Deputy Tahsildar in 2017 and had been working in G Konduru mandal since July 7, 2022.

She appealed to the public to report corruption in government departments through its toll-free number 1064, mobile number 9440440057 or email complaints-acb@ap.gov.in. She assured that the identity of complainants and informants would be kept confidential.

Basaveswara Rao elected APAS honorary secretary

Dasari Srinivasa Rao
Machilipatnam


Prof MV Basaveswara Rao

PROF MV Basaveswara Rao, In-charge Rector of Krishna University, Machilipatnam, has been elected Honorary Secretary of the Andhra Pradesh Akademi of Sciences (APAS) for the three-year term from November 2026 to November 2029.

His election took place during the constitution of the Akademi's new Executive Council, comprising eminent scientists and academicians from universities and research institutions across Andhra Pradesh. The appointment is considered a recognition of his academic experience and contribution to higher education and research.

His new responsibility will involve working with the Akademi in promoting scientific activities, research and academic collaboration in the State.

Members of the academic fraternity, colleagues, students and well-wishers have congratulated Prof Basaveswara Rao on his election and wished him success in discharging his responsibilities.

Two-day training programme begins for para-legal volunteers

Deekshitula Subrahmanyam
Rajamahendravaram



District Principal Judge Junaid Ahmed Maulana at two-day training programme for para-legal volunteers at the DLSA meeting hall on Tuesday

DISTRICT Principal Judge Junaid Ahmed Maulana has stressed that para-legal volunteers play a crucial role in extending legal assistance to vulnerable sections of society who remain unaware of laws and their rights.

He spoke after inaugurating a two-day training programme for para-legal volunteers from the erstwhile East Godavari district, organised by the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) at the DLSA meeting hall on the district court premises here on Tuesday.

He said para-legal volunteers should act as a reliable bridge between the public and the Legal Services Authority. He urged them to discharge their responsibilities efficiently with discipline, ethics, integrity and a spirit of selfless service.

DLSA Secretary and Senior Civil Judge Y Srilakshmi cautioned them against misusing the identity and powers granted by the Legal Services Authority for personal gains or unauthorised activities. On the occasion, the District Principal Judge released a Telugu book titled "Recognition of Forest Rights Act–2006: Frequently Asked Questions and Explanations", authored by senior advocate Dr P Trinadha Rao.

'Brown revived Telugu literary heritage'

Deekshitula Subrahmanyam
Rajamahendravaram


Faculty and students paying tributes to CP Brown on his birth anniversary in Rajamahendravaram on Tuesday

CP Brown was a great literary patron who breathed new life into Telugu literary heritage at a time when it was facing the threat of extinction, said Dr PVB Sanjeeva Rao, Head of the Telugu Department at SKVT Government College. He spoke as the chief speaker at a programme organised by the Telugu Department and Kala Gowthami at SKVT Government College to mark the birth anniversary of CP Brown.

Sanjeeva Rao said Brown made remarkable efforts to trace, collect, edit and publish several invaluable literary works and classical texts that had remained obscure in the form of palm-leaf manuscripts. IQAC Coordinator Dr DV Nageswara Rao, who attended as the chief guest, said Brown's dedication to the Telugu language, despite being a foreigner, was an inspiration to everyone.

Faculty member Gaddam Venkata Rao said Telugu people would always remember Brown's contributions, including the preparation of bilingual dictionaries and the collection, editing and preservation of folk songs. SKVT College Principal Dr BV Tirupanyam, faculty members S Raj Kumar, Palli Sudha and J Suguna, students CH Ganesh Reddy, G Sandhya Ramani, Deepika and others participated.

Krishna DCCB donates Rs 1 cr to CM Relief Fund


Krishna DCCB chairman Nettam Sri Raghuram, Minister Kollu Ravindra and APCOB chairman Ganni Veeranjaneyulu presenting a cheque to Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu at the Secretariat on Tuesday

Dasari Srinivasa Rao
Vijayawada

THE Krishna District Cooperative Central Bank (DCCB) has contributed Rs 1 crore to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to support farmers who suffered crop losses due to natural calamities.

Krishna DCCB chairman Nettam Sri Raghuram, accompanied by Minister for Mines, Geology and Excise Kollu Ravindra and APCOB chairman Ganni Veeranjaneyulu, met Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu at the Amaravati Secretariat on Tuesday and handed over a cheque for Rs 1 crore. Speaking on the occasion, Raghuram said the welfare of farmers was the primary objective of the Krishna DCCB and supporting them during natural disasters was a social responsibility of the cooperative banking sector.

The Chief Minister appreciated DCCB chairman Raghuram, the bank's senior officials and staff for their contribution. He commended the bank for earning recognition in the cooperative banking sector and expressed confidence that it would achieve further progress and set new benchmarks in the future.

Aerobics Gymnastics Championship

Four VPS students selected

Hans News Service
Vijayawada



The selected students with the staff

FOUR students of Veeramachaneni Paddayya Siddhartha Public School here have been selected to represent Andhra Pradesh in the All Age Group Aerobics Gymnastics National Championship 2026–27, scheduled to be held in Jaipur, Rajasthan, from November 12 to 16.

According to the selection letter issued by the Gymnastics Association of NTR District on November 9, the selected students include Diya Palakurti and Vadipina Aadvika of Class IV in the National Development Category, and Jahnavi Kollipara of Class VIII and Ananya Vemuri of Class VII in the Youth Category.

The students earned their selection through their dedication, discipline, perseverance and sporting talent. The Andhra Pradesh team will leave for Jaipur on November 11 and return on November 18. N Pawana Phani will accompany the team as its manager. The school acknowledged the support of the Gymnastics Association of NTR District Secretary B Babu Rao and Treasurer L Murali Krishna in promoting gymnastics.

School Principal Meda Seetha Ramaiah, Vice-Principal K Rose Mary, Headmistress Ch Jayalakshmi and Academic Coordinator D Anuradha congratulated the selected students and wished them success in the national championship.

Power restoration work reviewed

Naresh Nandam
Ongole

APCPDCL Director for Projects and HRD, TVSN Murthy, inspected power restoration work in the field that is being carried out after the damage caused by Cyclone Murasu.

The Director visited the Naguluppalapadu section and checked the repair work on the 11 KV Ammanabrolu-Chavatapalem feeder. A power cut had occurred on this feeder due to the cyclone, and the electricity supply needs to be restored. He also reviewed the breakdown repair work on the 11 KV Chadalavada feeder in the same section. He told the officials to speed up the restoration work. He asked the staff to work together and bring back the power supply as soon as possible. He ordered the workers to follow all electrical safety rules while doing the repair work. The Director said the APCPDCL team is working without a break to restore a steady power supply.

He added that the department will continue its efforts until normal supply returns in all the affected areas.



Womenia

Skin detox tips to follow post-festive season

After days of festive celebrations, late nights, heavy makeup and indulgent eating, your skin may need some extra care to regain its natural glow. Follow these simple detox tips to rejuvenate your skin, restore its freshness and maintain a healthy radiance



Shahnaz Husain

The festive season is over, and it is time to get back to your regular routine. Amid the celebrations, preparations and late-night parties, we often tend to neglect our health and skincare routines. Excessive consumption of sweets and oily foods, heavy makeup, lack of sleep, and exposure to pollution can take a toll on our skin, leaving it dull, dry and tired.

Festive celebrations also bring increased exposure to smoke and environmental pollutants, which can irritate the skin and aggravate existing skin problems. After days of festivities, it is time to give your skin some extra care and help restore its natural glow.

Here are some simple tips to follow for healthy, refreshed skin.



1. Follow a Balanced Eating Routine

After days of festive indulgence, focus on returning to a balanced eating schedule. Rather than resorting to extreme fasting or restrictive diets, opt for regular, nutritious meals that support overall health. Include fibre-rich foods, fresh fruits, vegetables and whole grains in your daily diet.

Eating at regular intervals and avoiding unnecessary snacking can help maintain energy levels. If you are considering intermittent fasting, consult a healthcare professional first, particularly if you have an existing medical condition or take regular medication.

2. Add Antioxidants to Your Diet

Antioxidants help protect the body against free radicals, which can damage cells and contribute to premature skin ageing. Fruits, vegetables, whole grains, nuts, seeds and herbs are excellent natural sources of antioxidants.

Include foods rich in vitamins C and E, such as citrus fruits, berries, almonds and green leafy vegetables. These nutrients support skin health, help protect cells from oxidative stress and contribute to collagen production. Green tea is another good addition to your daily routine.

A balanced diet is generally the best way to obtain antioxidants. Avoid taking high-dose supplements without medical advice, as certain supplements may interact with medications.

3. Make Healthy Food Choices

Festive treats, fried snacks and sugary foods are difficult to resist during the celebrations. However, excessive consumption can affect overall health and may aggravate skin concerns such as breakouts.

Now is the time to return to healthier eating habits. Choose whole grains over refined carbohydrates and include adequate protein in your meals. Add citrus fruits, seasonal vegetables, salads and sprouts to your diet.

Try to consume at least five portions of fruits and vegetables daily. Reduce your intake of foods high in sugar, unhealthy fats and salt. Eating slowly and mindfully can also help you recognise when you are full and prevent overeating.

4. Keep Yourself Hydrated

Hydration is essential for maintaining healthy skin. Exposure to pollution, late nights and unhealthy food choices can leave you feeling tired and dehydrated. Drinking sufficient water helps maintain the body's fluid balance and supports normal skin function.



Make it a habit to drink water regularly throughout the day. You can also include coconut water, herbal teas and water-rich foods such as cucumber, watermelon and oranges in your diet. Starting your morning with a glass of waterw is a simple way to establish a healthy hydration routine. You can also add lemon for flavour. Remember, consistent hydration, nutritious food and proper skincare together can help your skin regain its freshness and natural glow after the festive season.

(The author is an internationally acclaimed beauty expert, popularly known as the Herbal Queen of India.)

Alaya F reflects on her fitness journey with a handstand scorpion on canes

Actress Alaya F used social media to reflect on her fitness progress over the years. In her latest post on Tuesday, the 'Jawaani Jaaneman' actress shared that back in 2023 she was unable to properly hold a headstand, but after three years of persistent hard work, she can now do a handstand scorpion on canes.

Alaya dropped a video of herself doing the handstand scorpion. The clip opened with glimpses of many of her failed attempts in the last three years, with Alaya finally performing the handstand scorpion perfectly at the end.

"November 2023, I could barely hold a headstand properly. November 2026, I'm doing a handstand scorpion on canes (A smiling face with a bead of sweat emoji) (sic)" read the caption of the post.

She added, "The name of the game is progress (Smiling face and raising hands emoticons)."

The 'Freddy' actor loves to keep her Insta Fam motivated with such inspiring insights into her intense fitness routine.

Back in June, Alaya expressed her excitement as she unlocked a hollowback headstand.

Sharing a glimpse of her latest fitness milestone, Alaya penned, "The balance Gods have been very kind to me lately! Hollowback headstand unlocked, babyyyyy!."

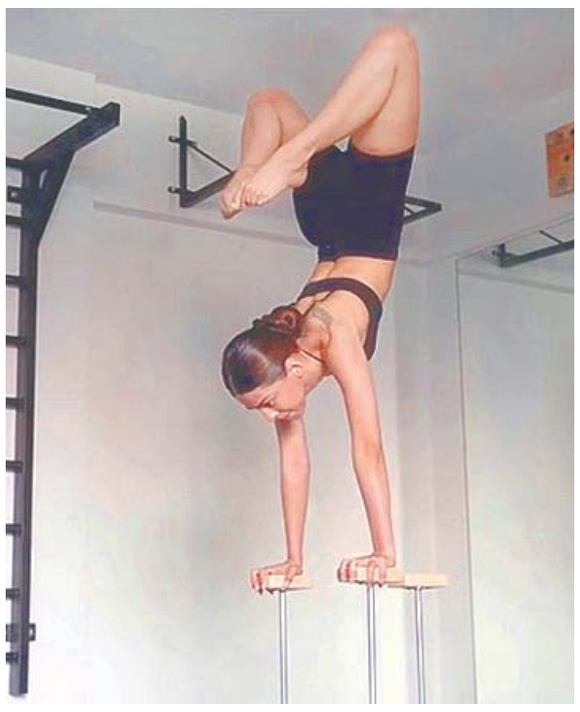
The clip showed her performing a hollowback headstand, showcasing her flexibility and control.

Talking about her cinematic journey, Alaya stepped into acting in 2020 with the laughter ride 'Jawaani Jaaneman', co-starring Saif Ali Khan and Tabu.

She has also been a part of 'Bade Miyan Chote Miyan', where she shared screen space with Akshay Kumar, Tiger Shroff, and Prithviraj Sukumaran.

Alaya's other projects include 'Freddy (2022)', 'Srikanth (2024)', 'Bade Miyan Chote Miyan (2024)'.

Up next, Alaya will be seen playing a crucial role in a high-octane thriller series, 'Storm'. Backed by Bollywood actor Hrithik Roshan, the series also stars Parvathy Thiruvothu, Srishti Shrivastava, Rrama Sharma, and Saba Azad in significant roles. (IANS)



Still treating your recurrent hives as an allergy? It could be chronic spontaneous urticaria

Dr Vijaya Bhaskar Mallela



Recurring hives are often mistaken for allergic reactions, but persistent flare-ups without an identifiable trigger could indicate chronic spontaneous urticaria (CSU). Understanding the condition, recognising its symptoms and seeking timely medical advice can help manage it effectively

When hives appear, it is natural to look for a cause. You may suspect something you ate, a medication or a product that came into contact with your skin. But what if the hives keep returning without an identifiable trigger? It could be more than an allergy.

Chronic urticaria is a condition in which hives, swelling or both recur for more than six weeks. One type is chronic spontaneous urticaria (CSU), where symptoms occur without an identifiable external trigger. Unlike an allergic reaction linked to a specific substance, CSU can cause repeated flare-ups without an obvious explanation.

Dr. Vijaya Bhaskar Mallela, Chief Dermatologist, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad, says, "Recurring hives are commonly linked to allergies, although this may not always be the case. If the symptoms persist for more than six weeks or occur repeatedly without an identifiable trigger, chronic spontaneous urticaria could be a possible explanation. A medical evaluation can help distinguish between different causes and determine the most suitable course of treatment."

Here are five important things to understand about recurrent hives:

1. Hives do not always indicate an allergy

Hives are raised, itchy welts that can appear suddenly on different parts of the body. While they may occur during an allergic reaction, they are also a common symptom of CSU. Therefore, recurring hives should not automatically be attributed to food, skincare products or environmental exposure.

2. The six-week mark matters

When hives recur for more than six weeks, the condition is considered chronic urticaria. Individual welts often disappear within 24 hours, but new ones may develop elsewhere. Keeping track of their frequency, duration and associated swelling can help during a medical consultation.

3. Finding triggers can be frustrating

People experiencing repeated flare-ups may eliminate certain foods, change skincare products or avoid everyday activities. However, CSU often occurs without a specific external trigger. Certain factors may worsen symptoms, but they are not necessarily the underlying cause.

4. It can affect overall wellbeing

Persistent itching can disturb sleep, cause daytime fatigue and affect concentration at work. Visible hives and swelling may also lead to discomfort or self-consciousness in social situations. The unpredictability of flare-ups can further affect emotional wellbeing and quality of life.

5. The right diagnosis guides treatment

A dermatologist or allergist can assess symptoms, review medical history and determine whether further investigations are needed. Treatment focuses on controlling symptoms and is guided by clinical assessment and response. Unnecessary dietary restrictions or avoiding suspected allergens may not help when no allergic trigger is identified. Recurrent hives deserve attention, particularly when they persist for weeks or return without a clear explanation. Instead of assuming every flare-up is an allergy, seeking medical advice can help identify CSU and ensure appropriate symptom management.

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Poem part (6)
5 Gain victory (3)
8 Hankering (4)
9 Leave out (4)
10 Arrival (6)
11 Type of chemical process (9)
13 Suspended (4)
15 First in short (3)
16 Lifting machine (5)
17 Indian tandoori dish (5)
20 Hawaiian garland (3)
22 A beam of light (3)
23 ___ Shri (26th January award) (5)
24 Licit (5)
26 "vi" in Roman numerals (3)
27 Neck part (4)
28 Hindu goddess of wisdom (9)
31 Singapore or Bali? (6)
32 At an earlier time (4)
33 A lively tune (4)
34 __-de-sac (3)
35 "One in a" movement that's everlasting ! (6)

DOWN

1 Bind as a bandage (6)
2 Be ahead in time (8)
3 Metallic element (4)
4 Achieves or accomplishes (7)
5 Cereal plant (5)
6 Prying (4)
7 Hard to please (7)
12 China's Mao ___ Tung (3)
14 Harsh (4)
18 Where Farsi is spoken (4)
19 Desert region in SW Africa (8)
20 Pasta dish (7)
21 Fabric (7)
24 Debussy heroine (3)
25 Sinew (6)
26 Slop (5)
29 French preposition (4)
30 Analogy words (2,2)



Solution to November 10

SUDOKU

	3	9			6			
	7	2						9
	1		7	4				
			1	7				4
	2	8				1	3	
1				5	3			
				6	7		4	
6						3	9	
			4			6	8	

3	7	2	9	8	1	4	6	5
1	9	4	2	6	5	7	8	3
8	5	6	3	7	4	9	1	2
7	2	5	8	4	6	1	3	9
4	1	3	5	2	9	6	7	8
9	6	8	1	3	7	2	5	4
6	3	9	7	5	2	8	4	1
5	4	1	6	9	8	3	2	7
2	8	7	4	1	3	5	9	6

Solution to November 10



Young Hans

Inclusion is not screening: Why schools must make belonging part of everyday learning

CBSE's sensitisation initiative is a step towards inclusive education, but lasting change depends on everyday classroom practices, peer relationships and meaningful participation

Syed Sultan Ahmed



A few years ago, at the end of a film session in a Bengaluru school, a Class 6 boy raised his hand with a question I still carry. We had just watched a short film about a girl who could not hear, and how she navigated a classroom that kept talking past her. "Sir," he said, "there is a boy in our class who hardly speaks. We thought he was rude. Is it like this for him?" The room went quiet. Nobody had told these children to be kind. A story had simply let them stand, for twelve minutes, inside someone else's life, and then given them the space to ask what that meant for the boy sitting three rows away.

I recalled that moment when CBSE asked its affiliated schools to screen a 30-minute sensitisation module on Inclusive Education for Children with Special Needs on 7 October, through the Ministry of Education's PRASHAST portal. It is a welcome step. The module was meant for everyone, from principals and teachers to wardens, aayahs and drivers, an acknowledgement that inclusion belongs to the whole school, not the special educator alone. The Ministry reports participation from more than 60,000 schools, in 12 languages.

But sensitisation can introduce the idea of inclusion. It cannot, by itself, create an inclusive mindset.

Consider a classroom where a child with a disability is always treated kindly, yet rarely chosen for a group activity. Nobody bullies her. Everyone has attended the session. And still, she is left out. We have become reasonably good at teaching children what to say. We have been far less deliberate about changing how they think.

Attitudes are not installed; they are grown, on playgrounds and in friendships. Inclusion that lives in a module stays in the module. Inclusion that lives in routines, in who gets picked for the team, who is asked to read aloud, how a teacher responds when a child takes longer, becomes culture.

So what does sustained practice look like?

First, it is woven into the ordinary school day, not saved for an awareness week. A science project can ask children to design a playground that a wheelchair user, a child with low vision and a child sensitive to noise could all enjoy. Empathy grows fastest when it is a problem to solve, not a rule to memorise. Second, it harnesses story. In my years of working with children and cinema, I have seen visual storytelling do what lectures rarely manage: let a child enter another person's world. A well-chosen film about a child on the autism spectrum moves understanding from the head to the heart.

Third, it leaves room for talk, because the real learning begins when the film ends. Why did the character feel left out? What could her classmates have done differently? Have we behaved the same way without realising it? Awareness-led instruction tells children what to think. Reflection lets them discover what they actually think. That Class 6 boy did not need a definition. He needed permission to ask.

Fourth, it demands participation, not mere tolerance. There is a world of difference between being allowed into a classroom and being made to feel part of it. Schools can build belonging through mixed-ability teams, buddy systems, performances and sports that offer every child a genuine role, and teachers trained to notice quiet exclusion, not just obvious bullying. Above all, they must listen to children with disabilities and their parents. None of this replaces formal initiatives. Modules like CBSE's set standards, build a shared vocabulary and signal that the system is serious, in the spirit of NEP 2020's commitment to equity. But we must not confuse completing an activity with achieving an outcome. A certificate cannot measure empathy. Perhaps we should ask children different questions. Who gets left out in your classroom? Whose voice is rarely heard? Does every child here have someone who makes them feel they belong? Sensitisation takes thirty minutes. The real question is what we do on the 364 days after the screening. Inclusion is not what children know about difference. It is what they do when they encounter it.

A 30-minute sensitisation session can introduce students to the idea of inclusion, but building an inclusive school culture requires more than awareness. Inclusion must be reflected in everyday classroom practices, peer relationships, school activities and opportunities for participation. He highlights the importance of listening to children with disabilities, encouraging meaningful interactions and creating learning environments where every student feels respected, supported and valued



(The author is Chairperson, TAISI (The Association of International Schools of India), and Founder & Chief Learner, LXL Ideas)

UoH to host free international training programme on higher education leadership

Hans News Service



THE Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre (MMTTC) at the University of Hyderabad (UoH) to organise a six-day international online training programme on 'Leading the Modern University: Leadership, Governance and Transformation in Higher Education' from December 7 to 12, 2026. The programme will be offered free of cost and is aimed at strengthening the leadership and professional competencies of university administrators.

The training seeks to prepare administrators to address emerging challenges in higher education, including institutional governance, strategic management, organisational change, international engagement and digital transformation.

It will focus on developing leadership capabilities that extend beyond routine administrative responsibilities and support effective institutional decision-making.

The programme will be conducted entirely online through live sessions from 10 am to 5.15 pm IST on all six days. A total of 150 participants will be accommodated, including 25 seats reserved for international applicants.

The initiative is expected to facilitate interaction and knowledge exchange among university administrators from India and other countries.

The training will cover six thematic areas: understanding the modern university; leadership, people and professional excellence; strategic university management and change; governance, resources, risk and accountability; internationalisation and global engagement; and digital, artificial intelligence (AI) and the future university.

Through these sessions, participants will explore institutional responsibilities, decision-making, organisational change, accountability and the implications of emerging technologies for higher education.

The programme will also examine how universities can respond to changing academic and professional environments.

Eligibility and registration

In India, the programme is open to Group A/ Class I officers in university administrative cadres, including Assistant Registrars, Deputy Registrars, Joint Registrars, Registrars and officials holding equivalent positions. Applicants must register through the UGC Malaviya Mission portal at mmc.ugc.ac.in, under the NEP Theme Training section, by selecting the University of Hyderabad. A No Objection Certificate (NOC) is required for applicants.

International participation is open to senior- and middle-level university administrators. Candidates from outside India can apply through the International Registration Form available on the University of Hyderabad website.

The last date to submit applications is November 30, 2026. Participation certificates will be issued to candidates who successfully complete the programme.

Programme details

- Programme: Leading the Modern University: Leadership, Governance and Transformation in Higher Education
- Organising institution: Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre, University of Hyderabad
- Dates: December 7–12, 2026
- Mode: Live online sessions
- Timings: 10 am to 5.15 pm IST
- Programme fee: Free
- Total seats: 150, including 25 international seats
- Application deadline: November 30, 2026

The initiative is part of the University of Hyderabad's efforts to support professional development and strengthen leadership and governance capabilities in higher education institutions.

It also provides a platform for international exchange of experiences and practices in university administration.

TODAY IS NATIONAL EDUCATION DAY

Rethinking the purpose of education



Education has traditionally been viewed as a pathway to academic achievement, professional qualifications and employment. However, its purpose extends far beyond earning degrees or securing jobs. Education plays a vital role in shaping individuals, developing critical thinking and preparing citizens to contribute meaningfully to society.

In a rapidly changing world, the ability to memorise information is no longer enough. Students need to learn how to question, analyse, solve problems and apply knowledge to real-life situations. With technology and artificial intelligence transforming workplaces and everyday life, education must help learners develop adaptability, creativity and the confidence to navigate change.

The purpose of education also lies in building responsible and informed citizens. Schools and colleges are important spaces where young people learn values such as empathy, respect, equality, collaboration and social responsibility. These qualities help them understand different perspectives and participate constructively in their communities.

Equally important is ensuring that education is accessible and inclusive. Every child, regardless of economic background, gender, location or ability, should have opportunities to learn and grow. Quality education should not be limited to those who can afford it or have access to better resources.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 emphasises holistic, multidisciplinary and experiential learning, encouraging institutions to move beyond rote learning and support the overall development of students.

IIIT-Delhi opens PhD admissions for winter 2026 session

Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi (IIIT-Delhi) has opened applications for its Ph.D. programme for the Winter Session 2026, inviting candidates interested in advanced research across six disciplines. The last date to submit applications online is November 15, 2026.

The doctoral programme offers research opportunities in Computational Biology, Computer Science and Engineering, Electronics and Communications Engineering, Human-Centered Design, Mathematics, and Social Sciences and Humanities. Eligibility requirements and application guidelines vary by discipline and are available on the institute's official admissions website.

IIIT-Delhi provides financial assistance to eligible full-time Ph.D. scholars to support their research and academic development. The support includes a monthly fellowship of ₹60,000, assistance for purchasing a laptop or desktop, and additional funding for research-related expenses.

Scholars can also receive ₹1.5 lakh to support visits of up to two weeks to laboratories abroad, providing opportunities to interact with researchers and gain exposure to ongoing international research. In addition, the institute offers a Professional Development Allowance (PDA) of ₹2.5 lakh for attending academic conferences and workshops.

The institute said its doctoral programme emphasises rigorous research, faculty mentorship and interdisciplinary collaboration. It aims to prepare scholars to contribute to academia, industry and society through research and innovation.

Prof. Sumit Darak, Dean of Academic Affairs at IIIT-Delhi, said the institute provides Ph.D. scholars with an environment focused on impactful research and interdisciplinary collaboration, supported by financial assistance and travel grants for international exposure.

He added that IIIT-Delhi graduates currently hold faculty positions at reputed institutions and research roles in industry, both in India and abroad. The institute has invited candidates with a strong interest in research to apply for the upcoming session.

Applicants can review discipline-specific eligibility criteria and complete the online application through the official website: https://iiitd.ac.in/admission/phd/oct2026.

For admission-related queries, candidates can contact the Ph.D. admissions team at phd-admissions@iiitd.ac.in.

-A Arti



I wanted to make a big score. I had promised someone to make a big score today and thankfully I made it. And that person is my dad (Virender Sehwag). I told my dad I will get a big hundred. I have a legacy to live up to as he only likes big hundreds. I started off and decided to play long and bat for 40 odd overs. There were challenges on the wicket. I didn't get bothered about the dot balls, as I knew I would catch up.

-- Aaryavir Sehwag, India U-19 cricket opener

Sports Nation

U19 Asia Cup

Sehwag junior's 160 carnage powers India to semifinals

70-run win over UAE sees India finish second in Group A behind Pakistan

AL AMERAT: Aaryavir Sehwag, son of India icon Virender Sehwag, scored a masterful 160 from 168 balls to help India U19 beat UAE U19 by 70 runs in the U19 Asia Cup at the Al Amerat Cricket Ground (Ministry Turf 2) here on Tuesday.

The victory also helped India U19 confirm their place in the U19 Asia Cup semifinal as they have finished their Group A in second place behind Pakistan U19, who had edged past the Indian side earlier in the league stage.

India have two wins in three matches as they had earlier defeated the Nepal U19 side too. In the semifinal, the eight-time U19 champions India will be up against 2017 winner Afghanistan U19 on Thursday.

Coming to the match, the Indian U19 side made a strong total of 309/7 in 50 overs. Opener Aaryavir scored 160 with 17 fours and seven sixes to hold the team's innings together. No.3 VK Vineeth was the only other player with a notable score as he made 67 from 69 balls. The junior Sehwag and Vineeth put up a 193-run partnership for the third wicket and put India U19 on the door of a strong total.



The Indian side lost its way a bit in the death overs as, from 255/1 in 44.1 overs, they slipped to 299/7 in 49.1 overs and ended up making 309/7. For UAE, medium-pace bowler Naseem Khan was the pick of the bowler for having taken 4-48 in his 10 overs.

Coming into the chase, India kept a lid on the UAE side with regular wickets. Right-arm fast bowler Ishan Sood stood out with 4-37 in his seven overs, while all of the other six bowlers also took a wicket each to bowl UAE for 239.

No.4 Ahmed Khudadad was the only saving grace for the UAE side as he made a run-a-ball 74 and did the damage control. Captain and opener Ayaan Misbah (27) and other opener Zainullah Rehmani (16) got starts but could not capitalise, as did Yayin Rai, who scored 29 but fell to Yashbardhan Chauhan.

While the wickets were falling, Khudadad held one end up to put up a lone fight, and despite Noorullah Ayobi coming with a 25-ball 39-run cameo, UAE were considerably short in the end.

While India U19 will meet Afghanistan U19 in the second semifinal, defending champions Pakistan U19 will lock horns against Bangladesh U19 in the first semifinal, which is also scheduled to take place on Thursday.

BRIEF SCORES:

India U19 309/7 in 50 overs (Aaryavir Sehwag 160, VK Vineeth 67; Naseem Khan 4-48, Noorullah Ayobi 1-59) beat UAE U19 239/10 (Ahmed Khudadad 74, Noorullah Ayobi 39; Ishan Sood 4-37, Aryan Savsani 1-21) by 70 runs.

India-NZ third ODI called off due to rain

HAMILTON: Rain played spoilsport as the third ODI between New Zealand and India at Seddon Park here on Tuesday was called off. India lead the five-match series 2-0 as the two teams head to Tauranga for the final two games, scheduled for November 13 and 15.

India skipper Shubman Gill won the toss for the third time in a row and opted to bowl, fielding an unchanged side from the previous two games. However, just as the covers were coming off for a 40-overs-a-side contest, the heavens opened up once again.

With at least 70 minutes remaining before the local cut-off time of 7:50 pm for a 20-overs-a-side game, the two umpires decided to call off the match.

The weather forecast for this game had always been gloomy, with a 90 per cent chance of rain predicted throughout the day.

This was supposed to be the last game of the series for skipper Shubman Gill and senior wicketkeeper KL Rahul before they link up with the Test squad in Wellington. They will be accompanied by Kuldeep Yadav, Anshul Kamboj and Mohammed Siraj.

Shreyas Iyer will lead the side in the last two matches in Gill's absence, with Ruturaj Gaikwad and Ishan Kishan set to earn places in the playing XI.

ISSF World C'ship 2026

India win women's 25m pistol team gold

Men's 50m rifle 3P team bags bronze

DOHA: Esha Singh, Manu Bhaker and Divya Thadigol Subbaraju won the women's 25m pistol team gold at the ISSF World Championship 2026 in Doha, giving India their second gold of the championship.

The Indian trio finished with a combined score of 1761-68x, ahead of the Republic of Korea (1748-66x) in silver and Vietnam (1745-54x) in bronze.

Esha top-scored for India with 590-25x, followed by Manu with 587-24x and Divya with 584-19x.

Esha and Manu also qualified for the individual final, where Manu finished fourth with 27 hits, just short of the podium, while Esha ended eighth with 11 hits.

Earlier in the day, the men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions team of Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, Akhil Sheoran and Niraj Kumar claimed bronze with a combined score of 1751-91x. Czechia won gold with 1754-92x, while Norway took silver with 1752-81x. Aishwary led with 587-33x, followed by Niraj (582-31x) and Akhil (582-27x).

Earlier, Jaypal Malviya produced a composure-laden performance under pressure to clinch a silver medal in the men's 10m air pistol at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Championship Rifle / Pistol / Shotgun on Thursday. The Indian women's



10m air pistol squad clinched the team silver medal.

The trio of double Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker, Suruchi Inder Singh and Sainyam combined for an aggregate total of 1738 with 61 inner 10s. Manu led the Indian challenge with a qualification total of 583-21x, which included a perfect 100 in her fourth series.

Suruchi contributed a steady 580-24x, while junior world champion Sainyam added 575-16x to seal the second step of the podium. China took the women's team gold medal with 1745-65x, while the Republic of Korea claimed bronze with 1729-49x.

In the men's team competition, India finished seventh with a combined aggregate of 1730-58x. Jaypal led the team with his qualification mark of 585-23x (97, 99, 97, 99, 97, 96), which had earned him third place heading into the individual final.

India will be in action again on November 11, with the final of the men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions event.



Mohammad Rehman Ali



Mohd Rehan Khan

Karimnagar boys selected for international tournament in Malaysia

HYDERABAD: Bringing pride and recognition to Telangana State, two young hockey players from Karimnagar district, Mohammad Rehman Ali and Mohd Rehan Khan, have been selected to represent Telangana in the prestigious 49th Pesta USM International Indoor Hockey Invitational Tournament, scheduled to be held at Penang, Malaysia, from November 13 to 15, 2026.

The duo are the only two boys from Telangana selected for this international tournament, marking a significant achievement for Karimnagar district and the state.

Their selection comes following their impressive participation in the Senior Indoor Hockey Nationals held in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, in June 2026. Based on their performance and talent at the national-level championship, both players earned the opportunity to participate in the international tournament in Malaysia.

The tournament will feature six-a-side indoor hockey, a fast-paced and exciting format of the game that demands exceptional speed, skill, coordination and teamwork.

Rainbow Children's Hospital hosts Hyd Cluster-Level Sports C'ship



Arun Kumar HR Manager presenting Carrom singles winner trophy with Rs 5,000 Amazon voucher to MD Faiyazuddin Ghazi of Rainbow Children's Heart Institute (RCHI) who defeated Khan of Rainbow Vikrampuri branch in the finals. The two-day championship featured eight hospitals across the Hyderabad cluster, with Bilal and Amer of RCHI winning Carrom Doubles and Guruprashanth of RCHI securing the Chess Championship title.



Phoenix Invitational 2026 in Vooty

Baisoya eyes revenge against Bhullar

HYDERABAD: Sachin Baisoya will get an immediate opportunity to avenge his recent play-off defeat to Gaganjeet Bhullar when the Phoenix Invitational 2026 begins at Vooty Golf County on Wednesday.

The two last clashed at the Green Fuels Maritime Invitational in Visakhapatnam, where Bhullar edged Baisoya in a play-off after the latter produced a stunning seven-under round on a rain-shortened final day to erase a six-shot deficit. Bhullar eventually clinched victory with a 40-foot putt on the extra hole.

The much-anticipated 'Rematch at Vooty' promises another exciting contest. Bhullar, an 11-time Asian Tour winner, has claimed six IGPL titles, including three this season. His recent victories at the Krishna Invitational in Hyderabad and the Vizag event make him a strong contender. Baisoya will lead Phoenix Hyderabad Firebirds alongside Ranjit Singh, Raghav Chugh and Arjun Bhati. The team will compete in the main event as well as the innovative X-Golf competition. Speaking at the media interaction, IGPL CEO Uttam Singh Mundy said 10 events, including six international stops, had been completed in an exciting 2026 season. He highlighted the league's commitment to equal prize money for men and women, grassroots development and plans for two centres of excellence in India.

Baisoya said his team was confident following its victory at HGA Hyderabad two weeks ago. He also welcomed X-Golf as an exciting format capable of making golf more engaging and accessible.

Shutdown in Kargil against holding LAHDC polls in winter

KARGIL/JAMMU: Kargil region in Ladakh on Tuesday observed a complete shutdown, demanding that the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) elections proposed during winter be deferred and the recently concluded delimitation exercise reviewed.



Shops and business establishments remained closed, while traffic remained thin on roads across Kargil. Security was strengthened with additional deployment of police personnel in various areas as a precautionary measure.

Representatives of various political and religious organisations, trade bodies and civil society groups under the banner of Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) on Monday announced the shutdown and a candlelight "Save Democracy" march against the proposed timing of the hill council elections, alleged delimitation irregularities and the "erosion of democratic rights" in the Union territory.

Ladakh Lok Sabha member Mohmad Haneefa on Saturday wrote a letter to Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on the matter.

Haneefa said Ladakh's unique geographical and weather conditions, particularly in Kargil and Leh districts, posed serious challenges to voters during winter.

He pointed out that heavy snowfall, sub-zero temperatures, closure of key roads and frequent disruptions in transport and communication could make it difficult for residents of remote and far-flung areas to reach polling stations.

The MP said thousands of residents, including senior citizens, traders, businesspersons and students, traditionally migrate to warmer regions during winter, while many students remain outside Ladakh for higher education and competitive examinations.

Holding elections during this period, without addressing these circumstances, could deprive a significant section of eligible voters of an opportunity to exercise their democratic rights, he said.

Haneefa also highlighted logistical challenges in remote areas such as Drass, Zanskar and Changthang, stressing that electoral planning must account for Ladakh's vast distances, scattered settlements and limited winter connectivity.

Expressing concern over the limited time available for revision of electoral rolls, he said sufficient opportunity must be provided to eligible citizens to register and verify their particulars.

The MP urged the LG to defer the elections until winter-related difficulties subside, ensure a comprehensive and transparent revision of electoral rolls and consult elected representatives, political parties and other stakeholders before finalising the election schedule.

The KDA also announced a candlelight march under the banner of 'Save Democracy' in the evening, alleging erosion of democratic rights and irregularities in the delimitation of constituencies.

Cop suspended over 'derogatory' remarks against WB CM



KOLKATA: A Kolkata Police inspector has been suspended for allegedly making derogatory remarks against West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari and the state government on social media, according to an order issued by the city police commissioner.

Inspector Ekhlaque Ahmed, who was in charge of the outpost at the Medical College, Kolkata, under the Central Division, was recently transferred to the first battalion of the city armed police.

He was placed under suspension with effect from November 9, the order said.

The suspension order, issued by Police Commissioner Ajay Kumar Nand, said his alleged remarks on a social media platform, indicating derogatory views about the West Bengal government, were "prejudicial in the interest of public service".

It also stated that his continuance in office pending an inquiry into his conduct was not considered appropriate. During the suspension, Ahmed will receive half of his basic pay along with other admissible benefits as subsistence allowance, the order stated.

He has also been directed to immediately deposit his government-issued kits with the reserve officer of the Central Division, it added.

"The matter is being examined, and an inquiry into his conduct is underway," a senior Kolkata Police officer said.

Muslim siblings light funeral pyre of Hindu woman



CHITHRAGIRI (KERALAM): Transcending religious boundaries, two Muslim siblings have performed the last rites of an 85-year-old Hindu woman they had cared for and loved as their mother for nearly five decades in this hill district of Keralam. Razak and Sulaiman stepped forward to perform the funeral rituals in accordance with Hindu customs when Kalyani Amma, who had no children or other relatives, passed away at Chithragiri in Muppainad panchayat, family sources said on Tuesday.

The two siblings and their family had shared a close bond with Kalyani Amma, who had been their neighbour for nearly 50 years. They looked after her, taking care of her daily needs, arranging medicines and accompanying her to hospitals whenever necessary. She was also part of their family celebrations, and the affection between them grew over the years.

Kalyani Amma had expressed her wish that Razak and Sulaiman, whom she considered her own sons, should perform her last rites after her death, they said.



CISF jawan alleges assault, court orders FIR against 4

BHADOHI (UP): A Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) jawan was allegedly assaulted, stripped and filmed by four people here, and was subsequently arrested in a molestation case after being kept at a police station for nearly 24 hours, according to a court petition.

The court has now ordered the registration of an FIR against the four accused, following which police registered a case against them under various provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the IT Act, officials said on Tuesday.

Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Shubham Agrawal said the incident allegedly took place on August 12 in Sardar Bahuta village under the Suriyawan police station area.

CISF Constable Ajay Yadav (34), in a petition filed before the Civil Judge (Senior Division) court on August 19, alleged that he was returning home from the market on his motorcycle when Dhirendra Yadav (26), Virendra Yadav (23), Aman Yadav (20) and Sarita Yadav (37), all residents of the same village, intercepted him and vandalised his motorcycle.

The petition alleged that the accused abused and brutally assaulted him. He was left bleeding from the nose and due to the blood entering his respiratory tract, he had difficulty breathing. He also sustained a serious head injury and continued to experience dizziness, it said.

HHRC flags security lapses over Faridabad arms theft



CHANDIGARH: The Haryana Human Rights Commission (HHRC) has taken serious note of the theft of 32 licensed firearms from the storeroom of Sector 8 Police Station, Faridabad, and directed a review of security arrangements in the storerooms of all police stations across the state. In an order dated November 2, HHRC member Deep Bhatia directed the Haryana director general of police to review the safe custody of firearms, access to police storerooms and supervisory mechanisms in the wake of the theft. The matter was brought before the commission through a complaint filed on July 16 by an advocate and resident of Panchkula. The complaint stated that the owners of 32 licensed firearms had deposited their weapons at the police station in compliance with the law, entrusting them to the police for safe custody. However, the theft of the firearms from the storeroom indicated a serious failure in security arrangements on the part of the police. Highlighting the human rights implications of the incident, the complainant submitted that if the stolen firearms were used in criminal activities, their legitimate owners could face fear, mental distress and unnecessary legal complications, despite having complied with the law.

UP cop attempts suicide over seized firecrackers

WhatsApp status note accuses SHO, BJP MLA of harassment

MAHARAJGANJ (UP): A 33-year-old Uttar Pradesh Police head constable allegedly attempted suicide by consuming a poisonous substance following a dispute with his seniors over seized firecrackers on Diwali night, police said.

Head constable Vishal Singh, posted at the Nichlaul police station, was found unconscious on the police station premises late on Sunday night.

He was initially taken to a government hospital and later shifted to a private hospital here. His condition is said to be improving.

Before the incident, Singh had shared a note as his WhatsApp status, accusing Station House Officer (SHO) Yogendra Rai and other personnel of harassing him over the seized firecrackers, police said on Monday.

In the note, Singh alleged that around 40 per cent of the seized firecrackers had been taken away and some of the remaining stock was handed over to an accused, identified as Kausman Ali, allegedly under pressure from the SHO.

He further claimed that



he was humiliated by being accused of stealing the firecrackers.

In his note, the head constable named Rai, constables Manish Singh and Anand Singh, BJP MLA Premsagar Patel, Vishal Yadav, Bholu Yadav and Alok Sharma, accusing them of harassment.

Singh also claimed that a policeman, Vishal Sharma, had recorded a video of the alleged distribution of firecrackers on his mobile phone, police said.



The Hans India

Business

"The earnings profile of sugar mills is undergoing a structural shift. Higher sugar prices will not fully compensate for the loss of higher-margin ethanol volumes and rising cane costs. As dependence on sugar and extra neutral alcohol (ENA) sales increases, operating margins are expected to decline by 140-160 basis points to around 6 per cent this fiscal."

-Anuj Sethi, Senior Director, Crisil Ratings

BIZ BRIEFS

Shyam Metalics' festive celebrations

Shyam Metalics hosted 'Alokmoy Kolkata', a four-day festive celebration at Acropolis Mall from November 6-9, featuring cultural activities, creative installations showcasing its products and community competitions. Actor Mithun Chakraborty attended the finale, felicitating competition winners. Nirmal Uday, COO, ShyamMetalics, said: " Through Alokmoy Kolkata, we wanted to celebrate this very spirit and create an experience where people were not merely spectators but an integral part of the festivities."

Ujjivan introduces banking on WhatsApp

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (Ujjivan SFB) launched an industry-first facility enabling eligible customers to open savings accounts directly through WhatsApp Banking at 900 208 2121, without downloading a separate banking application. Carol Furtado, Interim CEO, Ujjivan SFB, said: "Innovation is most meaningful when it makes banking simpler and more accessible for customers. Ujjivan's WhatsApp Banking journey gives the customers the ability to access the bank on a platform that already is part of their daily lives."

Travel deals on Amazon Pay

Amazon Pay is bringing back its 'Impossible Travel Deals' sale from November 12 to 26, offering discounts of up to 30% on domestic and international flights and 65% on hotel bookings.

Girish Krishnan, Director-Payments Experience, Amazon Pay, said: "Indian families are travelling more than ever, and with Impossible Travel Deals 2026, we want to make those trips more affordable. Whether it's a weekend in Goa or a flight to Dubai, customers can book with significant savings on flights and hotels."

TCS clocks milestone

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has completed 50 Tech Days across 50 academic institutions in 27 cities, engaging over 23,000 students and 912 faculty members through masterclasses, hackathons and practical AI projects to strengthen industry-academia collaboration. Sudeep Kunnumal, Chief Human Resources Officer, TCS, said: "The skills that will define the future are evolving rapidly, and preparing young talent for this change requires industry and academia to work more closely than ever."

L&T bags Noida Metro order

Larsen & Toubro's (L&T) Heavy Civil Infrastructure business has secured a significant order from Noida Metro Rail Corporation for the Aqua Line Extension Project. The contract involves part design and construction of a 15.1-km elevated viaduct connecting Botanical Garden to Noida Sector-142 and Depot Station to Boraki. The project also includes 10 elevated metro stations, along with architectural finishes.

AI sell-off abroad sends FPIs rushing back to Indian equities

FEARS OVER US DATA CENTRE SPENDING TRIGGER AI SELL-OFF IN THE US, SOUTH KOREA, TAIWAN AND JAPAN, MAKING INDIA AN ATTRACTIVE DESTINATION

New Delhi

FOREIGN investors turned net buyers of Indian equities in November, infusing Rs 53,739 crore in the first nine days after two consecutive months of outflows, driven by the AI-led sell-off in global markets, strong domestic earnings growth and attractive large-cap valuations.

The latest investment follows net outflows of Rs 34,843 crore in October and Rs 35,861 crore in September, according to data available with the depositories.

"The sudden change in FPI stance was triggered by the AI sell-off in the US and other AI markets like South Korea, Taiwan and Japan.

"This sell-off, in turn, was triggered by fears surrounding data centre spending in the US. The Democrats, who won both chambers of Congress, are opposed to indiscriminate data centre spending. They will demand guardrails for AI," said V K



Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Investments. The AI-led sell-off has made India, widely regarded as a non-AI trade, an attractive destination for Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs). Besides, the country's impressive earnings growth and attractive valuations of large-cap stocks have further strengthened its appeal, he added.

According to depository data, FPIs made a net investment of Rs 53,739 crore in Indian equities during November 2-9. This includes a total of six trading days. With this, cumulative FPI outflows from Indian equities in 2026 stood at Rs 2.41 lakh crore. Sector-wise, FPIs turned major buyers in index heavyweights, especially in financial services, information technology, automobiles and telecom. In the debt segment, foreign investors invested Rs 7,759 crore through the Fully Accessible Route (FAR), while withdrawing Rs 591 crore through the Voluntary Retention Route (VRR) and Rs 270 crore through the general route.

Mahindra sees staying power in renewed FPI interest in India

NEW DELHI: Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra on Tuesday said India is not just a refuge from the AI hype but rather has "a compelling AI opportunity of its own".

In a post on X, Mahindra cited the nation's software talent, systems integration expertise and enormous domestic market for AI use cases, to make his point: "surely India has a promising hand to play?" "Perhaps India isn't just a refuge from the AI hype. It may have a compelling AI opportunity of its own," he wrote. And if so, he argued, the renewed interest in Indian equities "may have more staying power than we think". In his post, Mahindra said he had earlier flagged the irony of India returning to favour with global investors partly because it was seen as being outside the supposedly overheated AI trade. "But perhaps there's another way to look at it," he said. He pointed out that Stanford now ranks India third in global AI vibrancy. Mahindra acknowledged that India does not make the most advanced chips or lead the race in foundational large language models. He recalled an analogy he had used in the annual report of Tech Mahindra, the IT services company of the Mahindra Group.



Olectra's Q2 EBITDA rises 18% to ₹110 cr; deliveries cross 4,750

Hans Business
Hyderabad

Olectra Greentech Limited reported an 18 per cent increase in earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) to Rs109.89 crore for the second quarter of FY27, supported by higher revenue and improved operating performance.

The company's revenue rose 5 per cent to Rs687.01 crore in the quarter ended September 2026, compared with Rs656.62 crore in the corresponding period last year. Profit after tax increased 5 per cent to Rs52.12 crore from Rs49.43 crore, while profit before tax grew 6 per cent to Rs72.74 crore.

The company delivered 401 electric vehicles during the quarter, against 375 in Q2 FY26, registering a growth of 7 per cent. Deliveries during the first half of FY27 stood at 759 vehicles. The company's cumulative electric vehicle deliveries have crossed 4,750, with its buses operating across 55 cities and covering more than 750 million green kilometres. Its order book stands at over 8,000 electric buses.

Managing Director Mahesh Babu said the quarterly performance reflected growth in revenue, vehicle deliveries and profitability, with the increase in EBITDA highlighting the company's focus on operational efficiency.

The company is preparing to introduce its next-generation electric buses in the fourth quarter of the current financial year. The new models are being developed with an emphasis on localisation and are intended for domestic and international markets, he said. Olectra's earnings per share increased to Rs6.45 in Q2 FY27 from Rs6.04 in the year-earlier period. The company said it would focus on executing its existing orders, improving operational efficiency and expanding its capabilities as demand for electric public transportation grows.

Cognizant puts 25,000 people on Claude to take AI from pilot to production

New Delhi

COGNIZANT on Tuesday announced the formation of the 'Claude Frontier Capability Group', with more than 25,000 professionals focused on delivering Claude for clients. The group is focused on execution excellence, transformation and client success, with the scale to take AI from pilot to production across enterprises' core operations, the Nasdaq-listed IT company said. Enterprises have access to frontier AI capability, but continue to face challenges in delivering value to business.

Cognizant has built Claude skills throughout its workforce, with more than 44,000 associates in business units and corporate functions already trained or certified on Claude, referring to the AI assistant built by Anthropic.

"Cognizant's new Claude Frontier Capability Group



brings more than 25,000 professionals together in a dedicated global Claude delivery organisation," the release said, adding that it will drive Claude-powered systems inside client businesses.

The company is also introducing a managed services model for Claude. Under the model, Cognizant manages the operation of Claude-powered systems in production on clients' behalf, so they can focus on the business results it makes possible.

The managed services model supports the operation of Claude in production for clients, combining dedicated talent, licensed access to Claude and Cognizant's own IP, including its AI Delivery Operating System. The model gives clients more predictable AI spend and runs every engagement within enterprise-grade security and governance controls, customised to each client's connectivity, architecture and risk requirements.

Both initiatives draw on Cognizant's Frontier workforce model, through which it is developing Frontier Certified Engineers and Frontier Business Operators credentialed directly by frontier-model companies.

Ravi Kumar S, CEO of Cognizant, said clients want a partner who will take responsibility for delivery once AI is running inside their business. "We are putting more than 25,000 of our people on Claude and taking on the job of running it for clients through managed services. That is a significant bet on Claude, and on what enterprises can achieve with it in their core operations," he said. Every enterprise is racing to bring AI into its organisation, but the people with the skills to make it work inside a real business have become the hardest talent to find, Paul Smith, Chief Commercial Officer, Anthropic said.

"Cognizant is working to address that gap, committing more than 25,000 people to help their customers put Claude to work across their businesses," Smith noted.

Anthropic eyes $1.3 trn valuation as IPO nears

NEW YORK: Artificial intelligence giant Anthropic is looking for an approximately USD 1.3 trillion valuation in an initial public offering despite new questions about the massive amounts of money flowing into the sector. The company behind the Claude chatbot said in a regulatory filing on Tuesday that it will sell 825 million shares priced between USD 70 and USD 78 a share. That would give Anthropic the ability to raise more than USD 61 billion, if the IPO is priced at the midpoint. The San Francisco company is anticipated to make its Wall Street debut this month. Anthropic could wind up being the biggest initial public offering of stock ever, possibly eclipsing the record USD 86 billion raised by SpaceX in its IPO in June. An Anthropic IPO would also put the company ahead of OpenAI in going public, setting the stage for a pair of blockbuster stock debuts by rival AI developers.

ICICI Life unveils new index fund

Hans Business
Hyderabad

ICICI Life Insurance has launched the ICICI Life BSE 500 Momentum Quality 50 Index Fund, a new equity investment option available with most of their unit-linked insurance plans (ULIPs). The fund is designed to help investors generate superior long-term returns by investing in a diversified portfolio of 50 stocks from the BSE 500 that score well on a combination of two factors - Momentum and Quality. It offers investors an opportunity to invest in companies with strong financials and positive share price trends. Manish Kumar, Chief Investment Officer, ICICI Life Insurance, said: "ICICI Life BSE 500 Momentum Quality 50 Index Fund offers investors an effective way to build long-term wealth by tracking companies with high-quality businesses, strong earnings visibility and steady share-price momentum. Importantly, investors will get exposure to a portfolio of companies with healthy financials which is determined based on metrics/ratios such as Return on Equity, Debt to Equity and Earnings per Share and whose stock price has seen a good growth over the past 12 months."

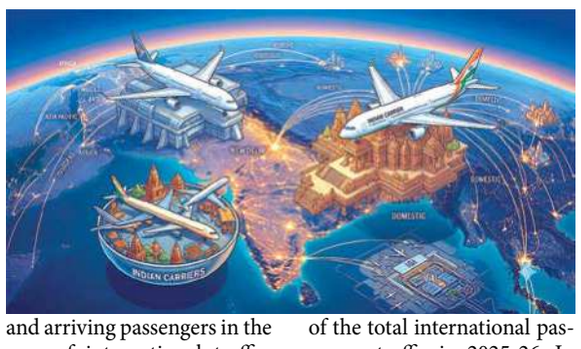
Overseas travel outpaces domestic flying as Indian airlines lose share

New Delhi

INDIA'S international air passenger traffic rose a little over 6 per cent to 78.7 million even as the share of Indian carriers in the overseas traffic declined to 44.4 per cent in the year ended March 2026, according to official data.

As per the Handbook on Civil Aviation Statistics for 2025-26 released by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), a total of 2,218 aircraft were registered with the regulator as on March 31 this year. While scheduled airlines had 985 planes, the non-scheduled operators had 425 aircraft during the given period. The rest were with governments, private entities and training schools.

In 2025-26, the total air passenger traffic increased 2.7 per cent to 246.1 million compared to the year-ago period when it stood at 239.7 million. Out of the total, domestic air traffic climbed 1.1 per cent to 167.4 million, while international air traffic rose 6.1 per cent to 78.7 million on an annual basis. The figures include departing



and arriving passengers in the case of international traffic. "The domestic passenger traffic registered a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 7.0 per cent during the period 2015-16 to 2025-26 while the international passenger traffic grew at 4.6 per cent (CAGR) during the same period," the report said. On the international traffic front, the market share of Indian carriers was 44.4 per cent while that of foreign airlines stood at 55.6 per cent in 2025-26. Indian airlines' market share of international traffic declined from 45.7 per cent in 2024-25. Out of a total 90 scheduled international operators in India, the top 10 operators accounted for nearly 65 per cent and the top 15 operators accounted for 73.1 per cent of the total international passenger traffic in 2025-26. In terms of outbound international passenger traffic in the last financial year, the report said 51.5 per cent was to Africa and Middle East, 30.4 per cent to Asia Pacific and 13.6 per cent to Europe, the report said. The report showed that demand was higher than the available capacity in the last financial year. "In the year 2025-26, ASK and RPK in the domestic market registered a positive growth compared to the previous year. "During the year from 2015-16 to 2025-26, the capacity (ASK) in the domestic market grew at a rate of 7.0 per cent (CAGR) while the demand (RPK) grew at 7.3 per cent (CAGR) during the same period," it said.

SoftBank posts $7.1-bn loss amid valuation concerns

NEW DELHI: Japanese investment giant SoftBank Group has reported its first quarterly net loss in nearly two years as falling valuations of key technology holdings and growing concerns over artificial intelligence (AI) investments weighed on its financial performance.

The company posted a net loss of 1.12 trillion yen ($7.1 billion) in the second quarter of its financial year, reversing a profit recorded in the corresponding period a year earlier. The performance was significantly below market expectations with analysts polled by the company estimating an average profit of 129 billion yen. Declines in the share prices of semiconductor companies Arm Holdings and Intel, along with South Korean e-commerce major Coupang, contributed to the deterioration in SoftBank's financial performance. Its Vision Fund division -- which manages investments in hundreds of technology startups -- also reported a loss of 81.6 billion yen. SoftBank has increasingly emerged as an indicator of investor sentiment towards OpenAI and the broader AI industry, given its substantial exposure to the sector.

Nvidia slips into bear market, wipes out $1.57 trillion in value

New Delhi

US chipmaker Nvidia has lost around $1.57 trillion in market capitalisation after its shares plunged more than 26 per cent from their 52-week high with entering bear-market territory amid investor concerns over artificial intelligence (AI) spending and growing scrutiny surrounding its Chief Executive Officer Jensen Huang.

The company's market capitalisation stood at $4.31 trillion at the close of trading on November 9, down from approximately $5.88 trillion when its shares touched a 52-week high of $243.37, according to a report.

Moreover, the estimated erosion in market value is larger than the entire market capitalisation of electric vehicle manufacturer Tesla, which stands at around $1.49 trillion.

Nvidia shares closed at $178.67 on November 9, a decline of around 26.6 per



cent from their 52-week peak. The stock has also witnessed sustained selling pressure, falling 14 per cent over the past week and 22 per cent over the last 30 days.

It has declined 18 per cent over three months and 17 per cent over six months.

The sharp correction comes ahead of the company's quarterly earnings announcement scheduled for November 17 with investors closely monitoring the sustainability of global AI infrastructure spending and demand for advanced semiconductor chips.

Adding to the company's challenges, recent developments involving Huang have brought the chipmaker's leadership under increased scrutiny. As per reports, Huang had engaged crisis communications firm Heller Inc. as early as October 2025, months before publicly acknowledging an extramarital relationship with a former executive of Singapore-based data centre company Megaspeed.

The communications firm was also brought into Nvidia's media response process following questions raised over the company's chip sales and possible diversion of advanced semiconductors to Chinese entities in violation of US export restrictions, they added.

Moreover, Megaspeed had reportedly acquired nearly $2 billion worth of Nvidia chips, the report said.

In a statement released on Sunday, Jensen Huang acknowledged having an affair with a former Megaspeed executive, without naming the woman. He also apologised to his family and Nvidia employees.



Entertainment

Ram Charan, Nagarjuna predict blockbuster for Aneesh with 'Itlu Arjuna'

Mega Power Star Ram Charan and King Nagarjuna are confident and happy about the film 'Itlu Arjuna' which is being presented by Nagarjuna. They applauded the work done by newbie Aneesh in the grand music concert of the film which will be released globally on November 13.

Ram Charan was impressed by the sincerity and acting done by Aneesh. He compared his debut challenging role with his performance in Rangasthalam. He wished that the film has more success. He also complimented the director Mahesh Uppala, producer Venky Kudumula and music composer S. Thaman. Nagarjuna said he got surprised with Aneesh's performance. He appreciated the expressions and his silent strength. He also highlighted the great chemistry between Aneesh and Anaswara Rajan.



Akhil Akkineni too complimented the film for its marketability, acting and music.

The film produced under What Next Entertainment is the debut direction and production of Mahesh Uppala. The film has some chart buster songs and positive response in the promotions. It has created lot of expectations.

-S Suhas

Mouli promises a fun-filled entertainer with 'DNK'

Actor Mouli Tanuj Prashanth assures that the upcoming film DNK directed by debutant Sreenu Kambala and produced under Mythri Movie Makers will be a wholesome entertainer with crimes, comedy, twists and music. The film is set for a theatrical release on November 13.

"It's a pure entertainer. People can watch this film with their families. The promo material is getting a good response and the promos tour in Andhra Pradesh is going well. The trailer has been released by Ravi Teja," Mouli said at the media interaction.



The film revolves around a young man who gets tempted towards easy money by gambling and faces debt due to his decisions. The film tells us about the unexpected circumstances and troubles he faces after committing a theft to get out of the debt.

"We have veteran comedian Ali playing an important role in the film. The scenes I have with him are amazing and it was a fun experience." The film has music by Sinjith. The songs and BGM add more value to the film. The lead actor says he had danced in a song even though he has no experience. He thanks the choreographer Sandeep Master.

"I was involved in the production only to know how it is done and the real aspects. But I am interested in directing films in the future. It is a big responsibility and you need experience."

Entertaining, surprising twists and family friendly, DNK is all set for its theatrical run.

-P Ravi Teja

Arjun Sarja's powerful look as Viraavi in 'Polimera 3' raises expectations



The makers of Polimera 3 have released some interesting poster of Viraavi where Action King Arjun Sarja has been seen as a powerful warrior. The poster has been released on Diwali and has raised more anticipation about the upcoming supernatural thriller film.

Directed by Dr. Anil Vishwanath, it takes the franchise to a bigger cinematic universe involving elements of spirituality, black magic and supernatural. Starting with some mysterious visuals of temples, Lord Vishnu, Lord Shiva the poster moves to the divine look of Anantha Padmanabha Swamy. Later in the poster Satyam Rajesh is seen as Komaraiah doing black magic. Finally Arjun Sarja makes a stunning entrance.His strong screen presence, wielding of sword and intense look are the main highlights of the poster. The cinematography, background music and production values are also strong. Produced by Vamsi Nandipati and Bharath Narang, the film stars Kamakshi Bhaskarla, Getup Srinu, Baladitya and Rakendu Mouli. After the success of the first two parts, Polimera 3 is set to hit the theatres in a big way in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam.

-S Suhas



Sumaya Reddy comes with second production; title to be out soon

Sumaya Reddy announces her second production under her Production House Suma Chitra Arts. The makers have released a special Diwali poster announcing the release of the movie title shortly.

The pre look poster has actress Sumaya Reddy in a regal look with money and gold bundles in her hands. She looks gorgeous in this poster which has made people curious. The visuals suggest this could be a period drama. She will also play the role of producer and heroine.

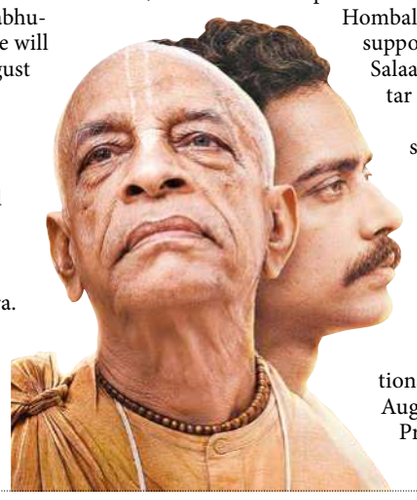
Sumaya made her acting debut with Dear Uma and has received attention for her work as an actress, producer and writer. She is looking forward to continue her journey in Telugu cinema with this project. The makers are expected to announce the title and other details shortly. The poster has created some anticipation.

-P Ravi Teja

Hombale Films announces AI-based animated film 'Sharanagathi'

Hombale Films is taking cinematic storytelling to new heights with Sharanagathi – The Life of a Surrendered Soul, the inspiring story of ISKCON Founder-Acharya Srila Prabhupada. This AI driven movie will be released globally in August 2027. This movie has been made in association with Transcendental Films and Dive Deep AI Studio. It's directed, written and produced by Gaura Shakti Das. It is produced by Rajesh Singh and Lohith Rao. The Visual Director of the movie is Sridhar Shikaripura.

This motion capture uses a combination of AI and computer vision technology to take real-life motions, expressions and gestures and create lifelike 3D animations. This will give more realism and emotion to the characters in this movie. The film follows Srila Prabhupada's journey to the United States of America in 1965 aged 69 to spread Krishna Consciousness and the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita. Srila Prabhupada's life is one of devotion, perseverance and selfless service.



Hombale Films are known for supporting films like KGF, Salaar, Kantara and Mahavatar Narasimha.

They continue to tell stories grounded in culture through innovative filmmaking.

This film will be presented and distributed globally by Hombale Films and will be blessed by several spiritual institutions. It will be released in August 2027 which is Srila Prabhupada's Vyasa Puja.

-P Ravi Teja



RV Film House debut venture 'Kokkoroko' gets wrapped

The team behind the debut venture of RV Film House, 'Kokkoroko' has successfully wrapped up the shoot of the film. They have also shared a special wrap poster. Along with this, they have also shared a cute love teaser of the lead pair, Seenu and Parvathi.

In the teaser, Parvathi can be seen waiting for Seenu to gift her flowers picked from a pond. With natural acting, amazing chemistry and beautiful visuals the teaser makes one curious to know more about the love story of this film. The film is a 5 character anthology directed by debutante Srinivas Vasanthala. The story and screenplay of the film has been written by filmmaker Ramesh Varma.

The film has been produced by Rekha Varma and Kurapati Sireesha along with Neelladri Production as a co-producer. The dialogues of the film have been written by playback singer GV Sagar. The cinematography has been done by Akash R. Joshi. The music of the film has been composed by London based musician Sankeerthan. The film has been edited by Prawin Pudi.

-S Suhas

Vishwadev Rachakonda calls 'Dark Chocolate' a memorable big-screen experience



Actor Vishwadev Rachakonda is confident that his upcoming film "Dark Chocolate" will provide the audience with a unique and memorable experience.

The film promises a unique approach as the cast and crew have worked hard to ensure that it stands out from the rest. He spoke about this at the curtain raiser for the film. The film, presented by Rana Daggubati, Spirit Media and Waltair Productions, stars Vishwadev Rachakonda and Bindu Madhavi. It was also directed by first-time director Shashank Srivastava and will hit theatres globally on the 13th of November. The film will get its US launch thee days prior. "We did something special. We put in a lot of effort and believe in this film. I'm confident that the story has everything. People who have seen it so far have said it was a memorable experience and they want to watch it again," Vishwadev said.

"It's a unique idea. We want people to give US honest feedback. We hope that the film gets a great reception from Telugu audiences," Bindu Madhavi added.

Shashank thanked the cast and crew, especially praising the lead actors. He also thanked music composer Vivek Sagar for providing a great soundtrack.

A few filmmakers in attendance loved how the film was told in an unorthodox way and felt the cast and crew were confident. The film has received positive reactions from the teaser and is now ready for its theatrical run.

-S Suhas