PAGE 8



THE Hans India

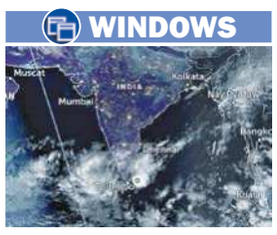


PAGE 9

Simultaneously published from Hyderabad | Warangal | Tirupati | Vijayawada | Visakhapatnam | Khammam | Kurnool | Delhi

For Advertisements Pl Call: 8096967713 Follow @ / thehansindia / thehansindiaweb / thehansindia / TheHansIndiaWeb / thehansindia Book your Copy: 97055 55551

WINDOWS



NEW CYCLONE ON THE WAY?

Fresh low-pressure area likely over Bay of Bengal around Nov 13

NEW DELHI: Even as southern Odisha reels from severe flooding and landslides caused by cyclones Arnab and Murasu, which hit the Andhra Pradesh coast within a span of six days, a fresh weather system is expected to develop over the Bay of Bengal around November 13.

As per the latest weather update, the system is expected to move northwestwards before turning into a well-marked low-pressure area during the subsequent 24 hours.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

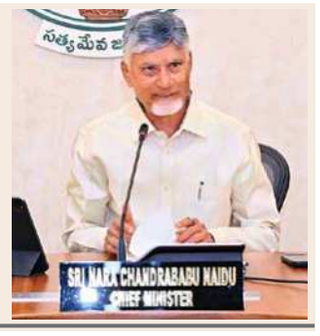


Replace all AQI monitors with two-digit meters. The AQI will never exceed 99!

Cabinet nod for ₹31,387-cr AI data centre in Vizag dist

K Varaprasada Rao
Amaravati

- AM Intelligence's data centre expected to generate 1k jobs
- Green signal for IT, AI, Robotics and AVGC-XR policies



THE Andhra Pradesh Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu at the Secretariat here on Tuesday, approved a series of major investment proposals, with a particular focus on establishing the state as a destination for artificial intelligence (AI), data centres, electronics and advanced manufacturing. The Cabinet discussed 34 agenda items and cleared three key policy initiatives covering the IT, AI and robotics sectors, besides amendments to the AP Semiconductor and Display Fab Policy.

Among the major proposals approved was the establishment of a 512 MW Green Integrated AI Data Centre by AM Intelligence at Bheemunipatnam in Visakhapatnam district, involving an investment of Rs 31,387 crore and expected to generate 1,000 jobs. The Cabinet also approved the allocation of around 25 acres at Bhogapuram for a giga-scale AI data centre by Reliance Industries. Epack's proposal to establish an AI data centre equipment manufacturing unit at Rambilli in Anakapalli district was cleared. The project involves an investment of Rs 570.20 crore and is expected to provide employment to 2,565 people. The Cabinet also reviewed the progress of the Adani Cloud Hub project. The proposed Carbon Cosmo battery material manufacturing facility at Naidupeta in Tirupati district received approval, with an investment of Rs 4,000.20 crore and an employment potential of 700. Dixon Technologies was granted approval for land allocation for its proposed manufacturing unit in Tirupati, involving Rs 700 crore investment and 2,300 jobs.

The Cabinet approved the expansion of Ravali Spinners in West Godavari district with an investment of Rs 236.92 crore, expected to create 1,569 jobs. It also cleared the allocation of 173.82 acre to Hetero Group pharmaceutical companies in the Nakkapalli Bulk Drug Park.

Continued on Page 7

India to remain only major economy with workforce surplus thru 2030

NEW DELHI: India will emerge as a key source of skilled talent for the global economy as it is projected to remain the only major economy with a surplus workforce through 2030 even as 85 million jobs worldwide could remain unfilled by then because of skill shortages, a new report has said.

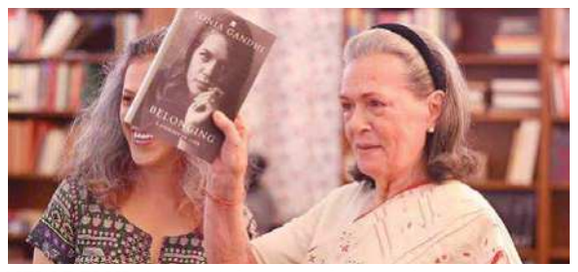
The report from India Narrative cited Korn Ferry estimates that global skills shortages could result in $8.5 trillion in unrealised annual revenue.

India's demographic profile is expected to play a major role in this advantage, the report said, adding that the country's median age is nearly 28 years, against 38 years in the United States and 39 years in China.

Continued on Page 7

'BELONGING: A JOURNEY OF LOVE'

Sonia Gandhi's book brings political memoirs in focus



NEW DELHI: A memoir by former Congress president and Rajya Sabha MP Sonia Gandhi released on Tuesday, with its pages offering a rare insight by the politician into how she came from humble Italian origins and went on to become the matriarch of India's most powerful political dynasty — the Nehru-Gandhi family. The book called "Belonging: A Journey of Love" was Published by HarperCollins India.

Continued on Page 7

Sonia Gandhi trying to justify Emergency in her memoir: BJP P7

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

New Delhi



THE Supreme Court has directed WhatsApp and other digital intermediaries to submit details of measures proposed by them to prevent digital arrest scams and related cybercrimes, asking them to simultaneously share their proposals with the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C).

A bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, comprising Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana, issued the direction in an order uploaded on the court's website following the October 29 hearing in a suo motu case titled 'In Re: Victims of Digital Arrest Related to Forged Documents'.

Continued on Page 7

'SURRENDER TO IRAN'S 7 CONDITIONS'

Tehran asks Trump after call to end war

TEHRAN: Iran's powerful secretary of the supreme national security council Major General Mohsen Rezaei has issued a warning to the US after Donald Trump indicated that the war is unlikely to resume. Rezaei called on the US to submit to Iran's seven conditions to bring an immediate end to the conflict in West Asia.

Continued on Page 7

Indirect polls to MPP, ZPP chief posts

Elections to be held in 659 Mandal Parishads and 28 Zilla Parishads on Nov 19,20

Hans News Service
Amaravati



THE State Election Commission (SEC) has announced the schedule for indirect elections to the posts of mandal parishad presidents and vice-presidents and zilla parishad chairpersons and vice-chairpersons across Andhra Pradesh. The elections will be held on November 19 and 20, respectively, following the completion of polling and counting for MPTC and ZPTC constituencies.

State Election Commissioner Anil Chandra Punetha issued the notifications on Tuesday, for conducting elections to the leadership positions and co-opted membership in 659 Mandal Praja Parishads (MPPs) and 28 Zilla Praja Parishads (ZPPs).

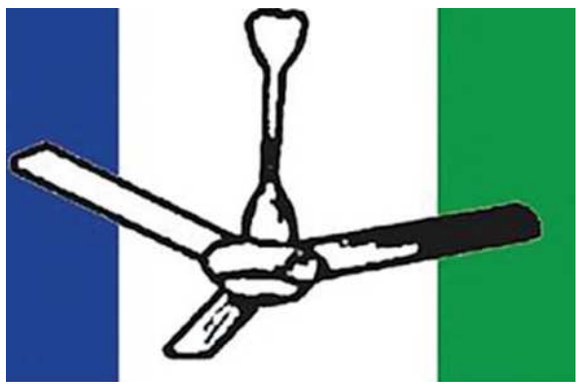
According to the schedule, special meetings will be convened by the respective presiding officers on November 19 to elect MPP presidents and vice-presidents, while the corresponding elections in ZPPs will be conducted on November 20. Notices convening these meetings will be served on the elected MPTC and ZPTC members by November 14.

Continued on Page 7



YSRCP urges SEC to ensure free and fair gram panchayat polls

- Party alleges ruling coalition leaders are pressuring officials to shift nomination centres
- Leaders cite alleged irregularities in previous local body elections and seek action against violators
- Petition highlights concerns over nomination obstruction, bogus voting and recounts



Hans News Service
Amaravati

YSRCP leaders urged the State Election Commission to ensure that upcoming gram panchayat elections are free and fair. They alleged that ruling NDA coalition MLAs are pressuring officials to make candidates file nominations at mandal-level cluster centres instead of the designated places within their gram panchayats.

Party legal cell state president Malasani Manohar Reddy and grievance cell state president Ankareddy Narayana Murthy submitted a petition to the SEC. They said similar pressure had already been reported in Rayachoti and Maidukuru and sought immediate action against leaders and officials who violate election rules.

Manohar Reddy alleged that YSRCP candidates were previously prevented from filing nominations in 84 ZPTC and more than 2,000 MPTC seats. He said polling agents were arrested at 3 am in over 50 polling centres and forcibly removed from another 50. He also alleged that recounts overturned results in seats where YSRCP candidates led by 700-800 votes, and that fresh declarations favouring TDP candidates were issued even after victory certificates had been given.

Narayana Murthy rejected Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's claim that the polls were peaceful and that the coalition won 76 per cent of the seats. He alleged that police and revenue officials were used to enable bogus voting, arrests and result changes. He also said Supreme Court directions on CCTV cameras, webcasting and police security were not properly followed in some places.

The leaders asked the SEC to prevent nomination obstruction and take strict action against anyone violating election rules.

Investment summits turn into corporate tourism: CPM

- Party state secretary questions claims of 50 lakh jobs through investment summits
- Alleges failure to deliver promised investments; seeks protection of workers' rights

Dasari Srinivasa Rao
Vijayawada



CPM state secretary V Srinivasa Rao addressing a press conference at Balotsav Bhavan in Vijayawada on Tuesday

CPM state secretary V Srinivasa Rao criticised the state government for organising investment summits to attract investment and generate employment, alleging they have become corporate tourism programmes without delivering the promised jobs.

Addressing a press conference at Balotsav Bhavan in Vijayawada on Tuesday, he said that not even 10 per cent of the Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) signed since 2016 had materialised and less than two per cent of the promised jobs had been created.

He said successive partnership summits had promised nearly 50 lakh jobs, but most commitments remained on paper. In 2016, 328 MoUs worth Rs 4.67 lakh crore promised 10 lakh jobs, while 665 agreements worth Rs 10.54 lakh crore in 2017 promised 22.34 lakh jobs, he said. Similarly, 734 MoUs worth Rs 4.40 lakh crore were signed in 2018, promising 11 lakh jobs, he added. Referring to the Reliance gas project in Konaseema, he said that despite a promise of one lakh jobs, only around 3,200 people had reportedly been employed. The Kia project, which promised 30,000 jobs, had provided employment to only around 12,000 people, he claimed.

He expressed concern over the closure of spinning mills, dairy units and sugar factories and demanded that the government organise labour conferences alongside investment summits to protect workers' rights.

On environmental issues, he warned that increasing pollution in Visakhapatnam, coupled with proposed data centres and ethanol projects, could affect public health. He demanded an expert committee to examine their environmental impact.

Commenting on local body elections, he alleged that the State Election Commission had failed to ensure free and fair polling and accused the government of using police to suppress opposition parties. Despite alleged intimidation and attacks, the CPM had increased its vote share from 7.4% in 2021 to 8.2% in the latest elections, he said. He thanked voters, particularly those in agency areas, and called for continued unity among Left parties.

Terming Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu's claim that the results reflected public support for his governance as self-deception, he alleged electoral irregularities and appealed to people to participate in the CPM-CPI protest on November 11. He also demanded immediate enumeration of losses caused by cyclones Arnab and Murasu and compensation for affected farmers and tenant cultivators. He criticised the Chief Minister for raising the issue of scrapping Rs.500 notes instead of addressing rising prices.

AP CID busts Webland land records fraud, arrests four



MV Syam Sundar
Amaravati

THE Crime Investigation Department (CID) has unearthed a major fraud involving unauthorised manipulation of Webland records by misusing the login credentials of a senior National Informatics Centre (NIC) officer. Four persons have been arrested in connection with the racket, which allegedly altered around 30 land records covering approximately 70 acres across different locations.

The case came to light following a report from the office of the chief commissioner of land administration (CCLA) regarding suspicious alterations in Webland records relating to four land parcels measuring 6.55 acres in Indlacheruvu and Padamara Lakshmipuram villages of Donakonda mandal in Prakasam district. The CID registered a case on October 1.

Investigation revealed that an outsourced junior developer at NIC, Vijayawada, Rangaiahgari Sai Kumar, allegedly manipulated the Webland database using the login credentials of G V S R Sarma, a senior NIC officer, without his knowledge or authorisation. The accused bypassed the prescribed application, verification and revenue department approval procedures to enter new pattadar names in the online records.

According to the CID, Vadlamudi Yedukondalu initially sought changes in his family's land records in favour of his father. He allegedly coordinated with intermediaries Vemula Venkat Rao, an outsourced data entry operator at CDMA, here, and Shaik Basha, a technical assistant associated with the Anna canteen project. Basha allegedly connected them with Sai Kumar to execute the database alterations.

The investigation found that payments ranging from Rs.50,000 to Rs.70,000 per acre were collected for the changes. UPI transactions of Rs.50,000 and Rs.25,000 were identified as part of the evidence. The estimated value of transactions is around Rs.50 lakh.

CID seized mobile phones, digital payment details and two PowerPoint presentations containing proposed Khata additions, Aadhaar images and Adangal particulars. The investigation is continuing to identify beneficiaries, trace financial transactions and establish the full extent of the fraud.

CID advised landowners to regularly verify their Webland records and avoid middlemen promising unauthorised changes. It clarified that an unauthorised Webland entry does not confer legal ownership.

The investigation was conducted under the supervision of CID SP Dr K V Srinivasa Rao by ASP S. Sireesha and her team. DGP Dr Ravi Shankar Ayyannar appreciated the officers for detecting the fraud. Further victims can contact ASP S Sireesha at 9247560212.

HELP FOR CYCLONE-HIT FARMERS SOUGHT

- Tourism Minister Kandula Durgesh attends cabinet meeting held at Amaravati
- Appeals to the Chief Minister to ensure that every farmer who suffered crop losses receives appropriate government compensation

Deekshitula Subrahmanyam
Rajamahendravaram



Minister Kandula Durgesh meeting Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu for assistance to all farmers affected by successive cyclones in East Godavari district

TOURISM, Culture and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh has appealed to Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu to extend government assistance to all farmers affected by successive cyclones Murusu and Arnab in East Godavari district, particularly in Nidadavole constituency.

During the Cabinet meeting held at Amaravati, the minister brought to the Chief Minister's notice the extensive damage caused by the natural calamities and the hardships faced by farmers in the district.

Durgesh explained that heavy rains and the overflowing Errakalava canal had inundated several neighbouring villages, leaving vast stretches of agricultural land submerged. Standing crops, which were ready for harvest, had been completely damaged, dealing a severe blow to the farming community. Floodwater also entered several houses, disrupting normal life in the affected areas, he said.

The minister said that only a limited number of farmers had crop insurance coverage and urged the government to consider even those without insurance on humanitarian grounds. He appealed to the Chief Minister to ensure that every farmer who suffered crop losses received appropriate government compensation.

He also sought immediate enumeration of crop and house damage caused by the cyclones and Errakalava floods.

He urged the authorities to include every eligible affected farmer in the assessment lists without excluding anyone on technical grounds. Durgesh appealed to the Chief Minister to extend comprehensive support to farmers and people of Nidadavole constituency during the difficult period. CM responded positively to his representations, the minister said.

East Godavari collector instructs speedy restoration of road

- Reviews the losses caused by the impact of Cyclone Morusu and the subsequent heavy rains and floods
- Officials told to take precautionary measures to prevent accidents and ensure the safety of commuters

Deekshitula Subrahmanyam
Rajamahendravaram



East Godavari district collector Kirti Chekuri inspecting the damaged Karicharlagudem–Sanjeevapuram road in Gopalapuram mandal on Tuesday

EAST Godavari district collector Kirti Chekuri has directed officials of the Panchayat Raj and Irrigation departments to take up restoration of the severely damaged Karicharlagudem–Sanjeevapuram road in Gopalapuram mandal on a war footing to ensure that people do not face inconvenience.

The collector inspected the damaged road on Tuesday and reviewed the losses caused by the impact of Cyclone Morusu and the subsequent heavy rains and floods. Officials informed her that nearly 320 metres of the road had been completely washed away, while another 700 metres had developed severe damage, with portions tilting to one side and sinking due to the floodwater.

Kirti Chekuri directed officials to take precautionary measures to prevent accidents and ensure the safety of commuters. Officials informed her that temporary restoration works had already been taken up by the Panchayat Raj department. She instructed them to expedite permanent restoration measures.

The collector asked the Irrigation department to install pipelines at the breached locations to regulate and divert the floodwater according to the flow conditions. The Panchayat Raj department was directed to undertake necessary repairs and reconstruction of the damaged road. She stressed that both departments should work in close coordination and complete the works at the earliest.

The collector said she had been touring cyclone-affected areas of Gopalapuram mandal for the past three days to assess the situation. Heavy rainfall of nearly 60 mm within five hours, coupled with massive inflows from upper catchment areas, had resulted in breaches in several tanks and extensive damage, she said.

Strong winds and heavy rains had severely affected paddy and banana crops. The crop enumeration process was currently underway on a large scale to assess the losses, she added.

The district administration had also requested the government to send an Inter-Ministerial Central Team to assess the extensive damage in the district. The team was expected to visit the affected and inundated areas shortly and facilitate appropriate assistance to the victims, she said.

AIKS convention from Nov 15 in Nalgonda

VIJAYAWADA: The 36th national convention of the All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) will be held in Nalgonda, Telangana, from November 15 to 18, Andhra Pradesh Rythu Sangham State secretary K Prabhakar Reddy announced on Tuesday.

Prabhakar Reddy, along with State president V Krishnaiah, AP Koulu Rythu Sangham president B Balaram, its secretary M Haribabu and senior Rythu Sangham leader Y Keshava Rao, unveiled the wall poster of the convention at Balotsav Bhavan in Vijayawada. Addressing a press conference, Prabhakar Reddy said the convention would discuss major challenges facing the agriculture sector and farmers across the country. A massive public meeting with around one lakh farmers would be organised on November 15. Former MP Brinda Karat, AIKS national president Ashok Dhawale, general secretary Vijoo Krishnan and former general secretary Anan Mulla would participate. Koulu Rythu Sangham State general secretary M Haribabu called upon farmers and tenant cultivators from Andhra Pradesh to participate in the convention. He said the organisations would conduct village-level campaigns and flag-hoisting programmes on November 14 and 15 to mobilise farmers.



Andhra Pradesh Rythu Sangham and AP Koulu Rythu Sangham leaders releasing the poster of the All India Kisan Sabha national convention in Vijayawada on Tuesday

Scientist Vijayabhaskar Reddy to quit YSRCP

Hans News Service
VIJAYAWADA

PROMINENT scientist and political leader Annapareddy Vijayabhaskar Reddy has decided to resign from the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), expressing strong dissatisfaction with the leadership of YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and the party's functioning. He is expected to continue his public service through a new political platform being established under the leadership of former Rajya Sabha MP V Vijayasai Reddy.

Vijayabhaskar Reddy, who has international experience in pharmacy and clinical research and worked as a scientist in the United States returned to India with the intention of serving society.

In his criticism, he alleged that Jagan had failed to uphold the ideals of former Chief Minister YS Rajasekhara Reddy and lacked political maturity and leadership qualities. He also blamed the party's inner circle and alleged that grassroots workers were neglected despite their sacrifices and loyalty.



Annapareddy Vijayabhaskar Reddy

He criticised the alleged misuse of the party's media for personal promotion instead of highlighting public issues. Stating that continuing in the party would amount to compromising his principles, Vijayabhaskar Reddy decided to pursue a new political course.

ZPTC, MPTC members felicitated

An interaction and felicitation programme was organised for newly elected Municipal Councillors, ZPTC and MPTC members

Dasari Srnivasa Rao
Vijayawada



Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni), MLA Vasantha Venkata Krishna Prasad and other leaders felicitating newly elected ZPTC and MPTC members at Ithavaram village of Nandigama mandal on Tuesday

MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni) called upon newly elected ZPTC and MPTC members to work with dedication, uphold people's trust and give priority to village development. He congratulated the NDA candidates who emerged victorious in the recent local body elections.

Mylavaram MLA Vasantha Krishna Prasad organised an interaction and felicitation programme for newly elected Municipal Councillors, ZPTC and MPTC members of Mylavaram Assembly Constituency at his residence at Ithavaram in Nandigama Mandal in NTR district on Tuesday.

The programme was attended by Nandigama MLA and Government Whip Tangirala Sowmya, NTR district TDP president Gadde Anuradha, Jana Sena Party district president Samineni Udayabhanu and other senior leaders.

Speaking on the occasion, MP Kesineni Chinni said he had campaigned less in Mylavaram constituency during the local body elections because of his confidence in MLA Krishna Prasad's leadership and his efforts to address people's problems. He said the NDA's performance in NTR district, which he described as a 95% strike rate, was the result of the collective efforts of TDP, Jana Sena and BJP leaders and cadres. He urged alliance workers to set aside personal differences and maintain unity.

MLA Vasantha Krishna Prasad said the alliance's victories reflected the unity of the three parties and the confidence reposed in them by the people.

He said the alliance had won 33 of the 40 seats contested in Kondapalli Municipality, 62 of the 73 MPTC seats across the five mandals in the constituency and all five ZPTC seats.

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

REGIONAL OFFICE VISAKHAPATNAM | GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

This is to inform all that the following account holders have not paid their dues despite repeated requests and notices from the Bank to pay the loans taken by pledging gold ornaments in the following **Canara Bank** Branch. Since the time for payment of the loan has passed, the said gold ornaments will be auctioned at the premises of our Bank's concerned branch on **26-11-2026, Thursday at 3 pm** and the dues in their name will be collected. In case any of these account holders do not receive the notices from the Bank or those who reject the notices are hereby informed in writing. If the dues are not cancelled despite the auction, legal action will be taken against them and the remaining dues will be collected and the expenses of the auction etc. will be charged to their accounts. In case any of the following account holders dies, this auction notice will be applicable to their legal heirs.

MADHURAWADA-2 [13582]. Ph : 99121 92515 & 83175 14087

Account Numbers	Borrowers Names & Address	Gross Weight
164063932412	**Sappa Divya Bharthi, W/o. S. Manga Raju,** 8-125, RH Colony, PM Palem, Near Nookalamma Temple, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh-530041	**18.90 Grams**

Auction Terms & Conditions : **(1)** Those who wish to participate in the auction may participate in the auction by paying a deposit of **Rs.25,000/-** at the relevant branch. Only the person who has paid the deposit will be allowed to enter the auction hall. **(2)** The reserve price of the above jewellery will be determined based on the gold price prevailing on the date of auction. The bank will not be responsible for any disputes regarding the value, quantity or quality of the above items by the participants in the auction. **(3)** The highest bidder should pay the entire deposit on the same day and receive the items. Otherwise, the deposit will be forfeited. **(4)** If any of the above account holders still have debts with our bank, the remaining amount will be adjusted to that account through the auction. **(5)** KYC. Document must be submitted to the satisfaction of the bank. **(6)** GST and other taxes will be borne by the bidder. **(7)** The Bank reserves the right to change the conditions of the auction, postpone or cancel the auction without assigning any reason. **(8)** For other details, please contact the concerned Branch Manager.

Date : 11.11.2026, Place : Vsakhapatnam Sd/- Authorised Officer, Canara Bank

All set for 'CII Partnership Summit 2026'

- Since its inception in 1995, the CII Partnership Summit has emerged as one of India's premier platforms for international economic cooperation and investment promotion
- Delegates will have an opportunity to explore investment prospects, strategic partnerships and collaboration opportunities across key sectors



Footpaths get a facelift for the CII Partnership Summit – 2026 in Visakhapatnam

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

THE Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), in partnership with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Government of Andhra Pradesh is organising the 31st CII Partnership Summit 2026 on November 12-13 in Visakhapatnam.

Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry, will serve as the Summit Chairman, and N Chandrababu Naidu, Chief Minister, will serve as the co-chair of the summit. Since its inception in 1995, the CII Partnership Summit has emerged as one of India's premier platforms for international economic cooperation, investment promotion and business engagement. The summit attracts global leaders from government, industry, academia, multilateral institutions and the investor community, fostering partnerships that drive economic growth and global collaboration. As the global business landscape undergoes rapid transformation driven by evolving trade patterns, emerging technologies, sustainability imperatives and geopolitical shifts, the partnership summit provides a powerful platform to connect with policymakers, investors, business leaders and innovators from across the world. The summit is expected to bring together around 20 overseas ministers, senior policymakers, global CEOs, investors, industry leaders, academicians and thought leaders from countries across Asia, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Oceania and the Americas.

The summit will serve as a premier platform for dialogue, collaboration and business engagement, enabling participants to explore emerging opportunities, forge strategic partnerships and gain insights into the trends shaping the future of trade, technology, investment and sustainable growth.

Centered on trade, investment & global value chains, trust, geo-economics and global cooperation, technology, innovation & future industry, talent, skills and global mobility, transition to clean energy and sustainable growth and transforming agriculture, food security and bio-economy, the summit will feature high-level deliberations across six strategic tracks.

Participants will benefit from ministerial and sectoral sessions, fireside chats, country dialogues, technology showcases, and curated B2B and B2G meetings. These engagements will provide opportunities for knowledge exchange, networking, partnership development, and business growth. As the host state, Andhra Pradesh offers a compelling investment destination with its strategic coastline, world-class ports, industrial corridors, advanced logistics infrastructure, thriving manufacturing ecosystem and investor-friendly policies.

Delegates will have an opportunity to explore investment prospects, strategic partnerships and collaboration opportunities across key sectors driving the state's growth several notches up.

It may be recalled that the 2025 edition of the summit saw the signing of over 600 MoUs with an investment commitment of Rs 13.35 lakh crore.

Bolisetty calls for setting up environmentally-sustainable industries

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

INDIA is facing a serious environmental crisis, which should be a matter of grave concern for all, emphasised national convenor of Jal Biradari Bolisetty Satyanarayana on Tuesday.

Highlighting the 2026 Yale Environmental Performance Index (EPI), the environmental activist said India ranked 176th among 177 countries. "Given raising environmental concerns, CII Partnership Summit should focus on promoting pollution-free industries, green technologies, conservation of water resources and reduction of carbon emissions rather than focusing merely on industrial investments, production and job creation," Satyanarayana stressed. At a time when India is facing severe water scarcity and serious environmental challenges, why are thousands of megawatts of data centre projects encouraged, he questioned, drawing the attention to hyperscale data centres. "People in several countries across the world are raising concerns about the enormous electricity consumption, water requirement and environmental impact of data centres," the national convenor of Jal Biradari expressed concern. What are the actual economic benefits of these projects? What will be their environmental impact? How will their enormous water and electricity requirements be met and these are the points which needed larger attention, he conveyed.



National convenor of Jal Biradari Bolisetty Satyanarayana

Calling for scientific and evidence-based discussion at the CII Summit, rather than decisions being driven by political considerations, Satyanarayana mentioned that the summit should not remain an investment-oriented one but become a platform that provides global direction for pollution-free and environmentally-sustainable industrial development.

Murthy Yadav quits JSP



Jana Sena Party former corporator Peethala Murthy Yadav addressing the media in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

FORMER Jana Sena Party corporator Peethala Murthy Yadav resigned from the party's membership, expressing disappointment over a lack of recognition for his years of hard work and commitment to the party. Speaking to the media in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday, Murthy Yadav said he had worked tirelessly for the Jana Sena Party over the years but was deeply hurt by the leadership's failure to recognise his contributions.

Recalling his association with the party, he said he was among the few leaders who faced police cases and imprisonment during the previous YSR Congress Party government for going to the Visakhapatnam Airport to welcome Jana Sena chief K. Pawan Kalyan. He alleged that the police had booked cases against those who participated in the welcome programme and sent them to jail.

He expressed anguish that several others who faced imprisonment during the same episode were offered positions in the party and government, while he was not even given an opportunity to contest as a corporator again in the recently concluded GVMC polls.

Murthy Yadav highlighted his legal battles to protect valuable government and public properties in Visakhapatnam and the Uttarandhra region. He recalled filing several Public Interest Litigations (PILs) to expose alleged irregularities and prevent the misuse of public assets.

He also referred to his legal fight concerning the controversial Rushikonda palace constructed during the previous YSRCP government. He alleged that former Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy had pursued legal action to prevent him from entering the premises.

Similarly, he recalled challenging the multi-storey construction allegedly undertaken by former YSRCP MP M V V Satyanarayana on land belonging to the CBCNC Christian organisation, claiming that his legal intervention helped halt the project.

Hassle-free transportation for delegates for CII Partnership Summit

- Special staff has been deployed at the airport bus bay to guide delegates arriving from different parts of the country and abroad



APSRTC Visakhapatnam Regional Manager B Appala Naidu instructing the staff at the ASR International Airport in Vizianagaram

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

IN a major move to make hassle-free transportation for delegates attending the 31st CII Partnership Summit-2026, the APSRTC made detailed arrangements to operate special bus services connecting Bhogapuram Airport with key locations across the city.

As part of these arrangements, APSRTC Visakhapatnam Regional Manager B Appala Naidu visited ASR International Airport and inspected the transport facilities and operational setup.

Special staff has been deployed at the airport bus bay to guide delegates arriving from different parts of the country and abroad. They will provide necessary information, assist passengers in identifying bus services and facilitate their boarding.

According to APSRTC officials, buses will operate every hour from the airport along the highway, connecting Marikavalasa, Madhurawada, Anandapuram, Gurudwara, NAD and Old Gajuwaka.

Similarly, hourly bus services will be available from the airport to IT Park, RTC Complex, Railway Station, Scindia and Old Gajuwaka for convenient connectivity to important destinations.

Special attention was also paid to flight schedules to ensure that delegates and other passengers do not face difficulties while travelling to and from the airport. APSRTC will operate buses between Gajuwaka and airport at designated timings to facilitate smooth connectivity.

Appala Naidu appealed to delegates, visitors and the general public attending the prestigious summit to use the special transport facilities arranged by APSRTC. The initiative aims to provide seamless mobility and ensure a comfortable travel experience for participants during the two-day international business event.

DEVOTEES' OFFERINGS!



Devasthanam staff and volunteers counting hundi collection at Simhachalam amounting Rs 2.22 crore in the past 36 days in Visakhapatnam

Hans India Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **KONADA NEELADRI REDDY** (New Name) S/o Konada Balaji previously called KONADA NEELADRI (Old Name) Resident of 14-43-21/1, Godduvanipalem, Pedagantyada, Nadupuru, Visakhapatnam, 530044, Andhra pradesh, Now changed my name from **KONADA NEELADRI** (Old Name) To **KONADA NEELADRI REDDY** (New Name), Hence forth I will be called as **KONADA NEELADRI REDDY** (New Name) for all purpose,

RAMESH-VSP

NOTICE: Readers are advised to make appropriate enquiries while responding to advertise-ments in these columns. THE HANS INDIA (Hyderabad Media House PVT Ltd) does not vouch for any claims made by the advertisers. Hyderabad Media House PVT Ltd. shall not be held responsible/ liable for any consequences in case such claims are found to be false.

An infant dumped in drainage

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

IN a tragic incident, unidentified persons dumped a newborn in a drainage ditch, wrapping the infant in a gunny bag. Hearing the cries from the jute bag, locals in Pithapuram Colony rescued the infant and alerted the MVP police. Upon receiving the information, Sub-Inspector Seetharam reached the spot and shifted the child to King George Hospital for treatment. According to the police, the child is safe. A case was registered, and the investigation is in progress.

NTPC Simhadri celebrates 52nd Raising Day

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM



NTPC Simhadri celebrated its 52nd Raising Day with great enthusiasm

COMMEMORATING the organisation's remarkable journey of over five decades and its significant contribution to India's energy security and nation-building, NTPC Simhadri celebrated the 52nd Raising Day with great enthusiasm. The celebrations commenced with the unfurling of the NTPC flag by Ayaskanta Jena, ED and HoP, Simhadri. The occasion symbolised NTPC's enduring commitment to excellence, sustainability and its mission of powering the nation's progress. Addressing the gathering, Ayaskanta Jena highlighted NTPC's achievements over the years and its pivotal role in meeting the country's growing energy requirements. He appreciated the dedication and collective efforts of employees in strengthening the organisation and contributing to its continued growth.

As part of the celebrations, employees at Simhadri joined the organisation-wide programme through the live streaming of the address by Gurdeep Singh, CMD, NTPC.

The address highlighted the organisation's vision, achievements and priorities for the future. The programme also included the distribution of certificates to the winners and participants of various competitions organised during Hindi Pakhwada 2026.

Revanth Anna's flexies grab public attention

- Revanth Reddy's birthday wishes flexies set up at Pendurthi
- Even earlier, his powerful speeches drew big crowds in Vizag

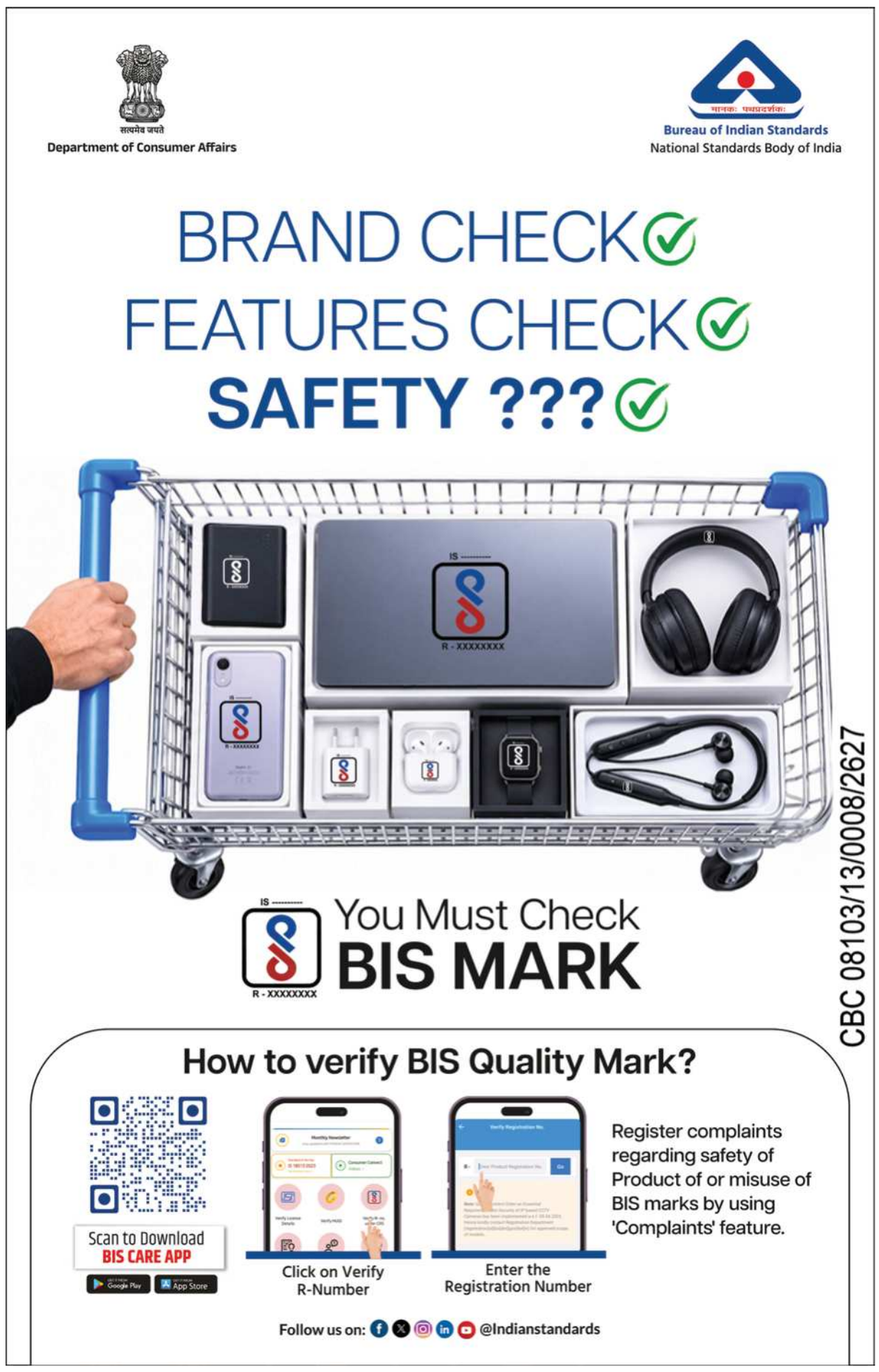


A 'Happy birthday Revanth Anna' flexi being put up at Pendurthi junction in Visakhapatnam

VASU POTNURU
VISAKHAPTNAM

Even as the two Telugu states divided, adoration for the neighbouring state's political leaders continues to grow stronger in Andhra Pradesh. Flexies conveying birthday wishes to Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy clearly indicated this, grabbing public attention as they were displayed at Pendurthi junction in Visakhapatnam. Earlier, when the Telangana Chief Minister visited Visakhapatnam to attend a public meeting—accompanied by Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) Chief YS Sharmila to extend solidarity to the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant agitation—a large crowd gathered at Ukkunagaram.

When Revanth Reddy was with TDP during the undivided Andhra Pradesh, his powerful speeches always drew scores of party activists along with the public in Visakhapatnam. However, there is no clarity on who had displayed the flexies at Pendurthi junction. Whether they were set up by the partymen or admirers of Telangana CM is yet to be known. Such flexies were not confined to Revanth Reddy alone. Years before, When the then Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao visited Visakhapatnam, huge flexies welcomed him all along the route. He frequented Vizag to perform special yagams at Visakha Sri Sarada Peetham. In Visakhapatnam, the flexies displaying birthday wishes of the Telangana Chief Minister sparked debate over the steps taken to make the Congress Party's presence felt.



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.

SIX PERSONS STILL REMAIN MISSING

Gidipabali search op called off

Sunil Mohan Patnaik
Brahmapur



BRINGING an agonising chapter of tragedy, hope and relentless rescue efforts to an end, the search and rescue operation at landslide-ravaged Gidipabali village along the Ganjam-Kandhamala border has finally been called off, with six persons still remaining untraced beneath tonnes of mud, rocks and debris. Seven bodies have been recovered during the painstaking operation that continued for nearly two weeks following the devastating landslide triggered by cyclone Arnab.

The catastrophe struck around 3 am on October 28, when torrential rainfall triggered by cyclone Arnab unleashed successive landslides on Gangubali hill, sending a massive avalanche of mud, boulders, uprooted trees and water cascading down upon the small hilltop settlement under Baibali Gram Panchayat in Bhanjanagar block.Most of the houses in the hamlet were buried under the massive debris while residents were asleep. Of the 26 inhabitants, several managed to escape, while 13 persons were initially reported missing. One missing resident was subsequently located, leaving 12 persons unaccounted for.The scale of the disaster came to light after survivors negotiated difficult forest trails and reached a neighbouring shelter to alert the authorities. Flooded roads, inaccessible terrain and the absence of proper road connectivity delayed the movement of rescue teams and heavy equipment to the remote location.

Following the tragedy, the Odisha government launched a massive search and rescue operation on October 31, mobilising personnel from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF), Fire Services, District Voluntary Force and other agencies. Around 100 personnel were subsequently engaged in the painstaking operation, with additional specialised teams and technical experts assisting the mission at different stages.

Rescuers had to trek through difficult terrain and negotiate huge deposits of mud and rocks to reach the buried houses. The operation was further complicated by successive landslides that had dumped nearly 30 feet of debris over the affected settlement.

To locate the missing persons, the administration deployed sniffer dogs and advanced life-detection equipment, including seismic sensors, victim-location cameras, and ground-penetrating radar.An Indian Navy unit, alongside specialists from IIT and the Railways, joined the effort. Rescuers used controlled blasting and specialised drilling to break up house-sized boulders blocking buried homes.

However, the operation yielded limited results due to the deep debris and challenges in transporting heavy machinery.

After days of painstaking excavation, rescue teams recovered the first two bodies, identified as Sanman Pradhan (29) and Rabi Mallick (52).The recovery brought some relief to the waiting families but intensified their anguish over the fate of the remaining missing persons.

On November 5, rescuers achieved another significant breakthrough by recovering five more bodies from beneath the debris. The deceased included five members of a family — Bijaya Pradhan (25), Bhumika Pradhan (27), Aruna Pradhan (7), Bijayalaxmi Pradhan (6) and Bagri Pradhan (1). The recovery of the five bodies took the total number of recovered victims to seven, while six persons continued to remain missing.The families chose to perform the last rites of the recovered victims at the disaster site itself, adding another heartbreaking dimension to the tragedy.

On November 4, officials temporarily paused the operation after technical experts warned that further blasting could endanger rescue teams. Although they considered resuming the search once the weather improved, heavy debris and poor access for machinery made progress nearly impossible. Ultimately, following written requests from the families of the six missing persons, the district administration suspended the search on November 9.

Recognising the extreme difficulty of retrieving victims buried under nearly 30 feet of debris, the families have urged the administration to pivot toward their rehabilitation.With search operations now suspended, the focus has shifted to providing adequate financial aid, alternative land, and permanent housing to move survivors out of temporary shelters.

The Gidipabali tragedy remains a lasting scar on the region, making a dignified recovery package essential to help the surviving families rebuild their lives.

CM assures pension for all eligible seniors

Hans News Service
Bhubaneswar



ANNOUNCING an end to the waiting period for social security pensions, Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Tuesday said no elderly person, senior citizen, person with disabilities or helpless individual in the State will henceforth be deprived of any assistance provided by the government.

"Today is a historic day for Odisha. From today, no elder, senior citizen, person with disability, or destitute individual in the state will be deprived of government assistance. From today, eligible beneficiaries will no longer have to wait to receive the Madhubabu Pension. The era of waiting has come to an end; the era of honouring your rights has begun," Majhi said.

He was speaking at a programme in Baleshwar, where he launched the saturation initiative under the Madhu Babu Pension Yojana and inaugurated the Unified Pension Management Portal (UPMP).The Chief Minister said the previous government had imposed fixed quotas at the state and district levels, due to which an eligible person could receive a pension only after an existing beneficiary passed away.

Describing the arrangement as insensitive and inhuman, he said his government has abolished the system to ensure that no eligible person is denied social security benefits.Under the saturation drive, 5,05,817 additional eligible people have been brought under the scheme, taking the total number of beneficiaries to 41,80,825. The government has made an additional annual budgetary provision of Rs 625 crore to cover the newly included beneficiaries.

Majhi said expenditure of Rs 500–600 crore should not be a reason to make elderly people suffer or deprive them of their entitlements. The amount, he said, was a worthwhile investment in the welfare and dignity of senior citizens. The newly launched UPMP will make the pension application and disbursement process simpler, faster and more transparent. Eligible applicants can apply online through the portal or visit the nearest Jana Seva Kendra or Block Development Officer's office.

Pension will be provided from the month following the application. Beneficiaries will automatically receive an enhanced monthly pension of Rs 3,500 after attaining 80 years of age, without having to submit a fresh application.Newly enrolled beneficiaries will receive their October and November pensions together.

District-level distribution programmes will be held on November 11 and 12, followed by block-level programmes on November 13 and 14. Those unable to collect the amount at these programmes can receive it in cash from their respective panchayat or municipal offices on November 25. Regular monthly pension payments will be made on the 15th of every month from December.

ORS officer terminated over bribery

Hans News Service
Bhubaneswar



ENFORCING a zero-tolerance approach towards corruption in government offices, the Odisha government on Tuesday terminated the services of Manisha Mishra, an Odisha Revenue Service (ORS) officer on probation, following her arrest in a bribery case.The official order was issued on Tuesday by the State Revenue and Disaster Management department on the Governor's order. According to the order, Mishra, ORS (under probation), was posted as Sub-Registrar at Baliapal in Baleshwar district. She was caught red-handed by the Vigilance officials of Baleshwar division on November 6 after receipt of a bribe of Rs 7,000 from the complainant, Gyanaranjan Patra from Pancharukhi village of Baleshwar district, on demand in her office chamber in Baliapal in lieu of the registration of his land and issuance of the sale deed.

The order further noted that the GA (Vigilance) Department, Kataka, formally communicated the incident to the R&DM department on November 7.Based on the complaint of Patra, a case was registered at the Baleshwar Vigilance police station on November 5, under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018, in this regard.

Subsequently, Mishra was arrested on November 7 after getting caught red-handed while receiving the bribe on November 6. She was later forwarded to court and remanded to jail custody until November 20.The government stated that Mishra has not yet completed her probation period as per Rule-17(1) of the ORS (Recruitment) Rule, 2011 and Rule-3(1) of the Odisha Revenue Service, Group-B (Probation and Departmental Examination) Rules, 2016. The department considered her conduct a grave case of corruption, amounting to gross misconduct and personal immorality, and constituting a direct violation of Rule 3 of the Odisha Government Servants Conduct Rules, 1959. Taking into account the gravity of the charges, the appointing authority determined that her further continuance in service is highly detrimental to the public interest. "Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by Rule -17(2) of the ORS Recruitment Rule,2011 read with Rule-3(2) and 3(3)(a) of the Odisha Revenue Service, Group-B (Probation and Departmental Examination) Rules, 2016, the services of Ms. Manisha Mishra, ORS, Sub-Registrar, Baliapal is hereby terminated with immediate effect from the date of issue of this order," noted the R&DM department.

Rejuvenated MBPY rekindles hope for hapless

Tapan Chand

AS Odisha strives toward its vision of Viksit Odisha@2036 and Samrudh Odisha@2047, true progress must be measured not just by economic and infrastructural growth, but by the dignity and well-being of its most vulnerable citizens. The elderly, widows, persons with disabilities, destitute women, HIV and leprosy patients, and economically disadvantaged groups deserve dedicated care, compassion, and social protection.

Reaching out to vulnerable citizens demonstrates a commitment to 'Antyodaya,' the upliftment of the last person in the queue.Fulfilling its promise, the BJP government in Odisha revitalised the Madhu Babu Pension Yojana (MBPY) in January 2025 by raising the pension to Rs 3,500 for beneficiaries aged 80+ and persons with 80 per cent+ disabilities, and has continued enriching the scheme since.

Significant changes are: (i) abolishing the district-wise quota systemand allowing eligibility to the aged persons on attending 60years and withoutany waiting on principle of saturation. (ii) time-bound grant of pension in nextmonth to the month of application. (iii) retrospective payment from the monthof Oct 2026 (iv) automatic grant of enhanced pension on attending age of 80 (v)eligible person to apply in BDO office or online (http://upmp.odisha.gov.in/) (vi) DBT transfer to bank account of the beneficiaries.

By removing the district-wise quota system, the rejuvenated Madhu Babu Pension Yojana has delighted 5,05,817long-waiting beneficiaries by granting them old-age pensions at once.Named after Odisha's champion of social justice, Utkal Gourav Madhusudan Das, the scheme upholds a core principle: poverty, disability, old age, or social circumstances should never deprive anyone of the right to live with dignity.



The present pension structure provides: Rs 1,000 per month for eligible beneficiaries in the general pension categories; Rs 3,500 per month for beneficiaries aged 80 years and above; Rs 3,500 per month for persons with disabilities of 80 per cent or more.This differentiated financial support prioritises the most vulnerable, fostering their confidence, dignity, and social inclusion.In Odisha, the programme serves over 60 lakh beneficiaries—comprising roughly 42 lakh under MBPY and more than 19 lakh under NSAP —backed by a budget that more than doubled from Rs 2,501 crore to Rs 5,837 crore in 2023–24.

This increase demonstrates the government's commitment to strengthening social security. Rather than viewing social security merely as an expense, it should be recognised as a vital investment in human dignity, social stability, and inclusive growth. However, the success of any welfare scheme depends not just on budget allocation, but on efficient and transparent delivery. To achieve this, the government must ensure eligible beneficiaries receive their pensions regularly and without bureaucratic hurdles. Integrating digital identification, rigorous verification, Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), and transparent records will help minimise duplication, eliminate leakages, and strengthen accountability. Special attention is needed for elderly beneficiaries and persons with severe disabilities who struggle to visit offices or banks. Doorstep assistance, grievance redressal, and regular record verification can strengthen the scheme.

4 held for scuffle with police



Hans News Service
Bhubaneswar

FOUR persons were arrested for allegedly engaging in a scuffle with police personnel, including a woman officer, during Diwali celebrations in Kataka on Sunday night, officials said. The incident took place when a group of people were bursting firecrackers in Nayasadak area, a busy city road stretch, "causing problems for commuters", they said.

Upon receiving information, police personnel, led by ACP Ananya Awasthi, went to the spot and stopped them from bursting the firecrackers, the officials said. Subsequently, the accused allegedly attempted to attack Awasthi and the other police personnel present at the spot, they said. A video clip of the incident went viral on social media.

"When a Quick Action Team from the nearby police station reached the spot, the accused attempted to attack the personnel," Cuttack DCP Khilari Rishikesh Dnyandeo said.

The four accused, aged between 20 and 32 years, have been arrested under various sections of the BNS and the Odisha Urban Police Act, 2003, he said. Further investigation is underway.

Israeli team leaves KIIT with fond memories

Hans News Service
Bhubaneswar

A 20-member Israeli delegation concluded its 10-day visit to KIIT and KISS on Tuesday under the 'India Trek for Global Leaders' programme. Since arriving on November 1, the delegates explored student culture at KISS and engaged with KIIT faculty and students to learn about their teaching and research.

KIIT and KISS hosted a farewell ceremony in honour of the visiting delegation. Expressing their heartfelt



gratitude, the delegates described the visit as truly memorable. They noted that interacting with the children and faculty at both institutions was the highlight of their trip to India, surpassing even their visit to the Taj Mahal. They particularly valued the opportunity to engage with students and academics across various KIIT departments, fostering a rich exchange of ideas, mutual learning, and shared experiences. The delegates praised KISS as a unique global model that reflects the vision, dedication, hard work, and sacrifice of its founder, Achyuta Samanta. While addressing the delegation, Samanta noted that the visit would open new avenues for KIIT and KISS in education, research, cultural exchange, and other areas of mutual cooperation.

Flood in Ganjam man-made, says Naveen

Hans News Service
Bhubaneswar

LEADER of Opposition and BJD president Naveen Patnaik on Tuesday severely criticised the state government's preparedness to deal with Cyclone Arnab and called for impartial rehabilitation and reconstruction work in flood-ravaged Ganjam district. In a letter to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Patnaik has also described the devastating flood in Ganjam as a man-made crisis, calling upon the state government to fix accountability for the lapses and ensure stringent punishment. The BJD supremo also referred to his recent visit to flood-affected areas of Hinjili, Sheragada, Aska and Sorada of Ganjam district and interactions with affected persons on November 7.

Patnaik expressed pain after seeing the sufferings of the people in distress, massive damage to infrastructure, extensive crop losses, loss of lives and destruction of livelihoods during his visit. He alleged that government negligence has set Ganjam back by several years. He alleged that the state government ignored IMD warnings issued since October 23.

The BJD chief said Ganjam remained vulnerable to heavy rainfall, which typically occurs to the right of a cyclone's landfall, and stressed that cyclone and flood management SOPs require advance water release from dams and round-the-clock monitoring of reservoir levels.

"However, in the case of Ganjam, water from dams was released by the Water Resources Department after the onset of heavy cyclonic rains.

This compounded the floods and caused huge loss of life and property. People have complained that adequate warning was not given to them before the gates were opened," alleged Patnaik. "This gross negligence and manmade crisis raises serious issues of accountability. People are demanding strict action against those responsible for such a serious lapse," he further added.

Cabinet clears Rs 393 cr free campus Wi-Fi scheme

Hans News Service
Bhubaneswar

THE Odisha Cabinet on Monday approved 13 key proposals concerning 10 departments, including the flagship initiative to provide free Wi-Fi to higher educational institutions across the State.The proposals were approved during the 49th meeting of the State Cabinet held in Bhubaneswar under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi.

In a significant decision, the Cabinet gave its nod to the flagship scheme "Odisha Shikshanet Empowering Students through a Free Wi-Fi Internet Facility to all colleges and universities" of the State Higher Education Department. The scheme will be implemented with a total outlay of Rs 393.62 crore over a period of three years (FY 2026-27 to FY 2028-29).

"The scheme will extend free, secure and high-speed Wi-Fi connectivity to 601 Government and Aided Colleges across Odisha, building upon the successful Phase-I implementation in 130 colleges. Every authenticated student will receive up to 1 GB of free internet data per day within the campus for academic, research and skill development purposes," the government said.



It further added that the project includes installation of Wi-Fi infrastructure, bandwidth provisioning, network management, cybersecurity, and operation & maintenance support.A centralised monitoring dashboard will ensure efficient service delivery, network security, uptime and optimal utilisation.The facility will support access to e-books, digital libraries, virtual classrooms, SWAYAM and other MOOCs, research databases, competitive examination resources, digital skill development platforms and e-governance services such as SAMS, HIMS and Scholarship portals. "The initiative is expected to benefit over 6 lakh students and faculty members across Government and Aided Higher Education Institutions, particularly students from rural, remote and economically weaker sections, by bridging the digital divide and promoting equitable access to quality higher education," the government claimed.

Other major proposals approved on Monday include the comprehensive, farmer-centric and technology-driven Food and Paddy Procurement Policy for Kharif Marketing Season 2026-27, aimed at transparent procurement at MSP, timely payment, efficient milling and uninterrupted supply of rice under PDS and welfare schemes.

The State Cabinet has also approved the draft Odisha Bovine Breeding (Regulation) Bill, 2026 for introduction in the Odisha Legislative Assembly. The proposed legislation provides a framework for scientific breeding and quality breeding services. Several other key proposals of other departments got the Cabinet nod on Monday.

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

"Printed and Published by K. Hanumanta Rao on behalf of Hyderabad Media House Pvt. Limited, Door. No. 01-88-20, Plot No. 144, Sector-4, M.V.P.Colony, Visakhapatnam -530017 and printed at Jagati Publications Limited, Survey No.80/10, Madhurawada Village,Visakhapatnam-530041. **Chief Editor:** P Madhusudhan Reddy. RNI No: APENG/2012/41968.

CII PARTNERSHIP SUMMIT

AP sets its sights on next industrial revolution

- Visakhapatnam summit puts space technology, AI and advanced manufacturing in focus
- Global industry leaders, foreign governments and private space companies to converge on November 12-13
- State seeks a larger role in emerging technologies and international supply chains
- CM Naidu to hold high-level discussions with international delegates, multinational companies and Central Ministers



K Varaprasada Rao
Amaravati

ROCKETS, advanced technology and global industrial capital will take centre stage as Andhra Pradesh prepares to make an ambitious pitch for a place in the next wave of industrial growth. Visakhapatnam will host the 31st CII Partnership Summit on November 12 and 13, bringing together international business leaders, foreign government representatives, diplomats and executives of major companies.

The state is using the global gathering to position itself beyond conventional manufacturing, targeting high-value industries in space technology, clean energy, artificial intelligence and advanced manufacturing. Its larger ambition is to attract businesses that can connect Andhra Pradesh with emerging global markets and technology-driven supply chains.

Organised jointly by the state government and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), the summit will be inaugurated by Union home minister Amit Shah at Andhra University on November 12, from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu will participate in key sessions and hold meetings with international delegates, multinational companies and Central ministers.

A major attraction will be the proposed interaction with India's private space industry. Naidu is scheduled to meet representatives of Agnikul, Bellatrix Aerospace, Skyroot and Hawthorne Rockets to explore opportunities in space technology, research and manufacturing.

The participation of these companies brings a distinctive dimension to the State's investment strategy. The expanding private space sector offers opportunities in launch systems, satellite technologies, propulsion and specialised components, creating demand for advanced manufacturing and research facilities. Andhra Pradesh intends to present its infrastructure and policy framework to companies operating in this emerging industry.

The presence of Dr Daren Tang, director general of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), adds an important international dimension. With patents, innovation and intellectual property protection playing an increasingly significant role in technology-led businesses, Naidu will hold a separate meeting with Tang.

The Chief Minister is also scheduled to meet government representatives from Singapore, the United Arab Emirates, Guatemala and Slovakia, besides the ambassadors of Japan and Russia. He will meet the chairman of a Japanese institute focused on international strategy.

The corporate delegation will include representatives of Kia Motors, ReNew, Mondelez India, Saint-Gobain, NALCO and Levista, spanning automobiles, renewable energy, food processing, construction materials, infrastructure and manufacturing. Naidu will also meet ReNew chief executive Sumant Sinha and participate in discussions with CII-associated chief executives.

The summit will provide a platform for the State to seek greater Central support for industrial expansion. Naidu is scheduled to meet Central ministers Nitin Gadkari, Piyush Goyal, Chirag Paswan, Pralhad Joshi and Sarbananda Sonowal to discuss sector-specific development measures, central assistance and possible concessions or relaxations for different sections of the state's population. He will also raise the impact of international developments on various sectors in Andhra Pradesh.

A separate Women and Growth Summit 2026 at Novotel, Visakhapatnam, will focus on women's economic empowerment.

Naidu will begin his engagements a day before the summit, meeting Singaporean Minister Gan Siow Huang in Amaravati on November 11. In Visakhapatnam, he is scheduled to meet WIPO Director General Daren Tang, Japanese Ambassador Keiichi Ono, UAE Minister Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri and ReNew chief executive Sumant Sinha, followed by interactions with CII chief executives and a welcome dinner for international delegates.

The state has already secured investment commitments worth Rs 86,000 crore through five regional investor meetings held as preparatory outreach. The Visakhapatnam summit now offers a larger international platform to turn Andhra Pradesh's investment ambitions into long-term business partnerships, technology collaborations and globally competitive industries.

APPSC releases Group-2 notification for 720 vacancies

- 471 executive and 249 non-executive posts to be filled
- December 11 is the last date to submit online applications
- Screening test scheduled for February 21, 2027

K Varaprasada Rao
Amaravati

THE Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission (APPSC) released the Group-2 recruitment notification on Tuesday, announcing 720 vacancies across executive and non-executive categories. The online application process commenced on Tuesday, with December 11 at 11.59 p.m. fixed as the deadline for submission of applications.

Of the total vacancies, 471 are executive posts and 249 are non-executive posts. Candidates can submit their applications through the Commission's official website.

The Group-2 screening test will be conducted offline in OMR-based format on February 21, 2027.
The schedule for the main examination, which will be conducted online, will be announced separately by the Commission.

Among the executive posts, 203 vacancies are for deputy tahsildars and 176 for deputy mandal parishad development officers (MPDOs). The other major vacancies include 40 Goods and Services Tax (GST) officers and 29 Prohibition and Excise Sub-Inspectors.

In the non-executive category, the notification includes 80 assistant section officer (ASO) posts and 91 senior accountant posts, along with other vacancies.

Candidates possessing a bachelor's degree from a recognised university are eligible to apply. The notification provides details of post-wise vacancies, age limits, pay scales, zone-wise distribution of posts and the examination pattern.

Candidates have been advised to go through the detailed notification and verify the eligibility conditions before submitting their applications.

Nvidia CEO told me he didn't know Alice was a spy: Trump

Washington

US President Donald Trump took a sympathetic tone towards Jensen Huang on Monday, saying the Nvidia CEO was "suffering greatly" and didn't know a woman he had an affair with was an alleged Chinese spy.

Trump also danced around the question of when he personally was aware of intelligence linking the chip boss to Alice Huang, a Chinese executive who had allegedly been funnelling information to Beijing.

The US leader said he had spoken to Huang earlier on Monday "to see if he's feeling alright," calling the Taiwanese-born tech boss an "amazing guy."

"I asked him that question, 'did you have any idea that she was a spy?' He said, 'I had no idea that she was a spy,' and I really believe him," Trump told reporters at the White House.

He added: "I hope there is no problem. I believe he is suffering greatly... more so because of his family, his wife, who he loves, and his family. But he's definitely suffering." Jensen Huang sent a message to Nvidia employees on Sunday in which he acknowledged having an affair and apologized to both his family and company staff.

Trump said he was not aware about the allegations when Huang accompanied him to China in May. Huang is a key figure in the AI revolution and close to the US President. "No, I didn't hear about it then. But a lot of people have heard about it," Trump said.

Huang has also attended numerous White House events, including a state visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping in September.

Sends msg to enemies: Hegseth slams bid to impeach him

WASHINGTON: US secretary of war Pete Hegseth on Tuesday described the impeachment efforts against him as sending a message to Washington's adversaries that the US would punish its own military personnel and political leadership for carrying out "lawful operations." "In the 250 years of our American republic, no secretary of war or secretary of defence has ever been impeached for carrying out lawful military operations," Hegseth told reporters. The briefing came a day after President Donald Trump backed Hegseth, saying that he had led the US to victory in "two wars" — referring to the Iran war and the US military intervention in Venezuela in January, which resulted in the removal of Nicolas Maduro. The press conference was the Pentagon chief's first in six months and came a day after Republican US Representative Thomas Massie of Kentucky introduced eight articles of impeachment against him.

'WHITEWASHING'

Sonia trying to justify Emergency in her memoir: BJP

NEW DELHI: The BJP on Tuesday accused former Congress president Sonia Gandhi of trying to justify the Emergency in her memoir and said it should have been named "whitewashing" instead of "Belonging: A Journey of Love". Taking to X, BJP's national spokesperson C R Kesavan said the book appears to be an attempt to "sugar-coat the historical wrongs perpetrated" by the Nehru-Gandhi family, which held power at the Centre for several years. "Sonia Gandhi could have titled her memoir as 'Whitewashing' instead of 'Belonging', because the motive of this book appears to be sugarcoating the historical wrongs perpetrated by the Nehru-Gandhi family and camouflaging the cardinal sins committed by the Congress party," Kesavan said.

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

Continued from page 1

The matter has been listed for further hearing on November 23.

During the earlier hearing, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for WhatsApp, informed the bench that the platform had taken preventive measures, including action against 9,400 accounts. He also assured the court that an affidavit detailing the steps taken would be filed. Sibal further submitted that WhatsApp was developing software to identify suspicious accounts and alert users.

The latest directions come amid growing concerns over digital arrest scams and other cyber frauds, with the apex court stressing the need for stronger accountability of financial institutions and digital platforms.



India to remain only major economy with workforce surplus thru 2030

Continued from page 1

Over 40 per cent of India's population is under 25 years of age, while around 68 per cent, or nearly 961 million people, are of working age, the report said. Global Capability Centres (GCCs) will play a key role in transforming India's position in the global economy. India had 2,117 GCCs in FY26, employing 2.36 million professionals and generating $98.4 billion in revenue, up from $64.6 billion in FY24.

GCCs added nearly 2 lakh net employees during FY26, driven by demand for artificial intelligence, machine learning engineers, cloud experts and product developers.

The report said that India's projected skilled workforce surplus of 45 million by 2030 could address roughly 53 per cent of the anticipated global talent shortfall. The talent can either work from established hubs such as Hyderabad or Pune for clients abroad, or it can move to Frankfurt, Toronto or Houston on a work visa. Overseas Indians sent home a record $129.4 billion in remittances in 2024, accounting for 14.3 per cent of global remittance flows and the number of Indians working abroad has increased to 18.5 million from 6.6 million in 1990. "Universities and vocational programmes must teach AI, cloud, cybersecurity, healthcare and advanced manufacturing, not only coding. The 2025–26 Union Budget announced a national framework to promote GCCs in tier II cities. That should be funded and carried out," the report noted.

Indirect polls to MPP, ZPP chief posts

Continued from page 1

The process also includes the election of co-opted members before the selection of the respective parishad leadership. Each MPP will elect one co-opted member, while each ZPP will elect two. These positions are reserved for representatives belonging to religious or linguistic minority communities. As per GO Ms No 131 of the panchayat raj and rural development department, dated March 11, 1995, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Zoroastrians (Parsis) are recognised as religious minorities. Those whose mother tongue is a language other than Telugu are considered linguistic minorities.

The MPTC members will elect the MPP president and vice-president from among themselves, while ZPTC members will similarly elect the ZPP chairperson and vice-chairperson. The elections to these leadership positions will be conducted through a show of hands, making adherence to party whips issued by recognised political parties mandatory for members.

However, party whips will not apply to elections for co-opted members.

Sonia Gandhi's book brings political memoirs in focus

Continued from page 1

In the memoir, Sonia Gandhi opens up for the first time about the extraordinary twists and turns of a life that has largely unfolded in full public view. It contains moving glimpses of Gandhi's private grief. She writes about the loss of her first child, who died shortly after birth, and the chilling discovery of grenades in a room of their house after Operation Blue Star, the 1984 military operation against Sikh separatists at the Golden Temple in Amritsar. She also provides a ringside view of several turbulent chapters in Indian politics, not least the violent assassinations of her mother-in-law, Indira Gandhi, in 1984 and her husband, Rajiv, in 1991.

"Much has been written about my family, but rarely with real insight into who they were, their motivations, their struggles, their very human flaws. I wanted to portray them honestly, as people I knew and loved," the 79-year-old Gandhi wrote said ahead of the release of the memoir.

Her book also revisits some of the darker episodes that have dogged the Gandhi family and the Congress party, including Indira's imposition of the Emergency in June 1975, a 21-month period during which civil liberties were suspended, political opponents were jailed and the press was gagged, which caused fear and dismay across the country. In Gandhi's account, it also caused a rift within the family.

Born Sonia Maino in 1946 in a small Italian village near Vicenza, she met Rajiv Gandhi — the grandson of India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru — at a restaurant in the United Kingdom's Cambridge city. The two got married in New Delhi in 1968, when Rajiv's mother and Nehru's daughter Indira Gandhi was serving as India's prime minister.

In her book Sonia Gandhi talks about her 2004 decision to not take up the top job as prime minister of the world's largest democracy. The Nehru-Gandhi family gave India three prime ministers.

In an excerpt from the book, Sonia said her children - and now senior Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi - had then discussed with her, their mother's possible prime ministership. "One of them asked me straight out whether I would accept the post, just in case our party pulled off a victory. 'Absolutely not' I'd said, almost indignantly,' the excerpt read.

"Neither Rahul nor Priyanka felt that I should become prime minister. They'd lived through the trauma of their grandmother's assassination and the brutal murder of their father. In their minds, holding that office was intrinsically linked with heightened danger. They looked relieved and I, too, felt lighter, having said my views out loud on the question for the first time," Sonia wrote in the memoir.

Ultimately, Gandhi's memoir is a vivid record of six decades of India's political transformation from the Congress-dominated secular republic she moved to in 1968 until today. Gandhi's account offers a glimpse of how deep the political polarisation runs in Indian politics today. In one revealing passage, Gandhi writes that she has had "practically no real contact" with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the 12 years he has led the nation. In fact, at times when the two have been in the same room, such as the Speaker's small chamber, Modi "tends to look away, avoiding eye contact", she says. On one occasion, she adds, he has asked briefly about her health after a hospital stay.

After the 2001 terror attack on parliament, Gandhi immediately called then-BJP prime minister AB Vajpayee to enquire about his safety, a gesture he appreciated.

Gandhi sees an increasingly authoritarian style of politics, in which those in power seek to "belittle and torment" opponents. For years, Gandhi's son, Rahul, has been the subject of BJP's ridicule, which calls him Pappu, a derisive term intended to portray him as inexperienced and naive. She adds that similar things are happening elsewhere in the world, an observation that can be read in the context of US President Donald Trump's use of personal insults and ridicule against opponents.

In the book, Gandhi describes a 2012 conversation with Hillary Clinton on the country's female leaders and their backgrounds. In her recollections of Indira, she shares that, despite wielding authority, Indira could feel besieged and profoundly alone, and this was particularly acute, Gandhi writes, in the months leading up to the declaration of the Emergency by her mother-in-law.

Gandhi also writes of her own isolation, including when she decided to take on the leadership of the Congress out of a sense of duty to her family's political legacy.

Among the many ways in which Gandhi charts the erosion of India's democratic conventions in Belonging, one particularly telling shift is the changed relationship between the media and those in power. She recalls a time when journalists had opportunities to question prime ministers directly. In 12 years in power, Modi has not addressed a single press conference on his own. He has sat in on one press briefing at the conclusion of an election campaign and appeared alongside US presidents at joint press encounters after bilateral meetings, where they took questions from the press. Gandhi writes warmly of the closeness between the Gandhi family and that of Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan, whose parents she lived with when she first moved to India, but she makes no mention of the subsequent estrangement between the two families. In another instance, she does not name the political leader she describes as "thoroughly dishonest" and who she says she trusted in 1999, when Congress unsuccessfully attempted to form a coalition government.

'SURRENDER TO IRAN'S 7 CONDITIONS'

Continued from page 1

Iran's seven conditions include an end to the hostilities on all fronts, lifting the US naval blockade along the Strait of Hormuz, reopening the shipping lanes in the strait immediately and lifting of economic sanctions on Iran. "The war against Iran has torn the US government apart, but Washington is flailing like a desperate gambler - Stop playing. Stop making up news about imaginary negotiations. Do not deny the new order in West Asia -It is time to surrender to Iran's seven conditions," Rezaei told Iranian media. On Monday, Trump engaged in a high-level dialogue with Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani. The US President announced that key Gulf allies have backed an unprecedented joint land-and-sea blockade against Iran under "Operation Iron Gate," declaring that preventing Tehran from acquiring nuclear weapons remains strictly "non-negotiable."
While warning that American forces remain in a high state of combat readiness should regional dynamics deteriorate, Trump projected optimism regarding a potential de-escalation, noting signs of progress toward winding down the hostilities.

Cabinet nod for ₹31,387-cr AI data centre in Vizag dist

Continued from page 1

In a move to promote women entrepreneurship, the Cabinet approved a 30-acres FICCI FLO Industrial Park at Jaggayyapeta in NTR district exclusively for women entrepreneurs. It also cleared the proposed SKICORP Integrated Footwear Park over 56.82 acres in Annamayya district and an MSME Park spread across approximately 21 acres in Thamballapalle.

The Cabinet approved incentives for Rathi Green Energy and Newland Labs. It also cleared the cancellation of earlier land allotments made to Websol Renewables and Metro Decorative in the Naidupeta Special Economic Zone. It approved increasing the capacity of the Greenko solar power project from 500 MW to 1,500 MW and a 30-year lease of 192.68 acres of Waqf land in Vajrakarur mandal of Anantapur district for a solar power project. The Cabinet also agreed to examine the feasibility of allowing private participation in nuclear power generation using Small Modular Reactor technology as an alternative to thermal power, subject to the availability of the technology. The Cabinet approved the establishment of a dedicated Directorate of Traffic Management and Road Safety at Police Headquarters in Mangalagiri. It will function under the supervision of the director general of police and will be headed by an officer of inspector general rank. Five acres in Sakhamuru in the capital region will be leased for a Kendriya Vidyalaya, with stamp duty exemption. The Cabinet also approved the establishment of a 15 MW waste-to-energy plant in Vijayawada through the free transfer of 5.50 acres of AP Genco land to the municipal corporation. A one-time settlement of Rs 48.73 crore relating to Sembukarpu was regularised subject to conditions. The Cabinet also approved incentives and other land-allocation proposals relating to industrial development.



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!."

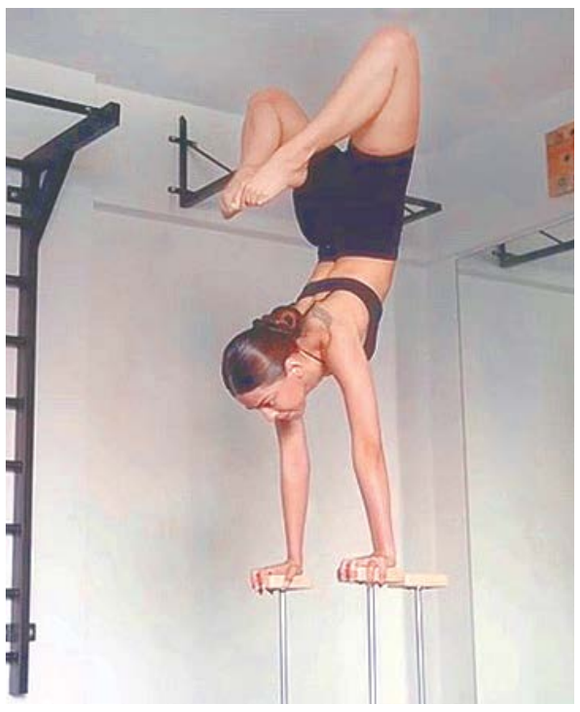
The clip showed her performing a hollowback headstand, showcasing her flexibility and control.

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

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:



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

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."

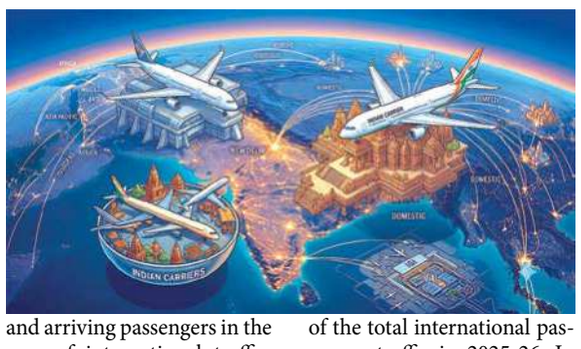
Overseas travel outpaces domestic flying as Indian airlines lose share

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.

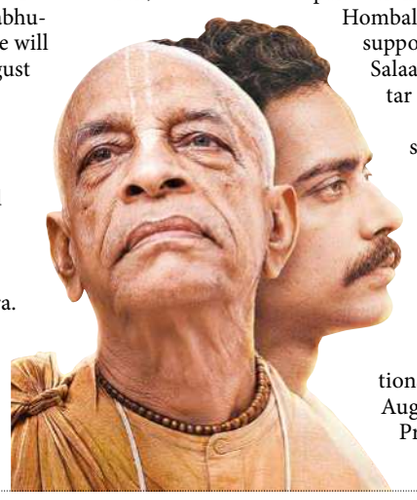
Sumaya made her acting debut with Dear Uma and has received attention for her work as an actress, producer and writer. She is looking forward to continue her journey in Telugu cinema with this project. The makers are expected to announce the title and other details shortly. The poster has created some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