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THE Hans India



NATION \SPORTS
Pandya moves to Pb for Rs 18 crore
Flamboyant all-rounder Hardik Pandya moved to Punjab Kings from Mumbai Indians at an increased fee of Rs 18 crore, while PBKS traded pacer Arshdeep Singh for him, completing the biggest and most high-profile exchange of players. P10

EDIT
Eureka! Accidental discoveries shaping the world
From lifesaving medical breakthroughs to everyday conveniences, accidental discoveries and inventions have proved that unexpected discoveries can change the world. Stories of a failed experiment, a simple mistake. P6

BUSINESS
Moody's lifts India FY27 growth forecast to 7%
Moody's Ratings on Wednesday said the Indian economy is expected to grow at 7 per cent in the current fiscal compared to 6.5 per cent pegged earlier, aided by robust consumption, improving investment dynamics and strong macroeconomic fundamentals. P11

ENTERTAINMENT
Alia Bhatt's fashionable outfit is a modern version of traditional ethnic wear
Alia Bhatt turned heads lately in a fabulous outfit consisting of a beautiful pista green lehenga with elaborate gold floral embellishments on the flared skirt and wide gold metallic piping. P12

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WINDOWS

Modi to visit Karnataka on Nov 13-14

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Karnataka on November 13-14 during which he will flag off a new phase of the Bengaluru Metro and also lay the foundation stone, inaugurate and dedicate to the nation various development projects worth over Rs 15,600 crore in Bengaluru.

On November 13, Modi will participate in the golden jubilee celebrations of 'Prashanti Kutiram', will flag off and undertake a metro ride from Tavarekere to IIM Bangalore Metro station, an official statement said. The prime minister will then travel to Mysuru where he will participate in a tree plantation programme at Bharat Vann, will inaugurate COSMOS-Mysuru Planetarium and address a gathering.

Modi will dedicate to the nation India's largest underground LPG storage cavern in Mangaluru, constructed at a cost of over Rs 850 crore. He will also inaugurate four redeveloped railway stations under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme - Chamarajanagar, Chikkamagaluru, Sakleshpur and Subrahmanya Road. The redeveloped stations will offer improved passenger amenities and serve as city centres, promoting local commercial activities and tourism in the region. Modi will flag off the Bengaluru-Mangaluru-Madgaon Vande Bharat Express, providing faster and modern rail connectivity between Bengaluru, coastal Karnataka and Goa.

Bank appraiser arrested for stealing 1.2 kg gold

BENGALURU: A bank appraiser was arrested for allegedly stealing gold ornaments pledged by customers with the bank and fraudulently opening gold loan accounts using fake ornaments, police said on Wednesday. The accused was identified as Pavan Kumar (30), a resident of Doddaballapura, they said. The case came to light after the bank's regional manager lodged a complaint at Rajanukunte police station on October 9. In her complaint, the regional manager alleged that the accused had fraudulently opened gold loan accounts in the names of other individuals and pledged fake gold ornaments in those accounts, thereby cheating the bank of Rs 35.40 lakh.

SLOW INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate crisis is outrunning us: UN chief

Antonio Guterres pointed to rising emissions, record temperatures and worsening disasters, urging governments to accelerate the shift away from fossil fuels



LONDON

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told world leaders at the COP31 summit in Turkey on Wednesday that the slow international response to climate change so far had placed the world on a path to destruction.

Governments must fight harder to preserve the planet for future generations, he said, in comments that set the tone for two days of rapid-fire speeches by world leaders at the UN conference on Turkey's Mediterranean coast."The brutal truth is that the climate crisis is outrunning us. This is the path to mutually assured destruction," Guterres said, pointing to rising emissions, global temperatures and worsening climate-driven disasters.

"But science is not telling us to surrender. It is telling us to fight harder."

Negotiators from nearly 200 countries are seeking agreement on a plan to increase the share of electricity in global energy use and revive stalled efforts to move away from fossil fuels.

A UN report last month found the world on course to break through the 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) warming limit that countries had agreed to pursue under the Paris Agreement to prevent the worst effects of climate change.

Meanwhile, 2026 has also stood out with a series of extreme heatwaves across Western Europe and a glacier collapse in Nepal that triggered a catastrophic flood killing more than 1,450 people, with thousands still missing. "The world's biggest economies should be leading the response to the climate crisis, not leaving it to others," said Mohamed Adow, director of climate and energy think tank, Power Shift Africa.

Delhi's air quality back in 'very poor' category

NEW DELHI: Delhi's air quality deteriorated back to the 'very poor' category on Wednesday, as the 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI) settled at 313, merely a day after increased wind speed provided a slight improvement, lowering the pollution levels to the 'poor' category. The transport sector is expected to be the largest contributor to pollution on Wednesday, while the impact of stubble burning is anticipated to increase on Thursday, potentially worsening air quality further over the next few days, according to Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) models.

Cabinet clears Rs 2,390 cr Noida metro rail link

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

As Noida and Greater Noida grow, why should daily commutes become longer? Here is some good news for the people of Noida and Greater Noida!



THE Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the extension of the Aqua Line Metro Rail Corridor from Noida Sector 51 to Greater Noida Sector 4 at an estimated cost of Rs 2,390 crore, with a length of 8.449 kilometres and five elevated stations.

The project, approved by the Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, represents a significant advancement in the city's infrastructure development, an official statement said.

The prime minister listed the advantages of the project, saying it would provide a major boost to connectivity and ease of living. "As Noida and Greater Noida grow, why should daily commutes become longer? Here is some good news for the people of Noida and Greater Noida!

The Cabinet has approved an extension of the Aqua Line Metro. "Key advantages: easier access to offices, schools, hospitals and commercial hubs. Less congestion. Shorter commutes.

A major boost to connectivity and ease of living indeed," Modi said in a post on X. The project would be completed over a period of four years, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters at a Cabinet briefing. Upon operationalisation of this corridor, Noida and Greater Noida will have 71.878 kilometres of active metro rail network, he said.

Vaishnaw said this project acts as a major expansion of the metro rail network in the city. The corridor will introduce approximately 8.449 kilometres of new metro lines, significantly improving public transportation in Noida and Greater Noida, which currently lack efficient connectivity. It will also provide direct connectivity with high-demand corridors, including an interchange at Noida Sector 61 on the Blue Line, the statement said.

Militants open fire on CRPF checkpost, three injured

One personnel is critical with abdominal injuries, while two others sustained bullet wounds; attackers fled on a motorcycle

HANS NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU



THREE Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel were injured, one of them critically, after motorcycle-borne militants opened fire at a CRPF checkpost in Akhran near Mir Bazar in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district on Wednesday afternoon. The attackers fled after the firing, prompting security forces to launch a massive search operation.

The incident took place around 2.15 pm when unidentified motorcycle-borne assailants targeted CRPF personnel deployed at a naka (checkpoint), officials said.

The injured personnel were shifted to a hospital in Anantnag district for treatment. One of them sustained abdominal injuries and is in critical condition, while the other two suffered relatively minor injuries. One sustained a grazing bullet wound on his arm, while the other was hit on his foot. Visuals from the hospital showed the injured personnel being brought in on stretchers as medical staff rushed to provide assistance. This is the first reported terror attack in Kulgam since July 31, when two migrant labourers were killed in the district. Earlier, on July 22, a policeman was killed in neighbouring Anantnag town.

Student held for impersonating as cop, sending fake notices to X

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police has detained a 17-year-old Class 12 student from Srinagar for allegedly impersonating them and forging a senior officer's signature to send fake notices to social media platform X, seeking the blocking of two organisations' accounts, officials said on Wednesday. The juvenile allegedly circulated the fabricated notices to popularise his own X account, they said. A senior police officer said they produced him before the Juvenile Justice Board. The case came to light during a hearing before the Delhi High Court on November 6, when X informed the court that its internal investigation had found the notices purportedly issued in the name of Delhi Police to be forged.

Centre extends Stand-Up India Scheme till 2031

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE government on Wednesday approved the continuation of Stand-Up India Scheme for next 5 years to promote entrepreneurship among Women, Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs).

The Union Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the extension of Stand-Up India Scheme up to March 31, 2031.

The scheme aims to promote entrepreneurship among Women, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and provide financial assistance to additional 2.5 lakh entrepreneurs in a span of five years, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said while briefing on the decisions taken by the government at the Cabinet meeting.

Since its launch in April 2016, the scheme has facilitated loans to more than 2.75 lakh Women/SC/ST entrepreneurs. The objective of the Stand-Up India Scheme was to provide loans ranging between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 1 crore from Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) to at least one Scheduled Caste (SC) or Scheduled Tribe (ST) borrower and one woman borrower per bank branch to set up a greenfield enterprise in manufacturing, services or trading sector and also for activities allied to agriculture.

The scheme provided loans of value between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 1 crore at the lowest applicable rate of the bank for that category (rating), not exceeding base rate MCLR+3%+ Tenor premium, with a repayment period of 7 years and a maximum moratorium of up to 18 months.

Several coaches of Kolkata-Sairang Express derail

GUWAHATI: Four persons suffered minor injuries after five coaches and the engine of the Kolkata-Sairang Express derailed at Digaru near Assam's Guwahati on Wednesday, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said. Sarma, in a social media post, said that all the passengers were safe.

"Four sustained minor injuries and are receiving care. We're working closely with @RailMinIndia on this situation," he said. "All stranded passengers have been provided with basic necessities, and an alternative travel train has been arranged for the journey," the CM said. The four injured have been taken to the Sonapur Primary Health Centre.

Somaya thanks cops for recovering stolen Oly gold

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU



FORMER India hockey captain M M Somaya on Wednesday thanked the Bengaluru Police for recovering his stolen valuables, including the 1980 Olympic gold medal, saying the recovery made him feel as though he had won the medals all over again.

All the stolen articles, including eight medals, a camera, a Kodagu dagger and an Olympic kit bag, along with the two-wheeler allegedly used in the crime, have been recovered, Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said .

Two persons have been arrested in connection with the burglary. "I am extremely happy and grateful to the Bengaluru Police for working really hard and recovering all the valuables stolen from my residence," Somaya said. He said the medals held immense sentimental value as they were won during a time when hockey was an amateur sport and offered little financial reward.





So what if pollution has increased?: Yogi on Diwali crackers

HANS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW

Taking an apparent dig at those questioning the celebrations, he said people did not object when corruption allegedly damaged the system but raised concerns when citizens celebrated festivals



UTTAR Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday played down concerns over post-Diwali pollution, saying it would subside, and questioned why those raising the issue remained silent about people who had allegedly polluted the system through corruption.

Adityanath said people had celebrated Diwali with enthusiasm, and there was no need to be overly concerned about the pollution. "Some people are saying that pollution has increased because of Diwali.

So what if it has increased? It will subside as well. Why are you worried?" he said. "Those who have polluted the entire system through their corrupt deeds are not questioned. But if the public bursts firecrackers and celebrates with fireworks for one day, suddenly pollution becomes an issue," he added. Defending the celebrations, the chief minister said people had done the right thing by celebrating Diwali with fireworks and enthusiasm. "People celebrated Diwali with great enthusiasm and burst plenty of firecrackers. We had said that we would not impose any restrictions. Let people burst firecrackers and celebrate," the chief minister said.

Referring to his participation in the fireworks celebrations in Ayodhya, Adityanath said he had also been present there. "I was also there in Ayodhya during the fireworks celebrations," he said.

Adityanath also referred to the grand Deepotsav celebrations in Ayodhya and the festivities surrounding Govardhan Puja and Bhai Dooj, saying festivals were now being celebrated peacefully across the state.

WINDOWS



TNPSC Group IV exams:14.89 lakh vie for 6,574 posts

CHENNAI: Candidates who have applied for the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission's (TNPSC) Group IV recruitment examination have until Wednesday to correct their application details, bringing the application process for 6,574 vacancies to its final stage.

The recruitment drive has attracted 14,89,025 applicants, translating into approximately 226 candidates competing for each vacancy. The written examination is scheduled for January 10, 2027, from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

The application correction facility provides candidates an opportunity to rectify errors in the information submitted during registration. With the window closing on November 11, applicants seeking changes must complete the process within the prescribed deadline.

TNPSC issued the recruitment notification on October 6 and opened online registration the same day. The announcement followed the commission's annual examination calendar, which had indicated that the notification for Group IV posts would be released in October.The vacancies span several categories of government employment. They include 291 Village Administrative Officer posts, 3,798 Junior Assistant posts, 1,572 Typist posts and 404 Steno-Typist posts. The notification also covers other clerical, laboratory and forest-related positions.

Chennai to host 2029 Asian Athletics championships

NEW DELHI: Chennai has been awarded the hosting rights for the 2029 Asian Athletics Championships, marking the fourth time that India will stage the continental event after previously hosting it in New Delhi, Pune and Bhubaneswar. The Asian Athletics Association announced the decision in a statement on Tuesday, saying the award was subject to the presentation of letters of guarantee from the government.

"Subject to presentation of letters of guarantee from the Govt, Asian Athletics Association is pleased to award the 2029 Asian Athletics Championships to Chennai, Tamil Nadu," the statement read.

C. Latha, chairman of the Tamil Nadu Athletics Association (TNAA), said the championships are likely to be held in August. Speaking from Tokyo after attending the Asian Athletics Federation Council meeting on Tuesday, Latha said Chennai's infrastructure and facilities were highlighted during the presentation made by the state.

India last hosted the Asian Athletics Championships in 2017 in Bhubaneswar, having previously staged the competition in New Delhi in 1989 and Pune in 2013. The award to Chennai adds to India's upcoming international athletics calendar.

IIT Madras to launch free online training programmes

CHENNAI: IIT Madras Pravartak Technologies Foundation, the innovation hub of IIT Madras, is partnering with BodhBridge Education to launch online live programmes in future-ready skills for school students and educators.

The courses are being offered free of charge, an official release from the institution here on Wednesday said. The topics for teachers, educators, and institutions include career counselling certification training, leadership development programme for educators, and classroom management and student engagement.

Mani Ratnam's 'Inji Vellam' to release on Jan 29

CHENNAI

THE makers of ace director Mani Ratnam's eagerly awaited entertainer 'Inji Vellam', featuring actors Vijay Sethupathi and Sai Pallavi in the lead, on Wednesday announced that the film would hit screens worldwide on January 29 next year.

Taking to its social media timelines, Madras Talkies, the production house of ace director Mani Ratnam and one of the production houses producing the film, wrote, "Save the date. Subaskaran Presents. #InjiVellam from Jan 29th, Worldwide."

Jointly produced by Lyca Productions and Madras Talkies, the film has



music by Oscar winner A R Rahman. In March this year, Madras Talkies had confirmed that A R Rahman was composing music for the film.

The makers had announced the title of the film in September this year, with a cute clip that only had voiceovers. The brief clip featured a conversation between Sai Pallavi and Vijay Sethupathi.

Sai Pallavi says that he (Vijay Sethupathi) is the inji (ginger) and that she is the vellam (jaggery) in the title. She then changes it to she being the inji and he being the vellam.

Eventually, Vijay Sethupathi ends the confusion saying that he is the ginger and she is the jaggery.

V-P REVISITS HIS ALMA MATER



Vice President CP Radhakrishnan attends the Platinum Jubilee celebrations and Alumni Meet of VO Chidambaram College Thoothukudi where he had studied on Wednesday

State gets Centre's nod for pulse stock limits as prices rise

CHENNAI

THE Centre has authorised Tamil Nadu to impose stock limits on tur dal and urad dal to curb hoarding and contain rising prices, following the state government's request for restrictions on the storage of essential commodities.

The approval comes amid mounting pressure on household budgets. Tamil Nadu recorded retail inflation of 6.81 per cent in September, the highest among states, while food prices rose 10.62 per cent, according to figures cited in the report.

Pulses have emerged as a particular concern, with prices continuing to climb. The average retail price of tur dal in Tamil Nadu stood at Rs 134.23 per kg in September, compared with the national average of Rs 124.41, a difference of Rs 9.82.

Prices increased further in October, when tur dal sold for Rs 143 per kg and urad dal for Rs 128. Current retail prices have reached Rs 153.43 and Rs 139.67 per kg, respectively.

Under the approved restrictions, wholesalers can hold up to 200 tonnes each of tur and urad. Retailers and large retail businesses will be allowed to maintain stocks of up to five tonnes of each pulse variety.

The restrictions are intended to prevent excessive accumulation by traders, discourage artificial shortages and ensure that supplies remain available in the market. Separate limits have been prescribed for pulse mills. Their permissible stocks will be based on the previous three months' average processing capacity



or 25 per cent of annual processing capacity, whichever is higher.

This arrangement seeks to curb excessive stockholding while allowing mills to maintain supplies required for regular operations. Importers will also face storage restrictions. Companies bringing pulses into India cannot retain consignments for more than 45 days after their arrival in the country.

The measure aims to ensure imported supplies reach the market promptly instead of remaining in storage for prolonged periods. Tamil Nadu had sought the Union Consumer Affairs Ministry's permission to impose stock limits on rice, edible oils and onions, besides pulses, as part of its efforts to contain food inflation.

However, the Centre has approved restrictions only for tur and urad. With onion prices declining in Tamil Nadu and several other parts of the country, restrictions on onion stocks were considered unnecessary. Approval for stock limits on rice and edible oils has not yet been granted by the Centre.

CM warns TVK MLAs against misconduct

Urges unity amid controversies

CHENNAI

TAMIL Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Wednesday reportedly warned Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) legislators that those who stray from acceptable conduct would face action, while urging them to remain united and respond promptly to public grievances.

Addressing a meeting of party MLAs at a star hotel in Mamallapuram, Vijay cautioned legislators against falling into what he described as traps laid by opposition parties to undermine his government.

The meeting assumed significance against the backdrop of controversies involving ruling party legislators that have generated considerable political debate in the State. These include an allegation that the Deputy Speaker assaulted a petitioner and another concerning a text message allegedly sent by the Kallakurichi MLA to the district Collector.

The allegations formed the backdrop to the discussions, though the available account did not indicate whether Vijay addressed either case specifically. The consultation began around 4 p.m., with the Chief Minister reportedly calling legislators individually for discussions. According to accounts emerging from the meeting, he combined a warning on discipline with an appeal for unity and greater attention to constituency issues. Vijay reportedly told the legislators that the party faced several political adversaries and accused the DMK of persistently attempting to obstruct the TVK government.

He urged them to exercise caution and continue serving the public without being distracted by political confrontations. "We must all remain united and continue serving



the people," he was quoted as telling the gathering.

The Chief Minister also reportedly said he had given the police complete freedom to handle law-and-order issues. His remarks came as controversies involving legislators placed the conduct of elected representatives under scrutiny.

Emphasising accountability, Vijay warned that action would be taken against MLAs who went astray. He asked legislators to bring matters requiring intervention to his attention and said they could approach him directly on any issue. He also stressed the need for swift responses to the problems raised by residents, urging MLAs to ensure that public grievances received immediate attention. The message conveyed at the meeting centred on maintaining discipline, strengthening coordination and sustaining public engagement while navigating criticism from opposition parties.

The account of Vijay's remarks was based on reports emerging from the consultation. Details of any specific disciplinary decisions or formal directions issued to individual legislators were not available in that account.

BJP slams TN govt over law and order

Slams Minister's remarks on festival-time murders

CHENNAI

LEADING the charge against the ruling TVK government over the allegedly deteriorating law and order situation in Tamil Nadu, BJP leader Narayanan Thirupathy on Wednesday strongly criticised Minister A Rajmohan for downplaying festival-time murders.

Hitting out at the minister's reported remarks comparing current crime statistics with previous years, Thirupathy said it proves the government has no clue how to manage law and order in the state.

"What Rajmohan says is that murders during festivals are very simple. Last year it was six and the year before last it was 12. I don't think this government has got any idea about how to control the law and order," Thirupathy said while speaking to PTI videos.

He also dismissed the re-



cent two-day special drive by the Tamil Nadu police, which saw 443 arrests following a spate of Deepavali-day murders. Calling the drive a clear admission of failure by the police department, he questioned why a special operation was needed when routine policing should have stopped open crimes in the first place. Citing a recent daylight murder in R A Puram in Chennai, he declared that the state is witnessing a "complete breakdown of law and order".

The BJP leader also mounted a scathing attack on TVK over allegations of severe misconduct by elected representatives. Pointing to reports of TVK legislator from Kallakurichi, Arul Vignesh, allegedly sending unwanted, obscene messages to a woman District Collector, Thirupathy demanded the MLA's immediate arrest.

Thirupathy further accused Deputy Speaker M Ravisankar of assaulting a member of the public who had raised demands about water scarcity. He alleged that the victim was coerced into downplaying the incident and the police were forced to cover it up, describing the situation as absolute "anarchy".

Accusing Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay of remaining a mute spectator, Thirupathy said the CM is "keeping silent on everything." When asked about reports that the Union Home Ministry had sought an assessment from the Governor, the BJP leader said he was unaware of the specifics but reiterated that the law and order situation is currently at its "worst".

Justice Muralidharan, chairperson of TN SC/ST Commission

CHENNAI: THE Tamil Nadu government has appointed former Madras High Court judge Justice M V Muralidharan as the chairperson of the Tamil Nadu State Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. According to a Government Order issued by Social Justice Department Secretary N Subbaiyan on November 10, 2026, Justice Muralidharan will serve as chairperson for a period of three years or until he attains the age of 75, whichever is earlier, with effect from the date he assumes charge. The post of chairperson had fallen vacant following the demise of Justice S Tamilvanan on March 22, 2026, before the completion of his tenure. The selection was made following recommendations by a high-level committee headed by the Chief Secretary to the Government, pursuant to the provisions of the Tamil Nadu State Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Act, 2021.

Wild gaur dies of electrocution in Nilgiris plantation

UDHAGAMANDALAM

A male wild gaur died of electrocution after a live electric line snapped and fell inside a private tea plantation at O'Valley near Gudalur in the Nilgiris district. The incident occurred at Manjushree Estate, falling under the Barwood beat of the O'Valley range within the Gudalur forest division, forest officials said. Upon inspection on Wednesday, forest personnel discovered a dangling power cable that had snapped off a utility pole. The surrounding tea bushes directly beneath the wire were found charred due to the intense electric current, pointing to electrocution as the cause of the animal's death.

Following the discovery, a post-mortem examination was conducted at the spot by veterinary doctors from the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve and the Gudalur forest division in the presence of the assistant conservator of forests, Gudalur. Visceral samples were collected and sent for laboratory analysis to confirm the official cause of death. Following the autopsy and per the advice of the forest veterinary surgeon, the carcass of the wild gaur was buried in a deep pit dug at the scene.

Officials from the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB) along with forest department staff visited the site and have launched a detailed investigation into the incident.

Govt will resolve delay in V-C appointments soon: Min

CHENNAI

THE Tamil Nadu government will soon resolve the prolonged delay in appointing Vice-Chancellors to state universities, Higher Education Minister P Viswanathan said on Wednesday, noting that a recent meeting with Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar has resulted in a preliminary understanding.

Acknowledging the vacancies, the minister explained that the matter is currently tied up in court cases involving the previous Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi and the state government. "We accept that there are no Vice-Chancellors. It is under litigation," Viswanathan told reporters. He noted that following a recent meeting with the Governor, attended by himself, the School Education Minister, and the Speaker, a resolution is in sight. "An understanding has been reached.

Govt fast-tracks process to restore water bodies

Launches dedicated portal

CHENNAI

THE Tamil Nadu government has launched the 'Eri' portal to provide fast-track online No Objection Certificates to non-governmental organisations and volunteers working on water body restoration across the state.

The automated system, which dispenses with the manual application process, aims to clear eligible restoration applications within a strict 15-day window. The portal addresses a long-standing grievance of eco-volunteers and NGOs using Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds, who previously faced severe bureaucratic delays while seeking clearances from multiple government departments.

Developed by the Water Resources Department, the platform replaces the manual application process with a transparent, time-bound digital mechanism. Some of the key features of the 'Eri' portal -- www.eri.tn.gov.in -- include a centralised database bringing details of over 1 lakh water bodies managed across 5 different government departments onto a single website, allowing users to apply online for critical activities



like desilting, strengthening of bunds, and minor permitted improvement works, and unified coordination with the Chief Engineer and Director of the State Water Resources Management Agency (SWaRMA) appointed as the nodal officer to handle application screening, approval tracking, and inter-departmental coordination.

During the launch event at the Secretariat on Tuesday, Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay handed over the first set of online NOCs to representatives from prominent environmental organisations, including Siruthuli, Environmental Foundation of India (EFI), Exnora International Foundation, Mega Foundation, and Dhan Foundation.

The event was attended by HR&CE Minister S Ramesh, Forest Minister R V Ranjith Kumar, Chief Secretary M Saikumar, Additional Chief Secretary (MA&WS) Gagandeep Singh Bedi, along with other senior secretaries and department heads.

In the face of climate change and increasing water demand, to enhance water storage capacity, improve groundwater recharge, strengthen resilience to the impacts of climate change, and ensure water security of Tamil Nadu, the effective participation of NGOs, the public, and volunteers, along with the government, will go a long way in making the efforts sustainable, it is said.

Through the ERI portal, an integrated online platform created to encourage the participation of citizens, NGOs, CSR organisations, institutions and other stakeholders in the restoration and rejuvenation of water bodies across the State.

The portal enables interested organisations to identify water bodies, submit restoration proposals, obtain necessary permissions/NOCs from concerned government departments, track applications, and document the progress and completion of restoration works through a single platform. Water Resources Department, Rural Development & Panchayat Raj, Directorate of Town Panchayats, Greater Chennai Corporation, Municipal Administration (DMA), Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments, and Environment, Climate Change & Forest, are among the stakeholder departments.

WINDOWS


DIRECTORATE OF MINORITIES

Short Term Tender

A Short term Tender has been invited by the Directorate of Minorities for Providing 60 days Army Training to Minority students for the year 2026-27 interested & eligible bidders/ institutes can apply through e-Procurement portal. The schedule of tender will be as follows

Sl. No.	Details	Date/Time
1.	Date of Tender Publication	02-11-2026
2.	Date & time of Pre-bid meeting	06-11-2026 11:30 AM
3.	Last date and time for submission of tender	30-11-2026 by 5:30 p.m.
4.	Telephone No. to be contacted	080-22535902/901 8277799990

Other details can be obtained from the website of the Directorate of Minorities https://dom.karnataka.gov.in and e-Procurement website at https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-
Joint Director
Directorate of Minorities, Bengaluru

'Withdraw Minority department's Army training advt'

BENGALURU: Opposition Chief Whip in the Legislative Council N. Ravi Kumar has written to Chief Minister D K Shivakumar seeking immediate clarification and withdrawal of an advertisement issued by the Department of Minorities, which offers 60 days of Army training exclusively to minority youths.

In an open letter written on Wednesday, Ravi Kumar termed the advertisement misleading and questioned the provision of religion-based Army training. "The Army does not offer religion-based training. There is no provision in the Constitution for providing Army training on the basis of religion," he said.

He maintained that Army training was imparted by the armed forces to candidates selected through a rigorous selection process and that the state government had no role in either the training or the selection. Ravi Kumar alleged that the advertisement could mislead minority youths by creating the impression that the state government could arrange Army training exclusively for a particular religious community.

He said the government could organise Civil Defence training for youths, irrespective of religion, caste or community, to prepare them to respond to emergencies such as train accidents, floods and earthquakes. However, describing such an initiative as Army training exclusively for Muslim youths was incorrect, he said. Ravi Kumar urged the Chief Minister to issue a clarification and direct the Department of Minorities to withdraw the advertisement.

E-Swathu for properties excluding B-Kharab land: Khandre



BENGALURU: Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Eshwar B. Khandre directed officials to issue E-Swathu certificates for eligible properties in residential layouts developed on revenue land within Gram Panchayat limits, after verifying that the properties do not fall under B-Kharab land.

Chairing a meeting with officials at Vikas Soudha on Tuesday, the minister held detailed discussions on issuing E-Swathu certificates to owners of sites and houses with registered sale deeds on both converted and non-converted revenue land. He instructed officials to ensure that such properties do not fall under B-Kharab, forest or government land before issuing E-Swathu certificates. He also directed them to hold a meeting with Revenue Department officials to resolve issues relating to land classified as B-Kharab.

The minister noted that around 1.30 lakh applications submitted for E-Swathu in the Bengaluru Urban Zilla Panchayat were pending due to technical reasons. He directed officials to take necessary action in accordance with the rules to ensure the speedy disposal of these applications.Principal Secretary of the department Pankaj Kumar Pandey, Secretary D. Randeep, Commissioners Fauzia Tarannum B. and Venkataraju, CEO Rahul Shinde and other officials attended the meeting.

Metro Blue Line train reaches ORR, trial run extended to Doddanekkundi

Hans News Service
Bengaluru

BENGALURU'S ambitious Blue Line Metro project has achieved another significant milestone, with a trial run of a train extended along the Outer Ring Road (ORR) corridor. The development has raised hopes among thousands of commuters, particularly IT employees who struggle with daily traffic congestion between Silk Board and KR Puram.

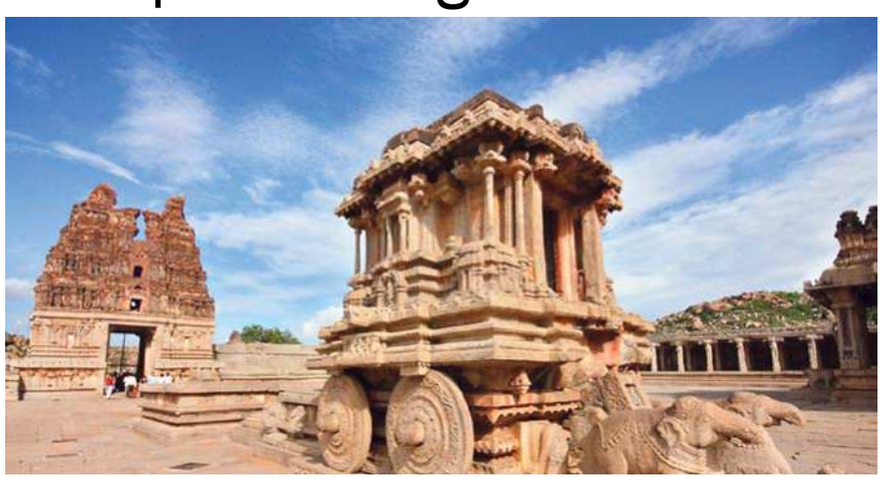
On November 10, a test train travelled from Byappanahalli Depot to Doddanekkundi Metro station, marking further progress in the testing of the Blue Line infrastructure. Earlier, on November 7, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) had conducted an initial trial run between Byappanahalli Depot and Benniganahalli. The latest extension towards Doddanekkundi through KR Puram is an important step towards testing a longer stretch of the corridor.

The trial runs are intended to assess the performance of the trains, electrical systems, tracks and other infrastructure before further testing and safety inspections are undertaken. Under Phase 2A, the Blue Line will cover 19.75 km between Central Silk Board and KR Puram, with 13 stations. These include HSR Layout, Agara, Ibbaluru, Bellandur, Devarabeesanahalli, Kadubeesanahalli, Marathahalli, ISRO, Doddanekkundi, Bagmane and Saraswatinagar.

BMRCL is targeting May 2027 for the commencement of passenger services on this stretch. However, the line will have to undergo further trials, mandatory safety inspections and statutory approvals before opening. The corridor is expected to provide substantial relief to commuters travelling through Bengaluru's busy IT corridor. The Blue Line will eventually extend connectivity to Kempegowda International Airport, improving public transport access to the airport.



Rs 38-crore makeover plan for Hampi's heritage monuments



Hans News Service
Hampi

THE Centre has drawn up an ambitious Rs 38-crore plan to conserve and restore some of the most important monuments in Hampi, the historic capital of the Vijayanagara Empire and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The initiative will cover several structures dating back to the 14th to 16th centuries, including the Jain temples on Hemakuta Hill and the Saraswati temple complex at Singanayakanahalli.

The project is being taken up under the National Culture Fund of the Union Ministry of Culture, with financial support mobilised through Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's (HAL) corporate social responsibility funds and the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS).

Of the total allocation of Rs 38 crore, around Rs 19 crore is expected to come through MPLADS. The funding will support a comprehensive conservation programme aimed at protecting the monuments and restoring damaged structures.

The Ministry will appoint a heritage conservation architect to prepare a detailed project report. The architect will assess the present condition of the monuments, identify conservation requirements and prepare technical documentation before restoration work is taken up in phases.The proposed works include comprehensive protection of the northern and southern bazaars adjoining the Virupaksha Temple. The western portion of a collapsed mandapa near the Sri Bhashyakara shrine in the Vittala Temple complex will also be reconstructed.

The Jain temples on Hemakuta Hill and the Saraswati temple complex at Singanayakanahalli are among the other structures identified for renovation. The initiative is expected to strengthen conservation efforts at Hampi, whose monuments represent the architectural and cultural legacy of the Vijayanagara Empire. The detailed project report will determine the technical scope and sequence of the restoration works.

Farmers need not panic, drought relief will reach them: DKS

Rs 5,000 guaranteed in two instalments, first instalment of Rs 2,500 already released

Hans News Service
Bengaluru

"FARMERS of the state need not have any confusion regarding drought relief. Our government will release Rs 5,000 in two Instalments to every eligible farmer. The first Instalment money has already reached many farmers. A formula has been devised to ensure the funds reach every farmer," assured CM DK Shivakumar.



Shivakumar responded to the media on Wednesday near his Sadashivanagar residence and Mysuru Airport. "A specific amount has been fixed for each farmer. Money has reached the correct accounts. However, the obstacles in the accounts of farmers who haven't received the funds will be cleared and paid. Hence, farmers do not need to panic," he clarified."If there is any discrepancy in the amount that needs to reach the farmers, it will be rectified. Even if the Central Government does not release relief funds, our government will pay Rs 5,000 in relief to the farmers in two Instalments as promised," he assured.

"Money is being transferred to all farmers' accounts with a single click. However, some bank accounts are not updated properly and are linked to loan accounts. The relief amount will be paid quickly after verifying all records," he said.

"Appointments to boards and corporations will take place in 3 phases. In the first phase, a list of 500 directors is ready, and I have signed it before coming here. That list will be released today. Senior legislators of the party must also be given appropriate opportunities in boards and corporations. That is our duty. We will do that work," he assured.

When asked about BJP leaders protesting against price hikes in Bengaluru, "Let them do it, what they are doing is politics, not a protest. Why didn't they protest when the Central Government hiked fuel prices? Instead of blending 20% ethanol, they have blended 30%. Because of this, crores of vehicles in the state have suffered damage. Engines have broken down, causing losses. Don't BJP leaders see all this? Are they unaware of this disaster?" he questioned.

"Regarding the unscientific blending of ethanol, our Food Minister conducted tests across 67 locations in the state to learn the truth. He has also brought this act to the notice of the Central Government with evidence. Who is responsible for supplying adulterated fuel and hitting the people of the state hard? Central ministers say no, no. But our samples serve as evidence. First, let the BJP answer this," he challenged.

When asked about BJP leaders using abusive words against Congress, he said, "They are speaking for their own satisfaction. Chalavadi Narayanaswamy said he would cut into pieces and throw into the sea, another party president abused saying 'nam makkalu' (sons of...). So, are we all Vijayendra's children? BJP people are abusing others just for their self-gratification."

VOICES OF PROTEST



Karnataka BJP President B Y Vijayendra, former chief minister BS Yediyurappa and others hold a protest against the hike in bus fare and milk products at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Wednesday

Three-day World Kannada Literary Conference in 2027: CM

Mysuru

KARNATAKA Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Wednesday announced that a three-day World Kannada Literary Conference would be organised in 2027 under the leadership of former CM and noted writer M Veerappa Moily. The decision on organising the conference would be taken in the next state Budget, he said.

Speaking after releasing the fourth volume of Moily's literary work, 'Vishwasamskrutiya Mahayana', a prose epic here, he said the conference aimed to bring together Kannadigas living across the world to promote and preserve the Kannada language and culture.

"Kannada enjoys immense respect among people living abroad. We want to bring Kannadigas from across the world onto one platform and organise a World Kannada Literary Conference to preserve and promote our language and culture," Shivakumar said.

Emphasising the enduring influence of literature, he said political leaders might eventually be forgotten, but the names and ideas of those who made significant contributions to literature would remain for generations. "For the world to become one, human beings must first come together. Religion and culture play an important role in shaping a person into a true human being. Education and literature are among the most powerful instruments in the world," he added.

Shivakumar said literature, poetry, shayari and music across languages reflected universal human emotions. "Every religion has values that connect humanity and culture. The literary world has a significant role in preserving and promoting these values," he added.

The CM said the Congress government was also committed to securing official recognition for the yellow and red Kannada flag. Former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had earlier brought the issue of the Kannada flag to the attention of the Union government, he said.

TRIAL BY FIRE



People walk on burning embers during the 'Sri Deviramma Kendotsava' festival in Chikkamagaluru on Wednesday

Suresh inaugurates new guarantee implementation committee office

Hans News Service
Bengaluru

FORMER Member of Parliament, brother of Karnataka's Chief Minister, and President of the Bangalore Milk Union Limited, D K Suresh inaugurated the new office of the Bengaluru City District Guarantee Implementation Committee on Wednesday.

The ceremony took place at the Bengaluru City District Panchayat premises, where Suresh performed the ribbon-cutting. Guarantee Implementation Committee Chairman Ashwath Raju, also known as Achyuth Raju, and Yeshwanthpur Assembly Constituency MLA S T Somashekhar were both present during the occasion.

Namma Metro Pink Line inauguration tomorrow: Gowda

Bengaluru

BENGALURU Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said the 7.5-km elevated section of the Namma Metro Pink Line would be formally inaugurated on November 13 and open to the public from 6 am on November 14, describing the launch as a milestone in the city's push to expand its rail network.

The inauguration will be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, Governor Sudha Yadav and other dignitaries, he said. The section, running from Kalena Agrahara to Tavarekere and Suddaguntepalya, is expected to connect with the Electronic City line at Jayadeva station.

Services will initially run every eight minutes, with five trains allocated to the line: four in regular service and one on standby. Fares for the new section have not yet been discussed, Gowda said. "This is a long-awaited moment for Bengaluru residents.

Priyank Kharge faces backlash over alleged AI-edited photo on RSS

BJP leaders, netizens demand accountability

Hans News Service
Bengaluru

HOME Minister Priyank Kharge has become the focus of political controversy after sharing on social media, a photograph alleged to have been edited with AI. The image accompanied his questioning of RSS connections in an alleged large-scale bullet seizure case that occurred in Bihar and Haryana.

On November 10, Kharge posted on his X account about the cartridge seizure, referring to reports and photographs that some accused involved in an interstate ammunition smuggling network were wearing RSS uniforms.

Subsequent examination of the viral photo indicated that the original showed only one person in RSS uniform while the later version depicted others in the same attire, prompting claims that AI tools had been used for the alteration.

Netizens responded heatedly to the post. Several asked why the minister was unnecessarily raising the RSS matter instead of concentrating on law and order in the state. One user cited the example of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh shaking hands with a terrorist and asked what answer Kharge would offer if the same logic were applied.

Another user remarked that Kharge, who had earlier spoken of taking strict action against those who spread fake news, now appeared to be circulating misinformation himself.

A further comment described as condemnable the act of a person occupying the responsible post of Home Minister making accusations against the RSS on the basis of an AI-created image. The comment added that truth and falsehood should have been checked before any allegation, and that the Home Minister's priority must remain maintenance of law and order in the state together with action against criminals rather than political propaganda through baseless charges.

BJP MP Tejasvi Surya strongly criticised Priyank Kharge, accusing the Home Minister of spreading false news and insisting that he resign from the ministerial position. "We have a fake news peddler as Home Minister of our state. And this bloke wanted to set up some fact check unit or something. Sad state of affairs," he said.



Separately, a complaint was lodged on November 10 at the Banashankari police station alleging that false and misleading information had been circulated on social media.

NMC allocated 480 Indiramma Tower houses

MAYOR THANKS CM REVANTH REDDY AND MINISTER KOMATIREDDY





HANS NEWS SERVICE
NALGONDA

GOOD news for the people who do not have their own house as government has sanctioned 480 houses under the Indiramma Towers housing scheme to the Nalgonda Municipal Corporation. Expressing happiness, City Mayor Burri Chaitanya Srinivas Reddy welcomed the government's decision. On behalf of the people of Nalgonda, the Mayor extended special thanks to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy for approving the housing units.

She said the primary objective of the Indiramma Towers scheme was to fulfill the dream of owning a house for poor and economically weaker families who do not have homes of their own. The scheme would greatly benefit eligible poor families in Nalgonda town.

The Mayor revealed that the government had fixed the construction cost of each house at Rs 8.50 lakh and approved a subsidy of Rs 5 lakh for eligible beneficiaries. She further stated that the Congress government was committed to public welfare and was working towards the overall development of Nalgonda town while ensuring that the housing dreams of underprivileged families become a reality.

Uttam: BRS exploiting farmers' concerns over water scarcity

Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy accuses Opposition of spreading false propaganda that Krishna and Godavari waters are being diverted to Andhra Pradesh

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KODAD / HUZURNAGAR



IRRIGATION Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy accused BRS leaders of spreading false propaganda that Krishna and Godavari waters meant for Telangana were being diverted to Andhra Pradesh. He alleged that the opposition was exploiting farmers' concerns over possible water scarcity due to the El Niño effect for political gain.

During his visit to Suryapet district on Wednesday, the Minister inspected lift irrigation projects and the Young India Integrated Residential School construction. He claimed Telangana had utilised more Krishna and Godavari water under the Congress government than during the previous BRS regime. He said the government had paid nearly Rs. 90,000 crore to farmers through paddy procurement and introduced a Rs. 500 per quintal bonus for fine-variety paddy.

Uttam announced that the long-pending Janpahad Lift Irrigation Scheme would be commissioned by January 31, providing Krishna water to 10,000 acres across 15 villages. He directed officials to complete the pump house by December-end and the power substation by January-end, warning of strict action against delays. Six local tanks will also be filled under the project.

Considering possible water shortages during the coming Rabi season, he urged farmers to cultivate less water-intensive crops and assured adequate drinking water and food grain supplies.

VASUDHA FOUNDATION EXTENDS RS 10,000 FINANCIAL AID TO AILING WOMAN



Vasudha Foundation has extended financial assistance of Rs 10,000 to a poor woman suffering from illness to meet her medical expenses in Bhadrachalam. On Wednesday, a cheque for Rs 10,000 was handed over to her husband Madugula Satyanarayana through Bhadrachalam DSP Arun Kumar for her medical treatment.

Speed up investigation of pending cases: SP

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NARAYANPET



SP Vineeth directed police officers to expedite the investigation of pending cases and focus on effective crime prevention. He also stressed the need to strengthen the CCTV surveillance network by ensuring the installation of at least four cameras in every village.

The SP conducted a monthly crime review meeting with district police officers here on Wednesday. During the meeting, he reviewed the crime situation, pending cases, investigation progress, court-related matters and maintenance of law and order. He issued several instructions to officers to improve policing and ensure speedy justice to victims.

Megha Reddy initiates irrigation water supply from Edula reservoir



WANAPARTHY
HANS NEWS SERVICE

BRINGING life to local tanks—MLA Tudi Megha Reddy on Wednesday initiated the supply of irrigation water from the Edula reservoir, via the D-5 canal, to tanks in Edula and Ananthapuram villages, with a promise "I will repay the debt I owe to people who voted for me."

He assured "my goal is to ensure irrigation water reaches every single acre. I will work for farmers like a dedicated head labourer; their interests are my top priority."

The MLA pledged to remain accessible to farmers at all times, stating that he would serve them like a dedicated "chief servant." He noted that while the El Niño phenomenon is causing drought-like conditions globally, no such situation exists in Telangana, specifically in the Wanaparthy region.

He took a jab at BRS leaders, remarking that they are indeed facing a "drought"—specifically, the absence of opportunities to collect commissions as they once did—which is the true reason for their current frustration. Reddy advised against spreading false propaganda that creates panic among the public by claiming a drought has arrived.

Farmers and residents expressed immense joy and gratitude to the MLA. He instructed irrigation officials to supply water to the villages through the canals. He criticised the previous administration, noting that although it boasted about 'adopting' Edula, failed to bring any significant development, save for the establishment of a single bank. Its leaders had made promises to farmers, pledging comprehensive development for villages in exchange for the reservoir, only to ultimately leave people disappointed.

He questioned why the BRS, during its tenure, failed to provide Rs. 25 lakh in compensation to farmers affected by the Edula reservoir project.

The MLA asserted if anyone wishes to file politically-motivated cases against him, they should start with him.

Market yard president Venkatesh, vice-president Satyasheela Reddy, mandal party president Sukhender Reddy, joint Gopalpeta mandal YC president Janakiramulu, spokesperson Kolla Venkatesh, sarpanch Parushuram, leaders, activists, farmers and villagers attended.

Spent Rs 1 lakh crore on development of Palamuru: Yennam

HANS NEWS SERVICE
MAHABUBNAGAR



GOVERNMENT Whip and MLA Yennam Srinivas Reddy said that the Congress government had spent Rs 1 lakh crore on various development works across the erstwhile Mahabubnagar district in the last two years.

Addressing the media at his camp office in Mahabubnagar, he alleged that the previous BRS government had neglected the development of Palamuru during its ten-year rule and failed to protect the water rights of the region.

Questioning the diversion of Jurala water towards Srisailam without utilising it for the benefit of the local population, he demanded that the Palamuru region be given top priority in the utilisation of Krishna waters.

He reiterated that the demand of the Telangana government was for its rightful share of 558 TMC of Krishna water.

The MLA said the government was committed to providing irrigation facilities to Makthal, Narayanpet and Kodangal constituencies.

The foundation stone had been laid for the Makthal–Narayanpet–Kodangal Lift Irrigation Scheme to bring water to these drought-prone areas.

Krishna elected Munnuru Kapu Assn district president

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KHAMMAM



RJC Krishna (Gundala Krishna) has been elected president of the Khammam district committee of the Telangana Munnuru Kapu Welfare Association, while Bachu Vijay Kumar has been elected district secretary.

The new committee was elected at a meeting held at the Munnuru Kapu Boys' Hostel on Wednesday, attended by prominent community leaders and JAC representatives.

Speaking on the occasion, RJC Krishna thanked the association leaders for entrusting him with the responsibility. He said the committee would work for the welfare and overall development of the Munnuru Kapu community, focusing on education, employment and social advancement.

11.6 kg ganja seized; two held



HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHADRACHALAM

EXCISE Enforcement officials seized 11.6 kg of dry ganja during vehicle checks near a sand reach on the Kunavaram – Bhadrachalam road on Wednesday. Two persons were apprehended in connection with the seizure.

The team, led by Excise Enforcement Sub-Inspector CH Srihari Rao, intercepted a suspicious Pulsar NS 200 motorcycle during vehicle checks and recovered 11.6 kg of dry ganja from it.

The accused were identified as Kalva Venkatesh and Koduru Suresh, both residents of Bharat Nagar in Siddipet district. They were allegedly transporting the ganja from Malkangiri to Siddipet when they were intercepted.

The seized ganja, motorcycle and mobile phone were handed over to the Bhadrachalam Excise Station for further investigation.

Singireddy leads protest for KLI, Jurala water to farmers

WANAPARTHY
HANS NEWS SERVICE



FORMER minister Singireddy Niranjan Reddy, accompanied by former MLAs Ala Venkateswar Reddy and Beeram Harshavardhan Reddy, on Wednesday led a flash protest at the Irrigation CE's office, demanding water from the KLI scheme and Jurala to support farmers. A representation was submitted to Deputy CE Venkat Reddy.

Singireddy criticised the government as 'incompetent' that fails to provide water despite having the means to do so. He said in just three years, CM Revanth has turned Palamuru into a drought-stricken district. Under the Congress rule, crops are withering and transformers are exploding.

Farmers Raghupati Reddy, Indrayya Sagar, Nagi Reddy, Edhanna, Konda Reddy and Sridhar Reddy expressed their deep anguish, highlighting the severe hardships currently faced by the farming community.

Singireddy pointed out that even though 50 tmcft is available at the Srisailam reservoir, the KLI [system remains unutilised], farmers are suffering immensely due to the incompetence of the government, which has failed to keep the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme pumps running continuously.

He stated that during ex-CM KCR's tenure, streams and tanks were kept overflowing even in peak summer; in contrast, the current administration's incompetence and negligence have allowed "Andhra rulers" to siphon off water. He demanded the KLI scheme pumps be operated without interruption, as not a single drop reached any village in Peddamandadi mandal.

He urged the government to support farmers who have sown dry-land crops under the KLI project by providing them water. Water should be released through the right and left canals of the Jurala project. The Palamuru-Rangareddy lift pumps must be operated to fill the Edula and Karvena reservoirs with 5 tmcft. He demanded removal of three bunds/barriers to ensure water reaches farmers.

BC leaders call for unity to secure political rights

BC self-respect meeting to be organised in Bhupalpally



HANS NEWS SERVICE
JAASHANKAR BHUPALPALLY

LEADERS of various Backward Classes (BC) associations and BC political representatives called for unity to secure political rights, adequate representation and self-respect for the BC communities at a meeting held at the district headquarters on Wednesday. The meeting, organised under the leadership of BC Associations JAC district president Paidipalli Ramesh, was held at the Civil Contractors' Association building under the slogan "BC Self-Respect – Political Power for BCs." Chief guest Erram Satyanarayana, president of the State BC Welfare Association, urged BC organisations to unite and launch collective movements to achieve political empowerment and rightful representation. Participants discussed political opportunities, community rights and future programmes. The meeting resolved to organise a massive BC Self-Respect public meeting in Bhupalpally soon and appealed to all BC associations to join the common platform.

CM seeks UAE, Japanese investments in food processing, critical minerals, energy sectors

Hans News Service
Visakhapatnam

ELABORATING on the vast investment opportunities available in Andhra Pradesh and the State's potential in food processing sector, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu invited several industrialists and company representatives from Dubai and UAE to invest in AP, particularly in food processing.

UAE Minister of Economy and Tourism Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri, who arrived in Visakhapatnam to participate in CII Partnership Summit, met Chief Minister Naidu on the eve of CII Partnership Summit in Visakhapatnam.

During meeting, the CM explained that the State is developing Rayalaseema into a global horticulture hub with an investment of Rs 1 lakh crore. He called upon Silal, a leading UAE-based agri food company, to participate in the food cluster proposed to be established by the UAE.

Chandrababu Naidu highlighted that Andhra Pradesh offers immense opportunities for investment in agriculture, procurement of agricultural and food products, processing and exports. The proposed grounding of Dubai-based Floormaster Industries in Chittoor district also came up for discussion.

The CM urged the UAE Minister to facilitate an early decision on the proposed food cluster.

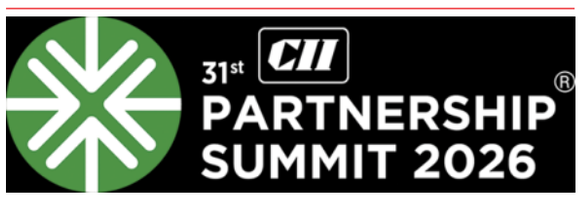
The CM also encouraged UAE companies to explore investment opportunities in various sectors, including maritime, aerospace and defence. He assured that Andhra Pradesh is ready to work closely with the UAE to strengthen bilateral economic cooperation. UAE Minister of Economy and Tourism Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri responded that the UAE is keen to invest along India's eastern coast and that Andhra Pradesh would emerge as a key destination for investments from his country.

The UAE delegation also evinced interest in importing shrimp and other aquaculture products from Andhra Pradesh.

Chief Minister Naidu was further informed that another



Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu in discussions with UAE Minister of Economy and Tourism Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri along with other UAE company officials in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday



12 UAE-based companies were keen to invest in the proposed food cluster in the State. In a separate meeting with Japanese Ambassador Keiichi Ono, Chief Minister Naidu explored cooperation in skill development, critical minerals, steel and green energy. Japanese representatives offered to support industry-oriented training for Andhra Pradesh's youth and sought cooperation in securing rare earth mineral supplies and uninterrupted imports of semi-finished steel for processing at the ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India plant.

In a meeting with Singapore Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Energy, Trade and Industry Gan Siow Huang, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu discussed advancing AP-Singapore partnership, with particular emphasis on Amaravati's integrated township development, digital governance through RTGS, institutional capacity-building, logistics and international trade.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu also met World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) Director General Daren Tang to explore ways to secure international recognition for innovation, research and creativity in Andhra Pradesh and enhance awareness of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) among startups and entrepreneurs in the State.

The discussions focused on establishing a WIPO–Andhra Pradesh Academy and conducting joint programmes to provide training on Intellectual Property Rights, patents, trademarks, industrial designs and technology protection to students, researchers, startup founders and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

The CM sought WIPO's support in securing Geographical Indication (GI) tags for the State's handloom products, handicrafts and other local products. He also requested assistance in expanding markets for existing GI-tagged products and taking their quality standards and branding to the international level.

Vijaya Sai Reddy launches Parivartan Rajaniti Party

MV Syam Sundar
Vijayawada

FORMER Rajya Sabha member V Vijaya Sai Reddy on Wednesday formally announced the launch of a new political party, named Parivartan Rajaniti Party (PRP), declaring that its primary objective would be to provide an alternative to family-based politics in Andhra Pradesh.

The party's name, flag and agenda were unveiled at a programme held at A-1 Convention Centre in Vijayawada at 11.11 am. Party flag features white and saffron colours, with a Dharma Chakra at its centre. The party will be known by the acronym PRP.

Announcing the party's vision, Vijaya Sai Reddy said it would work towards ending the dominance of family-based politics in the State and provide greater opportunities for young people. He promised that 60 per cent of opportunities in the party would be given to youth and that they would be encouraged to take up leadership responsibilities.

He said development and welfare would form the core of the party's agenda, with particular emphasis on addressing public issues, education, employment, agriculture and the overall development of Andhra Pradesh. Providing free electricity to farmers, increasing water storage capacity and improving people's incomes would be among its key priorities.



V Vijaya Sai Reddy launching a new political - Parivartana Rajaniti Party - in Vijayawada on Wednesday
Photo: Ch Venkata Mastan

Stating that the party would protect the pride and self-respect of Rayalaseema while ensuring balanced development across all regions of the State, he said the PRP would strive to build a political platform focused on public welfare and good governance.

Vijaya Sai Reddy maintained that anyone doing good work should be appreciated, while those committing mistakes must be questioned with evidence, irrespective of their political position. Whether it was himself, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu or YSRCP president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, wrongdoing should be questioned without bias, he said.

Questioning whether Andhra Pradesh should continue to be ruled by just two political families, he clarified that becoming Chief Minister was not his personal ambition. Instead, he said he would identify a capable young leader with the necessary talent, potential and leadership qualities and groom that person to become the Chief Minister.

The launch of PRP is expected to add a new dimension to the political landscape of Andhra Pradesh, with its proposed focus on youth leadership and an alternative to family-centric politics.

Jagan accuses Naidu of 'scam' in medical college privatisation

Hans News Service
Amaravati

YSR Congress Party president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Wednesday accused Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu of attempting to hand over government medical colleges to private players under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, alleging that the move amounted to a massive scam involving public assets.

In a post on X, Jagan said his government had established 17 new medical colleges, of which five were opened and another three were made ready to commence classes.

The remaining nine could have been completed by investing Rs 1,000 crore annually, he said, questioning the need for privatisation.

Alleging irregularities in the proposed PPP arrangement, Jagan claimed that government land worth hundreds of crores was being leased for just Rs 100 per acre, while Rs 1,630 crore in public funds would be provided as Viability Gap Funding (VGF).

He also alleged that the government would bear staff salaries for two years, involving an expenditure of around Rs 120 crore per college.

He maintained that colleges were designed as teaching hospitals offering free multispecialty treatment, with half medical seats under convenor quota and remaining seats at fees substantially lower than private institutions.

They would also be linked to area hospitals, CHCs, PHCs and village clinics to strengthen healthcare delivery. Jagan further accused Naidu government of weakening public healthcare system by delaying Aarogyasri payments, allowing medicine shortages, increasing doctor vacancies, stopping Nadu-Nedu hospital works and neglecting village clinics and 108 and 104 ambulance services.

Claiming that one crore people had signed his party's petition opposing the privatisation, he demanded that the government withdraw its decision.

Jagan warned that if YSRCP returned to power, it would initiate legal action against those involved in the deal and would not hesitate to make arrests.

He said his party would continue its campaign against the privatisation of government medical colleges.

Cross-voting, invalid votes mark NDA sweep in Tirupati dist

- Cross-voting evident in Tirupati Rural, with voters favouring different parties in MPTC and ZPTC polls
- Invalid votes outnumbered victory margins in KV Puram and Renigunta ZPTC constituencies
- NDA wins 205 of 302 MPTC seats and 24 of 31 ZPTC seats

Pradeep Vennelakanti
Tirupati

A sweeping victory for the NDA alliance in Tirupati district has not told the entire electoral story.

A constituency-wise analysis of the ZPTC and MPTC results points to cross-voting, sizable NOTA support, invalid ballots exceeding victory margins in some places and a striking urban-rural divide in voter participation. Tirupati Rural mandal recorded a clear instance of cross-voting, with voters appearing to favour different parties in the MPTC and ZPTC elections. In the MPTC polls, the NDA alliance secured 30,617 votes, accounting for 50.6 percent, against 27,590 votes (45.6 percent) polled by the YSR Congress party. The alliance also won 19 MPTC seats in the mandal.



File photo

However, the trend was reversed in the ZPTC election. YSRCP candidate Chevireddy Harshit Reddy secured 41,296 votes (49.5 percent) to defeat NDA alliance candidate Mucheli Dhanalakshmi, who polled 40,733 votes (48.8 percent), by a narrow margin of 563 votes. The contrasting outcomes suggest that a section of voters opted for different parties in the two elections.

Another notable feature was the number of votes polled for NOTA in the MPTC elections. NOTA received 4,641 votes, marginally more than the combined 4,625 votes secured by the Congress and other parties.

Invalid votes also assumed significance in some constituencies, particularly where the winning margins were narrow. In KV Puram, the TDP ZPTC candidate won by 301 votes, while 1,315 votes were declared invalid.

Similarly, in Renigunta, BJP ZPTC candidate secured victory by a margin of 337 votes, against 942 invalid votes.

Polling percentages revealed a marked difference between areas on the outskirts of Tirupati and remote rural mandals. Tirupati Rural recorded some of the lowest polling figures in the district. Avilala-2 MPTC registered just 37.3 percent polling, followed by Gandhipuram at 40.6 percent and Srinivasapuram at 41.7 percent.

In contrast, remote villages witnessed significantly higher voter participation. Graddagunta in Tada mandal recorded the highest polling percentage at 87.4 percent, followed by Sripuram in Dakkili mandal at 86.1 percent and Kasimitta in Narayanavanam mandal at 85.7 percent. At the district level, the NDA alliance secured 3,18,217 votes in the MPTC elections, accounting for 53.4 percent of the total, and won 205 seats.

The YSRCP polled 2,42,799 votes (40.7 percent) and secured 85 seats. Independents received 25,559 votes and won 12 seats.

The alliance maintained its lead in the ZPTC elections as well, securing 3,98,568 votes (52.5 percent) and winning 24 seats. The YSRCP received 3,30,864 votes (43.6 percent) and won six seats. Independents secured one seat with 17,678 votes. Other parties failed to win any seats in either election.

TMC wins National 'Super Swachh League' award

Vani Mallela
Tirupati

BRINGING major honor to Andhra Pradesh, the Tirupati Municipal Corporation has won the prestigious national-level 'Super Swachh League' award in the Swachh Survekshan 2025-26 rankings.

The award was presented by President Droupadi Murmu during a national ceremony held at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on Wednesday. Minister Narayana, Chief Secretary Suresh Kumar, and Tirupati Municipal Corporation Commissioner M Jayakrishna formally received the accolade on behalf of the city administration.

This milestone marks the fourth consecutive year that Tirupati has secured a top-tier national award in the Swachh Survekshan survey, reflecting its sustained excellence in urban sanitation since 2019. Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner M Jayakrishna stated that receiving the honor from the President was a proud and memorable moment for Tirupati. He attributed the achievement to the active cooperation of local residents, the relentless hard work of sanitation workers, and the coordinated efforts of municipal staff.

He urged citizens to maintain their support to keep the temple city clean and green.



President Droupadi Murmu presenting the national 'Super Swachh League' award to Minister Narayana, Chief Secretary Suresh Kumar, and Tirupati Municipal Corporation Commissioner M Jayakrishna at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on Wednesday

The national recognition acknowledged Tirupati's robust performance across multiple urban cleanliness parameters, including 100 percent door-to-door waste collection, efficient public toilet maintenance, advanced solid waste management, reduction of legacy waste at dumping yards, artistic wall beautification, waste-to-wealth conversion, and structured e-waste collection drives.

'Vigilance Awareness Week 2026' organised

Hans News Service
Visakhapatnam

AS part of 'Vigilance Awareness Week 2026,' the Indian Overseas Bank, Regional Office, Visakhapatnam organised a walkathon on Wednesday at VMRDA Central Park to create awareness among the public.

Speaking on the occasion, senior regional manager Ravi Kumar Gupta stressed that every citizen should strive hard for a corruption-free society.

He informed that as cyber frauds are increasing, customers should be aware of the frauds and not share OTPs or credentials with anyone.

Indian Overseas Bank has 79 branches in the Visakhapatnam region and offers all kinds of MSME and AGRI products catering to the needs of all customers, he added. The event highlighted the theme of 'probity for prosperity' and citizen engagement for a corruption-free India.

Rs 81K donated for thalassemia patients

M Srinivasa Rao
Nellore

IN a major boost to healthcare philanthropy, donors have stepped forward to support the Thalassemia care project managed by the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) Nellore district branch by contributing Rs 81,000 towards children's medical expenses.

During a program organized at the IRCS office on Wednesday, philanthropist Kota Surendra donated Rs 75,000, while IRCS Secretary P Mastanaiah contributed Rs 6,000 to aid the cause.

The financial assistance will be utilized to procure essential medicines and meet healthcare requirements for children suffering from Thalassemia, a condition requiring regular blood transfusions and continuous medical supervision.

IRCS has been making sustained efforts to deliver improved medical care while mitigating the heavy financial burden placed on affected families. Expressing deep gratitude, IRCS representatives commended Kota Surendra and P. Mastanaiah for their timely generosity, emphasizing that private contributions play a vital role in securing the health and future of underprivileged children.



Philanthropists handling over Rs 81,000 cheque to the IRCS members in a programme organised in Nellore on Wednesday

Union Minister dedicates Port Promenade to public

Hans News Service
Visakhapatnam

UNION Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal dedicated Port Promenade to public and inaugurated and laid foundation stones for a series of infrastructure and development projects at Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA) on Wednesday.

The projects included dedicating Port Promenade to public, upgrading and refurbishing existing Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) from 10 MLD to 15 MLD and operating and maintaining WQ-1 & WQ-1RE, WQ-2 & WQ-3 and EQ-3 terminals under public-private partnership (PPP) model.

The programme was attended by Visakhapatnam MP M Sribharat, Visakhapatnam; Golla Baburao, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha); MLAs Ch Vamsi Krishna Srinivas and P Vishnu Kumar Raju, Jasmeet Singh Bindra, Chairperson, Visakhapatnam Port Authority; Roshni A Korati, deputy chairperson, VPA; among others.

Visakhapatnam Port Authority developed Port Promenade near International Cruise Terminal as a pedestrian-friendly waterfront destination, offering citizens and visitors a unique opportunity to experience the harbour, watch ship movements and witness port operations from a safe and designated viewing area.



Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, MPs and MLAs and VPA officials at the launch of Port Promenade at the port in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday

Man held for illegal ganja possession

TIRUPATI : IN an enforcement drive against drug trafficking, Srikalahasti Rural police arrested a man on Wednesday for possessing and illegally selling ganja near the Akkurthi railway gate in Srikalahasti mandal. Acting on the directives of Tirupati District Superintendent of Police L Subba Rayudu, special police teams have intensified district-wide raids to curb the movement, sale, and consumption of narcotic substances. Based on credible intelligence regarding illegal ganja trade, Srikalahasti Rural Circle Inspector G Ibrahim, along with police and revenue officials, conducted search operations at Akkurthi. During the operation, officers intercepted and arrested Barri Mohan Reddy, a resident of Muchuvolu village. Upon searching the suspect, police recovered approximately 1,100 grams of ganja, along with a mobile phone and a motorcycle used for transport.

Preliminary interrogation revealed that the accused sourced the contraband from a supplier identified as Seenu, based in Chatrapur town, Odisha, and was hawking it to local buyers in the district.

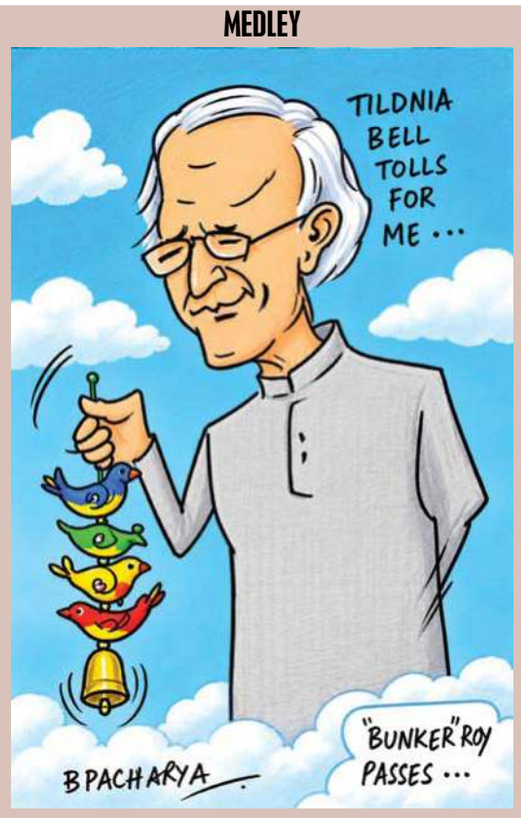
Yogi's comments on voter lists brings SIR back into spotlight

IT may not be appropriate to say that Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has added his voice to that of the Opposition's against the Election Commission of India's (ECI's) Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. His complaint about the alleged deletion of 1.27 crore Hindu names from the voters' list in his state is quite distinct. The Bharatiya Janata Party (NJP) prides itself on being disciplined; under the stewardship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, it was almost inconceivable till recently for an incumbent BJP Chief Minister to say anything at variance with the party's stated stand. And we have here a Chief Minister from a major state almost endorsing the allegations made by all Opposition leaders. Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav has sarcastically pointed out that now both are in the same boat. It is indisputable that Yogi's assertion has hugely embarrassed the saffron party. He claimed that the number of Muslim voters increased by 1.65 per cent in the state, even though the names of 1.27 crore Hindus have been excluded from the voters' list. After his complaint, the BJP has reportedly reached out to the poll panel. Countering the SP chief's taunt, Yogi said, "Ask Akhilesh Yadav to demand the rollback of SIR now. He will not do so because the number of Muslim voters has increased by 1.65 per cent in UP after SIR. And I have spoken about the situation of Hindu voters."

Whatever spin BJP leaders may try to give to Yogi's stand, they cannot dilute the import of his remarks. The important thing here is not that the ECI's SIR has been brought under a cloud of suspicion, but that it has been done by a leader who is saffron in every possible sense of the word. This pulls the rug from under the feet of the BJP high command over the issue of the ECI's credibility. This development also underlines the sour relationship between Delhi and Lucknow. It has been an open secret in the corridors of power that Yogi is not the favourite of the Modi-Shah duo; this seems to be coming to light in public view. This will have consequences not just for the Assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh a few months down the line but also for the next general elections in 2029.

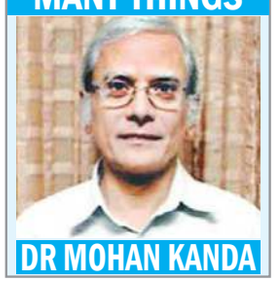
The Chief Minister's latest remarks may well be an indication that he is no longer willing to remain within the political straitjacket imposed by the party's central leadership. Whether this is a calculated attempt to assert his political autonomy or a reflection of genuine differences over the conduct of the SIR, it cannot be dismissed as an isolated episode. The BJP's central leadership faces a delicate predicament. Any attempt to rein in Yogi could deepen the perception that the party is uncomfortable with dissent within its own ranks, while allowing him a free hand could embolden other regional leaders to assert themselves. More importantly, the discord could expose fissures in the party's carefully cultivated image of organisational discipline and ideological cohesion. The party cannot allow the differences to persist. After all, a party that projects itself as a formidable electoral machine cannot afford to have its most politically consequential state become an arena for a power struggle between its central and regional leaderships.

MEDLEY



Eureka! Accidental discoveries shaping the world

TALKING OF MANY THINGS



DR MOHAN KANDA

FROM lifesaving medical breakthroughs to everyday conveniences, accidental discoveries and inventions have proved that unexpected discoveries can change the world. Stories of a failed experiment, a simple mistake, or pure curiosity remind one that innovation often comes from the most surprising places. In history, such things have generally fallen into three categories. One, to succeed in finding the objective of one's search, which is, almost always, a result of determination, patience, and systematic investigation. Another is one that was chanced upon, while looking for something else, a serendipitous discovery or invention. The third, and easily the most gratifying, is the sort of thing one had originally imagined would exist, and being able to prove that it does; what generally is called a successful 'thought experiment'.

Serendipitous discoveries happen when unexpected accidents or oversights are combined with a curious, prepared mind that recognizes their value. For example, the discovery of the principle of buoyancy in 287 BCE by Greek mathematician and inventor Archimedes. While wrestling with the problem of how to determine the purity of gold, Archimedes had the sudden realization that the buoyancy of an object placed in water is equal in magnitude to the weight of the water the object displaces. According to one popular version of the legend, he made his discovery at a public bathhouse, whereupon he leapt out of his bath, exclaiming in Greek "Heurēka! Heurēka!" or "I have found it!" and ran home naked through the streets. The expression 'Eureka' has since become an adjective describing moments of discovery or epiphany. Clearly, while physics is often viewed as a structured, deliberate march of logic, it is surprisingly full of serendipity.

A sensational event took place in 1492, when Italian explorer Christopher Columbus set sail westward from Spain with the explicit intent of establishing a direct spice trade route to Asia. Instead of reaching the East Indies, he accidentally made landfall in the Caribbean. This monumental navigation error opened a massive geographic reality, in the shape of the discovery of the Americas, which Europeans did not know existed, forever changing the global map.

In a somewhat similar manner, in 1895, German physicist Wilhelm Roentgen was experimenting with cathode ray tubes when he noticed a glowing fluorescent screen across the room. Even with the tube shielded by thick black paper, invisible rays passed through the room to light up the screen, revealing the bones inside his own hand. He realized that he had produced a ray of previously unknown 'invisible light', or that was being emitted from the tube, which could pass through the heavy paper covering the tube. Through



A sensational event took place in 1492, when Italian explorer Christopher Columbus set sail westward from Spain with the explicit intent of establishing a direct spice trade route to Asia. Instead of reaching the East Indies, he accidentally made landfall in the Caribbean. This monumental navigation error opened a massive geographic reality, in the shape of the discovery of the Americas, which Europeans did not know existed, forever changing the global map.

further experiments, he also found that the new ray would pass through most substances casting shadows of solid objects on pieces of film. He named it X-ray, because in mathematics 'X' is used to indicate an unknown quantity. That discovery, as is well known, revolutionized medicine, physics, and science by making it possible to view the interiors of solid objects and living tissue for the first time, without surgery.

Another remarkable event in the history of scientific investigation took place in 1896, French physicist Henri Becquerel had stored uranium salts next to unexposed photographic plates inside a dark drawer. Even without sunlight exposure, the plates were fogged by penetrating radiation emitted directly by the uranium. Becquerel had discovered what would soon be called 'radioactivity', a term coined by the celebrated scientist couple Marie and Pierre Curie, who took up the work and found new radioactive elements. The discovery opened the way to nuclear physics, radiotherapy, carbon dating and nuclear energy, and to an understanding of the dangers of radiation.

Albert Einstein used the idea instead of physical laboratory equipment to reshape modern physics, unlocking the theories of special and general relativity. Einstein pictured a passenger on a moving train and an observer on a stationary platform watching two lightning bolts strike the front and back of the train simultaneously. Because the train moves toward one flash and away from the other, the two observers disagree on whether the strikes happened at the same time. Simultaneity, therefore, is a relative concept and time flows differently depending on one's motion.

Then there was the Scottish bacteriologist Alexander Fleming who, in 1928, had just returned from a vacation. While he was away, a stray mould spore had drifted into his laboratory, likely from a geology laboratory downstairs and landed on a petri dish planted with bacteria. The bacteria had grown normally everywhere on the plate except for a ring directly surrounding the blue-green mold. In that specific "zone of inhibition," the bacteria had been dissolved. Fleming realized that the mould was producing a powerful substance that actively killed the bacteria. He named this by product penicillin. The discovery of penicillin marked a profound turning point in history and paved the way for the development of additional antibiotics.

Swiss physicist Walter Jaeger, in the 1930s, was trying to invent a sensor that could detect poison gas. Instead, his device registered the smoke from his cigarette, a discovery that led to the invention of the modern smoke detector.

Another similar discovery was made in 1965, when radio astronomers Arno Penzias and Robert Wilson were troubleshooting an antenna at Bell Labs in New Jersey. They could not get rid of a persistent, low-level background 'noise' coming apparently from everywhere in the sky, which turned out to be the leftover thermal radiation from the 'Big Bang' or the Cosmic Microwave Background Radiation, a discovery dating to roughly 380,000 years after the Big Bang. The Big Bang theory is a fundamental concept in cosmology that explains the origin and evolution of the universe. It proposes that the universe began as an infinitely dense and hot point, known as a singularity, around 13.8 billion years ago, which underwent an explosive event called the Big Bang, which initiated the expansion of space, time, matter, and energy. Penzias and Wilson shared the 1978 Nobel in physics for the discovery.

The most sensational accidental discovery in the history of India is widely considered to be the Ajanta Caves. In April 1819, a British cavalry officer, John Smith, was out hunting tigers in the dense, horseshoe-shaped rocky gorges of the Waghora River near Aurangabad. Following a tiger's tracks up a steep, overgrown hillside, he cleared away thick jungle foliage and spotted the top arch of a massive, man-made cave, entering which with flaming torches, he discovered 30 rock-cut Buddhist cave temples carved directly into the basalt cliff face, the Ajanta caves.

The early 1990s saw another spectacular discovery in the shape of a drug which researchers of Pfizer were clinically testing as a potential treatment for angina or cardiovascular chest pain. While the drug failed to effectively treat angina, clinical trial participants reported a striking and consistent side effect that led to a revolution in treating erectile dysfunction. And thus, came into being the internationally popular 'wonder drug' Viagra.

Much earlier, in 1886, Dr John Pemberton, a pharmacist in Atlanta, was trying to create a remedy for headaches and exhaustion, and accidentally created a syrup, which when mixed with carbonated water, became the world-famous beverage Coca-Cola. While the formula was originally intended to be medicinal, it quickly became a popular soft drink, creating one of the most recognizable brands in the world. What had originally started off as a medicinal concoction had, in other words, finally ended up as a popular global refreshment!

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

Debate rages over whether India's poor have become fewer

NOMULA SRINIVAS RAO

POVERTY is not just a lack of money; it is a lack of capability to realize one's full potential as a human being -Amartya Sen

India's recent poverty numbers are striking. According to the World Bank's October 2026 Poverty and Equity Brief, the share of people living below the extreme poverty line of $3 a day (2021 purchasing power parity) fell from 27.1 per cent in 2011 to 2.6 per cent in 2023. Over the same period, the proportion below the lower-middle-income threshold of $ per cent a day declined from 57.7 per cent to 16.1 per cent, lifting an estimated 496 million people above that line. NITI Aayog's multidimensional poverty estimates show that roughly 248 million Indians exited multidimensional poverty between 2013–14 and 2022–23, with the headcount ratio dropping from 29.17 per cent to 11.28 per cent.

These figures represent one of the fastest declines recorded globally. They are not statistical inventions. They reflect real expansions in access to food, housing, sanitation, cooking fuel, electricity, schooling, and bank accounts, supported by both faster consumption growth and large-scale public transfers. As India pursues the Viksit Bharat goal, the numbers offer a legitimate basis for satisfaction. They do not, however, settle the harder question of whether the gains are self-sustaining.

Welfare as consumption, not capability

A substantial share of the measured decline stems from the monetisation of public transfers. The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana supplies free food grains to approximately 79–81 crore beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act. When the value of these grains, together with other subsidies and direct benefit transfers, is added to household consumption, many families cross the monetary poverty thresholds. The World Bank itself attributes the fall to strong consumption growth, rising employment (particularly among rural women), and expanded social transfers, including food subsidies.

Households whose "non-poor" status depends heavily on continued fiscal support face an immediate reversion risk if those supports are scaled back or if fiscal space narrows. Crossing a consumption line through transfers is not the same as possessing the independent earning capacity that keeps a household above the line when transfers change. The distinction matters for policy durability.

This method is standard and transparent. It also creates a structural vulnerability. Households whose "non-poor" status depends heavily on continued fiscal support face an immediate reversion risk if those supports are scaled back or if fiscal space narrows. Crossing a consumption line through transfers is not the same as possessing the independent earning capacity that keeps a household above the line when transfers change. The distinction matters for policy durability.

Inclusion versus resilience

The same gap appears in living-standards indicators. Near-universal bank account ownership under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana is counted as progress in the multidimensional index. As of mid-2026, however, roughly 59 crore Jan Dhan accounts existed; about 5.72 crore held zero balances and approximately 15.37 crore (around 26 per cent) were classified as inoperative. Many function mainly as conduits for direct benefit transfers and wages from rural employment schemes rather than as vehicles for independent savings or credit.

Access has expanded. Depth of use and household buffers have not expanded at the same pace. High out-of-pocket health expenditure—still 43.4 per cent of total health expenditure in 2022–23 according to National Health Accounts—continues to erode whatever small surpluses form. A single medical episode can push a statistically non-poor household back into distress.

Nutrition and employment quality lag behind

If extreme monetary poverty has fallen below three per cent, persistent shortfalls in nutrition and job quality require explanation. The National Family Health Survey-6 (2023–24) shows child stunting under five declining to 29.3 per cent from 35.5 per cent in NFHS-5, a genuine improvement. Child wasting, however, remains stubbornly high at around 19 per cent. Maternal anemia continues to affect most women of reproductive age. The Global Hunger Index continues to place India in the "serious" category, driven largely by these child undernutrition indicators. Free calories prevent the worst forms of starvation; they do not automatically deliver diverse micronutrient intake or address the multiple determinants of stunting and wasting.

On the labour side, employment expanded by roughly 134 million between 2017 and 2023—nearly twice the growth in the working-age population—with rural women accounting for a large share of the increase. Yet the World Bank notes that real earnings remained broadly unchanged and that much of the growth occurred in relatively low-productivity activities. Continued high demand for low-wage work under the rural employment guarantee (and its successor frameworks) signals that large numbers of workers still lack better alternatives in manufacturing or higher-value services. Geographic concentration persists: a contiguous belt from Uttar Pradesh to West Bengal accounts for a majority of those still below the $4.20 line.

From Transfer-Dependent Reduction to Capability

Statistical poverty reduction is a necessary and measurable achievement. It is incomplete without economic resilience. Durable exits from poverty require households to generate stable incomes that do not depend primarily on the continuation of current transfer levels.

Policy attention therefore needs to shift emphasis toward

Expanding labour-intensive manufacturing and higher-productivity services that can absorb rural labour at better wages.

Strengthening primary healthcare and nutrition interventions that reduce catastrophic out-of-pocket spending and address stunting and wasting more effectively.

Improving the quality and relevance of vocational and foundational education so that young workers can enter better jobs rather than low-productivity or public-works employment.

Data correctly records the reach of state assistance and the resulting rise in measured consumption. They do not, by themselves, establish that every household now possesses the capability to maintain an independent, stable livelihood. Until that capability is widespread, the decline in poverty remains a significant but unfinished triumph—one that still rests, for many, on the continued presence of the very supports that produced the statistical improvement.

(The writer is a former OSD to the Union Civil Aviation Minister)

LETTERS

Vested politicians will exploit Sonia's narratives

REFLECTIONS from Dr Manmohan to Pranab Mukherjee have been included in Sonia Gandhi's book 'Belonging--A journey of love '. By all accounts, it is an eye opener and should be taken in the right perspective. Her memoir narrates the truth and includes her own experiences and viewpoints. In the meanwhile, some politicians are bound to exploit her narrations to gain political mileage for themselves.

Dr Sunil Chopra, Ludhiana

Sonia and her PM aspirations

THIS refers to excerpts from Sonia Gandhi's memoir "Belonging: A Journey of Love". Sonia thought of taking Indian citizenship after the assassination of Indira Gandhi intending to enter politics. Her dislike for Hindus and Hinduism has been described by Pranab Mukherjee in his autobiography. Her justification that she was not keen on the Prime Minister's post is questionable. It is clear from A P J Abdul Kalam's account that despite Sonia demanding to become the prime minister, the request was declined on account of her being a foreign national, given that as per the Indian constitution a foreigner or her progeny is not entitled to the post.

Sakunthala KR, Hyderabad

Errors one too many

The national buzz over Sonia Gandhi's memoir has barely begun, yet critics are already pointing to errors, seemingly eager to discredit the author. The memoir reportedly mixes the dates and, while referring to the death of karsevaks in the Sabarmati Express, describes Ahmedabad as the capital of Gujarat. Such errors should surely have been caught before publication. Technology may have made publishing faster, but it cannot replace editorial judgement. When I was in the publishing industry, the editors went beyond language correction. HarperCollins and the author should have exercised greater care.

N Nagarajan, Hyderabad-103

The human story behind Sonia's book

SEEING the media reviews of Sonia Gandhi's book, the common man will perceive that it is the story of a young woman from Italy who arrived in India, adapted to a new culture, learned new customs, and embraced a different way of life. However, those seeking solutions to India's current challenges, new policy ideas, or a comprehensive and impartial history of modern India may find little of that in it. Ultimately, the book is less about politics and more about the human experiences that shape a person's life.

Dr O Prasada Rao, Hyderabad

thehansreader@gmail.com

BENGALURU ONLINE

Rs 38-crore makeover plan for Hampi's heritage monuments

HAMPI: The Centre has drawn up an ambitious Rs 38-crore plan to conserve and restore some of the most important monuments in Hampi, the historic capital of the Vijayanagara Empire and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The initiative will cover several structures dating back to the 14th to 16th centuries, including the Jain temples on Hemakuta Hill and the Saraswati temple complex at Singanayakanahalli.

The project is being taken up under the National Culture Fund of the Union Ministry of Culture, with financial support mobilised through Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's (HAL) corporate social responsibility funds and the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS). Of the total allocation of Rs 38 crore, around Rs 19 crore is expected to come through MPLADS. The funding will support a comprehensive conservation programme aimed at protecting the monuments and restoring damaged structures. The Ministry will appoint a heritage conservation architect to prepare a detailed project report. The architect will assess the present condition of the monuments, identify conservation requirements and prepare technical documentation before restoration work is taken up in phases.The proposed works include comprehensive protection of the northern and southern bazaars adjoining the Virupaksha Temple. The western portion of a collapsed mandapa near the Sri Bhashyakara shrine in the Vittala Temple complex will also be reconstructed. The Jain temples on Hemakuta Hill and the Saraswati temple complex at Singanayakanahalli are among the other structures identified for renovation.

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

Police remove closed covers from 1,500 autos

Special inspections are being conducted at major traffic junctions

Dasari Srinivasa Rao
Vijayawada



Traffic Inspector Ramarao supervising the removal of closed covers fitted at the rear of auto rickshaws during a special enforcement drive in Vijayawada

IN a special drive to prevent road accidents and ensure the safety of passengers, particularly women and children, NTR District Police Commissionerate traffic police have removed closed covers fitted at the rear of around 1,500 auto rickshaws over the past two days. On the directions of Police Commissioner SV Rajasekhara Babu, the special inspections are being conducted at major traffic junctions across the Commissionerate under the supervision of Traffic DCP Shareen Begum and Traffic ACPs. Traffic inspectors, along with their staff, are participating in the enforcement drive.

Traffic DCP Shareen Begum said closed covers at the rear of autos restricted drivers' visibility of vehicles approaching from behind, increasing the risk of accidents while overtaking and taking turns. She also pointed out that such covers prevented outsiders from seeing passengers inside the vehicles, potentially posing security risks to women, children and other commuters. She instructed auto drivers not to install closed covers at the rear of their vehicles and not to carry passengers beyond the permitted capacity. Drivers were also warned against using mobile phones while driving and operating vehicles under the influence of alcohol.

Drivers were directed to keep their registration certificates (RC), driving licences, fitness certificates and insurance documents readily available. They were also advised to take special care while transporting school children.

Shareen Begum further instructed drivers to display the auto registration number and emergency helpline number 112 behind the driver's seat in a manner clearly visible to passengers. She warned that violations would attract penalties under the Motor Vehicles Act, while serious offences could lead to vehicle seizure and further legal action.

Training for 56 master trainers on crop insurance from today

- Two-day programme to focus on effective implementation of PMFBY and speedy settlement of farmers' claims
- Experts from ICRISAT, insurance companies and Central and State departments to share technical knowledge and field experiences



Agriculture Department Director Manazir Jeelani Samoon

Dasari Srinivasa Rao
Vijayawada

A two-day State-level training programme for master trainers on the implementation and strengthening of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) will be held at the Metropolitan Hotel near Benz Circle in Vijayawada on November 12 and 13.

Organised by the Agriculture Department, the programme aims to strengthen the crop insurance mechanism and create greater awareness among farmers about insurance coverage, claim procedures and the benefits of the scheme.

A total of 56 master trainers, two from each district, will participate in the training.

Agriculture Department Special Chief Secretary B Rajasekhar will inaugurate the programme along with Agriculture Director Dr Manazir Jeelani Samoon, Horticulture Director Dr K Srinivasulu and Director of Economics and Statistics B Gopal.

The training sessions will cover the implementation of yield-based and weather-based insurance, crop-cutting experiments for yield estimation, login procedures on the National Crop Insurance Portal, satellite-based yield estimation through the YES-TECH methodology, and claim settlement procedures and calculations.

Agriculture Director Dr Manazir Jeelani Samoon said representatives from ICRISAT, the Disaster Management Department, insurance companies, the Union Ministry of Agriculture and the State Agriculture and Horticulture departments would participate and share their expertise.

Medical staff told not to roam in scrubs

Naresh Nandam
Ongole

DOCTORS and staff working in operation theatres and intensive care units must not roam in scrubs, the special dress used to contain infections, outside those areas, ordered the Superintendent of the Government General Hospital in Ongole, Dr S Manikyarao, on Wednesday.

Dr Manikyarao informed that the Director of Medical Education, Dr Vishnuvardhan, has issued orders to control infections in hospitals. Earlier, the orders were only oral, and now written orders have been issued for the first time. He said germs can spread if the dress is worn elsewhere, raising the risk of infection for patients. After duty in the designated areas, staff must not move in general wards, OPDs, corridors, offices and canteens in the same dress, the superintendent said. Staff must wear the special dress only in operation theatre complexes, ICUs, labour rooms, cath labs, and sterile zones. Staff must remove caps, masks and shoe covers before going out. In an emergency, a clean gown that fully covers the body must be worn over the dress, he explained.

Dr Manikyarao said that the infection control committee will make surprise checks. First-time violators will be counselled, and repeated violations will lead to disciplinary action.

He urged everyone to follow the rules.

Training programme held on fingerprint science

Hans News Service
Mangalagiri



Dr Ravi Shankar Ayyanar, Director General of Police, CID and Dr K V Srinivasa Rao, Director of the Fingerprint Bureau (FPB) addressing judicial officers at CID headquarters on Wednesday

THE Crime Investigation Department (CID) organised a one-day training and awareness programme on fingerprint science and its evidentiary value for 18 judicial officers at the CID headquarters here on Wednesday. The programme was conducted under the guidance of Dr. Ravi Shankar Ayyanar, Director General of Police, CID with the objective of enhancing judicial officers' understanding of fingerprint examination, forensic procedures and the legal aspects of fingerprint evidence.

Dr K V Srinivasa Rao, Director of the Fingerprint Bureau (FPB), attended the programme along with seven District Judges, 11 Junior Civil Judges and representatives of the Andhra Pradesh Judicial Academy. During the sessions, FPB Inspectors Abdul Rahim, Vinod Kumar and Arjuna Rao, along with Sub-Inspector Bharat Ratna, have delivered detailed presentations on various aspects of fingerprint science.

They explained the evidentiary value of fingerprints, the importance of maintaining the chain of custody and legal issues associated with the presentation and admissibility of fingerprint evidence. CID Legal Advisor Lakshman Rao and several Superintendents of Police from the CID also participated in the programme.



Rotary Club of Rajamahendravaram Icons office-bearers distributing financial support to poor visually impaired students pursuing higher education at SKVT Government College on Wednesday

RCRI extends support to visually impaired students

Deekshitula Subrahmanyam
Rajamahendravaram

ROTARY Club of Rajamahendravaram Icons has extended financial support to poor visually impaired students pursuing higher education at SKVT Government College. The club has come forward to provide financial assistance of Rs 50,000 to ten visually impaired students of the college to meet their educational needs throughout the current academic year. College Principal Dr BV Tirupanayam appreciated the initiative and said that financial constraints should never become an obstacle to the academic progress of talented students. Rotary Club of Rajamahendravaram Icons president T Lakshminarayana said that financial assistance extended to a student was not merely monetary help but also a source of assurance and support to an entire family.

Club secretary Shyam Ponnada described assistance to students as a ray of hope for young lives and an investment in the future of society.

Treasurer Mukesh Vasan, College faculty Dr PVB Sanjeeva Rao observed that a better future for meritorious students from economically weaker sections could be ensured when service-minded organisations came forward to support education. Teegala Raja, G Sarath Babu, S Raj Kumar, Palli Sudha and G Suguna, among others, participated.

Cyclone damages paddy in 8,430 hectares

Hans News Service
Guntur

HEAVY rains followed by strong winds, triggered by Cyclone Murasu, damaged paddy, cotton and black gram crops in Guntur district. According to official sources, paddy crop was worst affected in 8,430 hectares, cotton in 1188 hectares followed by black gram crop in 1000 hectares.

According to the guidelines issued by the government, the farmers whose crops were damaged more than 33 percent are eligible for input subsidy. The farmers whose crops were covered under the crop insurance scheme will get compensation for crop damage. The farmers whose crops were damaged less than 33 per cent are not eligible for any compensation. They would have to bear the loss.

Agriculture department officials sent the crop damage reports through the concerned district collectors to the government for further steps. Rainwater stranded in the agriculture fields caused crop damage and paddy was discoloured. Similarly, cotton and black gram crops were damaged.

Cyclones Arnab and Murasu damaged the crops. The farmers whose crops were damaged due to recent cyclones, are not in a position to recover from the losses and are seeking a helping hand from the government.

Arrangements reviewed for MPP, ZP chairman elections

Naresh Nandam
Markapur

DISTRICT collector M Vijaya Suneetha directed the officials to make proper arrangements for the elections of Mandal Parishad presidents and Zilla Parishad chairman in Markapur district.

The collector, along with joint collector P Srinivasulu, held a review meeting with district-level officers, MPDOs and election officers in Markapur on Wednesday. She said the MPTC and ZPTC election process is over, and the next step is the election of Mandal Parishad presidents, vice presidents, Zilla Parishad chairman and vice chairman.

She reviewed the procedures and officials' duties. She told them to follow the guidelines of the State Election Commission and conduct the process peacefully and transparently.

The collector asked the officers to work in coordination and give special attention to election notices, meetings, staff appointments, and facilities. She said no mistakes should happen.



Markapur collector M Vijaya Suneetha speaking at a meeting with officials in Markapur on Wednesday

Employees who worked on Oct 19 can avail Nov 14 holiday

Dasari Srinivasa Rao
Vijayawada

EMPLOYEES from Gram Sachivalayams to district-level offices who attended duties on October 19 in connection with elections, Dasara celebrations, the SARAS programme and other official assignments can avail November 14, the second Saturday, as a holiday, the State government has clarified.

AP JAC Amaravati Chairman Bopparaju Venkateswarlu and Secretary General Palisetti Damodara Rao, in a statement issued on Wednesday, welcomed the government's decision and thanked it for accepting their request to extend the holiday benefit to employees who had worked on October 19.

The government had earlier declared October 19 a holiday ahead of the Dasara festival, which fell on October 20. In lieu of the holiday, November 14 was declared a working day. However, AP JAC Amaravati represented to the government on October 21 that a large number of employees across the State, from Gram Sachivalayams to district-level offices, had attended duties on October 19 in connection with local body election arrangements, the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) programme, Dasara celebrations and the SARAS programme.

Responding positively to their representation, the General Administration (Political-B) Department issued a memo on Wednesday (November 11), permitting employees who attended election, Dasara, SARAS and other related duties on October 19 to avail November 14 as a holiday.

Paddy, cotton worst affected in Palnadu

Hans News Service
Guntur

PADDY, cotton, red gram, jute and maize crops were worst affected due to Cyclone Murasu in Palnadu district. According to official sources, paddy crop was damaged in 1397 hectares, cotton in 826 and red gram in 130 hectares. Jute, maize, black gram and bajra crops were damaged in 79 hectares. Over 2,432 farmers were affected in the district.

These crops were damaged more than 33 percent, according to enumeration conducted by the officials. The farmers whose crops were damaged more than 33% are eligible for input subsidy. The government has to pay input subsidies to 2,432 farmers in the district. The farmers whose crops were covered under crop insurance scheme will get compensation from the insurance companies. The farmers whose crops were damaged less than 33% are not eligible for input subsidy.

Cops question Ambati

Deekshitula Subrahmanyam
Kakinada

YSR Congress Party leader and former minister Ambati Rambabu appeared before the Kirlampudi police in Kakinada district in connection with a case registered against him for allegedly obstructing police personnel from discharging their duties during the funeral of former minister Mudragada Padmanabham.

The police questioned Ambati for around one-and-a-half hours at the police station. After the inquiry, speaking to the media, Ambati said appearing at a police station was nothing new to him.

He alleged that police personnel had acted in an overenthusiastic manner by attempting to offer a police salute near the mortal remains despite objections from members of Mudragada's family. He said they had intervened and prevented the police from doing so.



Ambati Rambabu and others coming outside of the Kirlampudi police station after questioning

Goddess Durga draped in glass bangles

Dasari Srinivasa Rao
Vijayawada

INDRAKEELADRI, the abode of Goddess Kanaka Durga in Vijayawada, wore a festive look on Wednesday as the presiding deity was adorned with 'Gajula Alankaram' (bangle decoration) on the auspicious occasion of Kartika Shuddha Vidiya, observed as 'Bhagini Hastha Bhojanam'.

More than eight lakh colourful glass bangles were used to adorn the Goddess and decorate the premises of Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam atop Indrakeeladri. The elaborate decoration extended to the sanctum sanctorum, corridors, ceilings and sub-shrines. Bangles in vibrant shades of green, red, yellow and blue were intricately arranged into attractive garlands and decorative patterns, lending a spectacular appearance to the temple. Temple Executive Officer VK Seena Naik said all arrangements had been completed in accordance with temple traditions and customs. Inspecting the decorations on the sixth floor of Mallikhana Maha Mandapam, he said the temple had used more than four lakh bangles last year, while the number had been doubled this year to decorate both the main deity and the entire temple premises.

He said devotees and donors had contributed bangles in large numbers, while the temple administration made additional arrangements to meet the requirement. Women devotees from various parts of the State thronged Indrakeeladri to have Goddess darshan in the special alankaram. After the completion of rituals, the bangles offered to and worshipped in the presence of the deity were distributed to women devotees as prasadam. Temple officials closely monitored queue management, drinking water supply and prasadam distribution to ensure the smooth movement of devotees.



Goddess Kanaka Durga adorned with colourful glass bangles during 'Gajula Utsavam' at Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam atop Indrakeeladri on Wednesday



APCPDCL Director for Projects and HRD TVSN Murthy inspecting power restoration works in Prakasam district on Wednesday

Power restoration works inspected

Naresh Nandam
Ongole

TVSN Murthy, Director for Projects and HRD of the Andhra Pradesh Central Power Distribution Corporation Limited, inspected power restoration work in cyclone-hit areas of Prakasam district on Wednesday.

Murthy visited Uppugundur, Ammanabrolu, Kanaparthi, VR Palem and other villages. He inspected damaged electrical lines, Distribution Transformers, electric poles, and wires lying in agricultural fields, along with other power equipment hit by the cyclone, and reviewed the progress of the restoration work. Officials explained to him the measures they had taken. He enquired about the steps being taken to restore power supply. He directed the officials to take all necessary measures to restore power supply to the affected villages and agricultural fields at the earliest.



Womenia

Gul Panag reflects on motherhood, says she understands her mother's struggles better in her forties





Actress Gul Panag has penned a heartfelt birthday note for her mother Annie Panag. She reflected on how becoming a mother herself has helped her understand the challenges and responsibilities her own mother handled while raising two children.

Taking to Instagram, Gul shared that it was only in her forties that she began to understand how demanding motherhood could be. She also recalled how her mother managed the household, raised her and her brother, and fulfilled the responsibilities that came with being an Army officer's wife.

"Happy birthday, Mum. It's only in my forties that I've begun to understand, rather belatedly, just how challenging motherhood really is. And consequently, how extraordinarily easy my mother made it look," she wrote. Recalling her childhood, the 'Manoranjan' actress said that when her brother Sherbir was around eight years old, her mother was raising two children, managing the home and often working as a teacher to make life more comfortable for the family.

"I often find myself thinking back to when my brother @sherbirpanag was about eight, roughly the age Nihal is now. My mother was raising two children, managing a home, navigating the demands and expectations that came with being an Army officer's wife, and often working as a teacher, as so many Army wives did, to make life a little more comfortable for us," she added. The 'Dor' actress also spoke about the invisible labour involved in being a woman, pointing out that several responsibilities are often expected but rarely acknowledged. Reflecting on her own experience of motherhood, Gul said that looking at her son, Nihal, often makes her wonder how her mother managed everything so effortlessly.

"And somehow, from where we stood as children, she seemed to take it all in her stride. Of course, I now realise that what appeared effortless probably wasn't. There must have been days when she was exhausted. Days when she worried about things we knew nothing about. Days when she had to put her own needs aside because ours came first. And then there's all the invisible labour of being a woman. The things that need doing, the people who need looking after, the expectations that need meeting. So much of it simply assumed, so little of it acknowledged."

The post further read, "But that's the extraordinary thing about childhood. You rarely see the effort. You simply grow up feeling that everything is taken care of. And then, one day, you become a mother yourself. And years later, you find yourself looking at your own child, remembering yourself at that age, and thinking, how on earth did she do it? I suspect I owe my mother a rather substantial apology for all the times I took that extraordinary competence for granted. And an even bigger thank you. The older I get, the more I understand what you did for us. And what you continue to do. And how Nihal is now your favourite, and my brother and I are relegated to second place. And the more I admire you for it."

The carousel of photos featured Gul Panag's cherished memories with her mother and family.

Gul Panag's biological mother is Gurjit Kaur, while her stepmother, Annie Panag, played an important role in her upbringing and helped prepare her for the pageant world. Her parents parted ways when Gul was around four years old. (IANS)

Cold outside, hot between the sheets

WAYS TO TURN WINTER INTO YOUR MOST ROMANTIC SEASON



As winter sets in, cooler evenings and longer nights offer couples the perfect opportunity to bring back romance, intimacy and a little excitement into their relationship. From cosy bedroom moments to fun kitchen dates, here are five simple ways to make the season more special together

Askari Jaffer

From steamy kitchen experiments to candle-lit bedroom dates, the approaching winter is the perfect excuse to turn down the temperature outside and turn up the chemistry at home. Winter has not officially arrived, but the signs are already in the air. The evenings are getting longer, the breeze is turning cooler, and even the plants seem to be preparing for a slower, more intimate season. As nature changes its rhythm, couples have the perfect opportunity to change theirs, too. After all, if the world is getting ready to cosy up, why should your relationship be left out in the cold?

Beyond warm blankets and cups of hot chocolate, winter can be an invitation to rediscover romance, experiment with shared experiences and bring a little playful mischief into everyday married life. From lingering in bed on chilly mornings to turning the kitchen into a space for culinary chemistry, here are five ways to make the coming season deliciously memorable.

1.Bedroom Weather: Forecast Calls for Cuddles and Chemistry

Forget the alarm clock for a morning. When the temperature dips, give yourselves permission to stay under the covers a little longer. Swap hurried goodbyes for slow conversations, forehead kisses, warm embraces and the kind of cuddling that makes getting out of bed feel entirely overrated. For couples looking to turn up the romance, dim the lights, put on a playlist that reminds you of your early dating days and let the evening unfold without a rigid plan. A little flirting, affectionate teasing and uninterrupted time together can make an ordinary night feel like a private getaway. The secret? Make intimacy about connection rather than a checklist of romantic gestures.

2.Kitchen Chemistry: Stir, Taste and Fall in Love Again

Who said romance belongs exclusively in the bedroom? The kitchen can be equally exciting when two people decide to get creative. Pick a recipe neither of you has tried, put on your favourite music and cook together. Think gooey chocolate brownies, cinnamon-spiced pancakes, creamy pasta or a rich, warming soup. Add a playful twist: blindfold each other for a flavour-guessing game, steal a taste from your partner's spoon or turn dessert-making into a friendly competition. The flour on the counter and the occasional kitchen mishap are part of the fun. Sometimes, the most memorable dates are the ones that leave you laughing over a slightly burnt dessert.



3.Candlelight, Soft Fabrics and a Little Sensual Drama

As winter approaches, transform your living space into a cosy retreat. Think warm lighting, plush cushions, soft blankets, scented candles and freshly changed bedsheets. A few thoughtful details can make home feel less like a place where you manage daily responsibilities and more like a sanctuary you share. Plan a no-phones evening, exchange relaxing massages if both of you enjoy them, or surprise your partner with a thoughtfully prepared bath or a cosy indoor picnic. Sensuality does not always need grand declarations; sometimes, it is simply the feeling of being seen, desired and cared for.

4.Flirt Like You Have Just Met

Marriage can make couples wonderfully familiar with each other, but familiarity should not mean that flirting disappears. This winter, bring back the butterflies. Leave a cheeky note in your partner's jacket, send a playful message during the workday or plan a surprise date without revealing the destination. Dress up for dinner at home, recreate your first date or share three things you still find irresistible about each other. Small gestures can create anticipation, and anticipation can make even a routine weekday feel special.

5.Take the Romance Outdoors, Then Bring It Home

Winter's pleasant evenings offer a reason to step outside together. Take a long walk, explore a neighbourhood café, visit a garden or simply watch the sunset while sharing a warm drink. Notice the changing leaves, the winter blooms and the quieter pace of the world around you. Once home, continue the date with a favourite film, a shared blanket and a conversation that goes beyond work, bills and everyday logistics. The aim is to create moments in which you are partners in life and lovers in your own little world.

A Season for More Than Just Staying Warm

According to Sybil Shiddell, Country Manager of Gleeden India, "Winter gives couples a wonderful opportunity to rediscover intimacy through the little things they often overlook during their busy routines. Whether it is spending a slow morning together, cooking a meal as a team or creating a more sensual atmosphere at home, these shared experiences can help couples reconnect emotionally and physically. Romance does not always need an elaborate plan; it often begins with the willingness to make time for each other, communicate openly and keep the spark alive." As the days grow cooler and the plants prepare for their seasonal transformation, relationships, too, can benefit from a little nurturing. This winter, let the blankets be warmer, the conversations longer, the kitchen more adventurous and the bedroom a little more exciting. Because while the weather may be getting colder, your relationship certainly does not have to.

Kiara Advani hints at no more pregnancies ahead, says 'bass ho gaya ab' on Koffee With Karan

Actress Kiara Advani appeared to hint that she does not want to have any more pregnancies as she joked about her date nights with husband and actor Sidharth Malhotra on the upcoming episode of 'Koffee With Karan'.

Kiara and Sidharth are set to make their first joint television appearance together on 'Koffee With Karan Season 9'. The latest promo of the episode released by the makers, gives a glimpse of the couple's playful chemistry with host Karan Johar.

During the conversation, Karan asked the couple how they make sure their date nights do not end at dessert. Kiara, who was seen cradling her baby bump, responded with a cheeky, "Ab bass ho gaya!", leaving Sidharth and Karan in splits.

The conversation then moved towards whether the couple would like to roleplay a particular character. Sidharth responded by drawing a line between their professional and personal lives, saying, "We don't want to bring our work home and certainly not to our bedroom!"

The promo also features the couple talking about their wedding and recalling a moment when Karan hilariously threw Shahid Kapoor off the stage when he attempted to join him during a dance performance.

While making their entry on the show, Kiara was seen flaunting her baby bump for the first time on national television and ever since they announced their second pregnancy.

Talking about Kiara and Sidharth, the couple is set to embrace parenthood for the second time. They had announced their



second pregnancy a few months ago, with a social media post where they shared a picture featuring two pairs of baby shoes along with the message, "The greatest gift of our lives. Coming soon."

Kiara and Siddharth are already parents to their daughter Siara, whom they welcomed in 2025.

The couple got married in an intimate ceremony in Suryagarh, Jaisalmer, in February 2023, after dating for a few years after falling in love on the sets of the movie, Shershaah. (IANS)

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Resound (4)
4 Egyptian sacred beetle (6)
8 Impair (3)
10 Distinctive doctrines (4)
13 Poisonous alkaloid (8)
14 Ready for (5,2)
15 Tune (6)
17 Spirited (9)
21 Offer a price (3)
22 A wise bird, so we are told ! (3)
23 Comparative words (2,1)
26 Most intimate (9)
27 Assails (6)
28 Distinguished (7)
32 Papal election meeting (8)
34 Jokes (4)
35 A type of sea-eagle (3)
36 Put an end to (6)
37 Elevator innovator (4)

DOWN

1 Buffalo's lake (4)
2 Ex-India skipper Adhikari (4)
3 Wish for (4)
5 Duplicates or reproduces by asexual means ? (6)
6 Bollywood's Aishwarya __ Bachchan (3)
7 Adieu (3,3)
9 2016 Summer Olympics host (3)
11 Small firework (5)
12 Light meal (5)
15 Stubborn creature (4)
16 Very (2,2)
18 Competes (4)
19 Charged particles (4)
20 Possess, have (3)
23 In the company of; along with (5)
24 With __ __ in my heart : happily (1,4)
25 Counting frame (6)
26 Sloping type (6)
28 Adam's wife (3)
29 Just a pond or a lake ! (4)
30 The orient (4)
31 Sounds of disapproval (4)
33 Modern prefix (3



Solution to November 11

SUDOKU

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		2		7	1	5		
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		9	5	2		8		
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2	9		8					
				9		2	1	

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

Solution to November 11



From academic knowledge to practical skills: What students expect from universities

Siddharth Shahani

- **Practical, job-ready skills: 89% of students identified skills as a key career priority, highlighting the need to connect classroom learning with workplace requirements.**
- **Stronger industry networks: 79% valued industry connections, including opportunities to interact with professionals and potential employers.**
- **Portfolios that demonstrate ability: 68% prioritised building portfolios that showcase their work and practical capabilities.**
- **Early industry exposure: 85% wanted industry engagement by their second year through live projects, internships and masterclasses.**
- **Mentorship and applied AI learning: Students want guidance from industry professionals and entrepreneurs, along with hands-on opportunities to understand and use AI**

A student entering university today has likely already learned a skill online, experimented with artificial intelligence (AI) or built something independently. For much of the last century, universities supplied knowledge, while degrees certified graduates' readiness for work. That relationship is changing. With knowledge more accessible and employers placing greater emphasis on practical capabilities, universities must consider what students should be able to do with what they learn.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 recognised this shift, emphasising multidisciplinary study, experiential learning and stronger industry connections. However, a gap remains between these ambitions and classroom practice. Graduates may have a sound theoretical foundation but limited experience of the uncertainty, constraints and accountability of professional life. Understanding students' expectations is an important step towards addressing this gap.

To explore these expectations, we conducted a campus-wide survey of more than 2,100 students across our four schools, covering design, business, technology and law. The findings offer insights into how Generation Z views education, skills and career preparation.

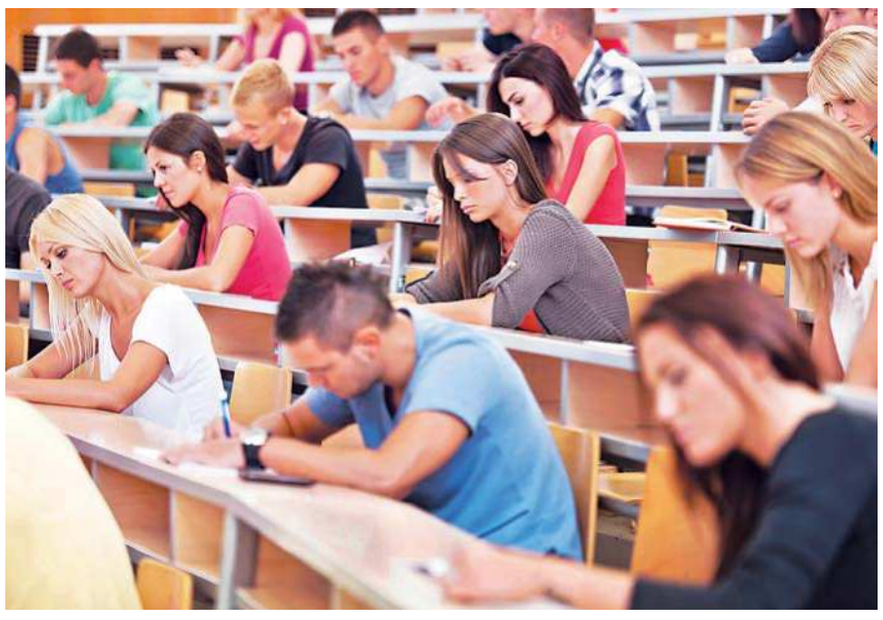
When asked what would matter most for their careers, 89% selected skills, 79% industry networks and 68% portfolios. These priorities are closely connected. Students want to develop capabilities, learn from professionals and build work that demonstrates what they can achieve. They are asking universities to make the link between education and employment more direct.

Practical problem-solving is central to this expectation. Real business challenges rarely come with clearly defined questions or single correct answers. They require students to understand constraints, collaborate and make decisions. Solving real-world business problems ranked first among the skills students considered important for their generation.



The survey found that 70% favoured industry exposure through live projects, internships and masterclasses. One student observed, "Working on industry projects has given me the confidence to apply what I learn in class to actual business problems." Studying a problem and taking responsibility for solving it are different experiences. Universities need to provide opportunities for both. Students also want this exposure early. While 44% wanted industry engagement in their first year, 85% wanted it by their second year. Introducing practical learning throughout a degree gives students time to experiment, learn from mistakes and develop judgement. It should be an integral part of education, not an activity reserved for the final year. The changing nature of work makes this approach particularly relevant to artificial intelligence. Understanding what AI can do is different from knowing when and how to use it effectively. In the survey, 92% identified live industry projects and masterclasses as the best ways to learn AI applications. The same principle applies to multidisciplinary education. Professional challenges increasingly bring together technology, business, design and human behaviour. Students need opportunities to work across disciplines while developing expertise in their chosen fields.

Mentorship is another important consideration. Among aspiring student entrepreneurs, 62% wanted industry mentorship and 61% wanted to learn from entrepreneurs, compared with 30% who prioritised funding. This indicates that students value guidance from people with practical experience as they explore their own ideas.



Implications for the university of the future

These findings have implications for how universities design programmes and engage with industry. Employers should be more than occasional visitors during placement season; they should contribute to shaping learning through projects, internships and professional engagement. Disciplinary boundaries also need to become more flexible, allowing students to understand how different fields intersect in practice.

AI literacy should extend across programmes rather than remain limited to specialist departments. Campuses should also provide students with the resources, mentorship and opportunities to develop ideas, test prototypes and explore entrepreneurship.

Their responses point to a desire for education that combines knowledge with practical experience, professional networks and opportunities to demonstrate capability.

Universities should make student feedback a regular part of academic planning and improvement. By doing so, they can build learning environments that prepare graduates not only for what they know, but for what they can do with it.

(The author is Co-Founder & Executive President, ATLAS SkillTech University)

TODAY IS WORLD QUALITY DAY

How data and AI are reshaping quality management

Quality management is evolving beyond routine inspections, audits and compliance checklists. As industries and institutions face increasingly complex demands, the focus is shifting towards strategic quality practices that use data analysis, technology and artificial intelligence (AI) to improve decision-making and process control.



Traditionally, quality systems have focused on identifying errors, meeting prescribed standards and ensuring that processes comply with established requirements. While these practices remain important, they may not be sufficient to address emerging challenges. Organisations increasingly need systems that can identify potential problems early, understand patterns in performance and support continuous improvement.

Data-driven quality management offers an approach to achieving this shift. By collecting and analysing information from different stages of a process, organisations can identify recurring issues, measure performance and make decisions based on evidence rather than assumptions. This can help reduce inefficiencies, improve consistency and strengthen accountability.

AI and machine learning are adding another dimension to quality practices. These technologies can analyse large volumes of data, identify patterns and detect deviations that may not be immediately visible through conventional monitoring. In manufacturing, for instance, predictive analytics can help identify equipment-related risks before they lead to production interruptions. In service sectors, data analysis can help monitor performance and identify areas requiring improvement. However, adopting technology alone does not guarantee better quality outcomes. Organisations need clear quality objectives, reliable data, trained professionals and well-defined processes. Human oversight also remains essential, particularly when interpreting AI-generated insights and making decisions that affect people, safety or institutional performance.

Ultimately, quality should be treated as an ongoing organisational responsibility rather than a periodic exercise undertaken to satisfy audit requirements. Combining strategic planning, data analysis and emerging technologies can help organisations move from detecting problems to anticipating and preventing them, creating a stronger foundation for continuous improvement.

IHM hosts culinary masterclass, students get to meet industry experts

The Institute of Hotel Management (IHM), Hyderabad, organised a culinary masterclass titled 'Power of Pecans' in association with the American Pecans Council, giving students an opportunity to interact with chefs and professionals from the hospitality and food industry.



The session brought together five culinary and nutrition experts, who demonstrated the use of pecans in sweet and savoury preparations. Students observed different cooking techniques, explored ingredient combinations and learnt about contemporary culinary practices through live demonstrations and discussions.

The masterclass featured celebrity chef and restaurateur Chef Ajay Chopra; Chef Anil Rohira, corporate pastry chef for Felchlin Switzerland and co-founder of the School for European Pastry; Dr Chef Parvinder Singh Bali, director of the School for European Pastry and Culinary Arts; and Chef Vicky Ratnani, known for his work in global cuisine. Dr Aditi Govitrikar, a medical doctor and psychologist, spoke about the nutritional properties and health aspects of pecans. The chefs shared their professional experiences, cooking methods and insights into ingredient innovation. Their demonstrations helped students understand how a single ingredient can be incorporated into different culinary preparations. The interactive format also provided opportunities for students to engage with the experts and learn about evolving trends in the food and hospitality sector.

The session offered practical exposure beyond classroom instruction, allowing students to observe professional approaches to food preparation, presentation and menu development. Interactions with industry practitioners also provided insights into the skills and creative thinking required in professional kitchens.

During the event, the institute's official newsletter, 'Referral Point', was formally unveiled by the guests. The publication will feature the institute's activities, academic initiatives and contributions to the hospitality sector.

The programme also included an introduction to Hyderabad's culinary heritage through a traditional Hyderabadi lunch. Students and guests witnessed musical performances by the institute's band, 'Flute'. Chef Ajay Chopra joined the performers in a song, while Dr Chef Parvinder Singh Bali presented a flute recital.

The event formed part of IHM Hyderabad's efforts to connect academic learning with industry practices through expert interactions and demonstrations. Such engagements provide hospitality students with opportunities to understand professional expectations, explore new techniques and gain exposure to developments in the culinary field.

EFLU student figures among 50 delegates for Yuva Sangam phase VII

Hans News Service

E. MATHIVANAN, a student of the English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU), Hyderabad, represented the university and Tamil Nadu at the seventh phase of the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat – Yuva Sangam programme held in New Delhi.

Mathivanan was selected as one of 50 delegates from more than 4,700 applicants across the country for the national youth exchange initiative. The programme aims to promote cultural integration, experiential learning and national unity by providing young people with opportunities to explore India's diversity and engage with participants from different regions.

During the programme, Mathivanan had the opportunity to interact with Vice President of India C. P. Radhakrishnan and Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta.

The exchange was coordinated by the Central University of Tamil Nadu and the University of Delhi. It included visits to prominent historical and national landmarks, including Uparashtrapati Bhavan, the Red Fort, India Gate, the National War Memorial and the Dr B. R. Ambedkar National Memorial. These visits offered participants an opportunity to learn about India's history, cultural heritage and national institutions.

The programme also provided exposure to educational institutions and technological developments, while enabling delegates to interact with academics, officials and fellow participants from different parts of the country.

Reflecting on his participation, Mathivanan described meeting the Vice President and the Delhi Chief Minister as among the proudest moments of his experience. He said the interactions and exchanges with delegates from across India helped him develop a deeper appreciation of the country's cultural diversity and the importance of national integration.

EFLU Vice-Chancellor Prof. N. Nagaraju congratulated Mathivanan on his selection and participation. He commended the student for representing both the university and Tamil Nadu at the national-level programme.

The university noted that Mathivanan's participation reflected the objectives of the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat initiative, which seeks to strengthen cultural understanding and promote the idea of unity in diversity among young people.





> We have neither discussed formally or informally the possibility of the IPL becoming a 12-team affair in 2028. It is not in our scope at this stage. We are concerned about the IPL of 2027, which is going to be the 20th edition of the IPL. So it will be a big affair
> - BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia

Sandpapergate controversy

Khawaja pulls out of interviews, ACA urges end to online abuse



MELBOURNE

UNDER-FIRE Usman Khawaja has withdrawn from interviews promoting his autobiography after facing criticism, while the Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA) has urged an end to the furore that has been reignited following his claims that the entire team was involved in the 2018 ball-tampering scandal.

Under-fire Usman claimed that then captain Steve Smith, vice-captain David Warner and opener Cameron Bancroft were made scapegoats by cricket administrators despite the alleged wider knowledge within the team

Khawaja's book, 'Sabr', has reignited the controversy surrounding the Cape Town Test against South Africa in 2018, with the former batter alleging that the entire team knew about the plan to use sandpaper to alter the condition of the ball.

He claimed that then captain Steve Smith, vice-captain David Warner and opener Cameron Bancroft were made scapegoats by cricket administrators despite the alleged wider knowledge within the team.

However, former teammate Mitchell Starc, who was part of the side, rejected Khawaja's assertions and reiterated the position he had taken in 2021 that the bowlers were not aware of the conspiracy.

The controversy escalated after Khawaja struggled to address questions about the allegations during an interview with ABC . He was pointedly asked whether the four frontline bowlers, Pat Cummins, Starc, Josh Hazlewood and Nathan Lyon, had been part of discussions around ball-tampering. Khawaja was also asked directly whether current Test captain Cummins knew in advance about the use of sandpaper. he refused to answer them, insisting that he had merely told his "truth" in the book, drawing criticism.

His publisher, Penguin, subsequently confirmed changes to his promotional schedule, though it stopped short of specifying which appearances had been cancelled or altered.

Pandya moves to Pb for Rs 18 crore

Arshdeep heads to MI in high-profile IPL trade

NEW DELHI

FLAMBOYANT all-rounder Hardik Pandya moved to Punjab Kings from Mumbai Indians at an increased fee of Rs 18 crore, while PBKS traded pacer Arshdeep Singh for him, completing the biggest and most high-profile exchange of players in the history of IPL.

Pandya's existing fee was Rs 16.35 crore. Arshdeep, on the other hand, moved to Mumbai at an unchanged price tag of Rs 18 crore, read a statement from the IPL.

Before this, Chennai Super Kings had acquired Sanju Samson this year for Rs 18 crore from Rajasthan Royals, who got Ravindra Jadeja for Rs 14 crore and Sam Curran for Rs 2.4 crore from CSK. Transfer Fee is a bipartite agreement between two franchises and it is independent of retention fee (the salary paid to a player by the franchise).



It was mutually decided by the two teams that Pandya's trade fee will go up by Rs 1.65 crore and as per existing rules, he would get 50 per cent of the hike. The rest would go to Mumbai Indians. Pandya's trade brings the curtain down on his second stint with MI, a franchise with which he won four IPL titles. Having first joined MI in 2015, the 33-year-old had starring roles with both bat and ball during the team's title-winning campaigns in 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2020.

After seven seasons with Mumbai, Pandya moved to Gujarat Titans (GT) at a fee of Rs 15 crore in 2022 and led the franchise to the title in its debut season. GT also reached the final in 2023. Pandya returned to MI in 2024, taking over captaincy from stalwart Rohit Sharma but the franchise's performance nose-dived and it was speculated that the injury-ravaged maverick was unhappy with how things panned out. He struggled to win over fans after taking over leadership and was incessantly booed in the first season after his return.

Shooter Niraj secures LA Olympics quota

DOHA: India's Niraj Kumar secured a quota place for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics after winning bronze in the men's 50m rifle 3-positions event at the ISSF World Championships here on Wednesday. It was India's second Olympic quota at the championships, following Jaypal Malviya's silver in the men's 10m air pistol event a few days ago.



Niraj shot 346.5 in the final and was in contention for silver before a costly 9.4 on his 34th shot pushed him down to third. Individual Neutral Athlete (AIN) Dmitrii Pimenov clinched gold with a world junior record score of 362.8, while Slovakia's Patrik Jany took silver.

Both also secured Olympic quota places. The other Indian in the final, Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, finished fifth with 323.7. India also won bronze in the team event, with Niraj, Aishwary and Akhil Sheoran combining for 1,751 in the elimination round.

They missed silver by a solitary point as Norway finished second with 1,752, while the Czech Republic took gold with 1,754.

'No discussion yet on increasing IPL teams'

KUSHAN SARKAR
NEW DELHI

BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia has ruled out an immediate expansion of the IPL from 10 to 12 teams, insisting that the idea has not even been "informally" discussed within the Board. While there is a lot of interest around IPL in the global cricket market, Saikia said that there is "no scope" for an expansion as of now.



"We have neither discussed formally or informally the possibility of the IPL becoming a 12-team affair in 2028. It is not in our scope at this stage," Saikia told PTI during an interaction. "We are concerned about the IPL of 2027, which is going to be the 20th edition of the IPL. So it will be a big affair. We are concerned about that and we are not considering anything beyond that," Saikia told PTI.

"Whatever news is circulating in the media, I think these are all speculative reports from some fertile minds. I have no comments to offer regarding those. There is no sanctity to those reports," he clarified.

He also said that no call has been taken on the increase of team purse from Rs 125 crore to Rs 150 crore before the 2027 mega auction.

"There is nothing of that sort regarding an increase in the salary purse.



Newly-elected FIDE president Timur Turlov

FIDE: India will continue to host major events

APARAJITA UPADHYAY
BUDAPEST

Newly-elected FIDE president Timur Turlov said India is a trusted partner of the world body of chess and will continue to host major international championships over the next four years. He also called for greater Indian influence in the Asian Chess Federation.

India has established itself as a major force in international chess, with a crop of young players, led by reigning world champion D Gukesh, alongside R Praggnanandhaa, Arjun Erigaisi and R Vaishali, making their presence felt at the highest level.

Asked whether India could expect to host more international events under his administration, Turlov responded in the affirmative. "Absolutely," Turlov said on the sidelines of the Total Chess World Championship Tour Pilot here.

Pant, Gill in top 10 of ICC Test rankings

DUBAI: Wicket-keeper Rishabh Pant and captain Shubman Gill are the only Indians in the top 10 of the latest ICC Test batting rankings, occupying eighth and 10th positions respectively. Both Pant (713 rating points) and Gill (697) have dropped a rung in the list.



Another Indian Yashasvi Jaiswal finds himself in the 13th spot. The Test batters chart is being headed by England's Harry Brook and Joe Root, followed by Australia's Travis Head, South Africa's Temba Bavuma and Steve Smith.

Afghanistan captain Rahmat Shah has created history by becoming the first player from his country to enter the top 10 in any category of the ICC Test Player Rankings. Rahmat climbed six spots to career-best seventh on the rankings for Test batters following his innings of 173 in the opening match of Afghanistan's two-game series against Zimbabwe in Sharjah.

It was the fifth Test century of Rahmat's career and his second this year, lifting the 33-year-old above India captain Shubman Gill, South Africa opener Aiden Markram and Sri Lanka's Kamindu Mendis into the top 10 for the first time.

Purchase of 40 villas and cottages

Demand for ACB to register case, ED probe against IAS officer

JAIPUR

Nearly two weeks after the Rajasthan Anti-Corruption Bureau launched a preliminary enquiry into the controversial purchase of 40 villas and cottages by senior IAS officer Shikhar Agrawal and his family, activists have alleged "delay" in registering an FIR and sought a wider investigation into the transactions.

RTI activist Ashok Pathak submitted a representation to Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma and the chief secretary, flagging why the bureau has not taken a decision on registering an FIR

RTI activist Ashok Pathak submitted a representation to Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma and the chief secretary, flagging why the bureau has not taken a decision on registering an FIR.

He threatened to approach the High Court or the Supreme Court if the ACB fails to conclude the enquiry and take action in accordance with the law. "The chief minister was proactive in handing over the matter to the ACB, but the bureau has been unusually slow. Why has it not concluded the preliminary enquiry and registered an FIR?" Pathak told PTI.



Advocates Poonam Chand Bhandari and T N Sharma have also approached the Enforcement Directorate (ED), seeking an investigation into the transactions under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. The advocates, associated with Public Against Corruption, alleged that the purchase of properties at prices substantially below their market value and their subsequent leaseback to the seller raised serious questions about the transactions.

The ACB registered the preliminary enquiry on October 30 after allegations surfaced that Shikhar Agrawal, his wife and IPS officer Prashakha Mathur and their family members purchased 40 villas and cottages for approximately Rs 6.17 crore and subsequently leased them back to the seller for an annual rent of around Rs 1.80 crore.

The controversy began following a media report about the property transactions involving Agrawal, his wife and other family members. Official sources said that the Prime Minister's Office had sought a factual report from the Rajasthan government after the allegations surfaced. The Centre also called the chief secretary to Delhi regarding the matter.



Gang-rape survivor thrown off roof in Bihar

PATNA: A 30-year-old gang-rape survivor was allegedly thrown off the roof of a building by a neighbour in Bihar's Begusarai district, prompting police to arrest the accused on Wednesday.

The injured woman was taken to Sadar Hospital in Begusarai. Police said they arrested her neighbour, Bhongal Kumar, based on her statement. A case has been registered under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), and an investigation is underway.

The woman's family alleged that they had been facing pressure to withdraw the gang-rape case filed in June. They claimed Tuesday's attack was part of an attempt to intimidate them into dropping the case. The woman was allegedly raped by five men on June 11 when she stepped out of her house to relieve herself. During her treatment, doctors reportedly recovered a cartridge-like object, a stone and a piece of wood from her private parts, police said. All five accused in the gang-rape case have been arrested.

Chefs set 10 pm deadline for wedding feast in J&K

Kashmir Waza Association president Ghulam Nabi Waza said his community has suffered in silence for too long. It takes several hours to prepare the dishes, and usually we work late into the night

SRINAGAR: Tired of endless wait for the groom's arrival, Kashmir's traditional chefs, known as 'waza', have set a 10 pm deadline on serving wazwan at weddings. At a conference at a marriage hall in Rajouri Kadal area of the city, wazas discussed the "inhuman conditions" they are made to work under while serving the multi-dish 'wazwan' to guests at weddings and other functions. The chefs unanimously decided they will not serve food after 10 pm. Kashmir Waza Association president Ghulam Nabi Waza said his community has suffered in silence for too long. "It takes several hours to prepare the dishes, and usually we work late into the night.

Then we are expected to start serving lunch from around 1 pm till 6 pm, which is followed by dinner, which starts well into the night," Waza said. And if the chefs are cooking at the bride's home, they must wait for the groom and his entourage to arrive, which usually happens past midnight, he complained.



"There have been incidents where the maulvi left without solemnising the nikah because the groom did not turn up till 1 am. We are also humans. So we now set the 10 pm deadline," Waza said. He said going late to wedding feasts has become fashionable and appealed to the people to get rid of this bad habit.

"There are so many people attached with the wazwan, and they too have the right to dignified working hours," he added. Several chefs complained of maltreatment by their clients. "For example, we are not provided a proper place to sleep. We work long hours and need some time to rest before we prepare ourselves for the next day's gruelling routine. The hosts should take care of that aspect," said one of the chefs.

'Deeply aggrieved by way Nitish is mentioned in Sonia's book'

NEW DELHI/PATNA: The Janata Dal (United) on Wednesday expressed resentment over the portrayal of its president and former Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar in Congress leader Sonia Gandhi's memoir, asserting that he was the main architect of the opposition INDIA bloc.



While JD(U) national spokesperson Rajeev Ranjan Prasad alleged that Gandhi has presented the entire episode in her book as part of a strategy to mislead people, the party's working president Sanjay Kumar Jha alleged the former Congress chief made "petty and frivolous" remarks against Kumar, which was "unexpected".

"The JD(U) is deeply aggrieved by the way Nitish Kumar has been mentioned in Sonia Gandhi's book in the context of the INDIA bloc. We believe that Nitish Kumar is the architect and driving force behind the INDIA bloc, which is currently being led by Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi," he said in a video statement.

Gandhi has written that Kumar was looking for an opportunity to exit the INDIA bloc and was under the BJP's influence. She also refers to his return to the NDA in early 2024. Prasad claimed that most regional parties were initially reluctant to include the Congress in the opposition alliance and Kumar had persuaded them to come together with the grand old party.

2,450 kg chicken destroyed over safety violations

PANAJI: Over 2,450 kg of chicken was destroyed by the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) in South Goa during two inspections.

A vehicle carrying 700 kg of chicken valued at Rs 1,36,500 was intercepted by the FDA at Margao Railway Station. The chicken was transported in thermocol boxes from Delhi without the required temperature control, and remained in transit for nearly 36 hours.

A separate inspection at a cold storage unit in Verna revealed a lack of proper labelling and purchase records, leading to another 1,750 kg of chicken being destroyed.

State health minister Vishwajit Rane informed on November 11, Wednesday, that the drive was launched to prevent unsafe meat products from reaching consumers.

8 held after Tiger found dead in Maha reserve

GONDIA: A tiger has been found dead in Maharashtra's Nawegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve (NNTR) in a suspected case of electrocution.

Forest authorities have detained a farmer, whose farm is adjacent to the reserve's core boundary, and seven other persons.

The tiger, identified as T-39 and aged around 4, was found dead with burn marks, adjacent to a farm near Bodunda village in the reserve's Thadezari beat in Gondia district.

NNTR deputy field director Pritamsingh Kodape informed that the tiger is suspected to have died of electrocution.

It is suspected that the farmer laid a live wire near his field, resulting in the tiger getting caught in it.

Officials suspect that the farmer along with others moved the carcass and dumped it in the core forest area of the reserve.

Maharashtra has several tiger reserves, including Tadoba-Andhari, Melghat, Sahyadri and Nawegaon-Nagzira.



The Hans India

Business

"Our ambition is to double India turnover by 2030. So we are working on a detailed year-by-year plan. My priority is also to make sure that we bring in the global product lines into the store as early as possible" -Sanjay Rao, MD & CEO, Bata India

BIZ BRIEFS

HCLTech, PTC launches PLM

HCLTech and PTC have launched a pre-configured semiconductor Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) solution based on PTC's Windchill platform to streamline product development, improve quality and compliance, and reduce operational complexity. The solution connects people, processes and data across the semiconductor lifecycle, covering IP management, product introduction, supplier collaboration and regulatory compliance. It also integrates with existing business, manufacturing and design systems, providing end-to-end visibility and traceability to accelerate innovation and product development.

ICICI Life's rebranding

ICICI Life Insurance Limited, has unveiled a new brand identity and tagline, 'Har Kal Aasaan'. The initiative aims to make life insurance simpler, more transparent, flexible and accessible for Indian customers. Srinivas Balasubramanian, Chief-Marketing, Digital & Bancassurance, ICICI Life, said: "The ICICI name holds an enduring place in the lives of millions of Indians, serving as a symbol of trust, strength, and financial accessibility."

HDFC MF in pact with Network18

HDFC Mutual Fund has partnered with Network18 to launch 'Mission Wealthwise', a nationwide initiative promoting financial literacy among school students and advocating its inclusion in formal education. The programme will engage policymakers, educators, parents and industry experts. It will also conduct Investor Awareness Programmes across educational institutions. The National Centre for Financial Education (NCFE) and Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL) have joined as knowledge partners.

William Grant & Sons enters into AP

William Grant & Sons has entered Andhra Pradesh, expanding its Indian distribution footprint. The company will initially target key urban centres through retail and hospitality channels, partnering with distributors, retailers, hotels and restaurants before expanding across the state. Kartik Mohindra, MD, William Grant & Sons India, said: "Andhra Pradesh is an important addition to our India footprint and represents the next step in the continued development of our business in the country."

New CEO at Bondbazaar

Bondbazaar, a technology-led fixed-income investment platform, announced the appointment of S. Sambath Kumar as its Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Sambath brings over 25 years of experience across financial services, business development, product strategy and distribution. S. Sambath Kumar, said: "I am delighted to join Bondbazaar at an exciting stage in its growth journey."

Sensex, Nifty at near nine-month highs

Sensex at level last seen on February 26; investors richer by ₹4.30 lakh crore in two days

Mumbai

STOCK markets rose for the second straight day on Wednesday, with the benchmark Sensex rallying 772 points to hit a near nine-month high and Nifty closing above 25,250, aided by foreign fund inflows, better-than-expected Q2 results and a sustained moderation in crude oil prices. The 30-share BSE Sensex rallied 772.75 points, or 0.95 per cent, to settle at 81,879.40, a level not seen since February 26. During the day, it jumped 1,413.75 points, or 1.74 per cent, to 82,520.40.

The 50-share NSE Nifty closed 210.40 points, or 0.84 per cent, higher at 25,255.05, the highest in nearly nine months.

Among the 30 Sensex firms, Mahindra & Mahindra



jumped 5.25 per cent, InterGlobe Aviation 4.37 per cent, Trent 3.02 per cent, Tata Steel 2.22 per cent, ITC 2.15 per cent and Axis Bank 2.14 per cent. Adani Ports, Tech Mahindra, HCL Tech and ICICI Bank were among the laggards. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 7,212.22 crore on Monday, according to exchange data. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was up 1.58 per cent to USD 92.94 per barrel.

The broader market uptrend remains underpinned by a favourable mix of sustained FII inflows, lower crude oil prices, a resilient rupee and encouraging corporate earnings, he said. Broader markets rallied as the BSE SmallCap Select index jumped 1.29 per cent and MidCap Select index was up 1.02 per cent. Among BSE sectoral indices, MidSmall Private Banks Quality Tilt surged 3.44 per cent, PSU PSU Bank 3.03 per cent, Telecommunication 2.41 per cent, Auto 2.05 per cent, Bankex 1.94 per cent, Private Banks index 1.43 per cent and Commodities 1.24 per cent. IT, Healthcare and Realty were the laggards. Investors' wealth climbed Rs 4.30 lakh crore to Rs 5,10,72,090.95 crore (USD 5.44 trillion) in two days. So far this month, the Sensex has surged 7,419.87 points, or 9.96 per cent, and the Nifty zoomed 2,201.95 points, or 9.55 per cent. Foreign investors turned net buyers of Indian equities in November, infusing Rs 53,739 crore so far 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.

Qualcomm begins India job cuts, 1,000 roles at risk

Layoffs set to hit Hyderabad, other tech centres

New Delhi

US chipmaker Qualcomm has started laying off employees in India as part of a global workforce restructuring exercise that could affect around 1,000 employees, or nearly 5-6 per cent of its workforce in the country, according to reports.

The layoffs reportedly began at its Bengaluru operations, primarily affecting senior engineers and employees with several years of experience. The exercise is expected to extend to its engineering and research centres in Hyderabad, Delhi-NCR and Chennai.

Affected employees have reportedly been offered severance equivalent to three months' salary, with additional compensation linked to their tenure. Those signing exit documents within three days have also reportedly been offered an additional month's salary. Qualcomm



has not publicly confirmed these arrangements.

Chief executive Cristiano Amon announced a global workforce restructuring on October 20, following the company's annual performance review. Qualcomm described the exercise as performance-focused and aimed at strengthening accountability and aligning its workforce with changing business priorities.

However, the reported cuts among experienced Indian engineers have raised questions about whether the exercise also involves organisational rationalisation and cost reduction.

Employees could be assessed on individual performance ratings, team-level evaluations and senior management feedback. Radio frequency, Bluetooth, Wi-Fi and global navigation satellite system engineering teams may also face reductions, reports said.

Qualcomm's traditional smartphone business is facing pressure as the company expands into AI, automotive technologies, connected devices and data-centre semiconductors.

Amul, Mother Dairy hike milk prices by ₹2-4 per litre

New Delhi

LEADING dairy companies Amul and Mother Dairy have hiked milk prices by Rs 2-4 per litre, effective Thursday, due to higher input costs, including higher farmer procurement rates and increased fuel expenses.

Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) and Mother Dairy, leading milk suppliers, last increased retail milk prices in May this year. Last month, Karnataka's popular dairy brand Nandini raised prices of its products.

The increase in milk prices will affect household budgets and may also result in higher food inflation. In a statement on Wednesday, the GCMMF, which sells milk under the Amul brand, said it has in-



creased the milk prices by Rs 2-4 per litre effective Thursday. The cooperative has increased prices of fresh pouch milk by 4-5 per cent in major milk-selling variants/packs across India, effective November 12, 2026.

"The price of our largest-selling Amul Taaza toned milk with 3 per cent milk fat has been increased by only Rs 2 per litre (3.3 per cent increase) and Amul Gold Milk with 6 per cent milk fat by Rs 4 per litre (5.5 per cent rise)," GCMMF said.

Mother Dairy, the largest milk supplier in Delhi-NCR, did not issue any statement, but sources said it has revised prices of its liquid milk variants by Rs 2-4 per litre, effective November 12.

The price is being hiked due to a steep rise in input costs of milk production and processing, GCMMF said.

It pointed out that there has been a significant increase in the cost of fodder (green and dry), cattle feed ingredients, milk packaging film and fuel during the year.

"In the current challenging environmental circumstances due to low and uneven rainfall in Gujarat as well as many parts of India, we are constrained to increase the consumer price of milk to pay better prices to our producers and support them in these difficult times," the cooperative said.

GCMMF said its member unions have increased farmers' procurement price by 4-5 per cent in the last one year, and a similar revision will further support farmers. For Mother Dairy, procurement prices of milk from farmers have increased, forcing the company to partly pass on the rise in input costs to consumers.

In NCR, the price of Mother Dairy's toned milk (bulk vended) increased to Rs 60 from Rs 58 per litre. Full cream milk (pouched) will now cost Rs 76 per litre compared to Rs 72. The price of toned milk (pouched) has increased to Rs 62 per litre from Rs 60 per litre. Double toned milk will cost Rs 56 per litre, up from Rs 54 per litre. Cow milk prices have been increased to Rs 65 per litre from Rs 62 per litre. Mother Dairy sells around 35 lakh litres of milk per day in the Delhi-NCR market through its own outlets, general trade and e-commerce platforms. Overall, it sells more than 50 lakh litres per day. According to the National Statistics Office (NSO), food inflation rose to 7.74 per cent in September from 5.97 per cent the previous month. Established in 1973, the GCMMF is the apex body marketing dairy products from 18 cooperatives under the Amul and Sagar brands. Amul is the world's largest farmer-owned dairy cooperative with 36 lakhs members.

SNVA Traveltech files updated IPO papers

Hans Business
Hyderabad

SNVA Traveltech Ltd, operator of online travel platform Travomint, has filed its Updated Draft Red Herring Prospectus-I (UDRHP-I) for a proposed initial public offering comprising an offer for sale (OFS) of up to 12.75 crore equity shares.

Promoters Alok Kumar Singh and Vivek Kumar Singh will each offload up to 6.38 crore shares. The company confidentially filed its draft papers with Sebi on March 29 and received regulatory approval on August 6. Equirus Capital and Anand Rathi Advisors are the book-running lead managers.

Established in 2017, SNVA Traveltech operates an asset-light online travel agency offering flight, hotel and ancillary travel bookings through its Travomint website and mobile application. Its services include airport transfers, travel insurance, car rentals and holiday packages across domestic and international routes. As of August 31, 2026, it served customers in more than 50 countries.

The company follows a hybrid model combining digital bookings with multilingual customer support teams. Its technology platform integrates global distribution systems and travel partners through APIs, alongside internally developed customer relationship management and AI-enabled tools.

IOB, PSB, Central Bank eye QIPs to meet Sebi norm

NEW DELHI: INDIAN Overseas Bank (IOB), Punjab & Sind Bank and Central Bank of India are working on share sales to reduce government ownership in line with Sebi's mandate, officials said. IOB has indicated a tentative timeline for its qualified institutional placement (QIP), while the other two lenders are yet to finalise theirs. IOB has approval to raise up to Rs 5,000 crore through a QIP in the current financial year and has secured almost all necessary clearances, managing director and CEO Ajay Kumar Srivastava said. The bank plans to launch the issue towards the end of the current quarter or at the start of the fourth quarter, depending on market conditions. If the full amount is raised, equity dilution would be around 6 per cent, bringing the government's stake in the Chennai-headquartered bank down to about 86 per cent from the existing 92.44 per cent, Srivastava said.

Moody's lifts India FY27 growth forecast to 7%

New Delhi

MOODY'S Ratings on Wednesday said the Indian economy is expected to grow at 7 per cent in the current fiscal compared to 6.5 per cent pegged earlier, aided by robust consumption, improving investment dynamics and strong macroeconomic fundamentals.

In its Global Macro Out-



look 2027-28, Moody's, however, said that near-term risks to growth persist as household consumption remains vulnerable to "intensifying and broadening price pressures", with headline inflation close to the upper end of the RBI's inflation target range, while a deficient monsoon and El Nino conditions weigh on agricultural output and rural demand. Retail inflation rose to 5.54 per cent in September 2026.

"India's broad-based economic momentum and demonstrated resilience to the energy supply shock warrant upward revisions to our 2026-27 growth forecasts to 7 per cent from 6.5 per cent," it said. RBI estimates GDP growth of 7.1 per cent in the current fiscal, in line with OECD projection. The International Monetary Fund (IMF), ADB and S&P Global Ratings have projected a 7 per cent growth, while Fitch Ratings expects India's GDP to grow 6.9 per cent.

Volatility dents equity fund inflows in October

Mumbai

EQUITY mutual fund inflows declined nearly 14 per cent to Rs 32,994 crore in October from Rs 38,306 crore in September, reflecting the impact of market volatility and correction, according to data released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) on Wednesday.

Despite the decline, October marked the 60th consecutive month of net inflows into equity mutual fund schemes. Their total assets under management stood at Rs 37.14 lakh crore as on October 31.

Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) contributions also eased marginally to Rs 32,160 crore from Rs 32,490 crore in September. The number of contributing SIP accounts declined to 10 crore from 10.06 crore.

Amfi chief executive Venkat Chalasani said market volatility might have affected inflows, but factors such as the improved assessment of Indian equities by foreign brokerages, lower crude oil prices and strong corporate earnings were positive for the market. He also pointed to strong bank credit growth as an indication of underlying economic strength.

Despite volatility, SIP investments in October were about 10 per cent higher than the over Rs 29,000 crore recorded in the same month last year.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) sold a net Rs 34,843 crore worth of Indian equities in October. However, domestic retail investors largely continued their SIP investments, reflecting confidence in India's long-term growth prospects. Meanwhile, gold and silver exchange-traded funds attracted inflows of over Rs 3,000 crore each. A total of 28 new fund offerings across categories mobilised Rs 3,829 crore during the month.

EVs now default for government staff cars

New Delhi

THE Finance Ministry has asked all ministries and departments to make electric vehicles (EVs) their "default and preferred choice" for staff car procurement, setting a price ceiling of Rs 20 lakh per vehicle.

In an office memorandum dated November 10, the Department of Expenditure said the revised Net Dealer Price (NDP) ceiling takes into account prevailing market prices, vehicle lifecycle costs and the government's efforts to promote electric mobility and reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

The NDP ceiling for EVs has been fixed at Rs 20 lakh, double the Rs 10 lakh limit prescribed for internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles, including petrol, diesel and hybrid cars. The earlier guidelines issued in 2022 had fixed the ceiling at Rs 6 lakh.



Going forward, ministries and departments shall ordinarily procure EVs whenever their existing ICE staff cars are condemned or replaced.

Where a department considers EV procurement or deployment impractical and proposes buying an ICE vehicle, it will have to seek relaxation from the Department of Expenditure on a case-by-case basis. Such proposals require the approval of the administrative ministry's Secretary and concurrence of the Financial Adviser.

The ministry has also reiterated the 2022 instructions mandating the hiring of EVs by government departments. Any proposal to hire ICE vehicles will similarly require specific relaxation.

The move is part of the government's broader push to accelerate electric mobility, strengthen energy security, reduce fossil fuel dependence and cut carbon emissions. It also seeks to increase institutional demand for EVs through government procurement and hiring.

Kunal Shah charts new course for WhatsApp with AI, payments

New Delhi

WhatsApp will focus on making conversations richer, enabling users to complete everyday tasks within chats and using artificial intelligence (AI) to improve efficiency, while maintaining end-to-end encryption for personal messages and calls, its CEO Kunal Shah said on Wednesday.

Shah, who took charge of the Meta-owned messaging platform in June, said he had spent the past few months listening to users and understanding their expectations.

"What I heard is simple: help people stay close to those who matter to them, and get more done on WhatsApp. So that's what we'll build," he said in a post on X.

He said users send more than 10 billion voice messages and four billion stickers on WhatsApp every day. The platform plans to make voice notes, groups, stickers and video simpler and more expressive to strengthen personal connections.

The second priority is enabling users to complete tasks without leaving conversations. These include paying bills, borrowing money and staying connected while travelling. WhatsApp is working with financial services and telecom partners to make such transactions and services easier to access.

The third focus area is AI. Shah said the technology should help users find information, complete tasks and keep track of bookings and appointments.

WhatsApp handles more than 100 billion messages and two billion calls daily. Shah said simplicity, reliability and privacy would remain central to the platform.

Entertainment



'Siddhu10' IS A LOVE STORY; gets a grand launch

Star Boy Sidhu Jonnalagadda will be seen donning a new look in his forthcoming movie 'Siddhu10'. Presented by Tabitha Sukumar the movie is a joint venture between Sukumar Writings & Bunny Vas Works. It is jointly produced by Anmol Sharma, Bunny Vas and Ashok Bandreddy. The movie is directed by Mohan B who is making his directorial debut. Nayan Sarika plays the female lead.

The movie was launched in Hyderabad with various pooja rituals. The camera was switched on by famed filmmaker Sukumar while producer Allu Aravind gave the first clap. The screenplay was handed over to them by producers Vishwaprasad, Bapineedu, directors Buchi Babu and Chandoo Mondeti. The movie was directed by Harish Shankar and Nandini Reddy for the first day.

As part of Sukumar's writing team, Mohan B has crafted a new love story which will show off a different side of Sidhu. Known for his unique presence and versatile acting skills, the actor will add a new dimension to the romantic entertainer.

The makers have also released a mysterious theme poster with a huge waterfall, tree, hanging umbrella and flowing clothes in red, yellow and black. The picturesque poster gives an indication that it will be a nostalgic and touching love story.

The movie will have its music composed by National Award winning G. V. Prakash Kumar. It is being cinematographed by Chandru Selvaraj and will have production design by Sahi Suresh. Regular shoot will commence soon.

This is the second time Sukumar Writings will be working with Bunny Vas Works after Idupu Kaityam, currently in pre-production. ***- S Suhas***

Roshan Meka's pan-India superhero film launched under Ashoka Creations

Young actor Roshan Meka will be seen in the superhero genre with his ambitious pan India action adventure film which has been officially launched with a grand ceremony. This is the third film under Ashoka Creations.

Produced by Ashok Vardhan Muppa and Sunil Balusu and presented by Muppa Venkaiah Chowdhury. The camera was switched on by Venkaiah Chowdhury and the first clap was done by actor Srikanth.

The film has been made on a grand scale. The director has spent almost 18 months on pre-production and script writing. The makers want to blend technology, visuals and an interesting story to make it stand out.

Bollywood actress Rekha Pandey is debuting in Telugu with this film. Vinay Roy will also play an important role.

The technical team comprises of Cinematographer P.G. Vinda, Music composer Gaura Hari, Production Designer Ramakrishna Sabbani and Monica Nigotre, Editor Marthand K. Venkatesh. The action sequences are being designed by Ramakrishna & international Stunt Choreographer Lee Whitaker. The shoot will begin in the first week of December. The film will have a grand pan India release.

- P Ravi Teja



Tanikella Bharani, MLC Sripal Reddy applaud 'Jayannth & The Jingo Pen'



The forthcoming Telugu film Jayannth & The Jingo Pen received positive responses from prominent personalities at its grand pre-release event on the occasion of its release date on November 14 (Children's day).

Actor Tanikella Bharani said he is optimistic about the film's success. "It is a meaningful movie made for children so we should support it," he said. MLC Sripal Reddy praised the film. "It is a great initiative. We need movies that inspire children. It will help us bring out the talents in them. I request parents, teachers and students to watch this movie," he added.

Directed by Naveen Desaboyina who has won a National Award, the film is produced by Divya Praveen Bolisetty under Namo Jayam Productions.

The movie stars Master Jayannth Bolisetty along with Uha Reddy, Satyam Rajesh, Ashish Gandhi, Manasa Radhakrishnan and others. Director praised the young hero's performance.

The actors have said the film has emotional elements and a meaningful message.

"This film was made after we bought the rights for the Malayalam remake," said producer Praveen Bolisetty. The film has music by Mohith and cinematography by Andrew. It aims to provide an entertaining and inspiring movie.

- S Suhas



'Maya Lady' pre-release event: Rakesh Varre confident of entertaining audiences

Actor and producer Rakesh Varre is confident about his upcoming film Maya Lady providing an entertaining cinematic experience to audiences. Speaking during the pre-release event for Maya Lady in Hyderabad, Varre assured that audiences will leave theatres with a smile on their faces after watching the film with family and friends.

Produced by Rakesh under his Crazy Ants Productions banner, Maya Lady directed by Prasankar and starring Madhumita Sarcar in the leading lady role will be released globally in theatres on November 13.

Varre said that he was convinced to take on the project due to the great script and passion from the director. After producing content driven films like 'Evvarikee Cheppoddhu' and 'Peka Medalu,' the team decided to go ahead with the release despite there being a lot of competition on the same day.

Madhumita who is debuting in Telugu said that she has a versatile character to play with some intense action scenes. Prasankar said that it is a unique love story with a mix of commercial elements, whilst composer Vishal Chandrashekhar has provided some great music.

The film also sees appearances from Suresh, Madhurima and Lavanya in key roles, whilst filmmakers Sashi Kiran Tikka and Mahesh Babu P. showed their support for the team. *- S Suhas*

'Rangu Rangu Rangullo Pillaro' from 'Tortoise' is a high-spirited folk song



Tortoise team has released their second song 'Rangu Rangu Rangullo Pillaro', which is a vibrant folk song. The composition was done by Anup Rubens and the lyrics and vocals are done by renowned folk singer Penchal Das. The song has an upbeat tempo and great lyrics which talk about how pretty and playful the village girl is. The song mentions how pretty her bangles, nose ring, earrings, ankle bells are and the expressions on her face. Anup Rubens can be seen dancing along with Penchal Das.

Previously, the first track of the movie 'Nee Parichayam' got a positive response from music lovers.

Tortoise is an action thriller suspense and drama directed by Ritwik Kumar. Raj Tarun plays the lead role. While Amrutha Chowdary, Avasarala Srinivas and Dhanya Balakrishna play crucial roles.

The film is produced by Vijay Chowdary, Shashidhar Nalla and Ramisetti Rambabu under the banners SK Golden Arts, Prashwitha Entertainment and NVL Creations. Manasa Kumar is the co-producer. The latest folk song will add more excitement to the music and theatrical aspect of the movie. *- P Ravi Teja*

Vishwadev Rachakonda excited about positive response for 'Dark Chocolate'



Actor Vishwadev Rachakonda is thrilled with positive response from the US premieres of his upcoming film 'Dark Chocolate' which he describes as a unique genre-blending cinematic experience. The film will be theatrically released globally on November 13. Vishwadev opened up during a media interaction saying that audiences and critics have loved the interesting story and acting. The film was directed by Shashank Srivastava and stars Bindu Madhavi in a leading role. It was produced by Rana Daggubati along with Spirit Media and Voltaire Productions. The film sees Vishwadev playing the role of Yagya, a filmmaker who has faced continuous hits before downfall. He decides to take charge of everything in making a film, whether it be directing, dialogues, songs or even choreography. His journey includes some strange dreams.

Vishwadev explained "It is a mix of thriller, survival story, dark comedy, musical and psycho-thriller. It is also social commentary and is divided into chapters," He added "Bindu Madhavi has done an awesome job. The early viewers are saying it is one of her best performances. Rana Daggubati has also supported this experimental narrative and new talent." Vishwadev is confident the film will provide audiences with something new and encourage filmmakers to experiment with their stories.

- P Ravi Teja

ALIA BHATT'S fashionable outfit is a modern version of traditional ethnic wear



Alia Bhatt turned heads lately in a fabulous outfit consisting of a beautiful pista green lehenga with elaborate gold floral embellishments on the flared skirt and wide gold metallic piping. This was paired with an ivory embroidered choli and translucent cape-styled jacket. Alia completed her look with a matching net dupatta.

The actress kept her makeup simple by opting for a traditional maang tikka and round gold earrings. She also did her hair into a neat bun to complete her graceful look. Alia's fashionable outfit is a modern version of traditional ethnic wear. Currently, Alia is working professionally on Love & War and will also be seen in Tumbbad 2.

- S Suhas



Vamsi Nandipati swears by entertainment value of 'Inka Em Anukoledhu!'

Producer Vamsi Nandipati feels that the upcoming Telugu movie 'Inka Em Anukoledhu!' will have wide appeal. During the song launch of Meghalu Sandramlo, he spoke highly about the story and feels the film will be entertaining. Produced jointly by Vamsi Nandipati Entertainments and ETV Win, the film will hit the theatres on December 11. The film features Akshay Lagusani and Keyuri in lead roles. Jayakrishna, Rao Ramesh, Harshavardhan, Anita Chowdary and Subbaraju are playing key roles.

The film is the directorial debut of Pranay Valluripalli and Giri Pemmasani. They have worked together for the same. Vamsi said that they have a great story to tell and the film will help them gain recognition. Sinjith who has worked with both directors for the first time as music director has scored the film.

The latest track launched has been appreciated by the team and the makers feel confident about the music. The team from ETV Win also said that the project is very special as it is the debut of two new directors and Vamsi Nandipati as a producer. The team thanked everyone who has supported the film and said they will give more updates regarding promotion. - P Ravi Teja