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Summit of Ideas, Impact, and International Partnerships.

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Issued by : Director, Information & Public Relations Dept., Andhra Pradesh.

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भारत सरकार का उपक्रम

SPECIALIZED ARM BRANCH
KVC Arcade, 3rd Floor, 13-1 RC Road,
Vani Nagar, Avilala, Tirupati, AP-517501.
Ph: 79016 26759

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER HYPOTHECTION (VEHICLE)

To:
Smt. Chalama Lakshmi Devi, W/o Chalama Ramanjaneyulu, 3-8-A, Mallela, Pulivendula, Simhadripuram (Taluk), Cuddapah, Andhra Pradesh.
Dear Sir/Madam,

Sub: Invocation of Hypothecation created by Smt. Chalama Lakshmi Devi in favour of our Bank.

Sl. No.	Loan No.	Nature of Loan / Limit	Date of Sanction & Amount
1.	170006439624	MSME - 3,65,5000/-	01-11-2022 & Rs.36,55,000/-

In this regard, you / your Company/firm/LLP has entered into the security agreement/s in favour of the Bank. We draw your attention towards Hypothecation Agreement / Loan Agreement dated **01-11-2022** executed by you/ your Company/firm/LLP with our Bank. While availing the said financial assistance, you have expressly undertaken to repay the loan amount/s in accordance with the terms and conditions of the above mentioned agreements. Since you had failed to discharge your liabilities as per the terms and conditions stipulated, the Bank has classified the debt as **NPA on 02-04-2025.**

The Bank through this notice brings to your attention that you have failed and neglected to repay the said dues/ outstanding liabilities and hence hereby demand you, by issuing this notice to discharge in full the liabilities as stated mentioned hereunder to the Bank within 15 days from the date of receipt of this notice. Further, it is brought to your notice that you are also liable to pay future interest at the rate of 2 % Above the Applicable/ Sanctioned Rate of interest per annum together with all costs, charges, expenses and incidental expenses with respect to the proceedings undertaken by the Bank in recovering its dues

Please take note of the fact that if you fail to repay to the Bank the aforesaid sum of **Rs.32,65,513.24/- (Rupees Thirty Two Lakhs Sixty Five Thousand Five Hundred Thirteen and Twenty Four Paise Only)** together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs as stated above in terms of this notice within 15 Days of receipt of this notice, the Bank will exercise its right on the hypothecated asset that is in our possession, by way of transfer of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the hypothecated asset and appropriate sale proceeds so received by sale of the above said assets in the loan accounts of you/ your Company with our Bank.

Description of the hypothecated Machine is as follows:

Description of Vehicle	Regn No. & Date	Engine No.	Chasis No.	Colour
TATA MOTORS LTD (OMINIBUS) LPO 1618/57 5L TC BS-VI, FPRP	AP39UK3406 & 08-12-2022	5LNGDICR2 0HXX103974	MAT789052 N5H11301	WHITE DARK BLUE

Further, you are hereby restrained from dealing with any of the secured assets mentioned in the schedule in any manner whatsoever, without our prior consent. This is without prejudice to any other rights available to us under the subject Act and/or any other law in force.

The demand notice had also been issued to you by Registered Post Ack due to your last known address available in the Branch Record.

Date : 29.10.2026
Place : Tirupati

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

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

The UAE delegation evinced interest in importing shrimp and other aquaculture products from AP

31st CII PARTNERSHIP SUMMIT 2026

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.



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

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 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.

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS

Construction of Muddanur to B.Kothapalli Section – NH-716G Road
1st Additional
PUBLIC NOTICE
(under section 3(E) of NH Act, 1956)

Announcement of Award for acquisition of land for construction of Muddanur to B.Kothapalli road(NH-716G) for Land owners/persons interested therein and payment of Compensation Amount. Kind attention of all landowners/interested persons is invited to the Notification S.O. No. 4801(E) dated 05-11-2024 issued under Section 3A of the NH Act, 1956 and Notification S.O.No.4903(E) dated 27-10-2025 issued under Section 3D of the NH Act, 1956 for acquisition of land for the building /construction of Muddanur to B.Kothapalli Road of NH- 716G and published in following newspapers:

SI. No.	Notification	Names of the Newspapers in which published	Date of News paper
1	Section 3A	1. Andhra Prabha(Telugu) 2. The Hans India (English)	14-11-2024
2	Section 3G	1. Andhra Prabha(Telugu) 2. The Hans India (English)	20-02-2026

It is informed that the undersigned has announced the Award Amount for 1st Addl Awards notification in respect of the said land under Section 3G of the NH Act, 1956 vide orders dated 30-08-2026 etc., to the following villages.

SI No.	Name of the Village	Name of the Mandal	Award No.& Date	Details	
				L.A. Extent (in Acres)	Amount (₹)
1.	Peddadudyala	Muddanur	07/2026-27 01-09-2026	4.50	0/-
2.	Thondur	Thondur	02/2026-27 30-08-2026	0.38	3350532/-
3.	Gundlamadugu	Thondur	03/2026-27 30-08-2026	0.11	561778/-
4.	Thellur	Thondur	10/2026-27 02-09-2026	0.36	324000/-
5.	Inagaluru	Thondur	11/2026-27 02-09-2026	3.19	621000/-
6.	Saidapuram	Thondur	09/2026-27 04-09-2026	0.36	324000/-
7.	Kanampalli	Pulivendula	12/2026-27 02-09-2026	1.37	2384196/-
8.	Rayalapuram	Pulivendula	08/2026-27 04-09-2026	0.23	0/-
9.	Ratsamarripalli	Pulivendula	05/2026-27 04-09-2026	0.64	1811222/-
10.	Yerragudipalli	Pulivendula	14/2026-27 16-09-2026	4.04	44539790/-
11.	Peddarangapuram	Pulivendula	13/2026-27 12-09-2026	3.365	46880761/-
12.	Ragimanupalli	Pulivendula	04/2026-27 02-09-2026	1.61	9435228/-

The land acquiring agency (NH) has placed the requisite amount of the compensation at the disposal of the undersigned.
Accordingly, all the concerned landowners/interested persons are hereby informed/ notified through this Public Notice that the Compensation amount is hereby offered to all the land owners.
Further, it may be noted that:
* The Compensation amount in respect of all such landowners, who have already submitted their Bank account details, is being credited to their respective bank Accounts through RTGS;
* The landowners, who have not submitted their Bank Accounts details, may do so immediately in the office of the undersigned and the amount shall be credited to their accounts within one week of the receipt of such Bank Account details;
* All other claimants entitled to receive the compensation amount may collect their amount of compensation from the office of the undersigned on any working day between 10:00 AM to 06:00 PM within a period of 60 days.
It may further be noted that since the Total amount of Compensation has been determined and tendered to the concerned landowners/persons interested therein through this public notice, any failure to collect the compensation amount would be to their account and the amount shall be deemed to have been paid on expiry of this period of sixty days from the date of publication of this notice.
The landowners/persons interested therein are further called upon to surrender or deliver the possession of the subject land to the undersigned along with an application, original documents with Xerox copies of EC for 13 years, Pattadar Passbooks, Title deeds, Adangal, Plans for Structures, Tax assessment, Land Enjoyment Documents, Tax receipts, Bank Pass book with Xerox copy (with Name, Address, Account no. and IFSC code), Passport size Photographs, valid ID card/Aadhar card pertaining to the land and notarized affidavit in acceptable format, within 15 days from the issue of this Public Notice, failing which the possession of subject land will be taken with police assistance on expiry of the period of 60 days.

Competent Authority Land Acquisition &
Joint Collector, YSR District, Kadapa

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.

BEFORE THE HON'BLE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II
1ST FLOOR, TRIVENI COMPLEX, ABIDS, AT: HYDERABAD
O.A. No. 704 of 2026

ICICI BANK LTD ...Applicant
AND
M/s. SRI SHANMUKHA TRADERS & ORS. ...Defendant

SUMMONS BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

To,
1. M/s. SRI SHANMUKHA TRADERS
Represented by its proprietor
M CHANDRA OBULA REDDY
PLOT. NO. 20 INDUSTRIAL ESTATE
NEAR BYPASS ROAD
MYDUKUR ROAD
PRODDATUR- 516359
Mobile No: 9704133221
Email Id: sccc1976@gn.iail.com
2. M CHANDRA OBULA REDDY
S/o. RRMARTHALA
Age: 50 Years; Occ: Business
M CHANDRA OBULA REDDY
PLOT. NO. 20 INDUSTRIAL ESTATE
NEAR BY PASS ROAD, MYDUKUR ROAD PRODDATUR- 516359
Mobile No: 9704133221 ...Defendants

Please take the summons in the above O.A. No. 704 of 2026 filed by the Applicant for Recovery of money of Rs. 31,94,710.94 Ps against you. The Hon'ble Tribunal ordered summons to you by way of paper publication in Telugu Daily Newspaper, and English newspaper and posted the matter to 31-10-2026.
In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under;
(i) To show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;
(ii) To disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the Original application;
(iii) You are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;
(iv) You shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of assets over which security interest in created and/or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;
(v) You shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realized by sale of secured assets of other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.
You are hereby required to show cause on 10-12-2026 at 10:30 a.m at Debts Recovery Tribunal-II, 1st floor, Triveni Complex, Abids, Hyderabad - 500001, in person or by an Advocate duly instructed as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.
Take notice that in case of default the Application will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this day 03.11.2026.

(By order of the Court)
Asst Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribuna-II
Hyderabad.

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.



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

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.



THE Hans India



WOMENIA **Kiara Advani hints at no more pregnancies ahead, says 'bass ho gaya ab' on Koffee With Karan**
Kiara and Sidharth are set to make their first joint television appearance together on 'Koffee With Karan Season 9'. P8

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. P6

ENTERTAINMENT **'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. P12

AP **Vijaya Sai Reddy launches Parivartan Rajaniti Party**
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. P2

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WINDOWS



Terror attack on CRPF checkpost in J&K's Kulgam

SRINAGAR: Two heavily armed terrorists emerged from a dense cluster of trees and opened fire at a Central Reserve Police Force post in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district on Wednesday, injuring three CRPF personnel, one of them critically, officials said. The two men disappeared into the forested area after the attack that took place around 2.15 pm near Mir Bazar, about 75 km from Srinagar and just a kilometre from the strategic Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, they said. Initial reports suggested that the terrorists came on a motorcycle. However, ground verification during joint search operations by the Army and security agencies established that no two-wheeler was involved.

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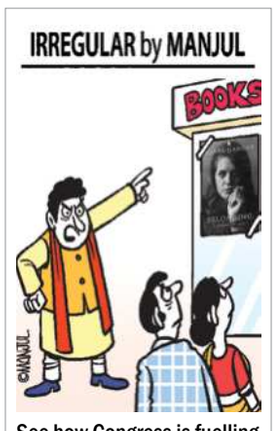
Mother Dairy, Amul hike milk prices by Rs 2-4 per litre

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. Full report P11

Dhankhar indisposed



NEW DELHI: Former vice president Jagdeep Dhankhar was admitted to AIIMS here on Wednesday after he fell unconscious during his morning walk, sources said. Details about his health condition were not immediately available. AIIMS authorities have not issued any statement so far. The 75-year-old former Rajya Sabha chairman has been admitted to the hospital's cardio-neuro centre and is currently under the care of the department of cardiology for medical evaluation and treatment, the sources said.



See how Congress is fuelling inflation! Just look at the price of this book!

CII PARTNERSHIP SUMMIT SET FOR TAKE-OFF IN VIZAG TODAY

AP eyes ₹12-lakh cr investments

- 141 MoUs and 30 G.Os. target 2.46 lakh jobs
- Corporate leaders, investors, ministers to converge on Vizag
- Naidu govt seeks to turn investment commitments into industries
- Agreement with Kia, 2 MoUs under P4 initiative likely



Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu at a meeting with Ambassador of Japan to India ONO Keiichi, as part of the CII Partnership Summit in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday

K Varaprasada Rao
Amaravati

ANDHRA Pradesh is embarking on a monumental 'Bhagiratha' effort to attract global investments, bring advanced technologies into the state and create lakhs of employment opportunities for its youth, as Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu seeks to accelerate the state's industrial transformation and position it as a major player in the global economy.

The ambitious drive gathers momentum with the 31st CII Partnership Summit scheduled for November 12 and 13 in Visakhapatnam. The event will bring together union ministers, foreign government ministers, global industry leaders and technology policymakers to explore investment and trade opportunities amid a rapidly changing global economic order.

Organised by the State government in partnership with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) at the AU Engineering Grounds, the summit is backed by a proposed investment pipeline of Rs 12,13,853.23 crore. As many as 141 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and 30 Government Orders are lined up for exchange, with the potential to generate 2,46,373 jobs. These include a dedicated agreement with Kia and two MoUs under the government's P4 initiative.

Themed 'Navigating the New World Order: Trade, Technology, Trust and Thought Leadership', the summit comes as countries reposition supply chains and compete for strategic industries, advanced technologies and manufacturing investments. Andhra Pradesh is seeking to turn these global shifts into opportunities for capital inflows, technology partnerships and industrial expansion.

The political and international participation reflects the summit's significance. Union Ministers Piyush Goyal and Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu and Chief Minister Naidu will participate, while Vice-President C P Radhakrishnan will attend the valedictory session alongside Governor S. Abdul Nazeer and Union Minister Pralhad Joshi.

Continued on Page 7



CM Naidu with Singapore Minister Gan Siow Huang

CM holds talks with Singapore on Amaravati

Meets Singapore Minister Gan Siow Huang

Hans News Service

VISAKHAPATNAM: Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu held a series of meetings with international representatives on the sidelines of the CII Partnership Summit in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday, focusing on expanding investments and strengthening Andhra Pradesh's global economic partnerships.

Continued on Page 7



Cabinet nod for ₹62,370-cr Rabi fertiliser subsidy

Hans News Service
New Delhi

- Rs 5,000-crore credit guarantee fund cleared for MUDRA
- Rs 3,230-crore approved for Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum

THE Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a Rs 62,370-crore fertiliser subsidy for the rabi season, alongside a Rs 5,000-crore credit guarantee fund under the MUDRA Yojana and a Rs 3,230-crore project to develop the Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum in New Delhi.

Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced the decisions following the Cabinet meeting, outlining measures covering agriculture, credit access and cultural infrastructure.

The Cabinet approved Rs 62,370 crore towards fertiliser subsidies for the rabi season, which runs from October to March.

Continued on Page 7

4 municipal corpns, 23 municipalities to go to polls on Nov 26

- SEC to issue election notification on Nov 13
- Srikakulam, Kakinada, Rajamahendravaram and Mangalagiri-Tadepalli corporations to go to polls



Anil Chandra Punetha

K Varaprasada Rao
Amaravati

WITH legal disputes over the local body elections resolved, the State Election Commission (SEC) has decided to conduct polling for four municipal corporations and 23 municipalities on November 26. The notification is expected to be issued on November 13. Since the first phase of gram panchayat elections is scheduled for November 26, the SEC has decided to conduct the municipal polls the same day.

Elections will be held in the municipal corporations of Srikakulam, Kakinada, Rajamahendravaram and Mangalagiri-Tadepalli. Cont'd on Page 7

Naidu sets June deadline for restoration of 789 LI schemes

₹632 cr required for repairs; schemes to benefit 7.49 lakh acres

- Jalaharati Corpn to monitor maintenance; 903.1 MW solar power potential identified
- CM assures funds for 36 priority irrigation projects, sets 2.5-year completion target



Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu at a review meeting in his camp office on Wednesday

K Varaprasada Rao
Amaravati

CHIEF Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has directed officials to restore all 789 defunct lift irrigation schemes across Andhra Pradesh by June next year, ensuring water availability ahead of the Kharif season. He instructed officials to assess their condition through field inspections, invite tenders immediately and commence repair works without delay.

At a review meeting at his camp office on Wednesday, officials informed the Chief Minister that Rs 632.07 crore would be required to restore the schemes, which would provide irrigation facilities to 7.49 lakh acres.

Naidu directed that the Jalaharati Corporation be entrusted with monitoring and maintaining the schemes and asked officials to establish a dedicated division within the corporation.

Continued on Page 7

Hijack threat grounds Kolkata-Mumbai flight

Kolkata



A Mumbai-bound Air India flight was grounded in Kolkata on Wednesday before it could take off, after the pilot informed the Air Traffic Control (ATC) tower about a hijack threat received on a paper slip. Subsequently, all passengers were de-boarded, and the aircraft was taken to an isolation bay, the sources added.

A thorough inspection of the aircraft was being carried out by the security authorities. The threat note was found in the lavatory. Following the discovery, the flight crew alerted the ATC about it. The flight was scheduled to depart at 10.20 am, an airport official said, confirming the incident.

The note said that the plane would be hijacked at 11.10 am, Vikram Singh, the director of Kolkata's Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport, said.

Earlier, on October 23, an IndiGo flight scheduled to operate from Delhi to Chennai received a bomb threat before take-off, prompting the aircraft to return to the bay at the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI) in the national capital.

The threat was later declared a hoax by authorities after the airline completed the required Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).

Stolen Olympic gold of hockey star recovered



New Delhi

EIGHT sporting medals, including a 1980 Moscow Olympic gold medal, stolen last month from the residence of former hockey player MM Somaya in east Bengaluru's New Thippasandra, have been recovered, the city police said on Wednesday, announcing the arrest of two suspects. Police have identified the two suspects as Manikya alias Manikanta, 31, and Bharat, 25. Police arrested them near Hagalahalli Cross in Ramanagara on Monday and produced them before a court on Tuesday. They have been remanded in police custody for eight days. Somaya thanked the police for recovering the medals and other belongings. "I feel like I have won the medals all over again," he said. A third person, their accomplice, is still on the run, police said. Investigators have also retrieved a traditional Kodava dagger, a camera, an Olympic kit bag and seized the two-wheeler allegedly used in the burglary.

Continued on Page 7

Rahul Gandhi to visit US for fireside chats at Columbia varsity



NEW DELHI: Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, will travel to the US next week for two fireside chats, or informal conversations featuring a moderator and a guest in front of an audience, at Columbia University on November 17 and in Chicago on November 18.

Continued on Page 7

Murmu's bodyguard shot over firecracker dispute



Saurabh Tomar

NEW DELHI: A dispute over bursting firecrackers on Diwali night turned violent in Uttar Pradesh's Baghpat district, leaving a 26-year-old Army jawan serving with the elite President's Bodyguard critically injured after being shot in the head. The soldier, identified as Saurabh Tomar, is currently undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Meerut. Baghpat police said they received information about the firing around 10 pm on Sunday.

During the preliminary inquiry, police learnt that Saurabh was bursting firecrackers on the road along with his family when two neighbours, brothers Dheeraj and Monu, objected to it and got into an argument with Saurabh's brother, Vineet, 28.

Continued on Page 7



No flights will shift from Mumbai to NMIA: Fadnavis

MUMBAI: Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has opposed the plan to move international flights from Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) to Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA), saying no flights should be shifted out of Mumbai. Reports on Wednesday, November 11, said he has written to the Union Civil Aviation Minister and suggested a different way to rebuild the Mumbai airport's ageing Terminal 1. His stand comes less than a week after the Mumbai airport operator left 12 foreign airlines without slots for the summer 2027 season, a decision that would push their flights to Navi Mumbai. Terminal 1 opened in 1964 and handles about 15 million passengers a year. Under the current plan, demolition is set to begin in April 2027, with the whole terminal brought down by March 2028 and a new terminal for 20 million passengers a year built in its place.

AI TO ACHIEVE MEDICAL BREAKTHROUGH?

Anthropic CEO claims cancer will be history in 10 years

Medical experts dismiss these timelines as complete bullshit

Washington

"CANCER, Alzheimer's, heart disease, mental illness, these will be relics of the past in, I think, less than a decade," Claude maker Anthropic's CEO Dario Amodei said.

These are not obscure medical conditions, they affect millions of families, and some of them remain among medicine's toughest challenges till date.

"I think if we do this right, we can create an age of miracles where humanity is able to solve problems that have eluded us for millennia," Amodei said.

Amodei sees AI as a technology capable of dramatically accelerating biological research, drug discovery and medical breakthroughs.

Amodei isn't alone. His promise is echoed by other AI leaders including Elon Musk and Google's AI boss Demis Hassabis. Hassabis has suggested AI could compress a decade of drug discovery into weeks, potentially bringing about the "end of disease" or curing all diseases within a decade.



Hassabis has pointed to breakthroughs like AlphaFold-which mapped over 200 million protein structures-as proof that AI can radically accelerate biological research. While AlphaFold is a genuine scientific achievement, it is not proof that AI can produce cures for cancer, Alzheimer's or other complex diseases within a decade. Musk has claimed that all of humanity will have access to the best medical care at the same level that the President of The United States gets thanks to AI advancements. But there's a catch. The people who actually develop medicines aren't necessarily buying this timeline. Jeff Leiden, executive chairman of Vertex Pharmaceuticals has dismissed these timelines as "complete BS," noting that Vertex tested roughly 50 AI companies to comb through 10,000 drug compounds and not a single one generated a working drug on its own.

Continued on Page 7



IMOP Managing Director Taizo Iwami along with others inaugurating a new production facility in Sri City on Wednesday

IMOP inaugurates new production facility in Sri City

Pradeep Vennelakanti
Sri City

INDIA Metal One Steel Plate Processing Private Limited (IMOP), a leading Japanese steel plate processing company, inaugurated its second manufacturing facility in Sri City on Wednesday, further strengthening its 15-year partnership with the integrated business city. The new plant involves an investment of Rs 108 crore, taking IMOP's total investment in Sri City to Rs 408 crore. Spread across 12,000 sq m., the facility increases annual production capacity by 25 percent, from 48,000 MT to 60,000 MT, and is expected to create 200 additional jobs, taking the workforce strength to 850 employees.

Speaking on the occasion, IMOP Managing Director Taizo Iwami said the new facility would enhance the company's ability to deliver high-quality products while maintaining the highest standards of safety and timely service. Congratulating the IMOP team, Sri City MD Dr Ravindra Sannareddy said that IMOP's continued expansion is a strong testament to the confidence global investors place in Sri City. This investment not only generates employment opportunities but also contributes significantly to the growth of the region's industrial ecosystem. Metal One Corporation, Executive Officer & COO Masashi Mizuno and Chairman & Managing Director Yukita Sato also took part in the event.

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

- 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



File photo

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.

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.

Talluris donate Rs 10 lakh for cancer hospital development

M Srinivasa Rao
Nellore



Talluri Brothers handling over Rs 10 lakh cheque to the District Collector Himanshu Shukla at his chamber on Wednesday

IN a significant philanthropic gesture to strengthen healthcare infrastructure, Talluri Venkata Krishna Prasad and Talluri Ravi Prasad of Dagadarthi village have donated Rs10 lakh towards the development of the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) Cancer Hospital in Nellore. The brothers formally handed over the donation cheque to District Collector Himanshu Shukla at his chamber on Wednesday.

The contribution was made in memory of their late father, Talluri Ramanayya Naidu, to support the provision of advanced medical facilities and affordable care for poor and needy cancer patients across the district. The initiative was facilitated through IRCS Cancer Hospital Coordinator Yalamuri Rangayya Naidu and District Revenue Officer N Vijay Kumar. Expressing their views during the handover, the donors stated that establishing and upgrading the cancer hospital in Nellore would greatly benefit economically weaker families by ensuring access to specialized oncology treatment locally. They expressed deep satisfaction in supporting the humanitarian and healthcare activities undertaken by the district branch of the Indian Red Cross Society.

District Collector Himanshu Shukla commended the Talluri family for their generosity, emphasizing that private philanthropic contributions play a critical role in augmenting public healthcare resources and offering relief to cancer sufferers.

He encouraged other community leaders and social organizations to step forward and support public health causes. Family members, friends, and well-wishers of the late Talluri Ramanayya Naidu were present during the cheque presentation ceremony.

UBI marks 108 years of service across Nellore region



Hans News Service
Nellore

UNION Bank of India, Nellore Region, celebrated its 108th Foundation Day with enthusiasm at CPR Kalyana Mandapam in Nellore.

The grand event was attended by branch staff, their families, and retired bank employees from across the region, highlighting the strong unity of the Union Bank family.

The celebration provided an opportunity to honor the bank's glorious journey and rich legacy.

Regional Head Srinivas Daysam and Regional Assurance Head Raghava Reddy conveyed their best wishes, expressing confidence in the bank's continued expansion and future success.



District Collector Himanshu Shukla paying floral tributes to the portrait of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad on his 138 birth anniversary at the Collectorate in Nellore on Wednesday

Eradication of poverty only possible through education: Collector

M Srinivasa Rao
Nellore

ASSERTING that education is the ultimate key to national progress, Nellore District Collector Himanshu Shukla stated that the complete eradication of poverty is achievable only through widespread literacy and quality education.

Addressing the 138th birth anniversary celebrations of Bharat Ratna Maulana Abul Kalam Azad organized by the District Minority Welfare Department at Shankar Hall in the Collectorate on Wednesday, Collector Shukla attended as the chief guest.

He emphasized that education serves as a powerful equalizer capable of dismantling long-standing socio-economic barriers, caste divisions, and religious disparities within society. He urged that economic or social disadvantages should never stand as obstacles to acquiring knowledge.

Paying glowing tributes, the Collector recalled the extraordinary services of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, independent India's first Education Minister.

He lauded Azad's multifaceted contributions as a freedom fighter, visionary educationist, poet, writer, and journalist, noting that his legacy continues to inspire generations. He expressed pride that Azad's birth anniversary is celebrated nationwide as National Education Day and state-wide as Minority Welfare Day.

Shukla further observed that educated Indians are making notable contributions globally, continually enhancing the nation's international repute.

Earlier, dignitaries paid floral tributes to Maulana Azad's portrait. District Minority Welfare Officer Nirmala Devi, District Cooperative Officer Gurrappa, Waqf Board inspectors, and other district officials actively participated in the commemorative event, reaffirming their commitment to promoting educational opportunities across all communities.

Man held for illegal ganja possession

Vani Mallela
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.

Investigating officers stated that a broader probe is underway to establish the full supply chain, identify local buyers, and nab the primary supplier in Odisha.

Police registered a case against the accused under relevant provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

District SP Subba Rayudu warned that strict legal action would continue against individuals involved in illegal drug smuggling and retail across Tirupati district.

Police book Mekapati Rajagopala in connection with alleged land scam

NELLORE: Podalakur police have registered cases against YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leader Mekapati Rajagopala Reddy and his family members in connection with an alleged land scam involving properties valued at Rs147.79 crore.

The issue came to light after the victim, Bijuvemula Surendranath Reddy—the nephew of Rajagopala Reddy—lodged a formal complaint at the Podalakur police station. The complainant alleged that lands belonging to him were illegally mortgaged and registered without his knowledge or consent.

According to the complaint, the accused allegedly created forged documents, signatures, and thumb impressions while using photographs of fictitious individuals to complete unauthorized mortgage registrations at the sub-registrar office.

Apart from Mekapati Rajagopala Reddy, who unsuccessfully contested as the YSRCP candidate from the Udayagiri Assembly constituency in the 2024 elections, police booked his family members Sridevi, Abhishek Reddy, and Abhinav Reddy, along with his brother-in-law Papakannu Prabhakar Reddy and several others.

The complaint was registered on October 30, and the news triggered widespread discussion across regional political and revenue circles on Wednesday.

Police officials stated that the investigation is actively underway to verify original land ownership records, check the authenticity of registration paperwork, and scrutinize biometric details submitted during mortgage execution.

TMC wins National 'Super Swachh League' award

Vani Mallela
Tirupati



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

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.

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.

Hans India Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

IRLA SRINADH, S/o IRLA BUJJI REDDY, R/at Flat No. 602, Amigos Pine Tree Apartment, Thimminaidupalem, Mangalam, Tirupati Dt, AP, have changed my name to **IRLA SREENADH REDDY.** Henceforth I shall known as **IRLA SREENADH REDDY** (New Name)

RAJENDRA-TPT

I, **LINGUTLA CHENAMMA**, W/o.Lingutla Rama krishna, R/o.3/09, Ramasamudram, Pullampet Mandal, Tirupati Dt., I have been changed my name as **LINGUTLA CHENNAMMA.**

Ro No. 34613

DOCUMENT MISSING

I, **K. Sundara Rajaiah,** S/o. **K. Narasaiah** (Late), D.No. 15/872, Venkataramapuram, Vijayamahal Centre, Nellore, hereby inform that, unfortunately, I lost my original property Doc. No: 2244/1951 while I was traveling from my house at Venkataramapuram, Nellore to my son's house at Srinagar Colony, Nellore. If anyone finds it, please contact the below given number :

K. SUNDARA RAJAIAH
Cell : 94410 73954

MADAN-NLR

CHANGE OF SUR NAME/NAME

I **OLETI SHARUK SAHEB** S/O OLETI RAHMAN (OLD NAME)R/at D.No 13-3-344/2,JABBAR LAYOUT,HEAD POST OFFICE, Tirupati Urban Mandal, Tirupati Dt AP India, have changed my NAME from **OLETI SHARUK SAHEB** To **OLEYTI SHARUK SAHAB** S/O OLEYTI RAHAMAN(New Name)

RAJENDRA-TPT

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **KANCHI NAGA VENKATA SATHYA KANTHI BABU** (old Name) S/o.KANCHI BALAJI VARA PRASAD, Resident of BASIC-157, SUMAVALI TOWNSHIP RAJIV SWAGRUHA, PODALAKURU ROAD, KOTHURU, SPSR NELLORE Dt, AP. Have changed my name to **KANCHI NAGA VENKATA SATYA KRANTHI BABU** (New Name).

MADAN-NLR

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SHAIK SADIQ AHMED** (Old Name) S/O SHAIK IMAM SAHEB Resident of 21-6-179 Janda Street, Panagala Raja Road, Nellore, SPSR Nellore Dt, AP -524001 , I have changed my name to **SHAIK SADAQ AHMED** (New Name)

MADAN-NLR

CHANGE OF NAME

SHAIK TABASHAM (Old Name), W/o SHAIK MASHAHOOD BASHA, Residing at D.No.6-237-G8-120-D, RajaReddy Colony, Madanapalli Town & Mandal, Annamayya Dist., A.P. Have changed my name from **SHAIK TABASHAM** (Old Name) to **SHAIK TABUSUM** (New Name) For all Purpose.

SV ADS

PASSPORT LOST

I, **BUJAM HARISH**, S/o **B.MUNISHANKARA NARAYANA CHETTY**, residing at D.No.7-77, Bazaar Street, Kallur(V & P and H/o Pulicherla (Mandal), Chittoor Dist AP hereby inform that I have lost my Indian Passport bearing **No.X3505701** at Kallur Bus Station. If any body found said Passport please handover to me at above address or Contact : **9182603894**

VARASIDDI

CHANGE OF SURNAME

I, **KOLATTURU PRASANNA** (old Name) W/o KOLATHUR VASUDEVA REDDY, R/o 19-4-3/D, Venkatareddy Colony, S T V Nagar, Tirupati Dt. AP. I Have Changed My Sur Name To **KOLATHUR PRASANNA**, (New Name)

PAVAN KUMAR

CHANGE OF NAME

E.B.RUKMINI, D/o Late E.Venkataiah, Anantapuram (V), P.N. Palli (Post), Anantasagaram (M), Nellore Dist. (Aadhar No. 9125 5648 1521) Old Name: Talari Rukmini, New Name: **E.B.RUKMINI.**

PAVAN KUMAR

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, **M PRASAD**, S/o. Tatarao, R/at D.No.85/412, Ramakrishna Mission, Near RIMS Hospital, Putlampalli, Kadapa, Y.S.R. District, AP–516002, have changed my name to **SWAMI SANKARSHANANANDA** for all purposes vide affidavit dated 09.11.2026 sworn before the Notary, **U.SUBRAMANYAM**, Kadapa.

RAJENDRA-TPT

DOCUMENT LOST

I, **MAYALURI SUDHAKAR**, S/o. Obulesu, R/o. D.No.4/222, Kalluru (V), Proddatur (M), YSR Kadapa Dist, AP, hereby inform that my original Lease Deed **Document No.2225/2023,** dated 13-06-2023, registered at SRO, Mydukur, was lost on 20-10-2026 while travelling to Kalamalla, RTTP. If found, please inform me.

RAJENDRA-TPT

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **DAKA SRINIVASULU REDDY** S/o. DAKA RAMIREDDY, I inform that in my wife (Daka Usha) passport my name was wrongly mentioned as **DAKA SREENIVASULA REDDY** (Old name) , Resident of Krishnapadu, Jaladanki, SPSR Nellore Dt, AP - 524223Hereby declare that I have changed my name as **DAKA SRINIVASULU REDDY** (new name). Hereafter my name known as **DAKA SRINIVASULU REDDY** (new name).

MADAN-NLR

CHANGE OF NAME

I hitherto known as **B MEENAKSHAMMA** C/o B SIVARAMULU R/O Door No. 10-791, Nallagutta, Mulakalacheruvu VTC, Mulakalacheruvu R.S & PO, Annamayya Distt., Andhra Pradesh- 517390, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as **BHAJANTRI MEENAKSHAMMA.**

SRINIVAS-ATP

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SHAIK SADIQ AHAMMED** (Old Name) S/O SHAIK IMAM SAHEB Resident of 21-6-179 Janda Street, Panagala Raja Road, Nellore, SPSR Nellore Dt, AP. I have changed my name to **SHAIK SADAQ AHMED** (New name)

MADAN-NLR

CHANGE OF NAME AND RELIGION

I, **P RAZIYA PARVIN alias RAMYA MANOHAR PARNA**, formerly known as D N RAZIYA PARVIN before marriage, D/o AHAMED BASHA, W/o P LEELA MANOHAR, aged about 34 years, residing at No.3, Kanna makulapalli, GLS Farm Post, Moram Panchayath, Palamaner, Chittoor District,A.P–517408, have voluntarily changed my name from P RAZIYA PARVIN to RAMYA MANOHAR PARNA and my religion from MUSLIM to HINDU.

I have embraced Hinduism through a religious conversion ceremony conducted at ARYA SAMAJ, VISHVESHWARAPURAM,BANGALORE – 560004, S.N o.1495 Dated 30-October-2026.

Henceforth, I shall be known as **RAMYA MANOHAR PARNA** for all purposes.

- RAMYA MANOHAR PARNA

VARASIDDI

CHANGE OF SURNAME

I, **KOLATTURU VASUDEVA REDDY** (old Name) S/o K KODANDA RAMI REDDY, R/o 19-4-3/D, Venkatareddy Colony, S T V Nagar, Tirupati Dt. AP. I Have Changed My Sur Name To **KOLATHUR VASUDEVA REDDY**, (New Name)

PAVAN KUMAR

CHANGE OF SURNAME

I, **KOLATTURU YOGA SRI** (old Name) D/o KOLATHUR VASUDEVA REDDY, R/o 19-4-3/D, Venkatareddy Colony, S T V Nagar, Tirupati Dt. AP. I Have Changed My Sur Name To **KOLATHUR YOGA SRI,** (New Name)

PAVAN KUMAR

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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.

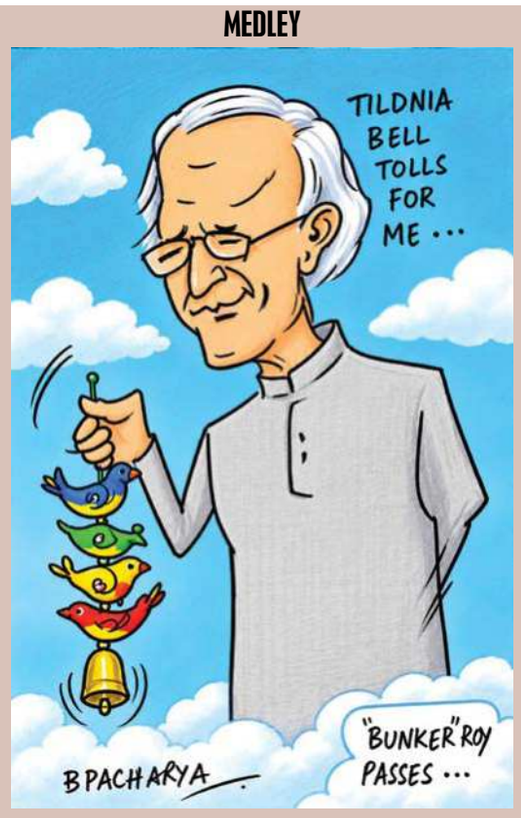
Yogi's comments on voter lists brings SIR back into spotlight

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.

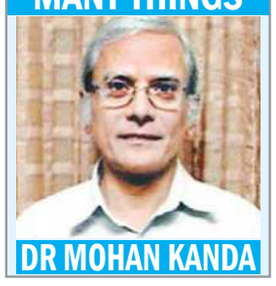
The Chief Minister's latest remarks may well be an indication that he is no longer willing to remain within the political straitjacket imposed by the party's central leadership. Whether this is a calculated attempt to assert his political autonomy or a reflection of genuine differences over the conduct 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

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Vinay Chand sworn in as TTD Specified Authority member

Dusi Venkateswara Rao
Tirumala

V Vinay Chand, Secretary to the State Government (Finance Department), was sworn in as a member of TTD Specified Authority at Srivari Temple in Tirumala on Wednesday.

TTD Additional EO Ch Venkaiah Chowdary administered the oath of office and secrecy to Vinay Chand at Bangaru Vakili inside the sanctum complex.

Later, Vedic scholars rendered Veda Ashirvachanam at Ranganayakula Mandapam and presented him with Srivari Theertha Prasadams and a portrait of the deity.

Speaking to media persons outside the temple, outlining his priorities, Vinay Chand pledged to work in close alignment with Specified Authority Chairman M Ravichandra and fellow member Kannababu.

He assured that the authority will maintain seamless administrative coordination to continuously upgrade infrastructure, streamline darshan queues, and ensure maximum comfort and facilities for visiting pilgrims.

CVSO Muralikrishna, Temple Deputy EO Bhaskar, Board Cell Deputy EO Prasanthi, senior administrative and temple officials were present during the ceremony.



TTD Additional EO Ch Venkaiah Chowdary presenting Srivari Theertha Prasadams to AP Finance Secretary V Vinay Chand and his wife at Ranganayakula Mandapam in Tirumala on Wednesday

Intense lobbying for Chittoor ZP chairperson post

- **Four aspirants – Suchitra, Sailaja, Mamatha Sri and Dr Jahnavi are competing for the post**
- **They all belong to same community and have considerable financial influence, complicating TDP leadership's choice**

Pradeep Vennelakanti
Chittoor



Chittoor Zilla Parishad office

TELUGU Desam Party (TDP) leadership is facing a challenging task in choosing the next Chittoor Zilla Parishad chairperson, with four influential party aspirants throwing their weight behind their respective candidates. The competition has intensified after ZPTC election results, with three contenders camping in Amaravati to muster support.

The State Election Commission had initially scheduled elections for Mandal Parishad presidents on November 11 and ZP chairperson on November 12. However, it revised the schedule on Tuesday, postponing MPP elections to November 19 and ZP chairperson election to November 20. The revised schedule is likely to delay the announcement of the party's candidate.

Chittoor ZP chairperson post was reserved for an unreserved woman category through a government gazette notification issued on October 13. Four aspirants entered the race by fielding their family members in ZPTC elections.

NP Jayaprakash from Bangarupalem fielded his wife Suchitra, while Eswar Naidu, also from the same mandal, fielded his wife RM Mamatha Sri from Gudipala. Suchitra's nomination from Bangarupalem left Eswar Naidu with no scope to field his candidate from the same mandal. Chittoor MLA Gurajala Jagan Mohan helped facilitate Mamatha Sri's candidature from Gudipala.

Chittibabu Naidu from Palasamudram fielded his daughter, Dr B Jahnavi Babu, from same mandal. Meanwhile, Dr M Tejomurthy, chairman of Vijayam Educational Institutions from Puthalapattu, entered the race by fielding his wife Sailaja from Puthalapattu.

Suchitra and Sailaja were elected unanimously from Bangarupalem and Puthalapattu, respectively. Mamatha Sri and Jahnavi contested from Gudipala and Palasamudram and won with majorities of 4,821 and 2,737 votes, respectively.

Of the four aspirants, Eswar Naidu, Jayaprakash and Chittibabu Naidu have been staying in Amaravati since the ZPTC results were announced. They are meeting senior party leaders to seek support for their respective candidates. Tejomurthy, meanwhile, has remained in Chittoor, expressing confidence that he has received an assurance from the party leadership.

The NDA alliance has a clear majority in the Chittoor Zilla Parishad, having won 23 of the 27 ZPTC seats. The TDP secured 22 seats and Jana Sena one, while the YSR Congress won the remaining four seats. All four aspirants belong to the same community and have strong financial backgrounds, making the selection a difficult task for the party leadership. Supporters of each contender are also claiming that their respective candidates have received assurances from senior party leaders. TDP leadership is yet to indicate its preference, leaving the contest wide open.

Natural farming drive held in Vemuru

Hans News Service
Tirupati

A farmers' awareness programme on natural farming was held in Vemuru village on Wednesday under Rural Agricultural Work Experience Programme (RAWEP) of SMGR Agricultural College, Udayagiri.

DPM Sanmugam advised agriculture students to utilize practical field experience to build future agri-entrepreneurship ventures. Progressive farmer Ayappa Naidu highlighted the importance of natural farming, encouraging growers to utilize local natural resources to cut input costs and preserve soil health without sacrificing yield.

Agricultural scientists, extension officers, students, village elders, and local farmers attended the interactive session to learn about eco-friendly farming practices.



DPM Sanmugam addressing farmers, agricultural scientists, and SMGR Agricultural College students during an awareness programme in Vemuru village on Wednesday

Move beyond blood sugar control to diabetes remission: SVIMS Director



SVIMS Director Dr G Jagadesh felicitating Dr S Sethupathy in Tirupati on Wednesday

Pradeep Vennelakanti
Tirupati

SVIMS Director cum Vice-Chancellor Dr Gudaru Jagadesh has stressed the need to focus on diabetes remission through modern medical research, particularly among patients suffering from Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus.

Speaking at 6th Dr B Naganna Biochemistry Chair Oration held on Wednesday, he said diabetes had become one of the major public health challenges worldwide. He stated that medical research should move beyond conventional methods of controlling blood sugar levels and explore ways to achieve diabetes remission.

Dr Jagadesh explained that diabetes is a complex metabolic disorder that can gradually affect several organs and systems in the human body. Insulin resistance, overweight, obesity, lack of physical activity and unhealthy food habits are among the major factors contributing to Type 2 diabetes. Genetic factors and metabolic abnormalities also influence the development and progression of the disease.

He emphasised that creating public awareness and encouraging healthy lifestyle changes are essential for preventing and managing diabetes.Prof Dr S Sethupathy, Head of the Department of Biochemistry, Sri Venkateswara Medical College Hospital and Research Centre, Ariyur, Puducherry, delivered 2026 Dr B Naganna Biochemistry Chair Oration.

CM holds talks with Singapore on Amaravati

Continued from front page

In a meeting with Singapore Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Energy, Trade and Industry Gan Siow Huang, Naidu discussed advancing the AP-Singapore partnership, with particular emphasis on Amaravati's integrated township development, digital governance through RTGS, institutional capacity-building, logistics and international trade. "We discussed taking forward the AP-Singapore partnership, with a focus on advancing Amaravati's integrated township development, strengthening digital governance through RTGS, deepening institutional capacity-building, and exploring new avenues for cooperation in logistics and international trade," he said. The CM also met World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Director General Daren Tang to strengthen the State's innovation ecosystem. Discussions covered intellectual property protection, Geographical Indication (GI) recognition for local products, grassroots entrepreneurship and positioning Amaravati and Visakhapatnam as leading global science and technology clusters.

4 municipal corpns, 23 municipalities to go to polls on Nov 26

Continued from front page

The 23 municipalities going to polls are Amadalavalasa, Rajam, Palakollu, Bhimavaram, Tadepalligudem, Tanuku, Chintalapudi, Gudivada, Tadigadapa, Ponnuru, Narasaraopet, Bapatla, Kandukuru, Podili, Kavali, Gudur, Alluru, Srikalahasti and B Kothakota, among others.

Authorities have already finalised reservation quotas for the municipalities, while the SEC has initiated preparations for conducting the elections.

Elections have previously been held for 13 municipal corporations and 92 municipalities across the state. However, polling in certain urban local bodies was stalled due to legal disputes.

With the court cases now resolved, the SEC has begun taking steps to complete the pending election process.

Rahul Gandhi to visit US for fireside chats at Columbia varsity

Continued from front page

Indian Overseas Congress chairman Sam Pitroda said the visit is built around academic conversations and not diaspora rallies. "He is required here at Columbia University on the 17th and Chicago on 18th November," Pitroda said. "He is here for a fireside chat at Columbia University." He added that Gandhi will then travel to Chicago. Pitroda said the first chat at Columbia will focus on the global student movement and the implications of that on overall global politics. Gandhi will be in conversation with Robert Pape, a political science professor at the University of Chicago, on international affairs and geopolitics.

AP eyes ₹12-lakh cr investments

Continued from front page

Central Ministers Nitin Gadkari, Sarbananda Sonowal and Chirag Paswan will lead sectoral discussions.

The overseas delegation includes UAE Economy and Tourism Minister Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri, Slovak Finance Minister Ladislav Kamenický, Singapore Minister of State Gan Siow Huang and Canada's International Trade Minister Maninder Sidhu. Ministers from Nepal, Mauritius, Guatemala, Cambodia, Myanmar and Tanzania, along with WIPO Director General Daren Tang, are also expected.

The agenda spans artificial intelligence, satellite technologies, ports, shipbuilding, energy, aviation, defence, food systems and infrastructure, alongside country sessions on Japan, the UAE, Russia, Europe and Africa. Space technology, artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, skills, tourism and energy resilience will feature prominently. A fireside conversation with Naidu will focus on P4 and the government's zero-poverty objective.

The summit comes at a critical stage in Andhra Pradesh's industrial strategy: converting investment announcements into operational projects, manufacturing capacity and sustainable employment.

Since June 2024, the state has attracted investment intent for 714 projects worth Rs 22.6 lakh crore, with the potential to create 19.3 lakh jobs. Of these, 526 projects worth Rs 17.2 lakh crore have been converted, while 303 projects involving Rs 7.1 lakh crore have been grounded or are being grounded, according to figures available at the end of October 2026.

The NDA government has made industrialisation and employment generation central to its development agenda. Its 'Speed of Doing Business' approach seeks to accelerate approvals through digital governance, deregulation and land reforms. A Group of Ministers has been constituted to pursue the target of 20 lakh jobs by 2029.

Naidu has also assured investors of no political or bureaucratic interference, with incentive payments backed by sovereign-backed escrow arrangements.

Five regional investment conferences have already attracted 194 MoUs worth Rs 86,522.07 crore, potentially creating 1,47,951 jobs. Another 68 projects worth Rs 5,714.06 crore were grounded or inaugurated, foundations were laid for 15 MSME Parks and 10 provisional allotment orders were issued.

The 2025 summit attracted more than 3,000 delegates from 62 countries and recorded investment commitments exceeding Rs 13 lakh crore.

A parallel Women & Growth Summit featuring Smriti Irani will be held at Novotel on November 12 and 13. The AP Pavilion will showcase industrial parks, Amaravati, tourism, culture and heritage, while the MSME exhibition will feature enterprises selected through regional conferences. The exhibition will remain open to the public on November 14.

Cabinet nod for ₹62,370-cr rabi fertiliser subsidy

Continued from front page

The approval comes against the backdrop of the government's nutrient-based subsidy (NBS) framework, under which phosphatic and potassic fertilisers are supplied to farmers at subsidised prices.

Under the scheme, the Centre fixes subsidy rates for different nutrients for each cropping season, considering prevailing domestic and international prices of fertilisers and their inputs.

The subsidy is paid to manufacturers and importers to support the availability of fertilisers at affordable prices.

For the preceding rabi season of 2025-26, the government had approved a subsidy requirement of approximately Rs 37,952 crore.

The Cabinet subsequently cleared about Rs 41,534 crore for the kharif 2026 season. The government's fertiliser subsidy programme covers key agricultural inputs used in cultivating crops, including wheat, pulses and oilseeds.

In another decision, the Cabinet approved a Rs 5,000-crore credit guarantee fund under the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana. Launched in April 2015, the scheme facilitates institutional credit for small businesses and microenterprises through banks, non-banking financial companies and other eligible lending institutions.

The existing Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units, administered by the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company, provides protection to eligible lenders against defaults on covered microenterprise loans. The government's credit guarantee mechanism is intended to support collateral-free lending to eligible small borrowers.

Also, the CCEA also approved Rs 3,230 crore for developing the Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum by converting the historic North and South Blocks in New Delhi. Vaishnaw said the museum would showcase India's civilisational journey and would be larger than the Louvre in Paris.

The proposed museum will cover approximately 1.79 lakh square metres and is being designed to accommodate nearly 30,000 visitors daily.

The project was first announced in May 2023. In February 2026, the Cabinet endorsed the transition of government offices from North and South Blocks to new administrative buildings, clearing the way for their conversion into a museum.

According to the Ministry of Culture, development will take place in phases between FY27 and FY31. The first gallery, focusing on adornment, is expected to open in late 2027. The ministry has identified approximately 18 lakh objects from museums and other collections for potential display.

Anthropic CEO claims cancer will be history in 10 years

Continued from front page

Pharmaceutical leaders emphasise that speeding up initial molecule discovery does not bypass clinical trials, regulatory reviews, or biological testing in animal and human models-a phase that makes up the vast majority of the 10-to-12-year drug development pipeline.

Finding a molecule that looks promising on a computer screen is only the beginning.

It still has to be tested in laboratories, animal models and eventually human clinical trials to establish whether it is safe and actually works.

AI may speed up the search for potential treatments, but it cannot simply make these steps disappear.

Critics such as cognitive scientist Gary Marcus, and cardiologist and digital medicine expert Eric Topol point out that current AI models lack the deep causal and biological understanding required to reliably yield breakthrough cures, and as of 2026, no AI-designed drug has achieved full clinical adoption.

There is also a history of medical breakthroughs being promised on timelines that never materialised. The 1970s 'war on cancer' is one example. Experts warn that such ambitious predictions risk raising public expectations far beyond what science can currently deliver.

Stolen Olympic gold of hockey star recovered

Continued from front page

The suspects broke into Somaya's house in late October while the family was away in Kodagu and were unaware of the significance of the cluster of metallic prizes they picked up as they swept up cash and jewellery worth Rs 3.5 lakh.

Police said the suspects sold a gold medal and a silver medal to a firm in Rajajinagar.

"This was one of the most challenging cases for us because we did not have any clues. We finally managed to detect the case and recover the stolen articles. The two accused have been involved in similar crimes earlier. We will ensure that they do not repeat such acts," police commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said, announcing a Rs 1 lakh reward for the police.

Naidu sets June deadline for restoration of 789 LI schemes

Continued from front page

He also suggested appointing a chief engineer or superintending engineer in each district, wherever necessary, to supervise their functioning. He stressed that all repairs must be completed by June. Officials informed the Chief Minister that 4,061 acres out of the 5,565 acres available with the Water Resources Department had been identified for solar power projects, with a potential capacity of 877.3 MW. Another 110 acres at 84 locations under the Irrigation Development Corporation could generate 25.8 MW. Altogether, 4,171 acres have been earmarked for solar power plants with a combined generation potential of 903.1 MW.

Naidu suggested exploring solar power generation over irrigation canals and the potential for hydropower. He also directed officials to prepare a plan for uninterrupted electricity supply to lift irrigation schemes during the cultivation season and explore selling surplus power to the grid.

The Chief Minister asked officials to examine the establishment of a Water Regulatory Commission on the lines of the Electricity Regulatory Commission to regulate water utilisation across agriculture, industries, power generation and transport. Naidu assured that funds would be released immediately for 36 priority irrigation projects and directed officials to complete all of them within the next two-and-a-half years, without allowing financial constraints to delay the works.

Murmu's bodyguard shot over firecracker dispute

Continued from front page

Police said the disagreement soon escalated into violence as Dheeraj allegedly pulled out a country-made pistol and opened fire. The bullet first struck a wall before hitting Saurabh in the head.

The accused also allegedly assaulted Vineet and threatened the family with dire consequences before fleeing. Family members rushed Saurabh to a hospital, where doctors performed surgery and removed the bullet. His condition is now reported to be stable.

Police registered an FIR against Dheeraj and Monu on charges of attempt to murder. Circle Officer Anshu Jain said, "Efforts are underway to trace and arrest the accused."



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 Modem prefix (3



Solution to November 11

SUDOKU

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2	9		8					
				9		2	1	

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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

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 | 20-11-2026 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.

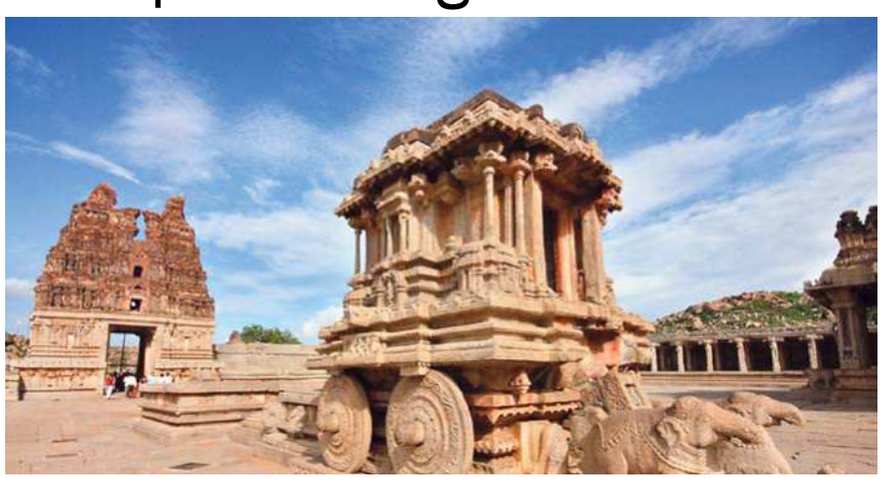
On November 10, a test train travelled from Byappanahalli Depot to Doddanekkundi Metro station, marking further progress in the testing of the Blue Line infrastructure. Earlier, on November 7, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) had conducted an initial trial run between Byappanahalli 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

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.

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

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.



> 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

Sports Nation

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 front-line 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*

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

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