| THURSDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2026 | VISAKHAPATNAM | www.thehansindia.com | VOL 16 | NO. 117 | PAGES 12 | ₹8.00 |

Andhra Pradesh Welcomes
Global Business Leaders to the Sunrise State
Summit of Ideas, Impact, and International Partnerships.
Choose Speed Choose AP.
For Registration, Visit www.partnershipsummit.com
For Queries, Contact partnership.summit@cii.in

THE Hans India

Andhra Pradesh Welcomes
Global Business Leaders to the Sunrise State
Summit of Ideas, Impact, and International Partnerships.
Choose Speed Choose AP.
For Registration, Visit www.partnershipsummit.com
For Queries, Contact partnership.summit@cii.in

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

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

ANDHRA PRADESH
India's Sunrise State
सत्यमेव जयते



Andhra Pradesh Welcomes

Global Business Leaders to the Sunrise State

Summit of Ideas, Impact, and International Partnerships.

12 - 13 November 2026, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

From Intent to Implementation
Choose Speed *Choose AP.*

SPEED. STABILITY. SERVICE.

31st CII PARTNERSHIP® SUMMIT 2026

Navigating the New World Order
Trade | Technology | Trust | Thought Leadership

Learn More

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

For Registration, Visit www.partnershipsummit.com | For Queries, Contact partnership.summit@cii.in

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.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Chief Minister Naidu was further informed that another 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



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

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.

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

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

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

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

Jagan accuses Naidu of 'scam' in medical college privatisation

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

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

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

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

Alleging irregularities in the proposed PPP arrangement, Jagan claimed that government land worth hundreds of crores was being leased for just Rs 100 per acre, while Rs 1,630 crore in public funds would be provided as Viability Gap Funding (VGF). He also alleged that the government would bear staff salaries for two years, involving an expenditure of around Rs 120 crore per college. He maintained that colleges were designed as teaching hospitals offering free multispecialty treatment, with half medical seats under convenor quota and remaining seats at fees substantially lower than private institutions.

They would also be linked to area hospitals, CHCs, PHCs and village clinics to strengthen healthcare delivery.

Jagan further accused Naidu government of weakening public healthcare system by delaying Aarogyasri payments, allowing medicine shortages, increasing doctor vacancies, stopping Nadu-Nedu hospital works and neglecting village clinics and 108 and 104 ambulance services.

Claiming that one crore people had signed his party's petition opposing the privatisation, he demanded that the government withdraw its decision. Jagan warned that if YSRCP returned to power, it would initiate legal action against those involved in the deal and would not hesitate to make arrests. He said his party would continue its campaign against the privatisation of government medical colleges.

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.



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

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

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

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

HDB Financial Services Limited
HDB FINANCIAL SERVICES
3rd Floor, Bldg No: 306, Millenium Business Park, Opp Ramada Hotel, TTC Industrial Area, Sector - 2, Mahape, Navi Mumbai - 400705
Tel No.: +91 22 49116300

FINAL AUCTION CUM SALE NOTICE FOR GOLD ORNAMENTS

The borrower(s) (whose details are provided in the table herein below), in particular, and the public, in general,are hereby informed that the below mentioned accounts are overdue, and the borrowers/account holders have not responded/complied with the communication, and notice send by HDB Financial Services Limited (the "Company") requesting the borrower to clear his/her/their dues as per the documents in respect of the below mentioned loan signed/accepted by the borrower(s) (such documents, collectively "loan agreement") and therefore defaulted in terms thereof. The Company has in excercise of its rights as a pledgee, decided to enforce the pledge and therefore hold a public auction of the gold ornaments pledged to the company as security for the loan for the purpose of selling the same and realizing/recovering the dues owned by the borrower(s) to the company. The auction will be conducted on/after **19-11-2026** at the below mentioned local branch of HDB Financial Services Limited from 11.00 am onwards on the date and branches mentioned in the below table;-

Loan No	Customer Name	Date of Loan	Overdue Amount ₹	Branch Name
80647748	Dunaboyinaveera Venkatavara Prasad	20-04-26	10463	Amalapuram
80519541	Yalla Alisu	16-04-26	18870	Bhimavaram
79675915	Uddaraju Durgaraju	16-03-26	42023	Bhimavaram
79191511	Neredibilli Alivelu Manga	26-02-26	56306	Bhimavaram
80862354	P Venkateshu	27-04-26	18481	Chittoor
82092867	Gunta Sankar	11-06-26	50718	Eluru
81753260	Bobbili Sarala	29-05-26	24729	Eluru
79495151	Dasari Kamu Naidu	10-03-26	156292	Eluru
79207910	Devuluri Kumari	27-02-26	50521	Eluru
77134057	Velivela Siva Sankarrao	19-01-26	45533	Eluru
76547346	Kommara Hitendra Kumar	13-01-26	40250	Eluru
78866757	Settipalli Tarunkumar	18-02-26	15272	Gajuwaka
64553780	Medisetti Trinadh	25-04-25	66701	Gajuwaka
82295102	Sammingi Revathi	20-06-26	32276	Gajuwaka
82253971	Shaik Sattar	19-06-26	77059	Gajuwaka
82116976	Ashok Kumar Kilaru	15-06-26	81603	Guntur
81747552	Billa Ravi Babu	29-05-26	38960	Guntur
79878642	Palakaluri Sekhar Babu	23-03-26	64830	Guntur
82224283	Shaik Mastanbi	17-06-26	21006	Guntur-Gt Road
81920104	Valluri Srikanth	04-06-26	45979	Guntur-Gt Road
81311995	Sithalapu Bhargavi	14-05-26	25991	Guntur-Gt Road
80742287	M Swathi	23-04-26	39598	Guntur-Kothapeta
81670921	Sreepuram Dinesh Varma	26-05-26	40851	Kadapa
81095685	Meesala Baby	06-05-26	32148	Kadapa
79875779	Muddala Sreelakshmi	23-03-26	107008	Kadapa
79184427	Behara Srinivasu	26-02-26	18531	Kakinada
82245210	Behara Srinivasu	18-06-26	18406	Kakinada
82113393	Burra Pratima	12-06-26	46776	Mangalagiri
81904516	Kommu Nagavenkata Saikumar	04-06-26	102583	Mangalagiri
81889984	Thani Supriya	03-06-26	56522	Nellore
81944738	Akula Sravani	05-06-26	24017	Nellore
82004676	Sivakotaiah Totakura	08-06-26	49518	Nellore
81512188	Yelthuri Prem Chand	21-05-26	10724	Nellore
80695722	Yelthuri Prem Chand	22-04-26	25911	Nellore
82021586	Annavarapu Naganjali	09-06-26	40080	Ongole
81552501	Kotikala Haribabu	22-05-26	104168	Ongole
81451195	Medikonda Durga Prasad	19-05-26	38314	Ongole
80931865	Syamala Venkatesh	30-04-26	48010	Ongole
80526487	Bitragunta Sravan Pavankumar	16-04-26	231134	Ongole
82086505	Sare Venkatesh	11-06-26	63226	Proddutur
81416889	Chinthala Suresh Babu	18-05-26	24861	Proddutur
81415951	Pathan Salma Sulthana	18-05-26	18972	Proddutur
81931357	Syed Noushad	05-06-26	29011	Proddutur
81469587	Danikela Chandrika Rani	20-05-26	96874	Proddutur
81075110	Baratam Hariprasad	05-05-26	26210	Srikakulam
82201580	Bhavana Naga Lakshmi	16-06-26	36094	Tenali
81451555	Gudivaka Kiran	19-05-26	56109	Tenali
80475159	Kottapalli Rajendra Babu	15-04-26	54484	Tenali
82099597	Kalluru Mahesh Kumar	12-06-26	76926	Tirupati
81699327	Avalagunta Venu	27-05-26	14148	Tirupati
79705677	Thatavarthy Seetha Mahalakshmi	17-03-26	42967	Tirupati
79389607	Yapalaprvi Krishna Sumanth	06-03-26	122366	Tirupati
82296472	Udayasankar P	20-06-26	100833	Vijayawada
81226216	Mallika Katta	11-05-26	30773	Vijayawada
82064269	Kollipara Naga Prasannakumar	10-06-26	50103	Vijayawada-Governorpet
80071701	Konda Munni	31-03-26	24128	Vijayawada-Governorpet
79018135	Chintha Swathi	21-02-26	25630	Vijayawada-Governorpet
79365758	Patamata Durgaprasad	05-03-26	79583	Vijayawada-Governorpet
78868608	Panjagala Srinivasarao	18-02-26	37705	Vijayawada-Governorpet
79950240	Kondadasu Srinivasarao	26-03-26	27966	Vijayawada-Kanuru
79868962	Posipogu Dwarakarani	23-03-26	82889	Vijayawada-Kanuru
82293334	Syamkumar Nalla	20-06-26	55940	Vijayawada-Ramavarappadu
82291047	Lalitha Nalla	20-06-26	52915	Vijayawada-Ramavarappadu
82101784	Avutapalli Dhana Lakshmi	12-06-26	84498	Vijayawada-Ramavarappadu
82036394	Barnala Ramesh	09-06-26	22098	Vijayawada-Ramavarappadu
81470244	Venkata Rajesh Tammu	20-05-26	117239	Vijayawada-Ramavarappadu
81546542	Konatham Gopi Raju	22-05-26	8780	Vijayawada-Ramavarappadu
80425588	Katikala Saratbabu	13-04-26	16618	Vijayawada-Ramavarappadu
80857920	Mogili Srilatha	27-04-26	21493	Vijayawada-Ramavarappadu
80300313	Mogili Srilatha	08-04-26	54386	Vijayawada-Ramavarappadu
81536546	Dhuda Durga Prasad	22-05-26	28645	Visakhapatnam
74287858	Dasari Chandini	27-11-25	26613	Visakhapatnam
81908017	Pillala Harikrishna	04-06-26	50263	Vizag-Gopalapatnam
81752452	Sariki Srinivasarao	29-05-26	59051	Vizianagaram
82009802	Bandinaga Madhusudhanarao	08-06-26	90754	Vizianagaram
81633594	Nagala Bangaruraju	25-05-26	27196	Vizianagaram
81706715	Bandinaga Madhusudhanarao	27-05-26	55361	Vizianagaram
81548552	Nayina Ramu	22-05-26	33475	Vizianagaram
80768866	Sreenu Sangu	24-04-26	16562	Vizianagaram
79872459	Ponnada Sekhar	23-03-26	82564	Vizianagaram

The auction shall be conducted on an "**AS IS WHERE**" and "**AS IS WHAT IT**" basis and the Company is not making and shall not make any representation or warranties as regards the quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments. It shall be the sole and absolute responsibility of the potential purchaser to verify, examine and satisfy themselves about the quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments prior to placing their bid and for such purpose it shall be open to potential purchasers to examine, at their sole cost and expense, and at the address set out herein above, the gold ornaments whether with or without expert advice 45 minutes prior to the time stipulated for the conduct of the auction. All the bid shall be subjected to such minimum reserve price as the company may deem fit to fix in this regards. The auction process and sale (if any) pursuant to such auction shall be subjected to such further terms and condition as the company may at sole discretion deem fit to impose.

If the borrower(s) mentioned above pays the amount due to the Company in terms of the loan agreement in his individual loan account in full before the auction as mentioned above, the pledged ornaments securing the said loan may be withdrawn from the said auction without further notice. Please note the it is the absolute discretionary power of the undersigned authorized officer of the company, either to postpone or to cancel the auction proceeding without prior notice and without assigning any reason thereof and to reject any or all the bids or offer without assigning any reason for the same.

Place : ANDHRA PRADESH
Date : 12-11-2026

Authorised Officer
(HDB Financial Services Ltd)

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS
NHAI

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



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

BUSINESS
Sensex, Nifty at near nine-month highs
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. P11

YOUNG HANS
From academic knowledge to practical skills: What students expect from universities
A student entering university today has likely already learned a skill online, experimented with artificial intelligence (AI) or built something independently. P9

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

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

WINDOWS



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.

Trust, Reliability & Service Synonymous with Kapil Chits
KAPIL GROUP 46 Years
Visit Us: www.kapilchits.com
KAPIL CHITS
SMALL SAVINGS GROW BIG WITH KAPIL

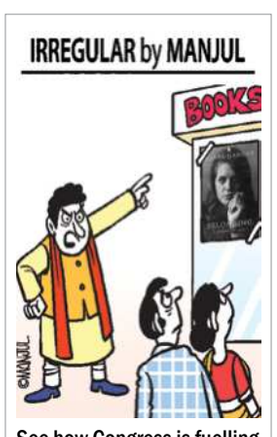
Mother Dairy, Amul hike milk prices by Rs 2-4 per litre

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

India-Korea teams to make battery cathode materials in AP

- A Rs 4,000 crore integrated LFP battery materials plant to come up at Naidupeta in Tirupati district
- Minister for HRD, IT & Electronics Nara Lokesh meets the leadership of Carbon Cosmo Advanced Materials Private Limited

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

ANDHRA Pradesh announced a Rs 4,000 crore integrated LFP battery materials plant at Naidupeta in Tirupati district, after Nara Lokesh, Minister for HRD, IT & Electronics, met the leadership of Carbon Cosmo Advanced Materials Private Limited in Visakhapatnam on the eve of the CII Partnership Summit.

The plant will make ferric phosphate (FP) precursor and lithium iron phosphate (LFP) cathode materials, which are key inputs for lithium-ion batteries.



Minister for HRD, IT & Electronics Nara Lokesh discusses with Korean officials at the meeting in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday

Carbon Cosmo is a joint venture of Kolkata-based Carbon Resources Pvt Ltd (CRPL), which already runs a calcined petroleum coke plant at Bobbili in Vizianagaram district, and South Korea's COSMO AM&T Co., Ltd, a listed maker of cathode materials that supplies Samsung SDI and LG Energy Solution.

The plant will come up on 230 acres using COSMO technology. At full scale, it will produce 1.8 lakh tonnes per annum (TPA) each of FP and LFP, with up to 1.3 lakh TPA for export. It will be built in three phases. Phase I, with 30,000 TPA of each, is due by mid-2028, and Phase III by 2031.

The project is expected to create 700 direct jobs and 3,500 to 5,000 indirect jobs.

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed on October 16 at SRM University, Amaravati. The State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) approved the project on November 6.

Lokesh invited COSMO to partner with IIT Tirupati on a cathode-testing and battery-recycling lab. "I am excited to welcome Carbon Cosmo to Andhra Pradesh.

This India-Korea partnership brings world-class cathode technology to Naidupeta and fills a critical gap in India's battery supply chain.

Andhra Pradesh is determined to become the country's hub for EV and battery manufacturing, and we will back this project at every step," said Nara Lokesh, Minister for HRD, IT & Electronics.

The company was represented by Abhinav Kumar Jalan, managing director, CRPL Group; Deuk-Kyu Park, Vice President, COSMO AM&T; Byeongdae Kim, general manager, COSMO AM&T; Aman Kapur, Seung Jong Lee and others.

2,700 police personnel deployed for multi-layered security

- More than 58 representatives and diplomats from foreign governments are expected to participate in the summit
- Police have put in place comprehensive security arrangements for the smooth and incident-free conduct of the international summit


The stage is set for the CII Partnership Summit in Visakhapatnam


Folk artistes rehearsing on the eve of the CII Partnership Summit in Visakhapatnam

VASU POTNURU
VISAKHAPATNAM

THE coalition government has made elaborate arrangements to host the prestigious 31st CII Partnership Summit-2026 in Visakhapatnam on a grand scale.

At a time when the city is considered a major investment destination and the financial powerhouse of Andhra Pradesh, the summit adds to the brimming investments the state has already attracted.

District In-charge Minister Dola Sree Bala Veeranjaneya Swamy mentioned that the state is witnessing an unprecedented inflow of investments under the focused initiatives of IT and HRD Minister Nara Lokesh. He stated that projects involving investments of nearly Rs.20 lakh crore had been secured so far, with works worth approximately Rs.17 lakh crore already in progress. He further revealed that fresh Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) worth another Rs 11 lakh crore are expected to be signed during the two-day summit. With these agreements, the total investment commitments are projected to reach Rs.31 lakh crore, potentially creating employment opportunities for nearly 25 lakh youth.

The summit will be inaugurated by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, while Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal will chair the proceedings. The Vice-President will participate in the concluding ceremony on the final day and deliver a special message.

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is also actively participating in various review meetings to ensure the successful conduct of the international event.

More than 58 representatives and diplomats from foreign governments are expected to participate in the summit. Over 400 Business-to-Business (B2B) meetings have also been scheduled, providing an important platform for investors, industrialists and international business representatives to explore partnerships and investment opportunities.

Meanwhile, the city police have put in place comprehensive security arrangements for the smooth and incident-free conduct of the international summit.

City Police Commissioner Shankhabrata Bagchi, along with senior police officials, briefed the officers and personnel deployed for summit security.

Around 2,700 police personnel, including senior officers, 35 ACPs, 103 Circle Inspectors, 250 Sub-Inspectors and nearly 1,800 ASIs, Head Constables, Police Constables and Home Guards, have been mobilised for security duties.

The conference venue and other strategically important locations across the city are being continuously monitored through the Command and Control Centre. Advanced surveillance systems, including drones, CCTV cameras, body-worn cameras and other technological equipment, have been installed to strengthen security.

To ensure hassle-free transportation and timely arrival of delegates at the summit venue, a dedicated mobile application has been developed.

The initiative is aimed at coordinating the movement of delegates representing different organisations and preventing delays.

As part of preventive security measures, city police personnel are conducting continuous inspections of hotels, lodges, resorts and guesthouses falling under all police station limits.

Accommodation facilities where delegates are staying are also being thoroughly checked by sniffer dog squads and bomb detection teams. With extensive administrative coordination, international participation and multi-layered security arrangements, Visakhapatnam is gearing up to host one of the state's most significant investment-focused events scheduled for Thursday and Friday.

Japanese companies keen on investing in AP

- Keiichi Ono arrives in Visakhapatnam to participate in the CII Partnership Summit
- The Japanese Ambassador says that several Japanese companies were already operating at Sri City
- Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu explains that the govt is creating an industry-friendly ecosystem to attract investments into AP

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

JAPANESE companies are keen on investing in Andhra Pradesh and Japan is ready to establish an industrial cluster in the state, Japanese Ambassador to India Keiichi Ono has said. Keiichi Ono, who arrived in Visakhapatnam to participate in the CII Partnership Summit, met Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and discussed various aspects concerning industrial investments, skill development, infrastructure, critical mineral supply chains and green energy. The Japanese Ambassador pointed out that several Japanese companies were already operating at Sri City. He also brought various issues raised by Japanese industrial groups and the Japanese community in the region to the Chief Minister's attention.



Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu holding discussions with Japanese Ambassador to India Keiichi Ono, among others, in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday

He informed the Chief Minister that companies such as Marubeni Corporation, Sumitomo and Mitsui Group had expressed interest in establishing a second Japanese Industrial Cluster in Andhra Pradesh as part of the 20 sector-specific industrial parks planned by the state government. Chandrababu Naidu explained that the government is creating an industry-friendly ecosystem to attract investments into Andhra Pradesh. He mentioned that the state had introduced an escrow account mechanism to ensure greater transparency and reliability in the disbursement of incentives to industries.

The Chief Minister urged Japanese companies to extend their cooperation in developing a skilled workforce to meet industry requirements.

He stated that if young people were provided with training tailored to the needs of Japanese companies, the state could supply highly-skilled human resources.

Responding positively to the appeal, the Japanese delegation expressed its willingness to provide skill development training to employees working in industries across Andhra Pradesh.

The Chief Minister also invited leading Japanese automobile and heavy machinery manufacturers, including Suzuki, Honda, Komatsu, Kawasaki and Yamaha, to explore investment opportunities in Andhra Pradesh as part of their business expansion plans.

Leveraging the expertise and talent of Indian professionals, the Japanese representatives further informed the Chief Minister that a new Global Capability Centre (GCC) had been launched in Visakhapatnam this year through India-Japan collaboration. The meeting also included discussion on a preliminary agreement between Japan-based JERA and AM Green for the procurement of approximately 70,000 tonnes of green ammonia annually for five years. The discussions highlighted the growing cooperation between India and Japan in the green energy sector.

Union Bank of India celebrates its 108th Foundation Day



Officials of Union Bank of India celebrating its 108th Foundation Day in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

UNION Bank of India celebrated its 108th Foundation Day in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday.

Marking the occasion, the regional and zonal office in Visakhapatnam organised a commemorative function, highlighting over a century of trust, innovation, and excellence in banking services with the theme '108 Years Young Shaping a Brighter Future Together' under the leadership of Sonalika, zonal head, S.Jayaraju, DGM and J Simhachalam, regional head, Visakhapatnam, the Foundation Day was celebrated with enthusiastic participation from employees, customers, pensioners, valued stakeholders, distinguished guests, and staff.

Speaking on the occasion, zonal head Sonalika called upon the team to continue serving with commitment and the 'U before I' concept. DGM S.Jayaraju and regional head J Simhachalam thanked the staff and customers for their continued trust and support. On the occasion, the bank's employees contributed Rs 11.17 crore to the National Defence Fund.

Marking the annual day, 108 new branches were opened across the country. Of these, 25 branches are in the North Eastern Region, 51 are general business branches, 16 are Yuva branches, 9 are specialised start-up branches and 7 are Agri Value Chain Finance Branches.

'Sea Vigil-26' spans entire coastline, exclusive economic zone

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

THE fifth edition of the Pan-India Coastal Defence Exercise 'Sea Vigil-26' is being carried out from November 11 to 19, coordinated by the Indian Navy as the lead agency. The exercise will be conducted in two phases. The Coastal Defence and Security Readiness valuation (CDSRE) phase from November 11 to 17, followed by the sea phase on November 18 and 19.

Conceptualised in 2018 to validate measures instituted to strengthen maritime security following the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, the Sea Vigil exercise is significant in terms of its geographical spread, the number of participating agencies and units, and the range of its objectives. The 'Sea Vigil-26' will span the entire coastline and Exclusive Economic Zone of India, involving all Coastal States and Union Territories, along with other maritime stakeholders, including the fishing and coastal communities. Assets of the Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, coastal security police, customs and other maritime agencies will participate. The conduct of the exercise is also being facilitated by the Ministries of Defence; Home Affairs; Ports, Shipping and Waterways; Petroleum and Natural Gas; and Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, together with other agencies of the Centre and Coastal states and Union Territories.


The fifth edition of the Pan-India Coastal Defence Exercise 'Sea Vigil-26' will be carried out till November 19

Sea Vigil is also a build-up to the Indian Navy's biennial Theatre Level Readiness Operational Exercise (TROPEX). Together, Sea Vigil and TROPEX address the entire spectrum of maritime security challenges, from coastal defence to operations on the high seas. The conduct of exercise at the national-level provides an opportunity, at the apex level, to assess the nation's preparedness towards Maritime Security and Coastal Defence.

SWACHH SURVEKSHAN

Vizag creates history by securing national top rank

Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development P Narayana, GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg receive the award from President Droupadi Murmu

VASU POTNURU
VISAKHAPATNAM

IN a historic achievement, the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) secured the first rank in the 'Swachh Shehar' category under the national Swachh Survekshan 2025–26, among cities with a population of over 10 lakh. This is the first time in Visakhapatnam's history that the city has secured the No. 1 position nationally in the prestigious category, bringing immense pride and recognition to the City of Destiny.

Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development P Narayana, GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg received the prestigious award from the President of India Droupadi Murmu at the national award presentation ceremony held at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi on Wednesday.


Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development P. Narayana receiving the Swachh Survekshan 2025–26 Award in Swachh Shehar category from the President Droupadi Murmu along with GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg in New Delhi

Principal Secretary S Suresh Kumar, and Commissioner and Director of Municipal Administration P Sampath Kumar were also present on the occasion.

Expressing happiness over the landmark achievement, Ketan Garg described the recognition as a moment of immense pride for Visakhapatnam. He said the national award was not merely an institutional accomplishment for GVMC but a collective victory of the entire city.

The Commissioner attributed the success to the sustained efforts and cooperation of citizens, public representatives, voluntary organisations, sanitation workers and GVMC officials and employees.

The Commissioner lauded the sanitation workers for their tireless services in maintaining the city's cleanliness, working round the clock despite challenging weather conditions. He observed that their dedication, combined with active public participation and civic responsibility, played a crucial role in securing the prestigious national recognition.

In a special gesture, Ketan Garg dedicated the award to the sanitation workers for their unwavering commitment and to the people of Visakhapatnam for their continuous support in keeping the city clean and healthy.

He expressed gratitude to district collector and GVMC Special Officer M Abhishikth Kishore for his constant guidance, valuable suggestions and support to the municipal administration in its efforts to secure the top national position.

Emphasising the importance of sustaining the achievement, the Commissioner mentioned that cleanliness should not be viewed merely as a responsibility of the municipal administration but as a continuous social commitment requiring active participation from every citizen.

The historic recognition has placed Visakhapatnam firmly on the national cleanliness map, setting a new benchmark for urban sanitation, environmental sustainability and citizen-led civic responsibility.

Chief Secy rejects Oppn's 'man-made flood' charge



HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR

THE Odisha government on Wednesday rejected the Opposition's charge that the widespread flooding in Ganjam district following last month's cyclone Arnab was 'man-made', pointing out that unprecedented rainfall over three consecutive days had caused the deluge. Asserting that there was no lapse in flood management and operations of reservoir gates, Chief Secretary Anu Garg expressed satisfaction that the State government has ensured "zero casualty" that can be attributed to the deluge.

Eleven people died in Odisha, while six were still missing in incidents linked to cyclone Arnab that made landfall in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh on October 28. The BJD supremo, Naveen Patnaik, had described the flood in Ganjam district after the very severe cyclone as "man-made" and demanded accountability for people's suffering "caused by lapses" in the BJP government's handling of the calamity. The former chief minister alleged that despite the weather department's warning, the water levels of dams were not monitored.

Pointing out that standard operating procedure dictates that adequate water from dams must be released before the onset of rains, Patnaik said, "In the case of Ganjam, water from dams was released after the onset of heavy cyclonic rains. This compounded the floods and caused huge loss of life and property."

Nixing the allegation, the Chief Secretary said, "Let me clarify, unprecedented rainfall for three consecutive days was responsible for the recent floods in Ganjam district. There was absolutely no lapse in flood management and gate operations." After reviewing the relief and restoration works in Ganjam, Gajapati and Kandhamala districts, severely hit by floods in the aftermath of the cyclone, she told reporters, "The visiting Central team, which also comprised a member from the Ministry of Jal Shakti, told us after field assessment that the flood was due to unprecedented rains."

However, Chief Secretary Garg, who was also in charge of the Water Resources department during her tenure, rejected the allegations of lapses in flood management. Defending the State government's handling of the calamity, Garg said Ganjam district witnessed exceptionally heavy rainfall, with the Patrapur block recording 546 mm of rain in a day.

Rainfall was the highest in the area since 1990 and 2013. Apart from Patrapur, many places in the district received above 300 mm of rain during the period, the Chief Secretary said. Garg said ensuring the safety of water reservoirs was "supreme" for the government and explained that decisions on opening gates to discharge excess water from dams were taken in view of the situation and to ensure dam safety.

She said that 6,907 cumecs (cubic meters per second) accumulated at the Purusottampur gauge station of the Rushikulya river, which is double the water carrying capacity of the river. "As such, the dams could regulate only 10 per cent of the water that reached Purusottampur gauge station while 90 per cent flowed directly through the river. The flood was not due to the 10 per cent of the excess water, but much higher than that," Garg said.

Admitting that the flood has caused extensive damage, the Chief Secretary expressed satisfaction that the State government has ensured "zero casualties" that can be attributed to the deluge. Odisha witnessed three successive floods in Subarnarekha, Brahmani, Baitarani, Budhabalang, Jalaka and other small rivers in the northern parts of the State during the monsoon this year. The Opposition Congress had also blamed the BJP government for the flood in Ganjam, with former chief secretary Suresh Chandra Mohapatra alleging that lack of sincerity on the part of authorities caused people's miseries. "Had there been effective handling of the situation, the impact of the flood could have been much less severe."

Ganjam flood causes Rs 334 cr irrigation infra loss

SUNIL MOHAN PATNAIK
BRAHMAPUR



THE devastating floods in Ganjam district have caused extensive damage to irrigation infrastructure estimated at Rs 334 crore, with 933 major and medium irrigation projects, 66 minor irrigation points and 2,103 lift irrigation points bearing the brunt of the disaster. The Water Resources Department has estimated that Rs 274 crore will be required to restore the damaged major and medium irrigation projects.

Addressing a press conference here on Tuesday, Water Resources Department Chief Engineer Dilip Rout said the floods were triggered by excessive and unprecedented rainfall, which caused a sudden rise in reservoir levels and river flows. He ruled out any negligence or operational lapses in dam management, asserting that reservoir levels were regularly monitored and water released whenever necessary.

A high-level technical team, led by the Chief Engineer, inspected flood-hit infrastructure at Janibili, Suramani, Tatabali, Padma Barrage, Jahada and Jayamangala to assess the damage and expedite restoration. Nearly 900 metres of the Rushikulya Right Canal at Suramani and another 800 metres at Tatabali have been washed away. Restoration work is underway on a war footing.

The department has submitted proposals to the State Special Relief Commissioner seeking funds for the restoration of damaged irrigation facilities. However, preliminary repair work will begin without waiting for fund approval to ensure early restoration.

Ensuring uninterrupted drinking water supply to Brahmapur city from Janibili reservoir has also emerged as a priority. Temporary embankments have been constructed at damaged stretches to maintain normal water supply, while a permanent solution is expected within 10 to 12 days.

The department has simultaneously prioritised kharif irrigation to prevent further hardship to farmers. Water supply through the Ghodahada, Baghalati, Kalangadola, Dah, Baghua, Dhanai and Jayamangala canals has already commenced, while irrigation through the Rushikulya and Hiradharbatia canals is expected to resume shortly. Rout said reservoir levels, rainfall and river flows were continuously monitored. As on October 27, water levels ranged from 40.7 per cent at Ghatakeswari to 88.3 per cent at Sorada, while Dhanai reservoir had an automatic gate-opening mechanism to release excess water.

Cyclone relief to all blocks in 3 districts

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR



THE Odisha government on Wednesday decided to extend emergency relief assistance to all blocks in Ganjam, Gajapati and Kandhamala districts to support households affected by cyclone Arnab. The decision follows the relief package announced by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, under which every affected family in all blocks of the three districts will receive 50 kg of rice and financial assistance of Rs 2,500.

In a statement, Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Rajesh P Patil said the district collectors of Ganjam, Gajapati and Kandhamala had been directed to immediately undertake enumeration and verification of eligible families to ensure smooth, transparent and timely distribution of relief. The SRC also instructed the district administrations to coordinate with District Civil Supplies Officers (CSOs) and the Odisha State Civil Supplies Corporation (OSCSC) for immediate requisition and lifting of rice stocks.

The financial assistance of Rs 2,500 per family will primarily be transferred through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to beneficiaries' bank accounts. In areas where banking services have been disrupted, authorised alternative modes of disbursement will be used, with proper records maintained, the statement said.

To ensure accountability and speedy implementation, the three district collectors have been asked to submit daily block-wise progress reports on rice and cash distribution to the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) until the relief exercise is completed.

Earlier, Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik had alleged that the relief package announced by the State government was inadequate and demanded immediate rehabilitation of affected families.

Backed campus polls upon ABVP assurance: CM



HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR

ODISHA Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Wednesday said his government gave the go-ahead for students' union elections across colleges and universities in the state only after the ABVP assured him of victory. Majhi made the remarks while addressing a state-level conference of the RSS-affiliated Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), attended by more than 8,000 delegates.

Colleges and universities across Odisha held students' union elections last month after an eight-year gap. The BJP promised in its 2024 election manifesto to resume campus elections, which were stopped by the previous BJD government.

"A number of questions were raised over holding students' union elections in the state. There were different views on whether the ABVP was prepared for the campus elections. I granted permission for conducting the campus polls only after the state ABVP leaders assured me of their victory. Finally, the ABVP registered a grand success in the campus elections. This is called the power of organisation," Majhi said.

Describing the youth as "game changers", the Chief Minister said the large gathering reflected growing faith among students and young people in the organisation. He urged the ABVP leaders to put "nation first" and work accordingly. "I also suggested students and youths to become job creators instead of seeking jobs anywhere," he said. Majhi also spoke about several initiatives undertaken by his government for students and said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's priorities included youth, women and farmers.

He also urged young people to remain alert about forces allegedly working against the country's interests. ABVP national general secretary Virendra Singh Solanki said the outfit's "historic victories" in 208 colleges and a clean sweep across eight universities mark a new chapter in Odisha's student politics.

Former Ranchi University Vice-Chancellor Kshiti Bhusan Das, who was also present at the conference, said ABVP should continue working towards meeting students' aspirations and expectations.

Odisha inks biodiversity pact

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR



THE Odisha government and the MS Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) have signed an MoU, aiming to strengthen nutrition security, women's empowerment and biodiversity conservation, officials said on Wednesday. The agreement was signed on Tuesday in the presence of Chief Secretary Anu Garg and Dr Soumya Swaminathan, Chairperson of MSSRF.

Through this collaboration, scientific research, traditional knowledge, and government policy will be coordinated in the fields of agriculture, nutrition, health, environment, and livelihoods, Garg said. The MSSRF will act as the knowledge partner, with the State government providing technical support to various departments in areas like policy formulation, programme planning, research, skill development and innovation, she said.

The agreement will prioritise climate-resilient agriculture, agro-environmental farming practices, promotion of millets and other alternative crops, protection of traditional seeds and agricultural biodiversity, and development of sustainable food systems, Garg said.

"To review the effectiveness and progress of the action plan, a steering committee will be formed under the chairmanship of the Development Commissioner. This will include the secretaries of the departments concerned and representatives from MSSRF. The committee will hold regular meetings to review the progress, results, and effectiveness of various programmes," Garg said.

Swaminathan said the partnership will create opportunities for joint efforts towards sustainable management of natural resources. "The collaboration will focus on innovation in solving various development issues, green technologies, gender equality, women's empowerment, promotion of millets, and the development of agricultural processing technologies," she said.

Man gets 25-yr jail for raping minor

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KENDRAPADA

A court in Kendrapada district on Tuesday sentenced a man to 25 years' imprisonment for raping and impregnating a 17-year-old girl in 2023. Additional District Judge-cum-Special Judge (POCSO) Pragyan Paramita Roul pronounced the verdict and imposed a fine of Rs 50,000 on the convict, with an additional one-year jail term in default of payment of the fine, said special public prosecutor Nehru Kumar Sahu. The court convicted Arjun Sethi on the basis of the testimonies of 17 witnesses, including the victim, and medical evidence, Sahu said. According to the prosecution, the girl was returning home from a nearby market when the convict and two others allegedly took her to an isolated place, gang-raped her and threatened her with dire consequences if she disclosed the incident. The assault came to light after her mother noticed physical changes and suspected that she was pregnant. The girl was subsequently found to be five months pregnant, the prosecution said. Later, the victim's mother lodged an FIR on September 9, 2023, police registered a case and arrested the accused.

Earlier, on September 24 this year, the court had sentenced another convict in the case to 25 years' imprisonment. The trial of the third accused is yet to begin as he remains at large.

Schools reopen in Ganjam

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BRAHMAPUR

SCHOOLS in flood-hit Ganjam district reopened on Monday after 23 days, officials said. The schools were closed for the Durga Puja vacation and the subsequent flooding triggered by cyclone 'Arnab'.

The district administration, however, extended the closure of six government-run schools – five in Asika block and one in Sorada block till Tuesday – as restoration activities were still underway, the officials said. Classes in nine schools were temporarily being held in nearby educational institutions to facilitate the restoration efforts, said Ajay Kumar Patra, District Education Officer, Ganjam.

The restoration activities will be completed soon, he said. A total of 498 out of 3,890 government-run schools across the district have been damaged due to the floods, the officials said.

Guv urges youth to make millets part of daily diet

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR

ODISHA Governor Brajmohan Ram on Tuesday urged people, particularly youth, students and government employees, to include Shree Anna (millets) in their daily diet, saying their promotion will benefit public health, farmers and the environment.

"Every household should include Mandia, Bajra, Jowar and other millets in its meals. Adopting healthy food habits is not just about personal well-being but also reflects our respect for farmers and agricultural traditions," he said while inaugurating the Symposium on Shree Anna and Strengthening of Traditional Seed Systems–2026 in Bhubaneswar.

Highlighting the importance of millets in India's agricultural heritage, the Governor said these crops had been an integral part of traditional food habits for centuries. In Odisha, particularly in tribal and rainfed regions, millet cultivation is closely linked to local livelihoods and cultural traditions. Promoting Mandia (Ragi) would help improve farmers' incomes while preserving this heritage.

Referring to climate change, erratic rainfall, rising temperatures and water scarcity, he said millets offered a sustainable farming option as they required less water, involved lower cultivation costs and could withstand adverse climatic conditions. He also highlighted their nutritional value, including high dietary fibre and essential nutrients, saying their regular consumption could encourage healthier food habits amid rising lifestyle-related diseases such as diabetes, obesity and hypertension.

The Governor stressed the need to strengthen processing, packaging, value addition and marketing facilities to help Odisha's millets reach wider domestic and international markets. Emphasising traditional seed conservation, he called for establishing community seed banks, documenting indigenous varieties and encouraging their exchange.

He said local seed varieties represented generations of farmers' knowledge and were vital for preserving agricultural biodiversity. Describing tribal communities and women farmers as important custodians of traditional seeds, he advocated combining indigenous knowledge with modern science, technology and better market linkages.

Appreciating the Odisha government's Shree Anna Abhiyan and the Centre's initiatives to promote millets, he said collective efforts to conserve traditional seeds, protect agricultural diversity and enhance farmers' incomes would contribute to Viksit Odisha 2036 and Viksit Bharat 2047.



Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, ICAR Director General Dr Mangi Lal Jat, MSSRF chairperson and former chief scientist Dr Soumya Swaminathan, and OUAT Vice-Chancellor Prof Pravat Kumar Roul also addressed the symposium.

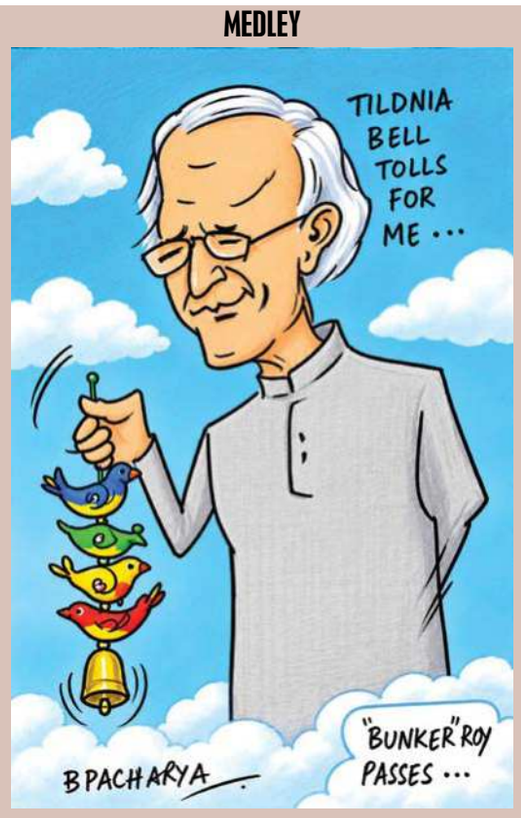
Yogi's comments on voter lists brings SIR back into spotlight

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.

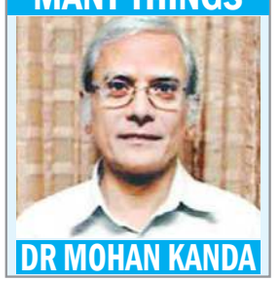
The Chief Minister's latest remarks may well be an indication that he is no longer willing to remain within the political straitjacket imposed by the party's central leadership. Whether this is a calculated attempt to assert his political autonomy or a reflection of genuine differences over the conduct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

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

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

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

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

Solution to November 11



Young Hans

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

Siddharth Shahani

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

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

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

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

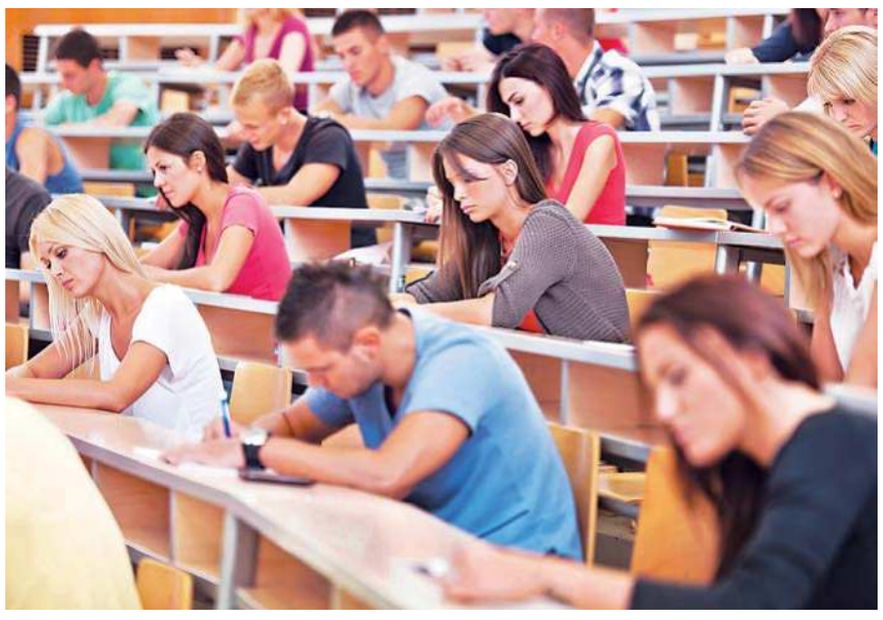
When asked what would matter most for their careers, 89% selected skills, 79% industry networks and 68% portfolios. These priorities are closely connected. Students want to develop capabilities, learn from professionals and build work that demonstrates what they can achieve. They are asking universities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

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



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

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



Implications for the university of the future

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

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

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

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

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

TODAY IS WORLD QUALITY DAY

How data and AI are reshaping quality management

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

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



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

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

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

IHM hosts culinary masterclass, students get to meet industry experts

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

EFLU student figures among 50 delegates for Yuva Sangam phase VII

Hans News Service

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





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

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 frontline bowlers, Pat Cummins, Starc, Josh Hazlewood and Nathan Lyon, had been part of discussions around ball-tampering. Khawaja was also asked directly whether current Test captain Cummins knew in advance about the use of sandpaper. he refused to answer them, insisting that he had merely told his "truth" in the book, drawing criticism.

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

Pandya moves to Pb for Rs 18 crore

Arshdeep heads to MI in high-profile IPL trade

NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

Shooter Niraj secures LA Olympics quota

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



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

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

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

'No discussion yet on increasing IPL teams'

KUSHAN SARKAR
NEW DELHI

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



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

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

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

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



Newly-elected FIDE president Timur Turlov

FIDE: India will continue to host major events

APARAJITA UPADHYAY
BUDAPEST

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

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

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

Pant, Gill in top 10 of ICC Test rankings

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



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

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

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

Purchase of 40 villas and cottages

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

JAIPUR

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



Gang-rape survivor thrown off roof in Bihar

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

2,450 kg chicken destroyed over safety violations

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

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

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

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

8 held after Tiger found dead in Maha reserve

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



The Hans India

Business

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

BIZ BRIEFS

HCLTech, PTC launches PLM

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

ICICI Life's rebranding

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

HDFC MF in pact with Network18

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

William Grant & Sons enters into AP

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

New CEO at Bondbazaar

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

Sensex, Nifty at near nine-month highs

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

Mumbai

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

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

Among the 30 Sensex firms, Mahindra & Mahindra



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

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

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

Layoffs set to hit Hyderabad, other tech centres

New Delhi

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

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

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



has not publicly confirmed these arrangements.

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

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

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

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

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

New Delhi

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SNVA Traveltech files updated IPO papers

Hans Business
Hyderabad

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

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

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

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

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

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

Moody's lifts India FY27 growth forecast to 7%

New Delhi

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

In its Global Macro Out-



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

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

Volatility dents equity fund inflows in October

Mumbai

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

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

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

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

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

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

EVs now default for government staff cars

New Delhi

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Kunal Shah charts new course for WhatsApp with AI, payments

New Delhi

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Entertainment



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- P Ravi Teja



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

- S Suhas



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Vishwadev Rachakonda excited about positive response for 'Dark Chocolate'



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

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

- P Ravi Teja

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



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

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

- S Suhas



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

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

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

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