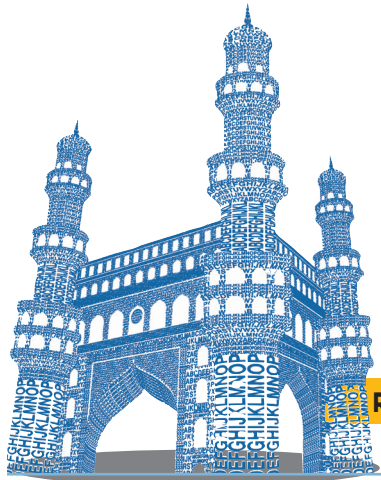




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Money Must Not Stop Education: Governor

Hyderabad, Sept 22: Financial constraints should not come in the way of students pursuing education, said Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla. Distributing scholarship cheques amounting to 5 lakh to 28 underprivileged students at a programme organised by the

Mahamana Malaviya Mission, Hyderabad under 'Mahamana Shiksha Seva Prakash' at Lok Bhavan here on Monday, the Governor said that the assistance extended to meritorious students would help them

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Green Channel Relief for Assault Victims

Revanth Reddy reviews implementation of SC/ST Atrocities Act; stresses humanitarian response and welfare measures for marginalised communities

TG Government responds to the incidents of sexual assault on humanitarian grounds

Numerous welfare schemes launched for Dalits, Advias and Tribal communities

Fine rice - nutritious food is provided to Dalit and tribal communities

HYDERABAD, SEP 22

Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy ordered the officials to release funds through 'Green Channel' to pay compensation to the victims of sexual assault from the SC and ST communities.

The Chief Minister held a meeting of the implementation of the State-level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee on the implementation of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 today. Perhaps, for the first time after the formation of



Revanth, Uttam Seek Water for Palamuru

Warangal, Adilabad Airports to Get Cultural Identity

the Telangana state, the State-level High-Power Vigilance and Monitoring Committee meeting on the Act was held under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister. The Committee reviewed the implementation of the Act, cases registered, investigation, trial proceedings, case resolution,

and the assistance and rehabilitation provided to victims till date.

In the meeting, CM Revanth Reddy asserted that the government was responding to the incidents of sexual assault on humanitarian grounds. Numerous welfare

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >



TG Wins Praise for Anti-Drug Drive

Eagle Force scores over 80% on seven parameters set by Centre

DGP Anand congratulates EAGLE Director & personnel... Protecting future generations from drugs is the priority: DGP

Hyderabad, September 22: Telangana's efforts to combat drug trafficking and substance abuse have received national recognition, with the State's Narcotics Bureau and Eagle Force securing over 80% marks on seven parameters prescribed by the Union Government for assessing the performance of Anti-Narcotics Task Forces (ANTFs). The Telangana Eagle Force Director Sandeep Sandilya received the national-level award on behalf of telangana police from Union Home Minister

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

OBTUSE ANGLE

by BP ACHARYA

AMIT SHAH TOPS THE POLL AS THE RESHUFFLE WAITS

BY C. SUBRAHMANYAM

A corridor poll has crowned Amit Shah the best minister in Modi's cabinet, with Vaishnaw and Jaishankar next in line. The ranking arrives after months of delayed reshuffle talk, presidential meetings and rumours of exits. The survey itself is small, online and drawn from a specialist readership, not the country. Even so, it flatters the government's two most visible former bureaucrats and its chief enforcer. The Prime Minister still has not shown his hand; the corridors keep whispering while the starting pistol stays holstered.

The real verdict will not come from surfers. It will come from the people.

Whispers from the corridors say Amit Shah is the people's choice. The real question is whether the corridors are listening. The latest "survey" from that indefatigable chronicler of the power corridors, Whispers in the Corridors, has declared Union Home Minister Amit Shah the best-performing minister in Narendra Modi's cabinet. Ashwini Vaishnaw and S. Jaishankar follow him like well-briefed aides. Nitin Gadkari, Piyush Goyal and Rajnath Singh trail further back. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, we are told, tied for mid-table mediocrity. Cabinet reshuffle, the first real one of Modi's third term with the President. Resignations.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >



"The people, the real ones, not the surfers, will eventually deliver their own verdict."

ASADUDDIN'S OCTOBER ULTIMATUM: "DON'T CRY AFTER THE VOTES ARE COUNTED"



BY C. SUBRAHMANYAM

Owaisi stands in Kanpur and slaps a date on the opposition: talk by 2 October or watch the BJP take a third term while you fight over the Muslim vote. He says no party can stop the BJP alone, and parties that harvest minority votes without schools, land or safety have no right to demand silence. The speech cuts Yogi's bulldozer raj and Akhilesh's Muzaffarnagar

record in the same breath. Imran Masood warns a handful of AIMIM seats could still gift the government to the BJP; SP points to its Congress tie-up and stays put. Bring Owaisi in and you risk polarisation; keep him out and you risk a split. After Gandhi Jayanti the excuses die.

The Hyderabad firebrand has thrown a deadline into the Uttar Pradesh dustbowl. Asaduddin Owaisi stood in Can-

tonment and told the opposition: join hands by 2 October or watch the BJP walk into a third term while you quarrel over who owns the Muslim vote.

THE DATE IS THE STORY. NOT THE ALLIANCE OFFER. THE DEADLINE.

This is not a polite invitation. It is a public dare. Owaisi's line was simple and brutal.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

BJP SLAMS DETENTIONS, DEMANDS WATER RELIEF FOR FARMERS

Jadcherla, Sept.22: BJP Telangana president N. Ramchander Rao alleged that the Congress government was resorting to arrests and detentions instead of addressing public grievances, after BJP leaders were stopped while proceeding to the Jurala Project. Speaking to the media at Jadcherla on Tuesday, Rao said farmers in the Jurala command area, the Godavari basin and areas covered by the Kalwakurthy Lift Irrigation Scheme were facing serious difficulties due to inadequate irrigation water. He questioned the government's decision to restrict water supply after

farmers had already sown crops and urged authorities to advise farmers on alternative crops whenever water availability was expected to be low.

Rao demanded implementation of a crop insurance scheme and alleged that the state government had failed to fulfil its promises on farmer welfare. He also sought details of payments made under various farmer-support schemes, including Rythu Bandhu and the procurement bonus. The BJP chief further raised the issue of compensation to farmers whose lands were

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

BRS FLAGS VOTER ROLL DEADLINE, SIR LAPSES

Hyderabad, Sept.22: BRS MLC Dasoju Sravan Kumar criticised the Election Commission's schedule for registration of graduate voters for the upcoming MLC elections and alleged lapses in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise in Telangana. A BRS delegation led by MLC L. Ramana met Chief Electoral Officer Sudarshan Reddy on Tuesday and submitted a representation on the issue. Sravan questioned the November 6 deadline for submitting Form-18, pointing out that the final electoral roll under the SIR process is scheduled to be published on November 20. He argued that voters could face difficulties in identifying polling stations, part numbers and other electoral details before the final roll is published.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

HARISH RAO ACCUSES CONG GOVT OF MISHANDLING TELANGANA POWER SUPPLY

Hyderabad, Sept.22: Former Minister and BRS Deputy Floor Leader T. Harish Rao on Tuesday alleged that the Congress government had failed to properly manage Telangana's power system, claiming that several thermal power plants were either operating below capacity or had stopped generation. Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan, Rao claimed that the Yadadri Thermal Power Plant was generating only around 400 MW against its installed capacity of 4,000 MW. He alleged that lower-grade G13 and G14 coal was being used instead of the



G10 or G11 grade required for the plant. Rao further claimed that power generation had stopped at the 800-MW Kothagudem and 540-MW

Bhadradri plants and questioned the reported coal shortage despite alleged reserves of around 40 lakh metric tonnes. He also criticised the government over the supply of 1,600 MW of power from NTPC, recalling that the previous BRS government had facilitated the first 800-MW phase. He questioned the decision to enter into a power purchase agreement with Rajasthan while, according to him, power generated by Singareni was available within Telangana.

Rao alleged that farmers were facing crop losses because of inadequate power supply

and claimed they were not receiving the promised seven to eight hours of electricity. On water issues, Rao alleged that Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu was diverting Krishna water from Srisaillam towards Kuppam, which he described as outside the river basin. He alleged that the Telangana government has failed to ensure adequate water for projects and farmers within the basin. Rao further alleged that the Congress government was failing to protect farmers' interests and demanded corrective measures on both power supply and irrigation.

CEMENTING DREAMS WITH SUPERIOR STRENGTH.

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3 TIMES BETTER

Revanth, Uttam Seek Water for Palamuru

Emergency releases sought from Upper Krishna system

Moves afoot to augment Jurla and protect standing crops

Karnataka is examining Telangana's request, says Uttam



HYDERABAD, Sep22 : Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy have requested the Karnataka government for release of water from the Upper Krishna system to help save standing crops facing water stress in the erstwhile Mahabubnagar district.

Telangana had taken up the matter with the Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar in view of the difficult water situation in the Krishna basin and the urgent requirement of farmers dependent on the Jurla system.

He said Karnataka had been requested to consider releasing some water from the Narayan-

pur reservoir so that additional inflows could reach Jurla and provide relief to farmers whose standing crops were under stress.

"We have explained the situation and requested them to release some water. They have said they will examine the availability and get back to us," Uttam Kumar Reddy said.

The Minister said the government was making every possible effort to protect standing crops, while at the same time ensuring adequate reserves for drinking-water requirements during the months ahead.

He pointed out that the present situation required careful management of the limited water available in the reservoirs. Any releases for irrigation, he said, had to be calibrated keeping in view the need to maintain drinking-water security if the dry conditions continued.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said the present crisis also underlined the importance of creating adequate storage infrastructure in the upper reaches of the Krishna within Telangana

Warangal, Adilabad Airports to Get Cultural Identity

CM Revanth Reddy holds a review of construction of the Airports today

Hyderabad, SEP 22: Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy emphasized that the upcoming airports at Warangal and Adilabad as well as the Telangana Bhavan in Delhi should be the symbols of Telangana's rich culture. The Chief Minister instructed the officials to conduct a study of the architectural and sculptural styles of the Kakatiya Kala Thoranam, Ramappa Temple, and Pillalamarri Temple—which embody the state's history and culture—and to incorporate the Telangana heritage in the new constructions.

On Tuesday, the CM held a review of the construction of

Adilabad and Warangal airports and the Telangana Bhavan in Delhi, here on Tuesday .The officials briefed the Chief Minister on various logistical issues at the airport sites including the shifting of power lines, diversion of streams and roads, and the relocation of BSNL lines and drinking water supply pipelines.

CM Revanth Reddy issued several directives to the officials on the construction of roads along the airport compound walls and connecting them to nearby district, state, and national highways. The Chief Minister cautioned numerous complications would arise if the departments execute the works in their purview without coordination with other wings. The Energy, R&B, Drinking Water Supply, and Irrigation departments were ordered to hold a meet-

ing with BSNL officials to ensure that the works proceed concurrently without any interruption.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy stressed that a comprehensive plan should be formulated taking into account both current and future needs during the execution of the projects. Diversion of the water bodies, shifting of the tanks and constructing them within or near the airport premises to facilitate the diversion was discussed in the meeting. The CM ordered the officials to develop a wider road network connecting the airports and nearby major highways.

Reviewing the designs for the Adilabad and Warangal airports and the Telangana Bhavan in Delhi , the Chief Minister suggested several modifications to elevate the

Telangana culture, sculpture, and architectural styles in the construction of the airports.

State Roads & Buildings (R&B) Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, MPs-Vem Narendar Reddy and Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, Government Whip -Birla Ailaiah, State Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju, CM's Principal Secretary N. Sridhar, R&B Special Chief Secretary Vikas Raj, Special Chief Secretary (Energy) Navin Mittal, Planning Department Secretary Dr. Gaurav Uppal, R&B Special Secretary Gangadhar, Power Grid ED Doman Yadav, TG-NPDCL CMD Varun Reddy, Air Commodore Rahul Shukla, Aviation Director Bharat Reddy, and Sthapathi Emani Shiva Nagireddy, among others, participated in the review meeting.

Blessings at Moosapet Ka Raja Ghan Vinayaka

Congress leaders offer special prayers at Moosapet and receive theertha prasadam



Medchal-Malkajgiri, September 22: Leaders of the Congress Party visited the famous Moosapet Ka Raja Ghan Vinayaka pandal in Moosapet on Thursday. The visit took place at the invitation of Thummu Venu, the President of the Congress B-Block in the Kukatapally Assembly constituency. During the program, Government Chief Whip and MLA-Council Member Patnam Mahender Reddy and Bhuvanagiri MP, Chamal Kiran Kumar Reddy offered special prayers to Lord Vinayaka. They received theertha prasadam (holy water and blessed food) as part of the devotional ceremony. After the prayers, the leaders participated in the program along with the organizers, Congress Party leaders, and party workers. The event was attended by many devotees and supporters, including Narasimha Yadav, Chinnu Pasha, Mallesh Yadav, Nayeem, Mohsin, Ameer, Zuber, and others. The visit brought a peaceful and spiritual atmosphere to the temple and strengthened the bond between political leaders and local devotees.

AMIT SHAH TOPS THE POLL AS THE RESHUFFLE WAITS

FROM PAGE 1

Internal party surveys. Faces from Punjab and Maharashtra. Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan facing the music over paper leaks. Sitharaman being moved sideways. Vaishnav being stripped of one of his many portfolios. The monsoon session came and went. Pitru Paksha approaches. Still nothing.

The people have spoken — or at least those "surfers" who bother to click on a bureaucracy website have spoken. Shah is efficient. Shah is effective. Shah is the clear winner. We have heard this song before. For months, the capital has hummed with rumours of a cabinet reshuffle. Meetings. Talk of new faces. And now this convenient poll appears, just as the Prime Minister prepares to fly to Varanasi and then sit with his ministers for a "chintan baithak." How neat. How timely.

ScoopX has never been impressed by polls conducted among the already converted. Two hundred-odd respondents on a specialist website do not constitute the verdict of India. They constitute the verdict of people who read Whispers in the Corridors. That is a different country.

Two hundred clicks on a bureaucracy site is not the voice of India. It is the voice of people who already read the corridors. Yet, even this modest exercise tells us



something. The two ministers who follow Shah, viz., Vaishnav and Jaishankar, are both former bureaucrats. The survey itself notes their popularity with a certain satisfaction. The professional class likes its own. The political class, meanwhile, continues to wait for the Prime Minister to decide who stays and who goes.

Shah's dominance in these rankings is no surprise. He has been the government's enforcer, its organiser, its most visible face after Modi himself. In earlier, more professional polls he has often finished first or second. Consistency is not the same as inevitability.

The real story is not that Shah won a straw poll. The real story is that after more than two years of Modi 3.0, the cabinet still looks like a work in progress, and the

man who runs it has not yet shown his hand. Rumours of delay now include talk of an internal BJP survey that found many MPs winning on Modi's name rather than their own performance. If true, that would explain the hesitation.

The gold medal has been awarded. The race has not been run.

We have seen this movie. A government talks of performance and delivery while the corridors whisper about caste arithmetic, state elections and who can be sacrificed without losing a vote bank. The survey gives Shah the gold medal. The Prime Minister still holds the starting pistol. The people, the real ones, not the surfers, will eventually deliver their own verdict. Until then, the corridors will keep whispering. And ScoopX will keep listening.

Ganesh pooja is celebrated at Madhuranagar



Hyderabad, Sep. 22: Lord Ganesh Pooja is celebrated at Madhuranagar Colony Grounds in Sainik Vihar of Neredmet, Medchal Malkajgiri District amidst devotees chanting Jai Bolo Ganesha. Under the guidance of Poojari Sai Sharma the pooja went well. BJP National Council Member K Geetha Murthy, Advocate Prasanna, Badrinath, Amulya Reddy, Narsimhlu, Colony President Srinivasa Reddy, BJP local leaders Padma valli, Nagraj, Paras Jain, Raji Reddy, Colony residents have attended. A huge 20 feet Ganesh idol is stalled at this venue



CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

Money Must Not Stop Education: Governor

FROM PAGE 1

build a better future. Addressing the gathering, Governor Shukla said Bharat Ratna Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya regarded education as a powerful instrument for nation-building. His life demonstrated that determination and perseverance could help overcome limitations and achieve one's goals, he said. The Governor advised the students not to view the scholarships merely as financial assistance, but as an opportunity to shape their lives and realise their aspirations. He urged them to set clear goals and contribute to their families, society and the nation. The Governor appreciated the educational and social service initiatives of the Mahamana Malaviya Mission and commended the donors and organisers

for extending support to students. He expressed the hope that the Mission would continue to expand its educational and service activities in accordance with the ideals of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya. The Governor also called upon the youth to remain vigilant against the harmful effects of drugs. Drug abuse not only damages individual lives but also weakens families, society and the nation, he said. He urged the youth to work collectively to address social challenges, guided by the principle of "Nation First." Governor's Special Chief Secretary M. Dana Kishore, President of the Mahamana Malaviya Mission P.C. Jain, General Secretary Dr. Veer Gopal Reddy, executive members of the Mission, students, parents and donors were among those present.

ASADUDDIN'S OCTOBER ULTIMATUM: "DON'T CRY AFTER THE VOTES ARE COUNTED"

FROM PAGE 1

No single party can stop the BJP. Parties that live off minority votes without delivering schools, land titles or safety have no moral right to demand silence. AIMIM will wait till Gandhi Jayanti. After that it will announce its partners or contest alone and let history keep the score. The speech was not only about Yogi Adityanath. It was also a slap at Akhilesh Yadav. "Your bhaiya came to power. How many riots took place?" Owaisi asked, dragging Muzaffarnagar 2013 back onto the stage; 50,000 displaced, homes lost, and a government that still claims to be the natural home of the community. He accused successive regimes of treating Muslims as a bank, not a constituency.

The BJP got its share too: cemetery demolished at dawn in Kanpur, madrasas under pressure, the politics of the bulldozer that does not spare the living or the dead. Owaisi's point was not subtle. If

you want to stop "Baba" from another term, stop talking in closed rooms and come to the table.

Congress MP Imran Masood answered from Delhi with the old caution. Muslims cannot defeat the BJP alone. A few AIMIM seats, he warned, could gift the government to the very force everyone claims to oppose. Hyderabad is not Uttar Pradesh. Leadership will decide. Translation: we hear you, we do not trust you, and we will not be rushed. Akhilesh Yadav's camp pointed to the existing SP-Congress arrangement and left it there. The door is not slammed. It is not open either.

This is the familiar Indian tragedy dressed as strategy. Every election the same argument returns: consolidation versus contamination.

Bring Owaisi in and you risk a polarisation narrative. Keep him out and you risk splitting the very votes you need. In 2022 AIMIM's

earlier experiment won nothing of consequence. In 2027 the party talks of a wider fight and an organisation spread across hundreds of seats. The numbers have not yet spoken. The fear already has.

October 2 is twelve days away. Either the opposition treats AIM-IM as a partner with dignity and a share of power, or Owaisi walks into the campaign as the man who warned them in public and was ignored. He has already written the epitaph he wants read if they refuse: "Don't cry after the elections."

Uttar Pradesh will decide whether that line was theatre or prophecy. The people who actually live with the consequences of these bargains, those without land, without schools, without a voice inside the Assembly, will pay the price either way.

The scoop is not that Owaisi wants an alliance. The scoop is that he has given the date. After 2 October, excuses expire.

BJP SLAMS DETENTIONS...

FROM PAGE 1

acquired for the Palamuru and Kalwakurthy irrigation projects. He demanded fair compensation, including consideration for wells, borewells and standing plantations, and sought parity with compensation provided for land acquisition in the Kodangal Industrial Estate. Rao said the BJP would continue to raise the concerns of farmers and displaced families.



BRS FLAGS VOTER ROLL..

FROM PAGE 1

According to Sravan, the CEO responded positively and assured the delegation that the matter would be referred to the Election Commission in Delhi, with efforts to seek an extension of the deadline. The BRS leader also alleged that inadequate public awareness about the SIR process could result in eligible voters being left out of the rolls. He criticised the state government over the participation levels in the revision exercise and urged the Election Commission to ensure a transparent and voter-friendly process.

Green Channel Relief...

FROM PAGE 1

schemes have also been launched to uplift the SC and ST communities, including providing fine rice and nutritious food to the Dalit and tribal groups in the state.

The Chief Minister highlighted that the government was moving forward inspired by the spirit of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and allocating funds in proportion to population demographics. Dalits constituted 31 per cent of the total beneficiaries of 'Indiramma' houses, and 17 per cent of 'Indiramma' houses were sanctioned to STs (Scheduled Tribes). The government was also providing breakfast to 27.5 lakh students across the state, from nursery to the 12th grade.

CM Revanth Reddy remembered that Indira Gandhi distributed assigned land titles (pattas) covering 25 lakh acres to the SC and STs who considered 'Indiramma' as their beloved

mother. The Chief Minister emphasised that education alone transforms lives and the problems cannot be resolved unless the marginalised communities are provided quality education. The CM appealed to the communities to encourage their children to pursue education and sports. "Let us work towards the development of these communities, rising above politics."

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Minister Adluri Laxman Kumar, Government Advisor Shabbir Ali, MPs -- Mallu Ravi, Balaram Naik, and Kadiyam Kavaya; MLAs Thota Laxmikantha Rao, Medipalli Satyam, Keervampalli Satyanarayana, Vemula Veeresham, Mandula Samuel, Matta Ragamayi, Vedma Bojju, and Murali Naik; MLC Gorati Venkanna; Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju and DGP CV Anand and Chairpersons and members of the SC/ST Commissions; and senior officials were present in the meeting.

TG Wins Praise for Anti-Drug Drive

FROM PAGE 1

Amit Shah at the third National Conference of Anti-Narcotics Task Force Heads, being held in New Delhi on Tuesday, September 22 (22& 23rd) under the aegis of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).

The conference has brought together senior officers from across the country to discuss coordinated strategies to combat drug trafficking, strengthen inter-agency cooperation and enhance the country's anti-narcotics framework.

Seven parameters

The performance of the State ANTfs was assessed on seven key parameters — intelligence operations; control of precursors and synthetic drugs; prosecution; demand

and harm reduction; coordination and capacity building; research and analysis; and administration and logistics. Telangana scored more than 80% in the assessment. As part of strengthening prosecution, the State has established dedicated support mechanisms covering legal scrutiny, judicial analysis, witness protection and prosecution support.

DGP's focus on district-level action

DGP C.V. Anand had been regularly reviewing the functioning of the Eagle Force and directing district Superintendents of Police and unit officers to accord priority to combating drug trafficking and substance abuse. During his district visits and review meetings, the DGP emphasised intelligence

gathering, investigation of narcotics cases, action against drug networks and effective prosecution. The coordinated efforts of the Eagle Force and district police units contributed to the State's performance in the national assessment. The DGP congratulated Eagle Force Director Sandeep Shandilya and the officers and personnel for their efforts in securing the national recognition.

Protecting future generations from drugs is the priority: DGP

Mr. Anand said that protecting future generations from the impact of drugs remained a key objective of the Telangana Government and the Police Department. He stressed the need for sustained and coordinated efforts to prevent the spread of

narcotic substances, particularly among young people, and said the Police Department would continue to strengthen its enforcement and preventive mechanisms. The DGP appreciated the coordinated efforts of the Eagle Force, district police units and other departments in meeting the parameters laid down by the Union Government.

With this, Telangana Police has reached first place in police two top priority areas - cyber crime performance and the anti-narcotics performance. Telangana police now trying to improve ranking in other areas where police have fallen behind like implementation of national criminal laws / ICJS, CCTNS through a special drive and focus said by DGP.



‘My Gift’ Felicitates Army Soldiers

HYDERABAD

With the inspiring motto, “Be a mirror to reflect, be a lamp to illuminate,” the youth organisation ‘My Gift’ felicitated talented Army soldiers at a special programme held in Hyderabad.

With the noble vision of “Let everyone live, let everyone grow,” multilingual poet, writer and author Dr. Peruka Raju founded ‘My Gift’ in the year 2000 in his native village, with the aim of bringing meaningful change to remote and underserved areas. What began as a humble service initiative in a remote village has today spread its spirit across the country, carrying with it the values of service and patriotism.

As part of the initiative, Dr. Peruka Raju provided essential furniture to the school in his native village and arranged special teachers to address the shortage of teaching staff. These efforts contributed to remarkable Class X results, earning recognition in the erstwhile united Karimnagar district. Whenever he returned to his village on leave, he also spent time guiding students not only in academics but in social awareness and human values.

Over the years, ‘My Gift’ has undertaken several service-oriented activities, including blood-group identification camps, distribution of clothes to



the needy, cash incentives and encouragement awards for high-achieving Class X students, talent competitions and literary programmes. The organisation also recognises distinguished contributions to literature by presenting the ‘My Gift Sahiti Puraskaram’ every year.

Continuing this tradition of encouragement, Dr. Peruka Raju, the founder and driving force behind ‘My Gift’, felicitated Army soldiers who have demonstrated dedication and excellence in their respective fields

while serving the nation. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Raju said, “Every person should strive to do something meaningful for society. A tree gives its shade and fruit to others; a river does not preserve its waters for itself. Life becomes truly meaningful when we learn to live for others like trees and rivers. A soldier who stands guard over the nation is a true embodiment of patriotism.”

The soldiers expressed their happiness and gratitude on being honoured. Dr. Raju also encouraged everyone to

read his forthcoming English poetry collection, ‘All Is Well’. His address in English on the occasion was warmly appreciated by those present.

The programme was attended by personnel from different states, including Pradeep Kumar Rajput, Shravan Kumar Bhatt, Perumal, Heera, Dheeraj, Ajay, Aman, Nirmal, Gautam, Shiva, Prabhat, Harinder, Kaushal, Arya and Snehit, among others.

“To recognise talent is encouragement to share encouragement is the greatest gift.”

CM expresses grief over Adilabad RIMS fire, orders inquiry

HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Tuesday expressed deep grief over a fatal fire accident in the Special Newborn Care Unit (SNCU) at the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) in Adilabad, which claimed the lives of two infants. Extending his condolences to the bereaved families, the Chief Minister called the incident “extremely painful.” He directed health authorities to ensure the highest standard of medical care for the surviving children and ordered a continuous monitor-

ing of their condition. Revanth Reddy instituted a formal inquiry into the cause of the blaze, asking a comprehensive report from officials. He further issued strict instructions to audit and bolster fire safety protocols across all government hospitals statewide to prevent future tragedies.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM DIVISION
Commercial Department
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Thiruvananthapuram Division, Southern Railway, invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from eligible entities/prospective Developers for the **Development, Operation and Management of Cargo Related Facility (CRF)** on Railway land at the identified stations/sites (Annexure-V) in Thiruvananthapuram Division, Southern Railway, in accordance with the Master Circular 2026 on “Rail Based Logistics through Development of Gati-Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminals (GCT) and Cargo Related Facilities (CRF)”.

EOI No.	V/C.37/CRF/EOI/2026
Date of Issue	21.09.2026
Nature of Work	Development, Operation and Management of Cargo Related Facility (CRF) on Railway land, on License basis, for an indicative tenure of 25 years
Identified Stations/Sites	Angamali (AFK) and Karukutty (KUC)
Eligible Applicants	Individuals/Sole Proprietorships, Partnership Firms, Companies, JV/Consortium, Registered Societies/Trusts, HUFs, LLPs or other legal entities engaged in Logistics, Manufacturing, Transportation, Ports, Mining or e-Commerce, with minimum 2 years' relevant experience
Last Date & Time for Submission of EOI	11.10.2026 (as per date and time specified in the EOI document)
Mode of Submission	By e-mail at srdcm@tvc.railnet.gov.in , in the format prescribed in the EOI document
Full EOI Document Available At	Southern Railway website, or on request by e-mail at srdcm@tvc.railnet.gov.in

Note: This is only a brief advertisement notice. Prospective Applicants are advised to refer to the detailed EOI document, available as above, for complete terms, conditions, eligibility criteria and the prescribed formats, before submitting their response. This EOI does not constitute an offer, and the Railway reserves the right to accept or reject any or all responses, or to withdraw/amend/cancel this EOI, without assigning any reason, at its sole discretion.

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MGU students attend JET programme at OU



HYDERABAD

Fourteen students of the M.A. English III Semester at Mahatma Gandhi University, Nalgonda, attended a seminar ‘Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme’ organised jointly by the International Affairs Cell and Department of English of Osmania University in association with the Embassy of Japan. The students were accompanied by their teacher, Manideep. As part of the programme, First Secretary of the Embassy of Japan, Kobayashi Takashi, delivered a presentation on employment opportunities in Japan through the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme. The session introduced the students to the scope of the JET Programme and the opportunities



it offers for teaching and cultural exchange in Japan. The visit provided the students with an opportunity to learn about international career prospects and strengthen their understanding of Japanese language and culture. Later Kobayashi Takashi was felicitated by the Director of International Affairs of Osmania University Prof B Vijaya along with the Head, OU Department of English J Savithri.

Heavy Rain in Hyderabad - CM Revanth Reddy puts entire administration on alert



HYDERABAD

Following heavy rain in Hyderabad, honourable Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy directed the official machinery to remain alert.

The Chief Minister instructed the Commissioners of the three Municipal Corporations in the greater Hyderabad region, HYDRABAD and police commissioners to work in coordination and monitor the situation constantly.

The Civic authorities were ordered to take immediate measures to prevent water logging on main roads, junctions and residential colonies. Required personnel and machinery should be deployed promptly in water-stagnant areas.

The CM also instructed the En-

ergy department to ensure there are no power outages. The Traffic Police wing was directed to take proactive measures to prevent traffic congestion.

CM Revanth Reddy suggested paying special attention to low-lying areas and colonies prone to flooding. Special teams should be pressed into service to clear the obstructions to the flow of water in drains and storm-water channels. Rescue teams will remain ready for immediate response during emergencies, and control rooms will remain vigilant. The Chief Minister emphasized that officials must be available on the ground to monitor the situation and take all necessary measures to ensure the public does not face any inconvenience.



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SHORT
TAKES

Rajanna Youth celebrates its 34th Anniversary with grand puja for 24-foot Ganesha

RAJANNA SIRCILLA: A host of dignitaries on Tuesday attended a special puja at Siddhi Buddhi Vinayaka installed by the Rajanna Youth (RYC) at Sri Baddi Pochamma Street in Venulawada town. Among those present was the Executive Officer of Sri Rajarajeshwara Swamy Devasthanam Ramadevi, who joined in offering prayers to the majestic 24-foot Ganesha idol, which has been installed to celebrate the organization's 34th anniversary. Karimnagar ACP Venkata Swamy, accompanied by his family, also participated in the sacred event. The impressive idol has captivated many devotees. Following the rituals, members of Rajanna Youth honoured the guests with shawls and distributed prasad. A significant turnout of Rajanna Youth representatives and devotees filled the gathering, making the occasion truly memorable.

Crores Lost in Investment Fraud; Three Arrested

- Lured investors with promises of double and triple returns
- Massive collections through network-chain model; accused held in UP and brought to Karimnagar on transit warrant

KARIMNAGAR

Karimnagar police have cracked a major investment fraud case in which investors were allegedly lured with promises of doubling and tripling their money within a short period and crores of rupees were collected before payments were stopped. Three persons, including the alleged prime accused, have been arrested in connection with investment schemes operated in the name of Shreya Infra and Marketing Private Limited. The arrested persons have been identified as Hemant Kumar Rai, Rajesh Kumar and Brijesh Kumar Mishra. A special police team apprehended the accused in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, and brought them to Karimnagar on a transit warrant. Lured Investors with High Returns According to the police investigation, the accused established the company



in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, in 2020 and introduced various investment schemes. They allegedly attracted investors by promising huge returns within a short period. Police said the accused followed a network-chain model, using money collected from new investors to make payments to earlier investors, thereby attracting more people into the schemes. Agents Used to Mobilise Investments The accused allegedly appointed agents in Karimnagar district, across Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and other States to mobilise investments on a large scale. While payments were reportedly made to investors for some time, the accused allegedly stopped making payments from May 2024. As inves-

tors failed to recover their money, they approached the police. Probe Intensified After Complaint Based on a complaint lodged by Guguloth Shivaraju, a case was registered at Karimnagar I Town Police Station. On the directions of Police Commissioner Goush Alam, the case was transferred to the CCS, Karimnagar, for investigation. A special team led by CCS Inspector R. Prakash Goud took up the investigation and pursued the case across State borders. Accused Held in Lucknow As part of the investigation, the special police team travelled to Uttar Pradesh. On the night of September 18, the team apprehended Hemant

Kumar Rai, Rajesh Kumar and Brijesh Kumar Mishra from their residences in Lucknow. Police also seized mobile phones allegedly used in connection with the offence. The accused were produced before the Chief Judicial Magistrate in Lucknow and subsequently brought to Karimnagar on a transit warrant. Police Appeal to Other Victims Police Commissioner Goush Alam appreciated CCS Inspector R. Prakash Goud, SI D. Mahipal Reddy and the police personnel involved in cracking the case. Police appealed to anyone who may have been cheated through the investment scheme to approach the nearest police station or CCS Karimnagar. Further investigation into the case is underway.

Veterans call for national action plan to build "Viksit Bharat 2047"

HYDERABAD

Veterans and patriotic citizens from across the country have called for converting the experience, discipline and spirit of service of ex-servicemen into a measurable national action programme for achieving the goal of "Viksit Bharat 2047". The call was made at the 19th National Convention of the Rashtriya Sainik Sanstha, held at Kalam Auditorium, MCEME, Secunderabad, on Monday. The convention was held on the theme "Viksit Bharat 2047: Role of Veterans and Patriotic Citizens". Governor of Telangana Shiv Pratap Shukla, who attended the inaugural session as chief guest, stressed the importance of service and nation-building. Around 100 delegates from various states, including veterans, Veer Naris, parents of fallen soldiers, serving officers, educators and patriotic citizens, participated. Major General N Srinivas Rao (Retd), National Vice President, Dakshin Bharat, and State President, Telangana, hosted the convention and presented a memento to the Governor. The convention discussed youth mentoring and skilling, national security, civil-defence awareness, cyber preparedness, Swadeshi and entrepreneurship, Nari Shakti, community health, fitness, disaster response, environmental protection and preservation of India's cultural and military heritage. The delegates unanimously adopted the Hyderabad Declaration, committing themselves to time-bound and measurable action in areas including self-reliance, national security, youth mentoring, women's participation, social justice, disaster preparedness, fitness, environmental responsibility and heritage preservation. The Declaration also appealed



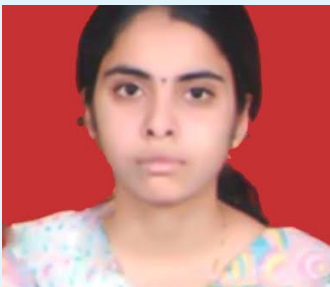
to the Centre to consider a National Veterans Policy 2047 in three stages - Veteran Welfare, Veteran Empowerment and Veteran Nation-Building. It proposed a National Veteran Digital Gateway, Talent Bank and Veteran National Service Programme. The Sanstha said the implementation of the Declaration would be reviewed annually at national, zonal, State and district levels. Its guiding vision is "Every Veteran - A Continuing Contributor to Viksit Bharat 2047". The Telangana unit highlighted its public service initiatives, including medical camps, eye check-ups, medicine distribution, motivational programmes and activities promoting patriotism among schoolchildren. Other important dignitaries who attended included Acharya (Dr) Lokesh Muni, Founder, World Peace Center; Lt Gen Neeraj Varshney, AVSM, VSM, Commandant, MCEME; Air Marshal Rahul Bhasin, VM, Commandant, Air Force Academy, Hyderabad; Shri Narendra Ram Nambula, Founder, Lifespan Industries; Col Tejendra Pal Tyagi, VrC, National President, Rashtriya Sainik Sanstha; Prof (Dr) Neelam Pawar; Maj Gen M L Aswal, National Vice President, North India; Smt Anuradha Rao, President, Mahila Wing, Dakshin Bharat; Lt Gen K Ravi Prasad, PVSM, VSM (Retd); Lt Gen K Surendra Nath, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd), former GOC-in-C; and Dr Nisheeta Dixit.

GITAM Awards Ph.D. for Interdisciplinary Research on Wireless Sensor Networks

HYDERABAD

GITAM Deemed to be University proudly congratulates Dr. Kallakunta Suneela on the successful completion of her Ph.D. in Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE). Her doctoral research, titled "Optimization of Wireless Sensor Networks Through Key Node Identification Using Graph Theory

Techniques with an Emphasis on Centrality Measures," was carried out under the guidance of Dr. A. Sreenivas, Department of Electrical, Electronics and Communication Engineering, GITAM School of Core Engineering. The interdisciplinary research integrates graph theory, statistics, and communication engineering to enhance the energy efficiency, reliability,



resilience, and data transmission capabilities of wireless sensor networks. The research has potential applications in areas such as environmental monitoring, precision agriculture, industrial automation, healthcare, disaster management, and defence surveillance. During her doctoral journey, Dr. Suneela published 10 research papers and presented her research at

international conferences hosted by IIT Hyderabad and BITS Pilani, Hyderabad Campus. GITAM leadership, faculty members, research scholars, colleagues, friends, and family members extended their heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Suneela on this significant academic achievement and wished her continued success in her research and professional endeavours.

HUMANITY ABOVE ALL

Following in His Father's Footsteps Ram Reddy Sarvotham Reddy

SURYAPET

Former minister Ram Reddy Damodar Reddy has always placed humanity above politics and stood by people in times of distress. Continuing this family tradition, his son and AICC member Ram Reddy Sarvotham Reddy has once again demonstrated the same humanitarian values. Former minister Ram Reddy Damodar Reddy gave special importance to humanity throughout his political career. Whenever he learned that a person he knew had passed away, regardless of their caste or religion, he would immediately visit their home, pay his respects to the deceased, and console the bereaved family. He would also participate in the funeral and carry the bier, demonstrating that humanity transcends political differences. Leaders across party lines



often acknowledged and appreciated this aspect of his character. Recently, his son and AICC member Ram Reddy Sarvotham Reddy followed the same path and continued his father's humanitarian legacy. Chenchala Srinivas, Congress party Working President from the district headquarters, passed away on Tuesday following illness. Upon learning of his death, Ram Reddy Sarvotham Reddy, accompanied by other leaders, immediately reached his residence, paid his respects to the deceased, and consoled the family members. He later participated in the funeral and personally carried

the bier. State leader Pothu Bhaskar also carried the bier alongside him. While there are instances where even some relatives hesitate to carry the bier, the sight of senior political leaders personally carrying it and participating in the funeral deeply moved the family members, relatives, friends, and political leaders present. Many people at the gathering discussed how Sarvotham Reddy is continuing the humanitarian path shown by his father and standing by people in their joys and sorrows, irrespective of political differences. On the occasion, some people became emotional and were moved to tears.

ACB books DA case against NIMS Addl Medical Supt Nori Bhasker

HYDERABAD

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has registered a disproportionate assets (DA) case against Nori Lakshmi Bhasker, Additional Medical Superintendent at Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS), Hyderabad, alleging that he amassed assets disproportionate to his known sources of income by indulging in corrupt practices and dubious means during his service. The case was registered under Sections 13(1)(b) and 13(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, as amended in 2018. Based on the allegations, ACB officials conducted searches on Tuesday at Bhasker's residence in Erragadda and seven other locations linked to his relatives, friends, alleged benamis and associates. According to the ACB, the searches led to the identification of movable and immovable assets valued at approximately Rs.6.13 crore. These include a four-bedroom flat in a high-rise gated community, two three-bedroom flats in Kukatpally, five two-bedroom flats in Manikonda, Petbasheerabad and Kukatpally, and four open plots at Yadadri, Nandigama and



Shamirpet. An 800 square-yard plot in Visakhapatnam was also identified. The agency further found bank balances of Rs.41 lakh, post office deposits of Rs.12 lakh, investments of Rs.35 lakh in private financial institutions and mutual fund investments of Rs.29.55 lakh. Gold ornaments weighing around 517.8 grams were also seized / identified during the searches.

Among the vehicles reportedly linked to the officer are a Jaguar, Audi and Tata Nexon, besides four two-wheelers, including Royal Enfield, Vespa, Activa and Yamaha vehicles. Electronic gadgets worth around Rs.5 lakh were also found. The ACB further alleged that Bhasker had invested Rs.1.30 crore in the purchase of a flat that was under dispute before



the Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT), besides allegedly lending around Rs.1.33 crore to various individuals as hand loans. The agency said the market value of the movable and immovable properties could be considerably higher than their document values. Further verification of additional assets is continuing and the case is under investigation, the ACB said.

Govt to develop Nalgonda as smart city: Komatireddy

NALGONDA

Minister for Roads & Buildings and Cinematography Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on Tuesday said the government would provide all necessary facilities in Nalgonda Municipal Corporation and develop it as a smart city, with efforts also being made to secure the Best Corporation Award. The Minister inaugurated two wetting machines, procured at a cost of Rs.1.01 crore for sanitation purposes in Nalgonda Municipal Corporation. The machines were inaugurated at IndirabHAVan, his camp office in the Nalgonda district headquarters. Speaking to media persons on the occasion, Komatireddy said Nalgonda Municipal Corporation had recently received the Swachh Award and efforts were underway to provide comprehensive civic services



to people in the newly formed corporation. He said tenders had been invited at an estimated cost of Rs.83 crore to provide 24-hour drinking water supply to residents. The Minister said 63 km of CC roads had been laid in the corporation using SDF funds and roads and drainage facilities would be developed in the remaining divisions. He added that the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) would

be completed within six months. Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said all necessary funds would be mobilised for the development of Nalgonda Municipal Corporation and expressed confidence that it would secure the Best Corporation Award. He also said an Outer Ring Road was being constructed around Nalgonda Municipal Corporation at a cost of Rs.900 crore, along with drainage and STP works.

AR, VR tech to add new dimension to Statue of Equality experience

HYDERABAD

Technology firm 4Point2 Technologies has launched an immersive digital initiative at the Statue of Equality, combining augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR), mixed reality (MR) and extended reality (XR) with heritage and storytelling. The initiative, launched on Tuesday in the presence of His Holiness Tridandi Chinna Jeeyar Swamiji as chief guest, seeks to make visits to the spiritual and cultural destination more interactive and informative, particularly for younger audiences. The company has developed AR-based products that combine merchandise with digital storytelling, enabling visitors to explore India's traditional folklore, history and cultural narratives through their personal devices. The Statue of Equality, dedicated to 11th-century saint and philosopher Sri Ramanujacharya, stands 216 feet tall and forms the centre piece of a larger spiritual complex featuring the 108 Divya Desams and the Swarna Ramanuja deity. 4Point2 Technologies has also introduced a VR Darshan experience, offering immersive 360-degree views



of actual temple rituals, including Abhishekam, Alan-karam and Aarthi. The company said the visuals were captured from real temple environments and rituals without VFX or CGI. K. Shiva Kumar, Chairman, MD and Founder of 4Point2 Technologies, said technology could add a layer of discovery to tourism by helping visitors understand

the stories behind heritage destinations. "Our objective is not to replace the physical experience. It is to enhance it", he said. The company said the initiative could serve as a model for using emerging technologies to interpret India's monuments, temples, museums and other heritage destinations for digitally engaged visitors.

Rao conveyed condolences to the bereaved families and alleged that lapses in electrical safety and maintenance of critical equipment, including air-conditioners, may have contributed to the incident. He urged the state government to ensure advanced medical care for the children who survived the fire and are undergoing treatment elsewhere. He also demanded strict action against the concerned officials and hospital management if negligence is established. Rao called for immediate fire and safety audits of all government hospitals across Telangana and sought adequate financial assistance for the affected families.

RIMS FIRE: T-BJP CHIEF SEEKS PROBE, ACTION AGAINST THOSE RESPONSIBLE

HYDERABAD

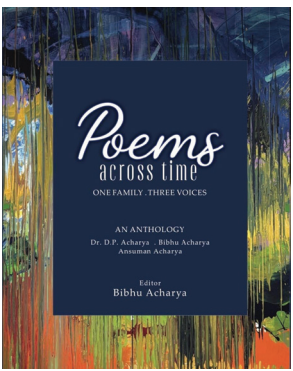
BJP Telangana president N. Ramchander Rao on Tuesday expressed shock over the fire at the NICU of RIMS Hospital in Adilabad that claimed the lives of two newborns and demanded a high-level inquiry into the tragedy. Rao conveyed condolences to the bereaved families and alleged that lapses in electrical safety and maintenance of critical equipment, including air-conditioners, may have contributed to the incident. He urged the state government to ensure advanced medical care for the children who survived the fire and are undergoing treatment elsewhere. He also demanded strict action against the concerned officials and hospital management if negligence is established. Rao called for immediate fire and safety audits of all government hospitals across Telangana and sought adequate financial assistance for the affected families.

Poems Across Time: one family, Three voices

Poems Across Time" is a collection of poems of three poets, two belong to one generation and the third belonging to the next-all from one family. While all three poets explore transforming personal condition into universal reflections, they differ significantly in emphasis. DP Acharya's poems are while having traces of romanticism, he comes out as a spiritual lyricist exploring love, separation, and transcendence. Bibhu's poems are more philosophical and reflective, concerned with the duty of professional life, aging, and unrealised ambition, and compromises in public life. Anshuman's is a younger voice with sensibility of a globe trotter. His poems combine travel, exile, ambition, self-discovery and gratitude. Together they form two generation's and three individual's introspection; romantic, existential and self -transformative. Debi Acharya's poems are an intimate journey through love, longing, memory, and spiritual transcendence. 'In

Edited by Bibhu Acharya

Good Night,' 'The Void Ahead' and 'Telepathy', the telephone emerges as a poignant metaphor for connection across distance, simultaneously sustaining intimacy and intensifying loneliness. Alongside this romantic perception runs a metaphysical quest. 'The Ocean', 'The Awakening' and 'Om Tat sat' invoke cosmic imagery and spiritual aspiration. One spots a distinctive emotional and philosophical texture that emerges from the movement between earthly desire and transcendental longing. The imagery is evocative : tears become dew, dreams blossom into roses, et cetera. The strength of these poem lies in emotional candour. Love is both a wound and a revelation here because this is poetry of enduring attachment. How riveting is" your simple presence/ like the/ upcoming sun/in the eastern Sky."? Bibhu Acharya's poems are about the hiatus between aspiration and resignation.



tion. These poems are marked by emotional authenticity and reflective depth. The tragic awakening associated with maturity is encapsulated in terse unadorned lines below; 'By the time you Grow up into A man of the world The man in you is dead.' In" Every day, Friday" , Christ's crucifixion become a metaphor for daily prosecution of conscience and truth. 'Every time, your henchman

Nail me to the cross A muffled sigh goes up From someone somewhere.' The psychological cost of modern professional life is so poignantly captured in 'Haiku of hypertension' where decades of frustration, buried creativity and bureaucratic absurdity is compressed into sharp, memorable images. The litany like cadence of ' For my son' invest personal regret with spiritual dignity. These poems. are an autobiography of conscience. They are witness to loss, dreams, aging, hopes, and stubborn resilience of human spirit. They are acknowledgements of the existence through a moral seriousness. "Mundane to Monumental' is a celebration of growth. What comes out clearly is a global citizen, thinking and feeling individual wrestling with the complexities of modern life. The poems explore

displacement. There is emotional depth in the exploration of the home and the exile, India and West, memory and desire. But the outlook which finally emerges favours gratitude over despair and action over resignation. The poems in the collection are marked by earnestness. They embrace vulnerability without trying to dazzle. The poet remains intensely present to experience. The external journey invariably becomes an inner one too. They are poems of hope, redemption, and renewal. 'Forget the past Enjoy today And if you've got will You'll find a way'(Scene iv) 'An open land, and open mind, they say With solitude plentiful to confide in.(Icelandic These poems are a lyrical chronicle of becoming. The restless spirit navigates exile, love, ambition, uncertainty, and self discovery. Ansuman's poems, transform personal experience into meditation on

belonging and purpose. 'Out of own soul tunnel, I'll rise and rebound Shine!" These are poems of discovery and renewal of a displaced but reconciled poet. Finally they are poems of quiet hope. This enticingly harmonious collection is like a rich contrapuntal bouquet of roses, blue Iris, and chrysanthemums. This is a book in which red Roses burn at the heart, blue Irises rise like quiet thoughts and the chrysanthemums opening around them in generous profusion. There is an unmissable interplay of difference rather than uniformity among three poets' creation. Readers are recommended this volume to enjoy the different cadence of human struggle and their acceptance. Visual Quest p 160 (paper back) ₹ 299 (available on Amazon) - Review by Dr Satya Mohanty IAS retd , author and poet , former Secretary Govt of India

Congress Enjoying 'Royal Luxuries' with Public Money – Revanth's Brand of 'Tax Loot'!

SHOCKING facts exposed in Telangana through RTI!
HYDERABAD
While Hyderabad is struggling with pothole-ridden roads and traffic problems, our MLAs and MLCs are allegedly enjoying undue benefits. MLAs and MLCs receive salaries and benefits amounting to ₹2.5 lakh to ₹3 lakh per month. However, only ₹20,000 to ₹40,000 is shown as salary, while the remaining amount is received in the form of allowances, on which they reportedly pay zero tax.\There are as many as six Whips in the Telangana government. Their salary is shown as only ₹20,000 on paper, but they reportedly receive benefits of nearly ₹4 lakh per month. All of them also enjoy Cabinet Minister rank. Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar's salary is shown as ₹41,000, while he receives tax-free allowances of up to ₹3.10 lakh. His total take-home amount is ₹3.51 lakh, but the tax payable is reportedly zero. What is even more shocking is that the government itself pays the income tax of the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister and ministers using public money. An ordinary citizen, however, has to pay their own taxes. Political parties have Whips, but having Whips in governments is an unusual practice that is not seen elsewhere. Despite repeated demands that ministers should pay their own taxes in order to enhance public respect for the system, the government has not paid attention. The matter has now reached the High Court. Is this what Congress calls people's governance? Does public governance mean that leaders enjoy royal luxuries with the taxes paid by the people?

Tamil Nadu Hostels May Serve Beef on Students' Demand

Tamil Nadu Minister Vanni Arasu said a section of government hostel students had sought beef on the menu, citing the high cost of mutton. He said a decision would be taken after discussions with officials. Puthiya Tamilagam chief K Krishnasamy opposed the proposal and demanded that the statement be withdrawn.



Tamil Nadu Minister for Social Justice Vanni Arasu on Friday said some students had asked for beef to be added to the menu in government hostels, and that a decision would be taken after discussions with officials. He said the request came from a section of hostellers, while views on the issue differed among students. Speaking to reporters after reviewing facilities at the M C Raja Social Justice Hostel in Saidapet, Arasu said the department had been making changes to hostel menus based on student feedback. He also said another part of the existing menu had already been revised, with non-vegetarian options and a weekly biryani service in place.

Arasu said several students from rural backgrounds had sought the inclusion of beef along with the non-vegetarian items already being served. "Currently, mutton and chicken items are served and biryani will be served on Mondays in government hostels," he said. He added, "However, a section of students coming from rural areas pointed out that mutton remains relatively expensive, which was not consumed by them, and requested that beef be added to the menu." He said, "Since opinions vary among hostellers, a decision will be taken after consulting with officials concerned." The minister also said the department had been reforming hostel menu item by item based on student feedback. He said

dishes such as upma and semiya kichadi had been removed and replaced with breakfast items such as idli and dosa. Meanwhile, Puthiya Tamilagam founder and president Dr K Krishnasamy strongly objected to the minister's statement on the possible inclusion of beef in hostel menus. He warned that such a decision would have "serious consequences" and said hostellers needed balanced nutrition that included proteins and essential vitamins. Calling the proposal unacceptable, Krishnasamy demanded that the statement be withdrawn immediately. The issue, raised by a section of students and opposed by the PT leader, is now set to be discussed by the government with the officials concerned before any decision is taken.

Jagan to Meet Governor Over Attacks on YSRCP Cadres

AMARAVATI

Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party President YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has decided to meet Governor S. Abdul Nazeer to complain about the alleged attack by the TDP on the party leaders protesting at the SAAP office in Vijayawada. Jagan Mohan Reddy will meet the Governor on Wednesday and will submit a complaint regarding the attack on YSRCP leaders near the SAAP office. He will also seek a CBI investigation into the alleged irregularities in DSC recruitment. YS Jagan on Tuesday held a meeting with senior party leaders and reviewed the situation after the violence during Monday's protest at the Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP) office in Vijayawada. The leaders stated that some police personnel supported the plan of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Education Minister Nara Lokesh. YS Jagan said the party had taken the incident very seriously and would pursue the matter through all constitutional and legal means. He said Chandrababu Naidu and Lokesh had been exposed in the DSC scam and were unable to face the demand for a CBI inquiry. Whenever YSRCP exposed their corruption and scams, they were resorting to attacks and



intimidation, he said. "The peaceful rallies organised by YSRCP once again brought the DSC scam into public focus. To divert attention from the issue, Chandrababu and Lokesh deployed their goons. It is not a 'Yuvagalam team'; it is a 'rowdy force' being used wherever the government's corruption, scams and atrocities are questioned," YS Jagan said. He alleged that an organised attempt was made to create violence during a peaceful programme. The attackers snatched lathis from the police and pelted stones at YSRCP workers. He said Chandrababu had planned the attack from Kuppam and that the threatening remarks made at the Kuppam public meeting were evidence of the conspiracy. YS Jagan stated that such groups were being encouraged across the State to attack and intimidate anyone questioning the government. Andhra Pradesh had been pushed into a situation worse than "Jungle Raj," he remarked. Despite suffering injuries,

YSRCP leaders and workers exercised great restraint. However, instead of registering cases against the attackers, the police booked cases against YSRCP members and allowed the alleged assailants to walk free, he said. "This has become their standard modus operandi. They attack our people, register cases against the victims and then use the yellow media to spread false propaganda against us. The same groups were involved in several earlier attacks on YSRCP. There is clear evidence before the police, but no action has been taken," Jagan said. He warned that the party would not remain silent if the police, acting under pressure from Chandrababu Naidu, continued to misuse the law. The complaints submitted by YSRCP leaders must be acted upon immediately. Cases should also be registered against Chandrababu Naidu and Nara Lokesh for allegedly sending the groups responsible for the attack, he demanded. "Your threats cannot stop our fight against the DSC scam. Your attacks cannot force us to retreat. YSRCP will continue to fight on behalf of the people and stand firmly with honest and deserving candidates. We will continue to question the government until the DSC recruitment process is handed over to the CBI," YS Jagan asserted.



Odisha: BJD youth, student wings protest over textbook errors

BHUBANESWAR

The Biju Yuva Janata Dal (BYJD), the youth wing of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD), and the party's students' wing, Biju Chhatra Janata Dal (BCJD), on Tuesday staged a protest at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar, demanding the resignation of School and Mass Education Minister Nityananda Gond over massive errors found in textbooks in Odisha. BYJD state president Chinmoy Sahu and BCJD state president Ipsita Sahu led the protest. Thousands of youth and student members of the two organisations took part despite the rain. The regional party alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led state government has damaged the education system for future generations by publishing error-ridden textbooks from Class I to Class VIII under the National Education Policy (NEP-2020). The party said it detected more than 1,678 errors in textbooks published under NEP-2020. It claimed that despite being aware of the errors, the state government distributed the textbooks to students.

has not stepped down, and therefore the agitation has been intensified," alleged BJD leaders. The BJD said the errors were a serious concern as students' examinations approached. It questioned how students would prepare for examinations using textbooks containing errors. It said that while lower-level employees are being arrested, senior officials are being allowed to go free. "Till now, students have not received error-free textbooks. The BJP government is playing with the future of the students of the state through its disastrous education system," claimed the opposition party. According to the party, its youth and student wings have been holding a round-the-clock dharna in front of the Odisha Legislative Assembly over the issue. BJD MLAs also joined the protest after the Assembly was adjourned amid opposition uproar over the textbook issue. They marched from the Assembly to the dharna site and staged a protest in the rain. The BJD warned that its agitation would intensify if the government failed to act on its demands. The BYJD and BCJD are scheduled to gherao the Odisha Legislative Assembly on Wednesday. Both organisations said thousands of students and youths would participate in the protest and press the government to address the textbook issue and remove the minister from the Council of Ministers.

Surendra Koli Death: Police Await Postmortem Report

Even after four days, the circumstances surrounding the death of Surendra Koli -- the man at the centre of the sensational Nithari killings who was subsequently acquitted in all 13 cases last year -- remain unclear, with some of his family members raising questions about his death. Police said it will be known whether Koli died by suicide or due to another cause only after the post-mortem report, which is expected within a day or two. A police officer said, "Koli's family members have raised some questions regarding his death. However, the situation will become clear once the post-mortem report is received in a day or two." He said no injury marks were found on Koli's body. However, traces of blood were visible near his nose and mouth. He said, "There were no injury marks on his body."

SK Srivastava, GM/SCR Inspects 'KAVACH' Upgradation Works

HYDERABAD

Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, General Manager, SCR inspected KAVACH upgradation works (from version 3.2 to 4.0) between Malkajgiri and Kamareddi section by travelling in Special Train today i.e., 22nd September, 2026. Shri P.V. Murali Krishna, Principal Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, SCR; Shri Santosh Kumar Verma, Divisional Railway Manager, Hyderabad Division and other senior officials accompanied him. During the inspection, General Manager examined the functioning of various scenarios of KAVACH Ver. 4.0. KAVACH upgradation from Version 3.2 to 4.0 was successfully completed for the first time in South Central Railway in sections of Malkajgiri - Kamareddi, Hyderabad Division covering 108 Route Kilometres. Based on deployment of Kavach



version 3.2 on 1465 Route Kilometres on South Central Railway and experience gained, further improvements were made. The latest Version 4.0 is equipped with Enhanced Safety, Advanced Technology, Higher Reliability and Safer Operations. **Salient Features of KAVACH 4.0:**

- Indian Railway has developed, tested and started deploying Automatic Train Protection System, Kavach version 4.0.
- Kavach version 4.0 covers

all the major features required for the diverse railway network. This is a significant milestone in safety for Indian Railways.

- Major improvement in Version 4.0 includes increased Location Accuracy, Improved Information of Signal Aspects in bigger yards, Station-to-Station Kavach interface on Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) and Direct Interface to existing Electronic Interlocking System.
- With these improvements,



Kavach Ver.4.0. is planned for large scale deployment over Indian Railways. On this occasion, Shri Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, General Manager opined that KAVACH acts as an additional layer of safety to minimize risks arising from human error by preventing signal passing at danger, over-speeding and collisions, while also enhancing operational safety during adverse weather conditions. The deployment of Kavach is also in progress in other sections thus reaffirm-

ing its long-term commitment to comprehensive rail safety enhancement. Later, the General Manager also inspected Kamareddi, Medchal and Malkajgiri Railway stations and reviewed the progress of on-going station redevelopment works under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. He inspected passenger amenities, circulating area etc., He discussed about the development plans keeping in view of future needs and demands of the Rail users.

Rs 2,700 cancer drug selling for Rs 27,000: Supreme Court calls it daylight robbery

The petitions alleged that private hospitals prevented patients from purchasing medicines elsewhere and forced them to buy drugs from in-house pharmacies at inflated MRPs. The Supreme Court has described the steep markup on essential cancer medicines as "daylight robbery" after being told that a drug available to retailers for Rs 2,700 carried a maximum retail price of Rs 27,000. A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep

Mehta questioned how patients could be charged 10 times the procurement price and why the authorities had failed to intervene. The court also raised concerns about hospitals purchasing medicines at inflated prices and claiming reimbursement under government health schemes, including CGHS, DGHS and AYUSH. The bench said the cost was ultimately borne by taxpayers and described the practice as a clear case of fraud and exploitation.

EDITORIAL

The World’s Most Exclusive Hiring Committee: Power, Illusion, and the Next UN Chief

As the United Nations prepares to choose its next Secretary-General, the global public is treated once again to a performative display of open governance. Town halls are live-streamed, vision statements are published, and candidate debates are held on the floor of the General Assembly. Yet, beneath this veneer of democratic engagement lies a cold diplomatic truth: the interview panel that actually decides the outcome is not an impartial board of international experts, but the fifteen member states of the UN Security Council. More specifically, the ultimate power rests in the hands of its five permanent members—the United States, China, Russia, the United Kingdom, and France.

This structural reality exposes the core contradiction of modern global diplomacy. While the General Assembly represents the principle of sovereign equality among nearly two hundred nations, the choice of the world’s top diplomat remains anchored in a post-World War II power dynamic. The selection process takes place largely behind closed doors through informal straw polls within the Security Council. During these sessions, members mark ballots to encourage or discourage candidates. When color-coded ballots are distributed to the permanent five, a single negative mark acts as a veto, instantly eliminating any candidate who offends the strategic interests of a superpower.

Consequently, the qualities required to navigate the hiring process are often at odds with the qualities needed to lead. Rather than seeking a dynamic, independent visionary capable of holding powerful nations accountable, the selection system naturally favors compromise candidates. The permanent members frequently seek a leader who will not disrupt the status quo or challenge their national interests. This creates a paradox where the candidate best suited to confront global crises is often the very person the Security Council rejects. The global community is thus left with a process designed to produce the lowest common denominator—a chief administrator rather than a bold global advocate.

Recent procedural reforms have made valuable strides toward transparency. Candidates are now expected to present formally, disclose campaign financing, and respond to questions from civil society and non-member states. While these changes allow the global public to evaluate the field, they remain largely consultative. The General Assembly is ultimately presented with a single name chosen by the Security Council, leaving the broader international community to rubber-stamp a decision made by a select few.

The composition of this effective interview panel also highlights a growing disconnect with contemporary global realities. As calls intensify for the next Secretary-General to be a woman—ending eight decades of male leadership—and as regional rotation principles point toward candidates from Latin America and the Caribbean, the final decision still hinges entirely on P5 consensus. The priorities of a small group of nuclear-armed states continue to override the political momentum built across the wider membership.

If the United Nations is to retain its moral authority in an era marked by shifting alliances, geopolitical conflict, and global challenges, its leadership selection must evolve. Moving toward a system where the Security Council presents a shortlist of multiple candidates to the General Assembly would shift the balance of power, giving the broader international community a genuine choice. Until such structural reforms are realized, the selection of the next UN Chief will remain an exclusive bargain struck behind closed doors, offering the illusion of global participation while preserving the dominance of a few.

THE LAST PHOTOGRAPH

It sleeps between the pages
of a book no one opens now—
a small square of silvered time,
holding a summer that never ended.

Father stands beneath the old neem
tree,
younger than memory allows,
his hand upon Mother’s shoulder
as if the world could be kept safe by
touch.

Mother is smiling,
her hair dark, her eyes unafraid,
not knowing how soon
the time would begin taking things
away.

We are there too—
children with dusty feet,
unfinished dreams,
and pockets full of tomorrow.

No one in that photograph
knows what waits beyond the
frame.

No one knows which doors will
close,
which trains will leave without
them,
which names will one day
become difficult to say aloud.
Years pass.

The house grows quiet.
The neem tree grows old.
The voices thin into echoes.

Father’s chair gathers dust.
Mother’s hands become photo-
graphs themselves—
things we remember
more than things we can touch.
And yet,

inside that little rectangle of light,
nothing has changed.

Father is still reaching for her.
Mother is still smiling.
We are still young.
The afternoon still belongs to us.

I hold it against the window.

The evening passes through the
paper,
and for one trembling moment
the dead seem brighter than the
living.

Perhaps this is why
we keep old photographs—
not to remember
how we looked,
but to remember who we were
before goodbye entered the room.

On the back,
in handwriting almost erased,
someone had written:

“All of us, together.”

I read those four words
until the ink begins to blur.

Then I understand—

the photograph was never
the last picture of them.

It was the last picture
of a world in which
we had not yet learned
that every “together”
has an ending.



DRUGS ARE NOT PUNJAB’S ELECTION PLANK.
THIS IS INDIA’S FIGHT

Punjab’s drug crisis is national, not seasonal.

The Punjab Assembly elections are only a few months away. Once again, political parties have begun treating drugs as the main battleground. Last time, the party now in power promised voters that it would end the drug trade in Punjab within six months. Five years later, Punjab is still sunk in drugs. The same party now points to political and foreign reasons.

Is the drug trade only a political issue? Is it only Punjab’s problem? Not at all.

The drug trade is a worldwide problem. For India it is a national disaster. It needs a national resolve, just as the country launched a nationwide campaign against Naxalism and the affected states worked shoulder to shoulder with the Modi government.

Prime Minister Modi has set the goal of making the whole country drug-free. Home Minister Amit Shah is working on every option to make that campaign succeed.

Addiction does not start in a day. It often begins as fun. For some people it even becomes a status symbol. That hobby and show soon turn into a habit. People lose money, faith, and even their lives. Those in the trade often move into bigger crime. How to bring addicts back to a normal life is a question before every government. No therapy or treatment can work until the supply of narcotics is fully stopped. You cannot change thought and behaviour only by talking. Forced de-addiction has sometimes even proved fatal.

Drug addiction is both a local and a national problem. It is also tightly linked to the world of crime. Its threads run from local criminals to international syndicates. That is why this fight can be won only with large-scale preparation.

Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and with the guidance of Home Minister Amit Shah, a wide strategy has been drawn up. Enforcement agencies, state governments, and ordinary citizens have all been made part of it. The



Punjab’s drug crisis is being reduced to an election slogan once again. But the reality is far bigger: what begins as a political battle in Punjab has grown into a national challenge involving addiction, organised crime, cross-border smuggling and international drug syndicates. The answer, therefore, cannot come only at election time—or from one State alone.

approach is that the whole government and the whole society must take part.

In 2019 itself, Home Minister Amit Shah laid out a coordinated campaign against the drug network. Work is already going on with a clear roadmap. The resolve is to make India drug-free by 2029. If India is to become a developed country by 2047, the drug trade and the habit of drugs must end.

This June the Home Minister also issued a vision document on drug control for 2026–2029, with a clear three-year roadmap. In this national drive, intelligence and operations based on it have been given the highest priority. The goal of fully stopping precursors and synthetic drugs, or cutting their supply, has already been set.

To uproot the trade, Amit Shah

has fixed a “3D” formula: Detect (find the drugs), Disrupt (stop them reaching people), and Destroy (wipe them out completely).

Because this is a fight against international gangs, the preparation has been made on the same scale.

As for Punjab, the Modi government has looked at the drug crisis beyond elections. The six worst-hit districts are Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Tarn Taran, Ludhiana, Ferozepur and Fazilka have been classified as “highly sensitive drug zones.” Five of these districts lie on the international border with Pakistan, and there is ample evidence of smuggling by drone from across the border. The Home Ministry has set a target of installing anti-drone technology and advanced surveillance systems along the international border by March 2027.

Nearly 100 absconders linked to narco-terrorism in Punjab have been identified, and action is being taken against them.

Not only in Punjab but across the country, more than 100 large national and international drug networks were operating. Operations to finish them are under way and have already seen success. Between 2019 and July 2026, agencies seized more than 93.3 lakh kilograms of narcotic and psychotropic substances worth about Rs 1.53 lakh crore. Under the Modi government’s zero-tolerance policy, agencies have also stepped up efforts to bring criminals back from abroad. Raids and arrests of members of big drug syndicates continue inside the country. In 2024 alone, drugs worth Rs 25,330 crore were seized. High-profile ar-

rests include Virendra Singh Baisoya, who was brought back from the UAE this August. Under Operation Global Hunt, Mohammad Salim Dola was brought to India from Turkey. In Rajasthan, a raid led to the arrest of four people.

To fulfil the pledge of complete freedom from drugs by March 2029, the Home Minister is increasing the number of Narco Coordination Centres across the country from 334 to 1,751. To awaken the people of Punjab, the BJP has started “Nasha Mukta Punjab Yatra.” The campaign will end on 30 September in Jalandhar, where the Home Minister himself may address the people.



VIVEK SHUKLA



DOES THE 193RD INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE PROVIDE ASSURANCE FOR GIG WORKER’S RIGHTS



DR. P. SUBRAMANYACHARY
Professor, School of Commerce and Management, Mohan Babu University

Worldwide, over the past few years, gig work (temporary or on-demand work) has been expanding rapidly due to digitalization, smartphones, unemployment, flexible work arrangements, and changing business models. Today, millions of workers depend partially or fully on digital or online platforms for their livelihoods. Many face income insecurity, long working hours, limited social protection, occupational hazards, and precarious employment status. The allocation of work through algorithmic management systems, ratings, surveillance, and account deactivations have also created new forms of vulnerability. Developing countries are witnessing rapid growth in gig-based work, yet regulatory protection remains unstable.

Therefore, to establish common principles for decent work in the gig economy, the landmark “Decent Work in the Platform Economy Convention, 2026 (No. 193)” was held in Geneva on June 12, 2026. At the same venue during its 114th session, the International Labour Conference adopted measures promoting decent work for workers, ensuring fundamental labor rights, fair wages, social security, occupational safety and health, equality, privacy, and protection from discrimination. Its scope covers digital labourplatforms and workers engaged in location-based work such as ride-hailing and food delivery, as well as online work such as freelancing and remote digital services. The scope of major challenges faced by gig workers worldwide is extensive.

The number of online labour platforms grew from 142 in 2010 to over 777 by 2020. During the same period, according to some estimates, platform workers surged from 43 million in 2018 to 78 million in 2023, with current estimates indicating at least 154 million active online gig workers. The decisions of this conference apply to all digital labour platforms and platform workers—whether they work online or in a specific physical location—regardless of their employment classification. Platform work is rapidly expanding across both developing and developed economies. For instance, an International Labour Organization (ILO) study estimates that there are 84 million platform-based workers in China alone. However, this convention is not yet a universal legal guarantee. As of July 2026, it has not received a single formal ratification. Consequently, its ultimate success depends heavily on official ratifications, effective national legislation, strict enforcement, and social cooperation. Safety and Security of Gig Workers in India The 193rd International Labour Organization (ILO) Conference can address the major challenges faced by gig workers in India by providing an international framework for social security, fair remuneration, occupational safety, collective bargaining, and protection from

algorithmic management. According to NITI Aayog estimates, there were 7.7 million gig workers in India in 2020–21, accounting for 2.6 percent of the non-farm workforce and 1.5 percent of total employment. It is projected that by 2029–30, the number of gig workers will reach 23.50 lakh, which will be equivalent to 6.7 percent of non-farm employment.

According to the 193rd Conference, countries should facilitate the formalization of gig workers and correctly determine their employment status, ensuring timely and transparent payments. Furthermore, platform workers should not receive social security protections on terms less favorable than comparable workers, thereby strengthening the scope of social security. This is especially vital for Indian delivery workers, drivers, and online freelancers

who frequently experience income insecurity, safety risks, and weak social protection. The convention offers safeguards against unfair account suspensions/deactivations, data misuse, and opaque algorithmic decisions, which could potentially enhance workers’ bargaining positions. However, it will become legally binding on India only after formal ratification and implementation. Therefore, countries must implement portable social security systems—including health, accident, pension, and unemployment protection—regardless of platform or employment status. Governments should establish minimum wage standards and ensure that platforms contribute their share to social security funds. They must provide transparent contracts and payment records, and legally facilitate labour unions. Furthermore, enforcement of labour inspections, easily accessible grievance redressal mechanisms, and penalties for violations should be strengthened. Countries also need to develop reliable gig-worker databases, as gaps in measurement make policymaking difficult. International cooperation is essential for cross-border platforms to ensure transferable benefits. Only then can the goals of this conference for the welfare of gig workers be fully achieved.

UP alliance leaders back
Rahul Gandhi, Akhilesh Yadav
separately ahead of 2027 polls

In the 2024 Lok Sabha polls in Uttar Pradesh, the SP and Congress contested together and won 43 seats between them, with the SP winning 37 and the Congress six. The alliance also won the Faizabad seat, which includes Ayodhya, where the BJP had won in 2019.

Two opposition leaders in Uttar Pradesh have publicly made the case for their respective party chiefs as the Samajwadi Party-Congress alliance looks ahead to the 2027 Assembly polls. The remarks came on a day when BJP president Nitin Nabin toured western Uttar Pradesh to strengthen the party's poll strategy. Samajwadi Party MP Iqra Hasan and Congress MP Imran Masood, both elected in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls as part of the SP-Congress alliance, backed different leaders as central to taking on the BJP. Their statements came even as senior leaders of both parties have repeatedly spoken of maintaining unity. Masood told PTL, "Only Rahul Gandhi is the opposition voice across the country, which unnerves the BJP. Rahul ji has done the hard work and created a favourable atmosphere. So make no mistake, nothing is possible without Rahul ji, and no one should have any doubts about this." The Congress MP, who was earlier with the SP, has also repeatedly called for an early decision on seat-sharing and described the Congress as the "big broth-

er" in the alliance. SP leaders, however, have said that Rahul Gandhi and Akhilesh Yadav would decide the alliance's contours.

On Tuesday, Hasan pitched SP chief Akhilesh Yadav as the key figure for the alliance. She said, "Only Akhilesh Yadav is capable of defeating the BJP. On its own, the Congress won't be able to achieve much." The differing claims have pointed to a gap in messaging among local leaders and alliance workers, despite repeated assertions of unity by senior leaders.

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Meanwhile, AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi said his party was open to an alliance with parties seeking to stop the BJP from returning to power in Uttar Pradesh. Speaking at a public meeting in Kanpur on Sunday, he said, "We also do not want the BJP government to be formed in UP for the third time. If you want to stop the BJP from forming the government again, come and join hands with AIMIM." He said AIMIM would wait until October 2 before announcing its alliance, if any, adding another dimension to the opposition alliance talks in the state.

Gujarat Governor Urges Filmmakers
to Promote Natural Farming

EKTA NAGAR (GUJARAT)

Gujarat Governor Anurag Thakur urged the film industry to use its reach to encourage natural farming, environmental protection and healthier lifestyles, while calling for greater emphasis on themes of unity, love, tolerance and brotherhood rather than violence. Addressing the 72nd National Film Awards ceremony at Ekta Nagar, Devvrat said cinema has a unique ability to bring difficult subjects to people in a simple, accessible way and can therefore influence social attitudes. "You are the people who have made a major contribution towards binding India together in the bond of unity. I congratulate all of you for this," he said while addressing filmmakers, actors, technicians and award winners gathered for the ceremony. The Governor said the film fraternity should also respond to growing concerns over health and environmental degradation. "Through films,



you and we should work to inspire people towards natural farming. Whatever methods can be adopted to protect the environment should be used to inspire future generations," Devvrat said. He advocated food habits that would help people live healthy, disease-free lives and said, "India is progressing in several fields as it moves towards the goal of 'Viksit Bharat.'" Devvrat has been a prominent advocate of natural farming in Gujarat.

In June this year, Devvrat had also said that excessive use of chemical fertilisers is reducing soil fertility and warned

that corrective measures were needed to protect future generations' access to safe food and water. At the ceremony, he linked his appeal for natural farming to what he described as worsening health concerns. "Today, our young generation and all of us are progressing in every respect, but we are becoming very weak from the perspective of health," he said.

He mentioned cancer, diabetes, heart attacks and pancreatic failure while arguing that environmental deterioration was one of the major concerns requiring attention.

Devvrat then turned to cinema's potential social influence, urging filmmakers to draw on India's cultural values. "Through our films, I believe we can reduce the depiction of violence to some extent and promote unity, love, tolerance and brotherhood among people, so that we can help one another and every individual in the country moves forward with a sense of commitment to the nation," he said. He cited

values including ahimsa, satya, asteya, brahmacharya and aparigraha, along with shauch, santosh, tap and swadhyaya, and said cinema could convey them.

"Cinema reaches people's hearts. Through your medium, you can simplify difficult subjects and take them to the people in an easy and accessible manner," Devvrat said.

He also described the National Film Awards being held at Ekta Nagar as "significant", noting that the ceremony had been moved outside Delhi for the first time in decades. The 72nd awards recognised achievements in Indian cinema for 2024, with winners from feature films, non-feature films and writing on cinema being honoured. Devvrat congratulated the award winners and welcomed the film fraternity to Gujarat, saying the industry's ability to reach audiences across linguistic and regional boundaries could be used to "convey messages to future generations".



Forest Ranger Crushed by
Dumper While Stopping
Illegal Sand Mining

A forest ranger was killed in Rajasthan's Pratapgarh district after he was allegedly struck and dragged by a dumper while attempting to stop illegal mining activity, officials said. The incident took place late Monday night in the Chhoti Sadri forest area, where Forest Ranger Pratap Singh Chundawat had reached along with a forest guard following a tip-off about unauthorised mining.

According to officials, Chundawat tried to intercept a dumper carrying soil when the vehicle allegedly hit him and dragged him, along with his motorcycle, for several metres. The driver then fled the spot. Chundawat sustained critical injuries and was initially taken to a hospital before being referred to the district hospital in Nimbahera, where he died during treatment. Divisional Forest Officer Suresh Chandra Agarwal said the Forest Department had received information about illegal mining in the forest area and subsequently sent a team to take action. During the operation, officials seized an earth-moving machine and a tractor, while the dumper involved in the incident remained to be traced.

This is not merely the murder of an officer; it is an open challenge to the law and order system in Rajasthan. The question is, how has the mining mafia in the state become so fearless that it no longer fears even taking the lives of officials?" He further alleged that the BJP government's focus is solely on "looting" public mandates and "murdering democracy"; upholding law and order and reining in the mining mafia are not priorities for the government. The Forest Department's investigation is now expected to focus on tracing the dumper and its driver, determining the circumstances surrounding the illegal excavation and establishing responsibility for the ranger's death. Further action is likely once those involved are identified and the investigation progresses.

BJP leaders' garba remarks spark row in Madhya Pradesh

Bhopal: With Sharad Navratri still weeks away, a political controversy over non-Hindu entry to Garba events has erupted in Madhya Pradesh after successive remarks by BJP leaders triggered debate. Mhow MLA Usha Thakur, speaking about

Garba events ahead of Navratri, backed Hindu organisations' demands for restrictions on participation and said the traditional dance should remain linked to religious observance. "This demand of the Hindu organisations is very appropriate. Garba should never be professional. Garba is a festival of worshipping the power of Goddess Durga," Thakur told IANS. She alleged that some people enter Garba venues by concealing their identities, including by wearing a tilak and

tying a kalava (sacred thread). She claimed such individuals mislead Hindu women and called for identity verification at Garba venues. Thakur also demanded that non-Hindus be barred from entering Garba pandals.

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Punjab: Drug
money raises
concerns before
Assembly
election

NEW DELHI

Months before Assembly elections are due in Punjab, concerns remain despite crackdowns over a section's amoral engagement with narcotics that refuses to end, with regular reports of drugs being confiscated and narco-terrorism busted. Even on Tuesday, as New Delhi hosted the third National Conference of the Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF), Punjab reported similar incidents. Of 73 districts classified by the Union government as "ultrasensitive" and 274 "sensitive" in a crackdown as part of the Nasha Mukht Bharat (Drug-free India) campaign, six of these in Punjab fall under the former category. Among Punjab's "ultrasensitive" districts are Amritsar, Fazilka, Ferozepur, Gurdaspur and Tarn Taran along the Pakistan border, with the industrial hub of Ludhiana marked as the sixth.

GORAKHPUR

The meeting of the Zonal Railway Official Language Implementation Committee of Northeast Railway was held on September 22, 2026, in the General Manager's Conference Room, "Chaitanya," Gorakhpur, under the chairmanship of Shri Uday Borwankar, General Manager, Northeast Railway. On the occasion, a PowerPoint presentation was made by the Personnel Department. The meeting was attended by Shri Vinod Kumar Shukla, Additional General Manager; Principal Heads of Departments; Additional Chief Official Language Officers of all three divisions; Deputy Chief Official Language Officers and their representatives from workshops and production units; and senior supervisors.

Addressing the meeting, General Manager Shri Uday Borwankar said that the All Railway Hindi Essay, Hindi Speech, and Hindi Noting &



Drafting Competitions were successfully organized at the Northeast Railway Headquarters, Gorakhpur, under the aegis of the Railway Board, for which the Official Language Department deserved congratulations. In addition, the Personnel Department organized an Inter-Railway School-cum-Co-Curricular Competition, in which the children performed exceptionally well. Shri Borwankar emphasized the use of Hindi in official work and said that the use of Hindi in our own language should be increased as much as possible. He stated that the boards displayed at railway stations and in trains should be in Hindi, the Official Language.

The General Manager said that extensive promotion and dissemination of the Official Language, Hindi, was being undertaken across Northeast Railway. Shri Borwankar appreciated the Public Relations Department for the effective use of Hindi on the social media handles of Northeast Railway. The General Manager nominated the Operations Department to make the PowerPoint presentation at the next meeting.

Earlier, while welcoming everyone, Shri Prakash Chandra Jaiswal, Principal Chief Commercial Manager and Chief Official Language Officer, said that various pro-



grammes had been organized at the Headquarters, Gorakhpur, under the Hindi Fortnight since September 16, 2026, on the occasion of Hindi Day. He said that the achievements made by Northeast Railway in promoting and expanding the use of the Official Language were commendable. Shri Jaiswal stated that awareness should be created by organizing workshops and technical seminars in offices, and that all officers should also review the progress of the Official Language during their inspections.

Shri Manoj Mishra, Dep-

uty Chief Official Language Officer/Headquarters, expressed his gratitude to everyone and apprised the participants of the implementation status of the decisions taken at the previous meeting.

At the beginning of the meeting, Shri Ashish Sachan, Deputy Chief Personnel Officer/IR, delivered an informative PowerPoint presentation on the topic "Technological Transformation in Indian Railways through Human Resources." Senior Translator/Official Language, Smt. Anamika Singh, made a presentation on the life and works of the renowned Hindi writer Premchand.

The meeting was conducted by Shri Gopal Prasad Gupta, Senior Personnel Officer/Headquarters and Official Language Officer. Discussions were held in accordance with the standard agenda prescribed by the Railway Board, and the views and suggestions of the committee members were invited and received.

ZROL Implementation
Committee meeting held at Gorakhpur

Hindi Elocution Contest Held at
BLW During Rajbhasha Pakhwada

VARANASI

Under the guidance of General Manager, Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW), Shri Ashutosh Pant, a Hindi Elocution Competition was organized today, on September 22, 2026, at BLW Inter College as part of the Rajbhasha Pakhwada. The programme commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp before Goddess Saraswati by the School Coordinator, Shri Dharamveer Singh, Senior Translator Shri Gurrurajan, and the teaching staff.

The competition was organized with the objective of promoting the Official Language Hindi and developing interest and enthusiasm for Hindi among students. The topics of the competition were:

"Hindi: The Carrier of Unity in Diversity"

"Hindi is not merely a language; it is the soul of our cul-



ture." Students from Classes 9 to 12 enthusiastically participated in the competition. Through their speeches, the participants effectively highlighted the strength, warmth, cultural richness and values associated with the Hindi language. On the occasion, renowned personalities of Hindi literature, including Tulcidas, Kabirdas, Munshi Premchand and Bharatendu Harishchandra, were respectfully remembered. School Coordinator Shri Dharamveer Singh referred to Hindi

songs mentioned by various Heads of State during the recently held BRICS Summit and highlighted the growing global acceptance and influence of Hindi. Teacher Smt. Karuna Singh captivated the audience with an expressive Hindi poem.

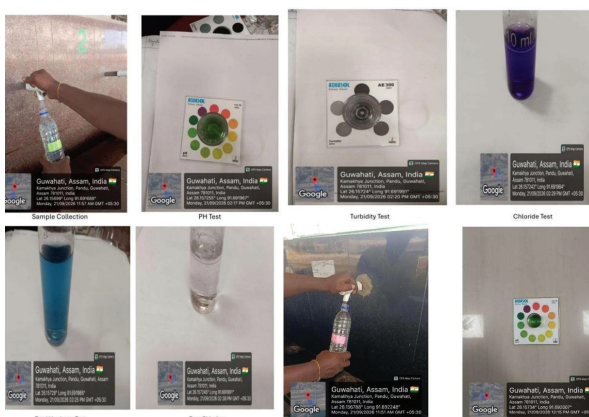
The competition was judged by Shri Vikas Kumar Pandey, Lecturer in Geography, and Shri Umair Ahmad Ansari, Hindi Teacher. They listened attentively to the speeches delivered by the students and evaluated them on the basis

of presentation, content and expression. In the competition, Vaibhavi Yadav of Class 11-A secured first position, Anmol Prajapati of Class 10-A secured second position, and Utkarsh Keshari of Class 9-B secured third position. The programme was successfully conducted by Hindi teachers Smt. Shalini Upadhyay and Smt. Vandana Shukla. Shri Rakesh Chaudhary and Smt. Karuna Singh made a special contribution towards the successful organization of the programme.

NFR Intensifies Clean Drinking
Water Drives Across Stations

MALIGAON

Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has carried out intensive water-quality monitoring drives across its stations and railway premises, giving top priority to the health, safety and well-being of passengers and its work force. As part of this continuing initiative, drinking water samples are being collected from passenger-use points and subjected to systematic physical, chemical and bacteriological examinations to ensure compliance with prescribed safety standards. As part of the initiative, water samples were collected and tested on 21 September, 2026, at Guwahati and Kamakhya stations covering important physical and chemical parameters. During the latest drive conducted on 21 st September, 2026, water sample from the Waiting Hall at Guwahati station was examined for pH, turbidity, total



hardness, nitrate, iron, residual free chlorine, chloride, alkalinity, fluoride and calcium. Each parameter serves as an important health safeguard such as pH indicates chemical balance and acceptability; turbidity reveals suspended impurities; hardness and calcium reflect mineral content; nitrate and iron are monitored to prevent excess exposure; and chloride and alkalinity influence taste and water sta-

bility. Fluoride within the prescribed range supports dental health, while adequate residual free chlorine confirms effective disinfection against waterborne contamination. The sample conformed to the limits specified in the report. At Kamakhya station, two filtered-water samples were tested, one from Platform No. 1, Vat No. 3 and another from Platforms No. 2 and 3, Vat No. 2. The samples were examined

for the same standards, done at Guwahati station. The available physicochemical results were within the limits specified in the respective reports. Bacteriological examination was also undertaken to detect microbial contamination and assess protection against waterborne illness. NFR is also undertaking regular cleaning of water storage tanks and maintenance of water coolers, pipelines, taps and other water-supply installations, with prompt corrective action wherever deficiencies are detected. NFR undertakes regular water sampling, laboratory examination and residual-chlorine monitoring as part of a preventive, passenger-focused approach. These intensive drives enable timely identification of variations and prompt corrective action, reinforcing NFR's commitment to providing clean, hygienic and safe drinking water throughout its network.

US to build two Greenland bases: Trump

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump said Tuesday that the United States would build two major military bases in Greenland under an agreement that gives Washington permanent control over security on the strategically located Arctic island.

Trump announced the planned expansion of the US military presence during his address to the UN General Assembly in New York. He described the agreement with Denmark and Greenland as unprecedented and said it would give Washington broad authority to protect North America and Europe.

"This agreement, made with the Kingdom of Denmark, is with an incredible, beautiful country. And the Greenland people itself gives the United States permanent control over security and all other needs on that territory," Trump said. "We will have the



complete ability to do what is necessary to defend the American continent, and also Europe and other places," he added.

Trump said countries Washington regards as adversaries would be barred from establishing a military presence in Greenland. They would also be prevented from making sensitive investments without written US approval.

"No US adversary will ever be permitted to establish a military presence in Greenland anymore or make sensitive investments there without our express written approval," he said.

Trump did not name the countries covered by those restrictions. The United States has, however, repeatedly raised con-

cerns about the growing strategic competition in the Arctic.

The President said Washington would begin developing a significantly larger military presence at what he called appropriate locations across Greenland.

"We will immediately begin the process of developing a large military presence in the appropriate locations; we will be building two very major military bases," Trump said.

The agreement was expected to be signed later on Tuesday. Trump said negotiations had helped Washington develop a closer relationship with the people and governments of Denmark and Greenland.

"This agreement will be signed later today, and I look forward to working with the wonderful people of Denmark and Greenland," he said. "It's been a great experience, an amazing experience, and we've really formed a bond in doing it."

Trump presented the agreement as an important step in strengthening security across the Arctic and North Atlantic. He said an expanded American footprint in Greenland would protect Europe and the United States.

The President also linked the agreement to NATO's broader military strengthening. He praised NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte and pointed to the alliance's move to increase defence spending targets.

Trump said the deal would ensure that hostile powers could not use Greenland to establish a strategic position close to the United States or its European allies.

The Arctic has become increasingly important for military planning, shipping and access to critical minerals. Melting ice has also opened the possibility of new maritime routes, adding to competition among the United States, Russia and China.



SIGN LANGUAGE UNITES ALL OF US

(On the occasion of "International Day of Sign Languages" on 23 September)

Sign languages provide deaf individuals a means to communicate, learn, and express their identities and culture. There are more than 300 distinct sign languages used worldwide. Sign languages have their own grammar and vocabulary-completely independent from spoken languages. The most common examples of sign languages are Indian Sign language, American Sign Language, and British Sign language. The facial expressions and body language are crucial in conveying meaning in sign languages. Learning sign language can improve cognitive skills and deepen empathy for diverse communities. There are around 72 million deaf people in the world. Many people are unaware that sign languages are natural languages in their own rights. Deaf individuals utilise this when mingling, travelling, learning, communicating, and attending international meetings.

Sign Language Empower Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing community

Sign languages are vital for expression, learning, and inclusion-enabling millions to participate fully in society. To empower deaf and hard of hearing individuals through sign languages, "International Day of Sign Languages" is observed annually on 23 September. This day encourages everyone, especially young people, to learn about and respect sign languages and those who use them. The recognition of sign languages as equal and valid forms of communication has been a result of collaborative efforts

by the global deaf community and related international organisations. Making this day each year reaffirms the human right to language, bridging the gap between the deaf abandon hearing communities.

Theme of International Day of Sign Languages-2026

The theme of International Day of Sign Languages-2026 is "Declaring Deaf People's Human Rights", emphasising how sign languages foster connection, break communication barriers, and create societies where everyone feels included. This theme encourages young generations to recognise the power of sign language to bring people together - regardless of hearing ability or background. On this day we can attend a sign language workshop or introductory session, May join in awareness campaigns, invite a deaf speaker or a sign language expert, practice basics, form sign language clubs in colleges, and explore cultural performances.

Sign languages is a bridge that connects the deaf and hearing worlds. The true beauty of sign language is in its ability to convey emotions beyond words. Sign language is not just a form of communication, it's a language of the heart. This day is an opportunity for young people to reflect on language, culture, and the need for equality in education and social life. This annual event raises awareness about the importance of sign languages in supporting the rights and inclusion of the deaf and hard-of-hearing community worldwide.

- Lion Capt Dr Madhusudhan Reddy Burra
9949700037.

Pakistan: Schools in Balochistan struggle with closures, teacher shortages

QUETTA

The Baloch Literacy Campaign (BLC) — an initiative of the Baloch Students Action Committee (BSAC) - on Tuesday expressed serious concern over the deteriorating state of education in Balochistan's Dera Bugti district, where several schools remain closed or only partially functional amid severe shortages of teachers and basic resources.

According to the BLC, the district has been facing a constant and alarming decline in its literacy ratio due to the total closure of multiple schools and a lack of essential resources for their basic functionality.

Citing data collected from various schools in the district, the BLC said that the schools are currently facing drastic challenges, including total dysfunction and the absence of adequate resources.

"The situations described above reflect the severe challenges faced by the local community in the education sector. The total closure of schools, shortage of teaching staff, and lack of educational resources are not merely



administrative failures; they are barriers that directly affect the future of children and the education of the district," the BLC stated. "As education is a fundamental right, and every child reserves this very right and opportunity conferred in the Constitution, to learn, regardless of their location, nationality and gender. The continued closure of schools in Dera Bugti is a grave concern and requires immediate administrative action," it added.

The Baloch Students Action Committee called on the Pakistani authorities to take immediate and practical steps to functionalise these schools in Dera Bugti, appoint the required

teachers, and provide basic necessary services for a better learning environment.

"The educational rights of the students in Dera Bugti must not be neglected, and the closure of these schools must be addressed with urgency," it noted.

The concerns come after the BLC raised a similar issue last month regarding students in the Peer Shari Darbar area of Dera Bugti, who it said had no access to education because there were no operational schools nearby.

It noted that the local community had strongly demanded that the school in the area be restored so that children could resume their education.

UNSC must be reformed for 'legitimacy, effectiveness': Guterres

UNITED NATIONS

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Tuesday said the Security Council must be reformed to endow it with "legitimacy and effectiveness".

"The Security Council was designed in the aftermath of World War II. But the world has fundamentally changed since then", he told the world leaders gathered at the General Assembly high-level session. That change "is far from reflected in the Security Council", he said.

He said the UN members must "reform the Security Council so that it reflects today's world with the legitimacy and effectiveness that today's challenges demand".

Amid applause from the audience, he cited Africa's exclusion from permanent membership in the Council and called it "stunning". "Today, Africa still has no permanent representation on the Council. A 21st century Security Council without permanent African seats is unjust and indefensible," he said. "This must change".

This was Guterres' last speech to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly. General Assembly President Khalilur Rahman, who followed Guterres, said he will "support the General Assembly-led Intergovernmental Negotiations in its work to make the Council more representative, transparent and reflective of the geopolitical realities of our time".

Kohat attack raises serious questions over Pakistan's security, intelligence failures

ISLAMABAD

The latest attack in Kohat district of Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province underscores the persistent threat of militancy in the country's border areas, where such attacks have become a recurring feature rather than an isolated incident, a report has stated.

It noted that Islamabad has long accused the Afghan Taliban of providing safe haven and support to the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), an extremist group seeking to establish a fundamentalist Islamic state in Pakistan.

The death toll in the militant attack rose to at least 31, including 16 uniformed policemen, as clashes with police resulted in a fluid situation with Ittihad-ul-Mujahideen claiming responsibility for the attack. The group is said to have close links with the TTP, Peter Knoope, a noted diplomacy and international cooperation expert, wrote in India Narrative. He noted



that the fact that militants managed to barricade themselves inside a police compound made the attack particularly serious. The facility is meant to be at the forefront of protecting citizens from militant violence.

The incident has brought tragedy to the victims and their families, left many others injured, and heightened concerns among communities across the Pakistan-Afghanistan border region.

It also exposed the apparent shortcomings in Pakistan's intelligence gathering and counter-terrorism efforts, Knoope mentioned.

Highlighting that the inci-

dent will raise questions about effectiveness and accountability, he said it would also prompt scrutiny of the potential for infiltration and the trustworthiness of policing and intelligence operations in Pakistan.

"What was missed, and how could that happen? What exactly was the role of foreign agents? How is the strength of the information position of the local force? Is the relation between the local population and the police up to a desired level? Can a next attack effectively be prevented through intensified local or cross-border cooperation? Tough questions will be asked," wrote Knoope.

Pakistan under attack from militants it nurtures and cultivates: Report

ISLAMABAD

The latest militant attack in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, in which an explosives-laden vehicle crashed into a mosque inside Old Police Lines in Kohat district, killing dozens of police officers and civilians and injuring more than 100 others, was far from an isolated incident, a report has stated.

It noted that the incident was the foreseeable consequence of a Pakistani policy that for years treated jihadist infrastructure as a strategic asset instead of recognising it as a growing threat.

"For decades Pakistan's security establishment distinguished between "good" and "bad" militants. Groups useful against India or in Afghanistan were sheltered, funded, or at least tolerated. The same networks that trained, recruited, and moved fighters across the Durand Line were never

fully dismantled. After the Afghan Taliban's 2021 takeover, those networks gained more room to operate. Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan and allied commanders such as Hafiz Gul Bahadur reconstituted themselves with sanctuary, weapons, and ideological cover on Afghan soil," a report in Khalsa Vox detailed.

The report noted that Islamabad now decries sanctuary, while it continues to favour the very factions that it once cultivated.

"Kohat shows what selective counter-terrorism produces. The target was not an Indian consulate or a Western Embassy. It was Pakistani policemen at prayer, inside a police compound, in a city that is supposed to be under state control. The method—vehicle bomb plus follow-on assault—requires planning, explosives, reconnaissance, and local facilitation. Those capabilities do not appear overnight.

The First Sanctuary: How Maternal Epigenetics Architect the Human Soul and Cell

A Journey Through Mitochondrial Inheritance, Cellular Miracles, and an Eternal Tribute to My Living God—My Mother

For centuries, classical genetics viewed human life through a rigid, simplistic lens—a straightforward blending of paternal and maternal chromosomes to forge a static physical code. Yet, modern molecular biology and developmental epigenetics have uncovered a truth far more profound, beautiful, and awe-inspiring: a mother does not merely pass down half of a genetic blueprint; she actively architects, powers, fine-tunes, and sustains the living ecosystem of human existence through the Theory of Maternal Epigenetic Continuity and Cellular Priming. Long before a child takes their first independent breath, opens their eyes to the daylight, or utters their first word, a mother's body acts as a sacred, dynamic sanctuary, quietly inscribing strength, endurance, and biological wisdom into the deepest machinery of every single cell.

At the very heart of this biological miracle lies the mitochondrial engine—the microscopic cellular powerhouses responsible for generating adenosine triphosphate (ATP), the fundamental spark that drives every neural thought, every muscle contraction, and every rhythmic heartbeat throughout a human lifetime. In a striking testament to maternal legacy, human mitochondrial DNA is inherited exclusively from the mother. While nuclear DNA offers a combined blueprint, the metabolic engine that fuels our daily existence, repairs our tissues, and maintains our vital energy is born entirely from maternal lineage. A mother literally gifts her child the energetic fire that keeps them alive, creating an unbroken cellular continuum that stretches back through time.

Beyond this pure energy lineage, a mother's body actively sculpts



how genes express themselves without altering the underlying genetic code. Through intricate epigenetic pathways—such as histone modification, DNA methylation, and specialized microRNA transfer across the placental boundary—maternal biology continuously fine-tunes the developing child. Her physiological state, metabolic harmony, and biochemical signals directly shape the expression of

glucocorticoid receptors in the developing brain, permanently establishing the baseline for emotional balance, physiological harmony, and lifelong stress resilience.

Furthermore, the astonishing phenomenon of fetal-maternal microchimerism reveals that maternal cells cross the placental barrier and integrate permanently into the child's heart, brain, immune system, and organs, continually

aiding in tissue repair and defense. In the most literal, scientific sense, a mother physically lives inside her child for the rest of their days.

It breaks my heart to look at the world today and see how easily some children forget this sacred truth. How painful and tragic it is that some grown children choose to abandon their elderly parents, leaving them isolated in old age homes when they need love and care the most.

They forget that the very body they inhabit was built from their mother's flesh and bone, and the very strength they use to walk away was gifted by her weary hands. To those who abandon their parents: remember that time is an unrelenting mirror. Youth is fleeting, and old age is an inescapable destination for us all. One day, when age weakens your own hands, when loneliness fills your quiet rooms, and when your own strength fades, you will be forced to look back and recall exactly what you did to the ones who gave you life. What you

give to your aging parents today is the very harvest you will reap tomorrow.

To my dearest Mother, my living God on Earth: no scientific journal, complex equation, or biological paper can ever fully measure or capture the infinite grandeur of your devotion. Science can explain the physical mechanisms of how my heart beats, how my cells convert energy, and how my nervous system learns to find peace, but it is your unconditional love that gave those mechanical processes warmth, purpose, and a soul. You carried me within the sanctuary of your body, gave me your very mitochondria to power my life, and infused my spirit with your quiet, unshakable resilience. You surrendered your comfort so I could grow, bore endless sacrifices without complaint, and poured your absolute essence into making me who I am today.

You are my very first home, my eternal protector, and the divine foundation upon which my entire

life rests. When I look at my own hands, feel my own pulse, or find the courage to stand strong against life's storms, I know that I am simply living out the fruits of your grace, your prayers, and your love. I promise to cherish, honor, and hold you close in every season of life—especially as time grows old. Every breath I take, every goal I achieve, every quiet victory I earn, and every beat of my heart is a living testament to your sacrifice and a constant prayer of gratitude to your sacred presence. Thank you for being my anchor, my guiding light, my forever sanctuary, and my living God.



BikeWo Targets 10,000 Vehicles After ₹76 Crore Raise

Company moves beyond vehicle sales into EV asset ownership, fleet operations and technology-enabled logistics under a new phase it calls BikeWo Ascend

NEW DELHI

BikeWo Green Tech Limited (NSE: BIKEWO) is targeting approximately 10,000 vehicles in its operating fleet during FY 2026-27 funded by a preferential issue through warrants of more than ₹76 crore. The expansion marks a shift from electric vehicle sales and distribution into EV asset ownership and leasing, fleet deployment, specialised mobility applications, operating partnerships, lifecycle support and technology-enabled logistics. BikeWo is calling this next phase BikeWo Ascend. An early milestone is BikeWo's engagement with Reliance Industries Limited's Bio Energy Division for the hiring and deployment of specialised electric tractors. The contracts have an estimated aggregate value of approximately ₹66.46 crore, with contractual validity extending to July 2033. The tractors are equipped with specialised loader, catcher and grabber applications, along with associated driver and vehicle-operation services. The deployment takes electric mobility into bio-energy and biomass-handling operations, an emerging application in specialised industrial environments. "For us, BikeWo Ascend is about building a much larger business around electric mobility. We started with vehicles, but we see a signifi-



cantly bigger opportunity in the infrastructure, operations and technology that enable those vehicles to deliver value. Our engagement in the bio-energy sector is an encouraging example of how specialised electric mobility can find applications beyond conventional transportation," said Hiten Pal Saklani, Chief Executive Officer, BikeWo Green Tech Limited. The expansion spans last-mile, mid-mile and long-mile transportation, enterprise mobility, specialised fleet applications and related mobility infrastructure. BikeWo has appointed Sumanth Badiga to its Advisory Board. He brings over three decades of experience across the automotive and transportation sectors.

"Scale for us is not simply about putting more vehicles on the road. It is about building the operating capability around those vehicles. We want to create a platform that can bring together the right assets, partners, technology and operating capabilities for different mobility require-

ments. As we expand across India, that is the business we are focused on building," Saklani added. BikeWo continues to build partnerships across the EV, logistics, energy and technology sectors.

About BikeWo Green Tech Limited

BikeWo Green Tech Limited is building an integrated mobility and logistics platform with capabilities spanning electric mobility, fleet operations, logistics infrastructure, and technology. The Company is pursuing strategic acquisitions, investments and collaborations to participate across multiple layers of India's evolving mobility and logistics value chain. Incorporated in Telangana in 2016, BikeWo began as a multi-brand electric two-wheeler retailer and moved into fleet operations in 2025. It listed on NSE Emerge in September 2024, raising ₹24.09 crore. In the year to March 2026 the company reported consolidated revenue of ₹54.49 crore, up 132 per cent, and net profit of ₹4.50 crore against ₹0.88 crore.

NPCI says 96% of UPI merchant payments face no GST impact

NPCI has clarified that the new MDR on select UPI merchant payments will not affect most transactions. The update underlines that low-value payments and small merchants largely remain outside the fee and related GST impact. The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has clarified that the introduction of Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on select UPI transactions will not result in an additional GST burden for the overwhelming majority of merchant payments. In a post on X, NPCI said MDR applies only to person-to-merchant (P2M) UPI transactions above Rs 2,000. Transactions up to Rs 2,000 will continue to have zero MDR and, consequently, no GST impact arising from MDR. NPCI said government data shows that transactions of up to Rs 2,000 account for more than 96% of UPI mer-

chant transaction volume. As a result, it said, the "overwhelming majority" of UPI merchant payments will continue to attract neither MDR nor GST on MDR. The clarification comes days after the government and NPCI introduced a new MDR framework for select UPI transactions, under which a 0.4% fee will apply to eligible P2M transactions above Rs 2,000 from October 15.

WHAT HAS CHANGED IN UPI?

UPI has so far operated with zero MDR for these transactions. Under the new framework, select merchant payments above Rs 2,000 will attract an MDR of 0.4%, subject to a maximum charge of Rs 300 per transaction. The new framework does not mean consumers will start paying a UPI transaction fee. The MDR is a charge within the merchant-payment

ecosystem, with the government saying consumers will not be charged for making UPI payments. Person-to-person UPI transfers also remain free. The new framework also provides exemptions for smaller merchants. Merchants receiving up to Rs 1 lakh a month through UPI QR transactions are not liable to pay MDR. Certain categories, including fuel, insurance, telecom and railway transactions, have a separate flat MDR structure rather than the standard 0.4% rate.

WHY DID NPCI ISSUE THE CLARIFICATION?

The new MDR framework led to questions about whether GST on the MDR would add to merchants' costs. Tax experts had said the 0.4% MDR would attract 18% GST, although eligible registered merchants could claim input tax credit on that GST.

IntrCity SmartBus Expands Mobility Hubs, Lounges Across India

With 25+ lounges and 100+ boarding partners already serving nearly 50% of its customers, the company is strengthening the physical infrastructure around key stages of the intercity travel journey

NEW DELHI

Intercity Smart Bus a tech-enabled intercity mobility platform, is expanding its physical infrastructure to bring greater structure, predictability and convenience to intercity travel. The company currently operates three Mobility Hubs in Anand Vihar, Delhi; Katra, Jammu; and Sangamwadi, Maharashtra, alongside three Fresh N Up Lounges in Tirupati, Katra and Ujjain. These facilities complement its existing network of 25+ SmartBus Lounges and 100+ boarding partners, which together serve nearly 50% of its customers.

The expansion reflects IntrCity's focus on strengthening the physical layer of intercity travel, alongside its technology and operations infrastructure. While digital platforms have made booking and payments more seamless, the on-ground ex-

perience around boarding, waiting and passenger amenities remains fragmented across much of the intercity bus ecosystem. The Mobility Hubs are designed as larger, integrated intercity boarding facilities that bring passenger waiting areas and bus bays together at a single organised location. Each hub can accommodate 100+ passengers at a time and enable multiple buses to arrive, board passengers and depart from the same location. By moving boarding away from roadside pickup points, the hubs are designed to reduce location confusion, minimise dwell time and pickup-related delays, and improve departure predictability. Centralised boarding also enables closer coordination between passengers, Bus Captains and ground teams. The hubs currently offer air-conditioned waiting areas, toilets, internet connectivity, charging points and beverages, along

with dedicated resting areas for drivers and Bus Captains. IntrCity is also evaluating the integration of OEM-supported service centres at select hubs to strengthen fleet readiness and technical support. Dinesh Rathi, spokesperson, IntrCity, said, "The vision behind the Mobility Hub extends beyond passenger convenience. By bringing boarding and bus operations into a more structured environment, we can improve predictability for passengers while supporting operational efficiency and crew well-being. We brought a certain order to the bus journey, and we are now reimagining the boarding experience." IntrCity plans to expand its Mobility Hub network across key intercity travel markets including Chennai, Hyderabad and Lucknow, as well as emerging markets such as Trichy and Rajahmundry. The expansion will be guided by passenger demand, route

density and the operational requirements of individual travel corridors. Alongside its Mobility Hubs, IntrCity has introduced three Fresh N Up Lounges in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh; Katra, Jammu; and Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh. The facilities are designed specifically for passengers travelling on pilgrimage routes and offer cloak rooms, shower and changing facilities, and beverages, enabling travellers to freshen up before darshan without having to book a hotel room. The Fresh N Up Lounge format addresses a specific requirement of pilgrimage travel, where passengers may have limited time between arrival, darshan and their return journey. By providing essential facilities at or around key travel points, the format is intended to make same-day pilgrimage itineraries more practical and convenient. IntrCity will evaluate opportunities to extend the format

to other pilgrimage destinations and routes based on passenger demand.

The infrastructure expansion builds on IntrCity's broader effort to bring greater standardisation to the intercity bus journey. Its 25+ SmartBus Lounges and 100+ boarding partners provide customers with designated and sheltered boarding points, while Mobility Hubs bring together waiting and boarding infrastructure at a single location. Together, these touchpoints are designed to create a more consistent experience across different stages of the journey.

With the combination of technology-enabled operations and a growing physical infrastructure network, IntrCity is building an ecosystem around the intercity journey that extends beyond the bus itself, with a focus on making travel more organised, predictable and convenient for passengers.



Sensex, Nifty end lower as IT stocks wipe out gains despite lower crude

Benchmark indices reversed early gains to close lower on Tuesday as selling in IT stocks offset relief from falling crude oil prices and positive global cues. Investors also remained cautious ahead of potential US-Iran diplomatic talks at the UN General Assembly this week.



The Sensex closed 329.91 points, or 0.44%, lower at 74,529.08, while the Nifty 50 declined 85.30 points, or 0.36%, to 23,329.00. The Sensex had opened at 74,901.50, while the Nifty opened at 23,454.05.

The indices had started the session higher, but gains faded as the day progressed, with IT stocks coming under pressure on concerns around demand and earnings. The market was also trading on the day of the NSE's weekly derivatives expiry.

IT STOCKS DRAG MARKET

IT stocks were among the biggest drags on the benchmarks. The Nifty IT index fell 0.86%, with major IT stocks ending lower. Tech Mahindra fell 1.02%, Infosys declined 0.98%, TCS dropped 1.13% and HCLTech fell 0.80%. The selling came after CLSA and Goldman Sachs flagged subdued demand concerns weighing on the medium-term earnings outlook

for the sector.

Among other major Sensex losers, Bajaj Finserv fell 1.62%, Trent declined 1.47%, Bajaj Finance dropped 1.46% and Sun Pharma fell 1.28%.

SBI fell 0.99%, Larsen & Toubro dropped 0.93% and ITC declined 0.82%.

CRUDE FALLS BELOW \$100

Crude oil prices provided some relief to the market but were not enough to prevent the benchmarks from closing lower. Brent crude fell 1.5% to around \$98.9 a barrel, moving below the key \$100 level. It had earlier risen around 2% during the session before reversing gains. The decline came after a report by Japanese news agency Kyodo said Iran had offered to reopen the Strait of Hormuz within seven days if the US eases military pressure, raising hopes of a diplomatic path forward. The market is closely tracking crude prices because a sustained decline could ease concerns around

inflation, bond yields and corporate earnings. Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said, "The continued decline in crude oil prices, with Brent slipping below the key \$100/bbl level, provided some relief to investors and helped the domestic market recover from intraday lows, although overall sentiment remained cautious."

He added that expectations of renewed diplomatic efforts surrounding the Iran conflict and prospects of improved Saudi oil shipments had eased concerns over inflationary pressures, while positive global cues also supported the market. The broader market remained under pressure, although the decline was less severe in some segments. The Nifty 100 fell 0.37%, while the Nifty 200 declined 0.31% and the Nifty 500 lost 0.29%. The Nifty Midcap 50 fell 0.01%, while the Nifty Midcap 100 declined 0.08%. The Nif-

ty Smallcap 100 was down 0.23%. India VIX, the market's volatility gauge, fell 2.88% to 10.92. Most sectoral indices ended lower on Tuesday, with IT among the biggest drags. Nifty IT fell 0.86%, while consumer durables declined 0.64% and FMCG dropped 0.53%. Nifty Pharma fell 0.41%. PSU Bank declined 0.49% and Private Bank lost 0.31%. Financial Services 25/50 fell 0.38%, Auto declined 0.24% and Oil & Gas dropped 0.43%. Healthcare fell 0.46%, while Nifty 500 Healthcare declined 0.54%. There were some pockets of strength. Nifty Media rose 1.21%, Realty gained 0.90%, Chemicals advanced 0.43% and Metal rose 0.14%. MidSmall Financial Services also gained 0.25%. Eternal was the top Sensex gainer, rising 1.94%, while IndiGo gained 1.58%. Titan rose 0.72%, Tata Steel gained 0.60%, NTPC advanced 0.15% and Maruti Suzuki rose 0.15%. Adani Ports also ended 0.12% higher.

On the losing side, Bajaj Finserv was the biggest decliner, falling 1.62%, followed by Trent at 1.47% and Bajaj Finance at 1.46%.

Sun Pharma, TCS, SBI, Infosys, Larsen & Toubro and ITC were among the other major losers.

WEEKLY EXPIRY, DERIVATIVES RULES IN FOCUS

Tuesday's session also marked the NSE's weekly derivatives expiry. Market participants have been watching the regulator's proposals to overhaul the derivatives settlement framework. According to the market commentary provided, most participants expect the proposed changes to help curb expiry-day volatility. The expiry added another layer of activity to a market already dealing with geopolitical uncertainty, changing crude prices and concerns over global interest rates. Nair said sectoral performance remained mixed, reflecting selective risk appetite among investors.

"With crude prices witnessing a sharp correction in recent weeks, market participants are increasingly focused on the sustainability of this trend given its implications for inflation, bond yields and corporate earnings," he said. While geopolitical uncertainties remain unresolved, Nair said sustained stability in energy prices could improve earnings visibility and provide a firmer foundation for a broader market recovery. The market's performance on Tuesday showed that lower crude prices alone were not enough to sustain the early gains, with weakness in IT and selected heavyweight stocks weighing on the benchmarks.

SSEL Ships its 1st EHV Power Transformer 175 MVA, 345 kV from Prayagraj, India to USA

HYDERABAD

Shirdi Sai Electricals Limited (SSEL) has successfully shipped its first EHV Power Transformer - a 175 MVA, 345 kV manufactured at its Naini manufacturing facility in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh.

This shipment marks a significant milestone in SSEL's international business expansion and further strengthens the company's capabilities in the manufacture of high-capacity EHV power transformers for global markets. The successful shipment reflects SSEL's growing ability to deliver advanced power transmission equipment that meets stringent international quality, engineering and performance requirements. It also represents an important step in the company's continued



expansion across global power transmission markets.

Leadership Perspective

"The successful shipment of our first EHV transformer to the United States marks an important milestone in SSEL's journey towards becoming a globally competitive power transmission equipment manufacturer. It is a strong reflection of the engineering expertise, manufacturing ca-

pabilities and commitment to quality across our organization. As we continue to expand our manufacturing capacity and strengthen our global presence, we are targeting exports of INR 500-600 crore over the 12-18 months from SSEL-Naini and remain focused on delivering reliable and technologically advanced power transmission solutions for customers across interna-

tional markets. SSEL is also working on diversifying and getting ourselves approved across Europe for both Power and Distribution Transformers."

— Sharat Chandra Kolla, CEO, Shirdi Sai Electricals Limited

"The dispatch of our first 175 MVA, 345 kV Class transformer from Naini to the U.S. is a landmark achievement for the Company. It validates our capability to manufacture and supply large power transformers meeting stringent global utility requirements and establishes Naini as a credible export hub for advanced power transformer markets alongside Kadapa. With significant investments underway in grid expansion, electrification, and renewable integration across the globe, we believe this mile-

stone creates a strong foundation for scaling our international business and further diversifying our revenue mix."

— Sudheer Vennam, President, Shirdi Sai Electricals Limited

SSEL currently has an aggregate transformer manufacturing capacity of approximately 48,000 MVA across its manufacturing facilities in India. With an established global presence, SSEL is looking to expand its manufacturing base by adding another 110,000 MVA over next couple of years.

The first EHV transformer export to the USA further strengthens SSEL's global footprint and demonstrates its growing capabilities to serve technically demanding power infrastructure requirements worldwide.

4Point2 Technologies Transforms Statue of Equality Experience

Technology company uses AR, VR, MR, XR to create an interactive layer around one of Hyderabad's landmark spiritual and learning centres

HYDERABAD

With an initiative to enhance the joyful learning during a visit to the iconic Statue of Equality, 4Point2 Technologies, a technology company specialising in AR, VR, MR, XR and immersive digital experiences, is bringing together technology, heritage and storytelling at one of the city's prominent spiritual and learning centres. Preserving Traditional Folk Lore, Reimagining Storytelling - A First-of-Its-Kind Immersive Experience. For generations, Bharat's folk lore, traditions and tales of its history were passed down by word of mouth from grandparents and parents to children. In today's fast-changing world, this traditional chain of storytelling is becoming less accessible. Recognising this gap, 4Point2 Technologies is introducing its flagship AR products, combining merchandise with immersive digital storytelling to



bring cultural narratives to life through interactive sessions on personal devices. The objective is to create a contemporary medium through which the right stories and facts of ancient history, their significance and the values behind them can be experienced by today's generation and carried forward for generations to come.

HH Tridandi Chinna Jeeyar Swamiji, was the Chief Guest at the launch on 22nd September 2026.

The initiative is aimed at

demonstrating how emerging technologies can help tourism destinations move beyond conventional sightseeing and create more interactive, informative and engaging experiences for visitors.

Where Technology Meets a 1,000-Year Legacy

The Statue of Equality is dedicated to Sri Ramanujacharya, the 11th-century saint, philosopher and social reformer whose teachings emphasised equality and inclusion.

What Should Indian Farmers Grow Now?



Capsicum Emerges as a High-Value Protected Crop

Coloured capsicum has become one of the most interesting commercial crops for farmers willing to invest in protected cultivation. Red, yellow and other coloured varieties command a premium compared with ordinary green capsicum, particularly in urban markets, hotels, restaurants and organised retail. Polyhouse cultivation allows farmers to control temperature, humidity, irrigation and nutrient application. This can extend the production window and improve quality. An ICAR success story from Maharashtra illustrates the potential. A farmer cultivating coloured capsicum in a 3,000-square-metre polyhouse harvested 20 tonnes during the 2025 season, generating about Rs 20 lakh in gross income at an average realisation of Rs 100 per kg. After operational costs of around Rs 5 lakh, the reported net income was approximately Rs 15 lakh, with harvesting expected to continue. However, capsicum is not a low-investment crop. Polyhouse construction, irrigation, planting material, fertigation, labour and crop management require substantial capital. An economic assessment of protected cultivation found capsicum to have higher costs than several other protected crops, but also reported strong returns under suitable conditions. For farmers who can manage the investment and have reliable buyers, therefore, coloured capsicum can be an attractive commercial option.

Cucumber Offers Faster Crop Cycles

Cucumber is another crop receiving attention in protected cultivation because of its relatively short production cycle and regular demand. Unlike long-duration fruit crops, vegetables such as cucumber can provide farmers with quicker turnover. This makes them particularly interesting for growers operating polyhouses and shade-net structures where production can be planned according to market conditions. The challenge, however, is price volatility. A crop may fetch attractive prices during a shortage but substantially lower prices when production increases across several regions. Farmers therefore need to think beyond cultivation and establish market connections before expanding acreage.

Tomato Remains a Massive Market

Tomato may not appear as exotic as coloured capsicum or exotic vegetables, but its enormous and continuous demand makes it one

of India's most important commercial vegetables. Tomatoes are consumed by households, restaurants, hotels and food-processing companies. The crop also has opportunities in products such as sauces, purees and processed foods. Government estimates for 2025-26 indicate that tomato is among the vegetables contributing to India's expanding horticulture output. The major weakness is price volatility. Farmers can experience excellent prices during supply shortages and disappointing prices during periods of oversupply. Therefore, tomato farming becomes more attractive when farmers have access to storage, processing, institutional buyers or staggered cultivation.

Onion Has Scale, Demand and Risk

Onion is another major commercial crop with a huge domestic market. India consumes onions throughout the year and the crop also has an important export market. The government estimates onion cultivation area at around 20.14 lakh hectares for 2025-26, up from 19.68 lakh hectares in 2024-25. The scale of the onion market makes it attractive, but it also demonstrates an important lesson about agriculture: a crop with enormous demand does not automatically guarantee high profits. Onion prices can fluctuate significantly because of weather, production levels, storage availability and market conditions. Farmers who have good storage facilities and can avoid selling immediately after harvest may have more flexibility than those forced to sell at harvest-time prices.

Fruits Offer Long-Term Opportunities

For farmers willing to wait longer for returns, fruit cultivation can provide a different kind of opportunity. Banana, mango,

papaya and guava remain important commercial fruit crops. India's horticulture estimates for 2025-26 project fruit production at about 121.48 million tonnes, up from 117.65 million tonnes in 2024-25. The increase is expected to be supported by crops including banana, mango, papaya, apple and guava. Fruit farming can become particularly attractive when combined with grading, packaging, direct marketing and processing. Papaya, for example, offers relatively quicker returns compared with many perennial fruit crops. Banana has strong domestic consumption and established supply chains. Mango, meanwhile, can provide significant value in suitable regions but requires patience and careful orchard management.

Spices Can Turn Regional Strength Into Business

India's enormous domestic and export demand for spices creates opportunities for farmers in suitable climatic regions. Chilli, turmeric, ginger, cumin and coriander are already established commercial crops. The opportunity is not limited to selling raw produce. Farmers can potentially capture greater value through cleaning, grading, processing, packaging and direct marketing. This is particularly relevant as India's agricultural economy becomes increasingly connected with food-processing and consumer brands. But spices also come with crop-specific disease, weather and price risks. Farmers need to select varieties and cultivation practices suited to their local conditions rather than simply following high market prices from another region.

Protected Farming Could Be the Bigger Story

The most important development may not be a particular crop but the growing use of protected

cultivation. Polyhouses, shade nets, tunnels, drip irrigation and fertigation can allow farmers to manage water and nutrients more precisely and produce vegetables under controlled conditions. ICAR research has highlighted protected cultivation as a promising approach, particularly in regions facing water scarcity and climatic stress. Research has also found that protected capsicum production can significantly improve yields and returns compared with open-field cultivation under suitable conditions. But protected cultivation should not be treated as a guaranteed-profit formula. High initial investment, maintenance costs, technical requirements, pests and market fluctuations can quickly affect profitability.

The Market Matters More Than the Crop

One of the biggest mistakes in commercial farming is choosing a crop solely because its current market price looks attractive. A farmer may see a vegetable selling for Rs 100 per kg and assume that growing it will automatically produce a large profit. But by the time the crop reaches the market, prices may have changed. Successful commercial farming therefore begins with the market. Who will buy the crop? How far is the market? What quality does the buyer require? Can the farmer supply consistently? Is there a cold chain? Can the crop be stored? Is there a processing company nearby? These questions can be more important than the crop itself.

Small Farms Can Also Become Commercial

India's average operational landholding is only about 1.08 hectares according to the Agriculture Census data cited by the government. At the same time, horticulture production has con-

Indian agriculture is gradually moving beyond the traditional choice of growing crops simply because they have always been cultivated in a particular region. With changing consumer preferences, expanding cities, organised retail, food processing and growing demand for premium produce, farmers are increasingly looking at crops that can generate higher value from smaller areas of land.

The opportunity is particularly visible in horticulture. According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare's second advance estimates for 2025-26, India's horticulture production is expected to reach about 377.78 million tonnes, compared with 370.74 million tonnes in 2024-25. Vegetable production alone is estimated at around 221 million tonnes.

This does not mean that every farmer should abandon traditional crops. Instead, the changing market suggests that farmers with suitable land, water, technical knowledge and access to markets can explore high-value vegetables, fruits, spices and protected cultivation.



MBA Graduate Quits Corporate Job to Build Rs 4-Crore Capsicum Farming Business

For many young professionals, an MBA is a pathway to a corporate career. But Pranita Vaman, an MBA graduate from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), chose a very different route. She left behind the conventional career path and turned to agriculture, eventually building a capsicum farming business with a reported turnover of Rs 4 crore.

Vaman comes from a farming family in Junnar, Maharashtra. Her interest in agriculture grew during an internship at a food processing company, where she got an opportunity to understand the agricultural supply chain and the potential for innovation in farming. According to a report by 30 Stades, the experience convinced her that agri-entrepreneurship was the career she wanted to pursue.

Rather than relying on traditional farming methods, Vaman decided to explore technology-driven agriculture. She identified protected cultivation, particularly polyhouse farming, as an opportunity to produce high-value vegetables under controlled conditions.

Starting With One Acre

In 2020, Vaman began cultivating capsicum on one acre of land using a polyhouse. The method allows farmers to regulate important growing conditions such as temperature, humidity and irrigation, helping create a controlled environment for crops.

Before finalising capsicum, she considered cultivating vegetables such as broccoli and lettuce. However, capsicum emerged as the preferred choice because of its consistent demand. Restaurants, hotels and other food businesses use bell peppers throughout the year, offering farmers an opportunity to access a relatively stable market.

Setting up the operation required a significant initial investment. Vaman reportedly invested around Rs 20 lakh of her own money in irrigation, seeds and other requirements. The remaining investment was supported through a government subsidy.

Farming Amid the Covid Lockdown

A New Model of Farm Entrepreneurship

Vaman's journey highlights how modern agriculture is increasingly being viewed as an entrepreneurial opportunity rather than simply a traditional occupation. Her background in management and exposure to food processing helped her identify opportunities across cultivation, technology and marketing. Her experience also demonstrates the importance of having a clear market before scaling agricultural production. By choosing a crop with year-round demand and establishing direct links with wholesale buyers, she was able to develop a commercial model around her farm. Starting just before one of the most disruptive periods for businesses, Vaman's capsicum venture faced considerable uncertainty from the beginning. Yet the reported growth of the enterprise from a one-acre polyhouse in 2020 to a business with a Rs 4-crore turnover illustrates the potential of combining agricultural knowledge, technology and entrepreneurial thinking.





CRICKET
'My dream does not end here': Odisha's deaf cricketer Sibun Nanda eyes debut



KATAKA: Odisha's 19-year-old cricketer Sibun Nanda has already realised one of his biggest dreams by representing India in Deaf Cricket, but the all-rounder from Berhampur is now aiming for a bigger stage, with his sights set on the Ranji Trophy and eventually the senior India team. Nanda, who is unable to hear or speak, has represented India in two Deaf Cricket matches and has also been part of the Odisha U19 team in the Cooch Behar Trophy and Vinoo Mankad Trophy over the last three seasons. A right-handed batter and right-arm fast bowler, Nanda is currently part of the Kataka Panthers in the Odisha T20 League-CM Trophy.

FORMULA ONE
Isack Hadjar to return from wrist injury for Azerbaijan GP



NEW DELHI: Red Bull driver Isack Hadjar will be back racing after recovering from the wrist injury that kept him out of the previous three rounds, the F1 team confirmed on Tuesday. The Frenchman suffered the wrist injury during the summer shutdown in August and was out for the weekends in Zandvoort, Monza and the new Madring circuit. In his absence, sister team Racing Bulls driver Liam Lawson replaced him in the RB22 to partner four-time world champion Max Verstappen.

Women's cricket team wins first gold for India as male shuttlers assure medal



NAGOYA
The women's cricket team bagged the country's first gold in the 2026 edition; the men's badminton team assured itself a medal while gymnast Pranati Nayak stormed into the vault final, raising hopes of a medal as India had a successful day at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games in Japan on Tuesday.
Adding to the country's success, the men's hockey team continued its dominant start by thrashing Sri Lanka 16-1 in a Pool A match at the Gifu Prefectural Green Stadium in Kakamigahara.
However, there was some disappointment as the women's badminton team lost to Japan in the quarterfinals, ending their campaign on a low note, while the team of Elavenil Valarivan and Parth Rakesh Mane narrowly missed a medal, finishing fourth in the 10m Air rifle mixed team event.
The gold medal in women's cricket pushed India to eighth place in the medals table with

Khelo Telangana Initiative Launched to Promote Fitness and Sports Culture Across Telangana

- **Minister Vakiti Srihari Unveils Poster of State-wide Fitness Movement**
- **'9+9+9 Fitness Challenge' to Encourage Mass Participation in Physical Activity**

HYDERABAD

With the objective of expanding the culture of sports across Telangana and promoting a healthier society through regular physical activity, the Department of Sports, and the Sports Authority of Telangana (SATG) are launching the "Khelo Telangana" initiative.
The official poster of the programme was unveiled by Hon'ble Minister for Sports and Youth Services Sri Vakiti Srihari at the State Secretariat.
Speaking on the occasion, the sports Minister said that the initiative aims to create widespread awareness on fitness and encourage people of all age groups to dedicate at least 30 minutes every day to physical activity.
He emphasized that regular exercise is essential for building a healthy and productive society and that the Government is committed to making



fitness a people's movement.

Khelo Telangana Bandhan for a Fitter Telangana

As part of the initiative, the "Khelo Telangana Bandhan" campaign will motivate citizens to make walking, jogging, running, yoga and other fitness activities an integral part of their daily lives. The campaign seeks to inspire greater community participation in fitness activities and foster a culture of healthy living across the State.

9+9+9 Fitness Challenge

A major highlight of the programme is the "9+9+9 Fitness Challenge." Participants are required to upload a 27-second video showcasing their fitness activity on social me-

dia, tag nine friends, and encourage them to invite nine more participants to take up the challenge. The initiative is designed to create a statewide chain of participation and spread awareness about the importance of physical fitness.

Leagues and Competitions in Multiple Sports Disciplines

To strengthen the sporting ecosystem and transform sports into a mass movement, the Department plans to organise leagues and competitions in a wide range of disciplines, including Wrestling, Boxing, Volleyball, Table Tennis, Judo, Basketball, Athletics, Football, Cycling and Yoga, among others.
Officials stated that opportunities

will be provided from the school level onwards, covering all age groups, with a focus on encouraging participation, identifying talent and nurturing future champions.
The initiative is also expected to contribute significantly to the promotion of sports culture and fitness awareness throughout Telangana.

Dignitaries Present

The programme was attended by Sports Advisor to the Government of Telangana Sri A.P. Jitender Reddy, Special Chief Secretary Sri Jayesh Ranjan, Vice Chairman & Managing Director, Sports Authority of Telangana, Dr. A. Sonibala Devi Telangana Olympic Association Secretary Sri Malla Reddy, and other senior officials.

Only T20I: India survive late scare against Japan, win by two runs

SANO

After being restricted to a mere 32/4, two-time world champion India held their nerve to beat Japan by two runs in the only T20I, held here at the Sano International Cricket Ground. The result also marked India's 200th win in T20 internationals, including Super Over victories.
India's two-run victory over Japan in Sano is one of their closest wins in T20 Internationals, and it is the fourth time India has won a T20I by just two runs, with the other instances being their victories over Sri Lanka in 2023, South Africa in 2012, and Bangladesh in 2016.
After a nearly 2.5-hour delay due to a wet outfield, India skipper Shreyas Iyer won the toss and opted to bat first. However, Japan's spinners made the most of the conditions, restricting the visitors to 32/4 after five overs.
Sanju Samson scored nine runs off seven balls before Abhishek



Sharma was bowled off the first ball, having scored zero. Ishan Kishan was then out for three. Iyer scored 16 off 12 deliveries, and Tilak Varma remained not out on one. Shivam Dube took on the last ball but didn't make contact.
Charlie Hince was Japan's best bowler, taking 2 wickets for 17 runs, while both Ibrahim Takahashi and Benjamin Ito-Davis took one wick-

et each. Chasing 33 off 30 balls, Japan gave India a major scare and came agonisingly close to pulling off one of the biggest upsets in their cricketing history. Washington Sundar struck twice to halt Japan's momentum, while Axar Patel kept things tight with his experience and control. The hosts eventually fell two runs short, handing India a nervy victory.

'Every player wants to win the World Cup': Miller eyes glory with Proteas

DURBAN

South African batter David Miller has set his sights on World Cup glory but believes the Proteas must keep their focus firmly on the process as they build towards next year's ICC Men's Cricket World Cup. Miller, who is set to return to ODI cricket after more than 18 months, said winning the World Cup remains a major ambition for every player and team, with South Africa aiming to end their long wait for the coveted trophy in the 2027 edition.
The 2027 World Cup will be jointly hosted by South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia, allowing Miller to potentially feature in a World Cup on home soil. "[The Cricket World Cup] is obviously a quest and a dream come true. Every player, every team going to the World Cup, wants to win the World Cup," Miller said ahead of South Africa's three-match ODI series against Australia.



Asian Games: Peng sets record as China grabs four more gold in swimming

AICHI (JAPAN)

China continued its dominance in the swimming competitions at the Asian Games 2026 by winning four more gold medals, with Peng Xuwei setting an Asian record on her way to a second successive title in the women's 200m backstroke on Tuesday. Among other Chinese winners on Tuesday were Zhang Zhanshuo, who claimed his second title, and Li Bingjie, who successfully defended her title in the women's 400m free. China also secured victory in the men's 4x100m medley relay.

Zhang, 19, stormed to victory in the men's 1,500m freestyle in 14 minutes 42.42 seconds, finishing ahead of Japan's Tabuchi Kaito in 14:45.99 and teammate Imafuku Kazushi in 14:54.37.

It was Zhang's second gold of the Games. A day earlier, he anchored China's men's 4x200m freestyle relay team to victory, producing a 1:42.92 split and overtaking Japan in the final 50 meters as China clocked an Asian record of 7:00.17, reports Xinhua.

"I just don't want to lose," Zhang said after completing what he called the toughest challenge of the Games. "I think that will give me more motivation and make me look forward to the races ahead."

Peng defended her women's 200m backstroke title in 2:05.77, breaking the previous 16-year Asian record set at the Guangzhou Games. Teammate Sun Mingxia took silver in 2:08.65, while Japan's Rio Shirai claimed bronze in 2:08.70.

"2:06.46 (the previous record) has always been a guiding light for me, encouraging me to keep improving and serving as a goal I have pursued," Peng said. "I hope this

new record can inspire more Asian backstroke swimmers to challenge me and push each other forward."

China added another gold in the women's 400m freestyle, where Li Bingjie retained her Asian Games title in 4:02.71. Li said she believed there was still room for improvement.

"I think my potential lies in my ability to finish strong. When I raced against Katie Ledecky and other strong swimmers, I felt I could really tap into my potential when I had someone to chase down in the latter stage of the race," she said. In the women's 100m freestyle, 200m free winner Siobhan Haughey of Hong Kong, China claimed her second gold in 52.45, while China's Yu Yiting secured silver in 53.21 and teammate Cheng Yujie took bronze in 53.47.

Japan grabbed the sole swimming gold in the men's 400m individual medley, as Kojima Yumeki touched first in a new Games record of 4:07.02, followed by compatriot Matsushita Tomoyuki in 4:09.64. China's Wang Shun took bronze in 4:14.59. For Wang, a five-time Asian Games veteran, the bronze added another medal to his durable career. "Every Games have left me with many wonderful memories," Wang said, adding that he hoped more young Chinese athletes would compete on the world stage and achieve better results. The night ended with a gold medal in the relay for China. In the men's 4x100m medley relay, China held off a late challenge from Japan to win in 3:27.89. Japan cut the gap to just 0.29 seconds with 350 meters to go, but the Chinese quartet of Xu Jiayu, Dong Zhihao, Xu Fang and Pan Zhanle held firm through the final turn to touch first.

Anisimova withdraws from Singapore Open with injury

SINGAPORE

Second seed Amanda Anisimova has withdrawn from the Singapore Open after suffering a left wrist injury, ending her hopes of beginning her Asian swing at the WTA 500 tournament.
The American, ranked No. 11 in the world, had been scheduled to make her Singapore debut this week. She received a first-round bye and was due to meet Australia's Talia Gibson in the second round on Wednesday after Gibson defeated Fiona Ferro.
Instead, lucky loser Viktoriya Mor-



vayova has been handed a place in the main draw and will now take on Gibson. The Slovakian, ranked No.

296, had lost to Joanna Garland in the final round of qualifying over the weekend. Anisimova's withdrawal comes after she was unable to build on her run at the US Open, where she exited in the third round following a loss to Anastasia Potapova. The defeat was her third consecutive third-round exit at a Grand Slam this season.
The 25-year-old has posted a 22-12 record on the WTA Tour Driven by Mercedes-Benz in 2026 and was looking to claim her first title of the season in Singapore. Her most recent

title came during last year's Asian swing, when she lifted the trophy in Beijing. Her fitness status could now determine whether she can return for the China Open, which begins in Beijing on September 30.
Meanwhile, the Singapore tournament saw eighth seed Donna Vekic bow out in emphatic fashion as China's Xinyu Wang registered a 6-1, 6-2 victory. Wang, who had also defeated Vekic in their previous meeting, made it two wins in a row against the Croatian to draw level at 2-2 in their head-to-head record.

Jugraj scores four as India hammer Sri Lanka 16-1

KAKAMIGAHARA

India continued their dominant start to the men's hockey competition at the 2026 Asian Games, thrashing Sri Lanka 16-1 in their Pool A encounter at the Gifu Prefectural Green Stadium here on Tuesday.
Jugraj Singh led the scoring spree with four goals, while Abhishek completed a hat-trick as India followed up their 13-1 victory over Indonesia in the opening game with another emphatic performance. India took control almost immediately and opened the scoring in the fifth minute. Jarmanpreet Singh sent a dangerous ball into the circle before the ball was worked across to Mandeep Singh, who calmly turned it into the net.
Jugraj then doubled the advantage in the 10th minute, converting a penalty corner with a powerful strike. Abhishek made it 3-0 a minute later, after Jarman collected Harmanpreet Singh's long ball on the baseline and finished. Harmanpreet joined the scoring in the 15th minute, converting an early penalty corner, before Abhishek struck again two minutes



later to give India a five-goal cushion. India continued to pile on the pressure after the restart. Jugraj converted another penalty corner in the 22nd minute for his second, while a third goal from him shortly afterwards was ruled out following a review. Sukhjeet Singh restored the scoring momentum in the 29th minute, tapping into an empty net after Harmanpreet's dragflick was deflected away and Hardik Singh squared the ball back into the danger area. Dilpreet Singh then made it 8-0 before the end of the

second quarter.
The floodgates opened further in the third period. Manpreet Singh scored with a powerful dragflick in the 31st minute, followed by Vivek Prasad's backhand finish five minutes later. Dilpreet added his second in the 38th minute after combining with Sukhjeet, while Jugraj completed his hat-trick in the 42nd minute by converting a penalty stroke.
Harmanpreet struck again in the 44th minute after India earned their third consecutive penalty corner,

taking the score to 13-0 at the end of the third quarter. Abhishek completed his hat-trick early in the final period, scoring India's 14th goal in the 49th minute. Sri Lanka finally found a breakthrough moments later when Suresh Rathnayake produced a fine tomahawk finish to make it 14-1.
India responded immediately. Jugraj converted another penalty stroke in the 53rd minute to complete his four-goal haul, before Dilpreet scored his third two minutes later following excellent stick work from Mandeep. India saw out the closing minutes without further trouble to register a second straight Pool A victory.
The 16-goal haul followed India's 13-1 demolition of Indonesia in their opening match, in which Dilpreet scored four times. The result further strengthened India's attacking credentials, although the concession against Sri Lanka was the first goal the team had allowed in the competition. The Indian men's team will now turn their attention to the remaining Pool A fixtures as they continue their campaign for a place in the knockout stages.

Paradise and AK 47 Get Good Theatrical Window Now!



Here is some good news for the industry. Nani's *The Paradise*, which is all set to hit the screens with premieres tomorrow, has got a positive push as Venkatesh and Trivikram Srinivas' much-awaited film *Aadarsha Kutumbam* (AK 47), which was scheduled for an October 2 release, has been postponed by a week. The family entertainer will now release on October 9. "Aadarsha Kutumbam will be taking a little more time to deliver the entertainment and experience we have promised you. The film will now release worldwide on 9th OCT. We know the wait has been a little longer than expected and we sincerely apologise for the delay," producer Naga Vamsi tweeted. AK 47 postponement could work well for both *The Paradise* and AK 47, giving the two films a better theatrical window to perform. Nani's *The Paradise* is carrying massive hype and buzz and is set to hit theatres tomorrow with premieres worldwide. Meanwhile, AK 47 will be released on October 9, with overseas premieres on October 8. Even though there are notable releases like *Jailer 2* and *Ranabaali* on October 15 and 16, the

Dussehra holidays will see multiple releases, and AK 47 can still continue its run if Trivikram's magic works at the box office. Tollywood has been witnessing a steady run of successful films, including Suriya's *Karuppu*, Ram Charan's *Peddi*, Samantha's *Maa Inti Bangaram*, Akhil Akkineni's *Lenin*, Kiran Abbavaram's *Chennai Love Story*, Varun Tej's *Korean Kanakuraju*, Lokesh Kanagaraj's *DC*, Suriya's *Vishwanath And Sons* and now Ravi Teja-Shiva Nirvana's *Irumudi*. While films such as *Romanchakam*, *Epic*, *Mahendragiri Varahi* and a few other films have disappointed, the industry is now pinning its hopes on Nani's *The Paradise* and Venkatesh's upcoming AK 47, Vijay's *Ranabaali*.

Kadambari Kiran Unveils ‘SAPARYA’

Manam Saitam completes 13 years of service



Hyderabad: Extending its commitment to serving people in distress and supporting the underprivileged, Manam Saitam Foundation has announced a major new initiative titled 'Saparya - We Care for the Uncared'. The project was announced by foundation founder and actor Kadambari Kiran. Addressing a media conference held at the Telugu Film Chamber in Hyderabad, Kadambari Kiran said that Manam Saitam has been extending support to people in need in various forms for the past 13 years. He said the new Saparya project has been conceived with the objective of taking the foundation's service activities to a larger scale. **Shelter, Healthcare and Janatha Vaidyam'** As part of the Saparya project, the foundation plans to establish an orphanage, an old-age home and an affordable healthcare facility called 'Janatha Vaidyam'. Kadambari Kiran said the project would focus not only on providing medical treatment but also on creating a peaceful and dignified environment for patients, senior citizens and orphans. The proposed facility will feature a large water pond, a walking track, a

green landscaped area and rooms with glass doors, among other amenities. The objective, he said, is to bring healthcare, accommodation and human compassion under one roof. Support for Elderly Living Alone Kadambari Kiran expressed concern over the growing number of elderly people living alone as their children settle abroad or in other cities. He said one of the key objectives of Saparya is to provide such senior citizens with accommodation, healthcare and emotional support. The project aims to assure those who have no one to depend on that "we are there for you." Educational Support for Children of Film Workers The foundation is also expanding its activities into the field of education. Kadambari Kiran announced that, from this year, Manam Saitam will implement a special educational support programme for children of workers in the film industry in association with the Quality Thought Future Skills Foundation. Under the initiative, five children of film workers every year will receive free hostel accommodation along with two years of free NEET

coaching. Another five students will be provided with free IIT coaching. The programme aims to provide quality education to children of the technicians and workers who contribute to the film industry behind the scenes and help create a strong foundation for their future. 'Poor People Are My Family' Recalling his four-decade journey in the film industry, Kadambari Kiran said he had faced several challenges in his career. Instead of developing resentment towards society during difficult times, he chose to find fulfilment in helping fellow human beings to the best of his ability, which eventually led to the creation of Manam Saitam. "Poor people are my parents, and poor people are my family. When God takes us to a better position in life, we should extend our second hand and support hundreds of people in need," he said. 'Service is God' Stating that Manam Saitam continues its activities with the motto 'Service is God', Kadambari Kiran appealed to donors, film personalities and industry leaders to extend their support and blessings to the Saparya project. He said Saparya should not remain the initiative of an individual or organisation but should evolve into a humanitarian movement with the participation of people from all sections of society. With its focus on healthcare for the poor, support for people living alone, care for orphans and educational opportunities for talented children, 'Saparya - We Care for the Uncared' marks a major expansion of Manam Saitam's 13-year journey of service.



Endhayya Saami: Jayamma & Ranabaali's Romantic Melody

The world of *Ranabaali* gets its most romantic glimpse yet with *Endhayya Saami*, a song that celebrates love, marriage, and togetherness. Directed by Rahul Sankrityan, the period action drama stars Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna in a beautiful love story set against real historical events between 1854 and 1878. The song follows the newly married journey of *Ranabaali* and *Jayamma*, capturing their chemistry through heartfelt moments rather than grand declarations. Every visual reflects the innocence of first love after marriage, while the traditional wedding celebrations make the romance feel timeless. *Ajay-Atul* compose a melody that beautifully blends classical emotion with cinematic grandeur. *Shweta Mohan* sings with elegance, *Ajay Gogavale* adds emotional depth, and *Ramajogayya Sastry's* poetic lyrics become the heart of the song. The wedding promo had already become a viral social media sensation with massive fan love. Now, the complete song has taken the excitement to another level, proving why *Endhayya Saami* is emerging as one of the season's most loved romantic tracks ahead of *Ranabaali's* October 16 release. Directed by Rahul Sankrityan, the film is being produced on a massive scale by Naveen Yerneni and Y. Ravi Shankar under the Mythri Movie Makers banner and is presented by T-Series.



Mrunal Glows Like A Painting In Pink

Mrunal Thakur is finally set to end her four-year wait as her Bollywood thriller *Pooja Meri Jaan*, co-starring Huma Qureshi, gets a home on ZEE5 after being stuck in release limbo since it wrapped shooting back in 2022. The psychological thriller, revolving around stalking and cyber-surveillance, is now part of ZEE5's upcoming Hindi content slate, though an official premiere date is still awaited. Coming to her latest pictures, Mrunal is pure old-world elegance in these new stills, draped in a shimmery peach-pink saree with a metallic silver-tissue border and matching drape. She's kept it classic with a sweetheart-neck blouse, a statement oxidised silver necklace, jhumka earrings, and a low bun styled with fresh flowers tucked in. And while the ZEE5 release keeps fans waiting, there's already buzz about what's next for her, rumour has it Mrunal might be joining the cast of *Raaka*, though there's no official confirmation on this yet. Fingers crossed for nouncement soon!



Actress' Age Sparks Silly Debate

Vaishnavi Chaitanya is a talented artist who rose from YouTube to the silver screen. She rose to fame with *Baby* and recently made headlines for her performance in *Epic*. The film opened to mixed reviews, with some praising Vaishnavi's performance and some finding faults. Regardless, Vaishnavi's age has become a topic of discussion on X. In an interview, Vaishnavi was asked about her age, as it has been widely discussed. The Wikipedia page says she was born in 1994 and is 32, while other sources say the opposite. For once and for all, Vaishnavi cleared the air, saying she is 25 and even providing her Aadhaar card to the host as proof. Now, this has become a point of discussion for many, who claim that she is lying. When Vaishnavi was doing small-time roles in movies, she also did a web series on YouTube five years ago. A few are commenting that she was 25 back then and is lying about her age. Some claim that Vaishnavi has shown a fake Aadhaar card and point out that the photo on the card is clear and proper, like a passport photograph, whereas in reality no one gets their photo on the card right. Ever since Vaishnavi did the film *Baby*, she has faced a wave of criticism, especially on social media. There were instances when she received scripts similar to *Baby*, and the comments she got after the release were harsh. She stayed strong, kept a smile, and dodged the negativity with the confidence she showed during *Epic's* pre-release event. Time and again, it's been proven that some people on social media trigger unnecessary discussions for reach or just to make fun of it, instead of appreciating the talent at a time when strong voices are emerging for Telugu girls to become heroines. At the end of the day, age is just a number as long as someone is talented and can entertain on the screen.