HYDERABAD HEADLINES

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Telangana Woman Dies in Road Accident in the United States



Missouri: Daram Supriya (31), a married woman from Maripeda mandal headquarters in Mahabubabad district, Telangana, was residing in Missouri, USA, for work. A truck reportedly crashed into the car in which she was travelling from behind. Supriya died on the spot in the accident. Another young woman from India is also reported to have suffered serious injuries in the crash.

Millions Must Not Be Disenfranchised Arbitrarily

Justice Ujjal Bhuyan calls mass disenfranchisement intrinsically arbitrary and unconstitutional

HYDERABAD, OCT 4

Supreme Court judge Justice Ujjal Bhuyan on Sunday said any process which "disenfranchises" millions of Indian citizens was "intrinsically arbitrary" and a "negation" of the constitutional order. No amount of "whataboutery" can justify it, he said. Justice Bhuyan, who delivered the valedictory address at the 19th Justice Bodh Raj Sawhney Memorial Moot Court Competition at NALSAR University of Law, said the Indian Constitution does not provide for two classes of citizens -- one with voting rights and the other without voting rights. Any process which leads to wholesale disenfranchisement of Indian citizens making them citizens without voting rights would be violative of Articles 326 and 14 of the Constitution of India, he said. "If any process results in disenfranchising millions and millions of Indian citizens making them second class citizens in their own country in the sense of being citizens without a voting right, such a process is intrinsically arbitrary. No amount of whataboutery can justify it," he said. "It strikes at the very heart of the Constitution and I would go to the extent of saying that it is a negation of the Constitutional order which we have adopted based under Constitution of India," he said. Observing that Indian citizens' right to vote is intertwined with India's long years of struggle against foreign rule, he said it is a manifestation of freedom achieved after long struggle and sacrifice and

"If any process results in disenfranchising millions and millions of Indian citizens, such a process is intrinsically arbitrary. No amount of whataboutery can justify it."

— Justice Ujjal Bhuyan



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Cong spreading malicious propaganda against constitutional institutions out of fear of defeat: NRR

HYDERABAD

Launching a vitriolic attack on Congress party, BJP Telangana State President N Ramchander Rao lashed out at the Congress party, stating that after losing in several states across the country and suffering defeat in three consecutive Lok Sabha elections it is unable to realize the facts that chaiwala Narendra Modi became Prime Minister for third term.

Addressing a press conference at the party's state headquarters, he alleged that the Congress leadership is unable to stomach the fact that the public rejected them in three consecutive Lok Sabha elections and blessed Narendra Modi to become Prime Ministers calling all elections held in the country a farce and demanding their cancellation. Condemning such comments, Rao asserted that questioning the people's mandate is an insult not only to voters of this country, but to Indian democracy itself.



BJP state chief accused Rahul Gandhi and forces like Prakash Raj for joining hands in a conspiracy to erode public trust in independent constitutional bodies such as the Supreme Court of India, the President's Office, and the Election Commission of India (ECI). He criticized Congress for attempting to weaken these systems and jeopardize the country's integrity.

Clarifying allegations made by the Congress regarding the ongoing SIR process in Hyderabad city, Rao asserted that there is no truth to their claims. He made it clear that this process is being conducted entirely by the state government machinery, and decisions on deleting votes are taken only after the Election Commission

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Thackeray Cousins Lead Mumbai Protest Over SIR

Mumbai, Oct 4: Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray on Sunday led a protest march in Mumbai against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Maharashtra. Thousands of people joined the march,

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All-Party Leaders Call for CEC's Removal

HYDERABAD, OCT.4

A meeting of various political parties was held today at the CPI(M) state office in Hyderabad. State-level leaders from the Congress, CPI, CPM, TJS, CPI(ML) Madline, CPI(ML) New Democracy, MCPI(U), AIC, CPI(ML) Liberation, RSP, CPI(ML), Samajwadi Party and RJD participated in this meeting. Leaders such as John Wesley (CPI(ML) Secretary), ET Narasimha (CPI State Assistant Secretary), Mallu Ravi (Congress) and Professor M. Kodandaram (TJS) took part in the meeting . The meeting strongly condemned the illegal nationwide deletion of votes and announced a joint course of action. The leaders alleged that Conspiracies were underway to undermine the right to vote, which is crucial to the country's democratic system and constitutional spirit. They also alleged that Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar was acting unilaterally and in favour of the ruling BJP at the Centre thereby misusing the electoral system. "He is making a mockery of democracy by unjustly deleting millions of votes across the country under the guise of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls. In Telangana, prior to the commencement of the SIR process, there were 3.28 crore (32.8 million) votes; subsequently, 73 lakh (7.3 million) votes were deleted.

There are only 2.66 crore entries in the draft list. Notices have been issued regarding 93 lakh of these, treating them as suspicious. The Election Commission is conspiring under the guise of the 'SIR' process—to delete 1.66 crore votes out of the state's total 3.28 crore votes. Against this backdrop, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, who is acting with bias and flouting constitutional norms, must be removed from office immediately. Gyanesh Kumar must be investigated for the irregularities associated with the 'SIR' process. The controversial 'SIR' process must be halted immediately and names that were illegally deleted must be restored to the voters' list.

Chit- Scam: Husband and Wife Arrested

Collected ₹6.24 crore in the name of chit funds, daily collections and high returns; more than ₹3.05 crore remains unpaid

Hyderabad, October 4: A case has come to light in Telangana's Suryapet district in which a government school teacher and his wife allegedly collected large amounts of money from people in the name of chit funds, daily collections and high returns, and cheated them. Police arrested government teacher Banoth Raju (44), a resident of Yenagandi Thanda in Chivvemla mandal, and his wife Banoth Anusha (33).

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SLBC Advances Beyond Toughest Stretch: Uttam

Careful excavation takes tunnel past collapse-hit shear zone

Additional drilling equipment and German locomotive to accelerate operations

Over 700 metres of progress recorded so far

Minister stresses worker safety

HYDERABAD, October 4: Marking a decisive breakthrough in the Srisailam Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel project, excavation has moved beyond a major geological challenge, paving the way for additional equipment deployment and improved operational efficiency while maintaining rigorous safety standards, Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said on Sunday.

The Minister held a marathon review with elected representatives and senior officials from the three districts of erstwhile Nalgonda on the implementation of key irrigation projects, including the SLBC tunnel. The project is expected to deliver over 30 TMC of water to the region's parched upland areas, helping end the perennial scarcity they have faced. MPs K. Raghuveer Reddy and Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy; MLAs Mandula Samel, K. Jaiveer Reddy, Vemula Veeresham and Anil Kumar Reddy; MLC Shankar Naik; Irrigation Secretary E. Sridhar; Engineer-in-Chief O. V. Ramesh Babu; and the Collectors of Suryapet, Nalgonda, Yadadri-Bhongir and Mahabubabad participated in the meeting. The Minister commended the efforts of



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Kishan Reddy congratulates TOOPRAN FARMERS

HYDERABAD, OCT.4

Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy on Sunday addressed a gathering at the groundbreaking ceremony for the dairy plant in Toopran. He extended his special congratulations to all especially to the farmers of the region on the occasion of the groundbreaking ceremony for the dairy plan.

"This event is not merely a groundbreaking ceremony for a dairy plant but it serves as a guiding light for the economic future of Telangana's dairy farmers and for the farmers across all villages. This dairy plant is being established with an investment of approximately ₹400 crore by utilizing Amul's state-of-the-art technology. The project is moving forward with the goal of completing construction within the next 18 months and creating employment opportunities for women and the youth. Value addition will increase through the collection of milk from local farmers and subsequent processing," he said .

He noted that Instead of exporting the collected milk raw to other regions, a wide variety of products such as milk, curd, buttermilk, lassi, paneer, ice cream and ghee would be manufactured right here. He said that "Amul" was synonymous with trust and added that this initiative aims to instill that same confidence in the farmers.



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Bar and Restaurant Owners' to Protest FROM TODAY

HYDERABAD, OCT.4

The Bar and Restaurant Owners' Association in Telangana has taken a crucial decision. The Association members announced that the bars and restaurants across the state would remain closed starting today . They allege that they were suffering severe financial losses due to the new 'privilege fee' (cess) being introduced by the state government and were demanding its immediate withdrawn .

Protesting the government's decision, they have called for a state-wide shutdown from Monday. Additionally, the members of the Telangana State Bar and Restaurant Owners' Association stated that they plan to lay siege to the Excise Department office on the 5th of the month.

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Land Allegations Involving Local Political Figures Prompt Calls for Immediate Probe in Kukatpally

Community Representatives and Colony Residents Urge TPCC Leadership and Local Authorities to Examine Encroachment Claims Dispassionately



Medchal-Malkajgiri, October 04: Calls for an official administrative and political inquiry have emerged following public allegations of land-related irregularities involving Makineni Vinod (Eka Narayana), a local leader from Vasanth Nagar Division who reportedly aspires to run for the Corporator position in Kukatpally. Community representatives and residents have formally urged top Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) leaders, revenue officials, and local police to examine these matters with strict impartiality. Vinod is known to be associated with Bandi Ramesh, TPCC Vice President and Kukatpally Congress Party In-charge. Allegations have also extended to Tatineni Ravi, President of Dream View Colony, who previously shifted political affiliations from the BRS to the Congress party, prompting calls for an independent review to establish facts and protect public interest.

The complaints outline three distinct locations requiring immediate verification by civic and revenue authorities. In Dream View Colony, local residents allege that Makineni Vinod, Tatineni Ravi, and other associates have been involved in attempts to encroach upon approximately one acre of government-owned land, leading to requests for officials to audit layout maps, survey records, and land ownership documentation. Simultaneously, in Gopal Nagar at Road No. 17A, residents have raised concerns regarding open plots, park spaces, and property belonging to a local association. Reports indicate that certain individuals identified as association members allegedly shared details about open plots in ways that may have enabled unauthorized occupation, accompanied by allegations of forged land documents that require verification by competent authorities to initiate appropriate legal steps if wrongdoing is established.

Further concerns have been raised by farmers in Mallampet regarding approximately three acres of agricultural land. Affected landowners have submitted complaints pointing to alleged coercion and attempts to take possession of their property, leading to urgent calls for police and revenue intervention to safeguard the farmers' land rights in accordance with the law.

These developments come as the state government actively deploys agencies like the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Monitoring and Protection Agency (HYDRAA) to reclaim public lands, lakes, and parks. Referring to the traditional Telugu idiom "Kanche Chenu Mesinatlu"—where the fence itself is said to consume the crop—community members emphasize that individuals affiliated with the ruling party must be held to the same standards of accountability as the previous administration. In light of these concerns, TPCC Vice President Bandi Ramesh has been requested to review the claims regarding Makineni Vinod to ensure a fair internal probe, which would either substantiate the claims for disciplinary action or publicly clear those involved.

To resolve the disputes, residents and local stakeholders have urged authorities to undertake six concrete actions: conduct comprehensive boundary surveys in Dream View Colony, Gopal Nagar, and Mallampet; audit revenue registers, pattadar passbooks, and sanctioned layout approvals; initiate legal prosecution wherever evidence points to forgery or unlawful occupation; provide police protection to affected farmers and residents; secure all public parks and government properties; and release transparent, fact-based findings grounded entirely in official records.

BJP Leader Praises Captain Smith Machar

Hyder nagar Division BJP President Arun applauds the pilot's presence of mind for applying his training to save 174 lives after a co-pilot attack.



Medchal-Malkajgiri, October 04: CMC Hydera nagar Division BJP President Arun praised Captain Smith Machar for his bravery, quick thinking, and exceptional professionalism during a dangerous incident in the cockpit.

While speaking about the incident, Arun highlighted how Captain Machar successfully handled a critical crisis when his own co-pilot unexpectedly attacked him in the cockpit. Instead of panicking, the pilot applied his training and presence of mind to overcome the situation alone, safely protecting all 174 passengers on board.

"Usually, flight crew members work as a team to handle emergencies. While one pilot flies the aircraft, the other manages navigation and communication. If a problem arises in the cockpit, both address it together. However, Captain Machar had to face this threat entirely on his own," Arun said. Commending the pilot's courageous action, the BJP leader added, "Call it God's grace or his presence of mind, he effectively put his flight training into practice at the right moment. What Captain Machar did is truly extraordinary."

Citizens Challenge Municipal Inaction at KPHB

Calls grow for a vigilance probe into Circle 52 Town Planning staff following cosmetic inspections and unbacked safety clearances.



Medchal-Malkajgiri, October 04: Serious allegations of systemic corruption, bribery, and severe regulatory non-compliance have surfaced against the Town Planning Department of Cyberabad Municipal Corporation (CMC), Kukatpally Circle No. 52 . Centered around a highly contentious commercial-cum-residential structure situated at KPHB Colony Road No. 1, MIG 194, local citizens strongly allege that municipal authorities are turning a deliberate blind eye to flagrant breaches of the Telangana Building Rules (G.O. Ms. No. 168) and TS-bPASS self-certification guidelines in exchange for heavy kickbacks.

The property in question presents multiple core statutory violations under the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Act and state building bylaws. Under mandatory zoning laws, multi-story developments on standard MIG plots must maintain clear front, side, and rear setback margins to ensure structural ventilation and allow emergency service access. At MIG 194, the builder has reportedly constructed right up to the plot boundaries, completely eliminating required offsets and breaching zero-setback protocols. Furthermore, the building drastically exceeds the permissible Floor Space Index (FSI) and vertical height limits sanctioned under self-certified TS-bPASS approvals, creating severe structural safety risks without obtaining valid stability clearances.

Compounding these structural violations are widespread reports of administrative extortion and bribery. Local sources indicate that an estimated ₹30 lakh exchanged hands to halt demolition work and stall official enforcement actions. Rather than taking decisive regulatory action, Town Planning officers reportedly conducted a purely performative inspection—chipping minor decorative plaster off non-structural elements as a cosmetic show of authority—before advising the building owner to conceal the superficial damage once public and media attention faded.

These ongoing illegalities have amplified public safety fears across the Cyberabad region, especially following the tragic building collapse in Gachibowli that claimed the lives of two construction workers. Despite statutory provisions under Sections 405 and 456 of the GHMC Act that empower officers to immediately seal, seize, or raze unauthorized structures without prolonged administrative delay, field enforcement in Kukatpally remains lax, temporary, and visibly performative.

Frustrated by the persistent lack of accountability, local residents are demanding immediate enforcement under the municipal regulatory framework. Citizens are calling on higher GHMC authorities to execute an immediate seizure of the MIG 194 premises to halt all commercial or residential occupancy. Moreover, residents are urging the direct intervention of the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRA) to invoke its delegated powers under the Telangana Land Encroachment Act and WALTA provisions to execute a full demolition of all unauthorized portions. Finally, the local community is calling for a formal vigilance investigation and criminal inquiry into the Town Planning staff of Circle 52 who sanctioned and turned a blind eye to these deviations.

Millions Must Not Be Disenfranchised..

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Article 326 cannot be tinkered with at all. "No authority can do it; no court can endorse it or condone it. No one is above the Constitution," he said.

Justice Bhuyan said the right to vote or the right to be a voter is not a mere statutory right that flows from parliamentary legislation like the Representation of the People's Act 1951, but a Constitutional right forming a distinct part of democracy itself. Thus positioning itself within the framework of the basic structure of the Indian Constitution. Citing a Supreme Court order, he said the apex court observed that the right to vote of a citizen cannot be divorced or separated from the mandate of Article 326. The right of a citizen to be a voter and to vote is of the greatest importance and forms the foundation of free and fair election. Section 22 of the Representation of the People's Act permits deletion of an entry in the voter's list but only after the said voter has been given a reasonable opportunity of being heard, he said. He cited another Supreme Court judgment and said the SC has laid down the guidelines to be followed in case of deletion of voters. Except in the case of a dead person, the name of a voter once enlisted in the electoral roll cannot be deleted without notice and hearing, he said. "From the persona of an Indian citizen, the right to vote or right to be included in the voters list cannot be detached. It will be like taking out the soul from the body," he said. Justice Bhuyan said US judge Justice Frankfurter had expressed the view that in a democracy the highest office is not that of the President but that of the citizen. He further quoted him as saying: "Democracy is always a beckoning goal, not a safe harbour; for freedom is an unremitting endeavour, never a final achievement." "I ask myself, what is the worth of a citizen without his/her voting rights," Justice Bhuyan asked. Justice Bhuyan, who served as the Chancellor of NALSAR, said he can be legitimately proud of the students of the institution. "You have shown to the country and the world what a university student that too, a student of law should be like. You are brilliant. You are bold and you are brave," he said. He also lauded the faculty members of NALSAR, saying they have performed their duties admirably and have done what a university teacher is expected to do. Complementing the NALSAR Vice Chancellor Srikrishna Deva Rao, he said he has led the university admirably.

Thackeray Cousins Lead Mumbai Protest Over SIR

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which began at Metro Cinema and culminated near the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation headquarters. Several opposition leaders, including Congress leaders Balasaheb Thorat and Vijay Wadettiwar, and NCP (SP) leaders Jayant Patil, Shashikant Shinde, Jitendra Awhad and Anil Deshmukh, participated in the rally. The protest, called the 'Virat Garjana Morcha', demanded the removal or resignation of the CEC over alleged irregularities in the SIR process. Organisers asked participants to carry only the national flag instead of party flags. Raj Thackeray demanded that the SIR exercise in Maharashtra be cancelled and called for future elections to be conducted through paper ballots. He also raised concerns over alleged irregularities in electoral rolls and questioned the need for the revision exercise.

Uddhav Thackeray alleged that the Election Commission was acting in favour of the BJP and described CEC Gyanesh Kumar as a "weapon" of the ruling party. He also claimed that large numbers of voters had been deleted from electoral rolls in Maharashtra and other states, though these figures were presented as allegations.

Congress leader Balasaheb Thorat backed the protest and reiterated the Opposition's allegations regarding "vote theft". He also questioned the process of appointing members of the Election Commission, alleging that changes to the selection mechanism had weakened institutional independence. The leaders said the protest was aimed at raising concerns over electoral transparency, voter rights and the conduct of elections. They called for stronger safeguards to protect electoral rolls and democratic institutions.

Chit- Scam: Husband and Wife Arrested

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According to the police, the investigation found that Banoth Raju had been running chit-fund and daily-collection activities with the assistance of his wife Anusha since 2015. Police said they collected large sums of money from members of the public, fellow employees and acquaintances by promising high returns and regular monthly payments. It is believed that some people trusted Raju and gave him money because he was a government teacher. The investigation also found that the couple collected money from several people by claiming that they were purchasing land, in addition to running chit funds.



After the chit-fund periods ended, some investors were not repaid. When the victims began demanding their money back, the alleged fraud came to light. According to details identified by the police: the accused collected approximately ₹6,24,50,000 from victims in total. Of this amount, ₹3,18,54,000 was repaid, while ₹3,05,96,000 is still outstanding, police said.

Cong spreading malicious propaganda against constitutional institutions out of fear of defeat: NRR

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conducts field-level inquiries into any objections. He reminded that simply submitting Form-7 does not automatically lead to voter deletion and the Form-7 mechanism exists per rules specifically to weed out fake and duplicate votes. He further clarified that no Booth Level Agents (BLA-1, BLA-2) belonging to the BJP have submitted any such applications. He stated that creating a commotion over an issue that is still at the inquiry stage is completely objectionable.

He mocked the Congress party saying it has become a habit for them to praise systems as functioning properly whenever they win an election, but blame EVMs and the SIR process whenever they lose. He criticized Congress leaders for praising the SIR process when winning in states like Kerala, while slinging mud in places where they face defeat.

Predicting that a 'Congress-Mukt Bharat' has largely been realized across the country and that voters in the remaining two or three states will surely reject them as well, Rao warned that the people of India will thwart Congress's conspiracies to demean democratic institutions and defame the Narendra Modi government. He affirmed that the BJP will fight uncompromisingly to safeguard democracy.

BJP state chief warned that the people of India would certainly expose Congress party which is indulging in false propaganda undermining democratic institutions. The BJP would strongly oppose every attempt by Congress party tom malign the Modi government and will continue to politically fight against such attempts, he said.

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SLBC Advances Beyond Toughest Stretch: Uttam

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officials and the workforce engaged in the arduous task. Successful passage through the precarious shear zone marked a significant advance in the project, he said.

Uttam pressed for the deployment of additional equipment, improved excavation cycles and close safety monitoring. He sought a credible, closely monitored programme to achieve the June 2028 water-delivery goal.

He directed officials and the contractor to build on the progress through the difficult geological stretch while safeguarding crews working more than 20 km inside the tunnel.

The project team reported an advancement of about 700 metres over the preceding five to six months, comprising approximately 450 metres from the outlet and 250 metres from the inlet. This included carefully negotiated passage through the major shear zone, overcoming formidable geological, technical and logistical challenges.

The 43.968-km main tunnel was reported to be approximately 79 per cent complete, with about 9.1 km of excavation remaining.

Careful passage through unstable ground

Col. Parikshit Mehra, an Indian Army tunnel expert spearheading the tunnel operations, explained that excavation at the inlet had deliberately been slowed during the initial months because of weak ground, rock bursts and the need to prevent another accident. The diversion around the point where the tunnel-boring machine had become stuck had taken the working face through particularly poor geological conditions.

To negotiate the unstable stretch, the team installed 140-mm seamless pipes to form an umbrella canopy, providing protective support ahead of excavation. Reinforced ribs, staged excavation, probe drilling and additional support measures helped control risks as work advanced. Improving rock conditions were enabling a return to normal working conditions deep inside the tunnel.

Equipment push to accelerate excavation

Uttam pressed for sustained progress supported by timely equipment deployment. The project team reported a current combined advance of about eight metres a day, with a sustained rate of seven to seven-and-a-half metres daily. Progress had reached ten metres on one or two days.

A three-arm drilling boomer was already operating at the outlet, where progress was reported to be close to the required pace. Another three-arm boomer was expected at the inlet in October. Electric loaders and advanced excavators were also supporting construction operations.

A locomotive ordered from Germany is expected by the end of October. Its deployment is expected to improve the removal of excavated material and shorten the construction cycle.

Hauling material over distances of up to 21 km remained a major constraint. When removal fell behind, excavated material accumulated inside the tunnel, eventually forcing work at the face to stop until the backlog was cleared.

The team reported that a construction cycle previously taking about 48 hours had been reduced to 20–24 hours. With improved equipment and faster material removal, it anticipated bringing the cycle down to about ten hours and accelerating progress from late October or early November.

Breakthrough targeted for May–June 2028

The Minister expressed hope that breakthrough in Tunnel 1 could be achieved by May–June 2028. Sprayed lining was being undertaken alongside excavation, allowing much of the lining work to proceed before breakthrough.

Uttam directed that work on Tunnel 2, the balancing reservoir and associated components be completed in time so that unfinished infrastructure did not become an obstacle to water delivery. Tunnel 2, approximately 7.1 km long, had resumed lining work after a prolonged interruption.

Bar and Restaurant Owners' to Protest FROM TODAY

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The state government has decided to collect an annual 'privilege cess' ranging from 8% to 20% from each bar. The Association members state that this move would impose an additional financial burden of approximately ₹30 lakh per year on each bar. They are also expressing distress over existing challenges such as the authorization of 'permanent rooms' at wine shops and the proliferation of unauthorized 'belt shops,' which are already causing them significant financial loss. The State President of the Bar and Restaurant Owners Association Damodar Goud stated that despite facing numerous hardships, they already pay the government between ₹33 lakh and ₹56 lakh annually in license fees and added that an additional burden of up to ₹30 lakh was being imposed under the guise of a "privilege cess." He demanded the immediate withdrawal of this proposed cess while warning that they would stage a protest at the Excise Commissioner's office.

Meanwhile, following the call for a shutdown, over 1,200 bars and restaurants across Telangana are set to close. The Association representatives have stated that the strike would continue until the government respond and added that if their demands are not met, they would resort to hunger strikes and escalate their agitation in the future.

Kishan Reddy congratulates TOOPRAN FARMERS

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"When we think of farmers, we usually associate them only with crops like paddy, chili, and cottonz. However , a farmer can sustain a livelihood through the dairy industry regardless of whether they own land. In the future, the milk will be brought to Toopran from various regions. Our farmers know the value of hard work and they know how to produce. Regardless of the scorching sun, rain, or cold, the farmer toils tirelessly throughout the seasons. Yet, they face numerous hardships due to a lack of markets for their produce as well as the inability to access storage, processing, branding and value-addition facilities. Just as individual drops of water combine to form rivers, if the farmers unite and work together through cooperative societies, they can transform into a formidable economic force. Unfortunately, cooperative societies have been rendered ineffective by excessive political interference and have now virtually ceased to exist and there is a pressing need to revive them," he said .

Reddy also said that If the farmer the actual producer becomes an active partner in the system, the exploitation by middlemen, corruption and the dominance of politicians would diminish and added that If the farmers come together to form a robust cooperative system, the revenue generated can be utilized within the village itself thereby boosting local employment opportunities.

He said that States like Maharashtra and Gujarat immediately come to mind when one thinks of cooperative organizations and noted that There was a need to develop the cooperative system in Telangana as a mass movement. He said that the Cooperative societies can create financial and employment opportunities for the women and provide additional income for all categories of the farmers including small and marginal ones.

He said that Amul serves as an excellent case study demonstrating what the cooperative system can achieve and added that Through its cooperative network, Amul supplies approximately 2.5 million metric tonnes of cattle feed to the farmers annually.

The Amul brand has been recognized as the world's most powerful dairy brand in the 'Food & Drink 2026' rankings. Amul emerged as the number one cooperative organization globally in the 'World Cooperative Monitor 2025.' It has also established itself as the leading brand in countries like the United States. This is not merely Amul's success but it is a victory for Indian farmers and the Indian cooperative system a true testament to the credibility of our nation's farmers," he said .

"Courage Above the Clouds": Captain Smit Machchhar Praised for Saving 174 Lives During Mid-Air Crisis

*** Dr. Prapurna Hails Pilot's Extraordinary Presence of Mind After Reported Cockpit Attack**

HYDERABAD

Dr. Prapurna, a well-known podcast anchor associated with the Teachers Diaries YouTube channel, has praised Captain Smit Machchhar for his courage, composure, and remarkable presence of mind during a reported mid-air emergency that placed the lives of 174 passengers at risk.

According to reports, the incident occurred aboard a Flydubai flight travelling from Dubai to Tel Aviv. During the flight, Captain Machchhar was allegedly attacked inside the cockpit by the co-pilot. Despite reportedly sustaining injuries, he remained focused on the safety of everyone on board and acted swiftly to prevent the situation from escalating.

In an emergency at cruising altitude, even a moment of confusion can have devastating consequences. Yet, Captain Machchhar is said to have responded with exceptional calmness. He reportedly opened the cockpit door, enabled the threat to be brought under control, and helped ensure that the aircraft was diverted for an emergency landing. Dr. Prapurna described the captain's conduct as an extraordinary example of professional responsibility and human courage. "Captain Smit Machchhar displayed courage beyond ordinary expectations. Even after facing danger inside the cockpit, his first thought was the safety of the passengers. His calm decision-making and presence of mind helped avert what could have become a terrible tragedy," Dr. Prapurna said.

Pilots are trained to handle technical failures, medical emergencies, severe weather, and other unexpected situations. However, a direct threat inside the cockpit presents an entirely different level of danger. In such circumstances, a pilot must simultaneously manage personal safety, aircraft control, passenger welfare, crew coordination, and emergency procedures.



Captain Machchhar's reported actions have therefore been widely regarded as a powerful example of discipline under pressure. Rather than allowing fear or injury to overwhelm him, he allegedly maintained control and made decisions that protected the lives of everyone aboard.

Dr. Prapurna further noted that the incident highlights the immense responsibility carried by commercial pilots. Passengers place their complete trust in the flight crew, often without knowing the challenges pilots may face behind the cockpit door.

Beyond the immediate bravery shown in the cockpit, the incident served as a deeply emotional reminder of what connects us all when crisis strikes high above the earth. In those terrifying moments thousands of feet in the air, differences in background, culture, and nationality instantly dissolved into a shared, instinctual effort to protect one another. Strangers bonded over mutual care, crew members acted with unyielding compassion, and everyday people rose to support each other without hesitation—proving that when survival is at stake, empathy and togetherness outweigh every divide.

Reflecting on this profound display of solidarity amidst fear, Dr. Prapurna stated that, "Throughout humanity won as people from different nationalities came together to help each other in this situation beyond boundaries and politics. Humanity won at the end."

The story has touched many people because it represents more than an aviation emergency. It is a story of duty, sacrifice, and the strength of the human spirit. While 174 passengers were depending on the aircraft's systems, they were also depending on the judgment and courage of the person in command.

Captain Smit Machchhar's reported actions have earned him widespread appreciation as a symbol of bravery and professional dedication. His conduct demonstrates that heroism is not always loud or dramatic. Sometimes, it is found in a calm decision made during the most frightening moment of one's life.

The details of the incident should be confirmed through official statements from the airline, aviation authorities, and investigators. Nevertheless, if the reports are accurate, Captain Machchhar's quick thinking and unwavering commitment to passenger safety helped transform a potential catastrophe into a remarkable story of survival.



Bharatiya Yog Sansthan 60th Yoga Day Celebrations





HYDERABAD

The 60th Yoga Day celebrations of Bharatiya Yog Sansthan were held grandly at Cosmopolitan Colony, Mansoorabad, LB Nagar, under the leadership of District 7 President Shri Vandanapu Madhu and General Secretary Shri P. Ravindra Kumar. The programme was presided over by Shri Sudhir Kulkarni, President of the Telangana State (East) unit of Bharatiya Yog Sansthan. Former Corporator Shri Koppula Narasimha Reddy attended as the chief guest. Shri Sadananda Chary, Secretary of the Sansthan, and Shri Rudra Lakshminarasimha, President of the Cosmopolitan Colony Welfare Association, also participated in the event. More than 550 yoga practitioners, including district presidents, general secretaries and other office-bearers from various districts, participated in the programme. They performed various yoga asanas, pranayama and meditation exercises.

At the conclusion of the programme, a yoga dance performance presented by women yoga practitioners under the guidance of Smt. Manga was a special attraction and received appreciation from everyone present.

P. Ravindra Kumar,
General Secretary, District 7,
Bharatiya Yog Sansthan.



GITAM Scholar Awarded Ph.D. for Research in Medical Image Analysis

HYDERABAD

GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, congratulated Dr. Kandula Revathi on being awarded the Ph.D. in Computer Science and Engineering for her research titled "Development and Performance Evaluation of Novel Algorithms for Medical Image Retrieval and Classification."

Dr. Revathi pursued her doctoral research under the guidance of Dr. S. Vijaya Kumar, Assistant Professor, School of Computer Science and Systems Engineering, GITAM Hyderabad.



Her research focused on developing advanced algorithms for medical image retrieval and classification, integrating deep learning, feature optimization, neural networks, and image segmentation to strengthen Computer-Aided Diagnosis systems. The proposed methods achieved classification accuracy of up to 97.29%, demonstrating significant improvements over the evaluated baseline approaches. Prof. D. S. Rao, Pro Vice-Chancellor; Dr. D.V.V.S.R. Varma, Resident Director; and Dr. S. Mahaboob Basha, Head, Department of Computer Science and Systems Engineering, congratulated Dr. Revathi on her achievement and appreciated her research contribution.

They also commended Dr. S. VijayaKumar for his guidance and wished Dr. Revathi continued success in her academic and research career.

Ten Lakh Vishwakarmas Lack Political Representation

*** Should Be Given an MLC Seat Under the BC Quota Through the Governor's Quota**

*** Dividing the Community Based on Traditional Occupations Is Understating Its Population**

*** Vishwakarma JAC Chairman Deverakonda Kalidas at Press Club Roundtable Meeting**

HYDERABAD

It is unfair that the Vishwakarma community, which has a population of more than one million in the state, does not have adequate political representation, said Vishwakarma JAC Chairman Deverakonda Kalidas. He expressed concern that the community's actual population is being underestimated because Vishwakarmas are divided into different groups based on their traditional occupations. He demanded that Vishwakarmas be given an MLC position under the BC quota through the Governor's quota. He was speaking at a Vishwakarma JAC roundtable meeting held at the Hyderabad Press Club on Sunday.



Kalidas said that although Vishwakarmas have played a key role in the development and construction of society, they have not received adequate political recognition. He said that treating Vishwakarmas as separate groups based on their traditional caste occupations obscures their collective population and social strength. He called for all Vishwakarmas to be recognized as a single social community and for their population, issues, and rights to be taken into consideration.

He said that the lack of adequate representation in legislatures for a social community with a population of more than one million is an issue that needs serious consideration in a democratic system. He questioned how the concerns of a community can reach the attention of governments if it is not given a role in political decision-making despite having a significant population.

He urged governments to ensure an appropriate place for Vishwakarmas in measures being taken for the advancement of BC communities. In particular, he demanded that Vishwakarmas be given an opportunity for the MLC positions allocated to BC communities under the Governor's quota.

Kalidas called for united action under the JAC for the political, social, and economic advancement of Vishwakarmas. He urged all those who have been divided on the basis of their traditional occupations to come together and work collectively to secure their rights.

As part of this effort, the meeting resolved to conduct JAC elections on November 14. He said that IT professionals, doctors, journalists, senior representatives from various fields, and officials belonging to the Vishwakarma community would be involved in the elections.

Several participants expressed their views on political representation for Vishwakarmas, an appropriate share under the BC quota, and the protection of traditional occupations, among other issues. The meeting called for united efforts to bring the demands of Vishwakarmas to the attention of the government. Vishwakarma JAC leaders Ravindrachari, Dr. Shyam Sundar, Veerashekhara Chari, and a large number of Vishwakarma community members participated in the programme.

Padayatra to Seek KCR's Return as Chief Minister

HYDERABAD

Young supporters of KCR reached Erravelli on Sunday after undertaking a five-day padayatra from Manthani. The desire among people across Telangana to see Telangana statehood movement leader, the state's first Chief Minister, their favorite leader and BRS president K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) return as Chief Minister is growing stronger day by day.

On several occasions in the past, people have expressed their support for KCR through padayatras and various forms of protest and commitment.

As part of the same effort, three young men undertook a padayatra from Manthani and reached KCR's residence in Erravelli on Sunday.

The three young men who undertook the padayatra—Manthani Bennipally, Boorla Venkatesh and Konda Venkatesh—said that Telangana's development would get back on track only if KCR returns as Chief Minister. They also said that opportunities for Telangana's youth in employment and livelihood sectors would improve under his leadership.



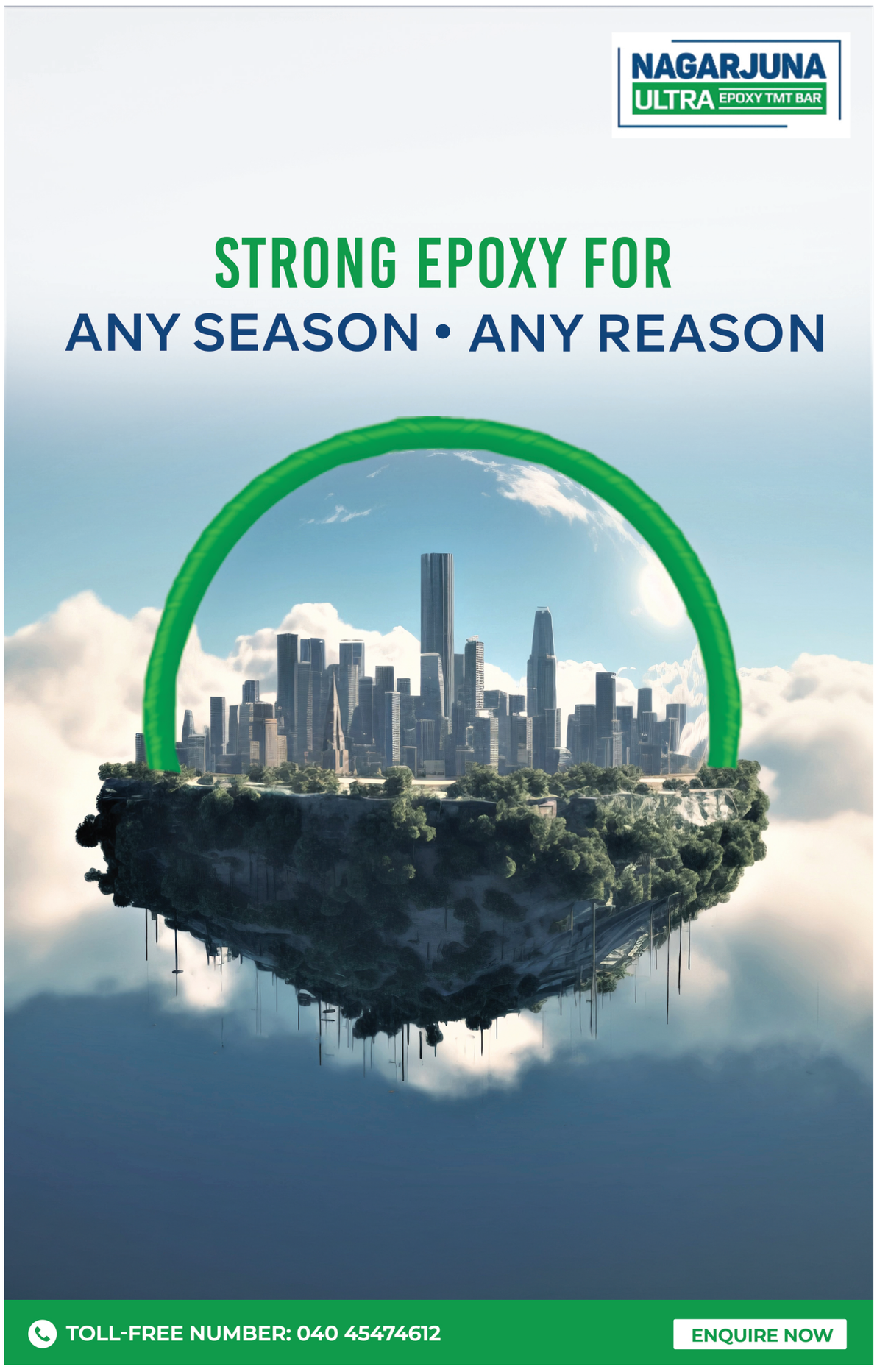
Young men who undertook a padayatra from Manthani and met KCR at his residence in Erravelli—Boorla Venkatesh, Konda Venkatesh and Manthani Bennipally.

KCR warmly welcomed the BRS youth activists who had walked from Manthani and spent some time interacting with them. He thanked them for the affection and support they had shown towards him.

Meanwhile, during their padayatra, the young men said they had brought to KCR's attention the experiences shared by people along the way. According to them, people have realized that the state government has not only failed to work in accordance with the aspirations of the people of Telangana but is also working in a completely different direction.

They said that people across the state are now recalling the benefits they experienced during KCR's administration and have realized what they lost after being misled by their belief in the promises made by the Congress.

The young men who undertook the padayatra stated that, along with the people of Manthani, people across Telangana would support KCR's return as Chief Minister in the upcoming elections.



Revanth Reddy Is Gift-Wrapping Our Water and Sending It to Chandrababu

- **CM Is in an Inactive State While Farmers Are Suffering Due to Drought**
- **After Performing a Rain Ritual, the Government Has Left People to Their Fate**
- **Government Has Failed to Tackle the Drought**
- **A Special Cabinet Meeting Should Be Held for Farmers and Drought-Affected Mandals Should Be Declared**
- **Whether the Government Borrows or Purchases It, Farmers Must Be Provided 24-Hour Free Power Until November**
- **People Will Not Forgive PM Modi If He Fails to Support the Drought-Hit Southern States**
- **Elections Should Be Conducted Through the Paper Ballot System**
- **Lathi-Charge on Women Teachers Is a Heinous Act**
- **Telangana Rakshana Sena Chief Kalvakuntla Kavitha**

HYDERABAD

Telangana Rakshana Sena chief Kalvakuntla Kavitha strongly criticized Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, alleging that he is "gift-wrapping Telangana's water and sending it to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu." She said that while people across the state are suffering due to drought, the Chief Minister is in an inactive state and that, after performing a Varuna Yagam (rain ritual), the government had effectively washed its hands of the situation and left people to their fate.

She was speaking to the media on Sunday at the Telangana Rakshana Sena office in Banjara Hills. Kavitha said she was deeply distressed by the drought-like conditions prevailing across the state and that drought was affecting all districts. She claimed that in some districts, groundwater levels had fallen to around 20 metres below ground level.

She said scientists had warned six months before the start of the monsoon that the world could be affected by a Super El Niño phenomenon, but the Chief Minister had failed to review the situation. She expressed concern that, due to what she described as the Chief Minister's failure to act, crops spread across approximately 1.2 crore acres in the state were now at risk.

Kavitha criticized the Chief Minister for performing a Varuna Yagam at Nagarjuna Sagar instead of taking immediate measures to support drought-hit people and farmers. She said the government appeared to be acting as though there was nothing it could do unless God sent rain.

She said rainfall was 38% below normal in August and 30% below normal in September. Had the government responded in August itself, the situation could have been different, she said. She added that farmers would not have faced such difficulties if the government had coordinated the Agriculture, Irrigation and Power departments and prepared proper plans from time to time. She expressed concern over reports of farmers burning their crops in several places.

24-Hour Free Power Must Be Provided Until November

Kavitha demanded that farmers be provided 24-hour free electricity until the end of November so that crops cultivated during the monsoon season using wells and borewells could be harvested.

She issued an ultimatum to the government, saying that whether it borrowed or purchased electricity, it must provide



farmers with 24-hour free power until November.

She said states such as Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh had already declared drought-affected mandals, whereas the Telangana government had not even taken that step. Declaring drought-affected mandals would have enabled the state to receive at least some assistance from the Centre, she said.

Kavitha alleged that the Revanth Reddy government had completely failed to prepare in advance despite the warnings about Super El Niño. She said this was not the failure of any single department but, in her view, a complete failure of the Revanth Reddy government.

Special Cabinet Meeting Should Be Held

Kavitha demanded that the government immediately convene a special Cabinet meeting to address the drought and farmers' problems. She urged the government to announce an action plan at the meeting to deal with the situation expected in the coming months.

She also alleged that the Revanth Reddy government had been extremely negligent in protecting Krishna river waters.

She said that if the government had rehabilitated the people of villages affected by the Narlapur Reservoir, part of the Palamuru-Rangareddy project, and filled the reservoir, groundwater levels in nearby areas would have increased. She added that the water could also have been used for at least the full ayacut under the Kalwakurthy Lift Irrigation Project.

Kavitha alleged that Revanth Reddy, despite calling himself a son of Mahabubnagar, was "gift-wrapping our Krishna water and sending it to Kuppam for his mentor Chandrababu." She questioned how Krishna water could be sent to Kuppam, hundreds of kilometres away, while neighbouring Mahabubnagar was not receiving adequate Krishna water. She described this as a failure of the Revanth Reddy government.

If Singareni Dues Had Been Paid, There Would Have Been No Power Problem

Kavitha alleged that the government had pending bills of ₹60,000 crore owed to Singareni and said that the current difficulties in power generation could have been avoided had those dues been paid.

She recalled that her party had previously raised questions regarding the government's outstanding payments to Singareni. She said that if the government had considered many of the issues previously raised by them, farmers would not have faced the difficulties they are experiencing today.

Kavitha warned that the problem would not end with the current situation and that Hyderabad could face a drinking-water crisis in the future. She expressed concern that water levels in reservoirs could fall to dead-storage levels.

She criticized the government for giving the impression that it was now bringing water from Karnataka instead of taking preventive measures in advance. She said temperatures were likely to rise further in the coming days and called for an action plan to ensure that people do not face difficulties.

Prime Minister Modi Should Come to the Rescue

Kavitha urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to support drought-hit Telangana by providing free electricity. She said Telangana and other southern states were facing severe drought conditions and asserted that people would not forgive Modi if assistance was not provided during this period.

She said several states in the country had surplus power generation and urged that the surplus electricity be provided free of cost to the southern states.

She alleged that the Centre had not provided Telangana with even a single additional rupee since the formation of the state and appealed for the Centre to support Telangana now that it was facing severe drought conditions.

We Will Visit Drought-Affected Areas

Kavitha said her party's Assembly constituency in-charges and other senior leaders would visit drought-affected areas across the state. She said they would assess farmers' problems and the drought situation and make recommendations to the government for resolving them.

She also said that her party leaders were already studying the situation in government hospitals across the state under the initiative called "Operation Blue Code."

She claimed that following the incident at RIMS and the protest launched by her party, the government released ₹11 crore on the same day. She also said her party was the one that brought to light the incident in which the ceiling of the government hospital in Bhupalpally collapsed.

Kavitha alleged that police were threatening the party worker who had sent the video of the incident. She said action should be taken against those causing problems to the public rather than against people who fight for public issues.

She said there was an opportunity to resolve the GO 317 issue without spending any money. However, she criticized the Revanth Reddy government for failing to resolve even such a relatively small issue despite three years having passed.

She described the dragging away and lathi-charge of women teachers who had gone to Gandhi Bhavan on Gandhi Jayanti to stage a peaceful protest in the Gandhian tradition as a "heinous act."

She also reminded the government that police personnel were among those affected by GO 317.

EVMs Must Go; Paper Ballot System Should Return

Kavitha demanded that the country's electoral process be conducted once again through the ballot paper system.

She alleged that there was a possibility of manipulation of EVMs. She said that even developed countries such as the United States and Britain conduct elections using ballot-based systems.

She said transparency would be ensured only if elections in the country were once again conducted through paper ballots and added that her party was prepared to fight for the issue all the way to Delhi.

Kavitha said that the resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner over alleged errors in the electoral process would not solve the problem. Instead of a temporary solution, she called for a permanent solution that would bring about a systemic change.

She said her party would contest any elections held in the state, including the Khairatabad by-election. She added that elections would provide a good opportunity for the new party to present its agenda to the people.

BJP asks Owaisi to take legal route if he has proof against ECI

HYDERABAD, OCT.4:

The Telangana BJP on Sunday asked AIMIM president and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi to stop resorting to political rhetoric against the Election Commission of India (ECI) and take the legal route if he genuinely possesses evidence of irregularities in the electoral process.

Reacting strongly to Owaisi's allegations that BJP and Sangh Parivar workers were allegedly filing Form 7 applications to get genuine voters' names deleted, BJP State Chief Spokesperson and Media In-charge N. V. Subash said a person with a legal background should know that serious allegations against a Constitutional authority cannot be established through public statements alone. "If Owaisi has concrete evidence of electoral malpractice, what is stopping him from approaching the appropriate judicial forum? Why make allegations in public and stop there? Let him place the evidence before the competent authorities and seek appropriate legal action," Subash said.



Owaisi had alleged that printed Form 7 applications were being submitted with the names of persons sought to be deleted, while allegedly leaving out the details of those filing the applications. He had urged the ECI, the Telangana Chief Electoral Officer and District Electoral Officers to take note of the issue. Subash said there was nothing wrong with seeking scrutiny of the functioning of a Constitutional institution in a democracy, but repeatedly casting aspersions on the integrity of the electoral process without producing evidence is a different matter altogether. "Whenever political fortunes turn against them, the same old vocabulary returns—'vote chori', 'Form 7 misuse', 'Samvidhan khatre mein' and so on. Elections cannot be reduced to a process where everything is acceptable when one wins, but the entire system becomes suspect when one loses," he said. He pointed out that the ECI has been conducting elections involving hundreds of millions of voters and continuously updating electoral rolls as new voters become eligible. "If there are genuine discrepancies, identify them, document them and challenge them through the prescribed mechanism. Political allegations cannot substitute for evidence or due process," Subash said.

He further noted that various challenges concerning the electoral process, including issues relating to Electronic Voting Machines and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), have already reached the judiciary. "If Owaisi has fresh and specific evidence, he is perfectly entitled to place it before the appropriate forum. But merely repeating allegations in press statements does not make them facts," he said. The BJP spokesperson said the party would continue to support the identification and removal of ineligible and bogus entries from electoral rolls in accordance with law. "Every genuine voter must have the right to vote, but an electoral roll must also be protected from ineligible entries. That is not an attack on democracy; it is essential for protecting the credibility of democracy," Subash asserted. He added that allegations concerning electoral rolls in Hyderabad, including those raised in the context of the AIMIM's traditional stronghold, should also be subjected to the same scrutiny and legal process. "If Owaisi has evidence, let him produce it. If he has a grievance, let him pursue the remedy provided by law. "But political rhetoric cannot become a substitute for proof, and allegations cannot be allowed to become electoral facts merely by repetition," Subash said.

Sabar Dairy Plant to Give Major Boost to Telangana Dairy Farmers: Sridhar Babu

HYDERABAD



The ₹400-crore Sabar Dairy (Amul) Mega Integrated Dairy Plant being established at the Urja Industrial Park in Toopran, Medak district, will process 5 lakh litres of milk per day in its initial phase and benefit nearly 10,000 dairy farmers, IT & Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu said.

The Minister said it was a matter of pride to participate in the groundbreaking ceremony of the Mega Integrated Dairy Plant, describing the project as a significant milestone for Telangana's dairy processing sector.

The project is expected to create around 350 direct employment opportunities, while strengthening milk procurement and the wider dairy value chain, thereby benefiting thousands of dairy farmers across the state.

Sabar Dairy began its milk operations in Telangana in 2015 and currently procures more than one lakh litres of milk every day from dairy farmers in the state. The new integrated facility will manufacture a wide range of products, including milk, curd, paneer, ice cream, lassi, ghee, buttermilk and bakery products.

Mr. Sridhar Babu said the plant would help add greater value to the milk produced by farmers and provide them with better and more organised market opportunities.

"Telangana has a large base of dairy farmers and families dependent on milk production. This project will strengthen the linkages between farmers, organised milk procurement, modern processing systems and consumers," he said.

The Minister said the investment was also a reflection of the growing confidence of investors in Telangana under the 'Invest Telangana' and 'Telangana Rising–2047' vision.

He emphasised that the cooperative dairy model ensures that a significant share of the amount paid by consumers reaches milk producers. In the farmer-centric Amul model, around 80 per cent of every rupee spent by the consumer can reach milk producers, he said.

"This model has the potential to improve farmers' incomes while strengthening the entire dairy ecosystem," Mr. Sridhar Babu said.

He said the availability of high-quality dairy products, particularly paneer, from a trusted cooperative institution would be beneficial to consumers. At a time when concerns are being raised over non-dairy or adulterated alternatives to paneer, access to genuine and quality dairy products can further strengthen consumer confidence, he added.

New Appointments in Lambadi Vidyarthi Sena

SURYAPET

State President of the Lambadi Vidyarthi Sena, Dharavath Balu Naik, issued appointment orders naming Dharavath Suman Naik as the Suryapet District Coordinator and Banothu Ramesh Naik as the Chivvemla Mandal President.

On Sunday, district leaders handed over the appointment letters to the newly appointed office-bearers and felicitated them with shawls while conveying their best wishes.

Speaking on the occasion, Suman Naik and Ramesh Naik demanded that the government focus on providing welfare benefits, reservations, educational opportunities, and employment opportunities to the Lambadi community. They also urged the government to fulfill the promises made to the Lambadis during the elections.



They called upon all Lambadis to remain united and fight for their rights, stating that the Lambadi Vidyarthi Sena would intensify its movements on issues concerning the community. They said they would strengthen the organization across Suryapet district and Chivvemla mandal and would question every injustice faced by students and members of the Lambadi community.

They appealed to everyone to fight unitedly to prevent attacks and injustices against Lambadis. They observed that the Lambadi community is still backward in several fields and called for collective efforts to achieve progress in education, employment, political representation, and welfare.

District Working President Dharavath Shiva Naik, District President Banothu Harish Naik, District Vice-President Lakavath Veeranna Naik, State Secretary Dharavath Ravi Naik, Ravinder, Laxman, Nagaraju, Nagu Naik, and others participated in the programme.



Kohens Life Sciences Services Are Commendable

— DSP Prasanna Kumar

SURYAPET

A free medical camp was inaugurated at the Bharosa Centre in Suryapet district headquarters on Sunday by DSP Prasanna Kumar, along with District Medical Officer Dr. Pendem Venkata Ramana, under the auspices of Kohens Life Sciences.

Speaking on the occasion, DSP Prasanna Kumar said that the medical camp was being organized with the objective of providing quality healthcare services to poor and underprivileged people. He said that such free medical camps are highly beneficial to people who cannot afford to visit private hospitals.

He appreciated the services being rendered by Kohens Life Sciences in providing free medical treatment to economically disadvantaged people. He said that the camp was conducting BP, blood sugar, and cardiac-related tests, along with special medical examinations for women and other tests required for various health problems.

Free medicines were also being provided based on the doctors' advice. Municipal Councillor Vijaya Naik, former Councillor Linga Naik, Srihaan Hospital Dr. Giridhar Reddy, Vijitha Reddy, Ortho specialist Venkatesh, Kohens Life Sciences unit staff, and others participated in the programme.

KTR Invited as Distinguished Guest of Honour at TALHealthFest 2026 in California

HYDERABAD

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Working President and Telangana MLA Sri K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) has been invited to attend TALHealthFest 2026 as the Distinguished Guest of Honour at the University of California, San Diego (UC San Diego), California, USA, on October 30, 2026. The invitation was extended by Sai Gundavelli, CEO of Touch-A-Life Foundation (TAL), which is organising the international healthcare summit.

TALHealthFest 2026 is envisioned as a global platform bringing together leaders, healthcare professionals, innovators and organisations working to shape the future of healthcare. The event is expected to bring together physicians and healthcare professionals, hospitals and health systems, pharmaceutical and medical technology companies, researchers and academics, technology innovators, patient advocacy organisations, government representatives, medical tourism leaders, and organisations serving aging and retirement communities.

The central theme of TALHealthFest 2026 is "Reimagining Healthcare through Innovation, Technology, Collaboration and Global Access." The summit will focus on emerging developments in Artificial Intelligence and personalised medicine, digital healthcare and emerging technologies, integrated and preventive care, global healthcare access and medical tourism, and the future of healthcare delivery and innovation. In the invitation, Sai Gundavelli highlighted KTR's contributions to Telangana, particularly in the areas of technology, innovation, entrepreneurship and global engagement, and said his participation would bring a valuable perspective to the international forum.

TG REDCO's Three-Day Solar Rooftop Awareness Drive Concludes in Kukatpally

- **Senior energy officials and local representatives guide residents on clean energy transition, practical installation, and long-term cost benefits.**

MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI



The three-day Seva Sethu solar rooftop awareness camp, organized by TG REDCO (Telangana State Renewable Energy Development Corporation) at the Kukatpally Electricity Division office, successfully concluded on October 4, 2026. Held daily from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM starting October 2, the initiative created a dedicated platform to educate local consumers on the multi-fold benefits of transitioning to clean rooftop solar power. The event witnessed strong public interest as a large number of local residents attended to learn about sustainable energy alternatives. Throughout the three days, visitors received practical insights into how rooftop solar systems reduce monthly household electricity bills, lessen reliance on the conventional power grid, and harness clean energy directly from nature for long-term savings.

The camp was marked by the active presence and leadership of key regional energy officials. Prominent attendees included Medchal Zone Chief Engineer Ramesh, Kukatpally Divisional Engineer J. L. Janapriya, Jeedimetla Divisional Engineer Srinivas, Kukatpally ADE B. Prasad, Miyapur ADE Harikrishna, ICSC Kukatpally ADE Chaitanya, Jeedimetla ADE Prem Kumar, and Shapur Nagar ADE Veeresham.

Speaking at the venue, Chief Engineer Ramesh and Divisional Engineer J. L. Janapriya highlighted the critical importance of shifting toward sustainable energy resources. They walked consumers through the practical aspects of adopting solar power, detailing the installation procedures and explaining how adopting solar energy contributes to long-term environmental sustainability while empowering households to manage their energy consumption efficiently.

Masks May Be Needed in 25 Years If Environment Ignored: Oka

THANE: (Oct 4) Former Supreme Court judge Justice Abhay Oka on Sunday said people in major cities may be forced to wear face masks within the next 20 to 25 years unless urgent measures are taken to conserve and protect the environment. Speaking as the chief guest at an event in Thane, Justice Oka (retd) said protecting the environment will be the single largest challenge facing future generations. "A widespread misconception has taken hold among both rulers and citizens that humans own the Earth. This mindset has triggered a destructive race involving rampant tree felling, excessive use of firecrackers, noise and air pollution, and the contamination of rivers, lakes, and oceans under various religious and social pretexts," he said.

UP: Cong hits out at BJP govt over crimes against women, girls

LUCKNOW: (Oct 4) Newly-appointed Uttar Pradesh Congress president Aradhana Mishra 'Mona' on Sunday targeted the BJP government over alleged crimes against women in the state, also citing a series of recent cases involving minors. Mishra, who was named the new state Congress chief two days ago, alleged that Uttar Pradesh has become increasingly unsafe for women under BJP rule and questioned the administration's response to crimes against minors. "Beti Bachao was not merely a slogan but a warning," she said in a statement.

Odisha: Rape accused injured in police firing held, sent to 14-day judicial custody

BHUBANESWAR: (Oct 4) A man accused of raping a woman at her home in Odisha's Bhubaneswar, who sustained a bullet injury in an encounter when he resisted a police attempt to arrest him, was apprehended on Sunday, officials said. The accused was sent to 14-day judicial custody after being produced before a local court, following discharge from hospital, they said. The man had allegedly raped a 26-year-old woman at gunpoint while wearing a mask at her rented flat here on September 30, police had said.

Chief Minister along with Union Minister lay foundation for 3 lakh houses across the state

TENALI



Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu along with Union Minister for Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan laid foundation for the construction of 3 lakh houses across the state under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana–Gramin (PMAY-G) 2.0 at Burripalem in Tenali constituency today. Later addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said hundred percent housing programme will be achieved by 2029. He said the Centre had initially sanctioned only 75,000 houses to Andhra Pradesh under the regular quota. However, following a special request, the Union Government had sanctioned 3 lakh houses. He said Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan had agreed to sanction another 3 lakh houses as soon as the current batch was completed, and an additional 3 lakh houses next year, taking the total allocation to 9 lakh houses. Referring to Burripalem, the Chief Minister said the village was synonymous with legendary actor Superstar Krishna and that it had now also given rise to a political hero in the form of Union Minister Pemmasani Chandrasekhar. He said the coalition government, backed by the people's mandate, was committed to delivering good governance by ensuring that welfare and development reached every section of society. Under the Pattabhishekam initiative, long-pending land disputes had been resolved and house sites distributed to the poor. House sites worth Rs 52,000 crore had been provided in Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Mangalagiri and other parts of the State. The Chief Minister said the coalition government's agenda was to support every community and every region. Praising Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Chandrababu Naidu described him as a leader dedicated to the welfare of the poor. He recalled Chouhan's contribution to Madhya Pradesh through major river-linking projects. He said Chouhan's close association with the people had earned him the affectionate title of Mama among the people of Madhya Pradesh. He criticised the previous government for mismanaging the housing programme between 2019 and 2024, alleging that 6 lakh houses meant for the poor had been cancelled and that corruption and irregularities had undermined the initiative. He said house sites had been allotted in unsuitable locations, including tanks and hillocks, rendering them unfit for habitation. As a result, nearly 4 lakh beneficiaries had returned their allotted house sites. The Chief Minister said the present government had renewed its commitment to constructing quality houses for the poor. As part of this initiative, 3D concrete printing technology would be introduced on a pilot basis at Burripalem. Houses built using this technology were expected to maintain indoor temperatures at least 8 degrees Celsius lower than the outside temperature, providing greater comfort to residents.He said after successfull completion of 3D technology houses, construction of 5000 houses will be taken up with the same technology to make Andhra Pradesh a role model in 3D technology housing programme. Addressing the meeting Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan praised Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's leadership, stating that Andhra Pradesh was emerging as one of the leading States in the country. He assured that the Centre would sanction another 3 lakh houses even before the ongoing construction of 3 lakh houses was completed. He also promised an additional 3 lakh houses for Andhra Pradesh, taking the total commitment to 9 lakh houses.

The Union Minister said the Government of India, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, would extend full support to Andhra Pradesh's development. He described the State's transformation under the visionary leadership of Chandrababu Naidu as a journey towards a Shining Andhra, Advanced Andhra and Achieving Andhra. Highlighting the support extended to farmers, Chouhan said the Centre was providing Rs 6,000 annually to each eligible farmer under the PM-KISAN scheme, while the Andhra Pradesh government was adding another Rs 14,000 under Annadata Sukhibhava, taking the total annual assistance to Rs 20,000. The Union Minister said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu were jointly steering Andhra Pradesh towards 360-degree development. He criticised the Congress for bifurcating the State without providing a capital and leaving Andhra Pradesh in a difficult situation. He said the NDA-led Central and State governments were now working together to put Andhra Pradesh firmly on the path of progress and prosperity.

Rapid Development Is Possible Only Through Coordination Between the Central and State Governments

Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy Minister Receives Grand Welcome in Ektanagar in Traditional Gujarati Style

EKTANAGAR, (GUJARAT)

Speaking to the local media after arriving in Gujarat to attend Chintan Shivir 2026, Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said that Union Minister Nitin Gadkari is taking special interest in the development of roads across the country. He said the construction of national highways is progressing rapidly with a long-term vision, keeping future requirements in mind.

The Minister said that Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) projects have also become crucial to the development of roads across the country. He stated that under Gadkari's leadership, several new initiatives such as Parvatmala and ropeways are being taken forward in the road and infrastructure sector, further strengthening the country's infrastructure.

Responding to questions from media representatives, the Minister said:

Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy praised Union Minister Nitin Gadkari for supporting the development of states without political considerations. He said that regardless of whether a state is governed by the Congress, BJP, or a regional party, Gadkari treats all states equally and gives priority to development works. The Minister said that Gadkari has also positively considered and approved several road projects requested by the Telangana government. This, he said, is one of the reasons why road development is progressing rapidly across the country. The Minister stated that coordination between the Central and State Governments is extremely important for successfully completing major infrastructure projects in the country, and that this is one of the primary objectives of Chintan Shivir. He said the meeting would provide an opportunity to bring the needs of the states to the attention of the Centre and, at the same time, help states effectively implement the new policies and schemes being introduced by the Central Government. Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy made it clear that the People's Government's objective is to develop Telangana's road infrastructure in line with the state's future needs. He said the government would coordinate with the Centre and work to secure all the key projects required for the state.

Vijay Holds Dharapuram Roadshow, Targets DMK Over Women Remarks

Dharapuram , TVK president and Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay embarked on a roadshow in the Dharapuram assembly constituency on Sunday in support of his party candidate P Sathyabama ahead of the October 6 bypolls, and slammed the DMK for making remarks against women.



The TVK founder said that attacking women has crossed the line and that he won't remain silent.

Vijay landed in Coimbatore by a special flight and flew to Dharapuram by helicopter. The reserved Assembly segment comes under the knitwear hub, the Tiruppur district. He was received by his senior cabinet ministers, including TVK general secretary and Minister for Rural Development and Water Resources N Anand, Minister for Revenue and Disaster Management K A Sengottaiyan at Dharapuram. At Dharapuram, Vijay started the roadshow on his preferred customised caravan around 1 pm and was expected to cover a 40-km stretch before campaign ends for the October 6 bypolls at 6 pm on Sunday. During the course of the roadshow, the TN CM also interacted with the voters. He took a bullock cart ride for a short distance. He also received several gifts, flowers, garlands and party towels during the road show.

On the way, he offered prayers at Moolanur Vanjiamman shrine, where he was accorded traditional temple honours. In one of the locations, he walked for a short distance, waving at and greeting people and TVK supporters who had lined up on either side of the road, and canvassed votes. At many places, people showered flower petals on him. The planned campaign route is expected to cover more than 20 public-contact points over 40 km in the Dharapuram area.

The campaign procession will pass through key stretches, including the Periyar statue junction, five roads junction, and Meenakshipuram, Kulathupalayam, Karaiyur and so on.

This was Vijay's second campaign visit to the constituency, following his September 30 rally. In his address during the roadshow, CM Vijay lashed out against escalating personal attacks and "crude rhetoric in the state's political discourse" and issued a "stern warning" to opposition parties against targeting women.

Pointing to recent political speeches targeting women leaders, he said, "I told you earlier if you vote for the DMK and certain others, it amounts to endorsing those who speak obscenely about women and humiliate them in public spaces. I didn't say that just to score political points. Look at what happened the day before yesterday". He was referring to certain alleged controversial remarks by DMK president M K Stalin against TVK's Dharapuram bypoll candidate P Satyabama. Vijay and his party leaders have described Stalin's criticism as amounting to "body-shaming" the woman candidate. "What kind of vile speech did he make against our sister, Sathyabama. It was so vulgar that one cannot even bear to listen to it. And is he the only one speaking like this. Every single person he has nurtured and brought up is delivering the exact same cheap rhetoric." "Speak whatever you want about me. I will take it. But if you dare speak against our sister, or against the mothers, sisters, and daughters of our households, I will not stay quiet. This marks a return to the era of MGR," he said referring to late CM and AIADMK founder M G Ramachandran.Polling in Dharapuram and Madurantakam constituencies will be held on October 6, with the counting of polled votes scheduled for October 9.bThe then AIADMK MLAs from Madurantakam and Dharapuram K Maragatham Kumaravel and Satyabama, had resigned as legislators and joined TVK. Their resignation necessitated the bypolls and Vijay has nominated both from the respective seats.

CM Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan to launch Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 works in Proddatur

Amaravati : Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan will jointly launch Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 works in Proddatur with an investment of Rs 30,156 crore on Monday ensuring safe drinking water at the doorstep of every rural household across the state.

Since the coalition government assumed office, tap water connections have been provided to 7.44 lakh families in 4,933 habitations across the State. Under the 'Amarajeevi Jaladhara' programme, the government aims to extend drinking water facilities to another 27 lakh families.

When the Central Government introduced the Jal Jeevan Mission in 2019, several States secured substantial funds for its implementation. Uttar Pradesh received ₹1 lakh crore, Rajasthan ₹85,000 crore, Madhya Pradesh ₹83,000 crore, Karnataka ₹63,000 crore and Assam ₹34,000 crore under the scheme. In contrast, the previous government submitted proposals worth only ₹26,000 crore and spent just ₹2,600 crore over five years. Moreover, the works undertaken during that period relied largely on borewells for temporary water supply rather than establishing sustainable systems to ensure a permanent supply from reservoirs and other reliable water sources.

The coalition government has now prioritised the provision of a continuous and safe drinking water supply to the people. After assuming office in 2024, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan renewed discussions with the Central Government and worked towards extending the scheme's implementation period until 2028. The 'Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 – Amarajeevi Jaladhara' works will be launched on Monday from M.M. Palle in Proddatur constituency, with a total project outlay of ₹30,156 crore.

As per schedule the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister will lay foundation at MM Palle at 10.35 a.m and later address public meeting.

Srinivasa Vratham held at Dokiparru temple with devotional fervour

DOKIPARRU (GUDLAVALLERU), OCTOBER 4:





The Srinivasa Vratham was conducted with devotional fervour at the Sri Bhu Sametha Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple at Dokiparru Mahakshetram on Sunday. Around 500 couples, besides hundreds of individual devotees, participated in the sacred ritual and offered special prayers seeking the blessings of Lord Srinivasa. The temple premises witnessed a large gathering of devotees, with the chanting of Govinda Nama creating a deeply spiritual atmosphere.The programme was conducted under the supervision of the temple's founder trustees, P.V. Krishna Reddy and Sudha Reddy, and under the guidance of temple administrators Kommarreddy Bapireddy and Vijaya Bhaskaramma. Arrangements were made for the devotees and the rituals were conducted in an orderly manner.

Rituals performed as per tradition

The Srinivasa Vratham began with devotees taking the sacred vow, followed by Ganapati Puja, Punyahavachanam and Kalasha Sthapana, performed by Vedic scholars in accordance with traditional rituals. Special worship was offered to Lord Sri Venkateswara and Goddess Bhudevi. The rituals also included the recitation of the Lord's Ashtottara Shatanamavali, Mantrapushpam and the offering of sacred prayers and Harathi. The participating couples and devotees took part in the rituals with devotion. The chanting of Vedic hymns and the recitation of the Lord's name reverberated through the temple premises. Following the rituals, special Naivedyam was offered to the deity and Maha Harathi was performed. The devotees were subsequently given Theertha Prasadam.

Special prayers offered

Pamireddy Prasanna participated in the special worship and offered prayers to Lord Venkateswara. Prayers were offered seeking the Lord's blessings for the well-being and happiness of the people and for peace and harmony in society.

Devotees blessed by Vedic scholars

The Vedic scholars offered special blessings to all those who participated in the Srinivasa Vratham. The devotees later had darshan of the deity and received Theertha Prasadam. The temple premises remained crowded throughout the programme, with devotees participating in the rituals and chanting the name of Lord Govinda. The temple administration and staff made special arrangements for the smooth conduct of the Vratham.

Poets' Gathering on the Theme "Letters" to Be Held in Guntur on October 10

Best Poet to Receive ₹500 Cash Prize and Certificate of Appreciation
Free One-Year Subscription to Navamalle Teega Monthly Magazine
Felicitations for Dr. Bhusurapalli Venkateswarlu, Recipient of the Andhra Pradesh Government's Boi Bheemanna Award and Eminent Literary Figure

GUNTUR: A poets' gathering on the theme "Letters" and a felicitation ceremony to honour noted literary personality Dr. Bhusurapalli Venkateswarlu, recipient of the Andhra Pradesh Government's prestigious Boi Bheemanna Award, will be held in Guntur on October 10.

The programme is being jointly organised by the Guntur District Branch of the Navyandhra Writers' Association and the Ramaraju Foundation. The event will begin at 10 a.m. at the S.H.O. Meeting Hall in Brodipet, Guntur.

Dr. Ramaraju Srinivasa Rao, founder of the Ramaraju Foundation, will preside over the programme. Gullapalli Subbarao, Chairman of the Gullapalli Charitable Trust; Dr. Thumuluri Rajendra Prasad, Founder-President of Dr. Pattabhi Kala Peetham; noted literary figure Modugula Ravikrishna; and Kalimisri, General Secretary of the Navyandhra Writers' Association, will attend as guests.

As part of World Post Day celebrations, a special poets' gathering will be organised on the theme "Letters". The session will be conducted under the supervision of Bandikallu Jamadagni. Poets participating in the programme will have an opportunity to recite their original poems before the audience and guests.

A special feature of the gathering will be the selection of the best poem on the spot. The invited guests will evaluate the poems presented by the participating poets and select the winning entry.

The poet whose poem is adjudged the best will be honoured with a cash prize of ₹500 and a certificate of appreciation. In addition, the winner will receive a free one-year subscription to the *Navamalle Teega* monthly magazine.

The entire programme will be coordinated under the supervision of Syed Jaanibasha, Secretary of the Guntur District Branch of the Navyandhra Writers' Association.

Poets interested in participating in the gathering have been invited to contact Bandikallu Jamadagni at 984864742 for further details and participation.

EDITORIAL

The Voter Cannot Be Erased: Justice Ujjal Bhuyan's Warning Raises Serious Questions Over Mass Deletions Under SIR

The right to vote is the most visible expression of citizenship in a democracy. It is therefore deeply troubling when the process of electoral-roll revision, intended to cleanse voter lists of errors and duplication, risks becoming a mechanism that excludes genuine voters. Justice Ujjal Bhuyan's recent remarks on mass disenfranchisement during the debate over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls deserve serious attention—not merely as a judicial observation, but as a warning about the health of Indian democracy. There is nothing inherently wrong with revising electoral rolls. Dead voters, duplicate entries and people who have permanently shifted residence should not remain on the rolls. A clean and accurate electoral register is essential for credible elections. The problem begins when the cure becomes more dangerous than the disease. If millions of genuine citizens are removed from the rolls without adequate notice, verification and an effective opportunity to appeal, electoral cleansing can turn into electoral exclusion. This is precisely why Justice Bhuyan's intervention is significant. He has questioned the justification for any process that could deprive millions of citizens of their voting rights, describing such mass disenfranchisement as intrinsically arbitrary. His comments underline a fundamental democratic principle: administrative efficiency cannot come at the cost of constitutional rights. The controversy surrounding SIR has demonstrated how vulnerable ordinary citizens can be when electoral verification becomes heavily dependent on documentation. The burden of proving one's eligibility may appear reasonable on paper, but its consequences can be very different on the ground. A migrant worker, an elderly person, a poor household or someone living in a remote area may not possess the documents required to establish their eligibility easily. For such citizens, exclusion from the electoral roll is not merely a bureaucratic inconvenience. It can effectively silence their political voice.

The Election Commission has an important responsibility to maintain accurate electoral rolls. But accuracy cannot be measured simply by the number of names deleted. The real measure of a successful revision must be whether every eligible citizen continues to have a meaningful opportunity to vote. There is also a larger constitutional question here. The right to vote may not be classified as a fundamental right in the same manner as freedom of speech or equality before law, but universal adult suffrage is central to India's constitutional democracy. Article 326 establishes elections on the basis of adult suffrage. The electoral roll is therefore not merely an administrative database. It is the gateway through which citizens exercise democratic power. That is why the principle of natural justice becomes crucial. Before removing an existing voter, authorities must provide adequate notice, a genuine opportunity to respond and an accessible mechanism for correction or appeal. A citizen should not discover on polling day that their name has disappeared from the electoral roll. Political parties, too, have a responsibility. The SIR debate should not be reduced to allegations and counter-allegations between the ruling establishment and the Opposition. The integrity of electoral rolls is too important to become another battlefield of partisan politics. The government and the Election Commission must provide transparency, while political parties must scrutinise the process without turning every administrative correction into a political conspiracy.

At the same time, criticism of mass deletions should not be interpreted as opposition to electoral-roll revision itself. India needs accurate voter lists. But the objective should be maximum accuracy with minimum exclusion. Justice Bhuyan's remarks therefore raise a question much larger than SIR: Can a democracy call itself inclusive if legitimate voters can disappear from its electoral rolls without a meaningful chance to be heard? The answer must be an emphatic no. An electoral roll is ultimately a record of citizens who are entitled to participate in determining who governs them. Deleting a name may take only a few seconds administratively. Restoring a citizen's faith in democracy can take far longer. The Election Commission must therefore ensure that every deletion is verifiable, transparent and subject to due process. Political parties must demand accountability without compromising the need for clean rolls. And citizens must be given simple, accessible avenues to challenge wrongful exclusion. Because an election is not truly free merely because millions are allowed to vote. It is free only when every eligible citizen who has the right to vote is given a fair opportunity to exercise it.

Who Was the First Guru?



J M R DUNGA

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> *" A teacher does not merely tell the next generation what humanity knows. A teacher helps it discover what remains to be known. "*

On International Teachers' Day, as societies pause to honour those who teach, an older question is worth asking: Who was the first guru? Who taught the first lesson, and who taught that teacher? If every teacher had a teacher, where did the chain begin? The question may not have a historical answer. Its value lies elsewhere — in asking what made teaching possible in the first place.

Human beings began learning long before they built schools or wrote books. Hunger taught them to seek food; fire revealed both warmth and danger; changing seasons offered clues about time and survival; failure imposed its own lessons. Experience was the earliest classroom. But experience became education only when someone reflected on it and deliberately helped another person understand it. That transition — from experiencing something to making sense of it and sharing that understanding — was one of the quiet beginnings of civilisation.

The first teacher, therefore, need not have been a celebrated figure. The deeper origin of teaching lies in the human impulse to know and to share what is known. Curiosity produced the question; experience supplied evidence; reflection produced understanding; and the desire to pass that understanding on created the teacher. In that sense, the guru is not merely a holder of knowledge but a mediator between experience and understanding.

This distinction matters because teaching has never been synonymous with the transfer of information. Information can be memorised without being understood. A student may reproduce an answer without grasping its reasoning or relevance. Education begins to acquire meaning when knowledge changes the learner's capacity to observe, question and judge. This is close to the deeper idea of the guru in the Indian philosophical tradition. The guru is not simply an instructor but one who helps the seeker move from ignorance towards clarity. The objective is not to make the student permanently dependent on the teacher. It is almost the opposite. A teacher can indicate a path, but the learner must eventually walk it independently.

That is the paradox at the heart of good teaching: the best teacher gradually makes the teacher less necessary. A teacher can offer an answer, but cannot understand it on behalf of the student. A teacher can demonstrate a method, but cannot perform the intellectual journey for another person. The enduring achievement of teaching is therefore not obedience but intellectual independence.

This principle has acquired a new urgency in an age of information abundance. The Internet has placed vast repositories of knowledge within easy reach. Artificial intelligence can explain concepts, generate answers and assist with complex tasks. Yet the abundance of answers has not made the ability to think less important. It has made it more important.

The central educational challenge is increasingly not whether students can find information, but whether they can judge it. What is evidence and what is assertion? What is fact and what is interpretation? Which source deserves trust? When should an established conclusion be questioned, and when should a new claim be rejected? Such questions cannot be solved merely by increasing the volume of information available to a learner.

This is where the teacher's role acquires renewed significance. Technology can retrieve information with extraordinary speed. A teacher can help a student develop the habits of mind required to use that information responsibly. The task is not to compete with machines in supplying answers, but to cultivate curiosity, reasoning, discernment and intellectual humility.

The history of civilisation is, in many ways, a history of this transmission and revision of understanding. One generation discovers, another learns, a later generation questions and improves. Science advances because knowledge is tested rather than merely inherited. Languages survive because they are passed on. Skills, artistic traditions and social values endure because they are taught. What one generation knows becomes the starting point from which another can move further.

But this process also places a responsibility on the learner. Education is not a one-way transfer from teacher to student. A passive learner can receive information without becoming educated. Curiosity, questioning and the willingness to revise one's own conclusions are indispensable to learning. The teacher can create the conditions for inquiry; the student must have the courage to pursue it.

This is why Teachers' Day should mean more than a ceremonial acknowledgement of a profession. It is an occasion to reflect on what society expects from education. If schools merely produce students who can reproduce established answers, they preserve knowledge but do not necessarily advance it. If they cultivate people who can examine inherited knowledge, identify its limitations and ask better questions, education becomes a force for renewal.

So, who was the first guru? Perhaps the answer is not a person but a question. The first question created the need to know. The search for an answer created experience and reflection. The sharing of that understanding created teaching. From there grew the long human chain through which knowledge has travelled across generations.

We may never know the name of the first person who consciously taught another. But every good teacher continues that ancient act in a new form: taking what has been understood, opening it to examination, and enabling another mind to go beyond it.

A teacher does not merely tell the next generation what humanity knows. A teacher helps it discover what remains to be known. That may be the most enduring answer to the question of the first guru — and the most fitting thought with which to mark Teachers' Day.

Straight Talk

From the Voter List to Jantar Mantar: A Trial by Fire for Democratic Trust

The protests held in Delhi on October 2 and 3 demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, the detention of a large number of people, the heavy security arrangements, and restrictions imposed at several roads and metro stations in central Delhi have further intensified the ongoing debate over electoral institutions. The Delhi Police had not granted permission for the proposed protest, and entry and exit at 11 metro stations were temporarily closed for security reasons. Jantar Mantar is the name of that public democratic space where citizens or organisations from different parts of the country come to register their dissent against those in power. Therefore, to regard the voice raised there merely as a crowd, a political protest, or a law-and-order problem would be to diminish the democratic discourse.

A large number of voters have been affected by the Special Intensive Revision, or SIR, of electoral rolls, raising serious questions about the transparency of the electoral process. However, the Election Commission says that the objective of SIR is to purify and update electoral rolls and that special campaigns have also been launched to include eligible voters who have been wrongly left out. The Commission has now announced a special campaign in 20 states and Union Territories to identify eligible voters and facilitate their re-enrolment. This is precisely where political allegations and institutional facts need to be examined in depth. When widespread doubts arise over a fundamental mechanism of democracy such as the electoral roll, the Election Commission cannot simply move ahead by saying that it is a constitutional institution and therefore must be trusted. The credibility of a constitutional institution is strengthened not merely by authority, but by transparency and accountability.

The most concrete and verifiable aspect of the current controversy relates to Form-6. Form-6 is the prescribed application for inclusion of a name in the electoral roll. The controversy arose when an additional declaration related to SIR was added to the online Form-6, reportedly prompting objections from both Election Commissioners within the Commission itself regarding the procedure followed for the change. According to media reports, Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi questioned the legal procedure for making this change, following which the Commission removed this additional declaration from the online Form-6 on September 30 in states where SIR had been completed. Here, the most important question is not whether the declaration was removed, but under whose authority it was added, at what level it was approved, on what order its technical implementation was carried out, and through what process the decision to subsequently remove it was taken. Clear answers to these questions should be made public.

There is a need to take this matter beyond political allegations and counter-allegations. If any additional declaration was not legally necessary, and if its inclusion caused difficulties for an eligible citizen in the application process or prevented a name from being included in the electoral roll, then it is essential to identify and rectify such cases. The Election Commission has now spoken of a special campaign to re-enrol eligible voters who were left out, but the question remains: how many and in what manner will the results of this process be made public? An electoral roll is not merely a government record; it forms the basis of democratic representation. Therefore, more important than the question of 'how many names were deleted' is the question of how many eligible voters were wrongly removed from the electoral roll, how many were subsequently restored, how many objections were accepted, and how many had to struggle separately to have their right to vote restored.



YOGESH KUMAR GOYAL

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(The author is a senior journalist who has been active in journalism for 36 years and is the author of several books, including 'Sagar Se Antariksh Tak: Bharat Ki Raksha Kranti')



These figures should be made public statewise, constituency-wise and reason-wise. Only such transparency can clarify the difference between allegations and reality.

It is not possible at this stage to say what the political future of the demand for the Chief Election Commissioner's resignation will be. The Election Commission is an independent constitutional institution, and the constitutional procedure for removing its head is separate. The larger question here is not merely the resignation of Gyanesh Kumar, but trust in the Election Commission. If a large section of citizens begins to believe that their names are not secure on the electoral roll, that the electoral process is not fair, or that the Election Commission is not providing satisfactory answers to their questions, it would be a far more serious situation for democracy than the victory or defeat of any political party. The real foundation of an election is the trust that enables the losing side to accept the result and the winning side to remain assured of its legitimacy. Therefore, there is only one way forward for both the government and the Election Commission: factual answers to the questions being raised. Instead of politically defending every criticism of the Commission, the government should ensure that questions raised against a constitutional institution are subjected to institutional examination and receive public clarification. The Election Commission, too, should not dismiss criticism as a political campaign against itself; instead, it should place before the public documentary details of its decisions, software changes, orders and procedures.

If the Commission is an independent constitutional institution, then responsibility for its administrative decisions should also rest with the Commission itself. The government's role is not to defend every decision of the Commission, but to ensure an institutional framework in which the Commission can function without political pressure and the public can receive credible explanations for its decisions. The heavy security arrangements made to prevent people from gathering at Jantar Mantar have also generated another debate. Maintaining law and order is the responsibility of the government, and the limits of any protest are determined by law. However, peaceful dissent is an integral part of democracy. Therefore, the need is to ensure that restrictions are proportionate to the genuine security requirements and do not appear intended to suppress the democratic voice of citizens.

It is now time to take this entire controversy outside the narrow framework of 'the government versus the opposition'. The Election Commission belongs not to any government but to the voter. The electoral roll is not the property of any political party; it is the foundation of a citizen's right to vote. And the outcome of an election is not the private achievement of any political party; it is the public legitimacy conferred through a constitutional process. Therefore, from the controversy surrounding Form-6 to the data related to SIR, every question must receive a documentary answer. There should be a time-bound mechanism to identify and restore the names of voters who have been left out during the process. Responsibility for changes made in the software should be clearly established. The disagreements recorded within the Commission should receive a factual explanation. Wherever the matter is before the courts, institutional transparency must continue until the final decision.

The greatest threat to democracy does not come from criticism but from distrust. Criticism can be answered with reason, but distrust can be dispelled only through transparency. The most important message emerging from the voices raised at Jantar Mantar and in Mumbai is that merely winning an election is not enough; maintaining public trust in the electoral process is equally important. If this trust is developing cracks, the remedy is not to stop the protesters but to provide a public and constitutional resolution to the questions that are compelling them to take to the streets. The real test of democracy is not how large a crowd the government can stop, but how many difficult questions it is prepared to answer. The credibility of the Election Commission will not be restored merely by the resignation of Gyanesh Kumar; it will be ensured through such a transparent system that even the loser can trust and the winner can trust as well.



DRI seizes 15.59 kg amphetamine, cocaine and heroin in 3 operations; 5 held

NEW DELHI, OCT 4

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has seized cumulative quantity of 15.59 kg dangerous contraband drugs, amphetamine, cocaine and heroin, in three separate intelligence-led operations, the Finance Ministry said on Sunday. Five persons have been arrested under the provisions of the NDPS Act, 1985. The DRI, along with the Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN), intercepted a Mahindra Thar suspected to be carrying Amphetamine at the Ujjain–Dewas Toll Plaza in Madhya Pradesh. On being signalled to stop, the driver broke through the barricade and sped away. The officers pursued the vehicle in a high-speed chase lasting approximately 1.5 hours, before successfully intercepting it near Bicholi Mardana, Indore. Detailed search of the vehicle led to the detection of an ingenious concealment inside the spare tyre mounted on the rear door of the Thar, according to the statement.

On opening the tyre, officers recovered 21 packets containing 7.116 kg (gross) of whitish-yellow crystalline substance, which tested positive for Amphetamine using the NDPS Field Test Kit. The Amphetamine, along with the vehicle, was seized and all three occupants were arrested under the NDPS Act, 1985. In another operation, the DRI intercepted an Indian passenger arriving from Doha at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad, based on specific intelligence regarding smuggling of cocaine. Examination of his cabin baggage revealed seven chocolate tubes, which appeared unusually heavier than their marked weight, said the statement. On opening the tubes, officers found 207 light-yellow oval-shaped capsules ingeniously concealed along with the chocolates. Examination of the capsules revealed a white powdery substance which tested positive for Cocaine using the Narcotic Drug Detection Kit.

Madhya Pradesh: Over 21 lakh tendu leaf collectors to get Rs 139 crore bonus

BHOPAL, OCT 4



Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Sunday announced that more than 21 lakh tendu leaf collectors across Madhya Pradesh would receive a total bonus exceeding Rs 139 crore.

He described nature-worshipping tribal communities as the state's heritage and said their contribution to protecting and managing forests is incomparable.

Participating in a training-cum-awareness programme and tendu leaf bonus distribution event for members of Primary Forest Produce Cooperative Societies in Mandla district, he affirmed the government's commitment to secure the rights, respect the hard work, and protect the interests of tribal families and tendu leaf collectors.

Responding to local demands, Yadav also announced the opening of government colleges in Mohgaon and Ghughri, minor forest produce processing units in Mandla under the MSME Department, a tiger safari zoo to attract domestic and foreign tourists, and the revival of traditional betel cultivation in the district. Tendu leaves are used by tribal people and people of economically weaker sections in rural areas to roll bidis. It generates additional income for them. Yadav transferred a bonus of Rs 36.17 crore (Rs 36,17,37,518) for 2024 to 9,04,126 tendu leaf collectors from eight forest divisions — East and West Mandla, North and South Seoni, North and South Balaghat, Dindori and Jabalpur. He also distributed a timber dividend of Rs 26.56 lakh to about 40,000 members of 84 forest committees that assist the Forest Department in Mandla.

The Chief Minister presented Mandla district with 74 development works worth approximately Rs 460 crore. This included the groundbreaking of 47 projects valued at over Rs 263 crore and the inauguration of 27 projects worth more than Rs 197 crore. Among the initiatives were 19 government high school buildings (Rs 75.28 crore), a new integrated collector's office (Rs 33.92 crore), a nursing college building (Rs 14.80 crore), a Tribal Multipurpose Marketing Centre (Rs 1 crore), and four newly constructed Sandipani school buildings in Niwas, Bichhiya, Ghuthas and Sagar (Rs 137.11 crore).

He also said milk cooperatives would be set up in Mandla as required to help raise the state's share of national milk production from 12 per cent to 20 per cent. The Chief Minister inaugurated the programme by worshipping girls, garlanding portraits of Rani Durgavati, Raja Shankar Shah and Kunwar Raghunath Shah, and lighting the ceremonial lamp.

He later visited the Farmer Welfare Year exhibition and distributed "scooties" to meritorious students under the "Chief Minister's Scooty Scheme," personally fitting them with helmets and blessing them for academic progress.

Mass disenfranchisement of citizens intrinsically arbitrary: SC Judge Ujjal Bhuyan

HYDERABAD, OCT 4



Supreme Court judge Justice Ujjal Bhuyan on Sunday strongly criticised any process that leads to the wholesale exclusion of citizens from electoral rolls, terming it intrinsically arbitrary and a direct assault on the Constitution. Speaking at the valedictory address of the 19th Justice Bodh Raj Sawhney Memorial Moot Court Competition at NALSAR University of Law, Justice Bhuyan said, "If any process results in disenfranchising millions and millions of Indian citizens, making them second-class citizens in their own country in the sense of being citizens without voting rights, such a process is intrinsically arbitrary. No amount of whataboutery can justify it."

He asserted that the Indian Constitution does not envisage two classes of citizens—one with voting rights and another without. Any such process, he emphasised, would violate Articles 326 (universal adult suffrage) and 14 (right to equality). "No authority can do it; no court can condone it. No one is above the Constitution," Justice Bhuyan declared. He underlined that the right to vote is intertwined with India's long struggle for freedom and forms part of the basic structure of the Constitution. Article 326, he said, cannot be tinkered with at all. Justice Bhuyan further observed that except in the case of a deceased voter, no name can be deleted from the electoral rolls without notice and a hearing. Detaching the right to vote from citizenship, he remarked, would be "like taking out the soul from the body." The remarks come amid ongoing controversies surrounding large-scale deletions under the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls and related petitions before the Supreme Court. Justice Bhuyan's statements reinforce the constitutional protection of adult suffrage as a non-negotiable foundation of Indian democracy.

NFR Saves 255 Elephants from Train–Elephant Collisions Through Proactive Wildlife Protection Measures

MALIGAON, 04 OCTOBER, 2026:





Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has intensified its efforts to prevent elephant–train collisions through a combination of technology-driven systems, enhanced vigilance and close coordination with the Forest Department. From January to September 2026, timely interventions by NFR personnel helped save 255 elephants across its divisions, including 106 in Alipurduar Division, 14 in Rangiya, 122 in Lumding and 15 in Tinsukia Division.

NFR has taken several proactive and technology-driven measures to prevent elephant–train collisions in vulnerable areas. These include deployment of AI-based Intrusion Detection System (IDS) using Distributed Acoustic System (DAS) technology, which provides real-time alerts on elephant movement near tracks. Other preventive measures include night-time and temporary speed restrictions based on elephant sightings, enhanced patrolling, sensitisation of train crews, cautionary signage, vegetation clearance and real-time coordination with the Forest Department. The 'Plan Bee' system, using amplified honeybee sounds to deter elephants, has also been installed at vulnerable locations. NFR has further undertaken the construction of underpasses at identified locations to facilitate safer wildlife movement and keep elephants away from railway tracks. NFR is undertaking regular sensitisation of train crews, railway staff, pantry car personnel and passengers to prevent food waste from being discarded near railway tracks, which could attract elephants and other animals. Continuous coordination and real-time communication with the Forest Department further enable timely action whenever elephant movement is detected. All cases involving train–elephant dashing are treated with utmost seriousness and investigated as per the prescribed safety procedures. NFR continues to strengthen technology-based monitoring, frontline vigilance and coordination with wildlife authorities to protect elephants while ensuring safe and efficient train operations across the Northeast.

Congress slams Punjab govt over 'Sikhya Kranti' claims

CHANDIGARH, OCT 4



Leader of Opposition Partap Singh Bajwa on Sunday slammed the Aam Aadmi Party government in Punjab over its much-publicised claims of 'Sikhya Kranti', saying its government legislator has publicly exposed serious gaps in the education system. Bajwa said Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's repeated claims of transforming the state's government schools stand sharply contradicted by the concerns raised by legislator Sukhveer Singh Maiserkhana, who went public with complaints about teacher shortages and the functioning of government schools in his constituency. "Bhagwant Mann can continue to repeat the slogan of 'Sikhya Kranti', but the reality inside Punjab's government schools is increasingly difficult to hide. When a sitting AAP MLA goes public, says his own children study in a government school and raises concerns about a shortage of teachers affecting students, it exposes the widening gap between AAP's publicity and the reality on the ground," Bajwa said in a statement. Maiserkhana has publicly stated that his children study in a government school and raised concerns about inadequate teaching staff, including at the School of Eminence attended by his son. He has also said he raised the issue with senior AAP leaders and the government but claimed his concerns were not addressed. Bajwa said his assertions raised fundamental questions about the AAP government's claims of 'Sikhya Kranti'. "If an elected MLA has to publicly raise the basic issue of having enough teachers in classrooms, what exactly is this 'Sikhya Kranti' that the Mann government keeps advertising? Education cannot be transformed through slogans, branding and publicity. It requires teachers in classrooms, functioning schools and accountability to parents and students," Bajwa said. He also questioned the action taken against Maiserkhana. The AAP Punjab unit suspended the MLA from the party's primary membership, citing "anti-party activities and indiscipline", after his public criticism of the government. "The AAP leadership has chosen to act against the messenger instead of addressing the message. A shortage of teachers is a governance issue, not an anti-party activity. If an elected representative raises concerns about the education of children in his constituency, the government should listen, investigate and fix the problem, not silence him," Bajwa said. He said the episode further exposed what he described as AAP's intolerance towards internal criticism. "In a democracy, an MLA raising questions about the functioning of his own government should be seen as accountability, not indiscipline. The people of Punjab deserve answers on teacher shortages and the quality of education in government schools. They do not need another publicity campaign," Bajwa said. He added that the AAP government cannot simultaneously claim a historic 'Sikhya Kranti' while elected representatives are publicly raising concerns about basic shortages in schools. "Punjab's children deserve teachers, not slogans; quality education, not publicity; and functioning schools, not political branding. The Mann government must stop hiding behind the slogan of 'Sikhya Kranti' and start answering the questions being raised from within its own ranks," Bajwa added.

YSRCP slams Naidu govt for failing to complete houses started by Jagan

TADEPALLI (ANDHRA PRADESH) OCT 4

YSR Congress Party Ponnur constituency coordinator Ambati Murali Krishna on Sunday criticised the TDP-led coalition government in Andhra Pradesh for failing to complete houses started during Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's tenure. He said the government should finish these houses before claiming credit for providing homes to the poor. He stated that during Jagan's tenure, the government provided house sites to 31.19 lakh families and established 17,005 YSR Jagananna Colonies. It sanctioned 22,80,358 houses and completed more than nine lakh houses, Murali Krishna said. He alleged that the present government had not built a single new house in the past two and a half years and had left around 11 lakh houses at different stages of construction unfinished. He alleged that the TDP filed more than 1,000 court cases to stop the distribution of house-site pattas. Jagan went to the Supreme Court and secured relief to distribute them, he said. In Amaravati, the government went to court over pattas for 50,000 poor families and later cancelled them, denying those families a place to live, he alleged. Murali Krishna also asked why the state's drought situation was not raised at a meeting attended by Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. Of the state's 688 mandals, 388 have been declared drought-affected, including mandals in Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's constituency, Kuppam. He demanded answers on minimum support prices for paddy, cotton, maize, red gram, green gram and black gram. Responding to Minister Nadendla Manohar's call for an inquiry into alleged housing irregularities, Murali Krishna said YSRCP was ready for any investigation. He challenged the government to also investigate the rice issue in Kakinada. He said YSRCP was not opposing local body elections but wanted accurate voter lists, with clarity on deceased voters and bogus votes. With farmers struggling to get fair prices and welfare payments declining, he said rural economies were under strain and needed the government's attention.

BJP Counters Cong Over 13 Crore 'Deletions' Claim

NEW DELHI, OCT 4



Amid widespread controversy over the discrepancies in the Election Commission's 'flawed and partisan' Special Intensive Revision (SIR) and Opposition's clamour for action, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Sunday issued a detailed rebuttal of charges while accusing Congress, the principal opposition party, of resorting to 'fearmongering'. BJP General Secretary Vinod Tawde shared an 'explainer' video on his X account, to counter and debunk the litany of charges against the Election Commission (EC) and also reject accusations of ruling BJP's involvement in the whole episode. The 'explainer' video addresses slew of issues ranging from 13 crore voter deletions, purported changes in Form-6, alteration in ECINET format, among many others. "The 13 crore names were not deleted -- they were flagged for verification in categories such as deceased, absent, transferred, or duplicate. The final action takes place after the processing of claims, objections, and appeals," BJP leader Tawde said, recently appointed as the party's Uttar Pradesh Incharge.

Giving break-up of the proposed deletions in draft electoral rolls, it explains that about 2.6 crore voters were recorded dead, three crore absent at given address, 6.3 crore permanently shifted to different locations and one crore duplicate voters were registered. It also adds that the detailed information was shared with about 20 lakh booth level agents of all parties. "No changes were made to alter Form-6. All three Election Commissioners were in consonance on the additional details added with the Form-6 and it had the approval of Supreme Court," it claims. The 'explainer' video also rejects claims of centralisation, saying that there was no structural change in the framework and the local EC staff, including Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) were fully equipped to handle voters' request at local level.

The BJP leader accused the Congress of indulging in fearmongering, in a bid to conceal the facts and also urged people to follow the facts rather than getting swayed by Opposition's 'lies and fakery'.

Saying that SIR's objective is to include every voter and not disenfranchise anyone, it informs that 2.3 crore new Gen-Z voters have been added so far since the SIR drive started last year and today, the total strength of Gen-Z voters stands at 17.3 crore.

Dismissing the 'vote chori' allegations as means to befool and mislead the electorate, it says the poll panel always acted within the statutory powers and the SIR drive in all states that went to polls (Bihar and West Bengal) were duly upheld by the apex court.

BJP announces three candidates for Maharashtra MLC polls

MUMBAI, OCT 4

Political manoeuvres in Maharashtra have intensified after the Election Commission announced the upcoming Legislative Council (Vidhan Parishad) elections. On the heels of the Congress Party's announcement, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Sunday released its official list of candidates for three key constituencies: Nagpur Graduate: Former MLA Sudhakar Kohale; Pune Graduate: Smita Jadhav, Pro-Vice Chancellor of Dr D Y Patil University, Pune Teachers: Kaustubh Gawade, Chief Executive Officer of the prominent Shri Swami Vivekanand Shikshan Sanstha in Kolhapur. With the announcement of these nominees, BJP will contest three seats, leaving Nagpur Teachers constituency to Shiv Sena and Aurangabad Graduates constituency to NCP. Polling for the five constituencies is slated for October 23. Kohale has been fielded to take on the incumbent Congress MLC, Abhijit Wanjari. Kohale, a seasoned leader and educator by background, previously served as a two-time municipal corporator, Water Supply Committee Chairman in Nagpur, and Nagpur East MLA (2014). In Pune Graduate Constituency, Dr Jadhav will face the Maha Vikas Aghadi, which has yet to declare its nominee. In Pune Teachers Constituency, Gawade will take on the sitting legislator Jayant Asgaonkar, who has been renominated by the Congress party. Incidentally, Shiv Sena and NCP have yet to announce their nominations. Shiv Sena has staked its claim over Pune and Amravati Teachers Constituencies. Congress has already announced Prof Aditi Rishikesh Pohare as nominee for the Amravati Teachers' Constituency. The Shiv Sena-UBT and NCP-SP are angry over Congress's decision to announce three nominees. The Election Commission of India (ECI) on September 22 sounded the poll bugle for the elections to five key Maharashtra Legislative Council (MLC) seats, triggering intense political manoeuvring within the ruling Mahayuti alliance. The election covers three Graduate constituencies (Aurangabad, Pune, and Nagpur) and two Teachers' constituencies (Amravati and Pune), where the terms of the sitting members are set to expire on December 6, 2026. According to the official schedule released by the ECI, the last date for nominations: October 6, 2026; scrutiny of nominations: October 7, 2026; last date for withdrawal: October 9, 2026; polling day: October 23, 2026 (8:00 AM to 4:00 PM); and counting of votes: October 27, 2026. Incumbent representatives from Graduate Constituencies include Aurangabad Division – Bhanudasrao Satish Chavan (NCP), Pune Division – Arun Ganpati Lad (NCP-SP) and Nagpur Division – Abhijit Govindrao Wanjari (Congress). The legislative members from the Teachers' Constituencies include Amravati Division – Kiran Ramrao Sarnaik (Independent but officially joined Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena as an associate member) and Pune Division – Jayant Dinkar Asgaonkar (Congress).

A Journey Through Crisis: The Inspiring Story of an Indian Pilot Who Saved Lives in the Sky

The vast blue sky, a calm and steady flight, and hundreds of passengers relaxing peacefully—thousands of feet above the ground, a sudden and unexpected danger turned everything upside down. In a matter of seconds, hundreds of lives hung in the balance. When a chaotic situation threatened to crash the plane, one man's extraordinary composure, courage, and quick thinking saved hundreds of lives. This bravery didn't just ensure a safe landing; it wrote a remarkable chapter in international aviation history. This is the inspiring story of Indian pilot Captain Smit Machchhar, the dramatic incident aboard a flydubai flight, and the growing global discussion on cockpit safety.

Sudden Turbulence in the Sky: What Actually Happened?

It was a normal, quiet night. A flydubai aircraft was cruising smoothly toward its destination. Passengers were resting, reading, or watching movies, while the cabin crew attended to their duties. Everything seemed completely normal. But no one could have imagined that within moments, this peace would turn into a terrifying storm.

High up in the clouds, a sudden commotion and shouting broke out near the back of the cabin. Passengers were startled. A passenger suffering severe mental distress suddenly rushed toward the cabin crew. The situation quickly spun out of control. This was not just a minor passenger argument; it was a dangerous security threat that put the safety of the entire flight at risk.

The individual tried to break open the cockpit doors and tamper with vital control systems. The lives of hundreds onboard were instantly in jeopardy. When a plane is airborne, a breach of cockpit security can lead to catastrophic consequences. At that critical moment, the pilots in the flight deck displayed exceptional presence of mind.

Captain Smit Machchhar: Unshakable Focus in the Eye of the Storm

Inside the cockpit, main pilot Captain Smit Machchhar handled the crisis with a level of calmness that amazed international aviation experts. While managing autopilot, monitoring weather conditions, communicating with Air Traffic Control (ATC), and controlling the aircraft's altitude all at once, this sudden attack occurred.

Normally, anyone would panic under such extreme pressure. But Captain Machchhar did not flinch. His only thought was: "Every single passenger on my plane must be brought home safely."

He immediately followed standard operating procedures (SOP) for emergencies. He locked down the cockpit door security system more securely and used a special communication line to coordinate with the cabin crew outside. He skillfully kept the airplane balanced, preventing any aerodynamic failure or physical damage.

While passengers inside the cabin were terrified, Captain Machchhar used the Public Address (PA) system to speak in a calm, steady voice: "Dear passengers, please do not panic. The crew is handling the situation. Your safety is our top priority. We are bringing the situation completely under control." His reassuring voice melted away half of the passengers' fear.

The Brave Fight of the Cabin Crew

The cabin crew of the flydubai flight also showed incredible courage. Risking their lives, they rushed to stop the aggressive passenger. Controlling a violent person in a narrow airplane aisle without harming other passengers is extremely difficult.

Through teamwork, the crew managed to overpower and restrain the individual within moments. Still, the atmosphere inside the plane remained tense. While comforting the anxious passengers, Captain Machchhar and his co-pilot successfully carried out the arduous task of diverting the aircraft to the nearest safe airport.

Emergency Landing: Moments of Triumph

Having managed the immediate threat, Captain Machchhar wasted no time. He contacted Air Traffic Control (ATC) for an emergency landing at the nearest international airport. Using a transponder emergency code, he signaled distress and requested priority landing.

Ground ATC officials responded instantly, clearing the runway and keeping ambulances and security forces ready. When the aircraft touched down and the wheels finally hit the runway, passengers inside burst into applause and tears of gratitude for the pilot who saved their lives. Once the plane came to a complete halt, security forces boarded and took the suspect into custody.

Global Praise and Recognition

As soon as the incident came to light, the global aviation world was stunned. Experts warned how dangerous internal security threats can be while in flight. At the same time, praise poured in for Captain Smit Machchhar's extraordinary bravery and crisis management skills.

flydubai Management officially released a statement praising the professionalism and courage of Captain Smit Machchhar and the crew, noting that their bravery kept hundreds of passengers safe.

International aviation associations (IATA) and various civil aviation authorities commended Captain Machchhar, stating his calm decisions during a critical crisis set a benchmark for others.

Social media platforms lit up with hashtags like #CaptainSmitMachchhar and #IndianPilotHero. Indians worldwide felt immensely proud that an Indian pilot raised the nation's flag high on the global stage.

Cockpit Safety: The Biggest Challenge in Modern Aviation

This incident opened up serious discussions regarding "Cockpit Security and Safety" in modern aviation. Ever since commercial flight security changed dramatically following historical security reforms, protocols have continued to evolve.

Post-9/11 Security Standards: Following security overhauls, cockpit doors were mandated to be made of bullet-proof materials with advanced locking systems. Opening them from the outside without explicit authorization from inside became virtually impossible.

Mental Health Checks & Passenger Screening: Even with strict airport checks, identifying individuals with unstable mental health or those who might become violent mid-flight remains a major challenge for airlines. This incident proved that behavioral analytics must be further tightened.

Automation vs. Human Intuition: Even though modern aircraft use advanced autopilot systems, human intellect and instant decision-making remain vital during emergencies. Experts argue that pilots need specialized training in self-defense and crisis handling against unexpected internal threats.

Conclusion: A Proud Moment for India

The sky is not always peaceful; sometimes it brings unexpected tests. A true leader is someone who does not back down during such tests, but moves forward with focus and care for those they protect.

Captain Smit Machchhar's bravery in preventing any loss of life on that flydubai flight is a matter of immense pride for everyone. This incident should not just be read as a news story; it should serve as a wake-up call to tighten aviation security standards, focus on passenger mental health, and provide cabin crews with better operational safety training. Stories like that of Captain Smit Machchhar will forever remain a symbol of courage in the skies, continuing to inspire confidence and bravery for generations to come.



Dr Chityala Ravinder
7798891795

Teachers : Catalysts of Innovation, Inspiration, and Transformation

(On the occasion of "World Teachers' Day" on 05 October)



Teacher guide us with knowledge, patience, and care.Teachers are like candles, they burn themselves to light the path to students or future generations. They shape the future of all countries. In higher educational institutions, the role of teacher changes. They are no longer classroom instructors, but mentors, advisors, life guides, friends, and philosophers. They help students to discover their inner hidden talents, polish their skills, infuse scientific thinking, motivate in tough times, shape our careers, ignite personality development, prepare them for the real to cross world challenges. Teacher helps students in thinking critically, and independently. They encourage us to raise questions, and to challenge ideas. This guidance stays with us forever, even after we leave the campus.

Teachers are Nations Builders

Real teacher teaches from heart, not only from books. These guiding stars give us knowledge and wisdom about what is right and what is wrong. They plant the seeds of curiosity, kindness, strength, confidence, and discipline. They shape our peripheral as well as inner core personal skills. Their influence is beyond the campus. They are the nation builders. They guide us when we are confused, support us when we are weak, and encourage us when we feel like giving up. A great teacher not only teaches subjects with upmost clarity, but also inspires confidence and build strong values in young generations. They explain difficult concepts with patience, simple things to take care.

World Teachers' Day 2026

To express our gratitude and heartfelt thanks to all our teachers, UNESCO has instituted "World Teachers' Day" on 05 October annually since 1966. This day each year raises awareness about current educational priorities and the well-being of teachers and the challenges they are facing worldwide. We celebrate this day to to honour all the teachers of the world. The UNESCO celebrates World Teachers' Day on 05 October with the theme of "Standing with the Teachers : 60 years of Protecting the profession, advancing its status and shaping our futures" to celebrate the contributions of teachers and highlights challenges in education. Today, teachers are well-equipped with the latest technologies to help both students and themselves grow. They shape our thoughts, encourage us to dream, and support us in our journey of learning.

World Teachers Day Events

The World Teachers'Day is celebrated through various activities like special assemblies to honour our teachers, express our gratitude, appreciate their timely guidance, self government day, taking blessings from our ideal teachers, conducting competitions based on role of teachers, sending special messages or cards, sharing your views in the form of poems, meeting our school teachers, and so on.

This day must remind of the pure love, respect, and gratitude that students hold for their teachers. Real teacher not only educate but also inculcate values. They guide us through challenges both in academics and in life journey.

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the global population. The influence of a great teacher never be enraged. Teachers are the catalysts of innovation, inspiration, and transformation. For every student's success, there's a great teacher behind the achievement. A good teacher can inspire, ignite the imagination, and I still a love of learning. It is one profession that creates all other professions. A teacher touches a life forever. They plant seeds of knowledge that grew forever.

- Capt Dr Madhusudhan Reddy Burra
9949700037.

WHEN THE SOIL FINDS A VOICE

A Critical Reading of Suddala Ashok Teja's Nelamma Nelamma

BY DR. PERUKA RAJU

Some songs are born on the lips.
Some find their life on the stage.

And some rise from the soil, gather the salt of sweat and the warmth of tears, and remain in the collective memory of a people.

Suddala Ashok Teja's Nelamma Nelamma... belongs unmistakably to the third kind.

To read Suddala Ashok Teja merely as a celebrated film lyricist is to read only half the man and half the poet. Cinema gave his song a vast screen life gave it depth. Popular culture carried his words to millions, but it was the soil of Telangana that gave those words their pulse.

It was therefore perceptive of Jnanpith laureate Dr. C. Narayana Reddy to place Ashok Teja in the tradition of Devulapalli, Sri Sri, Arudra and Dasarathi—writers who were poets before they became lyricists. The sixty lyrical poems gathered in Nelamma Nelamma... offer compelling evidence that beneath the fame of the film lyricist has always lived a poet deeply rooted in people and place.

An Inherited Fire, an Individual Voice

To understand Ashok Teja's poetry, one must first touch its roots.

Those roots inevitably lead to Suddala Hanumanthu.

A committed voice of the Telangana armed peasant struggle, Hanumanthu belonged to a generation for whom song was not entertainment alone. It could awaken, question, resist and mobilise. In such a household, poetry was never far removed from hunger, labour, injustice or struggle. Ashok Teja inherited that atmosphere. But inheritance alone does not make a poet. His distinction lies in what he did with it.

He absorbed the people-oriented legacy of his father and sharpened it through experience, observation, study and imagination. What came to him as inheritance gradually became an individual poetic voice.

Heritage gave him roots.
Experience gave him a trunk.
Study gave him branches.
Imagination brought the blossom.
And song became the fruit.

Soil as More Than Landscape

In Nelamma Nelamma..., soil is not merely geography. It is an emotional, cultural and philosophical presence.

Soil is the farmer.
Soil is the mother.
Soil is food.
Soil is memory.
Soil is labour.
Soil is identity.

This transformation of the ordinary into the luminous is among Ashok Teja's strongest poetic gifts.

His vision of the farmer as a "green moon" is particularly striking. The familiar beauty of the moon in the sky is brought down to the field and bestowed upon the man who labours in the earth. Yet the comparison does more than beautify the farmer: it elevates him. The celestial moon may illuminate the night the farmer sustains life.

Here metaphor is not decorative embroidery. It becomes an instrument of dignity.

A bruised working hand becomes a dark lotus. Tender grass after the first rain becomes a smile sprouting on Mother Earth's face. The farmer becomes a green moon.

These images reveal a central quality of Ashok Teja's imagination he changes not merely what we see, but how we see it.

The familiar suddenly acquires freshness. Everyday realities, seen through an unexpected angle, recover their wonder. His imagery therefore does more than ornament experience it renews our perception of it.

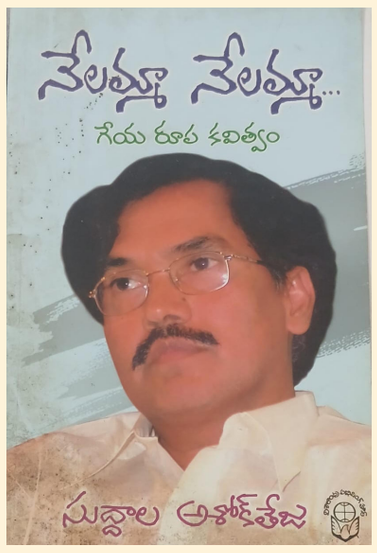
Giving Sweat an Aesthetic

If there is one value running like an underground current through this collection, it is labour.

History often remembers those who commissioned monuments poetry can restore visibility to the hands that built them. Ashok Teja repeatedly turns his gaze towards those hands.

The plough, loom, forge, wheel and field are not merely objects of rural description. They become signs of human evolution and civilisation. His poetry recognises the intimate kinship between work and song, between the tool and the hand, between creativity and survival.

His memorable formulation



"If labour were to liquefy,
it would move as Bhakra-Nangal
if labour were to solidify,
it would stand as the Taj Mahal"

contains within its apparent simplicity a profound social vision.

The Taj Mahal is conventionally read as an architecture of love. Ashok Teja asks us, implicitly, to see within its marble the solidified labour of human hands.

That shift of gaze is crucial.

He does not merely praise labour; he gives labour an aesthetic stature.

A Poet with an Ear for the Woman's Heart

Another compelling dimension of the collection is Ashok Teja's representation of women.

Woman is not confined to the conventional figure of the beloved. She appears as mother, agricultural worker, wife, daughter and, above all, a complete human being whose labour and emotional world demand recognition.

In poems such as "Chandramma," the rural working woman emerges with remarkable vitality. Her relationship with the field is almost intimate: she touches the plants, reads their ailments and shares their burdens. The agricultural woman, so often pushed to the margins of literary representation, is brought to the centre of the poem.

When Ashok Teja turns to motherhood, his language acquires an unmistakable tenderness. A mother wondering what her distant son has eaten and how he is living becomes more than a domestic image. The personal expands into the universal.

Tenderness is, in fact, one of the vital elements of his poetry.

He does not merely describe tears; he enters their salt.

He does not observe labour from a distance he stands within its sweat.

He does not report suffering; he attempts to speak from inside it.

This emotional identification gives his lyrical poetry much of its immediacy.

The Village Is Not a Postcard

The Telangana village occupies a large imaginative space in Ashok Teja's poetry.

Cockcrow, first rains, green fields, cattle, bullock carts, looms, folk occupations and Bathukamma celebrations fill his verse with unmistakable nativity. His language carries the fragrance, rhythm and cultural memory of Telangana.

Yet his village is not a postcard preserved in nostalgia.

It is changing.

Traditional occupations are disappearing. Globalisation has entered the village street. Folk practices are fading. Violence and economic uncertainty disturb older rhythms of life.

Ashok Teja recognises this rupture.

His affection for rural life therefore does not become blind romanticism. The beauty of the village and the wounds of the village exist side by side.

That tension gives his rural poetry social relevance. He does not merely ask us to remember what the village was he compels us to notice what is happening to it.

When a Tree Becomes Kin

Ashok Teja's ecological sensibility grows naturally out of his attachment to the soil.

A tree, in his poetic universe, is not timber.

It is companionship.
It is kinship.
It is mother.

His environmental consciousness rarely takes the form of abstract preaching. Instead, he transforms the relationship between human beings and nature into an intimate moral bond.

Once the tree becomes "mother," cutting it is no longer merely an ecological act it becomes an emotional and ethical violation.

Here lies one of the strengths of the lyricist in him: he can turn an idea into an emotion.

A principle may persuade the mind.
A song can disturb the heart.

Ashok Teja often attempts both.

Lyricism on One Wing, Resistance on the Other

His poetry seems to fly on two wings.

One is tenderness.
The other is resistance.

He carries something of the emotional grace of lyrical poetry and something of the social urgency of progressive writing. Consequently, the same poetic voice can rest in a mother's lap, stand beside a sweating farmer, mourn the wounded village and rise against injustice.

It is at this intersection that the distinctive Ashok Teja idiom takes shape.

Yet meaningful criticism cannot end with admiration.

At certain moments, emotional urgency appears to move faster than poetic concentration. The desire for immediate communication can occasionally reduce the density that a more meditative poem might achieve. The accessibility demanded by the lyric and the inward compression demanded by serious poetry do not always arrive at perfect equilibrium.

But this need not be regarded merely as a limitation. It can also be understood as the creative tension between the lyricist who must reach the listener instantly and the poet who wishes to remain with the reader long after the song has ended.

That tension itself is part of Ashok Teja's literary identity.

A Dedication That Becomes a Poem

There is another quietly moving dimension to Nelamma Nelamma...: its dedication to his wife, Nirmala.

Ashok Teja remembers her as the companion who stood beside him through humiliation, disappointment and moments when despair tempted him to lay down his creative weapons. Her faith urged him to take up his songs again.

In that sense, the dedication is more than a customary page before the poems.

It is itself a small poem of companionship.

Behind a poet who sings for thousands,
there is sometimes one silent person
who hears his silence.

The dedication is his acknowledgement of that presence.

Where Does the Song Finally Belong?

Ninety-four pages.
Sixty lyrical poems.

Yet Nelamma Nelamma... cannot finally be measured by either number.

It is a poet's letter of love to his soil.
A citation of honour to labour.
A bow before motherhood.
A living portrait of the village.
A plea for nature.

And, at its strongest, a voice raised on behalf of ordinary people.

The people-oriented legacy inherited from Suddala Hanumanthu does not remain an echo in the son. In Ashok Teja, it encounters another generation, another social reality and another artistic sensibility and becomes a voice of its own.

Cinema may have introduced Suddala Ashok Teja to millions.

But Nelamma Nelamma... introduces us more intimately to the poet within him.

For the roots of his song are in the soil
its salt is in human sweat
its moisture is in a mother's eye
its rhythm beats in the village heart
and its clenched fist rises with the people.

Suddala Ashok Teja, therefore, is not merely a poet who writes songs.

He is a poet who turns
soil into syllable,
labour into beauty,
tears into poetry,
and the life of the people into song.

That is where Nelamma Nelamma... finds its enduring resonance
not merely in the ear,
but in the earth beneath our feet.

- DR PERUKA RAJU
Poet, Author, Critic & Translator
7810032847.

India needs its own AI safety framework, not a copy of US pact: Industry experts

NEW DELHI: (OCT 4)

India should build its own artificial intelligence (AI) safety framework suited to its languages, scale, and application-led AI ecosystem rather than replicate a voluntary pact signed by US President Donald Trump and top technology firms last week, industry experts said. They also called for a commitment that brings together all stakeholders and tackles risks such as deepfakes and cyberattacks, even as they differed on whether voluntary measures alone would be enough. The comments came after the White House Accord on Super Intelligence, a voluntary AI safety pact signed on September 29 by Trump and top executives from Google, OpenAI, Anthropic, Meta, Nvidia and Elon Musk's xAI.

Mumbai Airport to Redevelop T1B from Jan 2027

Mumbai airport will begin redeveloping the North Section of Terminal 1B from January 2027. The phased move is aimed at addressing safety concerns while limiting disruption to passengers.



Adani Airport Holdings Limited (AAHL)-operated Mumbai International Airport Limited will begin the redevelopment of the North Section of Terminal 1B from January 2027, with safety concerns surrounding the 60-year-old building prompting a phased redevelopment of the terminal.

Of Mumbai airport's approximately 55 million passengers per annum (mppa), only around 5 mppa, or about 9 per cent, will be temporarily de-operationalised. To ensure continuity of operations and minimise inconvenience to passengers, AAHL has provided airlines with the option to temporarily relocate their operations to Navi Mumbai International Airport at their discretion. AAHL will support airlines through the transition and provide all necessary assistance to ensure a smooth and seamless migration of services. "91% of Mumbai Airport's passenger traffic will remain unaffected even as we undertake redevelopment of the age-old infrastructure that was in urgent need of repairs. Only the North Section of Terminal 1B, which accounts for around one-third of T1 of Mumbai Airport's capacity, is being demolished in Phase 1 to minimise passenger inconvenience and operational disruption. The transition to Navi Mumbai Airport is temporary and does not represent a permanent shift of Mumbai Airport traffic," said Mr. Arun Bansal, CEO, Adani Airport Holdings Limited.

Terminal 1 has long been identified as a safety-related concern, with only temporary mitigation measures being implemented over the years due to the absence of a viable alternative for passengers and airlines. Following the fire incident at Terminal 1 in April this year, the risks associated with continuing operations have become even more pronounced. With Navi Mumbai International Airport now operational and capable of providing an alternative option for airlines and travellers, the planned closure and phased demolition of Terminal 1 can no longer be deferred.

The redevelopment of T1 will begin from January 2027 and increase its capacity by 33 per cent, up to 20 mppa from the current 15 mppa.

"Extensive consultations with airlines on the future of Terminal 1 have been ongoing since 2020, and the proposed redevelopment was also presented before AERA and subsequently incorporated into the approved tariff framework. While we appreciate the concerns expressed by certain airlines, passenger safety must remain paramount, and any further delay in commencing this process could adversely impact the safety and convenience of millions of travellers," Mr Bansal said.

Navi Mumbai Airport is offering a 100 per cent discount on landing fees for new international flights. In addition, it plans to offer cash vouchers to international passengers to offset the difference in the User Development Fee (UDF) levied at Navi Mumbai and Mumbai Airports.

Navi Mumbai International Airport is a modern, fully equipped airport and has the infrastructure and capacity to handle the additional passenger traffic that would be transitioned from Mumbai Airport.

"Its availability makes it possible to undertake the redevelopment of T1 of Mumbai Airport in phases, instead of shutting down the entire terminal and causing greater disruption to passengers and airlines," Mr Bansal said.

Mumbai Airport and Navi Mumbai Airport are complementary airports addressing the severely constrained aviation infrastructure requirements of India's commercial capital region.



IT sector likely to report another muted quarter amid global uncertainty

NEW DELHI, OCT 4

The Indian IT sector is likely to register another muted results (July-September period), in what is typically a seasonally strong quarter, as deal wins remain soft, client decision-making stays cautious, and discretionary spending stays curtailed amid macro uncertainty, according to analysts.

Pricing pressure persists as AI-led productivity pass-through gets embedded into renewals and new deals, according to a note by HDFC Securities.

"Q2 FY27 (estimated) tier-1 growth is projected at -0.4 per cent to +2.0 per cent QoQ CC and mid-tier companies ranging from +0.6 per cent to +6.3 per cent, partly aided by acquisitions," said the note. With H1 tracking below expectations, the FY27 recovery rests on H2, which includes the seasonally soft furlough-impacted Q3, tempering full-year expectations. Rupee depreciation, operational efficiencies, and elevated utilisation will offset the wage hikes impact, but AI-led deflation concerns continue to weigh on sector multiples, the note said. Indian IT companies maintain that direct Gen-AI deployment by enterprises remains difficult in complex, regulatory-heavy brownfield environments, keeping the role of system integration (SI) vendors critical.

The expected 6-7 per cent deflation impact is being offset by net-new AI-centric deal wins, though conversion remains slow. Growth recovery is a function of execution, as new deals are increasingly outcome-driven, pricing is agent-augmented, and renewals come at a discount, according to the note. Valuations remain near historical lows and FCF yields stay attractive, it added. With Q2 earnings expected to be softer than Q1, market sentiment is likely to remain fragile. Indian equities are likely to stay under pressure in the near term as a record global bond rout, renewed strength in crude and the heaviest foreign selling in six months weigh on sentiment, said analysts.

AI is a game-changer, but fallout for job market needs deft handling

NEW DELHI, OCT 4

The rapid rise of artificial intelligence is seen as a game-changer, ushering in a new era with the technology's potential for unprecedented productivity gains through automated customer service and advanced medical diagnostics, to generative AI systems capable of producing text, code, and images within seconds - but history suggests that technological revolutions do not always translate immediately into broad-based social prosperity. In fact, AI could potentially trigger a contemporary version of what economic historians call "Engels' Pause" -- a prolonged period in which productivity and wealth rise sharply while wages and living standards for ordinary workers stagnate, according to an article in India Narrative. It cites the example of Britain's Industrial Revolution, which led to a massive jump in production during the 19th century, but at the same time it took a long time for workers and ordinary people to improve their living conditions. The article highlights that historically, industrial revolutions generated broad employment because they created entirely new industries that absorbed displaced workers. The textile revolution created factory jobs. The automobile industry generated millions of manufacturing and service-sector opportunities. The digital revolution created software engineering, e-commerce and platform economies. AI may also create new professions that are currently unimaginable. However, the transition period could still be painful and unequal. The implications for developing economies such as India are especially complex. India has benefited enormously from labour-intensive service sectors including IT outsourcing, business process management, and customer support operations. Many of these industries now face potential disruption from AI automation. Tasks involving basic coding, data entry, customer assistance, and document processing can increasingly be performed by AI systems at lower cost and greater speed, the article stated. It further highlighted that at the same time, AI also presents major opportunities for India. It can improve agricultural productivity, healthcare delivery, logistics, education access and governance efficiency. Indian startups are actively integrating AI into sectors ranging from fintech to language technology. The challenge lies not in resisting AI adoption but in ensuring that productivity gains translate into widespread economic benefits rather than narrow corporate concentration. The lessons of Engels' Pause become critically relevant, it noted. During the Industrial Revolution, governments were initially slow to respond to worsening labour conditions and inequality. Only after decades of social unrest, unionisation, and political reform did industrial societies develop mechanisms such as labour protections, public education systems and social welfare policies.



FSSAI Orders Recall of Everest Cumin Powder Over Excess Pesticides

NEW DELHI, OCT 4

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) said on Sunday that it has directed the recall of a batch of Everest-brand pre-packed cumin powder after laboratory tests found pesticide residues beyond the permissible limits, leading to the product being classified as "unsafe" under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

According to an FSSAI notification, the affected batch was found to contain residues of the pesticides azoxystrobin and thiamethoxam at levels exceeding the prescribed maximum limits.

The regulatory sample of the pre-packed cumin powder was collected from the premises of Riverside Resorts & Holiday Homes Pvt. Ltd. in Goa for testing. "A regulatory sample of Pre-packed Cumin Powder was drawn from the premises of Riverside Resorts & Holiday Homes Pvt. Ltd., Goa. The food analyst's report found pesticide residues of Azoxystrobin and Thiamethoxam at levels exceeding the prescribed maximum limits," the food regulator stated.



"The Food Analyst declared the sample "UNSAFE" under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006," it added.

FSSAI said the product's manufacturer was given an opportunity to appeal against the findings of the food analyst. Following the appeal process, the sample was referred to a Referral Food Laboratory, which confirmed the earlier findings that the product was unsafe for consumption due to the excessive pesticide residues. Based on the laboratory findings, the food regulator ordered the immediate recall of the entire affected batch of Everest pre-packed cumin powder bearing Batch No. E080668761 from the market.

The regulator has also directed the food business operator (FBO) to maintain complete records of the recalled products and submit the required recall information and status reports within the stipulated timelines. Additionally, the company has been asked to implement corrective measures to prevent similar incidents in the future and submit a compliance report upon completion of the recall process. "The FBO was provided an opportunity to appeal against the Food Analyst's report, following which the sample was referred to the Referral Food Laboratory. The Referral Food Laboratory confirmed that the sample was "UNSAFE", as Azoxystrobin and Thiamethoxam were found above the prescribed maximum limits," the regulator stated.

India's growth story remains strong despite global uncertainties: Experts

NEW DELHI, OCT 4

India's economic growth remains impressive, but policymakers and businesses must stay vigilant against an increasingly uncertain global environment marked by geopolitical tensions, shifting trade dynamics and supply chain disruptions, leading economists and policy experts said on Sunday. Speaking to IANS on the sidelines of 5th Kautilya Economic Conclave 2026 here, Washington D.C.-based economist and business expert Prof. Pravin Krishna said the conference was taking place at a particularly relevant time, as the world grapples with multiple geopolitical and economic challenges. "At one level, India's been doing very, very well, right... so, it's a testament, maybe, to the good ways in which India's economy has been managed so far. The growth rate was very high, very impressive. That being said, you still have a number of challenges that, some of which we're already seeing, some that are on the way, perhaps," he said. Prof. Krishna said India's economic performance in recent years has been noteworthy and reflects the success of the country's economic management and policy framework. However, he cautioned that strong growth should not lead to complacency, as several existing and emerging challenges could impact the economy in the future.

You paid less than Re 1 for railway insurance. But what exactly did you buy?

A less than a rupee add-on in railway ticket bookings offers accident cover of up to Rs 10 lakh. Its value depends on understanding the narrow terms, exclusions and claim process.

Policy covers accidental death, permanent disability and hospitalisation linked to train journeys. There is a moment in almost every railway ticket booking that most passengers come across. You have finally found a train that works. The seats are available.

You enter the passenger details, choose your berth and move towards payment. Then, somewhere among the fare, convenience fee and other details, there is an optional travel insurance charge that costs less than Re 1. At less than a rupee, it is almost too small to think about. So most passengers don't. Why spend time reading insurance terms when the amount being deducted is not even enough to buy a toffee? During the festive rush, when people are desperately trying to get confirmed tickets to travel home for Dussehra, Diwali or Chhath, that tiny insurance option is even less likely to get anyone's attention. For a passenger who has just managed to secure a seat on a packed train home, an amount less than a rupee can feel like a rounding-off error.

But that almost invisible charge comes with a surprising up to Rs 10 lakh in cover. And that is where things get interesting. What exactly is being insured for less than a rupee? Does the Rs 10 lakh cover apply if something goes wrong during any part of the journey? What happens if a passenger falls while boarding, gets injured in a train accident or needs to be hospitalised? And, perhaps more importantly, what if they simply fall sick on the train?

The answer is that this is neither a tiny version of health insurance nor a general travel policy that covers every mishap. It is a narrowly defined accident cover linked to the railway journey — and the difference between the two matters. "Insurers is a game of probability and insurers distribute the risk of payout by charging at a nominal price because of high volume group underwriting across millions of railway passengers, where the vast majority complete trips safely without making claims," says Abhishek Kumar, Sebi-registered investment adviser and founder of Sahaj Money.

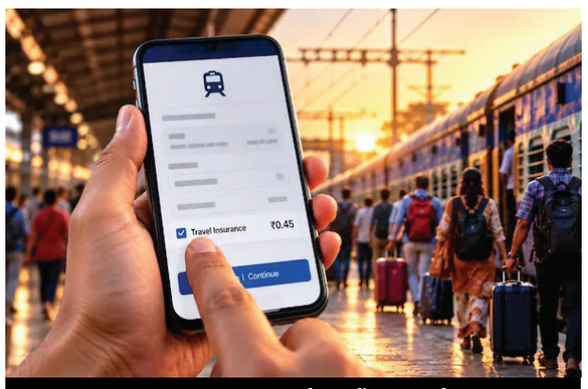
So, before you click that tiny insurance box the next time you book a ticket, it is worth knowing what those less than a ruppe insurance actually buys.

WHAT DOES A FEW PAISE REALLY GET YOU?

The headline numbers are striking. The optional railway travel insurance can provide up to Rs 10 lakh in case of accidental death or permanent total disability. Permanent partial disability can attract up to Rs 7.5 lakh, while hospitalisation expenses for injuries can be covered up to Rs 2 lakh. There is also a provision of Rs 10,000 for transportation of mortal remains. Insurance expert Shilpa Arora, Co-founder and COO of Insurance Samadhan, describes it as an unusually high-leverage product because the premium is just less than a rupee per passenger, inclusive of taxes, while the potential benefits run into lakhs. But the word to remember here is "accidental". "This policy can offer cover running into lakhs of rupees despite costing less than Re 1," Arora says. "It is not a regular life or health insurance policy." And that one distinction explains most of the fine print that follows.

HOW CAN A POLICY COST LESS THAN A RUPEE AND STILL OFFER LAKHS IN COVER?

The obvious question is: how can an insurer potentially pay Rs 10 lakh when the passenger has paid only less than a rupee?



WHAT EXACTLY CAN YOU CLAIM FOR?

The policy has different benefits depending on what happens to the passenger. For accidental death, the maximum benefit is Rs 10 lakh. Permanent total disability can also attract up to Rs 10 lakh, while permanent partial disability is covered up to Rs 7.5 lakh depending on the nature and extent of the disability. If an injury during a covered event requires hospitalisation, expenses can be covered up to Rs 2 lakh. There is also a Rs 10,000 benefit towards transportation of mortal remains in case of death. Arora says the cover should therefore be understood as a combination of accident-related death, disability and injury benefits rather than as a conventional medical insurance policy.

The distinction is important because hospitalisation being mentioned in the policy does not mean that every hospital bill generated during a train journey is automatically covered. The hospitalisation benefit is linked to an eligible injury.

The answer lies in the way this cover is structured. It is not an individual, year-long personal accident policy. The insurance is attached to a specific railway journey, meaning the period for which the insurer is exposed to the risk is much shorter. There is also the sheer scale of railway travel. Millions of passengers can opt for the cover, while only a small proportion are expected to experience the specific events covered by the policy. The premium collected across a very large pool helps insurers spread that risk.

"Insurers is a game of probability," Kumar says, explaining that the low premium is possible because of high-volume group underwriting across millions of railway passengers, most of whom complete their journeys without making a claim. Arora also points to the short duration of the cover and the large passenger pool as key reasons why such a product can be priced so cheaply. That also explains why passengers should not look at the Rs 10 lakh figure in isolation. Kumar says consumers should view the product "like a group accident cover rather than a comprehensive personal policy". The headline amount, he says, should be understood as a fixed benefit for specific catastrophic events rather than flexible financial protection. In simple terms, you are not buying Rs 10 lakh worth of general insurance protection for a few paise. You are paying a tiny amount for protection against a defined set of events during a defined journey.

WHAT IF YOU FALL WHILE BOARDING THE TRAIN?

This is where the policy becomes more relevant to an ordinary passenger. People tend to associate railway accidents with dramatic events such as derailments or collisions. But accidents can happen in less dramatic ways too, particularly around the act of getting on or off a train. According to Kumar, the policy covers injuries sustained during a train accident, derailment or designated "untoward incidents", and explicitly includes accidents occurring while actively boarding or getting off the train. "A passenger is covered for injuries sustained during a train accident, derailment, or designated untoward incidents but explicitly includes accidents occurring while actively boarding or getting off the train," he says. If such an incident results in eligible hospitalisation, permanent disability or accidental death, the relevant benefit under the policy can come into play.

That distinction matters because a passenger may assume the insurance only applies when there is a major accident involving the train itself. The cover can extend to certain incidents connected with boarding, getting off and defined untoward incidents, subject to the policy terms.

WHAT IF YOU FALL SICK ON THE TRAIN?

This is perhaps where the biggest misunderstanding can arise. Imagine a passenger boards a train for a 20-hour journey and wakes up the next morning with a high fever. Or someone suffers a medical emergency unrelated to an accident. The fact that it happened inside a train does not automatically make it a claim under railway travel insurance. "The policy does not cover natural deaths, pre-existing illnesses, general sickness, suicides, self inflicted injuries, or accidents occurring outside the travel date," Kumar says.Arora similarly stresses that this is not regular health insurance. So a passenger who falls ill during the journey should not assume that the railway policy will pay for the treatment simply because the illness occurred while travelling. This is where existing health insurance remains a separate consideration, subject to the terms of that policy.



Canada Calling

What Indian Students Want

Study Abroad: Safety, inclusion, education quality and career opportunities continue to shape students' choices as Canada navigates changing visa and post-study work policies Canada continues to occupy an important place in the global study-abroad landscape, particularly among Indian students. While changing visa rules, tighter immigration policies, work-permit regulations and uncertainty around post-study employment have become important considerations for international students, the fundamental reasons for choosing a country for higher education remain broader. A recent survey by the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE) provides an insight into those priorities. The findings suggest that students are not looking at education in isolation. The choice of destination is increasingly influenced by a combination of academic quality, career prospects, social environment, safety, cultural diversity and the overall experience of living and studying in a foreign country. The CBIE's International Student Survey, conducted in the fall of 2025, collected 21,918 responses from international students studying at 84 universities, colleges and polytechnic institutions across Canada's 10 provinces. Overall, 83 per cent of respondents said Canada was their destination of choice for higher education. The findings are particularly relevant for Indian students, who form one of Canada's largest international student groups. The survey shows that their decision-making process has some distinct characteristics compared with students from other major international education markets.

More Than Just A Degree

For students considering overseas education, the decision usually begins with the academic value of a programme but does not end there. The survey indicates that students attach considerable importance to what happens outside the classroom as well. Quality of education and the international recognition of Canadian qualifications remain significant attractions. Students also consider whether their chosen programme can provide meaningful employment opportunities and whether the broader educational experience can help them build skills and professional networks. For Indian students, these considerations are particularly important because studying abroad is often viewed as a long-term investment involving substantial tuition fees, living expenses and travel costs. The perceived value of the qualification therefore extends beyond the degree itself. Students want to know whether the institution offers programmes that match their interests and career plans, whether the qualification is recognised internationally and whether the education provides opportunities to develop practical skills. This explains why employability has emerged as an important part of the international education conversation. A degree that provides access to work-integrated learning, internships or industry exposure can be viewed differently from a programme that remains largely classroom-based.

t the same time, students are increasingly examining the overall cost of studying abroad. Tuition fees, accommodation, transportation and living expenses can significantly affect the final decision, particularly for families funding education from India.

Safety And Inclusion Matter To Indian Students

One of the more distinctive findings of the survey relates to safety, inclusion and cultural diversity. For Indian students considering Canada, these factors are among the key considerations. The survey indicates that this priority is shared only with students from Iran among the international groups examined.

This is significant because the study-abroad decision is also a decision about living in a different social and cultural environment. Students have to consider whether they will feel comfortable in their new surroundings, whether they can find communities with diverse backgrounds and whether they will be able to adapt to a new society. Canada's multicultural character has traditionally been an important part of its international education appeal. Indian students arriving in Canadian cities can find established Indian communities, cultural associations, restaurants, festivals and social networks. Such familiarity can make the transition to life abroad easier.

However, the survey also demonstrates that students from different countries do not necessarily approach the decision in the same way. Chinese students identified immigration pathways as their leading consideration, while students from Nigeria and the Philippines placed greater emphasis on employment opportunities. French students, meanwhile, highlighted research opportunities. These differences underline an important point: there is no single definition of an attractive international education destination. Students bring different economic circumstances, career objectives and expectations to the decision.

Choosing The Institution Is A Different Decision

Choosing Canada as a country is only the first stage. Students must then decide which university, college or polytechnic institution to attend. Here too, the survey reveals several important factors. At the national level, 49 per cent of respondents said programme offerings influenced their choice of institution. This was followed by institutional reputation or ranking, cited by 42 per cent, and location, cited by 41 per cent.Work-integrated learning opportunities were mentioned by 32 per cent, while 29 per cent said recommendations from family or friends influenced their institutional choice. The figures demonstrate that reputation alone does not determine where students enrol. The actual availability of a suitable course can be equally important. For example, a student interested in artificial intelligence, engineering, biotechnology or business may first identify institutions offering specialised programmes in those areas. Location and career opportunities can then become deciding factors. The role of location is particularly relevant in a country as geographically large as Canada. Studying in Toronto, Vancouver, Montreal or a smaller city can involve very different costs, employment environments and lifestyles.

Word Of Mouth Still Carries Weight

espite the growing influence of digital platforms, rankings and online information, personal recommendations remain an important part of the decision-making process. The survey found a notable difference between rural and urban students. Around 39 per cent of students from rural communities said recommendations from peers and family influenced their choice of institution. Among students from urban areas, the corresponding figure was 24 per cent.This suggests that the experiences of relatives, friends and former students can play a significant role in shaping perceptions of Canadian institutions. For families in India, studying abroad is rarely an individual financial decision. Parents and relatives often participate in evaluating universities, accommodation, expenses and career prospects. Someone who has already studied in Canada can therefore become an important source of practical information. Such recommendations can cover matters that university brochures may not fully explain: accommodation costs, transportation, part-time work, weather, campus life, community support and the challenges of adjusting to a new country.

The Post-Study Work Question

For Indian students, the possibility of gaining professional experience after graduation has traditionally been an important consideration when evaluating Canada. The Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP) framework provides eligible international graduates with an opportunity to gain work experience in Canada after completing their studies, subject to the applicable eligibility requirements and rules. This connection between education and employment has made post-study work opportunities an important part of Canada's international education proposition. However, international students also have to navigate a changing policy environment. Visa requirements, study permit rules, work permissions and post-study pathways can change, making it important for prospective students to check current government rules rather than relying solely on older experiences or advice from friends. The survey itself reflects the broader importance students place on outcomes. For many families, the value of studying overseas is closely connected to what students can do with their qualifications after graduation.

Canada Seen As Welcoming

The survey also examined students' perceptions of Canadian society and their actual study experience. About 80 per cent of respondents nationally said they perceived Canada as an inclusive and welcoming country. Another 78 per cent said their study experience in Canada had met their expectations. These findings are important because the international education experience extends well beyond the classroom. A student's satisfaction can be influenced by the quality of teaching, relationships with professors, campus facilities, social life, accommodation and their ability to participate in the wider community. For international students, the experience of belonging can also affect their perception of the country.

A welcoming environment can make it easier for students to build friendships, participate in campus activities and interact with people from different cultural backgrounds. At the same time, perceptions can vary from one student and institution to another, meaning national-level survey findings should not be interpreted as an identical experience for every international student.

Priorities Change With The Level Of Study

The survey also highlights an interesting difference between undergraduate, college and graduate students. Undergraduate and college students place similar importance on location and employability, with 45 per cent citing each factor. For students entering higher levels of study, academic and research considerations become more prominent. Among graduate students, professor expertise was cited by 50 per cent, while institutional reputation was identified by 42 per cent.

Geography Also Shapes The Choice

Canada's provinces offer very different educational and lifestyle environments, and the survey identifies some regional associations. British Columbia stands out for its natural environment, while Ontario and Quebec are associated with research opportunities. The Prairies and Atlantic provinces are noted for affordability.These differences can influence the decision of students who are comparing institutions across the country.The choice between a major metropolitan centre and a smaller city can also affect the overall cost of studying abroad. Housing, transportation and daily expenses can vary considerably by location. For students and families working with a fixed budget, affordability may therefore become as important as the reputation of an institution.

At the same time, students seeking access to particular industries may look more closely at the local employment ecosystem. The result is that the decision is often a combination of academic programme, location, cost and career plans.

Policy Changes Are Part Of The Calculation

Canada's international education sector has been undergoing changes as the government seeks to manage the number of international students while maintaining the country's position as an education destination. For prospective students, this means that choosing Canada requires more than simply comparing university rankings. Students and families need to examine programme eligibility, tuition fees, accommodation costs, study permit requirements, work rules and post-study options before making a decision. Scholarships and institutional partnerships can also affect affordability and access. Universities and colleges are increasingly developing international partnerships and support mechanisms to attract students and improve their experience. The broader policy environment therefore forms an important part of the study-abroad decision.

Technology Is Changing The Application Process

Technology is also reducing some of the practical barriers involved in applying to study abroad. English-language proficiency testing is one area where digital platforms have changed the process. The Duolingo English Test, for instance, allows students to take an English proficiency test online rather than travelling to a physical testing centre. According to the information provided with the survey findings, the test costs Rs 6,000 and results are usually available within 48 hours.

For students living outside major cities, an online testing option can reduce travel and scheduling difficulties. It can also make the application process more flexible.

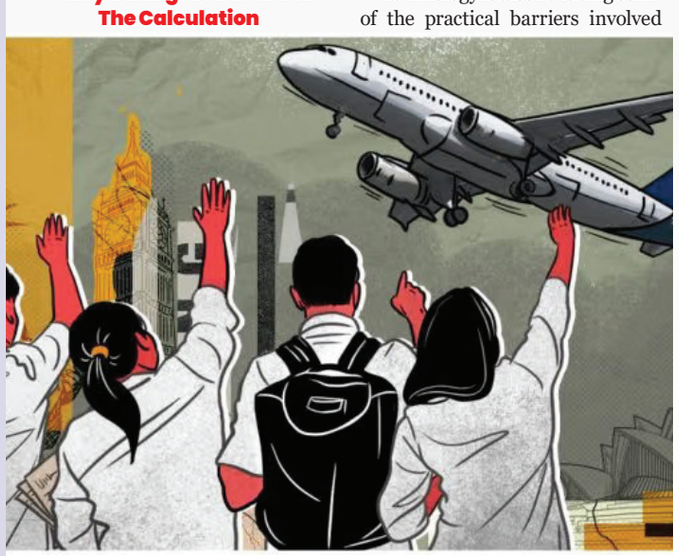
However, students should always check the English-language requirements of the specific institution and programme they are applying to, as acceptance of a particular test can vary.

The Changing Meaning Of 'Study Abroad'

The CBIE survey points to a broader shift in the way students evaluate international education.

Earlier, the decision could often be reduced to a few questions: Which country has the best universities? How much does the course cost? Can I get a visa?

Today, students appear to be considering a wider range of factors. Safety, inclusion, programme relevance, employability, research opportunities, location, affordability and the overall quality of life can all influence the decision. For Indian students, the combination of academic opportunities and social environment appears particularly significant. The emphasis on safety, inclusi on and cultural diversity suggests that students are evaluating Canada not simply as a place to obtain a qualification, but as a place where they will spend several important years of their lives.



FOOTBALL

India U17 men share spoils with Myanmar in first friendly



THANYLIN (MAYANMAR): A spirited fight-back saw a goal down India U17 men's national team restore parity and draw 1-1 with Myanmar in the first friendly match at the StarCity Sports Club in Thanlyin, Myanmar, on Sunday. The hosts opened the scoreline through Aung Myat Thar in the 42nd minute, before the Blue Colts drew level from Dallalmuon Gangte's penalty in the 73rd minute. After the initial enthusiasm and exuberance displayed by both sets of very eager boys, it was Myanmar who took the lead much against the run of play. Allowed a deep run from the top of the box, Aung Myat Thar's first attempt was blocked by defender Abhishek Kumar Mondal.

CRICKET

'There's a little bit of a blueprint in my head to play ODIs': KL



NEW CHANDIGARH: Indian wicketkeeper batter KL Rahul revealed that he has formed a blueprint on batting in different situations in ODIs in his mind, which helped him play an unbeaten knock of 129 runs against the West Indies in the third ODI on Saturday. Rahul, who didn't get an opportunity to bat in the first two matches, made the best use of the chance he got in the final match of the three-match series at the new PCA stadium and hit his career-best score in 50-over cricket. However, his effort was overshadowed by West Indies captain Shai Hope's unbeaten 162 as the visitors chased down the target with 10 balls to spare.Rahul said he spends considerable time thinking about how he wants to approach his batting.

TENNIS

Vacherot stages another comeback to stun Fils, reaches Tokyo SF



TOKYO: Valentin Vacherot continued his extraordinary run at the Kinoshita Group Japan Open Tennis Championships on Sunday, recovering from a breakdown in both the opening and deciding sets to defeat former champion Arthur Fils 7-5, 4-6, 6-4 and book his place in the semi-finals. The Monegasque spent two hours and 20 minutes battling through another three-set contest, adding Fils to a growing list of opponents he has overcome through sheer resilience this week. The 27-year-old had already produced a major turnaround against Stefanos Tsitsipas in the second round, recovering from a set and a break behind to advance. Against Fils, Vacherot again refused to let an unfavourable position dictate the outcome.

Aichi-Nagoya Games End on a High Note for India

NAGOYA

The buses will stop running, accreditation cards will soon become souvenirs, and athletes rushing through airports will once again replace the colourful chaos of the past two weeks. The Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games have come to an end.

It was a simple farewell, much like the opening ceremony. There was music, colour, dancing, flags and athletes enjoying perhaps their first opportunity in days to simply breathe and take in what they had achieved. For India, it was a closing night filled with pride. Shooter Neeru Dhanda led the Indian contingent as flagbearer, carrying the Tricolour into the stadium after an exceptional campaign for the country. Yet her presence was just one part of a much bigger Indian story.

India finished fourth in the medal table with 85 medals — 21 gold, 27 silver and 37 bronze. China dominated the Games, followed by Japan and South Korea, while India's medal haul once again highlighted its growing presence across a wide range of sports. And some of the loudest celebrations came from a sport that needs little introduction in India — cricket.

Cricket once again proved that its place in the Asian Games is no longer merely symbolic. India's men's and women's teams both returned with gold medals.

The women's team set the tone, managing the pressure of being among the competition's biggest names and delivering when it mattered. The men's team followed with another gold, bringing India's cricket campaign to a close with two gold medals. For Indian cricket, these were not just two more medals on a crowded tally.



The Asian Games offered another reminder of how far the sport has reached beyond its traditional boundaries—and of the weight the Indian jersey carries even outside the world's biggest cricket tournaments. For some Indian athletes, however, there was no glamour attached to their journey. There were early morning starts, long journeys to venues and hours spent waiting for competition. Some travelled hundreds of kilometres simply to compete for a medal that may never make the front pages. Yet they kept showing up.

That perhaps became the defining characteristic of India's campaign. Archery produced a stunning five gold medals. Boxing added three golds, while wrestling contributed two. Hockey and kabaddi brought the familiar roar of team triumphs, with both men's and women's teams winning gold. Athletics again produced its share of drama, with India's runners and field athletes battling through pressure and weather to add precious medals.

Golf created history too, with Pranavi Urs winning India's first women's individual Asian Games gold in the sport.

Shooting remained one of India's strongest medal-producing disciplines, while weightlifting, badminton, squash, rowing, table tennis, sailing, wushu, kurash, MMA, soft tennis and other sports also contributed to the final tally. The numbers tell one story. The athletes tell another.

Behind India's 21 gold, 27 silver and 37 bronze medals are stories of athletes who trained for years for a few minutes of competition. Some arrived as favourites and delivered. Others arrived almost unnoticed and left as household names.

Japan's difficult fortnight

Away from the competition venues, Aichi-Nagoya was rarely free from criticism. Transport became a recurring frustration. So did the distances between venues. The absence of a traditional athletes' village created its own challenges, while sparse crowds at some events did little to create the atmosphere usually associated with the Asian Games.

For journalists, photographers and support staff, travelling between venues sometimes became an event in itself. Japan, a country known for precision and efficiency, was therefore under an unusually bright spotlight. But the Games also showed the other side of the story.

Despite the problems, competitions were completed. Athletes competed. Medals were won. Records were broken. And, eventually, the closing ceremony arrived. That is perhaps the fairest way to judge a sporting event. Not everything went according to plan. But the sport survived the imperfections. And in the end, that is what the athletes will remember. Soon, the venues will become quiet again. The banners will come down. The temporary signs will disappear. The medal ceremonies will become photographs on athletes' phones.

For India, the 85 medals will remain in the record books. But the memories will be more personal. A victory celebrated with teammates. A defeat followed by a hug. A coach wiping away tears.

PM Modi praises Indian contingent, says performances brought 'immense joy'

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday congratulated the Indian contingent for its performance at the Asian Games 2026, praising the athletes for representing the country with determination, passion and remarkable sporting spirit.

India finished the Aichi-Nagoya Games in fourth position with 85 medals, including 21 gold, 27 silver and 37 bronze, in what became the country's second-highest medal haul in the history of the Asian Games.

"As the Asian Games 2026 draw to a close, my compliments to every member of the Indian contingent for representing our nation with determination, passion and remarkable sporting spirit," PM Modi wrote on X.

The Prime Minister congratulated the country's medal winners and said their performances had brought immense joy to the nation. "Congratulations to all our medal winners, whose performances have brought immense joy to the nation," he wrote.

PM Modi also hoped that the performances in Aichi-Nagoya would inspire greater achievements in the coming years and help strengthen India's sporting ecosystem at the grassroots level.

Union Min Scindia congratulates Pranavi, recalls her journey from school to gold



NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region Jyotiraditya Scindia congratulated golfer Pranavi Urs over a video call on Sunday after her historic gold medal-winning performance at the Asian Games 2026, recalling the time he had played alongside her when she was still in school.

Pranavi created history by becoming the first Indian woman golfer to win an individual gold medal at the Asian Games after producing a composed final-round performance at the Kasugai Country Club East Course. She finished the four-round competition at 15-under 265, shooting an even-par 70 in the final round to clinch the gold despite a difficult start that saw her card a triple bogey on the third hole.

Union Minister Scindia spoke to Pranavi over a video call following her landmark achievement and praised her for the perseverance, hard work, and composure that helped her produce a memorable performance. "Congratulations, unbelievable, so happy, amazing, amazing, amazing, amazing feat. Very well done," the Union Minister told Pranavi.

Union Minister Scindia then recalled meeting Pranavi during the Madras India Golf Tournament when she was still a school student. "I remember seeing you and playing with you at the Madras India Golf Tournament years, years, years ago. I was still in school," Pranavi said, to which Scindia replied, "Yeah, you were still in school." The Minister said it was special to witness Pranavi's journey from those early days to becoming an Asian Games champion. "I remember it was unbelievable. But I was also so, so happy to have had the Madhavrao Scindia Foundation being a part of your journey and really, really feel honoured, if I may say so, to have been a part of that journey," he said.

Pranavi also helped India win the women's team silver alongside Aditi Ashok and Diksha Dagar, giving the country its first medal in the women's team event at the Asian Games. Reflecting on the team achievement, Pranavi said she was confident that the trio would win a medal.

"Aditi and Diksha are great players. They're phenomenal. And I was really excited that I was teaming up with them. I knew for sure we were going to get a medal because we're obviously the top three best female golfers in the country. And I just knew that we were going to get a medal," she said.

Union Minister Scindia also asked Pranavi what message she would give to young athletes beginning their sporting journeys.

"I think just to go out there and have fun. And I think that's always been my thing, to just go out there, have fun and be patient. Obviously, practice every day, be dedicated and stay motivated," she said. The Indian women's team, comprising Pranavi, Aditi and Diksha, finished with a total of 14-under 546 across four rounds to secure the silver medal.

Union Minister Scindia congratulated Pranavi, her parents, coaches and everyone who had supported her journey, while wishing the Asian Games champion continued success.

China Open: Djokovic fights back to beat Zverev and reach semifinals

BEIJING



Novak Djokovic produced another trademark comeback as the six-time champion fought past top seed Alexander Zverev 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 to reach the China Open semifinals and maintain his unbeaten record at the ATP 500 tournament. This was Djokovic's first time playing in Beijing since 2015, and he was taken to the limit by Zverev, who was the reigning champion at the French Open and the US Open when he entered the match.

The German began more strongly, using his power to disturb Djokovic and thus won the first set 6–4. Nevertheless, the Serbian soon found his rhythm and started to take control of the match away from the top seed.

The decisive point occurred towards the end of the second set. When the score was tied at 4-4, Djokovic increased his performance and broke Zverev's serve in the 10th game before then serving to win the set and level the match.

They were closely matched in the final set, neither of them being able to gain a clear advantage. Yet Djokovic, as before, showed his best tennis when it was most important.

With the score at 4-4, the Serbian managed to break Zverev's serve and thus achieved the deciding break. He then stayed calm enough to serve out the match and thus secured a victory 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.

This victory extended Djokovic's unbeaten record at the China Open and placed him in the semifinals as he carries on his attempt to win a seventh title at the tournament.

This win also marked his first encounter with Zverev in almost 16 months; their previous meeting had taken place at Roland Garros in 2025, where Djokovic won in four sets.

The most recent tournament once more showed off the 24-time Grand Slam champion's capacity to perform under pressure, even though his season had been disrupted by physical problems.

For Zverev, that loss brought to an end another chance of boosting his bid for the world No. 1 ranking. At the same time, Djokovic is still on track to win his seventh China Open title and is also aiming for his first victory of the year.

'Hats off to you, Cris': Zidane hails Ronaldo amid Portugal controversy

PARIS

France head coach Zinedine Zidane has thrown his support behind Cristiano Ronaldo amid the controversy surrounding the Portuguese forward's recent departure from the national team camp, insisting that the veteran deserves recognition for his remarkable career.

Ronaldo has found himself at the centre of attention after leaving Portugal's camp ahead of their Nations League fixtures following reported differences with the team management. The incident has once again raised questions over the 41-year-old's international future. However, Zidane, who worked closely with Ronaldo during his hugely successful spell as Real Madrid coach, offered an emphatic defence of his former player and highlighted the impact the Portuguese star had on the Spanish giants.

Under Zidane, Real Madrid achieved an unprecedented run of three consecutive UEFA Champions League titles between 2016 and 2018, with Ronaldo playing a decisive role in the club's European dominance. "Cristiano Ronaldo made me win incredible trophies. Hats off to you, Cris. We must salute his great career the right way. I was lucky to have him with me. I have a lot of respect for all my players and especially for Cristiano," Zidane said in a press conference.

Zidane is now focused on a new chapter in his managerial career after taking charge of the France national team. His start with Les Bleus has been encouraging, with away victories against Turkey and Belgium, along with a home draw against Italy in Paris. The former France captain also reflected on how his responsibilities have changed since moving from the daily demands of club football to the international game.

Kuldeep wins Impact Player of the Series award after ODI series win over the WI

NEW CHANDIGARH



Left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav was named the winner of 'Impact Player of the Series' award following India's 2-1 ODI series victory over the West Indies. He earned high praise from team physiotherapist Yogesh Parmar for putting his body on the line and achieving major milestones throughout the leg.

Kuldeep emerged as the leading wicket-taker in the three-match series by picking seven scalps, including a four-wicket haul in Thiruvananthapuram. He also became the fastest Indian spinner to cross the 200-wicket milestone in men's ODIs. "First of all, congratulations for winning the series. The award goes to someone who has consistently performed throughout the series. He has also got 200 wickets in ODI format. So that's another achievement and he is also the highest wicket taker for this series.

"As we discussed, he has always stood up and performed exceptionally well and he has always put his body on the line and this award goes to Kuldeep Yadav," Parmar said in a video posted on BCCI's social media accounts on Sunday.

Accepting the honour, Kuldeep credited senior batters – captain Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, wicketkeeper-batter KL Rahul, and Rohit Sharma for setting up matches with the bat, while reflecting on the preparatory camp in Thiruvananthapuram helping him hit peak rhythm ahead of the series. "Firstly, congratulations for the series win. A lot of credit goes to Shubhi, Virat bhai, KL bhai and Rohit bhai, especially with the bat.

Rybakina withdraws from Wuhan Open due to injury

WUHAN



World No. 1 Elena Rybakina has withdrawn from the upcoming Dongfeng Voyah Wuhan Open due to injury, the tournament organisers announced, a day after the Kazakh was knocked out of the China Open by World No. 118 Alina Charaeva.

Rybakina, who was beaten by Charaeva in three sets in the second round in Beijing, was scheduled to return to action at the Wuhan Open, where she reached the quarterfinals last year. She is now expected to make her next appearance at the Ningbo 500, where she is the defending champion.

Apologising to fans who had been expecting to see her compete in Wuhan, Rybakina said she would take time away from competition to recover.

"I'm very sorry to the fans who were looking forward to seeing me play. I'll take some time to rest and recover. Thank you for your understanding and continued support. See you next year," Rybakina said in an Instagram story.

The 2025 US Open champion has been managing a lingering lower-leg and foot injury over the past few months. The issue forced her to retire during her Cincinnati quarterfinal against Iga Swiatek.

Rybakina then managed to recover in time to take part in the US Open, where she won her third Grand Slam title; during her campaign in New York she also became World No. 1 and the first singles player to qualify for the WTA Finals in Indian Wells.

She pulling out is adding to the increasing number of players who have failed to take part in the Wuhan Open, Amanda Anisimova, Madison Keys, Emma Navarro and Karolina Pliskova having also withdrawn before the tournament.

The Wuhan Open will take place from October 12 to 18 and will be the last event of the WTA Tour Driven by Mercedes-Benz 1000 in the season. Rybakina will now focus on the Ningbo 500 as she aims to keep in good fitness for the final part of the season.



Raaka Gets A Two-Part Strategy?

Allu Arjun-Atlee's ambitious film Raaka is once again making headlines, this time over its release strategy. The big-budget project has generated massive curiosity ever since it was announced, and fans are eagerly waiting for more updates. According to industry buzz, the makers are discussing whether to make the film a two-part franchise. If the team decides to split the story into two parts, the first installment could hit screens in 2027. However, if Atlee chooses to tell the entire story in a single film, the release may be pushed to 2028. It will be interesting to see how Atlee plans to divide the story into two parts, if the makers eventually opt for that strategy. Equally intriguing is whether the team will follow the emerging trend of releasing both installments with a very short gap, a strategy that has gained attention following the su ccess of Dhurandhar and its sequel plans. The speculation gained more attention after Atlee was recently asked about the release date of Raaka. The star director responded in his trademark style, saying, "Even my producer hasn't asked me yet. We will announce it soon." While Atlee did not reveal any concrete details, his response has only increased curiosity among fans. The director is known for delivering large-scale entertainers, and expectations are sky-high for Raaka. At the moment, the makers are focused on planning the film in the best possible way. Whether it arrives as a single epic film or a two-part saga remains to be seen. Until an official announcement is made, fans will have to wait patiently.

Ranabaali vs VD-Rashmika Buzz?



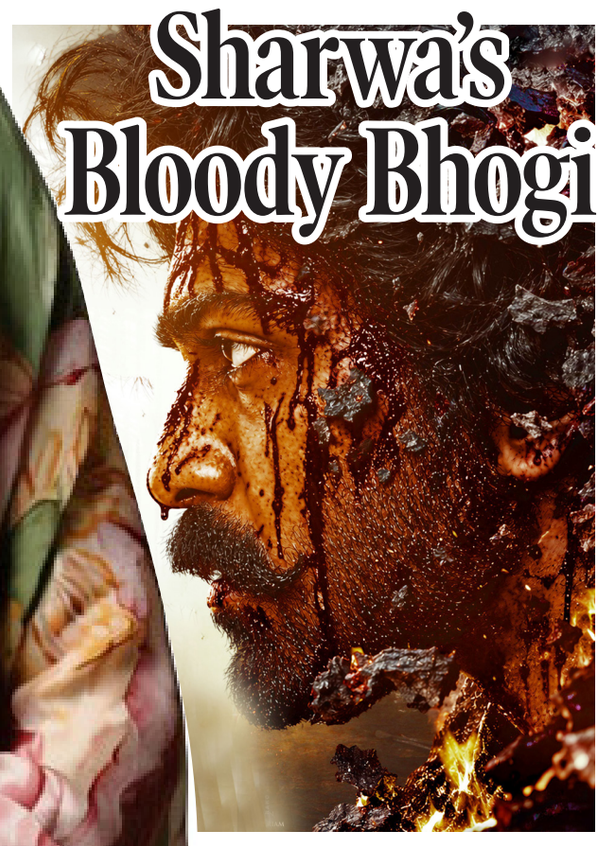
Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika reunited on the silver screen for the film Ranabaali. Directed by Rahul Sankrityan, the film is billed as a period drama. From the first look to the recently released Endhayya Saami song, the film has generated a lot of positive buzz. The team is now focusing more on promotions, and the lead pair is sharing details through promotional terviews. However, the lead pair is being criticized for promoting themselves more than the film. Already, team Ranabaali is facing criticism that the film's lead pair is not available to the regional media and is focusing on honoring promotional interviews with Hindi and Tamil journalists and YouTubers. The limited availability of Vijay and Rashmika to the Telugu people is being discussed on social media. That said, Vijay and Rashmika have already given an interview to Suma, and more are in the pipeline. Interestingly, since it is a period film, director Rahul is trying to prepare the audience beforehand. In the process, they are releasing special documentaries about the film, while Vijay and Rashmika are also sharing a lot in their interviews. However, an opinion is emerging on social media that both Vijay and Rashmika are talking more about themselves and their personal lives than about their experiences during the film's shoot or offering more insights into the world of Ranabaali. Following their wedding, Ranabaali marks Vijay and Rashmika's first film together. Naturally, the film has generated considerable curiosity. At the same time, fans are eager to know more about their personal lives, given their star status. While sharing personal insights naturally attracts more attention, there needs to be a balance so that the film receives its due attention. Even if they spend only a few moments discussing their personal lives, those conversations tend to overshadow the rest of the discussion about the film. Ranabaali hits screens on October 16th.

Can Drishyam 3 Hit 500 Crore?



Ajay Devgn's Drishyam 3 has opened to a sensational response at the box office and is already creating new records across the Hindi market. The suspense thriller has taken a flying start and is showing strong momentum over its opening weekend. The film collected around 95 crore on its first day. On day two, it added another 80 crore, taking its two-day total to an impressive 175 crore worldwide. With strong bookings and positive word of mouth, the film is expected to cross the 250 crore mark by the end of its first weekend. The biggest strength of Drishyam 3 appears to be its acceptance in the Hindi belt. Audiences have responded positively to the film's twists, performances, and emotional drama. The franchise also enjoys a loyal fan base, which is helping the film pull crowds to theatres. Trade experts feel that if the movie continues this momentum over the next few weeks, the 500 crore milestone could become a realistic target. Such a feat would place Drishyam 3 among the biggest Bollywood hits in recent years. The coming weekdays will be crucial. If collections remain steady and the film continues to attract family audiences, the thriller could enjoy a long and profitable run at the box office. For now, Drishyam 3 has clearly emerged as one of the biggest success stories of the year.

Sharwa's Bloody Bhogi



Bhogi, starring Charming Star Sharwa, presents a raw and intense world. Directed by Sampath Nandi, this period action drama takes a different approach. Instead of a regular commercial introduction, the teaser takes us into a rugged village filled with strong characters, emotions and growing conflict. Kammari Ganga is abducted by the landlords. His girl warns them that there will be serious consequences if anything happens to him. At the same time, the village's fate is connected to a devotional ritual, adding an interesting and traditional touch to the story. The final warning about nine steps, a sword and the blood of enemies creates the teaser's most powerful moment and hints at the ruthless battle ahead. Bhogi looks different from a regular period action film. Sampath Nandi appears to have mixed village life, emotions and powerful action with a realistic period setting. The rustic village backdrop also plays an important role in creating the film's mood and atmosphere. Sharwa undergoes a striking transformation for the role, with his mass appearance and natural mannerisms making him look completely at home in this world. His intense dialogues in authentic Telangana slang further define his character as a man driven by pride, anger and an uncompromising sense of justice. Anupama Parameswaran's makeover also fits seamlessly into the setting, with her character appearing to have an important role in the proceedings. Dimple Hayathi is the other leading lady. Kishor Kumar's cinematography captures the village and its surroundings with a convincing period backdrop, while Bheems Ceciroleo's intense score amplifies the mood and energy of the visuals. The lavish production values from KK Radhamohan under Sri Sathya Sai Arts add further weight to the film's ambitious scale. The teaser has significantly built prospects around Bhogi. More than just showcasing action, it offers a glimpse into an intense and uncompromising world, where powerful characters, deep-rooted emotions and fierce conflicts appear to drive the narrative.

Lokesh's Dream Project Takes Shape?



Lokesh Kanagaraj is one of the top filmmakers in the country whose popularity has spread to the North. Aamir Khan made a cameo in Lokesh's Coolie, and at the time, the Hindi actor confirmed a collaboration with Lokesh. The project has reportedly been in discussion for quite some time, but the latest reports say Lokesh is now in touch with Akshay Kumar. With fresh reports surfacing in the media, there are speculations that Lokesh is reconsidering the lead actor choice for his dream project in Bollywood. Lokesh also wants to make a film in Hindi, and Aamir Khan is under consideration for the project. However, the latest developments suggest Lokesh is in discussions with Akshay Kumar, along with a top producer and writer. This has fueled rumors that Lokesh may be changing his mind and replacing Aamir Khan with Akshay Kumar in the project he has in mind. But a few reports say that both projects could be different. While Lokesh is reportedly determined to do a film with Aamir Khan, the director is also showing interest in working with Akshay Kumar. We hear that Lokesh plans to collaborate with Akshay, but it is unclear whether it will be his directorial project or one he wants to supervise. Lokesh may also want to work on two Hindi films simultaneously. On the work front, Lokesh made his acting debut with DC recently and will next direct Allu Arjun.

Hebah 's Traditional Charm

Hebah Patel marked Gandhi Jayanti with a graceful traditional look that has fans talking. The actress picked a green and peach striped anarkali with delicate floral prints, featuring a sequin embroidered neckline and thin straps. She draped a matching green dupatta with a beautifully embellished border over her arms, adding a regal touch to the outfit. Chandelier earrings, golden flats and soft wavy hair completed the elegant styling, while her confident pose against the brown backdrop made the photoshoot stand out. On the work front, Hebah had a tough year as her films Repu Udayam 10 Gantalaku and Harudu failed to impress at the box office. However, she has exciting projects lined up, including the Tamil film Aadya and the Kannada movie Rudra Kaala, which could turn her luck around.

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