HYDERABAD HEADLINES

RNI NO.APENG/2010/33328 | VOL NO. 17 | ISSUE NO.: 174 | RANGAREDDY (HYDERABAD) | PAGES: 12 | RS. 1/-

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2026 | WWW.HYDERABADHEADLINES.COM

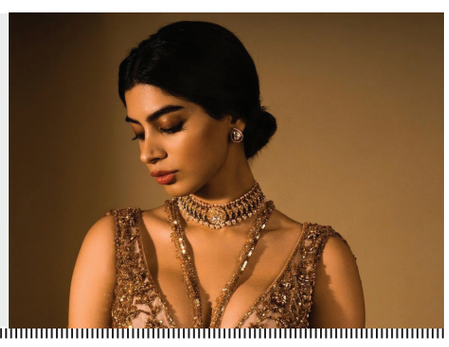


Internet Access as a Fundamental Right

OPINION 06

Khushi Kapoor Turns Up the Heat in Maldives

BOX-OFFICE 12



OBTUSE ANGLE



by BP ACHARYA

SHORT TAKES

Rs. 2,500 crore push for temple development

Hyderabad, Oct.18: Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka said the State government was according priority to public welfare alongside the development of temples across Telangana. Bhatti Vikramarka on Sunday offered prayers at the Adbhutha Venkateswara Swamy Temple in Nacharam village of Enkoor mandal in the Wyra Assembly constituency of Khammam district. He also laid the foundation stone for a road leading to the temple. Addressing a public meeting later, the Deputy Chief Minister said temple development works were being taken up across the State at an estimated cost of ₹2,500 crore.

In view of the upcoming Godavari Pushkarams, the government was spending ₹2,000 crore on developing riverbank areas and temples along the Godavari, he said. Bhatti Vikramarka also announced an allocation of ₹276 crore for the development of the Bhadrachalam Temple and ₹354 crore for the Sri Gnana Saraswati Temple at Basara.





France Protests: Police Arrest 1,800 After Violent Clashes, Looting

Violence erupts in Paris, Marseille, Lyon, Bordeaux and other cities during nationwide demonstrations over rising living costs, fuel prices and conditions in schools

02

Gunfire in Juhu; Tiger Shroff Escapes Unharmed

Fadnavis directs Mumbai Police Commissioner to expedite probe; driver and a bystander injured in the attack

Mumbai, October 18: Bollywood actor Tiger Shroff escaped unhurt after a firing incident in Mumbai's Juhu area on Sunday evening. Two people, including the actor's driver, sustained injuries, while the police detained one suspect in connection with the incident. According to Deputy Commissioner of Police Mohit Garg, the incident occurred around 7 p.m. when Shroff was leaving the location after work. His driver, Firdaus, sustained an injury to his left hand, while another person, identified as Chauhan, was also injured. Both were taken to a nearby hospital for treatment. The police have declined to comment on a social media post by a gang claiming responsibility for the attack.

Chief Minister and State Home Minister Devendra Fadnavis spoke to Mumbai Police Commissioner Deven Bharti and directed him to conduct a swift investigation and take strict action against those responsible. Fadnavis and Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde also spoke to Shroff and assured him that stringent action would be taken.

Speaking to The Hindu, Shinde said the safety of Mumbai's citizens remained the government's priority and asserted that attempts to threaten the film industry would not be tolerated. He recalled the gang wars that plagued Mumbai in the 1990s, stating that the Mumbai Police had successfully curbed such activities and that the government would not allow criminal gangs to regain their influence.



Meanwhile, Mumbai Police personnel and forensic teams visited the scene on Sunday night to collect evidence and examine CCTV footage as part of the investigation. The incident triggered criticism from the Opposition, which questioned the effectiveness of law enforcement in the State. Filmmaker Ashoke Pandit expressed concern over the firing, pointing out that it was the second such incident in recent months. He referred to an earlier firing incident at filmmaker Rohit Shetty's bungalow, located a short distance from the latest crime scene. Pandit said Sunday's incident took place near a playground close to a school frequented by children, senior citizens and celebrities, raising serious concerns about public safety. Condemning the attack on behalf of the film industry, Pandit expressed solidarity with the Shroff family and wished the injured driver a speedy recovery.

Governor performs Ayudha Puja



Hyderabad, Oct.18: Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla participated in special prayers at Lok Bhavan on Sunday morning on the occasion of Vijayadashami. The Governor first offered prayers to Goddess Durga at the Electricity department office. He later worshipped Goddess Pochamma on the Lok Bhavan premises and performed Ayudha Puja for the weapons used by security personnel. He also performed puja for official vehicles at the Lok Bhavan garage.

Subsequently, the Governor posed for a group photograph with Lok Bhavan officials and staff, who extended festive greetings to him on the occasion of Bathukamma, Navratri and Vijayadashami. The Governor reciprocated their greetings and urged the officials and staff to celebrate the festivals with devotion and in accordance with tradition. He wished that the festive occasions would bring happiness, peace and prosperity to the lives of people.

12 Killed, 29 Injured as Truck Runs Over Devotees on Way to Gwalior Temple

NEW DELHI, OCT 18

Paddy-laden truck loses control on downhill stretch during Navratri; families question how heavy vehicle entered restricted area At least 12 people were killed and 29 injured after a paddy-laden truck lost control on a downhill stretch and ran over devotees walking towards the Sheetla Mata temple in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior district in the early hours of Sunday. The accident occurred around 1.30 am on the road leading to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

Student dies, 12 injured as lighting poles collapse at MVSR college event

HYDERABAD, OCT.18

A festive celebration turned into tragedy on Saturday night after heavy lighting poles collapsed during a Dandiya event at MVSR Engineering College in Nadergul, leaving a female student dead and at least 12 others injured. The deceased student has been identified as Sony, a native of Wanaparthy. According to eyewitnesses, the sudden collapse of the heavy metal lighting structures during the event triggered panic and a frantic rush among the attendees. College staff and bystanders quickly responded, pulling the victims from the debris and rushing them to nearby private hospitals in LB Nagar and Adibatla.

At least seven students remain in critical condition, including Sony's sister, who was shifted to a super specialty hospital as her condition worsened overnight.

The Adibatla police have registered a case and initiated an investigation into the cause of the structural failure. Meanwhile, student groups and family members have alleged gross negligence on the part of the college administration and event organisers, demanding strict legal action and accountability for the safety lapses.

Govt defrauded innocent youth

HYDERABAD, OCT.18

Former Minister and BRS Deputy Floor Leader Harish Rao on Sunday alleged that the Revanth Reddy government had been defrauding the unemployed youth through the public sector undertaking TOMCOM in the name of jobs in Germany and added that they had been defrauding 75 unemployed people in 15 districts for the past two years by collecting around Rs. 4.5 lakhs each in the name of visas and examinations. Rao said that the farmers, who believed the government, were still paying interest on the money they brought by pledging the necks of their mothers and wives. "Even after two years, the government is in a miserable position where it has not been able to get even an interview with a German company for any of the 75 candidates. Those , who passed the B1 language test are being sent for B2 again. They made a big campaign that nine people were going to Germany and did not send even a single one. They forced innocent the youth to sign a document stating that if there is any problem, they will go to the Lucknow court 1,000 kilometers away," he said. Rao said that It was regrettable that the government had not responded to the RTI information about how many people were given jobs abroad through Tomcom, even after the legal deadline.l? He noted that While the victims are crying for justice, it is wicked for the state Labor Minister to start another new batch in June and make false claims about jobs.

"Where are the 2 lakh jobs that Congress party promised to provide in the elections? Where has the job calendar you gave gone Revanth Reddy? Every penny collected by Tomcom should be returned to the victims immediately. Each candidate should be paid compensation for wasting two years of valuable time, the burden of debt interest, and the mental anguish they have suffered. The government should immediately provide alternative jobs to all the victims who have been cheated. A CID or judicial inquiry should be immediately conducted into the TomCom scam and criminal cases should be registered against those responsible," he demanded.

VICAT
TRUST. LEGACY. FOREVER.

Don't give it a chance.

- Don't let them ruin your structures
- Don't let them waste your money
- Don't let them risk your dignity

If you give a chance to poor-quality cement, the quality of your life is what you risk. Many may take a chance. But once you give it, you may never get another.

Trust is never built by chance. It becomes a part of life over time.
So don't risk your dreams on uncertainty.

For more than a decade, we have shared a relationship built on trust. A trust not created in a day, nor by chance.

Powered by advanced German technology, robotic quality control, and all-day strength - we continue to lead the field with confidence.



Bharathi CEMENT
SUPERIOR QUALITY. GUARANTEED.

GERMAN TECHNOLOGY
ROBOTIC QUALITY CONTROL
LEADER IN ALL DAYS STRENGTH
3 TIMES BETTER

TGSPDCL CMD Inspects TGSPDCL CMD Inspects Gachibowli 220 KV Substation



Medchal-Malkajgiri, October 18, 2026: TGSPDCL Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) Jithesh V. Patil visited the 220 KV Gachibowli Substation on Sunday, October 18, 2026, to assess operational preparedness and review the electricity department's readiness to address the prevailing power situation and an anticipated surge in demand. During the inspection, the CMD closely examined the load conditions of the substation's Power Transformers (PTRs) and issued direct operational instructions to engineering officials to manage peak power requirements effectively while preventing power supply interruptions.

In light of the ongoing El Niño weather conditions, Patil instructed officials to roll out widespread consumer awareness initiatives emphasizing responsible energy consumption, minimizing non-essential usage, and prioritizing load management during peak hours. He emphasized that continuous field-level monitoring, strong coordination among engineering teams, and prompt identification and resolution of technical issues are essential for maintaining a high-quality, reliable power supply system. The review meeting was attended by key power sector officials, including TGSPDCL Chief Engineer Gopaiah, Cyber City Superintending Engineer (SE) Chandrashekhar, Transco SE Bhaskar, DE (Gachibowli Operations) Prasad, DE (Gachibowli Lines) Ravikumar, DE (Kondapur Operations) Shyam, and ADE (Gachibowli Subdivision) Shiva Krishna Prasad.

France Protests: Police Arrest 1,800 After Violent Clashes, Looting

FRANCE, OCT 18



Police arrested at least 1,800 people across France after violent groups clashed with officers and looted shops during nationwide demonstrations that drew hundreds of thousands of people protesting against rising living costs and poor conditions in schools. Authorities said masked groups on Saturday (October 17, 2026) set fires and attacked public buildings, including city halls, in several cities. In Limoges, a city in central France, flames engulfed the 19th-century City Hall, causing its roof to collapse. Haute-Vienne prefect Maurice Barate told LCI television that the fire had been deliberately set and had nearly destroyed the building. The fire was brought under control on Sunday (October 18, 2026). The violence occurred on the sidelines of mass demonstrations against soaring living costs and rising fuel prices, with inflation fuelled in part by the U.S.-Iran war. The protests also highlighted public concerns over deteriorating conditions in schools and the financial pressures facing households.

"The right to protest is a fundamental right. Deliberately and collectively sowing disorder through violence is not," Interior Minister Laurent Nunez wrote on X, referring to the looting of hundreds of businesses in several cities, including Paris, Marseille, Lyon and Bordeaux.

In a lengthy post on Sunday, Mr. Nunez condemned attacks on law enforcement personnel, public institutions and commercial establishments. He expressed support for police officers, gendarmes and firefighters who responded to the violence across the country.

Mr. Nunez said that several thousand individuals, whom he described as belonging to the far-left, had begun targeting public buildings and confronting security personnel in several locations. He added that criminal groups later joined the unrest and looted and vandalised businesses in multiple cities.

According to the Interior Minister, more than 2,000 people had been detained by the time of his Sunday statement, while investigations were underway to identify those responsible for the violence and bring them before the courts. He also said that more than 600 police officers, gendarmes and firefighters had been injured, warning that the toll could rise. The material damage was considerable, particularly for hundreds of business owners. The figures cited by Mr. Nunez in his Sunday statement were higher than the initial report of at least 1,800 arrests. Authorities said the situation had continued late into Saturday night in some cities. Around 5,50,000 people participated in demonstrations across France, according to official estimates, while organisers put the turnout at approximately 8,00,000. More than 500 police officers, gendarmes and firefighters were injured, Mr. Nunez said in an earlier assessment.

One person died of a heart attack, according to a statement from Paris police. The authorities did not provide further details, and the Paris prosecutor's office said an investigation was underway.

Political leaders trade blame ahead of presidential election

Political leaders across France's political spectrum sought to use the aftermath of Saturday's violence to advance their positions ahead of the presidential election scheduled for next spring. Marine Le Pen, the far-right leader and presidential hopeful, criticised her far-left rival Jean-Luc Melenchon, who participated in the Paris march. She accused rioters of undermining the demonstrations organised to highlight concerns over purchasing power.

"Looting, ransacking, destroying and attacking law enforcement: Rioters have again spoiled the Oct. 17 demonstrations for the protection of purchasing power," Ms. Le Pen wrote on X. Her political ally and running mate, Jordan Bardella, also called for a restoration of public order. In a post on X, he said that if the French public chose his political camp, it would work to re-establish order over the long term. Mr. Melenchon, meanwhile, exchanged criticism with Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu, accusing him of "playing with fire". He alleged that the government's approach to the unrest had only served to unite young people and workers' unions. Mr. Melenchon maintained that those who supported the movement's objectives had no justification for participating in looting or destruction. He sought to distinguish the demonstrators' demands over purchasing power and public services from the actions of those responsible for violence. The unrest also drew a response from U.S. President Donald Trump, who posted "France is burning!" on his Truth Social platform. He appeared to link the disturbances to immigration, referring to the arrival of people from what he described as an "entirely different world". Mr. Trump urged France to close its borders and take control of the situation, warning that it should act before it was too late. However, French authorities and police have not linked immigrants to the rioting. Officials have instead attributed some of the violence to radical far-left groups and other individuals who joined the disturbances to loot businesses. The protests and the accompanying violence have placed the French government under pressure to address public concerns over the cost of living, fuel prices and public services while maintaining law and order. With the presidential election approaching, the unrest is also likely to intensify political arguments over security, immigration, economic policy and the government's response to growing social discontent.

CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

12 Killed, 29 Injured as Truck Runs Over Devotees on Way to Gwalior Temple

➢FROM PAGE 1

the temple from the Chinor side, where the movement of heavy vehicles is restricted during Navratri because of the large number of pilgrims visiting the shrine. According to preliminary information, the truck veered to the left while descending the slope before crashing into a wall. Several devotees walking along the road were hit by the vehicle. Two police personnel deployed on duty were also injured in the incident.

Eyewitnesses told the police that several people were trapped beneath the truck. Local residents struggled to rescue the victims, as the heavily loaded vehicle could not be lifted easily.

"This is a very tragic incident. Pilgrims were going to visit the Sheetla Mata temple, and heavy traffic was restricted on the slope coming from the Chinor side. Around 1.30 am, a heavily loaded paddy truck became uncontrolled for some reason, came down the slope and stopped after colliding with a wall. Many pilgrims walking on the road were hit by it," Gwalior Senior Superintendent of Police Dharmveer Singh Yadav said.

The senior police officer confirmed that 12 people had died and 29 others were injured in the accident.

District Collector Ruchika Chauhan said the Sheetla Mata temple attracts a large number of devotees, particularly during the final three to four days of Navratri. She confirmed that 29 people had sustained injuries and said they had been shifted to various hospitals, including Jayarogya Hospital, for treatment.

The district administration has initiated an investigation into how the truck entered the restricted stretch despite the presence of barricades and a police checkpoint. A team from the Regional Transport Office has also been directed to inspect the vehicle mechanically and establish the possible reasons for the driver losing control.

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav expressed grief over the deaths and announced financial assistance for the victims' families. The next of kin of each deceased person will receive Rs 4 lakh, while those seriously injured will be given Rs 2 lakh each. Other injured persons will receive Rs 50,000 each.

The Chief Minister said the affected families belonged to Gwalior, Shivpuri and Sheopur districts.

In a message posted on X, Mr. Yadav described the deaths of devotees in the accident as extremely heartbreaking and prayed to Baba Mahakal to grant peace to the departed souls.

'Not even a cycle allowed, how did a truck get through?'

The accident triggered anger among the families of the victims at the Gwalior trauma centre, with several questioning the enforcement of traffic restrictions on the route to the temple.

Lokendra Tomar, who lost his aunt Sarla in the accident, questioned how a heavily loaded truck was allowed to enter a stretch where even smaller vehicles were reportedly prohibited during the festival.

"Not even a cycle is allowed to pass through here, how did a truck gain entry? The devotees were hit by this truck which they (police) said was being run at an uncontrollable speed. How did this happen? Who is responsible for her death?" he asked.

The family members sought accountability over the apparent breach of restrictions, particularly given the large number of devotees expected to travel to the temple during Navratri.

Kiran, the mother of 19-year-old Gaurav, broke down while recounting her experience following the accident. She alleged that her injured son needed to be taken to another hospital but that the police had directed her to the mortuary instead.

"My son was injured and needed to get to a new hospital. The police told me to take him to the mortuary, instead. He was still breathing at the time..." she alleged.

Her account added to the distress and anger among relatives gathered at the trauma centre, many of whom were seeking information about the condition of their family members.

The investigation is expected to examine the circumstances under which the truck entered the restricted road, the effectiveness of the barricades and checkpoint, and the mechanical condition of the vehicle. The authorities will also seek to establish the sequence of events that led to the driver losing control on the downhill stretch.

With large crowds visiting the Sheetla Mata temple during Navratri, the tragedy has raised serious questions about traffic management, enforcement of restrictions and the safety arrangements provided for pilgrims walking along the approach road.

The focus now remains on the treatment of the injured, assistance to bereaved families and the investigation into the circumstances that allowed the truck to enter the restricted stretch.

MYTA Holds 13th Grand Bathukamma Celebrations in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR





The Malaysia Telangana Association (MYTA) organised its 13th Grand Bathukamma Celebrations 2026 in Kuala Lumpur, showcasing Telangana's rich cultural heritage, traditional folk arts, music and cuisine on an international platform.

The celebrations brought together members of the Telangana community, representatives of Indian associations and cultural enthusiasts to celebrate the festival that symbolises Telangana's traditions, unity and respect for nature.

Women dressed in traditional attire arranged colourful flowers into elaborate Bathukamma floral displays and sang traditional songs while performing dances around the arrangements. The presentation of Telangana's rural culture, folk arts and customs was among the major attractions of the event.

Distinguished Guests Attend Celebrations

Rajesh H. Maniyil, First Secretary (Consular, Passport and Visa) at the High Commission of India in Kuala Lumpur, attended the celebrations as the chief guest and participated in the festivities.

Renowned folk dancer Janulyuri, folk lyricist and singer Dileep Devgan, and cinematographer Arun Koluguri were among the prominent personalities who attended the event. Their artistic performances and cultural presentations added vibrancy to the celebrations.

Presidents and representatives of various Indian associations in Malaysia also participated in the programme and appreciated Telangana's cultural traditions.

Telangana Cuisine Adds to Festive Spirit

Traditional Telangana cuisine was given special prominence during the celebrations. Dedicated food counters offered visitors an opportunity to experience the authentic flavours of the region, adding a culinary dimension to the cultural event. The organisers acknowledged the support of sponsors GRPC Malaysia Sdn Bhd and Rapinno Tech Sdn Bhd in making the celebrations successful. MY81 Hyderabad Dum Biryani Restaurant supported the event as the food sponsor.

MYTA expressed gratitude to the chief guest, sponsors, participating associations, artists, volunteers and community members for their contributions to the programme.

MYTA Team Organises Event

The celebrations were organised by the MYTA executive committee under the leadership of its president, Saidam Tirupathi. The office-bearers included Vice-President Chirutha Chittibabu, Women's President Kiranmayi Dandeboyina, General Secretary Sandeep Goud, Joint Secretary Satyanarayana Rao Nadipelli, Treasurer Sandeep Kumar Lagishetty, Joint Treasurer Sundar Reddy Morthala, Youth President Santosh Dasaraju and Youth Vice-President Poladi Shiva Teja. The advisory committee comprised Mansoor, Sudheer Maduguri and Gona Venu Gopal Reddy.

The executive committee members included Maruthi, Ramesh, Ramulu, Purnachander Reddy, Supriya, Jyothi, Anil Kumar, Mahender Reddy, Madhu, Ranjith Kumar, Sheshi Kumar, Jeevan Reddy, Hariprasad, Raghupal Reddy, Vinod Kumar, Mahesh, Srinivas, Naresh Kumar, Ranjith, Venkat, Rajesh, Damodar, Deepika and Mounika.

Preserving Telangana's Cultural Identity

MYTA representatives said the association was committed to celebrating Telangana's festivals, culture and traditions in Malaysia and passing the state's cultural heritage on to future generations. The 13th Grand Bathukamma Celebrations concluded on a festive note, reinforcing the spirit of unity and cultural pride among the Telangana community in Malaysia under the message, "Our Bathukamma – Our Culture – Our Telangana – One MYTA."

Drinking water supply and sewerage management wings should be vigilant during festivals:Water Board

HYDERABAD, OCT.18



Hyderabad Water Board Managing Director Ashok Reddy has instructed officials to take preventive measures to prevent disruptions in drinking water supply to the city people and problems of sewerage overflow on roads during the upcoming festivals including Bathukamma. He advised all departments to work in coordination so that the people do not face any inconvenience during the festivals. On Sunday, a review meeting was held via Zoom with the Water Board EDs, Directors, CGMs, GMs and other senior officials. Several orders were issued to the officials on water supply, sewerage management, establishment of green water tankers, functioning of STPs, alternative water sources and summer action plans. The MD ordered that special monitoring be carried out to prevent sewage overflows in areas with heavy traffic, main roads and places where festivals are held during the festival. He said that Manholes and sewerage lines should be inspected in advance and preventive measures should be taken in problematic areas. It was suggested that complaints should be responded to and resolved immediately after receiving them and that necessary personnel and machinery should be made available.

The MD ordered that arrangements be made to start the proposed green water tanker services from November 1 to use the treated sewage for construction, landscaping and other works that do not require drinking water and added that special attention should be paid to the registration of tankers, uniform branding and development of filling stations.

Reddy said that In addition to the system where consumers can set up their own tankers and get treated water, the facility of booking the tankers registered with the Water Board online be made available. He said that the IT department should work in coordination to complete the digital platform arrangements and conduct a trial run by October 20.

The MD clarified that special attention should be paid to the performance of sewage treatment plants (STPs) in the city and the quality of treated water. He made it clear that the Officials from the Projects, O&M and AMRUT departments should jointly visit the STPs and inspect the treatment process, laboratory performance, quality tests and record management.

He ordered that deficiencies in the STPs that do not meet the prescribed quality standards be identified and technical improvements should be made through the relevant agencies. He said that Additional filters and further treatment processes should be examined where necessary and steps should be taken to improve quality within a month.

He suggested that the capacity of existing filling stations for the supply of treated water in the STPs be increased and suitable areas should be identified for the establishment of new centers. He ordered that meters should be installed in each filling station to measure the quantity of water and that the supply details should be recorded and monitored.

Kavitha demands review of NHM employees' salary cuts

HYDERABAD, OCT.18



Telangana Rakshana Sena chief K. Kavitha has criticised the State government for issuing GO 1195, which reportedly reduces the salaries of National Health Mission (NHM) employees, and demanded its immediate review.

Speaking to the media at her party office in Banjara Hills on Sunday, along with leaders of the NHM Employees' Joint Action Committee (JAC), Kavitha said that some of the 17,000 NHM employees across the State had suffered salary cuts ranging from ₹4,000 to ₹5,000.

Questioning the decision, she said prices were rising, inflation was increasing and several areas were facing drought-like conditions. She asked why the government was reducing employees' salaries at a time when the cost of living continued to rise.

Kavitha also pointed out that while the salaries of some employees had been reduced, those of others had been increased, and questioned the rationale behind what she described as discriminatory treatment.

Alleging that the State government was failing to pay NHM employees' salaries on time despite the Centre providing funds for the purpose, she said she would not tolerate the exploitation of NHM staff and urged Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to intervene immediately.

The TRS president called on the Chief Minister to direct the Health Minister to review the issue and ensure a salary increase for the affected employees. Kavitha also questioned the salary cuts, stating that Central government guidelines provided for an annual salary hike of five per cent for NHM employees.

CYBER DANDIYA

A Fusion of Culture and Cyber Awareness

CYBERABAD





With the objective of raising public awareness about cybercrime and further strengthening police–public relations, Cyberabad Police organised a programme titled "Cyber Dandiya." The event was uniquely designed by combining cultural festivities with important messages on cybersecurity.

The programme was organised under the leadership of Cyberabad Police Commissioner Dr. M. Ramesh, in coordination with the Society for Cyberabad Security Council (SCSC) and Cyberabad Municipal Corporation (CMC) Commissioner Srujana. Cyberabad DCP, Cyber Crimes, Ms. Pushpa, provided guidance and coordinated the event. Senior Cyberabad Police officials and personnel actively participated in the programme.

Government officials, police personnel, representatives of IT companies, youth, women, families and people from various areas within the Cyberabad Police Commissionerate participated enthusiastically. Approximately 1,500 people attended the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Cyberabad Police Commissioner Dr. M. Ramesh said that "Cyber Dandiya" was organised to bring cybersecurity awareness closer to the public alongside cultural celebrations. He stated that initiatives such as Cyber Dandiya enable the police to interact directly with citizens and educate them about emerging cyber threats and the precautions necessary to protect themselves against such threats.

He explained that Artificial Intelligence (AI), digital tools, videos and practical demonstrations were used to raise awareness about cybercrime. Various types of cyber offences, the modus operandi adopted by criminals and the preventive measures required were explained to the public in a simple, engaging and easily understandable manner.

The Commissioner observed that although technology has made everyday life easier, cybercriminals continue to adopt new methods to defraud people. He urged the public to remain vigilant against digital arrest scams, investment and trading frauds, phishing, smishing, OTP frauds, fake links and part-time job scams.

The Commissioner advised people never to share their OTPs, passwords, PINs or banking details with anyone and cautioned them against clicking on suspicious links. He particularly stressed the need to verify online investment offers promising unusually high returns before trusting them. In the event of cyber fraud, victims were advised to act immediately by calling the 1930 Cyber Crime Helpline and filing a complaint through the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal.

Speaking on the occasion, Cyberabad DCP, Crimes, Ms. Pushpa, stated that cybercriminals exploit people's fear, greed and trust to commit fraud. She urged the public to exercise caution regarding calls and video calls from unknown persons, suspicious APK files and links, fraudulent investment schemes, and part-time job offers.

She emphasised that everyone should follow the principle: "Think Before You Click – Verify Before You Trust."

Young people, women and families participated enthusiastically in the Cyber Dandiya festivities. By combining energetic Dandiya performances with cybersecurity awareness, the organisers conveyed important information about cybercrime in an engaging and easily understandable manner.

The programme was attended by Cyberabad Police Commissioner Dr. M. Ramesh; Cyberabad Municipal Commissioner Srujana; Annapurna, DCP (Administration); DCP, Cyber Crimes, Ms. Pushpa; DCP Ms. Lavanya; Kukatpally DCP Ms. Rithiraj, IPS; DCP, Traffic-II, Ms. S. Seshadrini Reddy, IPS; DCP, Serilingampally Zone, Shri Ch. Srinivas, IPS; DCP, CAR Headquarters, Shri P. Sanjeev; and other senior police officials and personnel. Representatives of SCSC and CMC, officials from various government departments, representatives of IT companies and members of the public also participated.

With approximately 1,500 participants, the "Cyber Dandiya" programme was a success. The event conveyed a strong message to the public: "Celebrate Safely – Stay Safe in the Cyber World."

Harish slams govt over RTC festival fare hike

HYDERABAD

Former Minister and BRS MLA Harish Rao on Sunday criticised the Telangana government for increasing TGSRTC bus fares across the State, alleging that the hike had dampened the festive spirit and placed an additional financial burden on passengers.

In a post on 'X', Harish Rao said the reduction in regular bus services and the collection of higher fares in the name of festival specials were causing hardship to commuters. He pointed out that the fare from JBS to Karimnagar had increased from the regular ₹230 to ₹400. Similarly, the fare from Mahabubnagar to MGBS, which normally costs ₹220, was being charged at more than ₹290, he alleged.

Accusing the government of burdening passengers with steep fare hikes on routes across Telangana, Harish Rao claimed that the RTC had not increased the number of buses but was merely attaching festival special service boards to regular buses to charge higher fares. He further alleged that the Congress government had increased RTC ticket fares five times during its three-year tenure and was now imposing double fares on passengers in the name of festival special services.



TGSPDCL Takes Electricity Audits to the Doorstep of Telangana Farmers

- **Power department teams conduct extensive field inspections across multiple districts under the landmark 'Polam Bata' initiative**

MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI

In a major push to improve electrical services for rural agricultural consumers, officials and field staff of the Telangana Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (TGSPDCL) fanned out across agricultural fields on Sunday under the 'Polam Bata' (Path to the Fields) initiative.

The outreach drive saw engineers, section officers, and technical personnel visiting farmlands to conduct field-level technical audits, inspect power supply equipment, and directly address grievances raised by local farmers.

The inspections were carried out across numerous sections, sub-divisions, and divisions under TGSPDCL jurisdiction, including Vikarabad, Nagarkurnool, Nalgonda, Medak, Sangareddy, Siddipet, Wanaparthy, Gadwal, Yadadri, Medchal, and Suryapet. Key agricultural clusters in villages such as Chowderguda, Chittapur, Uyyalavada, Nadaimpally, Nijampur, Choutlapally, Puttapally, Thadur, Jangampet, Gummadidala, Kothapally, and Laxmipathigudem were actively covered.

Technical Audits at Motor Points and Transformers

Beyond interacting with the farming community, officials carried out hands-on inspections of the distribution infrastructure. Teams measured electrical parameters at 100 kVA distribution transformers using tong testers, while checking voltage stability and current levels directly at borewell motor starter points.

During an inspection under the 11 kV Warigunthan feeder at Chinna Ghanpur Substation in Medak Circle, Superintending Engineer (Operation) Sri Narayana Naik, along with divisional and section-level teams, verified transformer loads and instructed staff to implement immediate measures to eliminate power quality fluctuations. Similar audits were conducted under the 11 kV Gopalpet feeder in Wanaparthy, where requests for additional supply hours were recorded for official review.

Prompt Grievance Redressal and Climate Awareness

Throughout the interactions, farmers shared feedback on crop conditions, voltage fluctuations, feeder performance, and irrigation schedules. Officials instructed local linemen and technical staff to resolve power interruptions promptly and maintain strict monitoring of electrical lines and transformers.

Taking note of changing seasonal conditions, teams also discussed rainfall trends, groundwater levels, and the impacts of El Niño with farmers. They advised the agricultural community to coordinate with the Agriculture Department for crop selection based on water availability and encouraged the adoption of efficient water conservation practices.

A senior TGSPDCL official emphasized that the primary goal of Polam Bata is to bring utility services directly to the farmer's doorstep. By identifying operational bottlenecks at the field level, the DISCOM aims to strengthen field monitoring, optimize resource utilization, and ensure uninterrupted, high-quality power supply throughout the cropping season.

GITAM to Host International Conference on Business Innovation and Sustainable Society

HYDERABAD



The Centre for Business Growth (CBG), School of Business, GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, is set to host the 2nd International Conference on Business Innovation and Sustainable Society (BISS-2026) on December 10–11, 2026, at its Hyderabad campus.

Themed "Business Excellence through Human-Machine Interface: Human Insight and Machine Intelligence," the conference will bring together leading academicians, researchers, industry practitioners, and emerging scholars to explore the evolving relationship between human intelligence and artificial intelligence in business.

The keynote addresses will be delivered by Prof. Haya Ajjan, Dean of the Martha and Spencer Love School of Business and Professor of Management Information Systems at Elon University, North Carolina, USA; and Prof. AngappaGunasekaran, Professor of Supply Chain Management, School of Business Administration, Penn State Harrisburg, USA. BISS-2026 will provide a global platform for presenting cutting-edge research, exchanging ideas, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, and examining transformative approaches to responsible AI adoption. Discussions will focus on how organizations can leverage AI to drive innovation, productivity, sustainability, inclusion, and long-term business growth while maintaining a strong human-centric perspective.

The conference will feature keynote sessions, research paper presentations, poster presentations, panel discussions, and a special Emerging Scholars Forum for undergraduate and postgraduate students.

The major thematic areas include Circular Economy in the Age of AI; Social Entrepreneurship, Inclusion and AI for Social Good; Business Transformation through Human-Machine Collaboration; Resilient, Sustainable and Data-Driven Supply Chains; Service Science, Customer Experience and AI-Enabled Value Creation; and Decent Work, Productivity and the Future of Human Labour. The conference also welcomes contemporary and innovative research across the broader field of management.

A special Emerging Scholars Forum will offer UG and PG students an opportunity to present conceptual papers, empirical studies, case analyses, and interdisciplinary research addressing AI, business transformation, sustainability, and inclusive development.

Selected high-quality papers may be considered for submission to associated SCOPUS-indexed journals, including the International Journal of Procurement Management (IJPM) and the International Journal of Process Management and Benchmarking (IJPMB), subject to the respective journals' peer-review and editorial decisions. Outstanding papers presented across conference tracks will also be considered for the Best Paper Awards.

The conference is being convened by Dr. Ajay Kumar and Dr. R. Veerababu. For further information, please contact Dr. Ajay Kumar at 88266 99667 or Dr. R. Veerababu at 99665 78892, or email biss2026@gitam.in.

BISS-2026 invites researchers, practitioners, academicians, and emerging scholars to join this international forum and contribute to shaping a responsible, inclusive, sustainable, and human-centric future of business in the age of artificial intelligence.

WATER CUTS AND HEAVY FINES: HMWSSB Strikes Hard Against Jubilee Hills Pub in Major Water-Wastage Crackdown

- **Water Board warns commercial establishments of immediate disconnections and strict penalties as citywide conservation drive intensifies ahead of summer.**

MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI

The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) has launched a high-impact crackdown against the misuse and wastage of drinking water across the city. In an unprecedented move, water board officials conducted a surprise field inspection at Four Fathers Pub, located at Plot No. 872, Road No. 45 in Jubilee Hills, following direct complaints regarding severe water wastage. Upon confirming the violation on-site, authorities immediately penalized the establishment with a ₹20,000 fine and executed a complete operational shutdown of their water supply by permanently severing the pub's drinking water connection and placing a total ban on commercial water tanker deliveries from all HMWSSB filling stations.

This decisive action serves as a stern warning to commercial entities—including hotels, restaurants, bars, and other businesses—to strictly monitor and optimize their consumption as demand escalates ahead of the upcoming summer season. The Water Board emphasized its zero-tolerance policy, warning that water wastage will not be tolerated under any circumstances and that future or repeat violators will face immediate fines and service disconnections without prior notice.



To safeguard the city's vital water resources, the HMWSSB is appealing to the public to act as active whistleblowers by reporting any observed instances of water misuse. Citizens can submit evidence—including photographs, videos, location details, and complete addresses—directly via WhatsApp at 99499 30003 or register formal complaints through the 24/7 customer care helpline at 155313. Officials assured that all reports will trigger prompt field investigations, and the identity of informants will be kept strictly confidential to encourage widespread public participation in water conservation.



SHORT TAKES

Telangana BJP chief demands proper probe into Kolkata stampede

HYDERABAD: *Telangana Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) chief N Ramchander Rao has demanded a proper probe and action against those responsible for the stampede at a Durga Puja Mandal in Kolkata, where 19 people lost their lives. "The stampede in West Bengal, in Kolkata, is a big tragedy, and I condole the deaths of the devotees there," he said in an interview with news agency ANI on Sunday, October 18. He expressed confidence that the government would investigate the incident, stressing the need for accountability. "I'm sure that the government will definitely probe the entire incident and fix responsibility on the people who are responsible for it."*

TGSPDCL officials connect with farmers in outreach programme

HYDERABAD: *To provide improved services to agricultural power consumers in rural areas under the Telangana Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (TGSPDCL), the 'Polam Bata' programme was conducted on Sunday, October 18, across several regions. As part of the initiative, electricity department officials, engineers and field staff visited agricultural fields and interacted with farmers. The agricultural power supply situation in the areas was reviewed, while officials gathered feedback on farmers' concerns, problems and requirements. The primary objective of the 'Polam Bata' programme was to bring electricity department services closer to farmers.*

Better Unit-level performance key to improving national ranking: DGP





- **Bathukamma Celebrations Marked by Traditional Songs and Floral Splendour**
- **Women across Karimnagar district celebrate Saddula Bathukamma with enthusiasm**

KARIMNAGAR

Saddula Bathukamma, the grand finale of Telangana's iconic floral festival, was celebrated with great enthusiasm across Karimnagar district on Sunday. Women of all age groups, from young girls to elderly women, came together to arrange colourful Bathukamma flower stacks, sing traditional folk songs and participate in the festivities, reflecting the rich cultural heritage of Telangana. The celebrations were held on a grand scale in Karimnagar city as well as the Manakondur, Choppadandi and Huzurabad constituencies. In Karimnagar, women gathered in large numbers at Tower Circle, Ramnagar, Mankammathota, Vidyanagar, Prakasham Gunj, Alugunuru and areas near the Manair Bridge, besides various divisions and wards across the city.

Colourful Floral Arrangements Steal the Show

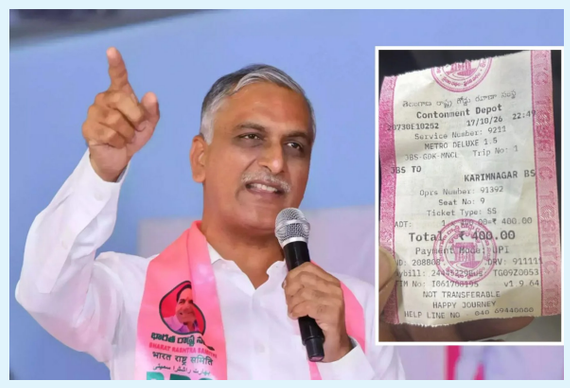
Bathukammas arranged with seasonal flowers such as Thangedu, Gunugu, marigold and chrysanthemum emerged as the main attraction. Women dressed in traditional attire, wearing new clothes and ornaments, brought their beautifully decorated floral arrangements to the celebration venues. The vibrant flowers and festive atmosphere added colour and charm to streets and neighbourhoods.

Traditional Songs and Celebratory Dances

Surrounding the Bathukammas, women clapped in rhythm, performed traditional dances and sang folk songs celebrating the spirit of the festival. Songs such as "Bathukamma Bathukamma Uyyaalo" and "Ramaraama Uyyaalo" filled the air as women celebrated together. The festivities also provided an opportunity for younger generations to learn about the traditions and cultural significance of Bathukamma.

Saddulu Reflect the Spirit of Togetherness

Women brought traditional offerings, including Sathupindi and other Saddulu, and shared them with one another as part of the celebrations. The festival highlighted the bonds of affection, unity and togetherness among women. Saddula Bathukamma concluded amid devotion and joy, reaffirming its special place in Telangana's cultural life and the hearts of its people.



TGSRTC refutes BRS allegations on festival fares, bus services

HYDERABAD

The management of Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) on Sunday issued a detailed clarification refuting social media allegations made by former Minister and BRS Deputy Floor Leader T. Harish Rao concerning festival fare hikes and service cancellations.

In an official statement, the public sector transport utility asserted that fare structures during festival seasons are governed by provisions under a 2003 government order. The corporation maintained that operations during high-demand periods strictly comply with existing guidelines without imposing extra costs beyond permitted regulations.

Refuting claims that bus operations were curtailed during Dasara, TGSRTC highlighted that 7,000 special services were arranged to clear the heavy rush. The management added that 97 per cent of these additional services have operated successfully since October 10, ensuring safe transit for homebound commuters.

Furthermore, TGSRTC stated that the government's flagship Mahalakshmi scheme, offering free bus travel for women, continues to be implemented efficiently across the state with necessary operational safeguards in place.



Weekend-Special Drunk & Drive Checking's by Cyberabad Traffic Police

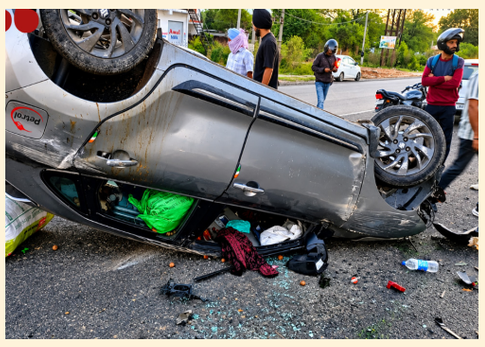
HYDERABAD

Cyberabad Traffic Police (CTP) has conducted a special drunk driving enforcement drive over the weekend, resulting in the apprehension of 320 offenders.

The total cases booked 265 two wheelers: 265 , 16 three wheelers, 38 four wheelers 38 and one heavy vehicles based on their blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) levels ranging from 266 offenders had BAC levels ranging from 36 mg/100 ml to 200 mg/100 ml , 38 offenders had BAC levels ranging from 201 mg/100 ml to 300 mg/100 ml and 16 offenders had BAC levels ranging from 301 mg/100 ml to 550 mg/100 ml All the offenders will be produced before the Court. Cyberabad Police reiterate that driving under the influence of alcohol is a serious offence.

If anyone is found to be driving in an inebriated condition and causes a fatal accident, such individuals will be booked under Section 105 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (Culpable Homicide Not Amounting to Murder). The maximum punishment under this section is 10 years of imprisonment along with a fine. In the last week (October 12 to 17) a total 196 drunk driving cases were disposed in the courts, in which five persons got fine and social service, 191 persons got Fine only.

Road accident leaves two injured, one injured



HYDERABAD

A serious road accident took place in Hayatnagar of Hyderabad. A car hit a sibling, who was riding a scooty. Rekha and Naveen, both from Pedda Amberpet, died in the accident, while the child was seriously injured. The child was rushed to the hospital and is receiving treatment. The incident took place when Naveen was taking his sister Rekha from Shamshabad to her hometown in Pedda Amberpet for the Dussehra festival.

On receiving the information, the police reached the spot and took up rescue operations. The police have arrested the driver of the car responsible for the accident. They have registered a case and are investigating the incident. (NSS)

Heavy devotee surge at Bhadrakali Temple on 8th day of Navaratri



HYDERABAD

Grand celebrations for the ongoing Devi Navaratri festival continued at the historic Sri Bhadrakali Temple in Warangal on Sunday, drawing thousands of devotees to the abode of the regional deity.

Marking the eighth day of the annual festivities, Goddess Bhadrakali was adorned in the Mahadurga Alankaram. Temple premises resonated with devotional chants as visitors gathered from early morning hours to offer prayers.

Spurred by the weekend holiday, long queues began forming as early as 4:00 AM. Temple management confirmed that waiting times for darshan averaged nearly an hour as staff managed the heavy holiday crowd.

BRS issues legal notice to Telugu daily over report on KCR's farmhouse



HYDERABAD

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) on Sunday strongly condemned a report published by the Telugu daily Velugu, calling it politically motivated and designed to tarnish the reputation of party president and former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR).

The party has also served legal notices demanding an unconditional apology and the immediate retraction of the front-page story titled 'Kondapochamma diverted to KCR's farmhouse', published on October 17.

BRS General Secretary and Legal Cell In-charge Soma Bharat Kumar issued the legal notices to the management and editor of Velugu.

The party questioned the factual basis of the report, which linked the Kondapochamma Sagar project and its canal network to KCR's personal agricultural land. In its notice, the BRS demanded that Velugu retract the report within 24 hours, provide an evidence-based explanation for its claims, and publish an unconditional apology prominently on its front page, website, and official social media platforms.

The BRS Legal Cell warned that failure to comply within the 24-hour window would result in civil and criminal legal action, including defamation proceedings.

Former Minister Jagadish Reddy slams govt

SURYAPET



Former Minister and local MLA Guntakandla Jagadish Reddy today said that the Congress government was not able to govern the state and added that This government was throwing up its hands without knowing what to do. He alleged that the Chief Minister and ministers were only working for scams and shares . He said that the drought situation in this state was clearly visible and added that the state had not used even 18 TMC of water in Krishna so far despite the severe drought situation .

"If we turn on the Kannepalli pump house, every pond would be filled with water.. All Telangana projects used to be filled. We used to lift 250 TMC from Godavari. During former CM KCR's rule, Telangana would not have had any drought and the state used to be prosperous with the Kaleshwaram project.

The Drought situation is getting worse only due to the inefficiency of the state government," Reddy said. He made it clear that Sundilla and Annaram projects can be started without any need for soil or water.

Fun pet carnival held in city

HYDERABAD

City based Vitalpass organized a fun pet carnival in Jalavihar in the city under the name Pawse. On this occasion, the first electronic pet tag that does not require any app and is available at a very low price was launched. Organizer Shiva Pabba said that the pet parenting was not something to be afraid of and added that one can get good premium care at a very low cost. In the carnival, various types of dogs made a noise in the 1.2-kilometer dog marathon held from Necklace Road Jalavihar to PV Ghat and back to Jalavihar.

Later, a dog fancy dress competition was organized and prizes were given to the winners. Two new products were launched at the event. The first is the 6th generation Vitalpass Health Tag, an electronic pet operating system in the form of a customized dog tag.

CP Sajjanar performs Ayudha Pooja

HYDERABAD

On the occasion of Dussehra Navratri Durgashtami, City Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar performed Ayudha and Vahana Pooja at the CAR Headquarters in Petla Buruju of the city on Sunday. On this occasion, special pooja was performed for the weapons in the Armory and the police patrol vehicles that constantly serve in maintaining law and order.

Speaking on the occasion, the CP said that he was very happy to participate in the Ayudha Puja program as part of the Navratri festivities. He wished that all the police officers and staff prosper with good health and happiness with the divine blessings of Goddess Durga. He advised the staff in public service to perform their duties in a peaceful atmosphere without any mental stress. He extended his greetings on Durgashtami and Vijayadashami to the Hyderabad City Police officers, staff and their family members.

DCPs R. Venkateshwarlu, S. Srinivas, Chaitanya Kumar, Ramana Reddy, Raghavendar Reddy, along with many senior officers and police personnel participated in this program.

Malayappa blessed on Suryaprabha

TIRUMALA

Sri Malayappa Swamy in His original form decked in bright red colour Ixora garland, bestowed blessings on the divine Suryaprabha Vahanam on Sunday. The Surya Prabha Vahanam symbolises Lord Surya, revered as the giver of energy, vitality and well-being to all living beings.

Scriptures describe the Sun as the source of light for nature and the force that illuminates even the Moon.

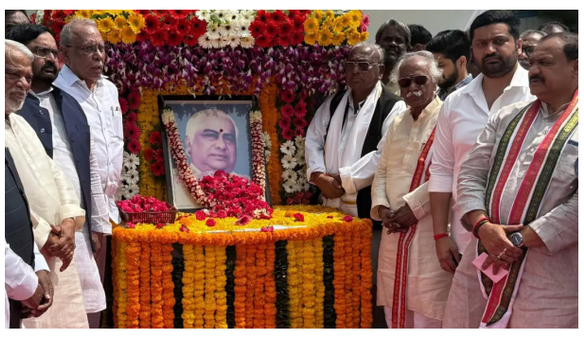
Devotees firmly believe that darshan of Sri Malayappa Swamy on the Surya Prabha Vahanam bestows good health, longevity, happiness, prosperity and noble progeny.

The celestial carrier started under a cloudy weather with drizzles as it proceeded along four mada streets. But amidst the rhythmic and divine chants of Surya Mantras from Taittariya Upanishad, the sun rays pierced from dark clouds as soon as the Vahanam reached Pushkarini Point. Devotees chanted Govinda... Govinda.. with religious ecstasy on the very amusing sight.

Sri Sri Sri Pedda Jeeyar Swami, Sri Sri Sri Chinna Jeeyar Swami, TTD Executive Officer Muddada Ravichandra, Additional EO Ch. Venkaiah Chowdary, Board Members Nannapaneni Sadashiva Rao and Janaki Devi, CVSO Muralikrishna, CEO SVBC Sridhar Verma and other officials participated in the morning Vahana Seva.



Anjaiah's legacy recalled on death anniversary



HYDERABAD

Congress leaders paid tributes to former united Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister T. Anjaiah on his 40th death anniversary by garlanding his statue near Lumbini Park in Hyderabad on Sunday.

Speaking on the occasion, TPCC president and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud said Anjaiah's life was an inspiration to all, as he rose from humble beginnings as an ordinary worker to become Chief Minister through dedication and perseverance.

He described Anjaiah as a people-oriented leader who remained accessible to the public, understood their problems and devoted himself to public service. Mahesh Kumar Goud also recalled that Anjaiah had earned the admiration of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Government advisers Keshava Rao and V. Hanumantha Rao, MLA Danam Nagender, former Governor Bandaru Dattatreya, former MP KVP Ramachandra Rao, Agriculture Commission Chairman Kodanda Reddy, former MP Anjan Kumar Yadav, BC Commission Chairman Niranjan and others participated in the programme and paid tributes to Anjaiah.

Kerala govt questions horti wine sales in bakeries, seeks report on excise approval

Kerala Excise Minister M Liju on Sunday said a report had been sought from the Excise Commissioner after a firm began selling horti wine, a low-alcohol beverage, through bakeries in the state. Horti wine is made by fermenting tropical fruits and agricultural produce. The previous LDF government amended the Foreign Liquor Rules in 2024 to allow licensed bakeries and shopping centres to sell horti wine. A firm based in Chalakudy had approached the Excise Commissioner a few months ago, seeking permission to sell the beverage under the amended rules. The commissioner granted approval after collecting the prescribed licence fee, officials said. The firm recently began selling the product, bringing the issue into the public domain.

Speaking to reporters, Liju said the commissioner might not have faced any technical hurdles in granting permission under the existing rules, but the matter should have been brought to the minister's notice. “The decision should have been taken only after informing the minister and others,” he said, adding that the government would examine the matter seriously. The minister also raised concerns about the social implications of making such products available at supermarkets and bakeries.

Jagan urges Andhra Pradesh Governor to save democracy

VIJAYAWADA, OCT 18



Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party President Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Sunday met Governor S. Abdul Nazeer at Lok Bhavan and urged him to save democracy in the state. YS Jagan apprised the Governor of the coalition government's undemocratic practices, including blocking Opposition candidates from filing nominations in the urban local body elections. He sought the Governor's intervention to press for the deployment of Central forces and CCTV coverage throughout the election process. Speaking to the media after the meeting, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy said the undemocratic conduct was unprecedented. He appealed to party cadres to continue their fight, saying that times would change in the coming days. He explained to the Governor how YSRCP candidates were being blocked from filing nominations while TDP supporters were allowed into nomination centres, where attacks were carried out on the party's candidates. He also described how the police were siding with the ruling coalition. YS Jagan stated that in eight places in the state, no nominations were filed. In 19 places, only 36 per cent of the nomination papers were filed, while in eight other places, the nomination papers of YSRCP candidates were torn up. In Pulivendula, only 19 nominations were filed across 36 wards, underscoring the seriousness of the situation, he said. The Governor was also apprised of the treatment meted out to YSRCP MPs Avinash Reddy, P. Mithun Reddy and Gurumoorthy at nomination centres, the police opening fire at candidates, and the filing of serious cases against candidates. YS Jagan said active YSRCP cadres were being targeted through a conspiracy to bind them over.

He appealed to the public and all concerned to protect democracy and ensure that everyone wishing to contest is allowed to file nomination papers. “These acts of anarchy show that Chandrababu Naidu lacks confidence, despite resorting to undemocratic practices. Denying people who wish to contest the opportunity to do so is a stain on democracy,” he said, adding that all options, including legal remedies, would be explored to save democracy.

Jagan regrets supporting law on appointment of Election Commissioners

TADEPALLI (ANDHRA PRADESH), OCT 18

Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) President Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy said on Sunday that he regrets supporting the 2023 law on appointment of Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners, saying the ruling Telugu Desam Party-led coalition government should not control the selection process. Addressing a press conference, Reddy added that be it State Election Commissioner or Central Election Commissioner, the ruling TDP should not nominate them. YSRCP had supported Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023. "Earlier at the Centre, YSRCP supported the system wherein the ruling party can nominate the Election Commissioner but today we are regretting the mistake we made by supporting it," the YSRCP Chief said. He remarked that an examiner cannot be appointed by the student. "No matter, how sincere is the examiner, he has to face the criticism, if appointment is not done by a neutral body," Reddy said, demanding restoration of the earlier system of appointment of Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners. The YSRCP Chief said the panel comprising Leader of Opposition, Chief Justice of India and Prime Minister should appoint the Chief Election Commissioner. He added that the presence of Chief Justice of India will make it a neutral body. "Currently, Prime Minister and a Minister nominated by the Prime Minister have two votes and Leader of Opposition one vote. Since two votes go in favour of one person, he will be a nominee of the government. This is a flaw in the system. We realised this after we made the mistake," he said. Calling for reforms to restore the earlier system, the YSRCP Chief added that this was necessary to ensure the credibility of election system. He demanded similar reform for appointment of State Election Commissioner (SEC). He said the Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu or the TDP should not appoint the State Election Commissioner. THE YSRCP Chief was speaking to media after meeting State Election Commissioner Anil Chandra Punetha to complain about the attempts by the ruling TDP-led coalition government to stop YSRCP candidates from filing nominations for the upcoming local body polls. Stating that SEC Punetha is appointed by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, the YSRCP leader alleged that SEC was acting on his directions.

Chinese Ambassador Xu Feihong Visits National SARAS Mela–2026

Appreciates the entrepreneurial skills of rural women and encourages SHG entrepreneurs by purchasing their products

Vijayawada, 18 October 2026: H.E. Mr. Xu Feihong, Ambassador of China to India, along with his spouse, H.E. Ms. Tan Yuxiu, and members of his delegation, visited the National SARAS Mela–2026 at Punnami Ghat, Vijayawada, on 18 October 2026. The five-member Chinese delegation comprised H.E. Mr. Xu Feihong, Ambassador; H.E. Ms. Tan Yuxiu, spouse of the Ambassador; Dr. Zhou Guohui, Minister Counsellor; Mr. Guo Dongdong, Second Secretary; and Mr. Li Annan, Secretary to the Ambassador. The delegation was visiting NTR District from 16 to 18 October 2026 as part of its scheduled tour programme.

During the visit, the Ambassador, accompanied by his spouse and team, toured various stalls showcasing products made by women entrepreneurs associated with Self-Help Groups (SHGs) from different parts of the country. The delegation interacted with the women entrepreneurs, showed keen interest in their products and encouraged them by purchasing their products. The Ambassador expressed his happiness and appreciation for the remarkable growth of rural women entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial skills demonstrated by women from across the country. He appreciated their initiative, creativity and efforts in developing and marketing their products, reflecting the growing economic empowerment of rural women through the Self-Help Group movement. The visit highlighted the significance of the National SARAS Mela as a platform for promoting rural women-led enterprises, showcasing traditional crafts and locally made products, and providing SHG entrepreneurs with opportunities to expand their market reach. The National SARAS Mela–2026 is being organised at Punnami Ghat, Vijayawada, from 17 to 30 October 2026, providing a national platform for rural women entrepreneurs to showcase their products, connect with customers and explore new business opportunities.



Godavari changes colour from copper to blue at Polavaram

Receding floodwaters and reduced sediment load alter the river's appearance

POLAVARAM, OCTOBER 18

The Godavari river at Polavaram has undergone a visible change in colour, from a copper hue during the monsoon to blue in recent days, following a decline in flood intensity. The change, observed between early and mid-October, coincides with a reduction in the sediment carried by the river. During the monsoon, heavy rainfall in the upstream catchment areas brought large volumes of floodwater into the Godavari. The water carried red soil, silt and sand from the surrounding hills and streams, giving the river a reddish-brown or copper appearance near Polavaram. This colour was particularly noticeable from July to the first week of October. Decline in sediment load With rainfall easing and flood flows receding, the quantity of soil and other suspended particles entering the river has declined. As the sediment settles, the water has become clearer, with a blue hue now visible along stretches near the Polavaram spillway. The inflow from the Sileru river, whose waters also appear blue, is another feature of the changing river scene. The shift in colour reflects seasonal changes in the river's flow and sediment load. The contrast between the copper-coloured waters during the monsoon and the blue waters now is clearly visible at Polavaram.

Mother's cries foil man's bid to kidnap 6-year-old in Tamil Nadu

Preliminary inquiry suggests that he is from another state. His identity and the motive behind the alleged abduction attempt are yet to be established.



A six-year-old girl was rescued from an alleged abduction attempt near her home in Tamil Nadu's Villupuram on Sunday after her mother raised an alarm and residents chased down the suspect. The girl was playing in front of her house when a young man allegedly picked her up and began running away. Her mother, Kavitha, spotted him carrying the child and gave chase, shouting for help. Hearing her cries, residents joined the pursuit. They followed the man to a nearby agricultural field, where they caught him and rescued the girl.

PM Awas Yojana transforms lives of poor families in Uttar Pradesh's Unnao

UNNAO (UTTAR PRADESH), OCT 19



The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) has brought a significant change in the lives of several economically weaker families in Uttar Pradesh's Unnao district. The scheme has turned their long-cherished dream of owning a permanent home into reality. For families who once struggled to live under leaking roofs and in dilapidated houses, the scheme has provided not just concrete homes but also a sense of security, dignity and hope for a better future.

Beneficiaries Ram Kishori and Roma Kumari expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying that having a permanent roof over their heads has transformed their lives. Ram Kishori, a resident of Narendra Nagar, while interacting with IANS, recalled the difficulties her family faced before receiving assistance under the scheme. Her previous house was in a precarious condition, with a roof made of wooden poles that leaked during rains, making everyday life extremely difficult.

"Earlier, our lives were full of difficulties. The roof was supported by wooden poles, and water would leak through it. We faced a lot of problems living in such conditions. Now, I have a permanent roof over my head, and it has made life much better," she said.

She said the financial assistance of Rs 2.5 lakh enabled her to construct a house equipped with two rooms, a kitchen, a toilet, a bathroom, a staircase and a gallery. Emphasising the importance of owning a home, Ram Kishori said having a permanent shelter was one of the biggest dreams of every individual. "Every person dreams of having a house. I now have my own home, and my life has improved considerably. A person can earn and arrange food, but without a roof over their head, how can the dream of a secure life be fulfilled? Once there is a place to live, one can face all other challenges and difficulties," she said. Another beneficiary from the same locality, Roma Kumari, shared a similar experience, recalling how her family struggled in a house with a leaking roof. She said the assistance under PMAY helped her build a permanent house with all essential facilities, including two rooms, a kitchen and sanitation facilities. Roma said the new house had brought considerable improvement to her family's living conditions and given them a sense of stability.

Both beneficiaries credited the government scheme for fulfilling their long-standing dream of owning a proper home and expressed their gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the support.

Chennai red alert withdrawn as weather system moves east; heavy rain still likely

CHENNAI, OCT 18

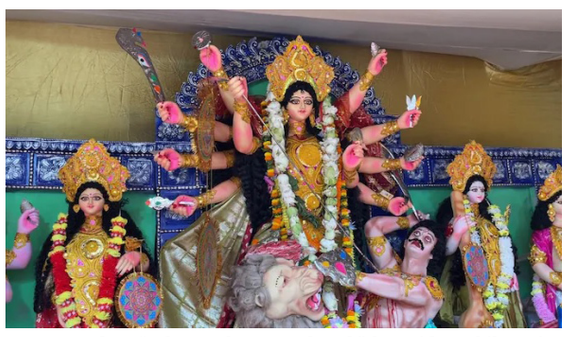


The weather department on Sunday withdrew the red alert issued for extremely heavy rainfall in Chennai after the atmospheric circulation over the north Tamil Nadu coast moved eastwards. However, it warned that isolated places in the city could still receive heavy rain. The revised forecast came after an earlier warning prompted the Tamil Nadu State Disaster Management Authority (TNSDMA) to send emergency alerts to residents and authorities to deploy additional rescue personnel as a precaution. The northeast monsoon has brought widespread rainfall across Tamil Nadu over the past two days, following a southwest monsoon that did not deliver the rainfall expected in the state. Chennai and several other districts have experienced heavy showers since the seasonal rains began.

The weather department had initially placed Chennai under a red alert, forecasting extremely heavy rainfall on Sunday. The warning followed heavy rain recorded at six locations in the city on Saturday. Warnings of intense rainfall had also been issued for Tiruvallur, Chengalpattu, the Nilgiris, Coimbatore and Theni districts, prompting heightened preparedness across vulnerable areas. As concerns mounted over the forecast, TNSDMA transmitted an SOS alert to mobile phones, accompanied by a loud warning tone. The message cautioned residents about the possibility of extremely heavy rainfall in Chennai and urged them to take precautions. Residents were advised to follow official weather bulletins and safety instructions, purchase essential supplies in advance and avoid unnecessary travel. The alert also asked the public to remain in safe locations during spells of heavy rain. Meanwhile, three National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams were dispatched from Arakkonam to Chennai on Sunday as part of precautionary arrangements for the northeast monsoon. Each team comprises 30 personnel, taking the total deployment to 90. The teams were sent to support emergency response operations if heavy rainfall creates a need for rescue assistance. In its subsequent update, the weather department said the atmospheric circulation affecting Chennai and adjoining stretches of the north Tamil Nadu coast had shifted eastwards, leading it to withdraw the red alert for the city. The withdrawal revised the earlier forecast of extremely heavy rainfall, although the department retained its warning of heavy showers at some locations in Chennai. Residents were advised to continue monitoring official updates and follow the safety guidance issued by the disaster management authority.

After Kolkata stampede, Odisha mandates queue-based entry at Durga Puja pandals

Odisha Police has directed Durga Puja committees to enforce queue-based entry at pandals. The move strengthens crowd safety after Kolkata's deadly stampede.



Odisha Police has asked Durga Puja committees to introduce queue-based entry at pandals to manage crowds, particularly in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack, PTI reported on Sunday. The directions follow a stampede at the Chorbagan Sarbojanin Durga Puja pandal in north Kolkata that killed 19 people. Police have deployed personnel and volunteers at pandal entry and exit gates, restricted four-wheelers on narrow approach roads and stationed ambulances and fire service teams at the venues. Puja organisers have also been asked to install CCTV cameras and follow safety guidelines. Odisha Director General of Police Vinaytosh Mishra told reporters that narrow passages and large crowds could lead to stampedes. “When a large crowd passes through a narrow passage, there is always a possibility of a stampede-like situation. So, we have asked the puja organising committees to make arrangements for queue-based darshan at their pandals,” he said, according to PTI. Mishra said adequate police personnel and volunteers had been deployed at the entrance and exit gates to regulate the movement of devotees. “We will ensure that a large number of people are not allowed inside the pandals at one time. If someone falls inside the pandal, entry will be closed,” he said. Mobile units, teams to prevent snatching and harassment, and a rapid-response force have also been deployed at strategic locations, Mishra said. The movement of four-wheelers has been restricted on narrow roads leading to the pandals. Cuttack-Bhubaneswar Police Commissioner S Dev Datta Singh said puja committees were responsible for the safety of devotees at their venues, while the police would regulate arrangements and provide security. “It is the responsibility of the puja organising committees to ensure the safety of the devotees at their pandals. We are regulating it and providing necessary security arrangements,” Singh said, according to PTI. Singh said several meetings had been held with stakeholders, and all puja organisers had been asked to install CCTV cameras and deploy enough volunteers to manage crowds. “We have issued guidelines for organising the puja. If any violation is found, strong action will be taken,” he warned. He also stressed the need for queue-based entry at pandals. Inspector General of Police, Central Range, Satyajit Naik appealed to people to celebrate Durga Puja peacefully and maintain discipline, harmony and mutual respect. He urged people to uphold Odisha's cultural traditions and ensure that the celebrations remained peaceful and inclusive. Naik said organisers should strictly follow the administration's guidelines and conduct processions and immersion ceremonies in an orderly manner to protect public safety.

EDITORIAL

Electoral Revisions and the Right to Vote: Protecting Every Citizen's Voice

Elections are the foundation of a democratic society, and the credibility of the electoral process depends on every eligible citizen having a fair opportunity to exercise the right to vote. Electoral roll revision is an essential part of this process. It helps include newly eligible voters, correct outdated information, remove duplicate entries and maintain accurate records. However, the process must be conducted with care, transparency and accountability to ensure that administrative efficiency does not come at the cost of citizens' voting rights.

India's electoral system serves a vast and diverse population. With millions of people moving between cities, changing residences, reaching voting age and updating personal details, electoral rolls require regular maintenance. A well-organised revision process can strengthen public confidence and make elections more efficient. The objective should be clear: every eligible voter must be included, and every entry must reflect accurate information.

At the same time, electoral roll revision requires robust safeguards. Errors can occur when records are updated, documents are examined or information is verified. A genuine voter should not lose the opportunity to participate in an election because of a clerical mistake, a communication gap or difficulty accessing the required procedures. Special attention is necessary for senior citizens, migrant workers, persons with disabilities and people living in remote areas, who may face practical challenges in completing formalities.

The Election Commission of India and the relevant electoral authorities have an important responsibility in ensuring that revision exercises are conducted according to established rules. Clear communication about deadlines, eligibility requirements, verification procedures and correction mechanisms can help citizens understand their responsibilities. Adequate time to submit documents, accessible assistance centres and effective grievance redressal systems are equally important.

Technology can improve the accuracy and speed of electoral administration, but digital systems must remain accessible to everyone. Online facilities should be complemented by offline assistance so that people without reliable internet access or digital literacy are not disadvantaged. Regular public awareness campaigns can also encourage citizens to check their electoral details and report errors well before elections.

Political parties, civil society organisations and the media can contribute constructively by helping voters understand the process and directing them towards official information. Public participation, combined with impartial administration, can reduce confusion and strengthen trust in electoral institutions.

Ultimately, an electoral roll is more than a government record. It is a practical link between citizens and representative democracy. Its accuracy matters, but so does the fairness of the process through which that accuracy is achieved. Every correction must follow due procedure, and every eligible citizen must have a meaningful opportunity to establish their voting eligibility.

Protecting the right to vote requires continuous effort, not merely an exercise before elections. Transparent procedures, accessible services and timely grievance redressal can help ensure that electoral revision strengthens democracy. The guiding principle must remain simple: accurate voter lists and inclusive participation are complementary goals, and both deserve equal attention.

WHY FEAR ?

We pose like men, like tigers roam,
Yet leave our hearts a hollow home.
The beast within, unchecked, runs wild
A drunken fool, no roots, no child.

No thought, no books, no cultured flame,
But gold and greed still praise their name.
On earth they walk, but dead inside,
In age they boast, in shame they hide.

Each dawn reveals another scar,
Acid's burn, a wound bizarre.
The news repeats, the silence grows,
And justice sleeps while horror flows.

"Let's wait," they say "Tomorrow sees."
But what awaits? More cries? More pleas?
A sister raped, a soul betrayed—
Can we afford to be delayed?

No!

Salute the one who tears the grass,
The sister bold, who none shall pass.
Not weak in wrist, not bound in role,
She drives the wheel, she steers the soul.

Her bangles blaze, not made of glass,
But iron strength none dare surpass.
She does not bow, she does not flee
She is the storm, the roaring sea.

So rise, not wait resist the chain,
Speak truth to power, speak through pain.
And let the tyrants shake in fear
For we are now.
We're rising here.

..: Dr. Peruka Raju :..
National Poet
7810032847

Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar: His Impact on Modern Science

" Born on October 19, 1910, Chandrasekhar began exploring the final stages of stellar evolution during a sea voyage to England in 1930, where he was travelling for higher studies. "

In 1983, Indian-born astrophysicist Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar received the Nobel Prize in Physics, jointly with William A. Fowler, for his theoretical studies of the physical processes that shape the structure and evolution of stars. His research transformed our understanding of how stars change over time and what happens to them at the end of their lives. The theories he developed decades ago continue to support modern astronomical research, helping scientists investigate stars, supernovae, black holes and the evolution of the universe.

Born in Lahore on October 19, 1910, Chandrasekhar began exploring the final stages of stellar evolution during a sea voyage to England in 1930, where he was travelling for higher studies. His work led to the formulation of what became known as the Chandrasekhar limit, one of the fundamental concepts in astrophysics. It states that a stable white dwarf star, under standard assumptions, cannot have a mass greater than approximately 1.4 times that of the Sun. White dwarfs are extremely dense remnants left behind by certain stars at the end of their lives. This limit helps scientists understand the possible final stages of stars and predict how they may evolve.

Some stars end their lives in powerful explosions known as supernovae. Studying these explosions helps scientists understand stellar evolution and measure distances across the universe. In particular, a certain type of supernova, called a Type Ia supernova, serves as a useful indicator for estimating the distances of faraway galaxies. Observations of these supernovae, combined with other evidence, revealed that the expansion of the universe is accelerating. This discovery led to the growing importance of the concept of dark energy. Although this finding resulted from the combined efforts of several scientists, Chandrasekhar's work on stellar physics contributed to the broader scientific foundation on which such research developed.

Chandrasekhar's research also contributed to the theoretical understanding of black holes. These objects have such intense gravitational fields that, beyond a boundary called the event horizon, not even light can escape. Today, scientists study the hot gas and other matter surrounding black holes by observing the X-rays emitted by this material. These observations help reveal how matter behaves under extreme gravitational conditions. Chandrasekhar's mathematical analyses of gravity and stellar structure form part of the wider body of theoretical work that supports modern investigations of these extraordinary objects.

His scientific interests extended beyond stars and black holes. Chandrasekhar also investigated the movement of fluids and gases, including how their flows remain stable or become disturbed. Such research deepened the understanding of complex physical processes. The principles of fluid dynamics are relevant to the study of movements inside stars and the behaviour of gases in space. They are also used in fields such as weather research, engineering and computer-based simulations. Although these applications did not arise from Chandrasekhar's work alone, his research formed part of the broader scientific effort to explain complex natural processes through mathematics.

In recognition of his contributions, NASA named its Chandra X-ray Observatory after him. Launched into space in 1999, the observatory studies X-rays from objects such as black holes, neutron stars and the remnants of supernova explosions. Since Earth's atmosphere blocks most X-rays from reaching the ground, space-based observatories are essential for observing them. Data from Chandra help scientists investigate the temperatures, energy emissions and surrounding matter of some of the universe's most energetic objects. Chandrasekhar did not design or build the observatory; it was named in his honour to recognise his scientific achievements.

One of the most important aspects of Chandrasekhar's work was his ability to explain complex natural processes through mathematics and physics. During his lifetime, scientists did not have access to today's powerful computers and advanced space telescopes. Yet the theories he developed remain relevant to modern research. Scientists now use computer simulations to model stellar evolution, supernova explosions and the movement of matter around black holes. These simulations depend on reliable physical principles, and foundational research by scientists such as Chandrasekhar helps provide the theoretical basis for understanding and testing such processes.

Chandrasekhar's legacy extends far beyond a Nobel Prize or a single scientific theory. From explaining the limits of white dwarf stars to advancing the mathematical study of stellar evolution and black holes, his research helped shape modern astrophysics. His work demonstrates that fundamental scientific research may not produce immediate practical results, but it can create the foundation for discoveries decades later. His dedication to understanding the laws governing the universe continues to inspire scientists and reinforces the lasting value of scientific inquiry.



K AMARAVATI
MEMBER
PLUS NGO

Internet Access as a Fundamental Right: Making Digital Equality a Reality

" Children's online safety is another important dimension of the ruling. The internet offers valuable opportunities for education, creativity and communication, but it also exposes children to sexual exploitation, cyberbullying and harmful content. Completely prohibiting internet use is not an adequate response "



The Supreme Court's recognition of internet access as a fundamental right marks an important step in India's constitutional evolution. At a time when education, employment, public services and economic activities increasingly depend on digital platforms, the internet is no longer merely a technological convenience. It has become an essential means of accessing information, exercising freedom of expression and participating in society. However, constitutional recognition alone cannot fulfil this promise. The judgment will have real significance only when everyone, irrespective of economic status, geographical location or social background, can meaningfully access the internet.

In its October 15, 2026, order in Just Rights for Children Alliance v. S. Harish, the Supreme Court clarified that every individual has a fundamental right to access and use the internet under Articles 21 and 19(1)(a) of the Constitution. The issue arose during proceedings concerning the responsibilities of digital platforms in preventing the circulation of material related to the sexual exploitation of children. The Court rejected the idea that children should be completely denied internet access in the name of protecting them from online dangers. Its central message was that children's rights must be protected alongside their safety.

The ruling builds on earlier constitutional developments. In Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India in 2020, the Supreme Court recognised the constitutional protection available to freedom of expression and trade exercised through the internet. It also held that restrictions on internet services must satisfy constitutional standards. However, the question of whether internet access itself constituted a fundamental right was not conclusively settled at the time. In Pragya Prasun v. Union of India in 2025, the Court recognised digital accessibility as essential to a dignified life and equal participation. The latest order explicitly recognises the right to access and use the internet as a fundamental right of every individual.

Article 21 protects life and personal liberty, while Article 19(1)(a) guarantees freedom of speech and expression. In contemporary society, internet access has become crucial to the effective exercise of these rights. Students use it to access educational resources, farmers to check market prices, jobseekers to explore employment opportunities and citizens to obtain public services. When access is unavailable, disadvantaged communities risk falling further behind in benefiting from these opportunities.

Bridging India's digital divide is therefore a major challenge. The presence of a network does not automatically ensure meaningful access. The cost of devices and data, unreliable electricity, limited digital literacy and inadequate information in local languages continue to exclude many people. Residents of remote areas, low-income households and persons with disabilities often face additional barriers.

The government must treat the expansion of digital infrastructure as a public responsibility. Affordable broadband and mobile internet services should reach underserved regions. Schools, libraries and community centres can provide access to digital resources for people who cannot afford devices. Digital literacy programmes must help people recognise online fraud, misinformation and the misuse of personal data. Alternative ways of accessing essential public services must also remain available so that people with poor connectivity or limited digital skills are not excluded from welfare schemes. The judgment does not amount to an order guaranteeing free internet to everyone. It does, however, strengthen the constitutional basis for policies that make internet access affordable and inclusive.

Children's online safety is another important dimension of the ruling. The internet offers valuable opportunities for education, creativity and communication, but it also exposes children to sexual exploitation, cyberbullying and harmful content. Completely prohibiting internet use is not an adequate response. The priority must be to control harmful material and hold those responsible for its circulation accountable.

The Supreme Court has focused on measures to identify and remove material relating to the sexual exploitation of children. These include establishing a national mechanism using digital hashes and URLs to identify such material, strengthening grievance-redressal procedures and developing an effective system of penalties for digital platforms that repeatedly violate their legal obligations. The Court has also directed the government to formulate appropriate guidelines and standard operating procedures, and to consider suitable amendments to the Information Technology Act and its rules if necessary. It has sought a report on the progress of implementation before the next hearing.

The Court has also highlighted the need for additional safeguards for children using digital platforms. Measures such as keeping children's social media accounts private by default, restricting unsolicited contact from unknown adults and controlling the advertisements and content shown to young users merit consideration. Children should receive age-appropriate education on digital safety, consent, personal boundaries and recognising abuse. These safeguards will be effective only if parents, schools, governments and technology companies work together.

However, protecting children cannot justify indiscriminate internet shutdowns or restrictions on freedom of expression. Measures to control harmful content must have a lawful basis and remain proportionate to their objectives. Digital safety must be pursued alongside the protection of privacy and other constitutional rights.

India's digital progress cannot be measured merely by counting internet connections. The more important questions are whether students in remote villages can access quality educational resources, whether low-income households can obtain public services without prohibitive costs, and whether persons with disabilities and limited digital skills can benefit from online opportunities. These should be the real measures of digital development.

The Supreme Court has strengthened the constitutional foundation for digital equality. The responsibility now rests with the government to translate this recognition into practical outcomes. Internet access must become more than a privilege available to a connected minority. It must serve as a means of expanding equal opportunities in education, employment and access to information. Only then will the recognition of this fundamental right bring meaningful change to people's lives.



D. JAIRAM
Subject Expert – Current Affairs
Founder & Mentor
Sri Jairam Competitive Academy

HM Shah to meet kin of anti-drug activists killed in Punjab; flays AAP

NEW DELHI, OCT 18



Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday accused the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Punjab of pushing the state into the "abyss of drugs", resulting in numerous families losing their children, and announced that he would meet the kin of those who recently lost their lives for speaking out against the drug trade.In a post on his official X account, Home Minister Shah said he would meet the family members of individuals who were killed for raising their voices against drug peddlers thriving under the patronage of the AAP government. The meetings will be held in Mansa, Sangrur and Gurdaspur on October 20. "The AAP government has spared no effort in pushing Punjab into the abyss of drugs, as a result of which numerous families have had to lose their children," Home Minister Shah added. "I will meet the family members of those individuals who recently lost their lives for raising their voices against the drug peddlers thriving under the patronage of the AAP government, in Mansa, Sangrur, and Gurdaspur on Tuesday (October 20). The grief these families have endured cannot be expressed in words," he said.

The Home Minister asserted that attempts to suppress voices rising against the dark drug trade would never succeed and that the people of Punjab would deliver a resounding response to it. Home Minister Shah also said that the Union government would handpick drug peddlers and send them behind bars. "The Government of India will handpick drug peddlers and send them behind bars, and will continue its efforts until the entire country, including Punjab, is freed from this drug trade," he added. The statement comes amid ongoing concerns over the drug menace in Punjab, where several anti-drug activists and individuals who spoke out against the narcotics trade have been killed in recent months. Home Minister Shah's planned visits to the three districts are expected to focus on consoling the bereaved families and reiterating the Centre's commitment to eradicating the drug network.

Deliberate tactics: CJP leaders' bail hearing delayed as magistrate stays absent

The bail hearing for CJP leaders Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka was delayed after the magistrate failed to arrive. Activist Ratna Singh alleged vague surety rejections and misuse of power.



The bail hearing of Cockroach Janta Party leaders Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka was delayed on Sunday because the special executive magistrate did not arrive at the scheduled time, activist Ratna Singh said, according to news agency Press Trust of India. Singh also alleged that four people who had offered surety for the two leaders were rejected on vague grounds. Das and Ranka were sent to five days of judicial custody on October 14 after entering Jantar Mantar, which was no longer a designated protest site, by scaling its locked gates. The CJP leaders said they had unfurled the national flag and raised slogans at the site. In a post on X, Singh said she had been at the Mandir Marg police station since 11 am for the hearing scheduled at noon. She said the assistant commissioner of police, who was acting as the special executive magistrate, had not arrived by 4.42 pm.

"This is really concerning. They have rejected four sureties till now on vague reasons," Singh said. She alleged that people facing police cases for participating in protests were being treated as having criminal records. Police did not respond to the allegations, PTI reported. In another post, Singh said, "Unfurling the Indian National Flag is not a crime, and the boys should not remain in custody due to procedural delays." Questioning the functioning of special executive magistrate courts in Delhi, Singh said higher courts had asked the authorities to follow the proper hierarchy. She also alleged an "absolute misuse of power". On Saturday, the CJP said in a post on X that it had consulted senior advocate Kapil Sibal and warned of legal action if Das and Ranka were not released by Sunday. "If Ashu and Saurav are not released by tomorrow, we will pursue legal action against all those who deliberately ensured that they continue to be in illegal custody, especially when they have not committed nor charged with any offence," the group said. "The deliberate use of delaying tactics to keep them behind bars cannot go unchallenged. Those responsible will be held accountable," it added. The CJP has been protesting against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, alleging that the exercise threatens voters' rights. The bail hearing of Das and Ranka remained delayed on Sunday amid Singh's allegations over the rejection of sureties and the absence of the special executive magistrate.

I felt ignored: Uttarakhand BJP leader Yashpal Benam quits party

Former Pauri MLA Yashpal Benam resigned from the BJP after eight years. His departure comes ahead of the 2027 Uttarakhand Assembly elections.

Uttarakhand BJP leader and former Pauri MLA Yashpal Benam resigned from the party's primary membership on October 18, delivering a setback to the BJP in Pauri district ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections. After spending eight years in the party, Benam said he felt suffocated and that several party leaders had failed to understand him properly. He added that he would decide on his next political move soon. Benam said he had joined the Bharatiya Janata Party on October 18, 2018, exactly eight years ago. He pointed to the coincidence of leaving the party on the same date after completing eight years as a member.

'I FELT SUFFOCATED IN THE PARTY'

Explaining his decision, Benam cited personal reasons and a sense of discomfort within the party. He said several leaders had not made an effort to understand him properly, leaving him feeling suffocated in the BJP. He added that he was not accustomed to living under such circumstances, which ultimately prompted him to part ways with the party. Reflecting on his political journey, Benam said he had always followed his principles and maintained an independent ideology. He had contested elections as an independent candidate and won with public support, he said. According to Benam, he built his political identity on his own abilities. However, despite spending eight years in the BJP, he felt the party had not made proper use of his political capabilities. Benam, a former Pauri MLA and former municipal chairman, has been active in Pauri's politics for a long time. While he has resigned from the BJP, he said he would take a decision on his future political course soon.



President Droupadi Murmu extends Durga Puja greetings, calls for respect for women

NEW DELHI, OCT 18

President Droupadi Murmu on Sunday extended her heartfelt greetings to citizens on the auspicious occasion of Durga Puja, highlighting the festival's spiritual significance, cultural richness and message of the triumph of good over evil. In her message, the President conveyed her best wishes to all Indians living in the country and abroad and prayed for their happiness, prosperity and the continued development of the nation. "On the auspicious occasion of Durga Puja, I extend my heartfelt greetings and best wishes to all Indians residing in the country and abroad," she said. Highlighting the spiritual and cultural significance of the festival, President Murmu said Durga Puja reflects India's rich spiritual heritage and celebrates the victory of divine forces over evil. "The victory of Maa Durga over Mahishasura is an inspiring example of the triumph of divine forces over evil," the President added. She noted that Maa Durga is worshipped as the deity who blesses people with wisdom and inspires them to work for the well-being of others. The President also underlined the unifying nature of the festival, saying that Durga Puja brings Indians together and provides a vibrant platform to showcase the country's traditions, lifestyle, art and culture. Emphasising the importance of women's dignity and empowerment, President Murmu said the festival also reflects India's tradition of revering feminine strength. "Durga Puja reflects our tradition of revering the strength of women. We can express our true devotion to Maa Durga by ensuring respect for women in every aspect of personal and social lives," she added. The President's message also highlighted the need to translate the ideals associated with the worship of the goddess into everyday conduct by ensuring dignity and respect for women in society. Concluding her message, President Murmu prayed that the blessings of Maa Durga bring happiness and prosperity to all citizens and that the country continues to progress rapidly on the path of development.

NE Railway Committed to Providing Pure and Clean Drinking Water to Passengers



Gorakhpur, October 18, 2026: With the objective of providing clean and safe drinking water to railway passengers and employees, North Eastern Railway has accorded priority to the continuous monitoring and maintenance of water tanks, water coolers, taps, filters, distribution points and pipelines at railway stations, offices and residential colonies. Chief Health Inspectors and Health Inspectors of the Railways are regularly conducting residual chlorine tests, bacteriological culture tests and chemical analyses to ensure the safety of drinking water. Providing pure drinking water to railway passengers and employees is one of the key priorities of the railway administration, and this initiative will continue as an ongoing campaign. In Lucknow Division, under the joint guidance of Dr. Ramesh Chand, Chief Medical Superintendent, Divisional Railway Hospital, Badshahnagar, and Shri Bhuvnesh Singh, Additional Divisional Railway Manager (Infrastructure), Chief Health Inspectors and Health Inspectors conducted a total of 292 residual chlorine tests and 21 bacteriological culture tests at 17 major railway stations and four major residential colonies. Following the inspections, all water samples were found to conform to the prescribed standards.

Similarly, residual chlorine tests and bacteriological culture tests are being conducted regularly at major stations in Izzatnagar Division. In Varanasi Division, Chief Health Inspectors and Health Inspectors inspected water tanks, water coolers, water filters, pipelines and pumping systems at railway stations, residential colonies, coaching depots, hospitals and health centres, running rooms, crew lobbies and offices.

The inspection campaign will continue across all stations, residential colonies and offices of North Eastern Railway to ensure the availability of pure drinking water. Health Inspectors are conducting regular tests to ensure that passengers and employees receive clean drinking water that meets the prescribed standards.

Providing clean drinking water to railway passengers and employees remains a priority for the railway administration, and continuous monitoring of water quality will continue to ensure compliance with the prescribed standards.

NFR Introduces Technology-Driven On-Board Services In Five Trains



Maligaon, 18 October, 2026: Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has introduced enhanced On-Board Services in five identified superfast train services, becoming the second Zonal Railway in Indian Railways to implement the initiative. The services have been introduced in Kamakhya–SMVT Bengaluru Express (12552/12551), Guwahati–Kolkata Garib Rath Express (12518/12517), Dibrugarh–Mumbai LTT Express (15946/15945), New Jalpaiguri–Patna Vande Bharat Express (22233/22234) and New Jalpaiguri–Guwahati Vande Bharat Express (22227/22228). The enhanced services were introduced in the two New Jalpaiguri based Vande Bharat Express trains on 14th October 2026 in the presence of senior railway officials. On the same day, the Kamakhya–SMVT Bengaluru Express was also equipped with these services from its originating station, Kamakhya. The Guwahati–Kolkata Garib Rath Express and Dibrugarh–Mumbai LTT Express had already commenced operations with enhanced On-Board Services on 10th and 11th October 2026, respectively. The enhanced On-Board Services aim to improve cleanliness, hygiene and passenger comfort through regular coach and AC window cleaning, better washroom maintenance, efficient waste management and timely distribution and collection of linen. Dedicated teams will provide basic technical assistance, monitor water availability and address passenger complaints within a target of two hours, with unresolved issues escalated to the concerned Railway authorities. The initiative also incorporates digital monitoring, geo-tagged service verification, staff tracking and a centralised monitoring mechanism to strengthen accountability and service delivery. Real-time passenger feedback, star ratings and AI-based cleaning assessments will further facilitate performance evaluation and ensure continuous improvement in service quality and the overall passenger experience. Through this initiative, Northeast Frontier Railway aims to further improve on-board cleanliness, maintain higher hygiene standards and enhance passenger satisfaction. By integrating technology-driven housekeeping, digital monitoring and prompt grievance redressal, NFR is committed to providing passengers with a cleaner, more comfortable and improved travel experience.

Healthcare Services in Barkot CHC Hit by Shortage of Physician and Nursing Staff

Only three nursing officers available against eight; absence of specialists and delayed appointments raise concerns over treatment of local residents and Yamunotri pilgrims

BY SUNIL THAPLIYAL



Barkot (Uttarakhand), Uttarakhand: Healthcare services at the Community Health Centre (CHC) in Barkot, a major stopover on the Yamunotri pilgrimage route, are facing serious challenges due to a shortage of specialist doctors and nursing officers. Despite concerns being raised with the authorities, local residents say the staff shortage and absence of specialists have yet to be addressed. Barkot holds strategic importance during the Yamunotri pilgrimage season, when the CHC caters to local residents as well as a large number of pilgrims and visitors. Adequate medical staff and specialist services are essential to ensure timely treatment, particularly for patients requiring urgent medical attention. However, the absence of a physician and the shortage of nursing personnel have placed additional pressure on the hospital's functioning.

Only Three Nursing Officers Against Eight

The CHC has eight nursing officer positions, but only three nursing officers are currently available. All three are also required to provide round-the-clock healthcare services along the pilgrimage route. Nursing officers transferred from the hospital have not been replaced, further affecting routine medical services. According to local residents, the hospital previously had better availability of doctors and healthcare personnel during the pilgrimage season. However, over the past two months, the absence of specialist doctors and the shortage of nursing staff have reportedly disrupted its functioning.

Specialist Doctors Yet to Report for Duty

The social awareness group "Jai Ho" has expressed concern over the situation, stating that specialist doctors appointed at the directorate level have not reported to the hospital since the monsoon. The absence of a physician is particularly worrying for patients suffering from serious and routine medical conditions. Residents say patients may have to travel to other locations for treatment, resulting in additional expenditure, inconvenience and delays in accessing medical care. The situation is also a concern for pilgrims travelling to Yamunotri, who depend on healthcare facilities along the route.

The group and local residents have urged the Health Department to ensure the regular presence of specialist doctors and fill vacant nursing positions without further delay.

CMO Approached for Nursing Staff Deployment

Confirming the shortage, CHC In-charge Medical Officer Dr Angad Rana said no specialist doctor had reported to the hospital since the monsoon. He stated that a letter seeking the deployment of nursing officers had been sent to the Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Uttarkashi. Dr Rana expressed hope that the nursing staff would be deployed soon. Local residents have appealed to the Health Minister and senior officials to intervene and ensure the availability of specialist doctors and adequate nursing personnel at the CHC. They stressed that timely action is necessary to provide reliable healthcare to Barkot residents and pilgrims visiting the Yamunotri shrine.

Durga Puja Celebrated in a Devotional Atmosphere at BLW

General Manager Shri Ashutosh Pant Performs Aarti to Goddess Durga and Prays for Happiness and Prosperity
A Blend of Faith, Devotion and Cultural Enthusiasm at the Celebration Organised by Krishti Parishad

VARANASI



The Durga Puja celebration organised by Krishti Parishad at the Community Hall in the Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) premises witnessed a beautiful blend of faith, devotion and enthusiasm. On the occasion, BLW General Manager Shri Ashutosh Pant participated in the and performed the traditional aarti of Goddess Durga, praying for the happiness, prosperity, well-being, continued progress and bright future of the BLW family. The beautifully decorated place of worship, featuring an attractive idol of Goddess Durga, resonated with Vedic chants and devotional fervour during the rituals, prayers and aarti. General Manager Shri Ashutosh Pant paid his respects to Goddess Durga with deep devotion and prayed for happiness, peace, prosperity and positive energy in the lives of all railway employees and their families. The officers and other members present at the also participated in the prayers with devotion. On the occasion, General Manager Shri Ashutosh Pant inaugurated the grand cultural programme organised as part of the celebration by lighting the ceremonial lamp. The cultural programme further enhanced the dignity and festive spirit of the occasion. The Durga Puja celebration offered a beautiful glimpse of Indian culture, traditional faith and social harmony. Such events bring together people from diverse linguistic, traditional and cultural backgrounds, strengthening mutual goodwill, cooperation and the spirit of collective participation. The celebration organised by Krishti Parishad stood as a symbol of BLW's rich cultural traditions and community unity. Through the religious rituals and cultural activities, those present experienced an atmosphere filled with devotion, festive joy and mutual harmony. Among those present on the occasion were Public Relations Officer Shri Rajesh Kumar, Private Secretary, Principal Chief Electrical Engineer Shri Arun Shah, Shri Anupam Chaudhary, Data Processing Manager Shri Amit Sikdar, Shri Udayan Chatterjee and Shri Sudip Chakraborty, along with other distinguished guests.

MP: 15 dead as truck hits devotees; Google Maps shortcut may have led it into restricted zone

GWALIOR/BHOPAL: (Oct 18) Fifteen persons were killed and more than 25 injured when a speeding truck ploughed into devotees outside a temple in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior district early Sunday, with police suspecting the driver was following a Google Maps shortcut.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief and announced financial assistance for the victims' families, while Chief Minister Mohan Yadav ordered a probe and action against nine police personnel for alleged negligence.

The paddy-laden truck, bearing a Punjab registration number, entered a no-entry zone on Chinar Road at around 1.30 am, "came like a storm" and hit devotees waiting for darshan and roadside shops before crashing into the entrance gate of the 125-year-old Sheetla Mata temple, police and eyewitnesses said.

Vice President Vance unsure about 2028 White House bid

WASHINGTON



US Vice President J.D. Vance has hinted that he may not run for President in 2028, citing family considerations and his wife Usha Vance's reservations about politics, even as he remains widely viewed as a leading contender for the Republican presidential nomination.

Speaking at a CBS News town hall in Flat Rock, Michigan, Vance said he had not made a decision about seeking the White House after President Donald Trump's second term and would consider his political future only after the November midterm elections.

Asked directly whether there was a possibility that he would not run for President in 2028, Vance replied: "Of course there's a chance."

He pointed to the demands of raising four young children and the preferences of his wife, Usha, whose parents immigrated to the United States from South India.

"Yeah, man, we've got four little kids. My wife has never loved politics. She loves public service," Vance said.

The remarks offered a rare public acknowledgement of the personal considerations that could influence one of the most consequential decisions in Republican politics.

Vance, who was elected to the US Senate from Ohio in 2022 before becoming Trump's running mate in 2024, has emerged as a prominent figure in the Republican Party.

His political future has attracted attention because Trump cannot seek another consecutive presidential term under the constitutional two-term limit.

But Vance resisted suggestions that his current position made a presidential campaign inevitable. He said people frequently asked about his plans and appeared to assume that he would automatically enter the race.

"The way that I think about life, big life decisions, my wife will tell you this, is I'm a procrastinator. I hate thinking about it," he said.

Vance made clear that his immediate political priority was helping Republicans retain control of Congress in the November elections.

He said he would turn his attention to the presidential question after the midterms, rather than allowing speculation about 2028 to distract from the current campaign.

"But, you know, anything could happen, man. Anyway," he said. CBS News moderator Tony Dokoupil pressed Vance on whether he and his wife had already begun discussing their future, suggesting that such a major decision would naturally be part of family conversations.

Vance rejected that suggestion

"Real, we're really not, though. We're really not. It's, it's what, whenever it comes up, it's always, let's figure it out after the midterms," he said.

The exchange came during a wide-ranging discussion covering the economy, immigration, the Iran war, technology, and the political challenges confronting the Trump administration. Vance repeatedly returned to the approaching midterm elections and urged Michigan voters to support Republican Senate candidate Mike Rogers.

The Michigan contest between Rogers and Democrat Abdul El-Sayed is among the closely watched races that could determine which party controls the Senate.

Vance praised Rogers as a candidate of character and argued that personal integrity was essential for effective public service.

The Vice President's comments also drew attention to Usha Vance, the daughter of Indian immigrants, who has become a prominent figure in American public life since her husband's election to the vice presidency. Her family's Indian roots have generated considerable interest in India and among Indian-Americans.

Vance rose to national prominence through his memoir "Hillbilly Elegy" before entering electoral politics. His rapid transition from first-term senator to vice president has placed him at the centre of discussions about the Republican Party's future leadership, although he has not announced a presidential campaign.

Trump defends Russia sanctions waiver

WASHINGTON



US President Donald Trump defended his decision to suspend sweeping new sanctions and tariffs targeting Russia and major buyers of Russian energy, saying he did not want to undermine negotiations aimed at ending the war in Ukraine.

The President's latest explanation came two days after he signed an executive order waiving major provisions of the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026, including additional tariffs that could have affected India because of its purchases of Russian oil.

Trump said his administration was making progress towards a negotiated settlement and suggested that imposing fresh economic penalties at this stage could push Moscow away from the negotiating table. "I am in the process of negotiating Peace in the war between Russia and Ukraine, and don't want to do anything that will drive, foolishly, Russia away from the bargaining table," Trump wrote on Truth Social. The President also linked his decision to developments involving Iran and global energy markets.

He argued that Russia was providing less assistance to Iran than it potentially could and said he wanted to preserve that situation. He also criticised Ukrainian attacks on Russian diesel refineries, arguing that disruptions to fuel supplies were affecting consumers and businesses internationally.

Under the executive order signed on Friday, the administration formally provided for tariffs of 500 per cent on certain Russian goods and 100 per cent on goods from the five largest importers of Russian crude oil and natural gas, subject to statutory conditions.

However, the same order waived the application of those additional duties and most of the new sanctions provisions.

The waiver does not remove existing US sanctions imposed under earlier executive orders against Russia.

For India, the decision is significant because the legislation could expose major purchasers of Russian energy to additional US tariffs. The waiver means those new duties are not being applied under the order at present.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on Saturday that the administration needed time to assess the wider economic consequences of imposing the sanctions and tariffs.

Rubio specifically identified India among the countries that could be affected by the legislation. He indicated that Trump wanted to use a period of up to 60 days to consider the implications for the global economy and the United States before determining the next course of action.

It provides that the waivers will remain effective until the President or the Secretary of State, following the required consultations, determines that further action is appropriate.

MoS Margherita, New Zealand Minister discuss ways to strengthen ties

AUCKLAND

Union Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita met New Zealand's Minister of Police Mark Mitchell in Auckland on Sunday, with discussions held on issues of mutual importance and ways to strengthen bilateral ties.

The discussions between Margherita and Mitchell were held during a business event organised by the India New Zealand Business Council (INZBC) in Auckland.

Following the meeting, MoS Margherita on X wrote: "Happy to meet New Zealand Minister Hon. Mark Mitchell at a business event organised by the India New Zealand Business Council during my visit to Auckland. Glad to exchange views on issues of mutual importance and explore avenues to strengthen India-New Zealand ties."

During the business interaction, Margherita highlighted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 5F formula - Farm to Fibre, Fibre to Factory, Factory to Fashion, and Fashion to Foreign, a vision to strengthen India's textile value chain and increase global market opportunities.

In a post on X, he said: "Participated in a business interaction organised by India New Zealand Business Council in Auckland, bringing together leaders from the textile and fashion sectors to explore opportunities for India-New Zealand collaboration. Highlighted Hon'ble PM Narendra Modi's 5F Formula: Farm to Fibre, Fibre to Factory, Factory to Fashion, and Fashion to Foreign, a vision to strengthen India's textile value chain and expand global market opportunities".

Grand Mata Bhagwati Jagran in Barkot Draws Devotees with Mesmerising Religious Tableau

- **Siyaram, Hanuman, Kali Mata, Navdurga and Radha-Krishna tableaux captivate devotees; devotional songs keep the audience enthralled throughout the night**

SUNIL THAPLIYAL
Barkot (Uttarkashi)



A grand night-long Jagran dedicated to Mata Bhagwati was organised by the Yuva Vyapar Mandal, Barkot, with devotion, faith and enthusiasm. Mesmerising tableaux depicting various Hindu deities captivated devotees, while devotional songs and chants of "Jai Mata Di" filled the town with a spiritual atmosphere. A large number of women, men and young people participated in the religious programme and sought the blessings of the Goddess.

The Jagran was formally inaugurated by Yamunotri MLA Sanjay Dobhal, who lit the ceremonial lamp before Mata Bhagwati. Congratulating the organisers, he praised the young traders for continuing the Navratri worship and night-long Jagran for nine consecutive years.Dobhal said that engaging the younger generation in positive and meaningful activities was important in the present times. He added that religious and cultural programmes play a significant role in preserving traditions, faith and local culture. The committee members felicitated the chief guest with a memento.

Religious Tableaux Become the Main Attraction

The Jagran featured colourful and captivating tableaux of Siyaram and Lord Hanuman, Kali Mata, various forms of Navdurga, and Radha-Krishna. The performances generated considerable excitement among devotees and added grandeur to the religious gathering. Singers Saurabh Maithani, Sattu Veera and Nipun Sarang enthralled the audience with devotional performances in Garhwali, Punjabi and Hindi. Their songs dedicated to Mata Bhagwati and other deities kept devotees immersed in devotion throughout the night. Many worshippers danced and sang along as the programme continued late into the night.

Community Feast Held on Sunday

A community feast was organised by the committee from Sunday morning until the afternoon, during which devotees were served prasad. The event also promoted collective participation, social harmony and community bonding alongside religious devotion.

District Vyapar Mandal President Kabul Singh Panwar, General Secretary Surendra Rawat, Media Coordinator Nitin Chauhan, Town Vyapar Mandal President Dhanveer Rawat, Gram Pradhan Rohit Rawat, Sanjay Agrawal, Swarn Lal Damir, Shyamlal Agrawal, Brijmohan Agrawal, members of the organising committee and hundreds of devotees attended the programme.

The Jagran Committee of the Yuva Vyapar Mandal received appreciation from devotees for organising the religious event and keeping the spirit of Navratri alive in Barkot.

Egypt's National Defense Council decides to support Saudi security

CAIRO



Egypt's National Defence Council decided on Sunday, during a meeting chaired by President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, to provide Saudi Arabia with "all necessary and possible" forms of support to defend the kingdom's security and stability, the Egyptian presidency said, amid continued attacks by Yemen's Houthi group against Saudi Arabia.

The council pledged to help safeguard the kingdom's resources, territorial integrity and Islamic holy sites, according to the presidency's statement. Meanwhile, it decided to continue and intensify political and diplomatic efforts, in coordination with relevant regional and international parties, to contribute to "de-escalating tensions across the entire region and achieving peaceful resolutions to ongoing regional crises."

The council said Saudi national security is closely linked to Egyptian and Arab national security, adding that the "escalating" attacks against the Kingdom were unacceptable, Xinhua News Agency reported.

The meeting was attended by senior officials, including the parliament speaker, prime minister, defense minister, foreign minister, interior minister, intelligence chief and senior military commanders.

On Saturday, Sisi said Egypt was prepared to take "any measures" requested by Saudi Arabia to defend the kingdom's security and sovereignty, but stressed that such action "requires parliamentary approval."

He called for an emergency parliamentary session to authorize intervention if requested, while stressing that he was speaking "strictly in terms of defense" rather than waging war. His remarks came amid escalating hostilities between the Houthis and Saudi Arabia, with both sides exchanging strikes in recent days.

Fierce fighting erupted near Yemen's strategic Bab al-Mandeb Strait on Sunday as government forces launched a fresh offensive against Houthi positions in the area, a government military official told Xinhua.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said units from the Giants Brigades and Nation Shield Forces advanced from several directions to seize key Houthi-held positions overlooking approaches to the strait.

Heavy clashes were raging as Houthi fighters resisted the advance from fortified positions and trenches, the official said, adding that extensive minefields had complicated the government forces' push.

South Korea: Heavy downpours flood Seoul streets, cause damage

SEOUL

Heavy downpours accompanied by strong gusts battered Seoul on Sunday, causing urban flooding and safety hazards across South Korea's capital city. According to municipal officials, localised torrential rain inundated parts of the city, as fallen leaves swept by gale-force winds clogged drainage systems.

Gangbuk Ward in the northern part of the city recorded a peak hourly rainfall of 53.5 millimetres, the highest hourly intensity nationwide during the storm, Yonhap News Agency reported.

By 5:00 pm (local time), Seoul fire authorities had received 129 emergency calls -- 47 calls for drainage assistance, 21 instances of fallen trees and 60 safety inspection requests for public facilities.

Seoul issued an emergency alert via text at 3:16 pm (local time), urging its residents to stay away from low-lying and high-risk areas amid heavy rainfall in blustery conditions.

While heavy rain advisories covering the northeastern, northwestern, and southwestern districts were lifted at 3:30 pm (local time), scattered showers persisted throughout the afternoon. Cumulative rainfall as of 5:00 pm peaked at 65 mm in Gangbuk Ward, with the southern Songpa District recording a city-low of 20 mm. Rising water levels forced city officials to restrict access to 16 major urban streams.

Traffic was also disrupted across key corridors. Roads beneath the Jeungsan Bridge in Seodaemun Ward were completely blocked around 3:04 pm due to flooding. Weather warnings were also issued for major highways, urging drivers to exercise caution on wet roads and against high winds.

A tree fell onto a busy road in Gangnam Ward in southern Seoul, obstructing traffic and pedestrians. Water levels in Eunpyeong Ward in northwestern Seoul reached above the knees in some low-lying areas. Some shop owners were seen manually clearing piles of fallen leaves blocking catch basins to expedite drainage.

India's emerging peace initiative on Ukraine conflict reflects shift from diplomatic advocacy to interest-driven engagement: Report



NEW DELHI

India's emerging peace initiative on the Russia-Ukraine conflict demonstrates a calibrated shift from diplomatic advocacy to more targeted, interest-driven engagement, according to a report.

"Rather than attempting to broker a comprehensive political settlement to a war that has repeatedly defied diplomatic intervention, New Delhi appears to be pursuing a more attainable objective: limiting the conflict's disruptive consequences for energy security, food supplies, and maritime commerce. Conveyed during External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's visit to Kyiv in September, the proposal has reportedly been described by Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha as the 'most comprehensive' among four international initiatives, alongside those advanced by Turkey, Egypt, and the US," former diplomat Harsh V. Pant wrote in the report in weekly current affairs and features magazine Open.

The proposal presented by India is based on three interconnected pillars - a mutual halt in attacks on energy facilities and other infrastructure, the uninterrupted movement of energy supplies and grain through the Black Sea ports, and cessation of attacks on commercial shipping in the Black Sea. Taken together, these measures showcase an attempt to find areas of limited convergence between Russia and Ukraine, where none of the two nations is required to make immediate concessions regarding the fundamental political and territorial questions underpinning the conflict.

India is not presenting a diplomatic formula to end the conflict but wants to establish a measure of predictability in sectors where the costs of continued hostilities affect beyond the immediate belligerents. Energy flows, food security and the safety of seafarers form practical points of engagement around which a limited understanding might be created. Reports of Russia and Ukraine's acknowledgements of India's efforts, along with Russian President Vladimir Putin appreciating Prime Minister Narendra Modi's proposals and the Kremlin's praise for New Delhi's readiness to contribute, indicate that India retains diplomatic space with both sides. Since the start of the conflict, India has called for dialogue and diplomacy to resolve the war. PM Modi's statement, "this is not an era of war", during his meeting with President Putin in Uzbekistan's Samarkand in 2022 showcases India's effort to preserve strategic autonomy while signalling its preference for a negotiated outcome.

"India's more recent engagement suggests an effort to move beyond advocacy towards selective problem-solving. Jaishankar's reported conversations with both Moscow and Kyiv on Black Sea shipping, grain and energy exports, and the possibility of reciprocal non-attack arrangements point to a more operational understanding of what Indian diplomacy might realistically achieve," Pant wrote in the report.

India, however, is not taking up the role of a formal mediator. By offering practical assistance instead of mediation, India is trying to preserve diplomatic flexibility and keep its ambitions proportionate to its capabilities, according to the report.

Last month, EAM Jaishankar was on an official visit to Kyiv, where he met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and Foreign Minister Sybiha. During his meeting with his counterpart, EAM Jaishankar reiterated India's stance that the conflict cannot be resolved on the battlefield and that solutions require dialogue and diplomacy. Sybiha briefed EAM Jaishankar on the recent developments in the ongoing conflict and peace negotiations.

Earn Rs 80,000 a month? You are in India's top 10%

Earning Rs 80,000 a month could place an Indian among the country's top 10%. The threshold highlights low living standards despite India's rapid reduction in extreme poverty.

In India, earning Rs 80,000 a month could put you among the top 10% of earners. A comparison with fresh data from the World Bank's 2026 Poverty and Inequality Platform shows in some of the world's top economies, even the poorest 10% live on much more. There is no denying the significant progress India has made in reducing extreme poverty over the past decade.

The Rs 80,000 figure was drawn from the Economic Survey of India. When taken in context of the fresh numbers released through the World Bank's 2026 Poverty and Inequality Platform, it shows how sharply living standards diverge between India and the world's richest nations, even as India has recorded one of the fastest reductions in extreme poverty anywhere in the world over the past decade.

A person who just crosses into India's top 10% of consumers gets by on roughly $10 (Rs 951) a day in 2021 purchasing-power terms. In the United States, Canada, Germany and Australia, the poorest 10% already live on $25 (Rs 2,377) to $31 (Rs 2,948) a day. The situation brings to mind Paul Simon's song — One Man's Ceiling Is Another Man's Floor.

Chief economist at Bank of Baroda, Madan Sabnavis, said the comparison is valid, but has its limitations.

This is because the same amount of money can buy different quantities of goods and services in different countries, making direct comparisons of income alone an imperfect measure of living standards.

"A McDonald's burger costs around $5, or Rs 500, in the US, while in India, it costs Rs 150-200. So, a relatively well-off person may still have money left after buying a burger, while a poorer person may have nothing left. The weaker rupee also means that goods are often priced lower in India than in the US. Comparisons between countries run into such issues," Madan Sabnavis said.

At the other end of the scale, India's poorest decile starts at about $3 (Rs 285) per person per day.

However, it is important to note that these figures do not diminish the scale of India's recent progress. Extreme poverty, measured at the $3-a-day line, fell from 27.1% in 2011–12 to 2.6% in 2023–24. Poverty at the lower-middle-income threshold of $4.2 (Rs 400) a day dropped from 57.7% to 16.1% over the same period, moving nearly 500 million people above that line. Yet, 23.3 crore Indians still live below it. The World Bank noted that changes in survey methods, including the shift to a Modified Mixed Reference Period (MMRP) that captures household spending more accurately, affect direct comparisons across years. The institution has revised historical estimates to improve consistency, but the decline cannot be explained by methodology alone.

THE MODEST PRICE OF ENTRY INTO INDIA'S TOP TIER

The Rs 80,000 monthly income that marks the top 10% of Indian earners is not a large sum when set against global benchmarks. Converted into daily consumption terms, it aligns with the $10 (Rs 951) threshold that the World Bank's platform identifies as the lower boundary of India's richest decile. In the United States of America, the corresponding threshold for the top 10% rises to $173 (Rs 16,454) a day; in Canada and Australia it stands at $129 (Rs 12,269), and in Germany at $128 (Rs 12,174).



Even those who rank among India's better-off households therefore experience living standards that remain well below those of the least affluent residents of high-income countries.

This gap highlights how low income levels remain across all sections of Indian society. The challenge is therefore to lift the entire income distribution rather than only compress the gap between the top and bottom within India. According to the latest data by the World Bank, consumption inequality has actually narrowed in recent years. The Gini coefficient, which is a standard measure of inequality that ranges from 0 for perfect equality to 100 for perfect inequality, fell from 28.8 in 2011–12 to 25.5 in 2022–23 when calculated on consumption data. The World Bank's latest Poverty and Equity Brief for India puts the Gini index at 23. But income and wealth data tell a different story altogether. According to the World Inequality Report, the top 10% of Indians receive about 58% of national income and hold 65% of national wealth, while the bottom half of the population receives only 15% of income. In 2023, people among the top 10% of earners made about 13 times as much as those in the bottom 10%.

EMPLOYMENT HAS EXPANDED, BUT REAL EARNINGS SHOW LITTLE IMPROVEMENT

Employment is another important factor, having expanded significantly in recent years. Between 2017 and 2023, an estimated 134 million additional people found work, nearly twice the growth of the working-age population, with a substantial contribution from rural women entering paid employment. Labour-force participation and overall employment rates have remained broadly stable in recent quarters. However, real earnings have shown little improvement, and much of the job growth has occurred in lower-productivity activities. Youth unemployment edged up from 14.6% to 15.9% between the first quarter of FY2026 and the first quarter of FY2027, particularly among rural young women. These patterns suggest that while more people are working, the quality and productivity of those jobs have not risen fast enough to push average incomes higher.

WHY PRODUCTIVITY, NOT JUST REDISTRIBUTION, WILL DETERMINE THE NEXT PHASE

India's poverty reduction has been driven by strong consumption growth, rising employment and expanded social transfers, including food subsidies. India has made progress in improving people's access to basic needs such as healthcare, education and sanitation. Poverty in India, according to the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative's measure, which looks beyond income to these factors, fell from 53.8% in 2005–06 to 16.4% in 2019–21. The World Bank's own measure put multidimensional poverty at 15.5% in 2022–23. Rural areas have seen faster progress than cities, narrowing the gap between the two. However, most people who remain poor still live in villages, where well-paying jobs outside farming are harder to find. Poverty has also become geographically concentrated — a contiguous belt of states from Uttar Pradesh to West Bengal accounts for about 57% of India's poor population. Further national gains will therefore depend heavily on generating productive employment in these regions. The deeper constraint is the structure of growth itself. Modern services such as information technology have expanded at nearly 13% a year since 2000, yet labour-intensive manufacturing sectors such as apparel and textiles still account for less than 20% of the formal manufacturing value. This imbalance leaves millions of workers unable to move from low-productivity agriculture into better-paid formal jobs. Real GDP grew 7.8% in the first quarter of FY2026–27, but sustaining that pace for the next two decades will be necessary if India is to reach high-income status by 2047. The World Bank estimates that average annual real growth of 7.8% would be required to nearly triple per-capita gross national income to around $20,000. Economists Montek Singh Ahluwalia and Surjit Bhalla also recently said that achieving the Viksit Bharat 2047 developed-country goal would require India to sustain much faster growth over the coming decades, not just post strong quarterly numbers. Higher productivity — the ability to produce more with the same land, labour and capital — is the only durable route to higher wages and rising household incomes across the board. The World Bank's latest data therefore deliver two simultaneous messages. First, India has achieved a historically rapid reduction in poverty that has improved the lives of hundreds of millions. Second, the absolute level of income remains low by international standards, so that even the country's relatively affluent households live more modestly than the poorest citizens of rich nations.

India-EFTA trade pact opens new opportunities for Norwegian investment across key sectors

NEW DELHI, OCT 18



India's strong economic growth trajectory and the implementation of the India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) are creating significant opportunities for Norwegian investors, particularly in manufacturing, renewable energy, infrastructure, financial services and the digital economy, according to industry insights. With GDP growth projected to remain around 6.5 per cent annually through 2030, India is widely expected to become the world's third-largest economy by the end of the decade, according to EY India report. Analysts attribute this outlook to strong domestic consumption, rising investments, ongoing infrastructure development and reforms aimed at improving the ease of doing business. The India-EFTA TEPA, which came into effect in October 2025, is being viewed as a major milestone in India-Norway economic relations. The agreement seeks to promote trade liberalisation, facilitate investment flows and deepen cooperation in areas such as innovation, sustainability and advanced technologies. The pact includes investment commitments of $100 billion over 15 years and is expected to support the creation of one million direct jobs in India, aligning with the country's broader goals of expanding manufacturing capacity and strengthening its position in global value chains. Industry experts believe the agreement creates a strong framework for Norwegian companies to expand their presence in India by combining Norway's expertise in technology, sustainability and capital-intensive industries with India's large market and growth ambitions. Several sectors have been identified as priority areas for collaboration, including manufacturing, renewable energy, oil and gas, maritime services, seafood processing, information and communication technology (ICT), fintech and financial services. These industries are expected to benefit from increasing bilateral cooperation under the TEPA framework. The rapid expansion of India's digital economy and digital payments ecosystem is also creating opportunities for Norwegian companies seeking exposure to one of the world's largest and fastest-growing consumer markets. At the same time, India's policy measures aimed at attracting foreign investment are expected to provide a supportive environment for long-term investors, as per the report.

Pakistan's 'historic milestone' claim gets a reality check from ex-IMF director

Pakistan's Economic Affairs Minister Ahad Khan Cheema was on Friday named incoming chair at the IMF-World Bank Annual Plenary in 2027 in Bangkok. Pakistan last held the role in 1953.



Pakistan's appointment to chair the IMF and World Bank Boards of Governors in 2027 is "protocol, not power", India's former IMF executive director Krishnamurthy Subramanian said on Sunday, countering Islamabad's description of it as a "historic milestone". He said the chair rotates annually and is purely ceremonial. "Pakistan will chair the IMF-World Bank Annual Plenary in 2027. This chair is purely ceremonial & rotates annually: Paraguay this year, Cabo Verde in 2025. It's protocol, not power," he wrote on X. Pakistan's Economic Affairs Minister Ahad Khan Cheema was named incoming chair at the annual meetings in Bangkok, its ministry said on Friday. Pakistan last held the role in 1953. The ministry called the appointment a "historic milestone", saying it would allow the country to contribute to global economic discussions and facilitate dialogue among members. The role involves presiding over proceedings attended by finance ministers and central bank governors. It gives Pakistan no control over lending decisions. Subramanian, who served as the IMF executive director for India between November 2022 and May 2025, also rejected comparisons with India's G20 and BRICS presidencies, calling them a "false equivalence". He said that India's G20 presidency helped set the agenda for a major forum of global economic cooperation, while its BRICS presidency steered an emerging-economies platform. "Pakistan's role is to preside over an annual meeting," he argued. Meanwhile, Pakistan is awaiting IMF Executive Board approval for about $1.2 billion after a staff-level agreement on reviews of two loan programmes. It is borrowing under a $7 billion Extended Fund Facility to meet external payment needs and support economic reforms. A separate $1.4 billion Resilience and Sustainability Facility provides longer-term financing to address climate-related risks. The chair gives Pakistan a diplomatic platform as it continues to seek financial support from the IMF.

Medicover Hospitals Marks World Osteoporosis Day with 4-km Walkathon to Promote Bone Health





HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 18, 2026

Medicover Hospitals, Financial District, Hyderabad, organised a 4-kilometre walkathon to mark World Osteoporosis Day, with the aim of raising awareness about bone health, physical fitness, and the prevention of osteoporosis. As part of the occasion, the hospital also inaugurated the Centre for Orthopedic and Restorative Excellence, a specialised centre dedicated to providing advanced orthopaedic care and improved treatment for patients with bone and joint disorders. The event witnessed the participation of prominent doctors from Medicover Hospitals, including Dr. A. Sharath Reddy, Senior Consultant Interventional Cardiologist; Dr. Mano Tej Dandupati, Senior Consultant Robotic Joint Replacement Surgeon; and Dr. Swami Swaroop Attelli, Centre Head, Medicover Hospitals, Financial District. The walkathon highlighted the importance of adopting a healthy lifestyle, engaging in regular physical activity, and maintaining strong and healthy bones. Through this initiative, Medicover Hospitals emphasised the importance of preventive care and encouraged people to take appropriate measures to reduce the risk of osteoporosis. The programme also highlighted the need to prioritise bone health from an early age to support long-term mobility and overall well-being.

India's imports of Russian crude dip in Sep amid price rise

NEW DELHI, OCT 18



India's imports of Russian crude declined 13 per cent in September, the second consecutive monthly decline and the lowest since April amid rising prices due to the escalating Middle East conflict which has choked the Red Sea trade route apart from the Strait of Hormuz, according to a report Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). Imports at the Reliance-run Jamnagar refinery fell by 27 per cent, Indian Oil Corporation's (IOC) Paradip by 21 per cent and Nayara Energy's Vadinar by 8 per cent. India was Russia's second-largest fossil fuel buyer in September, importing 4.1 billion euros worth of Russian hydrocarbons, 88 per cent of it crude. Only China bought more. Since December 2022, India has taken 37 per cent of Russia's crude exports, against China's 50 per cent, according to the CREA report. Meanwhile, in a major relief for India and China, US President Donald Trump issued an executive order on Friday to waive many sanctions and tariffs tied to Russian oil exports, a day before they were set to take effect under a bill he signed last month. Trump said the waiver has been sanctioned in the USA's "national interest." This will enable the two countries to continue imports of Russian oil at current levels. In September 2026, the average price of Russia's Urals-grade crude rose by 32 per cent month-on-month to USD 90.7 per barrel, the highest monthly average since April 2026 and more than double the EU and UK price cap of USD 44.1 per barrel, which took effect on 1 February 2026 and has been capped at the same level under the EU's 21st sanctions package, according to a CREA report. Global fossil fuel prices remained high in September despite a more than 60 per cent month-on-month increase in the volume of oil transported through the Strait of Hormuz, based on detected vessel crossings. These volumes remained well below levels recorded before the US and Israeli strikes on Iran. The Hormuz energy crisis has delivered a substantial boost to Russia's fossil fuel export earnings. CREA's recent analysis estimates that, in the six months since the US–Israel strikes on Iran began, higher oil and gas prices have increased Russia's seaborne export revenues by an estimated USD 35.9 bn (equivalent to EUR 31 bn). Russia's fossil fuel exports remain highly concentrated, with China dominating purchases of coal and crude oil, Turkiye leading purchases of oil products, and the EU remaining the largest buyer of LNG and pipeline gas — showing Moscow's dependence on a narrow set of key customers, the CREA report added.

Gold, silver may face choppy week as West Asia tensions, oil surge weigh on sentiment: Analysts

NEW DELHI: (OCT 18)

Gold and silver are heading for another turbulent week, with escalating tensions in West Asia, crude oil prices hovering near USD 110 per barrel and rupee movements set to shape bullion sentiment, analysts said. Investors will initially track Chinese economic data, crucial for industrial metals and silver, followed by US housing data, consumer sentiment, inflation expectations and PMI readings from major economies, including India, the UK and the US, they added. Commodity markets will remain closed during the morning session on Tuesday on account of Dussehra.



Building Apps, Managing Data

Careers Shaping the Digital Future

From ordering food and booking train tickets to transferring money and attending online classes, mobile applications have become an essential part of modern life. Millions of people depend on mobile apps every day to communicate, shop, learn, work and manage their finances. Behind these convenient digital experiences are technology professionals who design applications, develop their features, manage information and ensure that systems function smoothly.

Two important roles in this digital ecosystem are the mobile app developer and the database administrator. Although their responsibilities are different, both contribute to building reliable, secure and efficient digital services. Mobile app developers create the interfaces and functions that users interact with, while database administrators ensure that the information required by these applications is stored, protected and available whenever needed.

As businesses increasingly depend on digital platforms, the demand for professionals who can develop applications and manage databases continues to create opportunities for students, graduates and experienced technology workers. Understanding these careers, their responsibilities, required skills and future prospects can help aspiring professionals make informed decisions about their career paths.

Mobile App Development: Turning Ideas into Digital Products

A mobile app developer is a technology professional who designs, develops, tests and maintains applications for smartphones and tablets. These applications may serve different purposes, including banking, healthcare, education, entertainment, transportation, communication and online shopping. The work of a mobile app developer begins with understanding what users need. For example, a company planning to launch a food delivery service requires an application that allows customers to browse restaurants, select meals, make payments and track deliveries. The developer converts these requirements into practical features that users can access through their mobile devices. Mobile app development involves more than writing code. Developers must consider the application's appearance, speed, usability, security and compatibility with different devices. An application may contain excellent features, but if it is difficult to navigate or takes too long to load, users may stop using it. Developers therefore work closely with designers, project managers, testers, business analysts and backend engineers. Their collective objective is to create applications that solve real problems while providing a smooth and dependable user experience. The growth of digital payments, online services, smartphones and cloud-based platforms has made mobile app development an important part of the technology industry. Businesses of all sizes increasingly use mobile applications to reach customers, improve productivity and provide services beyond traditional physical locations.

Understanding the Different Types of Mobile Applications

Mobile applications are generally developed for Android, iOS or multiple platforms. Android applications serve users of devices running Google's Android operating system, while iOS applications are designed for Apple's iPhone and other supported Apple platforms. Developers working with Android commonly use Kotlin and Java, with Kotlin widely adopted for modern Android development. Android Studio is a major development environment used to write code, test applications and identify technical problems. For iOS development, Swift is a prominent programming language, while Xcode provides tools for building, testing and distributing applications within Apple's ecosystem. Developers need to understand the design principles, development tools and platform requirements relevant to their chosen operating system. Another approach is cross-platform development, which allows developers to share a substantial portion of the code across different operating systems. Frameworks such as Flutter and React Native are widely used for this purpose. Flutter uses the Dart programming language, while React Native commonly relies on JavaScript or TypeScript and React concepts. Cross-platform development can reduce duplicated work and help businesses release products across platforms more efficiently. However, some applications still require platform-specific code to support advanced hardware features, specialised performance requirements or operating-system integrations. Choosing the appropriate technology depends on the project, the available development team, the budget and the expected user experience. A successful developer understands these differences rather than relying on a single tool for every situation.

Essential Skills Required for a Mobile App Developer

Programming knowledge is the foundation of mobile app development. Developers must understand variables, functions, data structures, object-oriented programming and error handling. They also need to learn how to organise code so that applications remain manageable as features expand. User interface and user experience design are equally important. A mobile application should allow people to complete tasks without unnecessary confusion. Clear navigation, readable text, accessible controls and consistent layouts can significantly improve usability. Developers must also understand application programming interfaces, commonly known as APIs. APIs allow mobile applications to communicate with external services. For example, a shopping application may use an API to retrieve product information, verify a customer's account or submit an order. Testing and debugging are essential parts of the job. Developers must identify problems that cause crashes, incorrect calculations, slow performance or unexpected behaviour. Applications need to be tested across different screen sizes, operating-system versions and network conditions. Security awareness is another important skill. Developers should follow secure authentication practices, protect sensitive information, use encrypted connections and avoid storing confidential data unnecessarily on devices. They must also understand that security is a shared responsibility involving application code, backend services, databases and infrastructure. Beyond technical expertise, communication, teamwork and problem-solving help developers succeed. Technology changes rapidly, so continuous learning is necessary to remain effective throughout a career.

Database Administration: Managing the Information Behind Applications

While mobile app developers focus on creating the application's functionality, database administrators concentrate on managing the information that makes many of those functions possible. A database administrator, commonly called a DBA, is responsible for maintaining databases so that information remains accurate, secure, accessible and available when required. Databases may contain customer profiles, transaction histories, product catalogues, employee records, hospital appointments, examination results and other important information. Consider a mobile banking application. When a customer checks an account balance, the application must retrieve the appropriate information from a secure backend system. When the customer transfers money, the system must record the transaction correctly and ensure that account balances remain consistent. The database administrator helps maintain the reliability and performance of the database infrastructure supporting these operations. The role may include database installation, configuration, monitoring, backup management, recovery planning, security administration and performance optimisation. A database administrator must understand how information is organised, how applications access it and how to prevent technical failures from disrupting business operations. In organisations where databases support critical services, even a short interruption can affect customers, employees and revenue. Database administration therefore requires careful planning, technical discipline and an understanding of the consequences of data loss or system downtime.

The Different Technologies Used in Database Administration

Database administrators work with different database technologies depending on the organisation's requirements. Relational database management systems, including PostgreSQL, MySQL, Microsoft SQL Server and Oracle Database, are widely used across industries. Relational databases organise information into tables containing rows and columns. Relationships between tables help maintain consistency and reduce unnecessary duplication. SQL, or Structured Query Language, is used to retrieve, insert, update and manage information in these databases. For example, an online shopping platform may maintain separate tables for customers, products, orders and payments. When a customer places an order, the application needs to connect the relevant records while preserving the accuracy of the transaction. Some organisations also use NoSQL databases, such as MongoDB, for applications that benefit from flexible document structures or particular scaling characteristics. Cloud database services are increasingly important as businesses move workloads to platforms such as Amazon Web Services, Microsoft Azure and Google Cloud. The choice of database depends on the type of information, workload, performance requirements, availability needs and security obligations. There is no single database technology that is ideal for every application. Database administrators must understand the strengths and limitations of their chosen systems. They should also learn how to monitor resource consumption, identify slow queries, manage permissions and plan for growth as the volume of data increases. Data is one of the most valuable assets for many modern organisations. Losing important records or exposing confidential information can cause financial damage, legal complications and a loss of customer trust. Database administrators help reduce these risks through access controls, secure configurations, monitoring and recovery planning. They ensure that users and applications receive only the permissions necessary to perform their tasks. Regular backups are particularly important. Hardware failures, software errors, accidental deletions, cyberattacks and operational mistakes can make information unavailable or corrupt stored records. Properly designed backups allow organisations to restore data after an incident. However, creating backups alone is not sufficient. Administrators must verify that backups are usable and periodically test recovery procedures. They also need to determine how much data an organisation can afford to lose and how quickly services must be restored after a failure. These requirements are often expressed through recovery objectives. The recovery point objective defines the acceptable amount of data loss measured in time, while the recovery time objective specifies the target period for restoring a service. For a small internal application, recovery requirements may be relatively flexible.



Career Opportunities and Industry Demand

Mobile app developers can pursue opportunities in software companies, technology startups, financial services, healthcare, retail, education, transportation and digital media. Some work as full-time employees, while others join consulting firms, undertake freelance assignments or build their own products. Career progression may lead from junior developer to software engineer, senior mobile developer, technical lead, mobile architect or engineering manager. Professionals who understand product design, application security and backend integration can expand their responsibilities over time. Database administrators also work across a wide range of industries. Banks, insurance companies, hospitals, e-commerce businesses, government organisations and large enterprises require dependable data management systems. A DBA may progress from a junior database support role to database administrator, senior DBA, database architect, database reliability engineer or cloud database specialist. Some professionals move towards data engineering, infrastructure engineering or platform operations. The expansion of cloud computing has also changed both career paths. Mobile developers increasingly work with cloud-hosted APIs, authentication platforms, analytics tools and managed backend services. Database professionals increasingly manage cloud databases, automated backups, monitoring systems and infrastructure distributed across different locations. Artificial intelligence is influencing these careers as well. Coding assistants can help developers generate routine code and support debugging, while database tools can assist with query analysis and monitoring. Nevertheless, professionals still need to verify results, understand system behaviour and take responsibility for important technical decisions. Employers value candidates who can demonstrate practical ability rather than merely list programming languages or database products on a résumé. Projects, internships, troubleshooting experience and a sound understanding of fundamental concepts can make a meaningful difference.

Developers and Database Administrators Work Together

Mobile app developers and database administrators perform different functions, but their responsibilities frequently overlap when applications depend on stored information. Imagine a hospital developing a mobile application that allows patients to book appointments, view prescriptions and receive test notifications. The mobile app developer creates the screens, booking process and communication features. The backend services connect the application to the hospital's systems, while the database stores the relevant appointment and patient records. The database administrator ensures that information is organised appropriately, access is controlled and database operations remain efficient. The developer ensures that the application sends appropriate requests, handles responses correctly and presents information clearly. If appointment bookings suddenly become slow, both professionals may need to investigate. The developer might examine the application code, network requests and API response times. The database administrator might inspect query execution plans, database connections, indexing and server resources. The problem may also originate in the backend service, network infrastructure or another external dependency. Effective troubleshooting therefore requires cooperation rather than assumptions about which team is responsible. Security also depends on coordination. Developers must not expose database credentials inside mobile applications, because software installed on a user's device can potentially be inspected. Instead, applications generally with authenticated backend services that enforce permissions and interact with databases securely. When both professionals follow sound engineering practices, the result is an application that performs reliably while protecting the information entrusted to it.

'Bowling unit really came together': Mandhana credits bowlers after 2nd T20I win



RAIPUR

India's new captain Smriti Mandhana credited her bowlers for having "come together" during the second T20I against Zimbabwe at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium here on Sunday.

The Indian bowlers hunted in a pack as they kept the visitors to 102/8, with Niki Prasad picking up 2-7 in her two overs. Pacers Kranti Gaud and Nandni Sharma and spinners Deepti Sharma and Sree Charani also picked up a wicket each as the Indian bowlers put up an improved performance from the previous match, where the visitors had made 114/5 in their 20 overs.

Speaking after the nine-wicket win in the series-sealing second ODI, Mandhana credited the bowlers for their performance. "Well, it was a good one today. I felt the bowlers were really on the mark today, much better than the first match. They were executing their yorkers, slower ones, bouncers really well. Then spinners, of course, Deepti, Shree, Niki coming in and bowling those two overs.

"So overall I feel like, yeah, the bowling unit really came together today. Of course, we could have gotten better with the catching today. That's something which we can be critical about," Mandhana said in the post-match presentation.

India also made a tactical adjustment with the ball as they went fuller in the second game, and it reaped rewards as India kept a lid on the visitors. Yeah, as we discussed in the last match, that unknown - of course, we had seen a few batters from the Zimbabwe team, but again today we had much better plans in a way because we knew how they batted in the first game (bowling fuller balls). "So yeah, we had a lot of good plans, but you know you can plan as much as you can, but bowlers have to come and execute, and today I felt they were really on the mark," she added.

The skipper, who began her full-time captaincy era with a series win, also reflected on the stellar opening partnership of 96 with vice-captain Shafali Verma that killed the chase.

Zimbabwe captain Josephine Nkomo had called the Indian chase a masterclass. Mandhana praised Shafali for her 55 from 25 balls while adding that she also made the most of the chances she got during her unbeaten 47 from 25 balls.

"Well, Shafali was doing her thing in the powerplay; the way she was just whacking, I was really happy to give her a single. And whenever my chances came, I took those on. But yeah, I mean, that's the brand of cricket we would love playing, and we'll keep continuing to do that," she concluded.

BTR Marathon: A Celebration Beyond Running

Steps Toward Health, Bridges of Friendship, and Renewed Bonds Between Generations

HYDERABAD



All it takes to bring people together is a sense of warmth that connects hearts. The scene witnessed on Sunday morning at the BTR Villas Cricket Ground was a perfect reflection of this truth. It was not merely a marathon; it was a celebration of a global family, with hundreds of people of all ages moving forward with a shared goal and a common spirit of enthusiasm.

Organized by the BTR Sports and Cultural Committee, the marathon was a grand success, with more than 300 participants taking part. The event demonstrated that a gated community is not just about living within walls, but also about building bonds between hearts.

The excitement began as early as 5:30 a.m. at the BTR Pavilion Club. From young children to senior citizens, everyone arrived enthusiastically, dressed in white T-shirts. The caps provided by MATHRAA KITCHEN added further charm to the occasion. On behalf of the BTR residents, heartfelt thanks to the organization for supporting this community-oriented initiative.

In this marathon, participation mattered more than winning or losing. Two-year-old Avyukth Ram took tiny steps while holding his grandfather's hand, while 80-year-old Jaganmohan Reddy walked around the grounds with a smile and unwavering confidence. On one side was childhood, just beginning its journey through life; on the other was old age, carrying the wisdom and richness of experience. Bringing these two generations together on a single platform was one of the greatest achievements of this marathon. These heartwarming scenes reminded us that while age may impose limits on the body, it need not limit enthusiasm or determination.

Modern lifestyles have provided us with numerous conveniences. At the same time, however, they have reduced physical activity and weakened the natural interactions between people. We increasingly choose vehicles over walking, mobile messages over face-to-face conversations, and screen time over outdoor games. In some cases, people living in the same apartment complex do not even know their neighbors' names. Against this backdrop, the BTR Marathon was an initiative that served not only physical health but also the strengthening of social bonds.

This run conveyed three important messages. First, it reminded us of the importance of daily exercise for maintaining good health. Second, it emphasized that building strong relationships requires us to go beyond casual greetings and spend more time together. Third, it demonstrated that true happiness lies not only in winning but also in participating in meaningful activities alongside others. Above all, the event stood out because everyone could participate regardless of age, without the pressure of competition.

The organizers also extended an open invitation to those who had not registered, allowing them to participate as well. This inclusive gesture attracted even more people. Despite the rain, Vrishin Reddy and Abhi–Ashrith distributed T-shirts and personally delivered them from house to house, demonstrating their dedication and commitment. The efforts of everyone who worked behind the scenes to make the event a success deserve appreciation.

International marathon running champion Sri C. Satyanarayana Reddy graced the occasion as the chief guest and encouraged all the participants. His presence brought additional inspiration and distinction to the event. Heartfelt congratulations to the BTR Sports and Cultural Committee for organizing this grand event so effectively, especially Madhav Reddy and Pratap Reddy, as well as Vrishin Reddy and Abhi–Ashrith, who worked tirelessly on the ground.

However, this success should not remain limited to a one-day celebration. Such initiatives should be organized regularly. Collective efforts must ensure that children have opportunities to play, young people have access to sports, adults have opportunities for walking, and senior citizens enjoy warm companionship. Every residential community should consider promoting a healthy lifestyle one of its responsibilities.

This run, which brought together more than 300 participants, conveyed a beautiful message: Distance may be measured in steps, but the strength of a community is measured by the bonds between its people.

BTR should represent more than just a residential community. It should embody the spirit of Brotherhood, Togetherness, and Rejoice. This marathon should not be the end of an event, but the beginning of a healthier, warmer, and more closely connected BTR.

— Kolanu Venkateswara Reddy

NorthEast United cruise to 4-1 victory over Kerala Blasters

GUWAHATI



NorthEast United FC rode on a brace from Alaaeddine Ajaraie (15', 70')to beat Kerala Blasters FC 4-1 in an Indian Super League encounter at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium, in Guwahati, on Sunday.

The Highlanders, who also had Antonio Moyano (45+4') and debutant Aman CK (82') on the scoresheet, climbed to the summit of the League table with what was their second win on the spin.

Juan Pedro Benali's side broke the deadlock in the 15th minute, as Eneko Satrustegui's needled pass found Ajaraie through on goal. The Moroccan made no mistake, rounding Arsh Anwer in the Kerala goal before slotting home without fuss. The Highlanders continued to threaten, with Arsh denying Jithin a second goal in as many games by pushing his header off target to keep his side in the contest. The Blasters looked to respond through striker Andre Green, whose effort in the 38th minute was blocked by Satrustegui. Only moments later, defender Amey Ranawade's attempt to convert Adrian Luna's cross went in vain as his effort failed to test Gurmeet Singh in the NorthEast United goal.

The hosts capitalised on their attacking momentum deep into first-half stoppage time, as Antonio Moyano doubled the advantage. Ajaraie, whose initial shot was blocked by Hormipam Ruivah, recovered possession and slipped the Spaniard into space before the midfielder's effort found the back of the net.

Kerala Blasters made two changes at the break, bringing on Korou and Sandeep Singh for Ranawade and Hormipam. But it was the hosts who continued to push forward, prompting Arsh to make crucial saves to deny Moyano and Jithin. The Blasters reduced the deficit against the run of play and at the hour mark, when Yansane converted a flick from Adrian Luna with a low drive past Gurmeet to make it 2-1.

Benali's men restored their two-goal cushion soon after, when Ajaraie scored his second of the evening, capitalising on a poor clearance from Korou. The striker's curling effort from the edge of the box was met by Arsh, but it wasn't enough to keep it off target. Ajaraie was subsequently substituted alongside Jithin, with Nikola and Aman CK coming on for the Highlanders. Kerala Blasters made changes of their own, bringing on Mohammed Sanan to replace Vibin Mohanan. NorthEast United put the result beyond doubt when Aman scored their fourth and final goal soon after, converting a pass from Macarton to make it 4-1. Despite their best attempts to reduce the deficit, the Highlanders kept track of every Blasters foray to maintain their advantage until the final whistle.

SHORT NEWS

2nd T20I

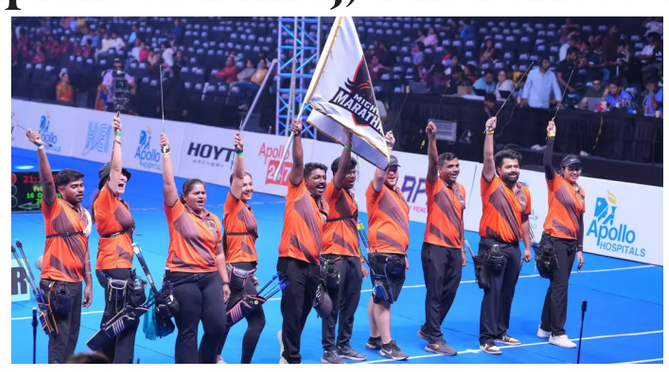
History-creator Prasad 'felt really good' after successive wickets against ZIM



RAIPUR: Niki Prasad etched her name into the history books when she took two wickets on back-to-back balls during the second T20I against Zimbabwe at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium here on Sunday. Prasad has become the first Indian cricketer to take wickets on the first two balls in international cricket, setting a new benchmark in the cricket-loving nation. She reflected on her feelings after ending the day with 2-7 in two overs. "I feel really good that I was able to get bowling today and use that opportunity to help the team," she said during the mid-innings. Prasad missed a match in the previous match but made a strong amendment in the second game with a brilliant low diving catch of Michelle Mavunga off Sree Charani in the 19th over.

Archery Premier League: Mighty Marathas crowned season 2 champions as Dhiraj, 'Mr. Perfect' Schloesser star

HYDERABAD



Mighty Marathas were crowned champions of Archery Premier League Season 2 as they bounced back from a defeat earlier in the day against Kakatiya Knights in the first qualifier and defeated the same opponents in the grand final here on Sunday. Led by a sensational performance by their recurve star Dhiraj Bommadevara who finished the final off with an arrow into the inner X-ring as Marathas beat local franchise Knights 6-2.

While Dhiraj shot an unbelievable 79 out of 80 in the title clash, leading the way for Marathas was 'Mr. Perfect' Mike Schloesser, who lived up to his nickname and finished with 80 out of the possible 80.

The Knights entered the final riding high on a win over Marathas on Saturday in the last league match as well as another victory against the same opponents in the first qualifier. But Marathas had to take the scenic route, after losing to Knights but defeating Prithviraaj Yodhas in the second eliminator to earn their place in the finale.

"Believing in each other, keeping patience, and attack-attack-attack," Dhiraj said, when asked what the mantra was behind the Marathas' turnaround. "To be honest, the truth is that we changed nothing after losing the first match (qualifier against Knights), and that I think is the beauty of this team." Fittingly, Dhiraj would be crowned the male recurve archer of the day as well as the entire tournament.

Marathas were also rewarded for smart substitutions during the day's play, ensuring they used their bench strength to good effect.

Despite shooting pretty well in the first match, Aman Saini was replaced by the Dutch superstar Schloesser before the second eliminator and he would go on to score 79 in that match, followed by the perfect 80 in the final. Another tactical move was to replace the experienced international star Alejandra Valencia with Simranjeet Kaur in the middle of the second match, and the Indian would come through under pressure situations.

Salman's ton, fast bowlers seal ODI tri-series opener for Pakistan against SL

RAWALPINDI

Salman Ali Agha's 107 from 90 balls and fast bowlers combined to help Pakistan beat Sri Lanka in the ODI tri-series opener by 37 runs at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium here on Sunday.

Salman set the tone for Pakistan to make 305 in 49.5 overs in a rollercoaster first innings, which saw momentum swing from one team to the other.

Sri Lanka speedsters did the damage with the ball as Eshan Malinga starred with four wickets, while Asitha Fernando and Dilshan Madushanka shared five wickets, but Salman's knock had put Pakistan a little beyond what Sri Lanka would have liked. The visitors were put up a strong fight, especially after being 91/4 at one stage to take the game close. Pavan Rathnayake and Janith Liyanage scored half-centuries but Shaheen Afridi's three-wicket haul and two wickets each from Naseem Shah, Haris Rauf and Faheem Ashraf saw the Men in Green bag the opener of the tri-series, which also features England.

Pakistan had started well with Fakhar Zaman and Saim Ayub hitting a few boundaries. However, they were in trouble soon when they lost both the openers inside the first six overs to be at 32/2 after 5.5 overs.

Babar Azam (45 from 57 balls) and Saad Baig (39 from 40 balls) joined hands for a strong 74-run stand for the third wicket; however, the hosts lost both the players in quick succession.

'It has been a massive confidence booster': Gwanzura

RAIPUR

Zimbabwe all-rounder Nyasha Gwanzura called her recent performance against India in the first T20I of the three-match series a "massive confidence booster" after troubling the Women in Blue at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium here.

Gwanzura took three early wickets to put the hosts in choppy waters during the meagre chase of 115 on Friday. She removed newly-appointed India skipper Smriti Mandhana (nine) and rising youngster Anushka Sharma (four) in her first over, which was the second of the innings. She later got rid of India's new vice-captain Shafali Verma with a caught and bowled in the fourth over as the hosts were 19/4.

Although India went on to win the match on the back of a strong stand of 82 from debutant Niki Prasad and Deepti Sharma, Gwanzura hogged considerable limelight for her performance.

"It really felt good, being able to take those wickets for the team and helping my team, backing me all the way, so it really meant a lot," Gwanzura said on her 3-18 in the first T20I ahead of the second match on Sunday. She added that her plan was to keep things simple, highlighting that the performance has been a massive booster for her.

'I was little bit anxious': Smith speaks up on concussion scare in Durban

GQEBERHA



Australia veteran batter spoke about his recent concussion scare when he was hit on the helmet during the first Test against South Africa in Durban.

Smith, who has been troubled with concussion-related vertigo symptoms in the past, revealed that he felt anxious after his recent head knock but was thankful to be facing no further trouble.

He was hit by a bouncer from Anrich Nortje during Day 4 of the Durban Test and continued batting after the physio checked on him. He did not take the field on Day 4 when the Aussies bowled but was back in the slips on Day 5 as Australia registered a strong win.

Speaking ahead of the delayed start of the second Test against South Africa at the St George's Park here, he opened up on his recent head knock.

"I was a little bit anxious to be honest after the hit," he told broadcasters ahead of the start of the Day 1 action in the second Test.

"I've had a few in the past and had a few concussions. And I really don't like the way that makes me feel. And I think just the anxiety around it after I got hit.

He hoped not to feel the way that he has felt in the past, but passed the tests and was later allowed to field on Day 5 of the opening Test. "It was a decent knock. And yeah, the rest of that day I wasn't travelling too well. And I think it was more to do with anxiety of hoping not to feel the way that I've felt in the past waking up the next morning and things like that.

"So yeah, fortunately I woke up well. I passed all the tests, and yeah, things recovered pretty quickly," he added.

Smith has had trouble with concussion and vertigo issues in the past. He experienced vertigo symptoms after landing heavily on his head during a T20I between Australia and Sri Lanka at the SCG in February 2022. Smith also suffered from vertigo issues during the ODI World Cup 2023 and missed the match against Afghanistan. He was also ruled out of the Adelaide Ashes Test last year against England minutes before the toss due to similar issues.

Lakshmi Garu Deserves More Love



Making a film about a popular artist without relying on a major star is never an easy task. Garividi Lakshmi is one such brave attempt that deserves appreciation for bringing the life of a lesser-known cultural icon to the big screen. Reddy Vijaya Lakshmi, popularly known as Garividi Lakshmi, was a well-known Burra Katha artist whose voice reached audiences across Uttarandhra through audio cassettes and live performances. While many people may remember her songs, not everyone knows about her personal struggles. Director Gowri Naidu deserves credit for choosing this story and presenting her journey to audiences honestly. The film works better when it explores Lakshmi's difficult days than when it focuses on her rise to fame. The pre-climax and the final 30 minutes stand out as the film's strongest portions. They are handled well and deliver an emotional impact, making the ending more effective. Anandhi deserves special appreciation for her performance. Choosing an actress without major star value for such a central role was a bold decision, and she delivers a solid performance that supports the film's intentions. The film may have its flaws, and its box-office prospects are a separate matter. However, in an era dominated by star-driven commercial entertainers, Garividi Lakshmi is a commendable attempt to tell a meaningful story rooted in regional culture.

Prabhas' Spirit Set for a Massive Blast



Rebel Star Prabhas and director Sandeep Reddy Vanga's highly anticipated Global film Spirit has sealed a new release date. The movie will hit theatres worldwide on October 29, 2027. Needless to say, Diwali next year promises to be a cracker of an experience for moviegoers. The release-date poster features Prabhas in a sharply framed close-up, with his face partially concealed by a black cap and dark sunglasses. His thick beard and composed expression add an enigmatic touch to his appearance, while the monochromatic background keeps the focus firmly on the actor. For Sandeep Reddy Vanga, Spirit marks another ambitious venture following the attention and commercial success of his previous three films. Known for crafting intense narratives and uncompromising characters, the filmmaker is teaming up with Prabhas for a project that has generated considerable curiosity. The prospect of seeing Prabhas portray a tough cop has further heightened expectations. The previously unveiled first look and glimpse received overwhelming response. The film is jointly produced by Bhushan Kumar and Pranay Reddy Vanga under the banners of T-Series Films and Bhadrakali Pictures. The makers are planning an expansive international release, with the film expected to reach audiences in eight languages, including all South Indian languages, Hindi, Chinese, Japanese and Korean.

Why Varanasi Can't Be Postponed

The speculation about the postponement of has been doing the rounds on social media. The film, starring Mahesh Babu, is scheduled for a grand release on April 7, 2027. However, there is a major reason why the makers may think twice before changing the date.

Varanasi has secured an exclusive IMAX release window for April 2027. This is a significant advantage for a film of its scale, as IMAX screens can help deliver a bigger theatrical experience and attract audiences across markets. Securing such a window is not an easy task, especially when several major films are competing for premium screens. If the makers decide to postpone the film, they may find it difficult to secure another exclusive IMAX window. A change in the release date could mean competing with other big-ticket projects for the same screens, potentially affecting the film's global release plans. Given the massive scale of the project and the expectations surrounding Rajamouli and Mahesh Babu's collaboration, the team would not want to make such a decision. Unless the post-production work requires a significant extension, the existing release plan could remain the priority. With the IMAX window being a crucial factor, moving Varanasi from April 7, 2027, may be far more complicated than it appears.



SYG: SDT Completes 160-Day Shoot

Sai Durgha Tej is gearing up for his ambitious action drama Sambarala Yeti Gattu officially wrapping up its entire shooting schedule. Directed by Rohith KP, the film has reached a crucial milestone after an extensive production journey, bringing the team one step closer to its theatrical release. Produced by K Niranjan Reddy and Chaitanya Reddy of Primeshow Entertainment, the film stands as the production house's most prestigious venture to date. The makers have now unveiled a behind-the-scenes wrap video that captures the magnitude of the project, offering glimpses into its intense action sequences, elaborate production work and the strong bond shared by the cast and crew. The making journey has been monumental, with the team spending 160+ days on the sets across more than 10 massive schedules. The scale of the production and the commitment involved underline the makers' vision of delivering a spectacular cinematic experience. The wrap celebrations reflected the emotions behindthis long and demanding journey. What began as an emotional moment soon turned into a lively celebration, with team members cheering and playfully splashing water and fake blood, creating memorable moments on the sets. With filming officially completed, the focus now shifts to the next phase of preparations before the film reaches theatres. The makers have yet again announced January 12, 2027, as the worldwide theatrical release date, positioning SYG as one of the exciting attractions of the upcoming Sankranthi season.

Khushi Kapoor Turns Up the Heat in Maldives





Khushi Kapoor's Maldives vacation pictures are amazing, and she looks like she is enjoying every second. She goes from a floating breakfast to a jet ski ride, snorkelling, a beach cocktail and a lounge over clear water.The main attention goes to her toned abs in the pink bikini, flat and well defined, showing how fit she looks. She keeps the styling simple with wet waves, small sunglasses and a wide smile that stays bright in every frame. The leopard print swimsuit and beige knit mini dress add more beach looks to the set. Next, she will be seen in Mom 2, the sequel to her late mother Sridevi's film Mom, where she plays Keerti alongside Karishma Tanna.

Jailer 2 Eyes Kollywood's Biggest Record!

Rajinikanth's Jailer 2 is heading for a sensational opening weekend, with trade estimates suggesting the film could touch 425 crore by Sunday night. The Nelson Dilipkumar directorial is recording impressive numbers across markets, particularly overseas, where the film is performing exceptionally well. Interestingly, the film is achieving these numbers despite receiving mixed talk from audiences. The massive craze surrounding Rajinikanth, Anirudh Ravichander's energetic music, and Nelson's trademark elevation blocks appear to be working strongly in its favour. Rajinikanth's screen presence continues to be one of the biggest attractions, drawing fans to theatres. The ongoing Dasara holidays have also played a major role in boosting collections. With audiences having more time to visit theatres, the festive period has given the film a significant box-office advantage. Meanwhile, trade circles are already discussing the film's lifetime potential. Some reports suggest that Jailer 2 could overtake the lifetime collections of Rajinikanth's 2.0 during its full theatrical run. If that happens, the sequel could emerge as the biggest blockbuster in Kollywood history. However, its long-term performance will depend on how well it sustains collections after the holiday period. For now, Jailer 2 is enjoying a massive opening, and all eyes are on whether it can turn this extraordinary start into an all-time industry hit.



Printed, Published, Edited and Owned by Pisati Janga Reddy, Printed at : Jayadurga Printers, Plot No.48, H.No.24114/ 3/1, Survey.No.551, Laxmi Narayana Nagar, Uppal, Medchal District, Telangana State.
Published at : Flat No.303A, Prajay Alakapuri Apartments, Road No.2, Green Hills Colony, Kothapet, Hyderabad 500035,Ranga Reddy District, Telangana State.
Editor: Pisati Janga Reddy, Ph : 040 24123467, Email : hyderabadheadlines@gmail.com