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CJI GAVAI RECOMMENDS JUSTICE SURYA KANT AS SUCCESSOR

Chief Justice of India (CJI) Bhushan Ramkrishna Gawai, who is retiring on November 23, has recommended Justice Surya Kant as successor

JUSTICE KANT TO HAVE 14-MONTH TENURE

Justice Surya Kant, the second senior-most judge of the Supreme Court after Justice Gawai, will become the 53rd CJI. He will have a tenure of 14 months before retiring on February 9, 2027. The retirement age for Supreme Court judges is 65 years. Kant was elevated to the Supreme Court in 2019 and has been part of several landmark verdicts

WAS PART OF ARTICLE 370 VERDICT

■ He was on the bench that upheld the Central government's decision to abrogate the special status of Jammu and Kashmir
■ Kant headed the bench that asked the Election Commission to disclose the details of 65 lakh names excluded from the draft electoral rolls during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Bihar

Nov 24

WHEN JUSTICE KANT IS DUE TO TAKE CHARGE AS THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • THIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURGI

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SIR of electoral rolls in 9 states, 3 UTs from Nov 4

Poll-bound oppn-ruled states TN, Kerala, Bengal under its ambit

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Monday announced Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in nine states and three Union Territories in two phases — door-to-door enumeration forms distribution and collection — from November 4 to December 4. The final voters' list would be published on February 7.

Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar said the draft rolls would be published on December 9; claims and objections can be filed from December 9 to January 8; and hearing and verifications from December 9 to January 31.

The nine states are Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal and the UTs are Andaman & Nicobar, Lakshadweep and Puducherry. Tamil Nadu, Pondy, Kerala and West Bengal will go to the polls in 2026.

As for Assam, where polls are due in 2026, the revision of rolls will be announced separately, as a separate provision of the Citizenship Act was applicable to the state.

"Under the Citizenship Act,

REQUIRED INDICATIVE DOCUMENTS FOR THE REVISION OF DRAFT ELECTORAL ROLL

- Any identity cards, pension payment order issued to regular employee/pensioner of any Central government/State govt./PSU
- Any identity cards/ certificate/ documents issued by Indian govt./ banks/local authorities/PSU
- Birth certificate issued by competent authority
- Matriculation/ Education certificate issued by recognised Boards/Univs
- Forest Rights Certificate
- Passport
- Permanent resident certificate issued by State authority
- OBC/ST/SC or any caste certificate
- National Register of Citizens (wherever it exists)
- Family register prepared by state/local authorities
- Any land/ house allotment certificate by govt

Aadhaar as an option proof of identity, but not as a proof of date of birth or citizenship

there are separate provisions for citizenship in Assam. Under the supervision of the Supreme Court, the exercise of checking citizenship is about to be completed. The June 24 SIR order was for the entire country. Under such circumstances, this would not have applied to Assam," Kumar said.

He ruled out any confrontation with the Bengal government, where the ruling TMC has expressed reservations about the SIR.

As for Kerala's local bodies elections, due in November-December, Kumar said, "The notification for the same was yet to be issued. The state governments are bound by Constitution to provide personnel for the preparation of electoral rolls and conduct of polls."

THREAT LOOMS

Andhra coast on edge as Montha gains steam

S GURU SRIKANTH @ Vijayawada

CYCLONE Montha is intensifying in the Bay of Bengal and closing in on the Andhra Pradesh coastline, prompting emergency preparations across vulnerable districts. As of Monday evening, the system was moving at a speed of 15 kmph and was centred approximately 450 km from Visakhapatnam and 500 km from Kakinada.

Landfall is expected near Kakinada on the evening or night of October 28, with the system forecast to strengthen into a severe cyclonic storm by Tuesday morning. Authorities have activated control rooms, deployed disaster response teams, and initiated evacuations as the cyclone begins to impact coastal areas with heavy rain and strong winds.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a red alert for Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, and adjoining south Odisha coasts. P4



PRASANT MADUGULA

Not too old to RoKo and roll!

Amul One for the ages

SC allows Centre to reassess, settle AGR dues of Vi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

IN a major relief for Vodafone Idea (Vi), the Supreme Court on Monday allowed the government to reassess the demand for adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues raised against the telecom operator.

AGR is the income figure used to calculate the licence fees and spectrum charges that telcos must pay. While passing the order, a bench of Chief Justice B R Gawai and Justice K Vinod Chandran observed that the decision on any relief to the telco is a policy matter and the court need not interfere.

The matter pertains to a plea by Vi against the Department of Telecommunications' demand for an additional ₹9,450 crore towards AGR. Vi, the country's third-largest telco, also sought a waiver of interest and penalties.

Welcoming the order, Vi said: "We look forward to working closely with the Department of Telecommunications to resolve this matter in the interests of our nearly 200 million subscribers."

During the hearing, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, informed the court that the government now holds 49% equity in Vodafone Idea. He said the Centre was willing to examine the issues to ensure consumer interests are safeguarded.

At present, Vi owes the government around ₹76,000 crore in AGR dues with annual payments of ₹18,000 crore until 2031. It also owes ₹1.19 lakh crore in deferred spectrum payment to the government.

EXPRESS READ

787 pregnant women shifted to hospitals

In a precautionary move ahead of Cyclone Montha, 787 pregnant women, Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav said. Evacuations include 240 in Krishna and 171 in Eluru. Medical camps are active in 551 shelters | P3

CM orders hourly weather bulletins

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu directed officials to ensure zero casualties as Cyclone Montha nears the AP coast. He ordered hourly weather bulletins, uninterrupted communication, and mass evacuation in 2,707 villages | P4

PLAINSPEAK

West doesn't practise what it preaches: Jaishankar

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday took a swipe at the Western nations, accusing them of selectively applying global principles and distorting the international energy market through restrictive practices. Speaking at the East Asia Summit in Malaysia, Jaishankar said the world is going through "complicated times" marked by shifting global alignments, competition over technology, resources and supply chains.

"Energy trade is increasingly constricted, with

resulting market distortions. Principles are applied selectively and what is preached is not necessarily practised," he

said, in remarks seen as directed at Western-led sanctions regimes and certain protectionist policies.

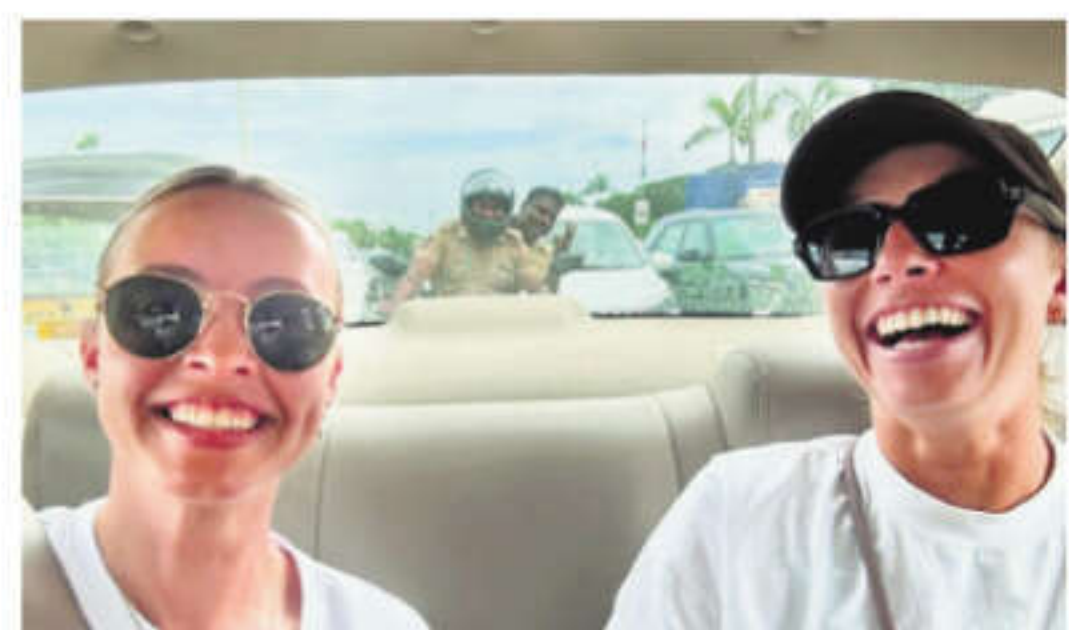
The comments came hours after he met US Secretary of Marco Rubio on the sidelines of the summit. His public remarks underscored New Delhi's willingness to call out perceived Western hypocrisy while asserting an independent foreign policy stance.

Jaishankar argued that the global order must evolve to reflect a more multipolar reality. "Multipolarity is not just here to stay but to grow," he said.

On terrorism, he said: "The world must display zero tolerance; there is no room for ambivalence."



Foreign minister S Jaishankar



SECURITY FOR CAFE

Monica Wright and Australia's Ashleigh Gardner were given a police escort on their way to a cafe in Mumbai. Wright shared the pic on her Insta handle. Security was beefed up in Mumbai too after the 'stalking and molestation' incident in Indore.



SHREYAS IN ICU AFTER INJURY

India vice-captain had a fall while diving to take a catch in the third ODI. He suffered a spleen laceration

P11

STRAY DOGS CASE SC SUMMONS ALMOST ALL CHIEF SECYS

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Monday directed the chief secretaries of almost all states and Union Territories to appear before it on November 3 to explain why no compliance affidavits have been filed yet in the stray dogs case.

"Your officers don't read newspapers? They don't read social media? They want a formal notice to be issued to them?" three-judge bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and N V Anjaria said. It said all chief secretaries, except those of Telangana and West Bengal, should be present before it on November 3, otherwise "we will hold the court in auditorium".

The court had, on August 22, reversed an earlier order directing authorities to move all stray dogs to shelters and said they can be released to the same area from where they were captured after proper sterilisation and immunisation, except those infected with rabies or exhibiting aggressive behaviour. It barred the feeding of the dogs in public places. The August 22 order expanded the scope of the stray dogs case beyond the Delhi NCR and directed that all states and Union Territories be made parties in the matter, and instructed them to file compliance affidavits.



'Incidents keep on happening'

The bench remarked that "continuous incidents" of stray dog attacks are happening, which is hurting India's image. "Your country is being shown as down in foreign countries," the bench said

AP HC orders CID to probe settlement of \$900 theft case at Tirumala Parakamani

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayawada

THE Andhra Pradesh High Court on Monday ordered a CID probe into the controversial settlement of a theft case involving ₹72,000 (\$ 900) stolen from the Parakamani of Sri Lord Venkateswara Swamy Temple at Tirumala.

Justice Gannamaneni Ramakrishna Prasad issued inter-

im directions to the CID to investigate the roles of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Board, its officials, the investigating officer, and the complainant.

The court also asked the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) to examine the assets of the accused, CV Ravikumar, and his family to determine whether they were acquired with money stolen from the Parakamani.

Further, the court directed both the CID and ACB chiefs to submit detailed investigation reports through the Registrar (Judicial) before the next hearing on December 2.

The case dates back to April 29, 2023, when Ravikumar, a clerk at Tirumala mutt, was caught red-handed stealing ₹900 from the Parakamani hall by AVSO Satish Kumar, who later lodged a complaint. P4

Naidu moots bullet train link to Amaravati Airport

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayawada

AMARAVATI is set to become a major hub in Andhra Pradesh's rail and logistics network, with Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu proposing a bullet train connection to the upcoming international airport in the capital region.

During a high-level review meeting held at the Secretariat on Monday, the Chief Minister emphasised the need to inte-



grate Amaravati into the proposed high-speed elevated railway corridors connecting Hyderabad to Bengaluru and

Chennai. He also directed that the Chennai-Bengaluru corridor include Tirupati to enhance regional connectivity.

Naidu reviewed the progress of railway projects worth ₹33,630 crore currently underway across the State. These include major lines such as Nadikudi-Srikalahasti, Guntur-Guntakal, Gunadala-Mustabad bypass, Renigunta, and Rayadurg-Tumakuru.

He instructed officials to immediately release ₹27 crore for

further works on the Nadikudi-Srikalahasti route and suggested launching train services on the Kotipalli-Narsapur route, including the Kakinada-Kotipalli-Amalapuram section.

The Chief Minister approved the Railway department's request for the allocation of land for new coaching terminals in Amaravati and Gannavaram. He was informed that expansion works are also underway in Vijayawada and Guntur. P4

Civic chief inspects wards in Kadapa ahead of Urs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kadapa

KADAPA Municipal Corporation Commissioner M Manoj Reddy on Sunday inspected several city wards to review cleanliness, infrastructure works, and preparations for the upcoming Kadapa Pedda Dargah Urs festival.

Starting from Masapet Circle, Commissioner Manoj Reddy, accompanied by officials from the Engineering, Town Planning, and Sanitation departments, walked towards the



Dargah area to assess ongoing repair works.

He reviewed road potholes, drainage repairs, and pending projects, directing officials to complete them immediately.

The Commissioner later visited YV Street and One Town Circle, where he instructed authorities to resolve civic issues on a priority basis.

During his visit to NR Palle in the 49th division, Commissioner Manoj Reddy interacted with residents to review waste collection and water supply

services. He enquired about the regular arrival of CLAP autos for garbage collection and ordered the Assistant Engineer and Sanitary Inspector to address complaints promptly.

He also inspected Anna Canteens and advised staff to maintain cleanliness and ensure hygienic food practices.

Additional Municipal Commissioner Rakesh Chandram, Executive Engineers Vijay Kumar and Dhanalakshmi, and other officials accompanied him during the inspection.

Kadapa witnesses no major impact of Cyclone Montha

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kadapa

CYCLONE Montha has had no impact across Kadapa district, officials confirmed on Monday. Except for light rainfall of 1.8 mm in Vontimitta mandal, no other part of the district received rain.

District In-charge Collector Adithi Singh is monitoring the situation and reviewing cyclone preparedness with officials. Authorities urged the public not to believe or spread

rumours about the cyclone's impact. Officials said they are closely tracking water inflows into irrigation projects and keeping watch over the Kundu, Penna, and Paghani rivers.

People in low-lying and riverbank areas have been advised to remain cautious. Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu's scheduled visit to Rayachoti on October 29 to distribute houses to the poor has

been postponed due to weather concerns. Officials said the event will be held next month.

To ensure round-the-clock emergency response, 24-hour control rooms have been set up at the District Collectorate and at the RDO offices in Kadapa, Jammalamadugu, Badvel, and Pulivendula. Citizens can also reach emergency services through toll-free numbers 112, 1070, and 1800-4250101.

Pullaiah College dean bags top research award

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kurnool

DEAN of Innovations at G Pullaiah Engineering College, Kurnool, C Ranjith Kumar has received the prestigious Jyeshtha Acharya Award for excellence in research and innovation.

The Hyderabad-based organisation Brainovision presents the award annually to outstanding young scientists. At a ceremony held on the college premises on Monday, Brainovision Secretary D Ganesh announced that Ranjith Kumar was selected for this year's honour in recognition of his contributions to research and innovation. He praised Ranjith's experience and commitment to advancing scientific knowledge.

College Chairman GVM Mohan Kumar congratulated Ranjith and said the institution encourages faculty members to pursue innovative research for national development. "Our aim is to motivate educators to contribute towards technological advancements that transform the country," he said.



APSPDCL gears up to tackle cyclone impact

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Tirupati

THE Andhra Pradesh Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (APSPDCL) has been placed on high alert, with officials implementing extensive precautionary measures to tackle possible disruptions from the approaching cyclone.

APSPDCL Chairman and MD Sivasankar Loteti on Monday directed all power officials and staff across the company's jurisdiction to remain prepared, particularly in districts expected to be affected by heavy rain and strong winds.

To ensure speedy restoration in case of outages, nodal officers have been appointed for key circles — Chief General Manager (Projects and IT) J Rama-

nadevi for Nellore, Chief General Manager P Surendra Naidu for Tirupati, and Chief General Manager (RAC and IPC) M Umapathi for Chittoor.

Recognising that the Eastern Power Distribution Company of Andhra Pradesh Limited (APEPDCL) is likely to face a greater impact, APSPDCL has deployed 124 teams comprising 1,505 officials and staff to assist in restoration operations there. Essential electrical equipment, including transformers, switches, cross arms, conductors, and cables, has also been shifted to the EPDCL area.

Control rooms have been established at circle and division levels within APSPDCL's limits to coordinate response and restoration work.

Lukewarm response to LRS offer in Nellore dist

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Nellore

DESPITE the government offering a three-month window under the Layout Regularisation Scheme (LRS) to legalise unauthorised layouts and plots, the response across Nellore district has remained poor, with only a nominal number of applications received before the deadline ended.

The scheme, introduced by the alliance government, was aimed at protecting the interests of layout developers and plot buyers while generating revenue for the state. However, officials said participation fell far below expectations.

Unauthorised layouts have proliferated across the district, with developers earning huge profits while the government lost significant revenue.

Many plot buyers have since faced legal and ownership complications. To address this, the government launched the LRS to bring such properties into the legal framework.

Officials said that despite awareness programmes held across all constituencies, layout owners showed little interest in regularisation.

Under the Nellore Urban Development Authority (NUDA) limits, 437 unauthorised layouts were identified across eight constituencies. Sarvepalli topped the list with 138 layouts spread over 1,391.40 acres, followed by Kovur with 130 layouts over 555.12 acres.

Devotees throng temples for Karthika Somavaram

Nearly 1.5 lakh devotees participate in the rituals at Dakshina Kasi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kurnool

THOUSANDS of devotees thronged major Lord Siva temples across the erstwhile Kurnool district on Monday, marking the first Karthika Somavaram, an auspicious day in the holy month of Karthika Masam.

Temples such as Srisaillam, Omkaram, Mahanandi, Yaganti, Kalvabugga, and Jagannathagattu witnessed heavy crowds, with devotees offering prayers and lighting Karthika Deepams. At the renowned Srisaillam temple, also known as Dakshina Kasi, nearly 1.5 lakh devotees participated in the rituals.

Pilgrims took holy dips in Patala Ganga and floated thousands of oil lamps on the Krishna River while chanting "Om Namah Shivaya" during the Maha Mangala Harathi to Goddess Krishnaveni.

Around one lakh Deepams were floated in the Pushkarini waters, creating a divine spectacle. Despite the heavy turnout, temple authorities ensured smooth darshan. General darshan took six to seven hours, while special darshan lasted



Laksha Deepotsavam at Pushkarini in temple town of Srisaillam on Monday | EXPRESS

four to five hours. Srisaillam Temple Executive Officer M. Srinivasa Rao supervised elaborate arrangements, while Nandyal SP Suneel Sheoran deployed tight security to prevent untoward incidents. To manage the rush, temple doors opened at 3 am, with darshan continuing late into the night.

On peak days — Saturdays, Sundays, Mondays, Ekadashi, and Karthika Pournami — Sparsha Darshan and Sahasa Abhishekam have been suspended due to the surge in dev-

otees. Special duties were assigned to staff to maintain order, with continuous distribution of water and breakfast in the queue complex. Free Anandanam was organised twice a day, and ten counters were set up for Laddu Prasadam distribution.

Similar scenes of devotion were witnessed at Mahanandi, Yaganti, and temples in Kurnool, where devotees lit Karthika Deepams in rivers and canals, turning the region into a sea of divine light and faith.

2 smugglers jailed, 19 red sanders logs seized in Tirupati: RSASTF

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Tirupati

THE Red Sanders Anti-Smuggling Task Force (RSASTF) has intensified its crackdown on red sandalwood smuggling in the Sheshachalam forest region, securing two major successes this week — the conviction of two notorious smugglers and the seizure of 19 red sanders logs in Tirupati district.

A court in Tirupati on Monday sentenced two red sandalwood smugglers to five years in prison and imposed a fine of ₹6 lakh each. The judgment was delivered by RSS ADJ Court Judge Narasimhamurthy.

The case stemmed from a 2017 operation (Crime No. 51/2017) led by RSASTF Head L Subbarayudu and supervised by Task Force SP P Srinivas.

Special Public Prosecutor Aluguri Amara Narayana presented strong evidence, resulting in the conviction of Subramani Sathesh Kumar of Vellore district and Kullayan Venkatesh of Tiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu. The duo was caught in the Sheshachalam forest near Perumallapalli and

TN Palem while attempting to cut red sandalwood trees in a reserved forest zone. Both convicts have been lodged in Nellore Central Jail.

Task Force SP said the verdict should serve as a warning to those attempting to enter Andhra Pradesh's protected forests for illegal smuggling. He commended the court staff and officers for their efforts in securing the conviction.

In another operation, the RSASTF seized 19 red sandalwood logs and arrested two smugglers near Narayana Vanam in the Puttur forest range on Sunday.

Acting on the instructions of RSASTF Head Subbarayudu and under the supervision of SP Srinivas, a team led by DSP Md Sharif and RSIN Eshwar Reddy conducted a combing operation from Kailasakona.

When the team reached Singarakona Road near Kannikamma Temple, they spotted two suspects who tried to flee but were quickly apprehended. A search of the area led to the recovery of 19 red sandalwood logs. The arrested men, identified as locals.

Ramanamma College hosts prog on faculty development

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Tirupati

A six-day Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on 'Artificial Intelligence: Concepts, Tools, and Emerging Applications' began at Chadalawada Ramanamma Engineering College (Autonomous), Tirupati, on Monday.

The event, organised under the aegis of AICTE-ATAL Academy, will run until November 1. Chairman of Krishna Teja Group of Institutions Dr Chadalawada Krishnamurthy and Director Dr Bhaskar Patel attended the online inauguration.

Bhaskar Patel said Faculty Development Programmes enhance teaching and research quality across disciplines.

He added that the FDP aims to equip faculty members with the latest knowledge and practical expertise in Artificial Intelligence.

Patel noted that AI is among the fastest-growing technologies, transforming education, industry, and research through innovation, efficiency, and data-driven decision-making. Programme Coordinators said around 480 faculty members are participating in the FDP.

Horoscopes By Holiday

HOLIDAY MATHIS
28th October: Life is a Highway In this powerful stage of Mars and Jupiter, progress is certain, so make sure you're in a situation you want to progress. It's like the cosmic drive has a lead foot on the gas pedal. So, the straight and narrow road is the best one to be on. If you can see what's ahead for miles and miles, this stretch will bring a wide-open, freedom feeling.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

The fix you're looking for isn't new. It's not even new to you, really. You've solved this problem before (or one just like it) and the answer is tucked away in memory. Close your eyes and the solution will be right there waiting for you.

TAURUS (Apr 20 - May 20)

You make people feel special without even trying. It isn't a performance; it's your genuine curiosity. Today your interest spreads warmth and sets the tone for lasting goodwill. But more importantly, you'll have fun getting to know people better.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21)

You'll do the practical thing, but that doesn't mean it's boring. Even the most routine task takes on an air of significance because you care to understand the process, get to know the people and even learn a bit of the history that brought you all to this moment.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)

Once again, you'll be shown the positive aspect of limits. When you pile on more tasks, include more people, get more items, these additions don't necessarily make things better. Expenses drain. So the real win today is in editing.

LEO (July 23 - Aug 22)

Today you'll be struck by the richness of your inner life. Reflection and imagination may be a solo mission, but you won't feel lonely because you're such a good friend to yourself that self-sufficiency can feel surprisingly social.

VIRGO (Aug 23 - Sept 22)

Someone seems to enjoy pushing you emotional buttons. They care enough to pay attention to what the thoughtful question, save a seat or share a joke. Belonging is a cheap gift to give and a priceless one to receive.

LIBRA (Sept 23 - Oct 23)

People change when they feel included. Your inviting gesture flips the whole mood. Maybe you'll ask the thoughtful question, save a seat or share a joke. Belonging is a cheap gift to give and a priceless one to receive.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 21)

You're drawn to love like some people are drawn to the ocean. Ceaseless movement and unattractable danger magnetize with mysterious and mesmerizing power. You must have the beauty, despite the risk, or perhaps because of it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

As animals at both ends of the food chain know, hiding isn't weakness. It's a survival strategy. Today you may hide for fun or to protect your energy. You may also hide because it allows you to observe the unvarnished truth.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

Conditions will never be perfect. Start where you are. The tough draft, the first call, the messy attempt — they might feel awkward or even quite embarrassing, but they separate the dilettantes from those who eventually become masters.

AQUARIUS (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

Many around you today will care about surface qualities, appearances and immediate pleasures. You're looking for what's sustainable, not just what dazzles in the moment. This quest for value will pay you back sooner than you think.

PISCES (Feb 19 - Mar 20)

Titles don't guarantee actual influence. Someone can be "the boss" but not command respect, or "the leader" without followers. Today, you'll see something that isn't being handled. Step in and take charge and you'll become the one people trust.

SUDOKU EVIL
TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3x3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

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

CROSS WORD

ACROSS

- A kitchen gadget rotates for blending (7)
- Game for entertaining people (5)
- The finest - and worst (4)
- Plainchant? (8)
- Introductory offer at a sale (7,3)
- Come out East and join up (6)
- Asked for breakfast in bed? (6)
- Champions of five shows (10)
- Take part in a show trial (8)
- Point-to-point training establishment (4)
- The world's greatest swimmer (5)
- Number in coma possibly wandering around (7)

DOWN

- The ban also includes a sailor (5)
- Bad news, dear, it must be acknowledged (8)
- Plunder a grave perhaps (6)
- Trust in secrecy (10)
- House cover (4)
- Being badly hid, gets seen (7)
- Journey taken for a very good reason (10)
- Uneasy about having caused concern (8)
- It takes pluck to remove it (7)
- The single boy in a family is very much a favourite (4,2)
- Sound of icons breaking (5)
- How odd a call to stop (4)

JUMBLE
UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

TRPYA
ONBDU
SUICNO
CALEHB

Answers here:

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Adolescents, 9 Rippling, 10 Erato, 11 East, 12 Novelist, 14 Apathy, 16 Stream, 18 Outstrip, 19 VTOL, 22 Ruche, 23 Blanket, 24 Measurement.

Down: 2 Dopes, 3 Lois, 4 Sign on, 5 Elements, 6 Tea time, 7 Freemasonry, 8 Contemplate, 13 Shutters, 15 Attache, 17 Timber, 20 Taken, 21 Palm.

CM promises support for Satya Sai Baba's centenary fest

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayawada

THE Sri Satya Sai Central Trust Managing Trustee R.J. Rathnakar and Trustee INS Prasad met Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu to invite him to the Centenary Birth Celebrations of Bhagawan Sri Satya Sai Baba.

Naidu praised Bhagawan's service in education, healthcare, and water supply and assured full government cooperation for the grand event.

Recalling his association with Baba, he said it was the state's duty to honour His legacy meaningfully.

The delegation also met HRD and IT Minister Nara Lokesh, who expressed keen interest and promised complete government support to ensure world-class celebrations that enable devotees and citizens across Andhra Pradesh to participate in commemorating Bhagawan's life and teachings.

Preparations in Puttaparthi are underway for the milestone event, with the Trust coordinating logistics, programmes, and outreach efforts to reflect Baba's enduring message of love, service, and unity.

Markets in Andhra witness heavy rush amid Cyclone Montha alert

Sufficient stock ensured across all 14 rythu bazaars in dist, says Marketing Assistant Director

Y BRAHMAJI / S TRIMURTHULU @ Vijayawada / Kakinada

WITH Cyclone Montha inching closer to the Andhra coast, residents across the coastal districts rushed to markets and rythu bazaars on Monday, triggering a wave of panic buying. The sudden surge in demand led to a complete sellout of vegetables, specially in urban centres like Vijayawada, Machilipatnam, and others.

From early morning, long queues formed at rythu bazaars, supermarkets, and retail outlets as residents rushed to stock essentials ahead of Cyclone Montha, fearing supply disruptions and power outages. The rush followed official warnings and viral social media alerts.

Staple vegetables like tomato, potato, okra, and brinjal sold out within hours, while retailers and vendors reportedly bought in bulk to resell at higher prices.

Lella Ramadevi of Krishna Lanka said, "I saw many people rushing to buy vegetables, so I went early to get what I could. But there were no staple items left — only onions, ginger, ivy gourd, and plantains were available."



Speaking to TNIE, NTR District Marketing Assistant Director Rajababu said that sufficient stock is being ensured across all 14 rythu bazaars in the district — nine in Vijayawada city and the rest in Nandigama, Mylavaram, Ibrahimpatnam, Kanchikacharla, Jaggayyapet, and Tiruvuru.

"We have already coordinated with vegetable farmers — okra from Nutakki, brinjal from Bapulapadu, leafy vegetables from Yanamalakuduru — and requested them to maintain regular supply. For tomatoes, we are in touch with Madanapalle traders, and additional trucks will be deployed to supplement the existing seven truckloads daily," he said.

Krishna District Marketing Assistant Director Nityanandam added that adequate stocks have been arranged at rythu bazaars in Machilipatnam, Challapalli, Pedana, Kankipadu, Gudivada, and others.

"We have spoken to traders in Madanapalle and Palamaner for tomato supplies, and Mopidevi farmers for local produce. If needed, we will ensure all essential vegetables are made available to consumers through rythu bazaars," he assured.

Vegetable prices soar in Kakinada amid

Vegetable prices have surged across Kakinada district as traders allegedly exploited the ongoing Cyclone situation.

Despite instructions from district authorities, traders in Rythu Bazars and open markets have raised prices over the past five days as residents rushed to purchase essentials.

The price of Aubergine (brinjal) rose by ₹10 compared to Sunday, while Okra also saw a ₹10 hike at Rythu Bazars.

In open markets, brinjal is selling between ₹60 and ₹65 per kg, and Okra between ₹55 and ₹60 per kg. Cabbage is priced at ₹40, carrot ₹60, cauliflower ₹25 to ₹30, ridge gourd ₹48, potato ₹26, beetroot ₹60, elephant's foot ₹60, sweet potato ₹40, onions ₹24, capsicum ₹100, green peas ₹125, arum ₹32, and tomato ₹20 at Rythu Bazars.

However, traders are reportedly charging ₹5 to ₹10 more per kilogram than official prices.

Power utilities put on high alert to ensure uninterrupted supply

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayawada

WITH Cyclone Montha expected to make landfall along the AP coast, the State government has placed all power utilities on high alert to ensure rapid emergency response and uninterrupted electricity supply.

Chief Secretary K Vijayanand conducted a teleconference with senior officials from APGENCO, APTRANSCO, APSPDCL, APEPDCL, and APCPDCL to review field-level preparedness and direct immediate action. He instructed utilities to mobilise manpower and materials in advance, maintain coordination, prioritise public safety and restoration of power.

Vijayanand stressed the need for round-the-clock control room operations, robust communication systems, and swift restoration once wind speeds subside. Substations, transmission lines, and control centres are to be staffed adequately and coordination between transmission and distribution networks must be seamless. APGENCO reported readiness at thermal power stations, including NTPPS, MVR Rayalaseema, and SDSTPS.

APTRANSCO has mobilised resources across eight coastal districts under the Vizag and Vijayawada zones. Line gangs, erection teams, tree-cutting squads, and fault locators are deployed at key substations, including Machilipatnam, Avani-gadda, Gudivada, Bapatla, Ongole, Chirala, Guduru, and Nellore. APTSPDCL is preparing for impact in Nellore and Tirupati districts.

Control rooms are active at division headquarters, and 147 rectification and construction teams with 1,505 personnel have been mobilised. APTSPDCL has deployed 147 teams with 1,505 personnel in Nellore and Tirupati, while APCPDCL mobilised 2,913 workers and 285 contractors across four districts.

With emergency stocks, generators, and vehicles ready, power utilities aim to minimise disruption and ensure swift restoration once Cyclone Montha hits, reflecting Andhra Pradesh's proactive disaster strategy.

APSPDCL has deployed 147 teams with 1,505 personnel in Nellore and Tirupati, while APCPDCL mobilised 2,913 workers and 285 contractors across four districts.

With emergency stocks, generators, and vehicles ready, power utilities aim to minimise disruption and ensure swift restoration once Cyclone Montha hits, reflecting Andhra Pradesh's proactive disaster strategy.

EXPRESS READ

Coastal Bank to build regional office in Amaravati

Vijayawada: APCRDA has signed a land deal with Coastal Local Area Bank to build regional office on a 0.4-acre site in Uddandarayunipalem. The ₹20 crore project includes a corporate office and training centre, expected to generate 290 jobs and boost Amaravati's financial infrastructure. APCRDA has signed a land deal with Coastal Local Area Bank to build the office on a 0.4-acre site in Uddandarayunipalem

787 pregnant women shifted to nearby hosps ahead of Cyclone Montha

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayawada

AS part of proactive measures against Cyclone Montha, 787 pregnant women nearing their due dates (within one week)

have been safely shifted to nearby hospitals across the state, said Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav.

As per the Minister, based on data collected from Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs), local

authorities are transferring these women to community, area, and district hospitals, with special care for high-risk cases. District-wise evacuations include 240 in Krishna, 171 in Eluru, 150 in Konaseema,

and 142 in East Godavari, while similar actions continue in other districts. It spans 17 cyclone-affected districts.

Medical camps are operating in 551 government shelters, each led by PHC doctors

with ANMs and ASHA workers. Health Secretary Saurabh Gaur said staff attendance is monitored and SOP compliance ensured through a review meeting with officials on Monday evening.

CHANGE OF NAME BUDEPALLI PAVAN KUMAR (old name) S/o B.E. Srinivasa Murthy Resident of H.No. 21/239, Brahmin Street, Old Town, Anantapur City & District, AP-515001. I have changed my name from Budepalli Pavan Kumar (old name) to BUDEPALLI ELIMILI PAVAN KUMAR (New Name) hence forth my name being called as BUDEPALLI ELIMILI PAVAN KUMAR for all purposes.

CHANGE OF NAME I, Mahesh Naidu Bathineni S/o Chinna Narayanappa Bathineni D.No. 2/38, Kattakinda Palli (V), Bathalapalli (M), Sri Satya Sai District, A.P., I have changed my Minor Son's name from YEKSHIT RUDRA BATHINENI (old name) to YOKSHITH RUDRA BATHINENI (New Name) hence forth my Son's name being called as YOKSHITH RUDRA BATHINENI for all purposes.

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED (A Government of Karnataka Enterprise) CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919 No. KPCL/2025-26/ES0304 Date: 27.10.2025 NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Two Cover system) Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only Name of the Work: Appointment of Cost Transportation Agency (CTA) for the work of Liaisoning, Supervision of Loading, Movement & Handling and Delivery of raw coal from Mahanadi Coalfields Limited, Talcher in Odisha to Raichur Thermal Power Station (RTPS) in Karnataka by Rail-Sea-Rail Route. The last date for receipt of the completed bids is 17:00 hrs on 26.11.2025. The tender document can be downloaded from the website: https://www.kppc.karnataka.gov.in. Further details can be had from The Chief Engineer (Mines), KPCL, No.82, Shakti Bhavan, 3rd Floor, Race Course Road, Bangalore-560001. Telefax: 080-22203894. e-mail: cemineskpc@karnataka.gov.in Website: www.kpc.karnataka.gov.in e-portal helpdesk/HP helpdesk: +91-80-46010000/+91-8068948777.

कार्यालय नगरपालिका अनुपगढ जिला श्रीगंगानगर (राज0) Ph. 01498-252060, E-Mail: eonupgarh@yahoo.com क्रमांक- न.पा.अ./निर्माण ()/2025-26/3891 दिनांक: 17.10.2025 ई-निविदा सूचना (NIB No.- DLB2526A7346) नगरपालिका अनुपगढ द्वारा नियमानुसार उपयुक्त श्रेणी पंजीकृत संवेदकों/ फर्म/ कम्पनी से निर्धारित प्रश्न में Service Works के 01 कार्य राशि 579.60 लाख रुपये हेतु ई-प्रक्रियासमेत प्रक्रिया से ऑनलाईन निविदा दिनांक 10.11.2025 सायं 6:00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा से संबंधित विस्तृत जानकारी व शर्तें लोक उपक्रम वेबसाइट http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखी जा सकती है। कार्य के यू.बी.एन. नं. निमानुसार है:- DLB2526LRC22268 अधिशासी अधिकारी नगरपालिका अनुपगढ रा.सं.सं.वद./सी./25/12623

UJVN LIMITED H.O.: "UJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006 Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508 CIN No. U44011UR2001SC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com Letter No:826 Date: 27/10/2025 E-Tender Corrigendum/Addendum Notice No-01 In reference to e-tender no.02/UJVN/EE/IE/P-1/2025-26 for "Preparation of Comprehensive and Bankable Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Sela Urthing Hydro-electric Project (114 MW) on River Dhauliganga in Pithoragarh District of Uttarakhand" corrigendum of tender has been uploaded on the e-procurement portal. For detail of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc. information kindly visit e-procurement portal https://ukteners.gov.in regularly. All other terms & conditions of the tender shall remain unchanged. Executive Engineer (I&P-I) Dehradun "AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

CHANGE OF NAME & DOB I, KESININI VENKATA SESHIAH (No. 14470818W, Ex-Hav.), residents of D.No. 8-31-27, Gandhi Colony, Kavali Mandal, SPSR Nellore District-524201 have executed an affidavit dated 25 October 2025 for correction of my wife's name and date of birth in my service records. Her name was previously recorded as K PRAMEELA and date of birth as 24 Jan 1964. As per her Aadhaar Card and PAN Card, her correct name is KESININI PRAMEELA and the date of birth is 01 Jan 1965. Both names refer to the same person. This information is for all concerned.

CHANGE OF NAME & DOB I, VENKATA RAMI REDDY (No. J4239537P Ex-Rect), S/o Ramanna, residing at D. No. 27-8-268, 4th Bit, NTR Nagar, Stone Housepet, SPSR Nellore District - 524002, declare that my wife's name was earlier recorded as LAXMI DEVI in my service records. Her correct name as per Aadhaar and PAN is CHITTHAMA REDDY LAXMI DEVI. Date of Birth 01-07-1960. Both names refer to the same person. I request the relevant authorities to correct her name in my Service Records. If any problem arises in future I will bear the consequences.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT CORRIGENDUM TO AUCTION PROGRAMME OCTOBER'25 NOTICE NO: 10/2025 e-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous scrap, Non-Ferrous scrap, other Misc. scrap, condemned Wagon, Coaches & Loco, Scrap Rails and other Permanent Way scrap material. e-auction by Existing Auction date Postponed to Material for auction The details of items to be sold in e-auction will be available in catalogue www.ireps.gov.in website GOC DEPOT 30/10/2025 31/10/2025 Note: All other auctions scheduled for October'25 remains unaltered. For detailed terms and conditions and downloading of catalogue please visit our web-site http://www.ireps.gov.in ->E-Auction->Sale->Live Auctions. Principal Chief Materials Manager

STATE BANK OF INDIA Assistant General Manager, RBO 2 CHITTOOR REQUIREMENT OF PREMISES SBI invites offers for leasing of premises for shifting of its V.KOTA BRANCH, CHITTOOR District, AP. The premises should have about 2500 Sq. ft. carpet area with good frontage, adequate parking space for vehicles with all amenities. Bank requires ground floor premises within 1km radius from the existing bank premises. Interested parties may download the proforma for Technical & Price bids from SBI website "https://bank.sbi/portal/web/home/procurement-news" and submit the same in separate sealed covers super scribed "Technical Bid" and "Price Bid" with name and address of the tenderer's on or before 3.00PM hours. On 12.11.2025 Bank reserves the right to reject any/all offer(s) without assigning any reasons thereof. - Assistant General Manager, SBI, RBO-2 CHITTOOR

SHRIRAM SHIRAM FINANCE LIMITED Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032. & Branch Office: 1st Floor, Vishnu Priya Complex, Uls SBI Bank, Subash Road, Ananthapur. PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE (See Rule 8(1) (For Immovable Property) Whereas, the undersigned being the authorized officer of the M/s.Shriram Finance Limited ("It is informed that "SHRIRAM CITY UNION FINANCE LIMITED" has been amalgamated with "SHRIRAM TRANSPORT FINANCE LIMITED" as per order of NCLT, Chennai. Subsequently the name of "SHRIRAM TRANSPORT FINANCE LIMITED" was changed as "SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED" with effect from 30.11.2022 vide Certificate of Incorporation pursuant to change of name dated 30-11-2022.) under the Securitization and Reconstruction of the Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued Demand Notice dated 26-12-2023 in Loan Agreement No. ANTP21F2103090003, calling upon the Borrowers 1. Nallapati Ramakrishna, S/o Nallapati Aswathidi, Residing at D.No.12-2-672-24, Ashok Nagar, Near Ambedkar Bhavan, Anantapur Town & Dist-515001. 2. Kananam Salla Kumar, W/o Nallapati Ramakrishna, Residing at D.No.12-2-672, Sri Nagar, Near Saraswati Vidyanandini, Anantapur Town & Dist-515001. 3. Rayavaram Rama Naidu, S/o Late R. Chinna Poliah, Residing at 5-1C, Rangapuram, Gugudu, Anantapur Dist-515425 All of you are to repay the amount mentioned in this notice being Rs.1,16,86,053/- (Rupees One Crore Sixteen Lakhs Eighty Six Thousand and Fifty Three Only) with further interest and other contractual charges with penalties within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower's having failed to discharge their liabilities in full, notice is hereby given to them in particular and public in general, that the undersigned being the authorized officer has taken the PHYSICAL POSSESSION of the property described herein below, under section 13(4) of the said (Act) Subsequently, on an application filed under Section 14(1) read with Rule 9 of the said rules of the SARFAESI Act, before The Hon'ble Chief Judicial Magistrate - Cum - Principal Senior Civil Judge, Ananthapur, in Cr. M.P. No. 159 / 2025, Dated: 18-09-2025 and ordered passed dated 23-09-2025, as appointed N.Radhya, Advocate Commissioner to take Physical Possession of the said property and hand over the same to the Authorized Officer of Shirram Finance limited. Accordingly, the Advocate Commissioner has taken physical possession of the secured asset on 24-10-2025 and handed over the same to the Authorized Officer of the Shirram Finance Limited. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of the Shirram Finance Limited for the amount to Rs.1,16,86,053/- (Rupees One Crore Sixteen Lakhs Eighty Six Thousand and Fifty Three Only) with further interest. DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES SCHEDULE-I: Anantapur District, Anantapur Registration District, Anantapur Sub District, Anantapur Mandal, Kammaraipalli Gram Panchayat, Kurugunta Village accounts, Plots laid by M/s L.V Devaripati, Anantapur Cir. Sy.No. 228/3D a total extent of AC.9.12 cents and in an extent of AC.0.12.39 cents on 0.049 hectares bearing Plot bearing Nos. 9, 10, 11 and 12 all are in one contiguous area. Bounded on: East: 30 ft., width Road; West: 30 ft., width Road; North: Plot No. 8 and 13. South: 30 ft., width Road; Within these site measuring East to West 90 ft. or 27.45 mts, and North to South 60 ft. or 18.30 mts comprising a total extent of 5400 sq.ft. or 600 sq.yards or AC.0.12.39 cents or 0.049 hectares of vacant site only. SCHEDULE-II: Anantapur District, Anantapur Registration District, Anantapur Rural Sub District, Rappathu Gram Panchayat and Village accounts, Cirard Dry, Sy. No. 159/1 a total extent of AC.4.00 cents and in it an extent of AC.0.06 cents or 0.24 hectares bearing Plot bearing No.1 and in it constructed RCC building, Bounded on: East: 30 ft. width Road, West: Site left over for park in the same survey number, North: Plot No. 2 of P. Chandrasekhar Nanda, South: Road. Within these, site measuring East to West 67 ft. or 20.42 and North to South 38 ft. or 11.73 comprising a total extent of 286.61 sq. yards of site and in it constructed RCC building along with all fixtures and appurtenant site therein. SCHEDULE-III: Anantapur District, Anantapur Registration District, Anantapur Rural Sub District, Rappathu Gram Panchayat and Village accounts, Cirard Dry, Sy. No. 159/1 a total extent of AC.4.00 cents and in it an extent of AC.0.39.75 cents and in it an extent of AC.0.04.77 cents or 231.11 sq. yards bearing Plot bearing No. 52-A of vacant site Bounded on: East: 30 ft. width Road, West: 30 ft. width Road, North: Plot No. 52, South: Plot No. 53. Within these site measuring East to West 52 ft. or 15.86 mts and North to South 40 ft. or 12.20 mts comprising a total extent of 231.1 sq. yards of vacant site only. Date: 24-10-2025 Authorized Officer Place: Anantapur Shirram Finance Limited

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH FOREST DEPARTMENT NOTIFICATION DL.23-10-2025 Inviting applications to engage One Qualified Veterinarian (preferably Masters in Clinical Discipline/Subjects) purely on Contract basis with the monthly remuneration of Rs.40,000/- to 50,000/-. Interested candidates can submit the Resume/CV with necessary documents to Curator, Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, Visakhapatnam-530040 on or before 15.11.2025 at 5 PM. Sd/- Curator, Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, Visakhapatnam DIPR No.17858/CL/ADVT/1/2021-22, Dt: 27/10/2025

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING Tender Notice No.14/SE(P-WZ)/GHMC/2025-26 Date: 27.10.2025 Item No. Name of work Est. Cost 1. Construction of 6-Lane Bi-Directional flyover from Miyapur X road to Allyn X road and 3 Lane Uni-Directional Underpass from Hafeezpet to Miyapur and 3 Lane Uni-Directional Underpass from Bachupally to Allyn X roads - under Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC)/Turnkey Basis. Rs. 530 Crores S/L No. Events Date and Time 1. Start Date 30-10-2025 from 04:00 PM to 06-11-2025 at 03.00 PM Location: O/o Chief Engineer (Projects), GHMC 6th Floor, GHMC Head Office, Tank Bund, Hyderabad. 2. Pre-Bid Meeting 20-11-2025 upto 3:00 PM 3. Last Date & Time for receipt of Bids 20-11-2025 upto 4:00 PM 4. Opening of Technical Bid 20-11-2025 after 4:00 PM 5. Opening of Price Bid 24-11-2025 after 4:00 PM Note: The Bidders are advised to visit www.tender.telangana.gov.in to download Bid Document and EPC project Tender Drawings. Any Queries can be addressed to seshd@ghmc.com. Address of the officer concerned Sri G.Sree Lakshmi, SE(P-WZ), Superintending Engineer (Projects-WZ), GHMC, Tank Bund Road, Hyderabad. Further details can be seen at 'e' procurement https://tender.telangana.gov.in. Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Projects-WZ), GHMC. DIPR No. 10.992-PP/CL/Adv/1/2025-26, Dt: 27/10/2025

STATE BANK OF INDIA Assistant General Manager, RBO 2 CHITTOOR REQUIREMENT OF PREMISES SBI invites offers for leasing of premises for shifting of its NTR CIRCLE, MADANAPALLE BRANCH, ANNAMAIAH District, AP. The premises should have about 3000-3200 Sq. ft. carpet area with good frontage, adequate parking space for vehicles with all amenities. Bank requires ground floor premises within 1km radius from the existing bank premises. Interested parties may download the proforma for Technical & Price bids from SBI website "https://bank.sbi/portal/web/home/procurement-news" and submit the same in separate sealed covers super scribed "Technical Bid" and "Price Bid" with name and address of the tenderer's on or before 3.00PM hours. On 12.11.2025 Bank reserves the right to reject any/all offer(s) without assigning any reasons thereof. - Assistant General Manager, SBI, RBO-2 CHITTOOR

APTUS Aptus Value Housing Finance India Limited 88, Deeth Towers, 209, Rameswala High Road, Kilpauk, Chennai-600 010 Telephone: 044-4553 0093 Possession Notice Appendix IV (Under Rule 8 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002) Whereas, the undersigned being the authorized officer of Aptus Value Housing Finance India Ltd under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand notice dated 22-04-2025 calling upon the borrowers 1.Mrs. Bathala Kumari and 2.Mr. Bathala Sankarash to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being for SME LOAN & TOPUP in Loan Account Nos:AKVAL006517 & AKVAL0045502 of Rs. 93538/- (Rupees Ninety Three Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Eight Only) & Rs. 236880/- (Rupees Two Lakhs Thirty Six Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken "Symbolic Possession" of the property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rule on this 23rd day of October 2025. The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Aptus Value Housing Finance India Ltd for an amount of Rs. 104224/- (Rupees One Lakh Four Hundred Two Hundred Twenty Four Only) & 206843/- (Rupees Two Lakhs Six Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Three Only) as on 08.10.2025 and interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY:- All that part and parcel of the property situated at Sri Potti Sreeramulu Nellore District, Nellore Registration District, Kavalu Sub Registration, Kavalu Municipality Area, Kavalu Mandal, Kavalu Bit-1, 7th ward, D.No. 7-17-152, Assessment No. 1030015910, Maddelavari Street, Market Area, Sy.No. 992/2, an extent of 10 Ankanams or 80 Sq.Yds of house site, in which an extent of 476 Sq.ft. of RCC roofed Ground Floor with all accessories and all easement rights appurtenant thereto being bounded by being bounded by -of land and building and all other appurtenances attached to the said property. Boundaries: North by: Agriculture Canal. South by: Site of Pulusu Thirupatham, East by: Northchir Road, West by: Site of Muthu Sennaiah. Date: 23.10.2025 Sd/- Authorised Officer Place: Kavalu Aptus Value Housing Finance India Limited

Andhra Pradesh State FiberNet Limited Proposals are invited from interested agencies for the RIP for Selection of Agency for Hiring of Pickup vehicles for FRT Teams of APSFL. Details of the RIP and corrigenda may be downloaded from APSFL website: www.apsfl.in Sd/- Managing Director DIPR No.4524P/CL/ADVT/1/2021-22, Dt: 27/10/2025

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA अंतरिक्ष विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE निम्नलिखित आंत्रिक्त अंतरिक्ष सेवा / NIKAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE निम्नलिखित एवं अंतरिक्ष सेवा / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP निम्नलिखित एवं अंतरिक्ष / THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 22 / (फोन नं. / Ph. No. 9471 - 2564568 / 4545) दिनांक/ Dated : 27-10-2025 ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए संक्षिप्त सूचना / BRIEF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्य के लिए ई-टेंडरिंग द्वारा ऑनलाइन मद-दर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। On behalf of the President of India, online item-rate tenders are invited through E-tendering for the following work. 1. टॉवर, वीयरहाउस की वीयरहाउस तक डीजेनो संचालन प्रदान करना / Providing DG power supply to ISTRAC facility at TERLS, VSSC. / NIT No. VSSC/CMG/E01/17/2025-26 Dated 27.10.2025. (पी.ए.सी./P.A.C.: 96.12 लाख/Lakhs) डाउनलोड करने के अतिरिक्त / Period for downloading: दिनांक 27.10.2025, 15.00 बजे/hrs. से/से 23.10.2025, 23.00 बजे/hrs. इच्छुक निविदाकार च्चारी के लिए www.tenderwizard.in/iso या www.isro.gov.in देखें। Interested tenderers may visit www.tenderwizard.in/iso or www.isro.gov.in for details. Sd/- ग्रुप निदेशक / Group Director, सौरभजी, वीएसएससी / CMG,VSSC

CHANGE OF NAME I, SATISH BABU Y (No.15327546P Ex-Spr), Son of Koteswara Rao Y, resident of D.No-9-30-93A, Vykantapuram, Kavali Mandal, SPSR Nellore District -524201 hereby declare that my daughter's name was incorrectly entered as YD LAYA SRI in my Army (MEG) service records, while her correct name, as per her SSC market sheet and Aadhaar card No. 4428 1978 7851 is YADALA LAYA SRI with the same date of birth 09 NOV 2009. Both names refer to the same person, my daughter. I have requested the relevant authorities to correct her name as "YADALA LAYA SRI" in my service records. If any problem arises in future, I will bear the consequences.

भारत सरकार - अंतरिक्ष विभाग / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA - DEPARTMENT OF SPACE निर्माण एवं अनुसंधान समूह, एसीएससी-शार / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC-SHAR श्रीहरिकोटा / नेल्लूर (जिला), आ.प्र. / SRIRAHIKOTA - 524124 संक्षिप्त ई-निविदा सूचना / Brief E-TENDER NOTICE ई-निविदा सूचना सं/ E-Tender Notice No. PT-AC-25-021 दिनांक/ Date: 23/10/2025 भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से, "एफएलपी की क्षतिग्रस्त एसीएससी शार में खाई के अंदर जी-24 एमएमएच और एमओएन-3 चिह्न बनाई जाने का प्रतिस्थापन।" (अनुमानित लागत: ₹ 21.41 लाख) के लिए ई-निविदा के माध्यम से मद दर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा दस्तावेज 10.11.2025 को 14:30 बजे तक डाउनलोड किए जा सकते हैं। विस्तृत सूचना हेतु इच्छुक निविदाकार हमारी वेबसाइट www.isro.gov.in या www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO पर जा सकते हैं। On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for "Replacement of G-24 MMH & MON-3 chilled brine piping inside trench at FLP area SDSC SHAR. (Aircodition work)" (Estimated cost: ₹ 21.41 Lakhs); Tender documents can be downloaded up to 10.11.2025, 14:30 hrs. Interested tenderer may visit www.isro.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO for details. हस्ताक्षरित- समूह प्रधान, सीएमजी / एसीएससी शार / Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG / SDSC SHAR

NO LIFE SHOULD BE LOST TO CYCLONE MONTHA: CM TO OFFICIALS

Naidu instructs officials to release hourly weather bulletins to ensure public receives timely updates; relief camps set up in 2,707 villages and ward secretariats

GOVERNMENT PREPAREDNESS – KEY MEASURES ON GROUND

EVACUATION & RELIEF ARRANGEMENTS

- Vulnerable populations, including pregnant women, elderly and coastal belt residents, shifted to safer locations
- 260 relief centres in Kakinada and 140 in Nellore, with food, milk and water stocked for 2-3 days
- 364 schools readied as shelters and 14,000+ schools given precautionary holiday in affected areas
- All beaches closed; fishermen prohibited from venturing into sea
- Red alerts issued for Kakinada, Konaseema, West Godavari, Krishna, Bapatla, Prakasam & Nellore districts

PUBLIC ADVISORY

- Remain indoors until the Government issues an all-clear
- Avoid beaches, low-lying areas and flooded roads
- Follow only official alerts from RTGS/APSDMA/Collectorates
- Use emergency helplines in case of distress

RESCUE & RAPID RESPONSE DEPLOYMENT

11 NDRF and 12 SDRF teams positioned for rescue, evacuation & flood response

Fire Services, swimmers, OBM boats, life jackets, and emergency equipment placed across coastal zones

108/104 ambulance network and medical camps were activated in all cyclone shelters

RTGS & COMMUNICATION

RTGS War Room running 24x7, tracking rainfall, wind, inundation, reservoirs, traffic, and field alerts

Satellite phones, V-SATS, digital radios, repeaters, and wireless support are pre-positioned to prevent network failure

Hourly situation reports are being shared with the Government and District Collectors

POWER & PUBLIC UTILITIES

JCBs, power saws, and dewatering pumps were deployed across vulnerable stretches

Energy Rapid Restoration Teams with transformers, poles, conductors, and generators stationed in coastal districts

RWS tankers, chlorine tablets, bleaching powder, and safe drinking water backups are kept ready

CIVIL SUPPLIES AND HEALTH

Sufficient rice, essentials and relief stock are positioned at Mandal Level Stock Points

Emergency drug stocks, boat clinics, and Rapid Response Medical Teams mobilised for health support

DISASTER RELIEF FUNDS RELEASED

To enable immediate relief work, the government has authorised withdrawal of funds under TR-27 for rescue, evacuation, medical care, food, drinking water, sanitation and road clearance. Additional funds may be drawn by severely affected districts as needed



CM Naidu review preparedness of Cyclone Montha at RTGS centre in the Secretariat on Monday | EXPRESS

Identify high-risk zones, clear drains to prevent flooding and trim trees prone to uprooting. Apply lessons learned from past cyclones like Hudhud to strengthen preparedness — Chandrababu Naidu, Chief Minister

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayawada

WITH Cyclone Montha inching closer to the Andhra Pradesh coast, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has directed officials to take all necessary measures to prevent loss of life and minimise damage to property and crops.

Reviewing preparedness at the Real-Time Governance Society (RTGS) centre in the Secretariat on Monday, Naidu stressed the importance of real-time communication, mass evacuation and coordinated relief efforts across all departments.

He instructed officials to release hourly weather bulletins from Tuesday to ensure the public receives timely and accurate updates. He emphasised communication networks must remain uninterrupted during the cyclone, directing officials to deploy satellite phones and mobile towers where necessary. "No one should fall victim to the cyclone. Our goal is to prevent even a single casualty," Naidu said.

Evacuation efforts are underway in vulnerable coastal areas, with relief camps being readied in 2,707 villages and ward secretariats. Each evacuee will be provided 25 kg of rice and essential supplies. Around 3,211 generators have been stationed across 110 mandals to

ensure power backup, while control rooms at district and mandal levels will function round-the-clock to coordinate emergency operations.

Naidu said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had called to enquire about the cyclone's impact and assured Central government support. Minister Nara Lokesh has been tasked with coordinating with the Prime Minister's Office to

Cyclone disrupts train and flight services

In view of the cyclone, South Central Railways cancelled 54 train services on October 27, 28, and 29, while East Coast Railways canceled 43. Flight operations from Vizag and Vijayawada were also affected, with several Air India and IndiGo services canceled on Tuesday

streamline assistance and communication.

Officials briefed the Chief Minister that the cyclone, located 490 km from Kakinada and moving at 17 kmph, has already triggered rainfall in northern and southern coastal districts. Krishna district is expected to receive extremely heavy rainfall on Tuesday, while Guntur, Bapatla, NTR, Palnadu, and West Godavari

Rail connectivity to new AP ports emphasised

Continued from page 1

He stressed the importance of railway cooperation in supporting the State's logistics ambitions, noting that an Integrated Logistics Park will be developed in collaboration with the central government. Naidu highlighted the need to improve rail connectivity to newly constructed ports such as Mulapeta, Visakhapatnam, Kakinada, and Ramayapatnam to facilitate freight movement.

Plans to transform Andhra Pradesh into a logistics corridor were discussed, with Naidu calling for enhanced north-south and east-west connectivity. He also reviewed proposals for a Dedicated Freight Corridor from Kharagpur to Chennai and works related to 1,564 km of new railway routes.

In terms of passenger infrastructure, the Chief Minister directed that Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Tirupati, and Amravati railway stations be developed as iconic hubs. He called for innovative design in the construction of the Amravati station and urged swift redevelopment of Vijayawada station, including the construction of a skywalk at Tirupati for pilgrim convenience. Development of the Gnanapuram

side of Visakhapatnam station was suggested to ease traffic congestion. Railway officials informed the CM that Nellore and Rajamahendravaram stations are also being upgraded, and 73 stations across the state are being modernized under the Amrit Stations scheme. Proposals have been made for constructing 373 railway over-and-under-bridges, with the CM directing that visible transformation of stations be achieved by December.

Naidu also reviewed progress on routes such as Kottavalasa-Kirandol, Kottavalasa-Vizianagaram, Duvvada, and Simhachalam, and emphasised the need to expedite the construction of the South Coast Railway Zone headquarters in Visakhapatnam.

He instructed that development works at Rajamahendravaram station be completed before the Godavari Pushkaralu festival. Officials reported ₹271 crore has been allocated for station upgrades and that 1,012 special trains will be operated during the festival period.

The review meeting was attended by Investments and Infrastructure Minister BC Janardhan Reddy, Special Chief Secretary MT Krishna Babu and other senior officials.



Home Minister urges public to avoid spreading unverified info on cyclone

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayawada

HOME Minister Vangalapati Anitha on Monday urged citizens to avoid forwarding or posting unverified information about Cyclone Montha on social media, warning that misinformation could create panic and confusion.

The Minister assured that the State government is fully prepared to handle any situation arising from the cyclone's impact. In a press release, she said Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu had instructed all departments to remain in close coordination, with precautionary measures actively implemented in cyclone-affected areas over the past three days.



Anitha said that continuous reviews are being conducted from the Real-Time Governance (RTG) Centre by the Chief Minister and IT Minister Nara Lokesh, with the entire administrative machinery on high alert. A coordinated response

'Public safety remains gov't's top priority'

Control rooms have been established in all districts to provide round-the-clock updates and assistance to the public through official media. Minister Anitha reiterated that public safety remains the government's top priority

plan has been put in place involving district collectors, superintendents of police, and all key departments to ensure swift action.

Special officers have been appointed in cyclone-prone districts, and funds released to support relief and rehabilitation. Control rooms have been

established in all districts to provide round-the-clock updates and assistance to the public through official media and verified social platforms.

Emphasising responsible reporting, the Minister observed that while digital platforms are vital for quick communication, some outlets have been spreading sensational or misleading content that fuels fear, particularly in flood-prone regions. She appealed to content creators, digital media outlets, and news organisations to ensure their coverage remains factual, verified, and non-alarmist.

Anitha reiterated that public safety remains the government's top priority. She urged citizens to remain calm.

Parakamani case: HC finds fault with cops & magistrate

Continued from page 1

The case was subsequently compromised in the Lok Adalat, prompting Tirupati Vartha editor M Srinivasulu to file a petition in the High Court earlier this year.

While hearing the petition, Justice Ramakrishna Prasad criticised the investigating officer for registering the case under IPC Sections 379 and 381, which are compoundable, instead of Section 409 (criminal breach of trust by a public servant), which is non-compoundable. The court noted that Ravikumar, being a TTD employee, qualified as a public servant, and the wrong application of sections enabled the compromise.

The court referred the legality of the Lok Adalat's compromise order — through which the case was settled between the accused and the complainant — to a two-judge bench and instructed the Registry to place the matter before the Chief Justice. It also directed that a copy of the Lok Adalat order be included in the Annual Confidential Report (ACR) of the then Tirupati II Additional Judicial Magistrate who approved the compromise.

Calling the lapses by both the investigating officer and magistrate 'serious in nature', the judge observed that the TTD Board's approval was mandatory before any compromise could be made in cases involving temple property. "Once a devotee donates money to the Lord, it becomes temple property. Only the TTD Board, on behalf of the deity, can decide on any compromise," the judge remarked.

EXPRESS READ

Be on high alert: Min directs officials

Vijayawada: Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu directed all irrigation officials in cyclone-affected districts to remain on high alert as Cyclone Montha approaches the Andhra Pradesh coast. Chairing a video conference from the State Secretariat with senior officials, the Minister ordered immediate cancellation of leaves and instructed all staff to stay at their respective duty stations

11 NDRF & 12 SDRF units deployed across cyclone-prone districts in State

Continued from page 1

The cyclone is expected to bring maximum sustained wind speeds of 90-100 kmph, gusting up to 110 kmph, along with extremely heavy rainfall and rough sea conditions.

APSDMA Managing Director Prakhari Jain confirmed that the cyclone has begun affecting coastal districts, with rainfall and gales intensifying. He urged residents to remain vigilant and follow safety advisories. The name 'Montha' — derived from Thai — means 'fragrant flower.'

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu in a teleconference with district collectors and senior officials, emphasised zero casualties and assigned personal responsibility to collectors for real-time monitoring.

Naidu ordered the appointment of dedicated in-charges at each centre, ensured quality food, medical camps, and clean drinking water, and mandated school closures in affected districts. Special vigilance was or-

dered in hilly areas like Vijayawada, Mangalagiri, and Vizag to prevent landslides, with strict checks on tanks, canals, and drainage systems to avoid breaches and flooding.

District administrations across the coastal belt are on high alert. Kakinada district is witnessing rough sea conditions at the Uppada coast, worsening coastal erosion. Police evacuated residents from Uppada, Subbampet, Mayapatnam, and Suradapet villages.

Eleven National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams and 12 State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) units have been deployed across cyclone-prone districts. NDRF Commandant VVN Prasanna Kumar attended a preparedness meeting chaired by Home Minister Vangalapati Anitha and is overseeing operations in Kakinada.

Kakinada MP Tangella Uday Srinivas also participated in awareness activities. NDRF teams have conducted community outreach, inspected rescue equipment, and remain on high

alert with a 24x7 control room coordinating with APSDMA, RMC, and CWC.

District administrations of DR BR Ambedkar Konaseema, East Godavari, West Godavari, and Krishna districts have made all necessary arrangements for tackling any situation arising due to cyclone Montha.

NTR district Collector G. Lakshminsha stated that 180 rehabilitation centers have been readied, and 24 drones are monitoring weather conditions.

Vijayawada Police Commis-

sioned SV Rajasekhara Babu reported that officers have been deployed across ward secretariats, with 42 drones conducting real-time assessments. As a precaution, 360 households are being evacuated.

In Chittoor district's Nagari constituency, continuous rainfall over four days has led to flooding from the Kushasthali river, cutting off road connectivity to rural areas like Thiruttani and Pallipattu. Traffic is being diverted through bypass routes, and police are preventing access to dangerous river-



PRASANT MADUGULA

banks. Irrigation officials have released 1,000 cusecs of water from the Krishnapuram reservoir as a preventive measure.

In Tirupati district, Collector S Venkateshwar said five coastal mandals are expected to receive heavy rainfall, and control rooms have been set up. Residents have been advised to stay indoors, avoid grazing cattle, and steer clear of trees, electric poles, and hoardings. Pilgrims heading to Tirumala have been asked to postpone travel.

The APSDMA has activated a robust control room network comprising one state-level center, 19 district centers, 54 revenue division units, and 484 mandal/village setups—totaling 558 facilities operating round-the-clock. Communication is being maintained via 16 satellite phones and 35 Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) sets.

In a rain-related tragedy, a 12-year-old boy, Polavarapu Charan Sai, was feared drowned in a canal near Polavaram on Monday. He fell into the water

after the bike he was riding on skidded on a wet bridge. Despite initial attempts to swim out and his uncle's rescue efforts, the boy went missing. A search operation involving the NDRF and local fishermen is underway.

Authorities continue to urge residents to remain indoors, avoid unnecessary travel, and follow official advisories as Cyclone Montha approaches landfall. Rainfall and wind intensity are expected to increase further, and the government machinery remains fully mobilised to ensure public safety.

Cyclone Montha is expected to impact 233 mandals, 1,419 villages, and 44 municipalities across Andhra Pradesh. Authorities have already set up 2,194 relief camps in vulnerable areas. District administrations are fully prepared to evacuate residents to rehabilitation centers wherever necessary. Special attention is being given to the safety of 3,465 pregnant women and new mothers in affected zones.

DMK and allies oppose SIR, plan all-party meet

BJP government is instigating the ECI to carryout this anti-democratic activity: Stalin

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

PREPARING the ground for a strong pushback against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Tamil Nadu, DMK Chief and Minister MK Stalin and his alliance partners invited leaders across the political spectrum to attend an all-party meeting in Chennai on November 2 to discuss the modalities to stop the exercise. "The BJP government is instigating the Election Commission of India (ECI) to carry out this anti-democratic activity," they said. The appeal came after a meeting of the Secular Progressive Alliance leaders held at Anna Arivalayam, following the Election Commission of India's (ECI) announcement on Monday. In a joint statement, the leaders charged the BJP-led union government of relentlessly destroying democratic values and misusing independent institutions at will. They said the functioning of the ECI was not only controversial but also doubtful. "We witnessed that the SIR in Bihar was actually a plot to remove genuine voters from the list. The ECI did not even follow

the SC's directions," they said. The leaders pointed out that conducting the SIR in Tamil Nadu during the monsoon period of November and December would be difficult and practically impossible and that the procedures announced by the ECI would cause hardship to a large number of voters. They questioned why the Aadhaar card was not accepted under the SIR even after the Supreme Court's verdict, and why ration card was not accepted as a proof despite repeated demands. While acknowledging the need to revise the electoral rolls, they argued that the process should not be carried out in haste. "When the Assembly election is due in April, announcing the SIR now is unfair. We suspect a conspiracy to snatch away the rights of the people of Tamil Nadu. In Bihar, Muslims, Scheduled Caste communities, and women were targeted for name removal. Tamil Nadu will never allow such a plot and the state will be one in its opposition," they stated. In a post on 'X', Stalin said, "The right to vote is the foundation of democracy. TN will fight against any attempt to murder it, and Tamil Nadu will win."

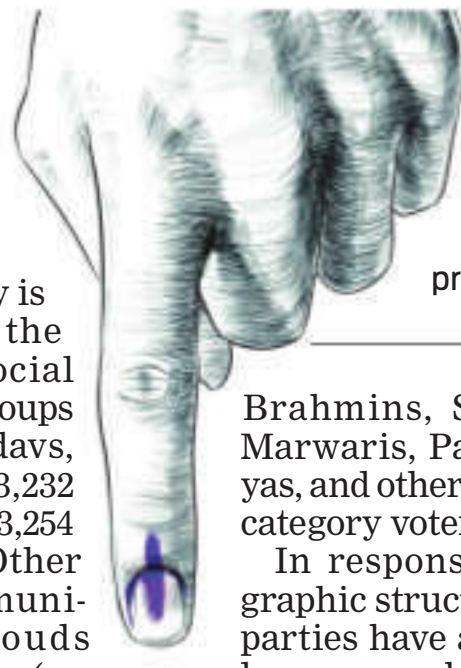


Congress, BRS lock horns in Jubilee Hills bypoll

IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY @Hyderabad

THE upcoming by-election for Jubilee Hills has intensified into a high-voltage electoral battle. Major political parties are meticulously crafting their strategies around caste and community-based vote banks. With approximately 3.9 lakh voters in the segment, the ruling Congress and the opposition Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS) are treating the contest as a prestigious bellwether for their prospects in future local body and municipal elections. An analysis of the constituency's demographic mosaic reveals a complex electoral landscape. The Muslim community, with a significant 1.31 lakh vot-

ers, is seen as an important bloc, with both the Congress and BRS aggressively vying for its support. The constituency is a microcosm of the state's diverse social fabric. Key voter groups include 38,721 Yadavs, 27,104 Kammas, 23,232 SC (Madiga), and 23,254 Mudiraj voters. Other substantial communities are the Gouds (19,630), Christians (approx. 21,000), Reddys (15,488), Munnuru Kapus (11,616), and SC (Mala) voters (11,600). The electorate also includes smaller but significant numbers of



HIGH-VOLTAGE ELECTORAL BATTLE

Major political parties are meticulously crafting their strategies around caste and community-based vote banks. With approximately 3.9 lakh voters in the segment, the ruling Congress and the opposition Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS) are treating the contest as a prestigious bellwether for their prospects in future

The ruling Congress has launched its strategy under the guidance of ministers, including Tummala Nageswar Rao, Vivek Venkataswamy, and In-charge minister Ponnamp Prabhakar. They are being assisted by Rajya Sabha MP Anil Kumar Yadava and former MP Mohammed Azharuddin on the ground. Not to be outdone, the Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS) has en-

listed a battery of its heavyweights, assigning responsibilities to former ministers and MLAs such as Talasani Srinivas Yadav, Mahmood Ali, KP Vivekanand, Shambirpur Raju, Sabitha Indra Reddy, Vaddiraju Ravi Chandra, and Gangula Kamalakar. In a significant development, the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (MIM) has decided not to contest the by-poll. According to sources, the party is likely to extend its support to the Congress candidate, Naveen Yadav. Yadav, who previously contested from the same constituency on an MIM ticket, is believed to be well-known to the voters, a factor that could further influence the political equations in Jubilee Hills.

'Fight in JH by-election between BJP & AIMIM'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Hyderabad

BJP state president N Ramchander Rao on Monday said the contest for the Jubilee Hills seat was between his party and the AIMIM, as Congress candidate Naveen Yadav had earlier contested elections on the green party ticket. Addressing a press conference at the BJP state office here, Ramchander said a meeting with Shakti Kendra in-charges for the byelection had been held. He stated that to stop the Majlis, the BJP must win, as there was a "tacit understanding" between the ruling Congress and the AIMIM. He also alleged that the Congress government had failed to



If the Congress-MIM alliance wins in Jubilee Hills, their six guarantees will turn into a new manifesto, giving a free hand to rowdy-sheeters

implement its six guarantees. "If the Congress-MIM alliance wins in Jubilee Hills, their six guarantees will turn into a

new manifesto, giving a free hand to rowdy-sheeters who have become active after the Congress came to power," he said. Ramchander also alleged that "gun culture" had increased under the Congress government, which had failed to maintain law and order. Citing incidents such as the stabbing to death of a constable by a rowdy-sheeter in Nizamabad, the shooting of a Gau rakshak and an attack on police personnel near Chaderghat, he said the law and order situation was deteriorating and the government was "unable to protect even policemen." He said the BJP welcomed the visit of the state DGP and senior officers to the hospital where Southeast Zone DCP

Kerala High Court quashes case against film director

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kochi

THE Kerala High Court on Monday quashed the case registered against Malayalam film director Ranjith based on a complaint filed by a Bengali actor, who alleged that he tried to outrage her modesty by inappropriately holding her hand and attempting to touch her body with sexual intent. The High Court observed that the magistrate was not justified in taking cognizance of the offence after a delay of more than 15 years.

The police had registered a case against Ranjith under IPC Sections 354 (for outraging the modesty of a woman) and 509 (for acts, words and gestures intended to insult a woman's modesty) in 2009. It was in 2009 that the victim reached Kochi to discuss a film project. Ranjith allegedly made sexual advances at his apartment in Kallur. The actor came out against the director after the release of the Justice Hema Committee report on issues faced by women in the Malayalam film industry. Court said: "Since the maximum punishment provided for the offence under Section 368 and 509 IPC as on the date of the offence was only two years and as per Section 468 CrPC, the period of limitation was only 3 years from the date of commission of offence, the magistrate was not justified in taking cognizance to the offence after a period of more than 15 years."

HC rejects plea for CBI probe in SI recruitment

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Cuttack

THE Orissa High Court on Monday disposed of a PIL seeking direction for a CBI probe into the Odisha Police sub-inspector (SI) recruitment examination scam as the state government has already recommended for the investigation to be conducted by the central agency.

The two-judge bench of Chief Justice Harish Tandon and Justice MS Raman was informed by Advocate General Pitambar Acharya that the state government had already recommended a CBI probe into the matter. A notification to this effect had also been issued by the government on the day, he stated. Advocate Shivsankar Mohanty had filed the PIL. The alleged scam first surfaced when a case was registered at the Golanthara police station in Berhampur based on a tip-off on September 30. The case was later handed over to the CID-Crime Branch, where it was re-registered under provisions of the Odisha Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2004, and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). The Odisha Police Recruitment Board (OPRB), according to reports, had outsourced the conduct of the exam to ITI Limited, a central public sector undertaking (PSU) headquartered in Kolkata. However, ITI Limited further sub-contracted the job to Bhubaneswar-based Silicon Techlab, which in turn assigned responsibilities to Panchsoft Technologies.

Govt has raised sports quota in police recruitment, says Siddu

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mangaluru

REAFFIRMING his government's commitment to nurturing sports talent, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that his government has already implemented several initiatives, including raising the sports quota in police recruitment from 2% to 3%. He also said that his government will introduce a 2% job quota for winners of national and international competitions. Inaugurating the Chief Minister's Mangalore India International Challenge 2025, an international badminton tournament at Urva Stadium in Mangaluru on Monday, the CM, acknowledging India's underwhelming performance at the Olympics despite its vast



K'taka CM Siddaramaiah meets shuttlers during the inauguration of Chief Minister's Mangalore India International Challenge 2025, in Mangaluru on Monday | EXPRESS

population, said that the State Government would offer cash rewards of ₹5 crore, ₹3 crore, and ₹2 crore to Olympic gold, silver, and bronze medalists,

respectively. Gold medal winners will also be offered government jobs, he said, adding that 60 sports persons preparing for the Olym-

pics will receive ₹10 lakh each for training. Commending badminton players Arun Poovaiah and Ashok Poovaiah for bringing laurels to the nation, Siddaramaiah urged them to inspire upcoming athletes. "More people should take up sports and make Karnataka proud," the CM said. Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao, who is also the Dakshina Kannada district in-charge minister, emphasised transforming Mangaluru into a sports city, given its abundance of talent. He said promoting sports and cultural activities would attract investment to the region. Citing the State Government's plan to build an 80,000-seater stadium near Bengaluru at a cost of ₹2,000 crore and develop a full-fledged sports

Telangana woman jailed after killing hubby, leaving four children orphaned

U MAHESH @Hanamkonda

FOR four children in Dharmasagar mandal, life came to a halt on the night of October 16. Their father lay dead, strangled with a chunni. Their mother, now behind bars, stands accused of killing him. The children, all below 15 years of age, wait in silence, unsure what the word "home" means any more. According to police, Rajarapu Ashok, a daily wage labourer from Peddapendiyal village, was killed by his wife, Yadav Lakshmi, allegedly in a fit of rage following a heated argument, which investigators believe turned violent.



Ashok was reportedly addicted to alcohol and often accused his wife of infidelity. On that October night, Lakshmi allegedly used her chunni to strangle him, while their children slept in the adjacent room.

The Dharmasagar police have registered a case and are investigating. Since the day after the murder, the four children, Chaitanya (12), Charanya (11), Nani (9) and Vishal (7), have been under the care of the Hanamkonda Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS). All were students of the government school in their village, with their days filled with lessons, games and small quarrels. That life is gone. Their mother is lodged in the Narsampet sub-jail in Warangal. None of the relatives have come forward to take them in. Their paternal grandfather, Rajarapu Venkataiah.



FESTIVE FERVOUR

People from Bihari community worship Sun on occasion of Chhath Puja at Kuakhai in Bhubaneswar on Monday | DEBADATTA MALLICK

Odisha govt signs MoUs worth ₹50,000 cr in maritime sector at IMW 2025 in Mumbai

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bhubaneswar

SHOWCASING its maritime strength and immense opportunities in blue economy at the India Maritime Week (IMW) 2025 in Mumbai, the Odisha government on Monday signed nine MoUs worth ₹50,000 crore in the sector, including construction of new ports, shipbuilding, connectivity, logistics and waterways. The investment proposals

were inked in the presence of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi. "Odisha is committed to building a strong port-led and port-based economy to transform our ports into engines of trade, industry and employment and drive India's growth journey for the next 25 years," he said. Joining the inaugural session of the event, hosted by Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways in association with the Indian Ports Associa-



Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi receiving a commemorative plaque at the inaugural session of IMW 2025 event in Mumbai. | EXPRESS

tion (IPA), alongside Union Home minister Amit Shah, Majhi highlighted Odisha's maritime vision that aims at enhancing port capacity to 500 million tonne by 2047, with development of 14 new ports. "Odisha's maritime strength is driving a new era of industrial and economic growth. With Paradip, Dhamra, Gopalpur, and upcoming ports at Astaranga, Jatadhari Muihan, Subarnarekha, and Bahuda, we are expanding our total port handling capacity to 500 million tonnes annually, supported by three major ship anchor points," he said. The Paradip Port Authority (PPA) and Odisha Maritime Board (OMB) signed MoU for development of a mega shipbuilding cluster at the mouth of Mahanadi river in Kendrapara district with an investment of ₹22,700 crore. The PPA, OMB and Sagarmala Finance Corporation entered into a pact for constructing an all-weather

satellite major port at Bahuda Muhana in Ganjam district at a cost of ₹21,500 crore. The state Commerce and Transport department signed an MoU with Indian Ports Association for development of a cruise terminal at ₹500 crore. While the PPA and OMB will establish an international cruise terminal at Puri with similar cost. The Inland Waterways Authority of India, PPA, OMB and Ministry of Coal also signed an MoU.

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Rammath Goenka

SIR 2.0 WILL TEST ECI'S RESOLVE, CLARITY IN OPPOSITION DOMAINS

THE Election Commission of India (ECI) has begun one of its most scrutinised exercises in recent years—the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in 12 states and Union Territories. The announcement came on Monday, after the Commission showcased the process in Bihar as a model of efficiency. Four of the states—West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry—go to the polls next year, setting the stage for a politically charged revision. The process begins at midnight on Monday, with the rolls frozen and booth-level officers (BLOs) starting door-to-door verification from November 4. Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar repeatedly cited Bihar's "zero appeals" outcome as a marker of transparency—a pointed message to critics.

The scale is formidable. About 51 crore electors will be covered in this round—nearly half of India's voter base. Bihar's recent SIR covered 7.9 crore voters, of whom 52 lakh were found missing or relocated. The final rolls for the 12 participating states and Union Territories are to be published by February 7, 2026. This is also the first such intensive field revision in two decades, the last comparable exercise dating back to 2002–04.

What makes this phase politically sensitive is not its size alone, but the states where it is being undertaken. The revision now moves into opposition-ruled regions, where voter lists have long been a source of contention. The ECI will be closely watched for how it addresses complaints—especially in West Bengal, where elections often turn into pitched contests.

Political reactions have already begun. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has questioned the timing, suggesting it could be used to influence rolls. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin has called it an instance of the Centre overstepping its limits. The DMK-led alliance has also convened an all-party meeting on November 2 to discuss the issue, reflecting rising unease among opposition parties. Kerala's Pinarayi Vijayan has similarly urged caution against undermining state powers.

As the SIR unfolds, what should be a routine roll update could well become a test of the Election Commission's neutrality—and the faith of voters in one of India's most vital democratic institutions.

TRUST AND PATIENCE SHAPE YOUNG MINDS

THE cane, long condemned as a relic of a harsher time, has returned to public debate. The Kerala High Court last week quashed criminal proceedings against a teacher accused of caning a student while breaking up a fight, holding that a teacher can enforce discipline and correct pupils if the act is *bona fide*, intended to guide, not to harm.

Justice C Pratheep Kumar pointed out that the teacher had used "only minimum corporal punishment and had no intention to cause any hurt to the students beyond what is required for enforcing discipline". The judge described the prosecution as "unfortunate", suggesting that intent, not merely the act, should determine culpability.

This is not a precedent. Earlier this year, Justice P V Kunhikrishnan remarked, "Let teachers, if they wish, carry a cane... It need not always be used, but its mere presence will deter students from misbehaving." The court has often emphasised the teacher's right to protection from prosecution if the act is carried out in good faith.

Behind these cases lies a deeper unease. Between 2020 and 2024, 18 cases against teachers reached the Kerala High Court—nearly matching the number filed over the previous two decades. Judges have expressed concern that growing mistrust and quick recourse to litigation may be eroding teachers' authority in the classroom.

However, the position sits uneasily with settled law. The Delhi High Court, in *Parents Forum for Meaningful Education* (2000), stated that the State recognises the child's right not to be exposed to violence of any kind connected with education. Subsequently, the Right to Education Act, 2009, prohibited physical punishment and mental harassment in schools. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has said that hitting or humiliating a child is not discipline but a form of abuse that strips away freedom, dignity, and the desire to learn.

When such cases come before courts, they call for an understanding of how deeply children depend on the adults around them for safety and trust. Discipline cannot grow out of fear. Teachers do have the duty to maintain order and shape a child's character, but that role calls for patience, guidance, and example—not the cane. For this balance to hold, trust between teachers and parents is essential.

QUICK TAKE

DIGITAL UPRISING

INDIA added 4.5 million wireless and wireline telephone subscribers in August, pushing the total past 1.22 billion. With a population of 1.43 billion, it is only a matter of time before the number of subscriptions matches the number of Indians. As data consumption continues to surge, the market is rapidly shifting toward high-speed networks. The subscriber base will expand further with the growth of AI and the Internet of Things and the Bharat 6G Alliance initiative. This momentum leaves no excuse for the absence of high-speed internet, especially in rural areas, connecting mobile services to a national grid to enhance emergency response and enable live online medical and agricultural consultations.

FOR almost two years, the Indo-Pacific seemed to drift off the front pages of geopolitics. The US's attention was consumed by wars in Europe and instability in the Middle East. The headlines spoke of Ukraine, Gaza, and energy crises, not of the South China Sea or the Indian Ocean. Yet this pause in attention did not mean the competition was over. It merely meant that while the world was distracted, Beijing was quietly at work—consolidating presence, deepening dependencies, and shaping norms that make its future dominance seem inevitable. The US withdrawal from Afghanistan was intended to facilitate contestation of influence in the Indo-Pacific, but other events intervened.

The strategic lull has consequences. China used this period to strengthen its position through what might be called the 'art of incremental advantage'. Ports, infrastructure projects, and logistics agreements have given it a wider footprint across the Indian Ocean—not in the overt form of military bases, but as dual-use platforms offering flexibility for future use. Kyaukpou in Myanmar and Ream in Cambodia, for example, began as commercial projects and evolved into virtual dual-use footholds. This is all capability under development. The lesson is clear; in the Indo-Pacific, neglect is not neutrality. It only creates an opportunity for China.

The US, despite its still formidable naval presence, has struggled to sustain the energy it once invested in the 'Free and Open Indo-Pacific' (FOIP) concept. The Donald Trump administration's second term has been more transactional, with foreign policy viewed through the prism of immediate deals, crisis management, and perhaps the Nobel ambition. Europe's anxieties, the Middle East's fires, and domestic priorities have meant that the US bandwidth has been thinly spread. The Indo-Pacific strategy now works in fits and starts, but the theatre often drifts into diplomatic low tide.

The result is an environment where the Quad—India, Japan, Australia and the United States—continues to exist, even function, but without the rhythm of sustained coordination that true deterrence demands. Its members are doing meaningful work: improving supply-chain resilience, mapping critical minerals and building maritime cooperation. However, a network requires constant power to stay lit; a few bursts of attention cannot replace a steady current. In the absence of continuous engagement, China's advantage grows not through confrontation, but through continuity.

As global attention drifted toward Europe and the Middle East, China quietly deepened its reach in the Indo-Pacific—now India and its partners must reclaim both presence and purpose

AFTER THE HIATUS: RESTORING BALANCE IN THE INDO-PACIFIC



LT GEN SYED ATA HASNAIN (RETD)

Former Commander, Srinagar-based 15 Corps; Chancellor, Central University of Kashmir

A second development complicates matters further: the recent cooling in Indo-US relations and Washington's revived interest in Pakistan. The return of Pakistan to Washington's radar, ostensibly for regional stability and counterterrorism coordination, risks reducing the US leverage over Islamabad's more destabilising impulses. It also diverts American diplomatic energy from that very partnership that was supposed to anchor the Indo-Pacific balance.

When political trust erodes, even slightly, strategic cooperation loses its rhythm. If New Delhi doubts Washington's reliability or long-term intent, it becomes less willing to align too visibly with any coalition that appears to target China. The result is a subtle but real thinning of coordination—not a rupture, but a reluctance. In that space of hesitation, China gains.

This dynamic is producing a new kind of regional balance; less US-led, more decentralised, but obviously less effective, too. India, Japan, and Australia are increasingly pursuing autonomous strategies—developing capacities, building mini-lateral arrangements, and deepening bilateral defence cooperation even outside the American umbrella. It is not an anti-US trend; rather, it is a recognition that resilience cannot depend on one capital's attention span. The Indo-Pacific may thus evolve into a loose network of capable regional powers, each balancing China in its own way—rather than a single Western-led front.

The deeper question, however, is whether this lull makes conflict in the region, particularly over Taiwan, more or less likely. The answer is nuanced. On one hand, when the US attention appears divided, Beijing might perceive a window

SACRED SPACES & SHATTERED TRUST

REPORTS of sexual harassment by teachers in educational institutions have been steadily rising. Just a few days ago, a professor at Pondicherry University allegedly demanded explicit photos from students. In Bengaluru, an academic was arrested for exploiting a student at his residence. Near Delhi, a self-styled godman running an educational institution has been accused by 17 girls of harassment. Two professors of Bharathidasan University in Tamil Nadu were recently given compulsory retirement on similar charges. The shock these incidents evoke stems not only from individual depravity but also from how easily systems meant to protect students often look the other way.

The official numbers tell their own story. According to data on the UGC website, the number of sexual harassment complaints in universities alone rose sharply, from 141 in 2018-19 to 378 in 2022-23. The number of institutions reporting such cases went up from 36 to 83. Of course, most cases were reportedly 'disposed of' within the year. While the reporting framework is becoming more active, sadly, the steady rise in numbers shows that predatory behaviour remains embedded in campus culture. Besides, for every student daring to complain, may stay silent because of fear, shame, or quiet coercion of "do not ruin the institution's name".

From the power dynamics perspective, this is not about sexual misconduct but misuse of power and trust. Teachers and administrators wield considerable influence over students' grades, research and career paths. Such power, if unchecked, can become a space for exploitation. Psychologists note such behaviour is rarely impulsive but often planned, disguised as mentorship, and rationalised as 'harmless' or 'consensual'. However, consent is meaningless here when one person's future depends on the other's approval. In fact, grooming often begins subtly: a compliment, special attention, promises of help—until boundaries blur. What worsens this in India is the cultural pedestal on which teachers are placed. "Mata, Pitha, Guru, Deivam" reflects this deep reverence. While morally beautiful, it can also breed silence. Students and parents may hesitate to question, and institutions prefer quiet 'internal resolutions'. Too often, deference to teachers becomes their shield, making it harder to challenge authority even when it crosses the line.

Administratively, too, the situation

isn't much better. By law, all colleges and universities are required to have internal complaints committees (ICCs) under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Protection, Prevention and Redressal) (POSH) Act, 2013, while schools are covered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. On paper, most institutions comply. However, in reality, many committees are poorly trained, under-informed or simply ornamental. Surveys at several universities show that more than half of the students are unaware of their ICC's ex-



After recent reports of sexual exploitation of students, India needs to review the cultural pedestal it places its teachers on. Respect cannot mean immunity from accountability; and classrooms need to return back to being safe spaces for learning

istence. Those who do often doubt its impartiality because the members may be colleagues of the accused. Add to that the fear of being blamed, the lack of confidentiality, and the obsession with protecting the institution's 'reputation', and it's easy to see why so many cases go unreported. Even when victims look beyond the campus and turn to the police, the legal route feels punishing. Lengthy procedures, jurisdictional tangles, and public scrutiny discourage survivors from pursuing justice. The process itself often becomes another form of trauma. As a result, many simply give up, opting for closure over confrontation while the perpetrator may walk away unscathed.

Still, there are signs of progress. In some universities, especially those where

students are vocal, ICCs have started to function more effectively. The near-total disposal rate of complaints in recent years suggests that, when supported, formal structures can work. Awareness sessions, gender sensitisation programmes, and discussions around consent have begun to find a place in classrooms and faculty workshops. However, these changes are minimal and concentrated mostly on urban campuses, while smaller, semi-urban institutions remain trapped in silence and denial. Real change is possible only when institutions go beyond compliance and embrace accountability as a cultural value. ICCs have to be genuinely independent, with trained members, external experts, and protection from administrative pressure. They must work transparently. Every institution should publish anonymised annual reports detailing the number of complaints, the actions taken, and the lessons learned. That kind of openness builds trust.

Prevention, too, must move from token workshops to honest conversations. Teachers and students alike need to be educated on power dynamics, consent, and professional ethics. Faculty training programmes must take on these issues head-on. Students should be told, clearly and repeatedly, that their rights and dignity matter more than the reputation of teachers or institutions. Most of all, those who speak up must be protected. Anonymous reporting options, temporary suspension of accused teachers during inquiry, and proper counselling support can make an enormous difference. Survivors should not have to choose between safety and education.

Young women must stay alert and aware of boundaries—in words, gestures and online interactions. Avoiding private meetings, maintaining accurate records, and seeking support from peers or family can help ensure safety. Most importantly, report harassment first to trusted individuals, then to the ICC or the police if necessary. Reaching out for counselling or legal aid strengthens recovery. Awareness and timely action are the best shields against abuse.

(Views are personal) (johnnken@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Investment uncertainties

Ref: *Precious metals enter unsure phase* (Oct 27). Even 'safe havens' are not immune to volatility. Short-term corrections mask deeper economic anxieties—from geopolitical strife to shifting monetary policies. Yet central-bank buying signals enduring faith in tangible value, proving that in uncertain times, trust defines true worth. **K Chidanand Kumar, Bengaluru**

Chath origins

Ref: *Thekua and the divine* (Oct 27). The author skillfully juxtaposed the tenets and incidents from various Indic texts and epics to drive her points home. At the outset, it's exciting to know that Chhath Puja had its origin as far back as the Treta Yuga. **R Sampath, Chennai**

Straying US

Ref: *US ties with Pakistan not at India's expense: Rubio* (Oct 27). Even with Marco Rubio's assurances, the US must understand that the Indo-Pak relationship is badly soured after Pahalgam attack; and that the US's proximity to Pakistan will only erode trust in the Indo-US diplomatic relations. **George Jacob, Kochi**

RJD's opportunism

Ref: *Waqf Act to be repealed: Tejaswini* (Oct 27). Tejaswini Yadav's pledge reflects the Rashtriya Janata Dal's recurring pattern of appeasement politics. The party continues to exploit sentiments for electoral mileage without genuine empowerment. Such assertions reveal political opportunism, ignoring the fact that states lack any mandate to nullify parliamentary consensus. **Aryan Singh, Dhenkanal**

Penalise drunkards

Ref: *Kurnool tragedy: Report confirms biker was drunk* (Oct 27). The Hyderabad Police Commissioner's remark underscores a harsh truth: drunk driving is not a mistake but a preventable crime. To curb such tragedies, India needs consistent enforcement—routine alcohol testing, swift license suspension and strict penalties for offenders. **As'ad Kabir Nagari, email**

Unfinished work

Ref: *Poverty remains a daily reality for tribal people* (Oct 27). The struggles of tribal communities to access basic needs like food and employment opportunities are a stark reminder of the work that remains to be done. The state government needs to change its strategies to better address and solve these problems. **Aslaha Bahir, email**



Mahua Moitra @MahuaMoitra
Supreme Court orders Centre to resume MNREGA in Bengal immediately. Another BJP attempt to victimise, disenfranchise & blockade Bengal is thwarted.



Akhilesh Yadav @yadavakhilesh
The BJP's misgovernance has turned ambulances into 'bull'bulances. In UP, bullock carts have started running in place of ambulances.



Amit Malviya @amitmalviya
Mamata Banerjee's panic is understandable — she knows the SIR will expose illegal Bangladeshi voters and clean up fake entries used for bogus voting.

'INITIAL LEARNING IN MOTHER TONGUE VERY IMPORTANT'

Once proficient in one language, it becomes easier to pick up a second one, Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, Dept of School Education, tells 28th edition of **Delhi Dialogues**

SANJAY KUMAR, Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, is a 1990-batch IAS officer of Bihar cadre known for his passion for education and public policy. An alumnus of St Stephen's College, Stony Brook University, and National Defence College, he brings expertise in education, health, and strategic studies. **Excerpts:**

the government CBSE school and the other is the private CBSE school. In the government, CBSE schools, girls outnumber boys. Whereas if you look at private CBSE schools, then, the boys outnumber girls by a larger margin than they are doing it in the government CBSE schools. So there is a message for the society, and the message for the society is that we need to invest a little more in the girl child.

S Lalitha: You're deeply passionate about girls' education. What key steps have you taken to bring girls from remote areas into the education system? Things have improved over the years. This may have been an issue in the 90s or the beginning of the century. But today, if you look at the data, I think girls are equally represented in the school. If I look at the gender parity index across all levels, for a foundational, for preparatory, middle and the secondary, the gross gender parity index is more than one. In fact, as you climb up, it is a little better. Lately, we are worried because the boys dropout at secondary is higher than the girls dropout.

S Lalitha: But will this be the same across states? By and large, yes. I mean, I think there might be some variations in this state, but overall, I think there is no issue in any of the states per se. I can share some data with you on this.

I think the problem with us is that if 100 children are joining class one, then by class 12th only 58 are reaching now. So, 42 children are dropping out on the way at that, and I think that is equally divided among boys and girls. In fact, boys are dropping out a little more than the girls. So when it comes to having girls in our educational system, I think that is not a challenge. The challenge is actually in some of these schools where you have to pay a bit.

Jayanth Jacob: But this is an interesting analysis that in private CBSE schools boys outnumber girls?

So, like, usually you'll think that people who can actually afford a bit of money, send their children for the private schools basically. So why does this disparity exist? That's a societal issue. And I think we need to talk about it because a large number of things, perhaps, happen because you're not even aware of it. But if somebody comes and points it out to you, then you do take corrective decision. So, I think if this was part of public discourse and everyone was talking about it, I'm sure that these things would improve.

And I mean, I would leave this question that if you look at actually the CBSE schools, they have pretty instructive figures which come there. There are 2 types of CBSE schools—one is

In Kendriya Vidyalayas, when we looked at the figures three years back, we found that the difference between boys and girls was one lakh. But then we decided to sensitise the KV administration. We spoke to the principals and explained to them that when it came to admissions, boys and girls are both equally important. That figure has gone down to 40,000 now. Still, it is 40,000 more boys and girls, but then it has come down from almost a lakh.



SHEKHAR YADAV

Suchitra Kalyan Mohanty: What progress has been made in implementing the Supreme Court's July 2025 directive for a uniform Mental Health Policy and mechanisms to address harassment, ragging, and discrimination in educational institutions?

In fact, the hearing in this case is coming up on October 27. So, have to file a unified affidavit in the court. But the larger issue is that the Supreme Court is very worried that suicides are taking place. But if we look at the break-up of the nation-wide suicide figures, age-wise as well as state-wise, but it was very interesting to see that half the suicides in the country comes from five states—Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh. I think we all need to look into it as to what is causing five states to contribute to almost half of suicides in India. So earlier, I used to think that, maybe, they happen in industrialised or un-

organised areas or both. But then, MP is an outlier. So something more is happening and I think it needs research and sociologists to analyse it.

Rajesh Kumar Thakur: So, what role do you see for AI in this context?

I don't know. I mean, AI is the much talked about topic nowadays. Everyone is talking about artificial intelligence and how it is going to impact every aspect of our lives and especially the repetitive jobs. Those will probably lose their place in the economy. But I don't know, I would say the jury is still out. So, I don't know to what extent, but assuming that it is there and it is already a part of us, we need to reach out and study artificial intelligence and at least know about it. Also, we should be aware of it. So, we have taken a decision and I have spoken earlier also that AI needs to be introduced as a curriculum in all our schools. And in the first instance, we have thought that

we'll bring it in class 3. From class 3 onwards, CBSE is already working at it.

Jitendra Choubey: It is pointed out that India's skilling system faces structural gaps compared to Europe. Could early vocational training help reduce school dropouts?

I would agree with you. That is why the NEP lays a lot of emphasis on skilling. And for a large number of children, it's very important that you work. If you look at what the policy envisages, it envisages that by 2030, every child should at least do class 12th. So GER for secondary education should be 100% by 2030. And the GER for higher education by 2035 is envisaged to be 50%. So if 100 children come out of class 12, and only 50 go into higher education, where are the other 50 going to go? They are going to go into the labour market. And you need basic skills to be able to do well. So it's very important that we get this right and it is extremely important for us. In the initial learning, the poli-

cy envisages is that the best done when you study in your mother tongue. So learning in the local language is extremely important because imagine a child going to a school where the teacher is speaking in a language which is different from what is being spoken at home. How would you understand that? But there is a great demand for English in the country. And the larger question I want to leave behind is that do you want to learn English as a medium of instruction or do you want to learn English as a subject? So the NEP says that eventually children should learn 3 languages. You start in your local language, and this is where you pick up things.

the English alphabet in Class 8. But he went on to do engineering and he wrote as good English as I do. So, a large number of people who are actually very comfortable with English did not start learning English as a medium of instruction. They learned a language and then they picked up English. This is the point we are trying to raise, that you learn English because that's an international language. It gives you certain advantages if you know English. But building it on a base of another language with which you are comfortable, that gives you better cognitive power.

Santwana Bhattacharya: There's a strong parental aspiration to send children to English-medium schools, even among economically weaker sections. At the same time, countries like Germany and Japan are promoting English as a link language to attract global talent, including Indian students. How do you strike a balance between promoting education in Indian languages and meeting this growing demand for English proficiency?

Larger question is can you start learning in your local language or mother tongue. And then once you are proficient in one language, it becomes easier to pick up a second language. And then subsequently, you can learn a third language or maybe fourth and even fifth. I mean, multilingualism always offers you better way of understanding and looking at things. I would reiterate— would you want to learn English as a medium of instruction or English as a subject? My father went to school in the 1940s. He learnt

Santwana Bhattacharya: The NEP has completed five years now. Where do we stand in its implementation, and what key outcomes have emerged so far? We are still transitioning. I'm glad that you mentioned this because what are the shifts which we have been able to see is that Nipun Bharat Mission, which is a foundational literacy, has been a success. And I can say there's some satisfaction because this time when the national achievement survey reports came in we found out that children who are in class 3, have shown an appreciable jump over the previous years. And part of the reason is because of the NEP because the messaging has been clearer. As to what FLN is, and also it has come with greater targeting of resources. So, under the Samagra Shiksha Scheme, we are providing ₹500 per child. So, the focus has been on good messaging as well as resource augmentation. And both these things have worked together. So that is one good thing which has happened. The other thing is that the new books which are being brought out by the NCERT, they look at education very differently because our assessment patterns need to change.

Shah showcases big maritime strength

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said India's growing maritime influence and its pivotal role in connecting the Indo-Pacific with the Global South and asserted that the country is poised to script a new chapter in maritime history. Speaking at the inauguration of the fourth India Maritime Week 2025 in Mumbai, Shah said: "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is all set to create a new maritime history. We have a rich maritime legacy dating back 5,000 years. India's maritime strategic position, democratic stability, and naval capabilities are building a bridge between the Indo-Pacific and the Global South."

680 MoUs worth ₹10 lakh crore to be signed

680 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) worth ₹10 lakh crore are set to be signed, alongside participation from 7 Union Ministers, 16 State Ministers, and 5 Chief Ministers. Over 100 concurrent events and nine flagship Global Maritime Summit sessions are being held, the minister said.



Amit Shah during an event marking India Maritime Week 2025 in Mumbai | EXPRESS

special economic zones span 23.7 lakh sq km. The five-day event, organised by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and the Indian Ports Association, showcases India's vision for sustainable maritime growth, trade expansion, and the blue economy.

PM Narendra Modi is expected to address a special plenary session on Wednesday. Pointing out that Mumbai is the "Gateway of India," Shah said the summit aims to "transform it into the Gateway of the World," emphasising that over the past decade, structural reforms have positioned India as an emerging global maritime power.

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Respond on guidelines about suicides in edu institutions in 8 wks: SC to states

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Monday asked all the states and Union Territories to inform it within eight weeks about the steps taken by for smoother implementation of the guidelines passed earlier on July 25, in connection with mental health issues and rise in suicide among students in educational institutions.

ty-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) aspirant, under suspicious circumstances, in Vishakhapatnam. The top court ordered a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the case.

A two-judge bench comprising Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Sandeep Mehta granted eight weeks to the Centre to file a compliance affidavit, detailing the steps taken to implement these guidelines.

The SC had on July 25 issued 15 pan-India guidelines to combat the problems of rise in suicides, safety and mental health issues among students in educational institutions. The top court's verdict came on an appeal against an order of the Andhra Pradesh High Court, rejecting the plea to transfer the investigation to the CBI over the death of a 17-year-old National Eligibili-

During the hearing on Monday, the bench directed that all states and UTs be impleaded as respondents. The matter has been scheduled for further hearing on January 2026.

The top court in its earlier order on July 25 said that all educational institutions shall adopt and implement a uniform mental health policy drawing cues from the UM-MED Draft Guidelines.

Response sought from states over digital arrest scam

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Monday issued notices to all states and UTs on digital arrest cases. On October 17, a two-judge bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joydalya Bagchi took suo motu cognizance of the issue after hearing a complaint by a couple who lost their life savings to the scam.

The SC asked all the states and UTs to furnish details of cyber arrest cases pending investigation and posted the matter for further hearing to November 3.

The top court also sought the assistance of Attorney General R Venkataramani in the issue.

Protect forest dwellers from eviction, states told

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

DAYS after defending the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 in the Supreme Court, the Union government has directed all states and Union territories to ensure that no tribal or forest-dwelling community is forcibly evicted from wildlife sanctuaries or national parks until their rights are fully recognised and settled. In a letter dated October 22, Vibhu Nayyar, Secretary of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA), instructed Chief Secretaries to strictly follow the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. The letter, seen by this newspaper, underscores that the implementation of the FRA remains slow across several states and UTs despite nearly two decades since its enactment.

The communication lays out 12 key priorities for accelerating the process of recognising forest rights, including Individ-



ual Forest Rights (IFRs), Habitat Rights for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), Community Forest Rights (CFRs), and Community Forest Resource Rights (CFRRs). Citing Section 42 of the FRA, the Centre reminded states that "no member of the Scheduled Tribes or other traditional forest dwellers shall be evicted or removed from forest land under his occupation till the recognition and verification procedure is complete." The letter urges the states to explicitly prohibit any form of forced displace-



commitment to resolving outstanding issues through dialogue, differences persist.

Speaking to reporters en route to Doha, Rubio had insisted that Washington's engagement with Islamabad would not come at the expense of its ties with New Delhi, but added that the US sought to expand cooperation with Pakistan beyond counter-terrorism.

Jaishankar and Rubio last met in New York during the UN General Assembly, where talks covered trade, defence, technology, and regional stability. Their Kuala Lumpur meeting comes amid India's careful balancing of its strategic autonomy with efforts to strengthen ties with major powers. Washington's renewed warmth toward Islamabad has not gone unnoticed in New Delhi. In June, Trump hosted Pakistan's army chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir the first such meeting between a serving Pakistani general and a US president in recent times.

On the sidelines, Jaishankar also met several counterparts, including Malaysia's Mohamad Haji Hasan, Japan's Motegi Toshimitsu, and Vietnam's Le Hoai Trung, focusing on regional security, trade, and Indo-Pacific cooperation.

NCP (SP) MLA Rohit Pawar on Monday shared a video where the daughter of a retired teacher accused a Maharashtra minister's relative of taking a loan in the teacher's name and not repaying it.

2 BOYS

HELD FOR ATTEMPT TO MURDER OF CLASSMATE IN ALIGARH SCHOOL



INDIA	Max	Min	Mumbai	Max	Min
Ahmedabad	27	23	Mumbai	32	27
Bhopal	28	21	Panaji	31	26
Jaipur	22	19	Patna	32	26
Amritsar	29	17	Lucknow	23	22
Chennai	28	26	Port Blair	30	26
Kolkata	33	27	Imphal	29	19
Srinagar	20	06	Chandigarh	28	16

● Political firestorm erupts over Cong claiming legacy of Karpooori Thakur ● Tejayshwi expected to join Congress leader on Wednesday

Intense war of words over 'Jan Nayak Rahul'

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

A political firestorm has erupted in Bihar over the legacy of former CM and socialist icon 'Jan Nayak' Karpooori Thakur, with two major political parties—BJP and Congress—clashing over the 'Jan Nayak' title for Rahul Gandhi.

With campaigning for the upcoming Assembly elections intensifying, the controversy is likely to take centre stage. On Monday, Deputy CM Samrat Chaudhary alleged that the Congress was attempting to "steal" the departed leader's title. "This is an insult to the legacy of Karpooori Thakur ji. It were the people who made Karpooori Ji 'Jan Nayak' and not social media that bestowed the title to the Congress leader, who is out on bail," he told the media.

The row erupted after PM Narendra Modi, during his Samastipur visit to address a public rally on October 24, said, "Now they (Congress) are attempting to steal the title of Jan Nayak from our socialist leader Karpooori Thakur. But people of Bihar will not let it happen and give them a befitting answer in the upcoming Assembly elections," the PM alleged.

Meanwhile, defending his party's stand, Bihar Congress president Rajesh Ram said that



'Title bestowed upon Rahul by the masses': Cong

After PM Modi accused the Congress of stealing the title of 'Jan Nayak' from late socialist leader Karpooori Thakur during a recent public rally, the Bihar Congress president Rajesh Ram has defended his party's stand. He said Lok Sabha LoP Rahul Gandhi has been given the title by the general public as he is a leader of the common masses.

Rahul Gandhi has been bestowed the title of Jan Nayak by the people. He is a mass leader. "It is not for the Prime Minister or the BJP to decide whether the LoP in the Lok Sabha is a Jan Nayak or not, as the public has bestowed the title on him," Ram added.

Notably, in September, a poster was put up outside the state Congress headquarters—Sadaquat Ashram—calling Rahul Gandhi 'Jan Nayak'.

Similarly, a poster was erected outside RJD office showing

Tejayshwi Prasad Yadav as Bihar's 'Nayak' (leader). This assumed significance in the wake of Tejayshwi declared chief ministerial candidate of Opposition INDIA bloc. However, Gandhi was missing from the poster erected outside RJD office on Saturday.

Union minister and Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) Jitan Ram said, "We are a democratic nation in which people are supreme. They will teach those attempting to steal the title of 'Jan Nayak' a lesson," he added.

Rahul to kick off campaign in Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

AS Bihar braces for the state Assembly polls, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will kick off his campaign on Wednesday with rallies in Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga districts.

The Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha is expected to be joined by RJD leader Tejayshwi Yadav, the chief ministerial candidate of the INDIA bloc. Sources say the grand alliance will release a common manifesto on October 28. This comes days after a press conference in which Tejayshwi was announced as the chief ministerial candidate after days of internal feud over the sharing of seats.

Gandhi's first rally will be held at the reserved constituency of Sakra in Muzaffarpur, where the party has fielded Umesh Ram, the runner-up in the 2020 polls. Alliance partners, CPI(M) leader Dipankar Bhattacharya and VIP chief Mukesh Sahani may also be in attendance. Later, Gandhi will address another rally in the adjoining Darbhanga district in support of the INDIA bloc candidate, RJD's Lalit Rai.

This would be Gandhi's visit to the poll-bound state after the conclusion of the 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' on September 1.

Cong questions EC move on SIR, says Bihar roll revision 'still under lens'

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

LAUNCHING a scathing attack on the Election Commission of India (ECI), the Congress on Monday questioned the poll body's intentions and credibility over its announcement of holding special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in 12 states and UTs.

The ECI will conduct Phase-2 of the SIR of electoral rolls in states including Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Puducherry, Rajasthan, and West Bengal, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar announced at a presser on Monday.

In a video posted on X, Congress's media and publicity head Pawan Khara said neither the voters nor the opposition were satisfied with the poll body's SIR exercise. "We have not yet received answers to the questions related to the SIR conducted in Bihar. The situation was such that the Supreme Court had to step in several times to rectify the SIR in Bihar," he said.

"The intentions of the Election Commission and the BJP, which has made the ECI its puppet, regarding Bihar's SIR have already come to light before the

'Exercise a conspiracy against democracy'

The Congress also claimed on its X handle that various cases and methods of "vote theft" are coming to light across the country, with votes being deliberately added in some places, while in others, they are being cut. The SIR to be conducted in 12 States is a conspiracy against democracy, the party further alleged.

entire country," he noted, adding, "Whenever SIR happens, EC employees go to every house, add new voters, and delete those who need to be deleted."

"But not even a single voter has been added in Bihar, whereas 65 lakh votes have been deleted as part of the SIR exercise, which raises several questions," Khara said. "Now the ECI is repeating the exercise in 12 States," he added.

The Congress leader also said that following the revelation of 'vote theft' in the Aaland Assembly constituency in Karnataka by Rahul Gandhi, the SIT said that a centralised operation was being carried out to strike out names from the voter list.

Chained and handcuffed independent — all for a bridge over river Bagmati

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

MEET Sanjay Sargharsh Singh, an Independent candidate from Bihar's Sheohar Assembly constituency, who with his distinctive approach, is drawing huge crowds. Spotted in chains and handcuffs, Singh is pitted against Sweta Gupta of JD(U) and Navneet Kumar of RJD. Jan Suraj Party has fielded Niraj Singh from the seat.

Sanjay Sangharsh Singh unsuccessfully contested the 2020 Assembly election in the same seat, where he was allotted 'Janjeer' (chains) as his election symbol. After tasting defeat, he vowed not to take off chains and handcuffs as a constant reminder of his commitment. "For quite some time I kept chains and handcuffs at the temple outside my native village as they symbolise the problems faced by people in my constituency, I wear them to honour my pledge," he said.

Locals face a lot of problems due to lack of a bridge over the river Bagmati near Adauri Khori Pakar Ghat. People have to cover a circuitous route to reach home from district headquarters due to absence of a bridge, he said.



For quite some time I kept chains and handcuffs at the temple outside my native village as they symbolise the problems faced by constituents, I wear them to honour my pledge

"I have taken another pledge—not to shave until my promise is fulfilled. I have not shaved for several months. This refers to my protest over people's representative's lackadaisical attitude towards public grievances," he added.

Sanjay said, "I leave home early morning and return late at night. I am getting huge response from people as they have tested both RJD and JD(U) by sending their candidates to the assembly from Sheohar."

Don's daughter takes up battle for RJD

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ Lalganj (Bihar)

IN the run-up to the Bihar state Assembly elections, a fascinating battle is unfolding in Lalganj, which is distant just 39 kilometres from the state capital of Patna. Here, RJD's Shivani Shukla—a 28-year-old law graduate from the University of Leeds, UK—is taking on a 57-year-old commerce graduate and BJP MLA, Sanjay Kumar Singh.

The contest between Shivani Shukla and Singh has caught the public imagination. While



she affectionately calls him 'Chacha', he refers to her as 'Bhatiji', though neither leaves a stone unturned in their bid to win the seat. Lalganj's electoral

battle has turned into a contest that locals describe as one between Parashuram Vanshi-RJD candidate, being supported by Yaduvanshi, and Raghuvanshi-BJP candidate lineages. Shivani, daughter of the jailed former strongman Vijay Kumar Shukla, alias Munna Shukla, is contesting as one of the RJD's young female candidates.

Hailed by her supporters as the "daughter" of Lalganj, and descendant of Parashuram, Shivani hails from the influential Bhumihar

community. Her campaign has already drawn the support of young voters across caste lines, including among Yadavs.

Her rival, Singh, a Rajput and called a Raghuvanshi, seeks votes by stressing his experience and continuity. His recent remark "She is still a kid in politics," has intensified the battle between both the party supporters.

"I have not brought the ticket from RJD, it's the people of Lalganj who have brought it, and they are contesting. I am just their representative," Shivani Shukla told a cheering crowd.

Lalu's elder son locked in a multi-cornered contest in Mahua

A piquant multi-cornered contest is underway in Mahua assembly constituency of Bihar, where people believe they will be voting for their beloved party, represented by the sitting MLA, even if they backed a rebel. "Clarified butter shall always fall in the lentil soup", is a common refrain here from die-hard RJD supporters, who insist that even if they voted for Tej Pratap Yadav, who was expelled by his father and founding president Lalu Prasad, it will "still benefit the party". Altogether, 15 candidates are in the fray in the constituency.

MLA among six BJP leaders expelled

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

The BJP on Monday initiated disciplinary action against six leaders, including a sitting MLA, for indulging in anti-party activities, according to a statement issued by Bihar unit of the BJP late on Sunday.

Pawan Yadav, the outgoing MLA from Kahalgaon, and five others have been suspended with immediate effect after the allegations of working against the party's principles were found true. Yadav, however, called it an arbitrary decision. Besides MLA Yadav, Sunny Ya-

expelled from the party for a period of six years. The action against these leaders is viewed as damage control exercise by Bihar unit of BJP to keep the alliance intact.

BJP and JD(U), two major allies of NDA, are contesting 101 seats each, while Chirag Paswan's LJP(RV) has fielded 29 candidates. Two other NDA partners—HAM and RLM—are contesting six seats each. The Assembly elections are scheduled to be held in two phases—November 6 and 11.

Students won't tie knots anymore as Raj makes school dress uniform

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

IN a step toward standardising the education system, the Rajasthan Education Department has introduced a common uniform for students in both government and private schools.

All the students will now wear the same attire, with ties excluded to make the uniforms more comfortable and practical. Uniforms and ID cards will also be mandatory for teachers, promoting equality and discipline across institutions, Education Minister Madan Dilawar announced.

He noted that ID cards will be compulsory for all students as well, for proper identification and safety on school premises. The minister emphasised that this initiative aims to bridge the gap between government and private schools. "Children often face discomfort wearing ties in the heat. Hence, the new uniform will be simple, practical, and comfortable," he said.



Dilawar also announced that the state's academic session will now begin on April 1 instead of July 1. The change is intended to ensure timely distribution of textbooks and provide students with adequate study time during the summer holidays. "Earlier delays in textbook distribution caused inconvenience for students. The new schedule will help streamline the entire academic process," he added.

In yet another significant announcement, Dilawar declared that offices under the Panchayat Raj, Education, and Sanskrit departments will begin each working day with the National Anthem and conclude with the National Song. Attendance will only be recorded for employees who are present during both. He said that this step is not just a formality, but an effort to put national pride and administrative discipline into practice.

Additionally, a new digital monitoring system will be introduced for parents. Through the Shala Darpan portal, parents will receive instant notifications about their children's attendance. If a student is absent, a message will automatically be sent to the parents' registered mobile number.

Dilawar said that preparations for implementing this system are complete and it will be launched soon.

MP farmer beaten, run over by BJP leader, dies

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

A 40-year-old farmer was beaten to death by BJP leader Mahendra Nagar and aides in Ganeshpura village of Madhya Pradesh's Guna district.

According to sub divisional officer of police (SDOP-Bamor) Vivek Asthana, the incident happened in Ganeshpura village. "Ramswaroop Dhakad had a dispute with Kanhaiya Nagar—a relative of Mahendra Nagar—over six bighas of land in adjoining Rajasthan. On Sunday afternoon, Kanhaiya and 13-14 people, including few women, attacked Ramswaroop with sticks, and then he was allegedly run over with a MUV. His two daughters, aged 16 and 17 years old, too were assaulted. All of them were brought to the Guna district hospital, but doctors couldn't save Ramswaroop."

Recalling the horror, one of the daughters of the victim said, "When I went to save my father, they pinned me down, sat on me, tore my clothes and fired shots to scare us."



According to locals, Mahendra Nagar (who is the BJP's local booth committee chief and former office-bearer of the ruling party's farmers' wing in Guna district) has long run a reign of terror and fear in Guna's Ganeshpura village under Fategarh police station. A case has been registered against 14 persons, including

HORROR IN ACTION

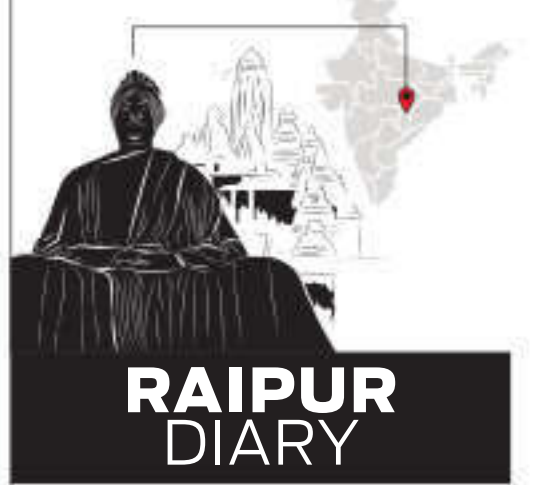
1. Ramswaroop, a farmer, had a dispute with Kanhaiya Nagar—a relative of BJP leader Mahendra Nagar—over six bighas of land
2. On Sunday afternoon, Kanhaiya and 13-14 people, including few women, attacked Ramswaroop
3. His two daughters, aged 16 and 17 years, were also assaulted in the attack
4. All of them were rushed to the Guna district hospital, where Ramswaroop died

Mahendra Nagar, his son Nitesh and Devedra, wife Kamlesh Bai Nagar, nephew Jitendra and two other women from Nagar family, under multiple BNS Sections related to murder, criminal conspiracy, assault and outraging the modesty of women. One of the accused, Hukum Singh, who is

Mahendra's elder brother, has been arrested while raids are under way to nab the absconding accused.

Meanwhile, the Guna district BJP president Dharmendra Sikarwar, while confirming Mahendra Nagar's association with the party, has sought his immediate sacking from the party. "Mahendra Nagar is a party worker and the local booth chief. We've written to the party's senior leaders, seeking his removal from the party immediately," he said.

Mahendra Nagar was reportedly among those Congress workers, who switched over to the BJP post 2020, after Jyotiraditya Scindia along with 22 loyalist MLAs, quit the grand old party and joined the ruling party, toppling the Kamal Nath-led Congress government in MP. Police said the incident had triggered anger among villagers and relatives, who have demanded strict action against the perpetrators.



RAIPUR DIARY

EJAZ KAISER

Our correspondent in Chhattisgarh

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PM to launch silver jubilee celebrations

PM Modi will inaugurate the silver jubilee year celebration of the statehood at Nava Raipur (new capital city of Chhattisgarh) on November 1. He will attend five different programmes. For each, a senior IAS officer has been deployed as a nodal officer to oversee the preparations and organising the events. Modi will unveil the new state Assembly premises, attend a programme of Sri Satya Sai hospital, Prajapita Brahma Kumaris and launch Tribal Freedom Fighter Memorial digital museum. He will also address a public rally during the inaugural ceremony. Chhattisgarh was carved out of erstwhile Madhya Pradesh on November 1, 2000.



IAF's Surya Kiran aerial show in Raipur

The skies of Naya Raipur will turn into a spectacle of national pride on November 5 when the Indian Air Force's Surya-Kiran Aerobatic Team will enthrall citizens with their breathtaking manoeuvres. The show will be the star attraction of the state's silver jubilee celebrations and the aerial display will symbolise Chhattisgarh's progress, confidence, and stature. As the Surya-Kiran team performs signature formations like 'Bomb Burst', 'Heart in the Sky', and 'Arrowhead', spectators will witness the precision and teamwork that define India's air warriors. Formed in 1996, the Surya-Kiran team so far has performed over 700 air displays in India and abroad.

New medical colleges to expand health edu

Chhattisgarh is set to get four new medical colleges that will increase the seats by 200. The move is expected to give fresh impetus to the expansion of health education and state-of-the-art treatment services reducing dependence on major cities for better medical care and cure. The total number of government medical colleges in the state will go up to 14. The four places—Geedam (Dantewada), Janjgir-Champa, Kawardha and Mahendragar—where the new medical colleges are to be built, are among the backward regions of the state.



\$11 billion deal sees UK agree to sell Eurofighter jets to Turkey over 10 years



Belling	29	19	SNY	Los Angeles	32	19	SNY
Colombo	29	25	TDS	Melbourne	17	5	LC
Dhaka	33	25	TDS	Moscow	28	13	SNY
Dubai	44	28	SNY	New York	26	15	SNY
Houston	30	23	TDS	Singapore	32	25	TDS
Istanbul	33	21	SNY	Toronto	23	13	SNY
London	20	13	SNY	Washington	26	14	SNY

Trump in Japan, to meet new PM; upbeat on Xi talks

Asia tour raises trade truce hopes, eyes Kim talks amid diplomacy push

TOKYO

OPTIMISM grew on Monday that Donald Trump and China's Xi Jinping will end their bruising trade war during talks this week, as the US president touched down in Tokyo on the latest leg of an Asian tour.

Trump said en route to close US ally Japan that he was hopeful of a deal when he sees Xi on Thursday, while also indicating he was willing to extend his trip in order to meet North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

"I have a lot of respect for President Xi and we are going to I think... come away with a deal," Trump told reporters on Air Force One, adding that he aimed to go to China "in the earlier part" of 2026.

The optimism boosted stock markets, with Japan's Nikkei surpassing 50,000 points for the first time.

As dozens of people gathered at Haneda Airport to take photos, the presidential plane — also bearing Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent — landed at sunset. Sporting a golden tie, Trump boarded a helicopter to take him into the bright lights of the Japanese metropolis in time for an evening audience with the emperor. "A great man," Trump said afterwards.



President Donald Trump, left, and Japan's Emperor Naruhito talk during their meeting at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo | AP

On Tuesday, Trump was expected to meet new conservative Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi and make a speech on the USS George Washington aircraft carrier, docked at the US naval base Yokosuka.

"I hear phenomenal things. (Takaichi) was a great ally and friend of Shinzo Abe, who was my friend," Trump said, referring to the assassinated former premier. Trump's Asia trip, his first tour of the region since returning to office, kicked off in Malaysia on Sunday with a flurry of agreements on the sidelines of an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit.

He also moved to mend fences with Brazilian President

Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, but not with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, ruling out a meeting any time soon.

Trump is due in South Korea on Wednesday for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit, and will meet President Lee Jae Myung.

Trump has also fuelled speculation that he could hold face-to-face talks with North Korea's Kim while on the Korean peninsula. The two leaders last met in 2019 at the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ), the border area separating the two Koreas. "I would love to meet with him if he'd like to meet. I got along great with Kim Jong Un. I liked him. He liked me," Trump said on Air Force One. **AFP**

Albanese, Li hail stabilising ties at ASEAN summit

MELBOURNE: Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said he discussed Australia's critical-minerals deal with the United States and the hostile maneuvers of a Chinese warplane during a "positive" meeting on Monday with Chinese Premier Li Qiang. Albanese and China's second-most senior leader held a bilateral meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' summit.

"Once again, it was a positive meeting," Albanese told reporters of his seventh meeting with Li. "This is a relationship that has improved; that is stabilising," Albanese added. China has removed a series of official and unofficial trade barriers since Albanese's center-left government was first elected in 2022.



Malaysia's Anwar urges talk at East Asia summit

KUALA LUMPUR

MALAYSIAN Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim told the East Asia summit on Monday that Asia-Pacific leaders must choose dialogue over coercion and cooperation over confrontation, stressing the need for engagement in light of global conflicts in Gaza, Ukraine, North Korea and the sharpened US-China rivalry.

The East Asia summit is a regional forum between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and its key regional partners — Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia and the United States — to discuss political, security and economic challenges.

"We continue to advocate for dialogue over coercion...and cooperation over confrontation. We affirm our stand on global peace and security, for multilateralism and international law," Anwar said in his opening remarks. Brazil President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and South Africa President Cyril Ramaphosa attended the summit as Malaysia's guests, in the group's support for expanding trade links, he added.



China's Li Qiang meets Malaysia's Anwar at ASEAN summit in Kuala Lumpur | AP

The summit convened after US President Donald Trump left Malaysia earlier on Monday for Japan, following his participation at ASEAN's weekend summit meetings. On Sunday, Trump witnessed the signing of several economic agreements with Malaysia, Thailand and Cambodia — part of Washington's push to strengthen trade ties and secure access to critical minerals as it seeks to reduce reliance on China.

Trump also attended a ceremony marking a formal expansion of the Cambodia-Thailand ceasefire that Washington helped broker earlier this year. Analysts expect discussions to focus on tensions in the South China Sea, ASEAN's response to internal crises particularly Myanmar's prolonged conflict and cross-border scams. **AP**

Kyiv mourns two journalists killed in Russian drone strike



Relatives and friends gather in Kyiv for journalists Olena Hubanova and Yevhen Karmazin, killed in a Russian drone strike near Kramatorsk | AP

KYIV

MOURNERS gathered at a church in Kyiv on Monday to honor two Ukrainian journalists killed last week when a Russian drone struck their car in eastern Ukraine's Donetsk region.

War correspondent Olena Hubanova, who worked under the pseudonym Alyona Gramova, and cameraman Yevhen Karmazin were killed on Thursday by a Russian Lancet drone in Kramatorsk, around 20 kilometers (12 miles) from the front line. Another reporter who was part of the team was wounded.

It was the latest deadly attack on journalists covering the war in Ukraine. Earlier this month, a French photojournalist, Antoni Lalican, and a Ukrainian reporter, Grigoriy Ivanchenko, were wounded in a similar strike. Ivanchenko later had a leg amputated. The growing reach of drones — now extending more than 20 kilometers from the front line — has made reporting increasingly perilous. The two journalists, who often worked together, were honored side by side

during a funeral service at St. Michael's Golden-Domed Monastery, where their coffins were covered with fresh roses.

"Defending the truth is one of the highest forms of love for one's neighbour," the priest, Viktor Zhyvchyk, said during the service. "In their effort to show the truth to the world, these journalists gave their lives."

"Since the first days of Russia's full-scale invasion, they covered events in the Donetsk region, telling the truth about enemy crimes, evacuations of civilians and the stories of our defenders," regional governor Vadym Filashkin wrote on Telegram. "They were always among the first to arrive in the hottest spots." In a statement, the Freedom channel said Hubanova worked constantly in the most dangerous areas of Donetsk and Dnipropetrovsk regions, "telling the world the truth about how Russian forces are destroying her native Donetsk region."

Colleague Olha Mykhaliuk, who also works for Freedom, brought blue and yellow flowers to the funeral. **AP**

Kremlin defends missile test as West urges peace

MOSCOW

RUSSIA's test of a nuclear-powered missile that it claims can't be stopped by air defenses reflects Moscow's determination to look out for its security interests, a Kremlin official said Monday, after the United States and European countries increased pressure on President Vladimir Putin to negotiate an end to the invasion of Ukraine.

US President Donald Trump said Putin should focus on making a peace deal, not testing missiles. Little is known about Russia's Burevestnik missile, which the NATO military alliance has code-named Skyfall. Putin appeared Sunday in an official video, wearing camouflage fatigues, to hear Russia's chief of general staff report that the missile had covered 14,000 kilometers (8,700 miles) in a test. The news came after a week that saw tough new US sanctions prepared for Russia's key oil and gas sector and new European commitments of military aid to Ukraine.

"Russia is consistently working to ensure its own security," Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said when asked whether the missile announcement was a response to the sanctions and a signal to the West.

Trump, speaking to reporters on an official trip from Kuala Lumpur to Tokyo, said Putin's talk about missiles was not "appropriate." **AP**

ASIA MATTERS

INDONESIA

12 FREE MEAL KITCHENS RESUME OPS

Twelve kitchens under the Free Nutritious Meals (MBG) program have reopened after passing safety evaluations. The kitchens, earlier suspended for violating procedures, are now cleared following stricter checks and updated SOPs. Officials said any unit found breaching safety rules will face suspension. The MBG program, targeting 82.9 million beneficiaries, aims for zero incidents through improved hygiene standards, limited beneficiaries per kitchen, and mandatory safety certifications after earlier food poisoning cases.

MALAYSIA

PM DEBUNKS FAKE MOBILE BAN FOR U 16s

The Prime Minister's Department dismissed a viral WhatsApp document claiming a smartphone ban for under-16s as fake. It clarified no such directive was issued and urged the public to verify information before sharing. Circulating false news is punishable under Malaysia's Communications and Multimedia Act 1988.

THAILAND

CAMBODIA PULLS BACK HEAVY ARMS

Cambodia has begun withdrawing heavy weapons from its border with Thailand following the signing of a historic peace agreement between Prime Ministers Hun Manet and Anutin Charnvirakul in Kuala Lumpur. Monitored by the ASEAN Observation Team, the move marks an end to months of military tension, including July's deadly clashes, and signals renewed diplomatic trust, stability, and economic cooperation between the two nations. Cambodia pledged full implementation of the deal and lasting peace and prosperity along the border region.



Thousands joined Mexico City's Catrina parade, where drag performers and LGBTQ+ collectives brought a vibrant twist to the Day of the Dead celebrations, blending tradition with calls for equality and safety | AP

WAR WATCH

ISRAEL-GAZA: DAY 750

TOLL SO FAR

68,280

Israel won't allow Turkey to be part of international force in Gaza

BUDAPEST

ISRAEL will not allow Turkish troops to take part in an international force the United States has proposed to oversee the ceasefire agreement in the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, Israel's top diplomat said on Monday.

The 20-point deal brokered by US President Donald Trump earlier this month calls for a force to monitor the ceasefire but does not mention which countries would provide troops. It says the US would "work with Arab and international partners to develop a temporary International Stabilisation Force" to deploy in

Gaza. The force would train and provide support to "vetted Palestinian police forces" and will "consult with Jordan and Egypt who have extensive experience in this field."

The ceasefire agreement calls for Israeli troops to gradually withdraw from more areas of Gaza as the international force "establishes control and stability" and as Hamas militants disarm. Countries that are considering taking part also want more clarity on the force's mandate. Officials from some Arab and Muslim nations have said

the focus must be on peacekeeping in Gaza, not acting as an enforcer of peace between Israel and Hamas.

"What is the mandate of security forces inside of Gaza? And we hope that it is peacekeeping, because if it's peace enforcing, nobody will want to touch that," King Abdullah II of Jordan said in an interview with the BBC. Israeli FM Gideon Sa'ar said in Hungary that Israel opposes Turkish troops in Gaza, citing President Erdogan's hostility, and has conveyed its stance to US officials. **AP**

UN peacekeepers down Israeli drone amid rising border tensions after Gaza, Hezbollah clashes

BEIRUT: The Israeli army and the United Nations' peacekeeping mission in southern Lebanon said peacekeepers shot down an Israeli drone over the weekend but gave conflicting statements about the circumstances. The incident took place as Israeli strikes over Lebanon intensify amid scrambles to hold a tense ceasefire that ended Israel's war with Hezbollah last November, and mounting pressure on the Lebanese government to disarm the powerful group. Israel's latest conflict with Hezbollah began the day after the October 7, 2023, Hamas-led attack on Israel triggered the war in the Gaza Strip. The militant group Hezbollah, largely based in southern Lebanon, began firing rockets into Israel in support of Hamas and the Palestinians. Israeli military spokesperson Avichay Adraee said a drone near UN peacekeepers in Kfar Kila was on a routine reconnaissance mission and did not fire.

SLAMMING TRUMP Biden urges America to 'get back' from 'dark days'

BOSTON

FORMER President Joe Biden called these "dark days" as he urged Americans to stay optimistic and not to check out in response to what he says are attacks on free speech and tests on the limits of executive power by President Donald Trump.

"Since its founding, America served as a beacon for the most powerful idea ever in government in the history of the world," Biden said.

"The idea is stronger than any army. We're more powerful than any dictator," Biden, 82, speaking publicly for the first time since completing a round of radiation therapy for an aggressive form of prostate cancer, addressed an audience in Boston on Sunday night after receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Edward M. Kennedy Institute.

He said America depends on a presidency with limited power, a functioning Congress and an autonomous judiciary. With the federal government facing its second-longest shutdown on record, Trump has used the lapse in funding to exercise new command over the government.

"Friends, I can't sugar coat any of this. These are dark days," Biden said. He then predicted the country would "find our true compass again" and "emerge as we always have — stronger, wiser and more resilient, more just, so long as we keep the faith."

Biden listed examples of people who are standing their ground against threats from the current administration, citing the example of federal employees who resign in protest, and universities and comedians that have been targeted by Trump. "The late night hosts continue to shine a light on free speech knowing their careers are on the line," he said. **AP**



EXPRESS READ

Rape of Indian woman sparks outrage in UK

LONDON: A 20-year-old woman of Indian heritage was allegedly raped in a "racially aggravated" attack in Walsall, West Midlands, on Saturday night. Police arrested a 32-year-old man after a widespread manhunt and said the victim is receiving specialist care and protection. The attack follows a similar assault on a British Sikh woman in nearby Oldbury last month, raising fears of a pattern of hate-fuelled crimes. Community leaders and British Sikh MPs have condemned the assaults.

PUBLIC NOTICE

To whom so ever it concern, it is hereby informed to the General Public that one by name **Smt. M. Madhavi W/o M.Ramana, R/o D.No.3-123, B.C. Colony, Bathalapalli (V) & (M), Sri Sathya Sai Dist.**, has approached for a home loan by offering to mortgage the schedule property in favour of said Company. But the said Smt.M.Madhavi has stated she has lost two original link documents (i.e. 1) original regd. Sale deed dt.20-10-2012 bearing Doc.No. 5205/2012 which is in favour of Dara Nagesh s/o Late D.Oblesu & 2) original regd. Sale deed dt.17-9-1989 bearing Doc.No. 2530/1989 which is in favour of Smt. V.Peddakka W/o V.Ramanjeyulu) while she was going to Tahsildar Office, Bathalapalli from her house and in spite of her sincere efforts she could not trace out the said lost documents. As such at present she is in possession of only certified copies of the above said lost original link documents with her.

So, if anybody is having any sale, mortgage, lease or disputes relating to schedule mentioned property, please inform the same to me within 7 (Seven) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which my client Company will sanction home loan to the above said Smt.M.Madhavi by receiving the original title deeds along with the certified copies of the above said lost link documents from her by obtaining mortgage of schedule property in their favour.

SCHEDULE

House property bearing D.No.3-120 constructed in an extent of A.C. 0.02.50 bearing Plot No.134 out of A.C.7.32 out of A.C.9.64 out of S.No.249/2 situated in Bathalapalli grama palem & panchayat Area within R.D. of Hindupuram & S.P.D. of Dharmavaram.

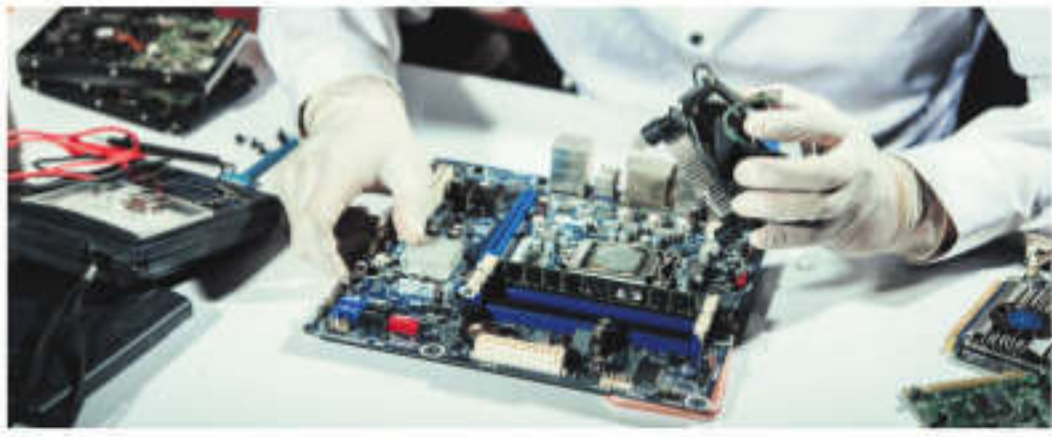
Bound by : East Plot No. 146; West Road North Plot No.133; South Road T.VISWANATH, Advocate, Anantapur MOBILE NO.9440285641



566.96	▲	Sensex	84,778.84	₹2,340	▲	24 carat (10 gm)	₹123,430
170.90	▲	Nifty	25,966.05	₹2,150	▲	22 carat (10 gm)	₹113,150

GOLD	1 kg	₹155,000
SILVER	10 gm	₹1,550

FOREX	Dollar	88.06
	Euro	102.41



Seven electronics component mfg projects approved

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE government on Monday approved seven projects worth ₹5,532 crore under the Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS).

As per the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY), these projects will lead to production of components worth ₹36,559 crore and creation of over 5,100 direct jobs. The approved units are spread across Tamil Nadu (5), Andhra Pradesh (1), and Madhya Pradesh (1), and will manufacture multi-layer printed circuit boards (PCBs), HDI PCBs, camera modules, copper clad laminates, and polypropylene films.

Four of these projects have gone to Bengaluru-based Kaynes Technology, and one each to SRF Ltd, Syrma Strategic Electronics, and Ascent Circuits. As per a Meity statement, the scheme has received great response from both domestic and global companies. "249 applications have been received representing ₹1.15 lakh crore investment, ₹10.34 lakh crore production, and 1.42 lakh jobs to be created. It is the highest-ever investment commitment in India's electronics sector," the ministry said. While mak-

ing the announcement, minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said 20% of the domestic demand of PCBs and 15% of camera module sub-assembly will be met through production from these plants. He mentioned that the demand of copper clad Laminates will now completely be domestically met. The additional 60% of production through these plants will be exported.

The ECMS was officially notified on April 8, 2025 with an outlay of ₹22,919 crore. The scheme will be implemented over a period of six years. Under ECMS, both turnover, and capex-linked incentives would be given to the approved projects. Companies must meet both incremental sales and investment targets annually to qualify.

Failure to meet employment generation targets will lead to a 1% deduction from eligible incentives. Capex-linked incentives are based on capital expenditure incurred within 5 years, with a 5% deduction applied if employment generation needs are not fulfilled. Applicants must meet revenue thresholds in either Electronic System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) or pure manufacturing for their selected segments.

Lenskart IPO: Early investors to gain up to 53x

SoftBank, Temasek, Kedaara, Peyush Bansal would be top gainers from the ₹7,278 crore public issue

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai

EARLY backers like Softbank, Temasek, Kedaara and the promoters of eyewear company Lenskart Solutions, which is the latest unicorn to hit the market with a ₹7,278 crore IPO at a price-band of ₹382-402 per share, will make windfall gains between 145% and 5,200%.

The issue, opening on October 31, consists of ₹2,150 crore worth of fresh issue and the rest in secondary issuance by promoters and external investors like Japanese powerhouse Softbank, Singaporean sovereign wealth fund Temasek, and private equity player Kedaara Capital among others. On Monday the company has set the price band for the issue at ₹382-402, which at the upper end values the firm at ₹69,676 crore.

Topping the gainers list is the co-founder and chairman Peyush Bansal is set make a killing from the issue. Bansal holds 17.32 crore shares, acquired at an average cost of ₹18.6/share, representing a 10.28% stake. At the upper price band, Bansal's holding is worth ₹6,964 crore, a 20-fold gain on his pre-price band holding, which was valued at ₹323 crore when he ac-



MAGNIFYING WEALTH

The IPO, opening in Oct 31, consists of ₹2,150 crore worth of fresh issue and the rest in secondary issuance by promoters and external investors

Company has set the price band for the issue at ₹382-402, which at the upper end values the firm at ₹69,676 crore	Peyush Bansal's holding will worth ₹6,964 crore, a 20-fold gain on his pre-price band holding
	Kedaara's is now valued at ₹3,580 crore, a 435% gain

TEMASEK'S VALUATION IS NOW ₹3,293 CRORE, UP FROM ₹800 CRORE, A 311% JUMP

quired this stake. From the issue he will be laughing his way to the bank with a ₹823.66 crore cheque for selling 2.05 crore shares, translates into a return of 2,061% on his capital investment.

Bansal will continue to own an 8.78% stake in the company. The other selling promoters are Neha Bansal, Amit Chaudhary, and Sumeet Kapahi while selling investors include SVF II Lightbulb (Cayman), Schroders Capital, Equity Asia Mauritius, PI Opportunities Fund-II, MacRitchie Investments, Kedaara Capital Fund II, and Alpha Wave Ventures.

Neha Bansal, cofounder, executive director and sister of Peyush, holds 12.83 crore shares at an average acquisition cost of ₹7.6/share. Her stake, earlier valued at ₹98 crore, is now worth ₹5,157 crore, a staggering 5,200% increase. Fellow cofounders Amit Chaudhary and Sumeet Kapahi also stand to benefit handsomely. Chaudhary holds 1.66 crore shares and Kapahi 1.62 crore shares, both acquired at an average price of ₹8.1/share. Their holdings, earlier valued at nearly ₹13 crore each, are now worth over ₹650 crore apiece—about 5,000% rise.

GST 2.0 to drive jobs, economic growth: FinMin

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

DUE to goods and services tax (GST) reforms coupled with other policy measures, India will continue its economic growth momentum, create more employment opportunities and boost consumption, according to the Monthly Economic Review for September released by the Ministry of Finance on Monday.

In its latest monthly economic review, the ministry has

struck an upbeat tone on India's growth prospects even as it flagged persistent global risks. But the ministry warned that external volatility may continue to be a concern for India.

"The recent GST rationalisation by the government, with rate cuts on essentials and high-value items, is expected to further boost consumption demand, supporting employment expansion," said the review. As high-

lighted in the review, domestic demand, favourable monsoon conditions, lower inflation, monetary easing, and the positive effects of GST reforms will ensure a positive growth outlook in FY26.

The ministry said this rationalisation would not only ease inflation but also provide a fresh boost to consumption and investment. With more investment coming in, the report ar-

Tamil Nadu-based Milky Mist gets Sebi nod for IPO

SANAL SUDEVAN @ Chennai

MILKY Mist Dairy Food Limited, a Tamil Nadu-based packaged food company, has received approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) to raise up to ₹2,035 crore through an initial public offering (IPO). The offer comprises a fresh issue of up to ₹1,785 crore and an offer for sale of up to ₹250 crore by promoter shareholders, Sathishkumar T and Anitha S.

Out of ₹1,785 crore to be raised through its fresh issue, Milky Mist will use ₹750 crore towards repayment or prepayment of outstanding borrowings, ₹414 crore for expansion and modernisation of the Perundurai manufacturing facility, including installation of whey protein concentrate, yogurt, and cream cheese plants, and ₹129 crore will be deployed for visi coolers, ice cream freezers, and chocolate coolers. The balance will be earmarked for general corporate purposes (up to 25% of gross proceeds as per Sebi regulations). As per the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP), the company has seen its revenue from operations growing at a CAGR of 30% to ₹2,349 crore in FY25 as against ₹1,394 crore in FY23. EBITDA in FY25 stood at ₹310 crore, showing a margin of 13.2%.

The DRHP claims Milky Mist commands premium pricing, with paneer and curd products priced 10-25% higher than leading brands, supported by brand equity and consistent quality.



Company to pay debt, expand biz

Out of the ₹1,785 crore to be raised through its fresh issue, Milky Mist will use ₹750 crore towards repayment or prepayment of outstanding borrowings, ₹414 crore for expansion of the Perundurai manufacturing facility

EXPRESS READ

SC seeks CBI reply on Wadhawan's bail plea

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday sought response from the CBI on the bail plea of Kapil Wadhawan, former chairman and managing director of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation (DHFL), in connection with the alleged multi-crore bank fraud case. A bench comprising Justices J.K. Maheshwari and Vijay Bhishnoi issued notice to the CBI, asking it to file its reply on Wadhawan's plea challenging the Delhi HC order that denied him bail in August.

JK Tyre reports 54% growth in net profit

NEW DELHI: JK Tyre & Industries Limited reported a rise of 54.23% in net profit at ₹222.55 crore in Q2 FY26 as against ₹139.75 crore during the same period last year, driven by growth in exports and rural demand picking up. The prices of raw materials stabilising and GST rationalisation have also helped the tyre manufacturer to report record profit growth. It recorded 13% growth in exports in the current quarter. ENS

Market advances on expectation of US-China trade talks, Fed rate cut

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

DOMESTIC equity benchmarks advanced on Monday with the NSE Nifty 50 index briefly surging past psychologically significant 26,000 threshold and recording a firm finish ahead of the October F&O expiry. Softer-than-expected US consumer inflation data fueled expectations of a potential Fed rate cut this week and optimism over progress in US-China trade bolstered investor sentiment. The Sensex gained 566.96 points or 0.67% to close the Monday session at 84,778.84, while Nifty50 advanced 170.9 points or 0.66% to settle at 25,966.05. Gold prices fell as demand for safe-haven assets faded. Comex Gold slipped 1.70%, while MCX Gold saw a drop of 1.20% on Monday.

"Easing global headwinds, coupled with domestic reforms, provided cues for domestic earnings growth and current premium valuations," said Vinod Nair, research head, Geojit Investments. On broader market, midcap index rose 0.9%, and small-cap index added 0.8%. Sectorally, barring media, pharma & healthcare, all indices closed higher, with notable strength of 1-2% seen in metal, PSU bank, oil & gas, and realty spaces. Sudeep Shah, technical and derivatives research head at SBI Securities, said the US Federal Reserve could cut rates by 50 basis points before year-end. The upbeat global cues provided a strong backdrop for domestic equities, helping markets extend their gains through the session, he added. "Talking about crucial levels,



zone of 26,070-26,100 (Nifty50) will act as a key hurdle for the index. Sustainable move above 26,100 will lead to upside rally up to 26,250 level. While, on the downside, the zone of 25,830-25,800 will act as important support for the index," he stated.

SBI Life Insurance, Bharti Airtel, RIL, SBI and Eternal were among top gainers in Nifty50 pack while major laggards were Bharat Electronics, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Infosys, Adani Ports and Bajaj Finance. Vishnu Kant Upadhyay, AVP of research & advisory, Master Capital Services, said reports of advancing US-India negotiations toward a tariff-reduction pact have ignited hopes for smoother export pathways. "This comes alongside positive US-China dialogue. Amid better-than-expected Q2 earnings, optimism about the India-US trade deal, and value buying in large-cap stocks, the Nifty50 is likely to trade firm with potential upsurge towards 26300-26500," added Upadhyay.

Sona Comstar puts JV with China's Jinnait Machinery in 'abeyance'

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

AUTO component major Sona BLW Precision Forgings (Sona Comstar) said on Monday that it has decided to keep its joint venture with China-based Jinnait Machinery Co. Ltd. (JNT) in abeyance, citing geopolitical factors.

"The parties have agreed to put the proposed JV in abeyance. The parties have expressed their willingness to cooperate with each other on select foundry products and remain open for collaboration in future. The term sheet executed by the parties for the proposed JV on July 20, 2025 stand rescinded," said Sona Comstar in an exchange filing while reporting its July-September quarter earnings.

Sona Comstar MD and Group CEO Vivek Vikram Singh said the decision is based mostly on

geopolitical factors and the need to prioritise other active capital allocation decisions.

Amid an improvement in trade and diplomatic ties between India and China, Sona had formed a JV with Jinnait Machinery in July 2025 to enter the Chinese electric vehicle market with an investment of ₹12 million (₹100 cr).

Sona had said that they will manufacture and supply driveline systems and components to automotive OEMs in China and globally. The company had stated that it is natural for any company with aspirations to be a global EV supplier to be part of the Chinese market and supply chain.

Sona Comstar on Monday reported a 24% year-on-year rise in its Q2FY26 revenue at ₹1,144 crore and the firm's PAT for the quarter grew 20% to ₹173 crore.

Exporters flag concern over GM soya imports

PUSHPITA DEY @ New Delhi

INDIA'S soybean exporters have raised concerns over the government's reported consideration to allow imports of genetically modified (GM) soybean meal from the US, warning that such a move could erode the country's export competitiveness built on its "non-GM" reputation.

Indian soy products are globally recognised for being produced from non-GM raw materials, a distinction that commands a premium in key markets like Europe. Exporters fear that the import of GM soymeal could blur this distinction, undermining India's credibility as a source of non-GM soy products.

"All Indian soy products are non GM because our basic raw material is non GM. Most soy value added products are made using either the defatted or full fat soybean meal as the raw



If GM Soymeal is imported into India, we will lose our exclusive non-GM SBM USP in the international market thereby exports would also be adversely affected

Davish Jain, Chairman of SOPA

material. Indian soy based food products are imported mainly for their non GM character," said DN Pathak, executive director at the Soybean Processors Association of In-

dia (SOPA). SOPA recently wrote to the Ministry of Commerce expressing grave concern over the proposed GM soymeal import plan, cautioning that it would further depress prices for domestic farmers already struggling to sell below the Minimum Support Price (MSP). The industry body has urged the government to safeguard both farmer incomes and the integrity of India's soy export brand.

India currently runs a trade deficit in the overall soy complex due to heavy imports of soy oil, even though it does not import soymeal. The country's soymeal exports have flourished largely because of the non-GM label. According to data from the Observatory of Economic Complexity (OEC), India exported \$1.11 billion worth of soymeal in 2023, ranking fifth among 121 exporting nations. Soymeal was also India's 67th most exported prod-

uct that year.

"If GM Soymeal is imported into India, we will lose our exclusive non-GM SBM USP in the international market thereby exports would also be adversely affected," said Dr Davish Jain, Chairman of SOPA.

India ranked fourth globally in soymeal exports in 2023-24, behind Argentina, Brazil, and the US, according to the American Soybean Association. The European Union remains the largest importer, followed by Indonesia, Vietnam, and the Philippines and India remains one of the biggest importers to the EU for its non-GM tag.

"Indian soy products get an edge over Latin American exporters in the European market, despite Indian products being costlier, because of its non-GM tag. Europe pays a premium price for non-GM products. With the import of GM soya meal, this might get affected," said a soy exporter.

Growth must be accompanied by equitable distribution: C Rangarajan

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Chennai

FORMER Reserve Bank of India governor, C Rangarajan on Monday emphasised that India's ambition to become a developed nation by 2047 hinges not only on sustained high growth but also on a conducive global environment and cooperative international policies.

Delivering a Shamugasundaram Annual Oration in Chennai, on the topic "Towards Viksit Bharat 2047: Growth with stability and equity", organised by Vinayaka Mission's Research Foundation, Rangarajan cautioned that the "twisted" economic stance of advanced nations like the United States could impede growth prospects for developing economies.

"We live in an interdependent world, and the growth rate of any one country is not dis-



connected from the growth rate of the world at large," Rangarajan said, adding that India's success depends partly on how global powers, particularly the US, approach trade and international cooperation. Explaining India's growth challenge, the veteran economist noted that to achieve the Viksit Bharat (developed nation) status, the country's real GDP must grow at 7.4% per annum until 2047.

"Our recent average has been around 6.1%, so we need to accelerate by at least one percentage point," he observed. Rangarajan pointed out that achieving the goal of Viksit Bharat will depend on numerous dynamic factors. Increasing the investment rate to support higher growth, absorbing new technologies to remain competitive, focusing on relatively more labour intensive sectors to provide employment and expanding social infrastructure such as health and education to ensure social justice must form part of a strategy of development.

"Growth and equity should not be posed as opposing considerations. They must be woven together to give an acceptable pattern of development," he said, and added that growth must be accompanied by equitable distribution.



Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu has decided to withdraw from all remaining BWF Tour events in 2025 to focus on complete recovery from a foot injury that she sustained ahead of the European leg. The 30-year-old from Hyderabad shuttler said the decision was taken after detailed consultation with her support team and medical experts.

Shafali comes in as injured Pratika's replacement

Explosive batter asked to join the WC squad after Rawal setback

GOMESH S @Navi Mumbai

IT is official. After being out of the ODI set-up for over 12 months, Shafali Verma may walk out to open the batting with Smriti Mandhana for India in the Women's World Cup semifinal against Australia at the DY Patil Stadium on Thursday. The 21-year-old explosive batter from Haryana was approved as the replacement for injured Pratika Rawal by the ICC Event Technical Committee on Monday.

The 21-year-old — captaining Haryana in the senior women's T20 knockouts in Surat — was supposed to play against Mumbai on Monday morning, but that match was called off due to rain. Later in the day, Shafali received the happy news that she has to travel to Mumbai and join the Indian team two days before the semifinal clash.

Understandably, her father, Sanjeev Verma, was delighted to hear about her selection for the World Cup. "Very happy that she has gotten into the World Cup. Thankful to god and the BCCI. God has listened to my prayers," a happy Sanjeev told this daily. After all, the last 12 months had not been easy for the Verma family. Shafali was a part of the team that faced an early exit in the 2024 T20 World Cup in the United Arab Emirates. She played the home series against New Zealand in October before being dropped from the Indian team in both white-ball formats.

With Sanjeev suffering a heart attack two days before the squad announcement, Shafali hid the news from her father. "I had a (heart) attack, and a stent was placed as well. When I got to know later (about her being dropped), I told her, 'it is okay. You play your best in whichever matches you get, and the rest will happen. The selectors are watching, the board is watching, they will pick you at the right time,'" Sanjeev recalled. Shafali did



Shafali Verma (R) with her father Sanjeev | SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

It is great that she has gotten this chance at this time. I will only say this much: to do well and keep the World Cup in India. The team is good and everyone is performing.

Sanjeev Verma, Shafali's father

just that in the months that followed. In the senior one-dayers, she smashed 527 runs in seven innings at a strike rate of 152.31, including two centuries. Shafali also followed it up with 414 runs in five matches during the senior one-day challenges in Chennai at an average of 82.8 and a strike rate of 145.26. Though her team lost the final, Shafali showed why she is the most explosive batter in the country. Speaking on the sidelines of that event in January 2025, the opener had said that she is focussing on building her innings. "As you all know, my starts are good, but building an innings remains an issue. But now, I am focusing on how to get those singles, how to build the innings and how to do well for the team. That is what I am trying to do. If I play long innings, as you can see, the team

is winning," Verma had said in a select media interaction.

Her form continued in the Women's Premier League, where Shafali hit 304 runs at 152.76 strike rate, helping Delhi Capitals reach their third successive final. On the back of her performances, she eventually made her T20I comeback in England, but Rawal had sealed the top spot with her consistency and the sheer weight of runs. Now, Rawal ruled out with an unfortunate injury, Shafali finds herself in a situation where she could play a pivotal part in deciding India's fortunes in a home World Cup knockouts.

The 21-year-old is coming into the tournament in good form — 341 runs in seven T20 innings at an average of 56.83 and strike rate of 182.35 — but the opponents are not the same. As someone always regarded as a league above the bowlers she faces in the domestic circuit, Shafali will be up against the best in the business. The defending champions have lost only six games since the 2017 ODI World Cup, of which only two came against India. And when she walks out to bat in front of what is expected to be a sell-out crowd — weather permitting — on Thursday, Shafali will feel the heat against the likes of Megan Schutt, Kim Garth, Alana King and Sophie Molineux. However, the fearless batter will see this as an opportunity just like her father does. "It is great that she has gotten this chance at this time. I will only say this much: to do well and keep the World Cup in India. The team is good and everyone is performing," Sanjeev said with confidence.

Ahead of what is possibly the toughest challenge for the home team, the new selection committee, led by Amita Sharma, has backed Shafali to rise to the occasion and deliver for the country. It is what she has always dreamt of doing. Will the dream meet the destiny? The next 72 hours will tell.

Shreyas in ICU after internal bleeding detected

ENS/AGENCIES @ New Delhi/Chennai

SHREYAS Iyer, who had a nasty fall while catching Alex Carey shot on Sunday, had to be admitted to the Intensive Care Unit because of internal bleeding. The India vice-captain fell awkwardly on Sunday and hurt his rib cage during their last one-day match against Australia. It is understood that the India batter fainted in the dressing room and had to be rushed to the hospital where investigation showed he had internal bleeding due to rib cage injury. "Shreyas Iyer sustained an impact injury to his left lower rib cage region...He was taken to the hospital for further evaluation. Scans have revealed a laceration injury to the spleen. He is under treatment, medically stable, and recovering well," the BCCI said in a statement on Monday.

The statement also said that the "BCCI Medical Team, in consultation with specialists in Sydney and India, is closely monitoring his injury status. The Indian Team Doctor will



India's Shreyas Iyer falls on the ground after taking a catch to dismiss Australia's Alex Carey during the third ODI on Saturday. In doing so, Iyer had sustained an impact injury to his left lower rib cage region | AFP

remain in Sydney with Shreyas to evaluate his day-to-day progress."

The 30-year-old is expected to remain under observation for 2-7 days. "Shreyas has been in ICU for the past couple of days. After the reports came in, internal bleeding was detected, and he had to be admitted immediately," a source privy to

the development told a news agency. "He will remain under observation for anywhere between two to seven days depending on recovery, as one needed to stop spreading of infection due to bleeding."

The BCCI medical team acted swiftly after Iyer's vital parameters fluctuated upon his return to the dressing room.

"The team doctor and physio didn't take any chances and took him to the hospital immediately. Things are stable now, but it could have been fatal. He's a tough lad and should be fine soon," the source added.

Initially, Iyer was expected to be out of action for about three weeks, but the recovery period may now be longer.



Then there were four INDIA TAKE ON AUSTRALIA AFTER ENGLAND PLAY SOUTH AFRICA IN THE FIRST SEMIFINAL. A LOOK AT THE TOP FOUR TEAMS...

AUSTRALIA	ENGLAND	SOUTH AFRICA	INDIA
Their campaign has been anything but perfect but the defending champions have still managed to win all six matches (one wash out) to finish on top. Everytime they were tested and pushed, someone or the other came to the party like Beth Mooney , Ashleigh Gardner and Annabel Sutherland. Known for course-correcting on the go, their perfect game is yet to come and no better time to bring it than against India on Thursday.	Another team that has thrived on the experience of Heather Knight and Nat Sciver-Brunt and the spinners with the ball. Sophie Ecclestone's fitness is a concern, but Linsey Smith has emerged as the X-factor. They have also boosted their middle-order by bringing in Dani Wyatt-Hodge, who won them the 2022 semifinal against South Africa, before the knockouts. However, in Guwahati, they will once again rely on the experienced batters and spinners to go through.	They came in with a top-heavy batting line-up led by Laura Wolvaardt and Tazmin Brits, but it was the likes of Chloe Tryon and Nadine de Klerk who ensured their campaign stayed on course. Having gotten all out for 69 to England at the same venue in their first game, South Africa will come hard at the familiar opponents. Their trump card will be Marizanne Kapp and Sune Luus, the duo who hold the middle-order together.	Struck with the injury of Pratika Rawal, India have taken a gamble by bringing in the explosive opener Shafali Verma. She will be under immense pressure to step up against Australia for it will be crucial for her and Smriti Mandhana to set the tone. They played a near perfect game against New Zealand, but to beat Australia, India have to go little further with at least one player putting up a performance of their career in the all-important semifinal.

WEATHER WATCH: With a system in the Arabian Sea, there could be an not insignificant weather disruption during the India - Australia encounter in Navi Mumbai. The forecast is for some showers over the next 3-4 days so it's one to keep an eye on. In case of a washout, Australia will go through because of the superior league stage show.

England vs South Africa, Guwahati, Wednesday | India vs Australia, Navi Mumbai, Thursday



A player assessing the conditions at Court 1 on Monday | EXPRESS

Chennai Open: Zero action on opening day due to incessant rains

CHANDRA PRABHU @ Chennai

THE return of the Chennai Open at the SDAT Tennis Stadium in Nungambakkam was foiled by incessant rains in the city on Monday. Ten matches, out of which seven were singles and three were doubles in the main draw of the WTA tour event, were cancelled after three inspections (3 pm, 4 pm and 4.45 pm). Tournament director Hiten Joshi was forced to call off the matches on the advice of the WTA supervisor. The matches will now be played on Tuesday from 12 pm, subject to the conditions. "All the 16 matches will be played tomorrow (Tuesday). We will add court three for play," Joshi told reporters. So far, matches were scheduled only at court one and two, in addition to the centre court.

It looked like matches would begin from 4.45pm after a brief period of no rainfall. However, right on the clock, drizzles started falling and intensified, forcing the day's play to be called off. Heavy to very heavy rainfall was expected in the city on Monday. According to reports, Cyclone Montha is expected to move west-northwestwards and intensify as a cyclonic storm by Tuesday morning. After that, it is likely to cross the Andhra Pradesh coast. Reports have also predicted patchy rain during the day on Tuesday.

It is learnt from reliable sources that the WTA had offered the organisers only this week (October 27-November 2) in the Tour calendar. This is usually the onset period of the northeast monsoon in the city.

Tuesday's matches, if conditions are favourable, will feature the much-awaited all-Indian clash between teen sensation Maaya Rajeshwaran and Shrivalli Bhamidipaty at the centre court. Sahaja Yamalappalli's match, which was supposed to be held at the Centre court on Monday, has now been pushed to Court 1 for Tuesday. She will play lucky loser Priska Nugroho of Indonesia. **Order of Play (Select - from 12 pm):** Centre court: Z Sonmez vs T Prozorova followed by V Adkar vs D Vekic followed by Maaya R vs Shrivalli B followed by A Lew Yan Foon vs L Fruhvirtova.

SKY's form not a concern: Gambhir

AGENCIES @ New Delhi

INDIA'S head coach Gautam Gambhir is not perturbed by T20I skipper Suryakumar Yadav's poor form as "failures are inevitable" when the team is focussed on playing an ultra-aggressive brand of cricket. While India won the Asia Cup tournament last month in the UAE under his captaincy, Suryakumar's own form with the bat left a lot to be desired as he managed just 72 runs in seven innings.

However, he has now found backing from the team's head coach. "Honestly, Surya's batting form doesn't concern me

because we have committed to an ultra-aggressive template in our dressing room. When you embrace this philosophy, failures are inevitable," Gambhir said during a discussion on *Jio-Hotstar*. "It would be easy for Surya to score 40 runs off 30 balls and avoid criticism, but we have collectively decided that it's acceptable to fail while pursuing this approach," he added.

Even as Surya was struggling with the willow, the likes of Abhishek Sharma and Ttlak Varma lit up the tournament with their explosive batting. Gambhir said the focus is not

on individuals but on the team as a whole.

Zampa to miss start

MELBOURNE: Australian leg-spinner Adam Zampa will miss the start of the five-match T20I series against India due to personal reasons with Cricket Australia drafting Tanveer Sangha in the squad. The series begins on Wednesday in Canberra. According to a report in *'ESPNcricinfo'*, Zampa is expecting his second child with wife Harriet. Sangha, a regular with Sydney Thunder in the Big Bash League (BBL), has featured in seven T20Is for Australia, picking up 10 wickets with his leg-spin.

Super Cup: Punjab FC beat Gokulam Kerala

AGENCIES @ Bambolim (Goa)

THREE first-half goals handed Punjab FC a 3-0 victory over Gokulam Kerala FC in the Group C opener of the Super Cup here. Muhammad Suhail, Nikhil Prabhu and Princeton Rebello scored the goals for the winners as they secured all three points.

Punjab head coach Panagiotis Dilmeris opted for a midfield heavy starting line-up with Nikhil Prabhu, Princeton Rebello, Manglenthang Kipgen and Samir Zeljkovic in the

centre of the pitch with Muhammad Suhail and Ninthoinganba Meetei attacking through the wings. Bijoy Varghese and Suresh Meitei started in centre defence with Khaimingthang Lhungdim and Muhammad Uvais as wingbacks while Muheet Shabir started in goal. Gokulam Kerala coach Jose Carlos named a strong lineup with three Spaniards starting. Samir Zeljkovic tested Shibinraj Kunniyil in the opposition goal with a long ranger in the first minute of the game.

Andhra vs Baroda: Day's 3 play washed out

ENS/AGENCIES @ Vizianagaram

INESSANT rains washed out Day 3 of the Ranji Trophy match between hosts Andhra and Baroda. The hosts were struggling at 43/2 at stumps on Day 2 in reply to Baroda's 363.

UP extend lead

KANPUR: Uttar Pradesh captain Karan Sharma scored 121 while Aaradhya Yadav made 101 before retiring hurt as they extended their lead to 137 runs against Odisha on Day 3.

Hyderabad take control

PUDUCHERRY: On a rain-curtailed day, Hyderabad reduced hosts Pondicherry 92/8 with B Punnaiah and Tanay Thyagarajan claiming three and two wickets respectively for the visitors. Pondicherry still trail by 343 runs.

Kerala reduced to 247/6

NEW CHANDIGARH: Kerala were reduced to 247/6 by Pun-



Yash Dhull (L) & Ayush Doseja added 125 runs for 4th wicket | SAYANTAN GHOSH

jab as the hosts look set to gain the first innings lead. Only Ankit Sharma (62) and Rohan Kunnummal (43) showed some resistance as other batters failed to capitalise on the starts. Going into the final day, Kerala still trail by 189 runs.

Karnataka in command

SHIVAMOGGA: Sachin Tendulkar's son Arjun was working hard to save Goa with his valiant batting after Karnataka

Group A: At Vizianagaram: Baroda 363 vs Andhra 43/2 (No play due to rain on Monday); At Kanpur: Odisha 243 vs Uttar Pradesh 380/6 in 128 ovs (Karan Sharma 121, Aaradhya Yadav 101 ret'd hurt; Sambit Baral 3/52); At Bengaluru: Tamil Nadu 512/3 decl vs Nagaland 365/5 in 127 ovs (Dega Nischal 161 batting, Imliwati Lemtur 115 batting, Yugandhar Singh 67, Gurjapneet Singh 4/57). **Group B:** At Shivamogga: Karnataka 371 vs Goa 171/6 in 77 ovs (Arjun Tendulkar 43 batting; Abhilash Shetty 3/63, Vidwath Kaverappa 2/30); At New Chandigarh: Punjab 436 vs Kerala 247/6 in 87 ovs (Ankit Sharma 62; Krish Bhagat 2/37, Naman Dhir 2/56). **Group D:** At Puducherry: Hyderabad 435 vs Pondicherry 92/8 in 34 ovs (B Punnaiah 3/10, Tanay Thyagarajan 2/41); At New Delhi: Delhi 430 & 196/4 in 32 ovs (Ayush Doseja 62 batting, Yash Dhull 70; Mukul Negi 3/57) vs Himachal Pradesh 297 in 91.4 ovs (Sidhant Purohit 70, Akash Vasisth 62; Navdeep Saini 3/52, Money Grewal 2/47).

bowlers struck at regular intervals to put their team in a commanding position. At stumps, Arjun was batting on 43, and Mohit Redkar was giving him company on 24 as Goa reached 171/6, replying to Karnataka's first innings total of 371.

Delhi in strong position

NEW DELHI: YASH Dhull smashed a 59-ball 70 while Ayush Doseja continued his good form with an unbeaten 62 as Delhi extended their overall lead to 329 against Himachal Pradesh. Play was called off

early due to bad light as Delhi raced to 196 for 4.

Nagaland steady against TN

BENGALURU: Underdogs Nagaland showed they are made of sterner stuff as their batters fought tooth and nail all day to score 365/5 and frustrate Tamil Nadu who scored 512 runs in their first-innings total.

Opener Dega Nischal (161 batting) and middle-order batter Imliwati Lemtur (115 batting) slammed fine centuries to steady Nagaland's innings after initial hiccups.

Impressive performance by India surfers

ENS @ Chennai

THE Indian surfing team delivered a commendable performance at the Pingtung Jialeshuei Asian ProAm Surf Series (APSS) held in Taiwan. A total of eight Indian surfers competed at the prestigious international event, showcasing remarkable skill and consistency against some of Asia's best.

Kishore Kumar led the charge, winning silver in men's shortboard division, while Sivaraaj Babu finished 4th. In the women's division, Sugar Shanthi Gayen displayed exceptional form to secure 4th place, while Kamali Prakash, Shristi Selvam, and Sandhya Arunkumar gained valuable international experience and exposure in competitive conditions. The team was led by head coach Samai Rebul and assistant coach Sanjay Selvamani. Arun Vasu, Surfing Federation of India chief, congratulated the team.



Kalinga Fellowship: Leadership Against Gender Injustice

The Kalinga Fellowship, launched in 2014 in collaboration with the Bridge Institute (Singapore), brings together activists, educators, and policymakers from India, Singapore, and the UK. It focuses on combating gender-based violence through leadership training and advocacy. The fellowship's impact is measured not only by policy influence but also by the creation of safe, inclusive workplaces and institutions worldwide — proving that leadership against injustice begins with empathy and action.



Art of Giving: The Heart of KIIT's Philosophy

Launched in 2014, the Art of Giving movement lies at the heart of KIIT's social-humanitarian philosophy. Conceptualised by Dr Samanta, it encourages people to share not just material possessions but also time, love, and kindness. Today, it is celebrated in over 120 countries and all panchayats of Odisha, reaching 10 million followers worldwide. The annual celebration of the Art of Giving has become a global festival of humanity, spreading the message that happiness grows when shared. Prof Samanta often says, "Whatever I am today is because of the Art of Giving."



THE HEART BEHIND THE INSTITUTION: KIIT'S OUTREACH TOUCHES MILLIONS

From education and health to tribal empowerment, women's rights, and youth leadership, KIIT-DU has emerged as a force of positive change — touching millions of lives across India and beyond. Under the visionary leadership of Dr Achyuta Samanta, Founder of KIIT, KISS, and KIMS, the university's outreach initiatives reflect its deep commitment to social responsibility and human welfare. Each campaign carries a common essence — service to society and empowerment through compassion. Together, they illustrate KIIT's enduring belief that true education transcends classrooms and transforms communities.



THE MAN BEHIND THE MOVEMENTS

All these initiatives stem from the vision of Dr Samanta, an educationist, social reformer, and humanitarian who rose from humble beginnings in rural Odisha. Orphaned at four and raised in poverty, he transformed adversity into strength, creating KIIT, KISS, and KIMS, three world-class institutions dedicated to education, social welfare, and healthcare.

Recipient of the prestigious ISA Award for Service to Humanity from the Kingdom of Bahrain and over 70 honorary doctorates, Prof. Samanta remains a symbol of humility. He leads a simple, celibate life in a rented house without personal wealth, yet commands respect as a two-time Member of Parliament and a global thought leader.

NETWORK FOR EMPOWERING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (NEIP): GLOBAL VOICE FOR THE TRIBAL WORLD

KIIT's vision extends beyond national boundaries through the Network for Empowering Indigenous Peoples (NEIP), founded in 2017. This global platform promotes tribal higher education, cultural identity, and community-led development. Working with indigenous leaders across continents, NEIP acts as a think-tank for tribal rights, amplifying voices that are too often unheard. Its guiding principle is simple yet profound: True empowerment happens when indigenous voices lead their own destiny.

GAON KU CHALA ABHIYAN: TAKING CHANGE TO THE VILLAGES

KIIT's connection with the grassroots runs deep. Through the Gaon Ku Chala Abhiyan, students and faculty revisit their native villages to promote cleanliness, literacy, and life-skill training. This initiative fosters rural development while reminding everyone that real change begins in the village. More than 5,000 volunteers participate annually, spreading awareness and hope across Odisha.

HERO: HEALTH EMPOWERMENT FOR RURAL ODISHA

In a state where many remote areas still lack access to quality medical care, KIIT's HERO initiative has become a lifeline. Covering all 30 districts, it bridges the urban-rural healthcare divide through corporate-style hospitals, dispensaries, and mega health camps. With 10 operational dispensaries, 20 hospitals under construction, and over 60,000 blood units collected annually, HERO exemplifies healthcare with a human touch — affirming that "good health is a right, not a privilege."

ART OF APPRECIATION: GRATITUDE IN ACTION

In a world often marked by stress and disconnection, the Art of Appreciation campaign, launched in 2023, focuses on emotional intelligence and positivity. It encourages people to practice gratitude in daily life — in families, schools, and workplaces. The result has been stronger relationships, reduced stress, and a culture of kindness that nurtures both personal and professional well-being. As the campaign reminds us, "Appreciation is gratitude in action. It costs nothing, but returns everything."



INDIA AGAINST NEGATIVITY (IAN): A MOVEMENT FOR CIVIC POSITIVITY

In times when pessimism often dominates public discourse, KIIT's India Against Negativity (IAN) movement offers a counter-narrative. Through Public Interest Litigations, RTIs, youth training, and storytelling, IAN has mobilised over a million citizens to take positive civic action. With 500 youth leaders trained and five PILs filed, it promotes proactive optimism and national unity under the motto: "Within us lie both light and shadow — let us choose light."

SOCIETY, SPIRITUALITY & HUMANITY (KTT): ANCHORING ETHICS IN MODERN LIFE

Beyond social and educational outreach, KIIT's KTT initiative connects ethical living with spirituality. Established in 2007, it has built over 200 temples and spiritual centres, including a magnificent Jagannath Temple at KIIT and a Veda School. Fostering interfaith harmony and moral values among youth, it reinforces the idea that spirituality anchors us to our higher purpose.

EDUCATION FOR ALL: LIGHTING THE LAMP OF LEARNING

Believing that education is the third eye of a child, KIIT's 'Education for All' campaign, launched in 2015, ensures that no child is deprived of learning due to poverty. Volunteers visit schools across districts and metros, encouraging students and parents to value education. The campaign also organises Mini Marathons in 30 districts, symbolising the collective run toward a literate, enlightened future. This movement continues to inspire thousands of students and communities, proving that education is the strongest foundation for dignity and progress.



KIIT NaniPari Little Miss India: Nurturing Confidence and Dreams

Among KIIT's unique initiatives, the NaniPari Little Miss India Competition stands out for its focus on empowering young girls through confidence and self-expression. Started modestly in 2001, it has grown to become the only national-level event of its kind in India, offering a creative and confidence-building platform for girls aged 13 to 15. Conceptualised by Dr Samanta, an ardent advocate for women's rights, the competition celebrates young talent through engaging rounds such as Miss Rapunzel, Miss Photogenic, Miss Selfie, Miss Fashion Girl, Miss Wizkid, Miss Cinderella, Miss Urvashi, Miss Catwalk, Miss Monalisa, and Miss Active. Over the years, NaniPari has produced several success stories. Shagun Sengupta, the 2nd runner-up in 2010, pursued software engineering and went on to complete her Master's at the University of Michigan, while Maitri Monali, the 2016 winner, earned the title of Miss Super Model Worldwide Asia 2022.

Kanya Kiran: A Voice for Gender Equality

Gender justice stands as a central pillar of KIIT's outreach. The Kanya Kiran campaign, started in 2016, boldly addresses issues of sexual violence, consent, and respect. It spreads awareness across all 30 districts of Odisha, sensitising more than a million people — men, women, and youth alike. The campaign's message is clear and empowering: "Empower a girl, and you empower an entire generation."

