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Congress MLC, three others sustain minor injuries in road accident

Hyderabad, Nov.18 : Congress MLC and Government Whip Balmuri Venkat escaped with minor injuries after a lorry rammed into his car near Vinayaka Steel on the outskirts of Kothur in Ranga Reddy district in the early hours of Wednesday. The accident occurred around 1 a.m. while the legislator was travelling with his family. Venkat, his wife Induja, his brother Chanakya, and driver Srikanth sustained minor injuries in the collision. While the front portion of the car was completely damaged, all four occupants are safe.

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Telangana Expands SC, ST Welfare: CM

K.SHANTHI KUMAR,
Hyderabad, Jay Janasena News, Nov 18: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has asserted that the Telangana government is committed to the welfare, empowerment and inclusive development of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), providing them with greater opportunities across education, employment, economic development and political representation. Addressing a meeting of the Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of SCs and STs, chaired by Dr. Faggan Singh Kulaste, at MCRHRD on Wednesday, the Chief Minister outlined the various initiatives being implemented by the state government to ensure social justice and equal opportunities for disadvantaged communities.

Revanth Reddy said the government had accorded significant political representation to Dalit communities by providing opportunities to serve as Assembly Speaker and Ministers. He also highlighted the representation extended to SC and ST members in the Public Service Commission and various government corporations. Emphasising the government's commitment to social inclusion, he noted that, for the first time in the 100-year history of Osmania University, a Dalit academic had been appointed as its Vice-Chancellor. Similar opportunities had also been provided in Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University and Rajiv Gandhi IIT institutions.

The Chief Minister further stated that SC and ST families were being accorded priority in the allotment of Indiramma houses. More than 50 per cent of the expenditure under the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) and Aarogyasri schemes was being utilised for the benefit of these communities, he added. Highlighting a major policy achievement, Revanth Reddy said Telangana had become the first state in the country to implement SC categorisation, fulfilling a long-standing demand for social justice within the Scheduled Caste communities. The Parliamentary Committee members appreciated the Telangana government for implementing SC categorisation and establishing Young India Integrated Residential Schools. MPs Mallu Ravi and Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, MLA Sri Ganesh, Parliamentary Committee members Tapir Gao, Harish Chandra Meena, Anil Firojia, Arun Kumar and Prasada Rao, along with senior government officials, attended the meeting.



New Hyderabad Police Commissioner and TSRTC MD Call on Chief Secretary



K.SHANTHI KUMAR,
Hyderabad, Jay Janasena News, Nov 18: Mahesh Bhagwat, who recently assumed charge as Hyderabad City Police Commissioner, and Anil Kumar, who took charge as Managing Director of the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC), met State Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju at the Secretariat on Tuesday as a courtesy call.

New DGPs Soumya Mishra and Swati Lakra Call on Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju



K.SHANTHI KUMAR,
Hyderabad, Jay Janasena News, Nov 18: Soumya Mishra, who recently assumed charge as Director General of Police (DGP) for Women's Safety, SHE Teams and Bharosa Centres, and Swati Lakra, who took charge as DGP of the Prisons Department, called on Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju at the State Secretariat on Tuesday. The two senior IPS officers met the Chief Secretary as a courtesy call following their assumption of new responsibilities.

Indiramma Family Insurance to Be Implemented with Robust Measures: CS



K.SHANTHI KUMAR,
Hyderabad, Jay Janasena News, Nov 18: Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju has directed district collectors to make foolproof arrangements for the effective implementation of the state government's ambitious Indiramma Family Insurance Scheme. He held a video conference with district collectors from the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat on Tuesday to review the preparations for the scheme. Finance Principal Secretary Sandeep Kumar Sultania, Planning Secretary Gaurav Uppal, GHMC Commissioner R.V. Karnan, Civil Supplies Commissioner Nagireddy, Labour Secretary Harichandana and IT Special Secretary Anudeep Durishetty, among others, attended the meeting. During the conference, the Chief Secretary directed officials to establish special registration centres in every gram panchayat and all municipal wards across the state. He clarified that various existing insurance schemes being implemented for different occupational communities would be brought under the umbrella of the Indiramma Family Insurance Scheme. He said the existing life insurance coverage of Rs. 2 lakh provided to weavers, toddy tappers, workers and fishermen through various departments would be enhanced to Rs. 5 lakh under the new scheme. Sanjay Jaju stressed the need to ensure insurance protection for every eligible family and directed officials to take special measures to ensure that all eligible members of each family are enrolled in the scheme. He also called for an extensive public awareness campaign through all available media platforms to educate people about the scheme. Officials were instructed to strictly follow the prescribed guidelines and complete the registration process in a transparent and efficient manner. The registration drive is expected to continue for approximately one month.

Minister Adluri Calls for Barrier-Free Society for Persons with Disabilities

K.SHANTHI KUMAR,
Hyderabad/New Delhi, Jay Janasena News, Nov 18: Telangana Minister for Scheduled Castes Development, Tribal Welfare, Differently Abled and Senior Citizens Welfare, and Empowerment of Transgender Persons, Adluri Lakshman Kumar, has called for creating an inclusive, barrier-free society that ensures equal opportunities, dignity and independence for persons with disabilities as a key objective of Viksit Bharat. Addressing a two-day national-level conference organised by the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in New Delhi, in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar, the Telangana Minister presented the state's experiences, ground-level challenges and practical proposals on the theme of "Sugamya Bharat – Viksit Bharat." The Minister stressed that the Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan should be transformed from a mere infrastructure development programme into a nationwide movement aimed at protecting the rights, dignity and self-reliance of persons with disabilities. He emphasised that accessibility facilities should not be confined to metropolitan cities, airports and major railway stations but must also be extended to rural areas, small towns, Gram Panchayat offices and all government establishments. He called for mandatory provision of ramps, lifts, tactile pathways and accessible toilets in government buildings, hospitals, educational institutions, commercial establishments and public transport systems. He also stressed the need for regular maintenance and monitoring to ensure that these facilities remain functional.



Dedicated Nodal Officers and Special Budget

Adluri Lakshman Kumar proposed appointing dedicated nodal officers in every government department to oversee the creation, maintenance and monitoring of accessibility facilities. He suggested that each department earmark a special allocation in its annual budget and prepare time-bound action plans.

Hyderabad to Host 85th Indian Roads Congress from Today



K.SHANTHI KUMAR,
Hyderabad, Jay Janasena News, Nov 18: The 85th Annual Session of the Indian Roads Congress (IRC) will be held at the HITEX Exhibition Centre in Hyderabad from November 19 to 22, bringing together approximately 3,500 delegates, including road and highway experts, engineers, government officials and industry representatives from across the country. Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari will inaugurate the prestigious four-day conference at 11.30 a.m. on November 19. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, Union Ministers from Telangana, ministers from other states, MPs and other prominent dignitaries are expected to participate. Addressing a press conference at HITEX, Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said it was a matter of pride for Telangana to host the prestigious national-level event. He revealed that he had personally requested Union Minister Nitin Gadkari to organise the IRC annual session in Telangana, and expressed his gratitude to him for accepting the proposal. Emphasising the government's commitment to the state's development, the minister said the government was working beyond political considerations by bringing together all stakeholders for Telangana's progress. Established in 1934, the Indian Roads Congress has played a significant role in strengthening India's road and bridge infrastructure, promoting construction standards, road safety and the adoption of advanced technologies. Hyderabad has hosted the IRC annual session six times in the past. The first conference was held in the city in 1938, followed by sessions in 1959, 1976, 1987, 1999 and 2016. The 2016 session was the first to be hosted by Hyderabad after the formation of Telangana.

Telangana Woos Mumbai Industrialists for Manufacturing Investments



K.SHANTHI KUMAR,
Hyderabad/Mumbai, jay Janasena News, Nov 18: Telangana IT, Industries and Legislative Affairs Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu has invited industrialists from Mumbai to make Telangana their preferred destination for manufacturing, technological innovation and business expansion, while continuing to retain their corporate headquarters in Mumbai. Addressing the 'Invest Telangana Global Summit-2026' roadshow organised by the Telangana Government in association with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) at the Four Seasons Hotel in Worli, Mumbai, on Wednesday, the Minister said the government was not seeking to relocate companies from Mumbai but wanted them to expand their manufacturing and business operations in Telangana. Recalling the longstanding business and cultural ties between Telangana and Mumbai, Sridhar Babu said people from Telangana, including workers, artisans and entrepreneurs, had contributed significantly to Mumbai's growth over the decades. He invited Mumbai-based industrialists to become partners in Telangana's development. The Minister highlighted investment opportunities in information technology, Global Capability Centres (GCCs), data centres, pharmaceuticals, textiles, apparel manufacturing, media and entertainment. He said Telangana offered strong industrial infrastructure, skilled manpower and investor-friendly policies to support business expansion.

Inviting industrialists to participate in the Invest Telangana Global Summit-2026, scheduled to be held at Bharat Future City from December 7 to 9, he explained the advantages of the TS-iPASS system, which facilitates speedy clearances for investments. He announced that the state government would appoint a dedicated officer for every company investing from Mumbai. The officer would provide end-to-end assistance, from initial investment discussions and approvals to the commencement of operations and revenue generation.

Sridhar Babu said Telangana was keen to establish long-term partnerships with Mumbai-based industrial and business organisations. He noted that combining Mumbai's financial and corporate strengths with Telangana's manufacturing capabilities and emerging industrial opportunities would create mutually beneficial business prospects. CII Maharashtra State Council Vice-Chairperson Aarti Kuchibhatla welcomed the Telangana delegation. TGIIC Vice-Chairman and Managing Director Shashank, Invest Telangana CEO B. Ajit Reddy and Industries and Commerce Commissioner Nikhil Chakravarthy were also part of the delegation.

Telangana Tops States with Rs.1,087 Crore in Central Incentives

K.SHANTHI KUMAR,
Hyderabad, Jay Janasena News, Nov 18: Telangana has emerged as the first state in the country to secure Rs. 1,087.64 crore in special central incentives under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) scheme, recognising its achievements in the agriculture sector, Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao announced. The minister said the Centre had recognised Telangana's effective implementation of the Farmer Registry and Fertiliser Sales System (FSS), along with its efforts to improve transparency, accountability and technology-driven services for farmers. Of the total incentive, Rs. 422.64 crore was released for 2025-26 after the state exceeded the Centre's targets for Farmer ID registrations. For 2026-27, the Centre approved Rs. 665 crore for the successful implementation of the fertiliser distribution system through the FSS app. The amount was released in three instalments of Rs. 175 crore, Rs. 165 crore and Rs. 325 crore. Tummala said the FSS system was introduced in phases, beginning with two districts as a pilot project, later extended to 50 per cent of the districts and finally implemented across the state. Farmers can now purchase fertilisers from dealers using their Farmer Registry IDs, reducing long waiting hours and making the process more convenient. He added that Farmer Registry IDs would also help farmers access agricultural services and sell their produce at procurement centres to receive the Minimum Support Price (MSP). The system would be particularly useful during the ongoing Rabi season for ensuring the timely availability of fertilisers. The minister attributed the achievement to the collective efforts of Agriculture Department officials, district collectors and field-level staff under the guidance of the Chief Minister. He congratulated all those involved in successfully implementing the initiatives. Describing the achievement as a matter of pride for Telangana, Tummala said the government's priority was to ensure that the benefits of these reforms directly reached farmers. Farmers' Experiences: Farmers from Narayanpet, Khammam and Bhadradri Kothagudem districts expressed satisfaction with the new system. Avinash Vancharla of Nagireddypalli village in Narayanpet district said the Farmer Registry ID had made selling agricultural produce at procurement centres easier. Srinivasa Rao Vinjam of Lingagudem village in Khammam district and Mahesh Vajja of Gattupalli village in Bhadradri Kothagudem district said the Central Fertiliser Booking App had enabled them to conveniently book and obtain fertilisers, even in remote agency areas.



EDITORIAL

Farmers Must Be Given Confidence and Financial Assurance

The impact of El Niño is being felt severely across Telangana. With groundwater levels depleting, the agricultural sector has been pushed into a state of serious uncertainty even at the beginning of the current Rabi season. While paddy fields that flourished across lakhs of acres last year are now struggling without adequate water, officials estimate that the area under paddy cultivation could decline by more than 60 per cent. Farmers accustomed to traditional paddy cultivation are hesitant to switch to alternative dryland crops, while doubts over market support prices have added to their confusion. Farmers, agricultural organisations and leaders believe that the government must go beyond issuing official directives and provide farmers with concrete assurances and direct financial incentives. Only then can the rural economy be protected from a severe setback. During last year's Rabi season, cultivation took place across 68.67 lakh acres. However, owing to El Niño-induced rainfall deficits, major reservoirs are also running short of water, while groundwater levels continue to decline. Against this backdrop, estimates suggest that the cultivated area may fall below 25 lakh acres. The state government has already officially declared 365 mandals across 31 districts as drought-affected. Agricultural experts warn that the water and electricity crisis resulting from El Niño could continue until July 2027. Under these circumstances, depending heavily on water-intensive crops is no longer feasible, and the government is urging farmers to shift towards alternative crops. Agricultural officials warn that severe shortages of both water and electricity are likely in the coming months, resulting in a substantial decline in the total cultivated area during the Rabi season.

To overcome the water crisis, the Agriculture Department is giving greater priority to dryland crops compared with last year. Agricultural officers, including village-level AEOs and other field staff, are already conducting extensive awareness programmes and meetings with farmers to explain the importance of cultivating less water-intensive crops. However, the response at the grassroots level has been slow. Farmers who have depended on traditional paddy cultivation for years are apprehensive about whether alternative crops will provide assured yields. Officials are encouraging farmers to cultivate green gram, black gram, chickpeas, sesame and sorghum, which require less water and can provide better returns under suitable conditions. Comprehensive plans have also been prepared to promote horticultural crops such as oil palm, which offer long-term benefits. Depending on soil conditions, farmers are advised to replace Rabi paddy with crops such as red gram, chickpeas, black gram, green gram and soybean as intercrops. In red sandy soils with low moisture retention, farmers should cultivate drought-resistant crops such as groundnut, castor, pearl millet, finger millet, foxtail millet, sorghum and sesame. Seeds of drought-tolerant crops such as safflower, green gram, sunflower, linseed and groundnut should be made available in the market at subsidised prices. These seeds should be procured and distributed to farmers through Rythu Vedikas. The government must provide necessary subsidies to encourage farmers to adopt alternatives to paddy cultivation. Since the yields of pulses and millets are relatively lower than those of paddy, farmers should be compensated for the difference through an additional 20 per cent bonus. More than 2,600 Rythu Vedikas across the state should be transformed into local logistics centres. Farmers' crop details should be registered at these centres. Decentralised weighing and procurement facilities should also be established at Rythu Vedikas, ensuring that payments for procured produce are directly credited to farmers' bank accounts within 72 hours. Such measures would help Telangana effectively withstand what could become one of the worst droughts the state has faced in a decade, while giving farmers the confidence and financial security they urgently need.

Are We Accumulating Wealth for Our Children While Forgetting to Teach Them Values?

- *Parents are increasingly focused on building assets in the name of their children's future*
- *Greater attention is being given to education and careers, while personality development is often neglected*
- *Children are learning the value of money but gradually losing sight of the importance of human relationships*
- *Good behaviour, moral values and a sense of responsibility are more valuable than material wealth*





VVVK PRASAD, Sr Journalist

Every parent wants a bright and secure future for their children. They make countless sacrifices to ensure that their children do not face the hardships they experienced in their own lives. They dream of providing them with quality education, good career opportunities, a comfortable home and financial security. To achieve these goals, parents work tirelessly and spend a significant portion of their earnings on their children's future. They strive to accumulate wealth in the form of houses, land, gold and bank savings. There is nothing wrong with this. Providing financial security is certainly one of the responsibilities of parents. However, neglecting the values of life, morality, humanity and a sense of responsibility in the process can create serious problems in the future. It is time for parents to think not only about how much wealth they are leaving behind for their children but also about what kind of individuals they are raising. Today, education, marks, ranks and career prospects appear to dominate the process of raising children. From an early age, children are pushed into a competitive environment through special coaching, training programmes and various skill-development activities. However, less attention is often paid to teaching them how to speak respectfully, honour elders, maintain healthy relationships with peers and help those in need. Reading moral lessons in textbooks is one thing; putting those lessons into practice in everyday life is quite another. Parents should tell children moral stories, explain the difference between right and wrong through real-life experiences and, most importantly, lead by example. Parents who appreciate their children only for securing good marks should also encourage them when they display kindness and good behaviour towards others. A well-rounded personality develops only when education grows alongside good values and character. Another growing trend is the eagerness of parents to fulfil every wish of their children. Expensive mobile phones, bikes, cars, branded clothes and luxury items are often purchased as soon as children demand them. When all comforts become available at a very young age, children may fail to understand the effort, sacrifice and hard work behind earning money. It is important to explain how much parents work and what sacrifices they make to provide these facilities. Fulfilling every wish immediately is not necessarily a sign of love. Children must learn the difference between needs and desires. They should be taught how to spend money wisely, save for the future and respect the hard work of others. Enjoying modern comforts is not wrong; growing up without understanding their value is the real concern. Children must understand that money alone cannot earn respect. Good behaviour, trustworthiness and honesty are what bring genuine recognition in society. The family system has also undergone significant changes. The decline of joint families, limited time spent by working parents with their children and the growing use of digital devices have created new challenges in parenting. While parents spend most of their day working to earn a living, children increasingly spend their time on mobile phones, television and social media. Habits such as eating together, sharing daily experiences and interacting with elders are gradually disappearing. Children need to understand the importance of grandparents' experiences, family traditions and relationships. Respecting elders, showing affection towards younger family members and participating in household responsibilities are simple habits that help shape responsible individuals. Instead of giving children expensive gifts, spending quality time with them, listening to their concerns and understanding their problems can be far more valuable. Developing humanity and social responsibility among children should also be an essential part of parenting. Parents must teach them through practical examples to provide food to the hungry, help people in need, protect nature and show kindness towards animals. From an early age, children should understand that nobody should be treated as inferior on the basis of caste, religion, language or economic status. They must develop the mental strength to remain humble after success and face failure without losing confidence. They should learn to accept their mistakes and correct them rather than trying to justify their actions. If parents insult others, tell lies or behave selfishly in front of their children, there is every possibility that children will adopt similar habits. Therefore, parents must first practise the values they wish to teach. Lessons demonstrated through actions remain in children's minds much longer than those delivered through words.

In reality, the wealth accumulated by parents may benefit their children only up to a certain stage in life. However, the values taught by parents guide them throughout their lives. Wealth can provide a comfortable lifestyle, but good character helps individuals live with dignity and earn the respect of others. Money may solve certain difficulties, but it cannot purchase a good personality. Just as parents provide their children with rights over family property, they must also make them understand family responsibilities and social obligations. It is equally important for children, as they grow older, to care for their parents, preserve family relationships and become responsible citizens who contribute positively to society. For this to happen, parents must dedicate some of their time and attention to their children's personality development instead of focusing entirely on earning and accumulating wealth. Schools and educational institutions should also give importance to moral education alongside academic performance. There is nothing wrong with accumulating assets for children, but sacrificing values in the pursuit of wealth is certainly not right. Passing on wealth from one generation to another is valuable, but leaving behind a legacy of good thoughts, culture, honesty and humanity is the greatest gift parents can give their children. After all, while wealth makes life comfortable, values give life its true meaning.

What Should We Do About Digital Predators?

Abusive attacks on women for expressing their opinions… Obscene images created using AI… Digital assaults on women's dignity… Where is our civilisation heading?

We take pride in competing with the world in technological advancement. We call ourselves the world's largest democracy. We boast of having a culture that worships women as goddesses. Yet, in the very same society, a woman who expresses her opinion on social media is subjected to abusive attacks. If she supports a particular political party, her personal life becomes a target. Photographs of female film stars are morphed and circulated in obscene forms. Now, with artificial intelligence, women are being portrayed as doing things they have never done, publicly humiliating them and damaging their dignity. Is this what we call civilisation?

Recently, obscene remarks made by an NRI YouTuber named Raj Boda against Telangana folk singer Madhu Priya and television anchor Shiva Jyothi triggered widespread debate. The Telangana folk industry fraternity reacted strongly to the comments that allegedly demeaned women artistes. Reports stated that a complaint was lodged at the Sircilla Police Station on November 12.

Anyone has the right to criticise the songs they sing, the programmes they organise or the political leaders they support. But who has given anyone the right to abuse them by dragging their families into the controversy? Differences of opinion must be addressed through arguments, not vulgar language. This is not merely an issue involving two women artistes; it concerns the dignity of women as a whole.

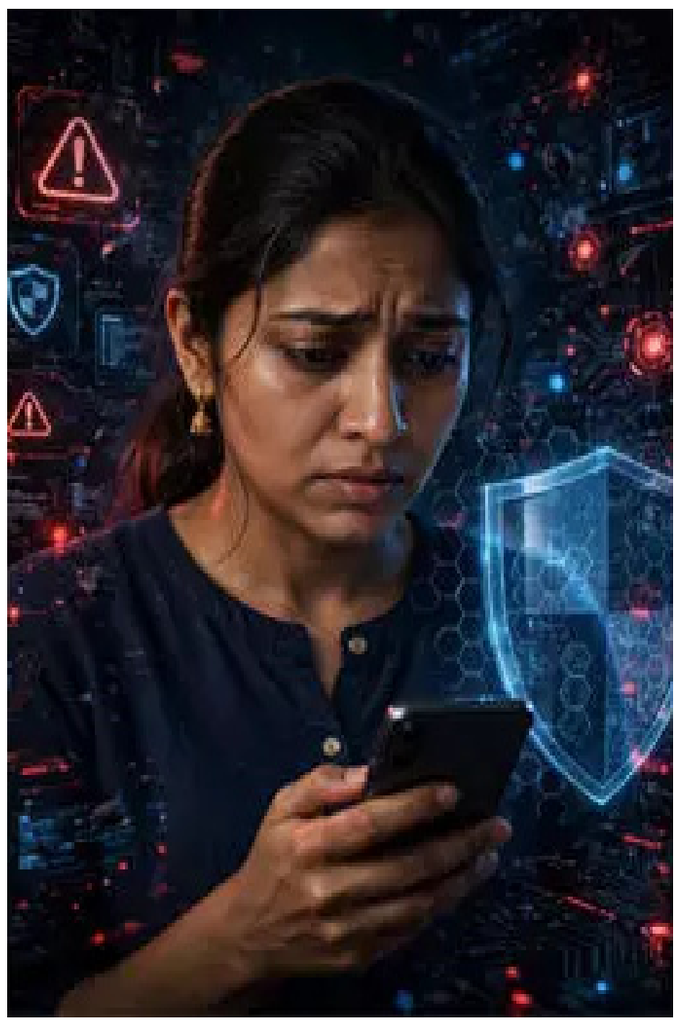
This disturbing trend has not spared the film industry either. In November 2023, a deepfake video featuring actress Rashmika Mandanna's face superimposed on another woman's video created a nationwide sensation. Delhi Police investigated the case and arrested the accused. Fake AI-generated images concerning actress Anushka Shetty's personal life have also circulated online.

In October 2026, actor NTR strongly reacted to the circulation of an obscene AI-generated video depicting actress Janhvi Kapoor. On October 5, Janhvi also expressed her anguish, stating that using a woman's appearance without her consent to create fabricated sexual imagery amounted to serious harassment. Chiranjeevi, Vijay Deverakonda, Khushbu and others extended their support to her.

Actresses Keerthy Suresh and Shriya Saran have also revealed that their photographs are being altered using AI and misused in obscene ways. Actress Shilpa Shetty approached the court, alleging that her name, image and voice were being used without her permission. In May 2026, actress Rukmini Vasanth also lodged a complaint with the cybercrime police.

Just because an actress performs glamorous roles on screen does not give anyone the right to intrude into her personal life. Consent is a fundamental right. Creating obscene images using AI is not technological creativity; it is an attack on an individual's dignity and privacy.

This is not merely a problem involving isolated incidents. It is a growing digital threat across the country. The Parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of Women expressed concern over this issue in its report submitted on March 23, 2026. According to NCRB data, cybercrimes against women increased by approximately 239 per cent between 2017 and 2022. More than 2.48 lakh complaints involving women and children were received by the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal between 2019 and April 2025. The committee pointed out that many victims do not lodge complaints because of the fear of losing their reputation, family pressure and social stigma. It also highlighted crimes such as deepfakes, online stalking and sextortion, along with the shortage of technical experts in police departments, inadequate forensic facilities and delays in investigations. Several provisions under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Information Technology Act (IT Act) are available to address cyber harassment against women. Sections 75, 77, 78 and 79 of the BNS, as well as Sections 66E, 67 and 67A of the IT Act, may apply depending on the nature of the offence. In cases involving sexually explicit content related to children, the POCSO Act and Section 67B of the IT Act may also apply.



However, the existence of laws alone is not enough. Complaints must be registered immediately. Digital evidence must be collected before it disappears. Those operating fake accounts must be identified. Victims should not be subjected to further mental harassment through insensitive questioning. Social media platforms must also respond promptly to complaints and remove objectionable content. Political parties should not respond to attacks on women only when it suits their political interests. They must adopt the same approach when women belonging to both ruling and opposition parties are targeted. Parties should take disciplinary action against those who abuse women through their social media wings.

Women's organisations must go beyond issuing protest statements and provide legal assistance to victims.

Indira Gandhi's Ideals Continue to Inspire Congress Government: Mahesh Kumar Goud



K.SHANTHI KUMAR, Hyderabad, Jay Janasena News, Nov 18: TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud has stated that the ideals, vision and legacy of former Prime Minister and Iron Lady Indira Gandhi continue to serve as the guiding force behind the Congress government's commitment to the welfare of the poor and weaker sections of society. Paying rich tributes to Indira Gandhi on the occasion of her birth anniversary, he described her as a visionary leader who made the supreme sacrifice for the unity and integrity of the nation. He said her invaluable contributions towards poverty alleviation, social justice, women's empowerment and the upliftment of disadvantaged communities would remain etched in the history of the country. Recalling her historic decisions, including the nationalisation of banks, land reforms and various pro-poor initiatives, Mahesh Kumar Goud said Indira Gandhi had left an enduring legacy in strengthening social and economic justice in India. He emphasised that the Congress government, under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, was carrying forward Indira Gandhi's vision through several welfare-oriented initiatives in Telangana. Highlighting the Indiramma Family Insurance Scheme, he said the initiative was aimed at providing financial security to poor and middle-class families, ensuring that they would not face severe economic hardship following the loss of their earning member. Describing the Indiramma Sarees distribution programme as a symbol of dignity, respect and affection towards women, he said the initiative reflected the Congress government's commitment to safeguarding women's self-respect and promoting their welfare. He further stated that social security pensions were an important component of the government's welfare agenda, providing financial support and a sense of security to senior citizens, widows, persons with disabilities and other eligible vulnerable sections of society.Mahesh Kumar Goud observed that Indira Gandhi had laid a strong foundation for welfare-oriented governance by placing the interests of the poor at the centre of policymaking. The Congress government in Telangana, he said, was pursuing the same vision through its commitment to inclusive development and social welfare. "Welfare is not merely an electoral promise for the Congress party; it is a responsibility towards the people. Ensuring dignity and security for women, providing a dignified life for senior citizens and extending financial protection to economically weaker families constitute the true tribute to Indira Gandhi," he said. Reaffirming the government's commitment to her ideals, Mahesh Kumar Goud said the Congress government would continue its efforts to transform Telangana into a model state in welfare, development and social justice.

Former Sarpanch Vasamsetti Srinivas Intensifies Election Campaign in Tallarevu

Tallarevu, Jay Janasena News, Nov 18: Former Sarpanch Vasamsetti Srinivas, who is contesting for the Sarpanch post of Tallarevu Major Gram Panchayat in Kakinada district, is actively campaigning and receiving a positive response from local residents. As part of his election campaign on Wednesday, he conducted a door-to-door campaign in Madhavarayunipeta, Jalla Vari Veedhi, Satram Peta, Santha Peta, Penke Vari Peta and Paradesamma Peta areas. During the campaign, he personally met residents and appealed to them to extend their support and elect him as Sarpanch. Senior leaders Vaddi Vijay Kumar, Sama Pradeep, Addepalli Sattiraju, Noorukurthi Yedukondalu, Kancharla Raja, Gubbala Satish, Deyyala Shiva, Palaka Shankaram, Rekadi Mahalakshmi, Pilli Narasimhamurthy, Karri Raghu, Rekadi Pedda Dharmarao and Guttula



Srinivas, along with several women, leaders and party workers, participated in the campaign.

Sama Ramamohan Reddy Thanks CPI for Extending Full Support to His Candidature

K.SHANTHI KUMAR, Hyderabad, Jay Janasena News, Nov 18: Congress candidate for the Graduate MLC election, Sama Ramamohan Reddy, has expressed his heartfelt gratitude to CPI State Secretary Koonamneni Sambasiva Rao and the party leadership for extending their full support to his candidature. He said the support of the CPI, a friendly alliance partner, had strengthened his confidence and determination. On Wednesday, Sama Ramamohan Reddy met Koonamneni Sambasiva Rao and senior CPI leaders at Maqdoom Bhavan in Hyderabad and thanked them for their wholehearted support. He appealed to CPI leaders, party workers and student organisation representatives to work collectively for the victory of the Congress candidate. Speaking on the occasion, Sama Ramamohan Reddy said the cordial relations and political coordination between the Congress and CPI would be further strengthened through the election campaign. He expressed confidence that both parties would work together with mutual understanding and coordination to secure victory in the Graduate MLC elections. He asserted that safeguarding the interests and fulfilling the aspirations of graduates would remain his top priority. With the support of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, he pledged to strive for increased employment opportunities for unemployed youth, speedy recruitment to vacant posts and improved job prospects in both the public and private sectors. He also assured graduates, including employees, teachers, unemployed youth, private-sector professionals and self-employed individuals, that he would remain accessible and work continuously towards resolving their issues.



Massive Maoist Explosives Dump Seized



Rampachodavaram, Jay Janasena News, Nov18: As part of efforts to curb Left Wing Extremism (LWE) in Andhra Pradesh, police have seized a massive explosives dump belonging to Maoists following sustained surveillance and intelligence-gathering operations. A special police team constituted by the Superintendent of Police, Polavaram District, with the assistance of CRPF forces, conducted an inter-state operation along the Andhra Pradesh–Chhattisgarh border and successfully unearthed the explosives dump. A case was registered in this connection at Kunavaram Police Station, police officials stated.

According to the police, Maoists had allegedly concealed the explosives with the intention of targeting security forces and political leaders and causing casualties. The recovered dump contained a substantial quantity of explosive materials along with essential medical supplies.

Details of Materials Seized:

1. Live BGL Shells – 670 Nos.
2. Non-Electric Detonators – 42 Nos.
3. Gun Powder – 250 grams.
4. Cordex – 25 Pieces.
5. Booster/Explosive Rings – 12 Nos.
6. Live Bharmar Cartridges – 7 Nos.
7. 7.62 mm Empty Cases – 16 Nos.
8. Fuse – Approximately 6 metres.
9. Medical Supplies – 20 types, including essential medicines and medical kit boxes.Speaking on the occasion, Polavaram District Superintendent of Police K. Chakravarti stated that continuous combing and search operations would be conducted to identify and recover all remaining dumps concealed by Maoists within Polavaram District and adjoining border areas.Officials and personnel from the CRPF 212th Battalion, along with personnel from CRPF COBRA-204 and 196 Battalions, participated in the operation. Smt. Preetha C., 2nd-in-Command of CRPF 141st Battalion, Ms. M. Javali Alfons, IPS, OSD (Administration & Operations), Polavaram District, Ms. K. Udaya Pavani, SDPO, Chinturu Sub-Division, and other police officials were also present.

2,161 BENEFICIARIES IN WARADHANNAPET CONSTITUENCY SANCTIONED NEW CHEYUTHA PENSIONS



K.SHANTHI KUMAR Hanamkonda, Jay Janasena News, Nov 18: The Telangana government is committed to ensuring that welfare benefits reach every eligible person, with special emphasis on providing financial security to the poor, underprivileged and weaker sections of society, said Wardhannapet MLA K.R. Nagaraju.

He was speaking at a programme held at Ambedkar Bhavan in Hanamkonda on Wednesday, where new Cheyutha pension sanction orders were distributed to beneficiaries from the Wardhannapet Assembly constituency within the Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation limits.

MLA K.R. Nagaraju, along with KUDA Chairperson Gundu Sudharani, Hanamkonda District Collector Chahat Bajpai, Warangal District Collector Dr. Satya Sarada and GWMC Commissioner Venkan na, distributed the pension sanction letters.

Nagaraju said the government, under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, was implementing its promises one by one while giving equal importance to welfare and development. He said the Cheyutha pension scheme was aimed at ensuring social security and financial support to senior citizens, widows, persons with disabilities, single women, toddy tappers and handloom workers.

He described pensions as more than financial assistance, stating that they provide beneficiaries with dignity, independence and confidence.

A total of 2,161 new pensions have been sanctioned in the Wardhannapet constituency. These include 1,426 widows, 478 persons with disabilities, 139 toddy tappers, five handloom workers, 20 unmarried single women and 93 married single women.

KUDA Chairperson Gundu Sudharani appreciated the government for extending pensions to eligible beneficiaries who had been waiting for nearly a decade. She said the government was implementing the Six Guarantees and undertaking several welfare initiatives, including the distribution of fine rice and the provision of basic infrastructure. She also highlighted the Indiramma Family Life Insurance Scheme, which provides insurance coverage of Rs. 5 lakh to the head of every eligible family from November 19.

Hanamkonda Collector Chahat Bajpai said various government welfare schemes were benefiting people, including 200 units of free electricity, fine rice distribution, free bus travel for women and Indiramma housing. She assured that officials were working in coordination to ensure that all eligible beneficiaries received the benefits and urged those who qualified to apply for the schemes.

Warangal Collector Dr. Satya Sarada stated that 11,750 new Cheyutha pensions had been sanctioned across Warangal district. Of these, 1,386 beneficiaries in three Greater Warangal wards falling under the Wardhannapet constituency had been sanctioned pensions. She said Rs. 34 lakh had been credited to beneficiaries' accounts and assured that pensions would be paid regularly every month.The programme was attended by Baldiya In-charge Additional Commissioner Sammaiah, Hanamkonda DRDA officer Mana Srinivas, Deputy Commissioners Prasanna Rani and Birru Srinivas, public representatives, officials and beneficiaries.

Vote for CPI Candidate Tatipaka Kamalakumari

Kakinada, Jay Janasena News , Nov18:CPI State Secretariat Member Tatipaka Madhu appealed to voters to elect CPI candidate Tatipaka Kamalakumari for the comprehensive development of the 10th Division of Kakinada Municipal Corporation. On Wednesday, the party's election office in the division was inaugurated by senior party leader P. Satyanarayana. Subsequently, party leaders and workers conducted a door-to-door election campaign, urging residents to vote for the Sickle and Hammer symbol. Speaking during the campaign, Tatipaka Madhu said that the CPI would work towards providing basic infrastructure facilities, including roads, drainage systems and internal roads in the division. He stated that the party was committed to people-oriented politics, remaining accessible to the public, understanding their needs and continuously fighting for the resolution of their problems. He alleged that attempts were being made to attract voters through money and other inducements and urged people not to fall for such temptations. Instead, he appealed to voters to support leadership that genuinely fights for public issues. He emphasised that the CPI's objective was to use elected positions for public service and the welfare of the poor rather than for personal benefits. YSRCP leaders Vasamsetti Satya, Kamal Basha, Srinivasa Rao, Hemanth, Patan Basha and Prasanna, along with CPI District Secretary K. Bodakonda, Assistant Secretary Tokala Prasad and others, participated in the campaign.



Dommeti Samuel Sagar Conducts Extensive Election Campaign for Tallarevu Major Gram Panchayat Sarpanch Post

Tallarevu, Jay Janasena News, Nov18:

Senior leader and former ZPTC member Dommeti Samuel Sagar, who is contesting for the post of Sarpanch of Tallarevu Major Gram Panchayat in Kakinada district, conducted an extensive election campaign on Wednesday.As part of the campaign, he visited Keshavapuram Colony and Madhavarayunipeta areas within the Tallarevu Gram Panchayat limits and interacted with voters door to door. He appealed to the people to support his candidature and vote for him in the upcoming elections. He continued his campaign by meeting local residents and seeking their support.



Senior Actress Prema and 'Police Complaint' Hero Krishna Sai Felicitated at 27th All India Police Band Competition

K.SHANTHI KUMAR, Hyderabad, Jay Janasena News, Nov 18: Senior actress Prema and actor Krishna Sai, the lead actor of the film Police Complaint, were felicitated by Telangana Additional Directors General of Police Vikram Singh Maan and Thummala Vikram, along with CRPF DIG Anil Minz, during the 27th All India Police Band Competition held at Shilparamam, Hyderabad, on Tuesday evening.The dignitaries honoured the artistes in recognition of their presence at the prestigious event.



The competition was held in a grand manner, bringing together police bands from across the country and showcasing their musical talent and discipline.

NEET PG 2026: Round 2 Seat Allotment Put on Hold Following Madras High Court Order



K.SHANTHI KUMAR, Hyderabad/New Delhi, Jay Janasena News, Nov 18: The Medical Counselling Committee (MCC) has temporarily suspended the declaration of the NEET PG 2026 Round 2 seat allotment results following an interim order issued by the Madras High Court on November 17.

The court has stayed further admission proceedings, including the joining of candidates and collection of admission fees, pending clarification from a Division Bench regarding the authority responsible for conducting admissions to Sri Venkateshwaraa Medical College Hospital and Research Centre in Puducherry. The dispute arose after the college, which was granted deemed-to-be university status in September 2026, challenged a Puducherry government order directing admissions through the Centralised Admission Committee (CENTAC). The institution argued that its MD and MS admissions should be conducted through the MCC. Following the court's directions, MCC announced that the Round 2 seat-processing exercise would remain suspended until further judicial clarification. Consequently, the allotment results and candidates' reporting schedule have been put on hold. Earlier, MCC had scheduled the final Round 2 allotment result for November 17, with candidates expected to report to their allotted colleges between November 18 and 24. The subsequent counselling rounds may also be affected by the delay. The Madras High Court has listed the matter for December 15, 2026, while permitting the parties to seek an earlier hearing after obtaining clarification from the Division Bench. MCC has not announced a revised date for the Round 2 allotment results. Candidates are advised to regularly check the official MCC website for further updates.

The Allakonda Bus Completes 69 Years



Armur, Jay Janasena News, Nov18: The iconic red "Bungamuthi" bus of Allakonda has completed 69 years of service as of 2026, recalling a memorable chapter in the history of rural transportation after India's independence in 1947.According to historical accounts, the Nizam State Bus service was introduced in 1939 and was among the earliest road transport services in the country. In those days, the red bus operated between Allakonda and Veerapatnam (present-day Ibrahimpatnam), with a fare of just five annas. The bus had a seating capacity of 25 passengers and operated only two trips a day.The bus travelled from Allakonda through Dudigam (present-day Doodhgaon), Yeru Ghat (near the rocky hills of present-day Battapur and Yergatla), Varise Konda (present-day Varshakonda) and Gummirala (present-day Gummiryala), before reaching Veerapatnam (present-day Ibrahi mpatnam). The driver of the bus was Samee Bai, the elder brother of the person who is currently a bike mechanic in Balkonda. Akbar was responsible for repairing the bus whenever it developed engine problems. His house is reportedly situated in a dilapidated condition behind the present-day post office. Passengers travelling on the red bus in those days used to carry food bundles containing rice, garlic chilli paste or traditional pickles. They would eat these homemade meals during the journey.Brahma Routhu Narasing Rao, a senior citizen, senior journalist and historian from Balkonda, fondly recalled these memories. He shared his childhood experiences of travelling in the iconic red bus with his mother, Limbai, to Veerapatnam, her birthplace, and remembered the journey as a cherished part of his early life.The memories of the Allakonda red bus reflect not only the evolution of rural transportation but also the lifestyle, traditions and travel experiences of people in those days.

One Crore Indiramma Sarees to Be Distributed Across Telangana from Tomorrow



K.SHANTHI KUMAR, Hyderabad, Jay Janasena News, Nov 18: The Telangana government will launch the distribution of Indiramma sarees to women across the state from tomorrow, November 19, marking the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy will formally inaugurate the programme in Siddipet. As a special gesture of affection, the government will distribute one crore Indiramma sarees to women across Telangana, presenting them as a traditional gift from their parental homes. The initiative reflects the government's commitment to women's dignity, self-respect and empowerment. This year, the sarees have been designed in an attractive parrot-green colour. Two varieties will be distributed: nine-metre sarees and 6.30-metre sarees. The sarees have already been dispatched to various districts to facilitate statewide distribution. The government has taken up the initiative with the objective of bringing smiles to the faces of women across Telangana. In keeping with the ideals of Indira Gandhi, the people's government is according priority to women's welfare, dignity and self-respect, while taking forward its vision of women's empowerment and the overall progress of Telangana.

MP Dr. Mallu Ravi Attends SC, ST Parliamentary Standing Committee Meeting in Hyderabad



K.SHANTHI KUMAR, Hyderabad, Jay Janasena News, Nov 18: Nagarkurnool MP Dr. Mallu Ravi attended a meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Welfare and Development of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) held in Hyderabad on Tuesday. During the meeting, various issues concerning the welfare and development of SCs and STs were discussed with representatives of several public sector organisations, including Bank of Maharashtra, Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), New India Assurance, NMDC, Singareni Collieries Company Limited, MIDHANI, and Punjab & Sind Bank. On the occasion, Telangana Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju and Director General of Police C.V. Anand warmly welcomed MP Dr. Mallu Ravi by presenting him with a bouquet. The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju, DGP C.V. Anand, Members of Parliament and senior officials representing various organisations.

Amalapuram MP Ganti Harish Balayogi Recovers After Surgery



Amalapuram, Jay Janasena News, Nov., 18 : Ganti Harish Balayogi, Member of Parliament from Amalapuram in Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema District and son of the late former Lok Sabha Speaker Ganti Mohana Chandra Balayogi, has fully recovered after undergoing surgery on his back. He had been taking rest for the past week following the surgery and is currently in good health. In a press statement, Harish Balayogi said that he would soon resume his regular duties and be available to the public as usual. He expressed his gratitude to Dr. Shantharao and the medical staff of Apollo Hospitals for providing excellent medical care and taking special attention to ensure his speedy recovery. He also thanked everyone who expressed concern about his health and wished him a speedy recovery. The MP stated that the affection, support and goodwill shown by the people and his well-wishers were a great source of strength and encouragement to him.

SUPERGAS ANNOUNCES Rs.350-CR EXPANSION PLAN; MARKS 30 YRS IN INDIA

From Our Staff Reporter
Hyderabad, November, 18 : Marking three decades of operations in India, SUPERGAS, an LPG solutions provider backed by global energy major SHV Energy, has announced an ambitious Rs.350-crore investment plan over the next five years to expand its infrastructure, distribution network and market presence across the country.

The company aims to achieve sustained double-digit growth and double its annual sales volumes through the expansion programme.

As part of its immediate plans, SUPERGAS will invest Rs.60 crore over the next two years to establish new filling plants in West Bengal and Punjab and upgrade an existing storage tank at its Tuticorin terminal, increasing usable storage capacity by 8,000 MT to 38,000 MT. Four additional filling plants are also planned over the next five years. The expansion will strengthen the company's presence in under-served markets, including Bihar, Jammu, Goa, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Assam and the North-East. CEO Ajay Sanghi said the company was focused on improving customer experience, accelerating digital transformation, driving innovation and strengthening supply resilience.

Parliamentary Committee on SCs and STs Welcomed in Hyderabad

K.SHANTHI KUMAR.



Hyderabad, Jay Janasena News, Nov 18: Dr. Faggan Singh Kulaste, Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, along with committee members Shri Tapir Gao, Shri Bapi Haldar, Shri Harish Chandra Meena, Shri Daggumalla Prasada Rao, Dr. Mallu Ravi, Shri Mithlesh Kumar and other members, was accorded a warm welcome by Telangana Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju at Taj Krishna Hotel, Hyderabad, on Wednesday. The committee is visiting Telangana as part of its official study tour. On the occasion, Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju briefed the members on various welfare schemes being implemented by the State Government for the welfare and development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. DGP C.V. Anand, Home Secretary Shikha Goyal, Special Chief Secretaries Sabyasachi Ghosh and Naveen Mittal, along with other senior officials of the Telangana Government, welcomed the visiting dignitaries with bouquets.

Land Grabbing Allegedly Taking Place Under the Watch of Revenue Officials in Jawaharnagar

- *Have Officials Turned a Blind Eye in Return for Bribes?*
- *Illegal constructions completed without any action from authorities*
- *MRO and RI allegedly assisted in the encroachment*
- *Allegations of bribes paid to officials and subsequent construction activities*
- *How were electricity meters sanctioned for buildings on encroached land?*
- *ACB inquiry demanded into the roles of the RI and MRO*
- *Collector and RDO accused of failing to discharge their duties*





Jawaharnagar (Hyderabad), Jay Janasena News, Nov 18: The reports published earlier regarding the land dispute in Jawaharnagar, along with complaints received from local residents, indicate the seriousness of the alleged land irregularities in the area. Despite several reports highlighting illegal constructions, questions remain over whether the concerned officials conducted field-level inspections and measurements to establish the facts. Meanwhile, local residents allege that the constructions have already been completed, inauguration ceremonies have even been held, and people are now residing in these buildings.

Residents in Illegal Constructions – Do the Vehicles Reveal Their Financial Status?

Local residents are questioning whether those who have undertaken construction activities in the area are genuinely poor or whether they are proceeding with the support and backing of influential people involved in land dealings. Residents point out that the vehicles parked near these buildings raise questions about the financial backgrounds of those living there. They are demanding an investigation into whether land and construction activities are being carried out in the names of poor people or whether influential individuals are operating behind the scenes.

How Were Electricity Meters Issued for Lands Without Clear Government Records?

Another major question concerns how electricity connections were sanctioned to buildings constructed on land where ownership rights and construction permissions remain unclear. Were electricity meters installed without verifying ownership documents and construction approvals? What procedures did the concerned electricity department (Transco) follow while granting these connections? On the basis of which documents were the applications approved? Transco officials must clarify these issues and explain whether all prescribed rules were followed.

Collector Must Probe the Roles of RI and MRO!

There are growing questions about whether local revenue staff played any role in the alleged land irregularities. Has a comprehensive inquiry been conducted into the developments within the jurisdiction of the RI and MRO offices? Why were no preventive measures taken despite information about the illegal constructions reportedly reaching the authorities? Whether it was official negligence or whether an organised network was operating behind the scenes must be established. The district administration has a responsibility to clarify these allegations.

District Collector Must Respond Without Further Delay!

Local residents are urging the District Collector to intervene immediately and order a comprehensive inquiry into the disputed lands and constructions in Jawaharnagar. They are demanding verification of the actual ownership of lands in Survey Nos. 499 and 500, along with field-level measurements of the alleged illegal constructions. They have also called for a detailed examination of construction permissions, electricity connections and revenue records. Residents further demanded that strict legal action be initiated against anyone found responsible for irregularities, irrespective of their influence or position, and that the alleged land-grabbing network be thoroughly exposed and dismantled.

Andhra Pradesh Approves New Semiconductor Policy; 80% Capital Subsidy for Silicon Fabs

From Our Staff Reporter
Amaravati, November 18: The Andhra Pradesh government has approved a new policy to attract investments in the semiconductor sector. IT and Industries Minister Nara Lokesh announced that silicon fabrication units will receive up to 80% capital support. The state government will provide a 100% matching grant equivalent to the incentive offered by the Centre.

The government has issued GO No. 87, introducing amendments to the Semiconductor and Display Fab Policy 4.0. Plans are also being drawn up to establish a massive 5,000-acre 'AP Semiconductor Park' in Tirupati. Lokesh said the government's objective was to manufacture the chips required by India within Andhra Pradesh.

Highest Capital Subsidy of 80% in the Country

The AP policy has been designed in line with the Centre's 'India Semiconductor Mission 2.0'. Under the policy, silicon fabs will receive 40% capital support from the Centre and another 40% from the state government, taking the total incentive to 80%. Compound semiconductor, photonics, display fabrication and advanced packaging units will receive investment incentives of up to 70%, while legacy packaging units will be eligible for up to 50%. With these incentives, Andhra Pradesh will offer the highest capital subsidy in the country. Odisha and Tamil Nadu provide incentives of up to 65%, while Gujarat offers up to 56%.

Three New Companies Planned at Tirupati Semiconductor Park

A state-of-the-art semiconductor manufacturing cluster will be developed across 5,000 acres in Tirupati. The park will feature cleanrooms, ultra-pure water facilities, uninterrupted power supply and testing laboratories. A council named 'APSGIC', headed by the Chief Minister, will be established to provide single-window clearances to investors. The 'AP Semiconductor Research and Innovation Centre (AP-SRIC)' will be set up at IIT Tirupati. An 'AP-STCC' training centre will also be established to provide industry-oriented skill development. Companies will receive a training subsidy of ?10,000 per trainee per month for six months for candidates trained through this centre.

Additional Incentives for Startups and Mega Projects

To encourage chip-design startups, seed funding of up to Rs.22.5 crore will be provided, including a state government contribution of Rs.7.5 crore. For the purchase of machinery and materials, the Centre will provide 30% assistance and the state government another 18%, taking the total support to 48%. Specially designed incentive packages will be introduced for mega and ultra-mega projects involving investments exceeding Rs.1,000 crore. Projects not covered under 'Semicon 2.0' will receive an electricity subsidy of Rs.3 per unit for five years. The new semiconductor policy will remain in force for the next five years. Minister Lokesh said the objective was to make semiconductor fabrication units among the most cost-effective to establish in the country through rupee-for-rupee matching support from the state government.

CM Naidu Calls for Collective Efforts to Ensure Alliance Victory in Local Body Elections

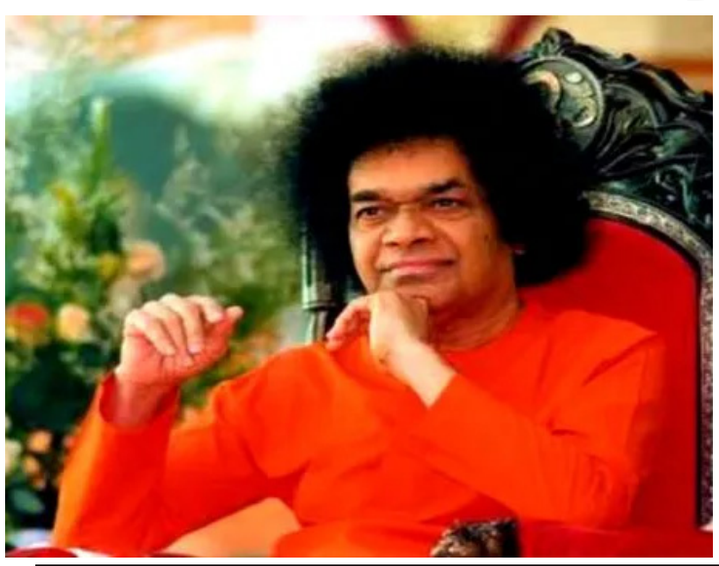
From Our Staff Reporter
Amaravati, November 18: TDP chief and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu called upon party leaders and cadres to work with the sole objective of ensuring the alliance's victory in the forthcoming local body elections. Ahead of the panchayat elections and the second phase of urban local body polls, he held a teleconference with TDP leaders and workers, providing guidance on the election strategy. He urged the alliance to secure a significantly higher vote share than it achieved in the 2024 elections. He described the upcoming local body polls as an important opportunity to demonstrate the strength of the coalition.



Maintain Unity and Uphold Alliance Principles

Chandrababu Naidu stressed that unity among alliance partners must remain permanent. He urged everyone to adhere to coalition principles and work collectively to ensure the victory of alliance-backed candidates. He said the alliance should aim to win every election. Even if it suffered defeat in a single ward, the reasons behind the loss would be analysed, he stated. He added that unity among leaders at the village and constituency levels would be assessed, and further decisions would be taken accordingly. The Chief Minister also advised party cadres to explain the facts to the public so that voters could respond appropriately to those who, under the guise of politics, engage in personal attacks and attempts to damage individual reputations.

Special Passenger Train Between Bengaluru and Dharmavaram for Sathya Sai Baba's 101st Birthday



Guntakal (Anantapur): Railway officials have announced a special passenger train between Bengaluru and Dharmavaram to mark the 101st birth anniversary celebrations of Sathya Sai Baba. The unreserved special train (06525) will operate for seven days, from November 20 to 26. It will depart from Bengaluru at 8:15 AM and reach Dharmavaram at 12:30 PM. The return service (06526) will leave Dharmavaram at 1:20 PM and arrive in Bengaluru at 5:50 PM. The train will halt at Bengaluru Cantonment, Baiyappanahalli, Yelahanka, Rajankunti, Doddaballapur, Oddarahalli, Makalidurga, Thondebhavi, Gauribidanur, Devanahalli, Hindupur, Malugur, Chakarlapalli, Penukonda, Narayanapuram, Sri Sathya Sai Prasanthi Nilayam and Basampalli stations before reaching Dharmavaram. Railway officials stated that the special train would comprise 16 MEMU coaches.

Police Keep Watch on Kadapa MP Y.S. Avinash Reddy Ahead of Panchayat Elections

Kadapa District, November 18: Pulivendula police have stepped up surveillance on YSRCP Kadapa MP Y.S. Avinash Reddy ahead of the gram panchayat elections. Police are monitoring his movements amid concerns that his visits to villages could lead to clashes. Police had taken several YSRCP workers into custody in connection with previous cases. MP Avinash Reddy reportedly requested the police to release them, stating that some of those detained were sarpanch candidates. Following his request, the police released those taken into custody.

Tension Prevails in Pulivendula Constituency

Meanwhile, tension has prevailed in several parts of Pulivendula constituency, with TDP and YSRCP leaders and supporters reportedly engaging in clashes. A confrontation broke out between the two party groups at Surabhi Nagulaguttapalli in Chakrayapet mandal, where stones and sticks were allegedly used in attacks. Tensions were also reported between TDP and YSRCP workers at Vemula mandal headquarters. In Vempalle, a YSRCP sarpanch candidate was proceeding to file a nomination when a large number of party supporters, led by YSRCP leader Satish Reddy, gathered. Police intervened and stopped the gathering, following which YSRCP cadres staged a protest.

Alliance Leaders Urge Voters to Support Coalition-Backed Candidates in Panchayat Elections

From Our Staff Reporter
Amaravati, November 18: TDP Andhra Pradesh President Palla Srinivasa Rao appealed to voters to demonstrate the same support for the alliance in the upcoming panchayat elections as they had shown in the local body elections held so far. Speaking to the media at the Telugu Desam Party's central office in Amaravati, alongside senior alliance leaders Nadendla Manohar and PVN Madhav, he urged people to elect candidates supported by the coalition parties. Palla Srinivasa Rao said a decisive victory in the local body elections would help accelerate the functioning of the "triple-engine government". He asserted that the alliance had successfully resisted what he described as the misdeeds of the "Goddali Party" during the local elections. He also stated that people in Pulivendula had voted freely for the first time.



Panchayat Elections Must Continue the Same Momentum: Minister Manohar

Jana Sena leader and Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar expressed hope that the victories achieved in municipal, MPTC and ZPTC elections would inspire similar results in the panchayat elections. He said Jana Sena cadres were working at the grassroots level to maintain unity within the alliance. He added that coalition parties were providing opportunities to young people who wanted to contribute to society through local governance. Manohar appealed to voters to wholeheartedly support and ensure the alliance's victory in the panchayat and second-phase municipal elections.

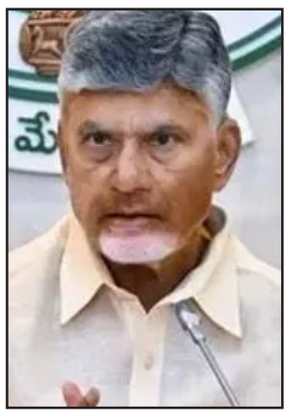
People Have Delivered a Clear Verdict: AP BJP Chief

Andhra Pradesh BJP President PVN Madhav said that despite three cyclones affecting the state during the local body election process, people had delivered a clear verdict. He observed that the mandate received so far had increased the alliance's responsibility. He said the coalition was moving forward with the spirit of Seva Sankalp. He also attributed the significant investments coming into the state to the government's performance. Taking these factors into consideration, the alliance leaders appealed to voters to support coalition-backed candidates in the forthcoming local body elections.

Will You Disrespect Your Mother and Sister? CM Chandrababu Slams Sakshi Reports

From Our Staff Reporter
Amaravati, November 18: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu expressed strong displeasure over reports published in Sakshi regarding the circumstances surrounding Y.S. Sharmila's visit to invite him to her daughter's wedding. He strongly criticised those who, he said, were disrespecting their own mother and sister without any sense of personal dignity. He remarked that those who insult their mother and sister were hiding behind a political guise. He said people who demean the character of their own sister were unfit for politics. The Chief Minister directed party cadres to explain the facts to the public so that people could understand the truth.

The Chief Minister held a teleconference with TDP leaders and cadres on Wednesday, during which he issued directions regarding the panchayat elections and the second phase of urban local body elections. He urged party workers to work towards securing victories in the upcoming elections as well. He described the local body elections as a valuable opportunity for the alliance to demonstrate its strength. He stressed that the alliance must significantly improve its vote share compared to the 2024 elections. Chandrababu Naidu emphasised that everyone must uphold the spirit of alliance and remain committed to coalition principles. He expressed his desire for the alliance to emerge victorious in every



election. He said that even if the alliance lost a single ward, the reasons for the defeat would be analysed. The unity within villages and constituencies would also be assessed, and future decisions would be taken accordingly. "Our unity must be permanent," Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu asserted.

YSRCP Leaders Join TDP in Anakapalli District

From Our Staff Reporter
Anakapalli District, November 18: The YSRCP faced a setback in Payakaraopeta constituency of Anakapalli district, as key local leaders from the party joined the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) on Tuesday. MPTC members Visam Nanaji and Visam Devi, both from Nakkapalli mandal, joined the TDP by wearing the party's yellow scarves. Visam Nanaji was elected as an MPTC member from Pedabodugalam village, while Visam Devi won from Rebaka village. Along with several others, they joined the TDP at the residence of Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha in Nakkapalli. The Home Minister welcomed them into the party by presenting them with TDP scarves.

Tiger Movement Creates Panic in Eluru District; Drone Cameras Capture Its Location

From Our Staff Reporter
Eluru, November 18: The movement of a tiger in Eluru district has triggered concern among local residents. A special rescue team spotted the tiger resting on a hillock in the forest area of Ramanakkapeta village in Musunuru mandal with the help of drone cameras. A Forest Range Officer said that resting during the daytime and moving around at night is a natural behaviour of tigers. Forest officials are on high alert and are continuously monitoring the animal's movements. They are closely tracking its location with the help of a GPS tracking collar previously fitted around its neck.

In view of the tiger's movement, officials have alerted residents of Digavalli and Kondaparva villages. Precautionary measures are being taken to prevent people from entering areas along the hill boundaries. Police have advised villagers not to take cattle or goats into the forest for grazing. The forest department has launched measures to safely capture the approximately five-year-old tiger without causing it any harm. As part of the operation, a team from the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), Pune, has joined the effort. Special teams are working intensively to safely capture the animal.



Suspense Continues Over MPP Elections in Nandikotkur

From Our Staff Reporter
Nandyal, November 18: Suspense continues over the election of Mandal Parishad Presidents (MPPs) in Kothapalli and Pamulapadu mandals of Nandikotkur constituency in Nandyal district. In Kothapalli mandal, the TDP and YSRCP won four MPTC seats each out of the total nine. A dispute has arisen over the remaining seat, prompting the TDP camp to approach the Andhra Pradesh High Court. In Pamulapadu mandal, the YSRCP won six out of 12 MPTC seats, while the TDP secured five. An independent candidate won the remaining seat, making their support crucial in the MPP election.

There is speculation that if both parties end up with equal strength, the MPP may be elected through a lottery system.

A keen contest is also unfolding for the sarpanch post in Jonnagiri village of Tuggali mandal in Kurnool district. A person named Pullanna announced through a public announcement that he would donate three acres of agricultural land worth Rs.75 lakh to the village if he was elected sarpanch unanimously. Another person, Sunkanna, made a counter-offer, promising to contribute Rs.25 lakh to the village. With both individuals making competing offers, interest is growing over who will secure the Jonnagiri sarpanch post.

Rapthadu Case Accused Hemanth Discharged from Hospital, Shifted to Reddipalli Jail

From Our Staff Reporter
Anantapur, November 18: *Hemanth, an accused in the Rapthadu case, was discharged from Kurnool Government Hospital after making a full recovery. Police shifted him directly from the hospital to Reddipalli Jail. Doctors at Kurnool Government Hospital confirmed that Hemanth had fully recovered after receiving advanced medical treatment in the Cardiology Intensive Care Unit (ICU). As his health condition had stabilised, doctors decided to discharge him. Police submitted the medical report on Hemanth's health condition to the Anantapur judge. Subsequently, he was taken directly from Kurnool Government Hospital to Reddipalli Jail under police escort.*



"Over A Tea Or Something"

Columbia Student's Offer To Rahul Gandhi, Whom She "Manifested", At US Event



New York / New DelhI: First came a claim that she had "manifested" him, then a long question; in between, she dropped an offer of a discussion over "tea or something". A student at Columbia University in New York left the room in loud guffaws as she took her turn during Rahul Gandhi's interactive session on the campus. The Leader of the Opposition did not decline the tea offer as such, and then offered her an answer to her main question about the recent protests in India. Ridhi Kapoor, who said she was from New Delhi, smiled throughout her turn during the audience Q&A, and began by telling Rahul Gandhi that she had given a speech on his behalf in her class while he was detained during the protests in India. "Were you detained after that?" Gandhi quipped, drawing laughter from the audience.

"No, I was not," Kapoor replied, chuckling. A Master's in Public Administration student at the top American university, Kapoor then spoke about how Rahul Gandhi had offered support to parallel protest movements such as one led by student leader Neha Bora, how he'd been detained multiple times, and what he thinks of the role of civil society in India at this moment. Citing an example of issues that would need addressing, Kapoor told the Congress leader that she had built a "solution" to New Delhi's air pollution. This got Gandhi's attention all the more: "What is the solution to the Delhi pollution problem?" She replied, "I can actually talk about it if you would like, over a tea or something!" The hall burst into laughter. "Okay, okay, we can do that! We can do that!" Gandhi told her. She posted a clip of the exchange on her Instagram too. Answering her question about where the protest movements were headed in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's third term, Rahul Gandhi said fear had kept dissent in check in India. He credited student protesters with breaking it.

"Many people were terrified of expressing themselves across the board... And what was keeping the lid on this thing was that people were scared. Now people are not scared, so that's the really big shift that's happened," he said. "The parents of those students didn't have the guts to do what the students did -- this is a fact, right? The parents were sitting quietly at home... and the future of the parents is being defended by the children!" he added.

Rahul Gandhi's 'Economic Disaster' Remark Sparks BJP Counterattack; Anurag Thakur Cites GST, Forex Reserves & Employment Data



New Delhi: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Anurag Thakur hit back at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his remarks on India's economy, citing foreign exchange reserves, Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections, banking sector profits, employment figures and startup growth to defend the Narendra Modi government's economic performance. Countering Gandhi's criticism, Thakur compared economic indicators under the previous Congress-led government with those under the BJP government, claiming that India's foreign exchange reserves had increased significantly under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Forex reserves were only 304 billion dollars during his time. Today, they are 719 billion dollars. GST was not brought during his time," Thakur said.

Highlighting the country's GST collections, the BJP MP said collections had touched a record Rs 2.31 lakh crore in October. He also claimed that business transactions during Diwali reached Rs 7 lakh crore. Thakur further pointed to improvements in the public sector banking system, alleging that banks faced serious financial difficulties during the Congress-led government's tenure. "During his time, loans were made over the phone. And out of 12 banks, 11 were on the PCA framework. Today, 12 out of 12 banks earn a record profit of more than 2,50,000 crores," he said. Taking a swipe at the Congress party, Thakur accused it of exploiting the country's resources and questioned its economic record despite four generations of the Nehru-Gandhi family having been in power. "The more East India Company looted India, the more Congress Party looted India," he alleged. Defending the Modi government's record on poverty alleviation, Thakur claimed that more than 49 crore Indians had moved out of poverty under the present government, citing a World Bank report. He also challenged Gandhi's remarks about unemployment, referring to figures released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on November 16.

Thakur claimed that India's unemployment rate had declined to its lowest level in eight months. He also cited unemployment rates among women, claiming that the figures stood at 3.8% in rural areas and 8.7% in urban areas. Turning to India's startup ecosystem, the BJP MP said the country had emerged as the world's third-largest startup ecosystem, with more than 2.26 lakh registered startups and 131 unicorns. "Today, India's youth are setting up startups. We have become the third largest startup ecosystem in the world," he said, attributing the growth to the Modi government. Thakur also accused Rahul Gandhi of making statements abroad that, according to him, could undermine India's investment opportunities and employment prospects. He alleged that Gandhi and the Congress were attempting to weaken India's economic position and questioned the opposition leader's criticism of the country's electoral process. Referring to the Emergency imposed during former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's tenure, Thakur accused the Congress leadership of having a history of undermining democratic institutions. He also invoked former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi while questioning the Congress party's criticism of India's electoral system. Defending the Modi government's leadership, Thakur said India would continue to strengthen its economy, democratic institutions and national security despite criticism from the opposition.

'Angst-Driven Society, Overcrowding': What Is Behind The Spate Of Violent Incidents On Mumbai Local Trains?



Mumbai: All too often in the recent past, Mumbai's suburban trains – often described as the city's lifeline – have turned into veritable tinderboxes, where the smallest spark of an argument can escalate into life-threatening confrontations for passengers. The latest such incident took place on November 15 on board a Virar–Churchgate fast local. A 53-year-old commuter was injured in the chest when a knife thrown during a fight between two men missed its intended target and hit him instead. The man who allegedly hurled the knife has been arrested. Barely 11 days earlier, a 20-year-old woman suffered severe injuries as she was pushed off a local train at Naigaon railway station after resisting molestation by a co-passenger. Her left arm had to be amputated below the elbow. On June 23, a 22-year-old man named Mayank Lohar was stabbed to death on a Nalasopara-bound local train from Andheri. An argument about keeping the compartment door open during heavy rains had allegedly led to the attack.

Such crimes exemplify how rapidly – and how seriously – confrontations between strangers travelling in suburban trains can escalate in Mumbai. Psychiatrist Harish Shetty, speaking to the Free Press Journal, attributed such incidents to "primitive emotions" taking over when people are forced to travel in overcrowded public transport. "We are increasingly turning into an angst-driven society, in which anger spreads quickly through the minds of people and becomes uncontrollable," Shetty said. "This is similar to how a virus spreads through the body of a person, harming their physical health." The psychiatrist further remarked: "When passengers are huddled together like animals, the mind-body orchestra of people goes for a toss and rage takes over." Pointing to the state of public transport in Mumbai, Shetty said: "Mumbai has been let down by its politicians, irrespective of which party has been in power."

Commenting on the underlying causes of violence in local trains, rail safety activist Samir Zaveri said that there is a need for more accountability from the railways when it comes to passenger safety. He also noted that the crimes highlighted in the past few months constitute only a fraction of the actual incidents, and that several instances of clashes on trains go unreported. "In July, the then education minister (Dharmendra Pradhan) resigned from his post after about 20 suicides were reported in the aftermath of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test row," Zaveri noted. "But in Mumbai, over 500 people die every year from falling off local trains, and no one seems to be answerable."

Gandhinagar-Mumbai Vande Bharat Express Targeted In 'Stone-Pelting' Incident Near Surat; C4 Coach Window Damaged



The Gandhinagar-Mumbai Vande Bharat Express was reportedly targeted in a reported stone-pelting incident near Sachin railway station in Gujarat, . The incident led to damage to the outer glass of a window in the train's C4 coach. The incident which occurred on Tuesday evening, November 17,took place near Sachin railway station, between Surat and Navsari. It has caused panic among passengers after a stone allegedly struck the window while the train was travelling towards Mumbai Central. However, the inner glass pane remained intact, and no injuries were reported. A video purportedly showing the damaged window has surfaced on social media.

According to reports, the incident occurred at approximately 5.23 pm when Train No. 20902, operating between Gandhinagar and Mumbai Central, was passing through the Surat railway section. Western Railway Public Relations Officer Anubhav Saxena said the incident came to light after a passenger travelling in coach C4 reported hearing a loud impact against the window. Upon inspection, the outer glass pane was found damaged, while the inner pane remained intact, reported The New Indian Express. The footage purportedly showed the cracked outer glass of the Vande Bharat Express, while the inner protective pane appeared undamaged. The double-layered window prevented the damage from reaching the passenger compartment, and no injuries were reported. Following the incident, Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel and railway officials launched an investigation to identify those responsible. The latest incident came days after another Vande Bharat Express reported window damage in Gujarat. On November 8, a window of the Sabarmati-Veraval Vande Bharat Express was found damaged while the train was travelling between Lathi and Khizadiya in Amreli district. The cause of that damage remains under investigation. Such stone-pelting incidents have raised safety concerns among passengers travelling on trains.

Bombay HC Pulls Up BMC Over VIP-Only Road Cleaning In Mumbai, Calls For Kanjurmarg Dumping Ground Audit And Plastic Ban



Mumbai: The Bombay High Court pulled up the BMC for cleaning and sprucing up Mumbai's roads only during VIP visits, asking why ordinary citizens should not enjoy the same civic standards throughout the year. While proposing an urgent audit of the Kanjurmarg dumping ground within 15 days to identify measures to control pollution, foul odour and toxic gas emissions; the court suggested a complete ban on use of plastic. A bench of Justices Girish Kulkarni and Neela Gokhale cited the example of south Mumbai's Ballard Estate, which had been thoroughly cleaned and washed with water ahead of the visit of important guests. Though the court did not name them, Britain's Prince William and Princess Kate Middleton visited the area. "Look at Ballard Estate. How shining and polished it is. You have cleaned the streets with water because some important guests have come. Why should Mumbaikars not have such roads?" the bench asked. The court said the civic body should maintain the same standards of cleanliness across all wards and throughout the year instead of undertaking temporary cleaning drives during important visits.

"When important people visit the city, the BMC spruces the streets up. Why can't this be done at all times for the people living in this city? Instead of indulging in such a two-day temporary show that our roads are neat and clean, the BMC can have a permanent show," the bench remarked. The observations came during the hearing of a petition raising concerns over air pollution and toxic gas emissions from the Kanjurmarg dumping ground. Expressing concern over the "mountains of garbage" containing plastic, the court questioned why a complete ban on plastic could not be considered. It also flagged the problem of plastic waste entering the sea and washing back onto the city's shores during the monsoon.

The bench asked the Maharashtra government to clarify its policy on plastic and consider imposing a complete ban on plastic bags in Mumbai. "Why are we not giving up plastic? We want to stop it at the bud. Treatment is after generation. We don't want generation at all," the bench observed. On the Kanjurmarg dumping ground, the court proposed an internal audit of the entire site within 15 days, with the assistance of experts, including the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI). The audit should assess existing operations, identify shortcomings and recommend measures to control pollution, foul odour and gas emissions. It also called for particular attention to be paid to the timing of activities that could generate foul odour. The bench also expressed concern over the large volume of waste generated in slum areas, observing that nearly 40 per cent of the approximately 3,000 metric tonnes of garbage generated daily came from such settlements. It emphasised the need for scientific segregation of waste at source and suggested that Mumbai undertake a pilot project that could subsequently be replicated across the city. The BMC informed the court about its efforts to create awareness regarding segregated waste collection. The bench suggested using television, cinema halls, social media and bus stops to run short awareness campaigns explaining the importance of waste segregation and citizens' role in ensuring it.

Maharashtra Andhashraddha Nirmoolan Samiti To Organise State-Level Women's Conference Against Fraudulent Godmen & Superstitious Practices



Navi Mumbai: *With women often being targeted by self-styled godmen and occult practitioners, the Maharashtra Andhashraddha Nirmoolan Samiti (MANS), in association with the Yashwantrao Chavan Centre, will organise a state-level women's conference against fraudulent godmen and superstition in Mumbai on November 24. More than 500 participants from across Maharashtra are expected to attend the conference. The conference will be held from 10 am to 5 pm at the Yashwantrao Chavan Centre, opposite Mantralaya. NCP MP Supriya Sule will inaugurate the event, while actress Sonali Kulkarni will attend as the chief guest. Sanjay Bansode, state working president of MANS, will preside over the inaugural session.*

"The exploitation of women in the name of faith and superstition remains a serious social concern. Through this conference, we aim to create awareness, encourage women to question fraudulent practices and strengthen the collective fight against superstition," said Bansode.

The conference will feature discussions on the psychological and social dimensions of exploitation by fraudulent godmen. Senior psychiatrist Dr Anil Dongre will deliver a lecture on 'Fraudulent Godmen: Women as Victims – A Psychological Analysis' during the second session. A panel discussion titled 'Gen-Z Talk on Fraudulent Godmen' will form the third session, with young activists Priyanka Khedekar, Hari Awale, Sheetal Vasave and Gauri Jadhav participating. The concluding session will be attended by noted litterateur Prof Neerja and actress Anita Date, with MANS state president Madhav Bawge presiding. The Maharashtra Andhashraddha Nirmoolan Samiti has been working towards eradicating superstition and promoting social reform for the past 37 years. The organisation has consistently campaigned against fraudulent godmen and exploitative practices carried out in the name of religion and faith. According to the organisation, more than 1,500 cases have been registered under the Maharashtra Prevention and Eradication of Human Sacrifice and other Inhuman, Evil and Aghori Practices and Black Magic Act, 2013, through its initiatives. Some self-styled godmen and practitioners of occult practices have also been convicted under the law. The organisers said the conference would bring together women, activists, mental health professionals and young voices to discuss ways to counter superstition and exploitation. Adv. Ranjana Gawande, Vishnu Lonare, Gayatri Ade and several other state-level office-bearers and activists are involved in coordinating the event.

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya Calls for Integrated National Sports Ecosystem built Around Universities





New Delhi, (PIB): Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, chaired a meeting with 13 Sports Universities from across India, in New Delhi.The discussions revolved around strengthening collaboration among Sports Universities, sharing expertise and resources, and building an integrated ecosystem to enhance India's sports education, research, training, and global competitiveness.

Dr. Mandaviya said, "Our vision is to make Sports Universities the hub of the entire sports ecosystem, where athletes, coaches, training, research, competitions, and world-class infrastructure are all developed together." The Union Sports Minister encouraged all universities to develop their own expertise in particular sports to benefit the country. "Every university needs to develop its own specific expertise – whether in a particular sport, coaching, sports science, or research. This will benefit the entire nation," he said. While the Minister envisioned that the universities develop their own niche areas of expertise, he also encouraged them to partake in knowledge-sharing with each other. "We will no longer work in silos. By integrating our efforts, resources, and expertise, we will build a strong, collaborative national sports ecosystem," said Dr. Mandaviya. "Every Coach exchange, knowledge exchange, and resource sharing among universities will be promoted. Despite the fact that a major part of the focus remains on furthering the capabilities of India's athletes, Dr. Mandaviya also encouraged the universities to build systems that would help India grow its sporting ecosystem and industry as a whole. "Universities must focus on developing specialised expertise in emerging sectors such as Sports Science, Sports Law, and Sports Tourism, to develop skilled professionals and strong institutional capabilities in these fields across India," said Dr. Mandaviya. "Sports Universities must not limit themselves to just athletes, but also develop sports professionals who can contribute to sports management, administration, and the overall sports ecosystem," he further stated. "Our goal is for Indian Sports Universities to make their mark at the global level and establish their place among the world's leading universities." The meeting was attended by Hon'ble Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports, Smt. Raksha Khadse, Secretary (Sports) Shri Hari Ranjan Rao, and Vice-Chancellors and other representatives from 13 Sports Universities across the country.

Strengthening Educational Opportunities for OBC Girls through Dedicated Hostel Infrastructure



New Delhi, (PIB): The OBC Girls Hostel project at Women's Polytechnic, Hapania, West Tripura, is an initiative supported by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, aimed at strengthening educational opportunities for girl students belonging to the Other Backward Classes (OBC) community.Access to safe and affordable residential facilities plays a significant role in promoting higher education among young women, particularly those belonging to socially and economically disadvantaged communities and residing in distant and rural areas. Initiated during the financial year 2024–25, the hostel project envisages a dedicated residential facility with a planned capacity of 200 seats. The facility is expected to strengthen boarding arrangements for eligible OBC girl students and provide a conducive environment for pursuing their academic aspirations.

For students residing far from educational institutions, access to suitable residential facilities is an important enabler of academic advancement. The hostel seeks to address accommodation-related challenges and create an environment where students can focus on their education, skill development and personal growth. The project is being implemented by the Rural Development Department, Government of Tripura, on behalf of the OBC Welfare Department, with funding support from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India. The initiative reflects the importance of Centre-State collaboration in strengthening educational infrastructure and promoting inclusive socio-economic development. The hostel will have essential amenities, including electricity, proper sanitation and hygiene facilities, safe drinking water and adequate security arrangements, to ensure a safe, healthy and supportive residential environment for students. Beyond providing residential accommodation, the hostel project also seeks to encourage leadership qualities, healthy competition, voluntary participation, social harmony, mutual cooperation and a spirit of national integration among students. The hostel facility is expected to strengthen educational accessibility for OBC girls and encourage their participation in higher education.The initiative reflects the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment's sustained commitment towards women's empowerment, inclusive education and equitable access to opportunities through targeted infrastructure development, contributing to the larger vision of Viksit Bharat@2047.

From ASEAN to Europe: India's Exports Gain Momentum Across FTA Partners and Beyond

New Delhi, (PIB):

India's exports to key Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partners and major trade-partner markets recorded broad-based growth during April-September FY 2026-27. Strong export performance across ASEAN, South Asia, East Asia and several European markets reflected the growing geographical diversification of India's trade.Among the major export destinations, Singapore, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Oman, Italy and Spain registered particularly strong growth. ASEAN emerged as a significant contributor to the overall expansion, while neighbouring South Asian markets recorded sustained growth. Exports to developed markets, including the European Union, Japan, South Korea, Australia and the United Kingdom, also increased during the period. The performance across these markets highlights the widening geographical spread of India's exports and its expanding trade linkages.

ASEAN Emerges as a Major Growth Engine

India's exports to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) recorded significant growth during the first half of FY 2026-27. Under the CECA framework, exports to ASEAN increased 58%, from US$ 17.75 billion in April-September FY 2025-26 to US$ 28.06 billion in the corresponding period of FY 2026-27. Singapore emerged as one of the strongest-performing markets in the region. India's exports to Singapore more than doubled, increasing 103% from US$ 5.45 billion to US$ 11.07 billion. Malaysia also registered a substantial increase, with exports rising 83% from US$ 3.05 billion to US$ 5.58 billion during the period Exports to Vietnam increased 36% to US$ 3.83 billion, while shipments to Indonesia rose 36% to US$ 2.98 billion. Thailand remained another important export destination, with shipments valued at US$ 2.65 billion.

Exports to SAFTA Partners Rise 22%

Exports to South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) partners also recorded growth during April-September FY 2026-27. Total exports to SAFTA markets increased 22%, from US$ 12.55 billion to US$ 15.29 billion during the corresponding period.

Sri Lanka emerged as a major growth market, with exports rising 73% from US$ 2.28 billion to US$ 3.94 billion. Exports to Nepal increased 19%, from US$ 3.66 billion to US$ 4.37 billion.

Bhutan also recorded growth of 16%, with exports reaching US$ 711.4 million.

Among smaller South Asian markets, Maldives registered strong growth of 52%, with exports increasing from US$ 222.2 million to US$ 337.4 million.

Bangladesh remained India's largest export destination within SAFTA, with shipments valued at US$ 5.66 billion, registering growth of 2%.

Japan and South Korea Strengthen East Asian Export Momentum

India's exports to Japan and South Korea recorded notable increases during April-September FY 2026-27, contributing to the broader expansion of trade across Asian markets.

Exports to Japan increased 40%, from US$ 2.92 billion to US$ 4.10 billion during the period.Similarly, exports to South Korea increased 24%, from US$ 3.15 billion to US$ 3.91 billion. The strong growth in both markets adds to the broader momentum across India's Asian trade partners, alongside the sizable increases recorded in Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam and Indonesia.

EFTA Markets Maintain Positive Export Growth

India's exports to European Free Trade Association (EFTA) partners increased by approximately 5%, from US$ 980.2 million to US$ 1.03 billion during April-September FY 2026-27. Switzerland remained India's largest export destination among EFTA partners. Exports to the country increased 11%, reaching US$ 758.4 million.

Norway also recorded positive growth, with exports increasing 14% to US$ 264.0 million.

Liechtenstein registered 30% export growth, although from a relatively smaller base.

European Union Markets Record Steady Growth

Total exports to the European Union (EU) increased 5%, from US$ 36.97 billion to US$ 38.79 billion, supported by growth across several major European destinations. Spain emerged as one of the strongest-performing markets, with exports increasing 45% from US$ 3.23 billion to US$ 4.68 billion. Italy also recorded substantial growth, with Indian exports rising 25%, from US$ 3.63 billion to US$ 4.55 billion. Germany remained a major European export destination, recording growth of 12%, with exports reaching US$ 6.34 billion.

Exports to France increased 9% to US$ 3.73 billion. Several smaller European markets, including Croatia, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia and the Czech Republic, also registered particularly strong growth during the period.

New-Generation Trade Partners Add to Export Momentum

Beyond ASEAN, South Asia and major East Asian and European markets, India's exports to several other trading partners also recorded positive growth during April-September FY 2026-27.Oman registered particularly strong growth, with exports increasing 47%, from US$ 2.23 billion to US$ 3.29 billion.

Exports to Australia increased 11%, from US$ 3.69 billion to US$ 4.10 billion.

The United Kingdom also recorded positive growth, with Indian exports rising 7%, from US$ 6.83 billion to US$ 7.32 billion.

Mauritius witnessed a notable increase of 45%, with exports reaching US$ 346.2 million during the period.

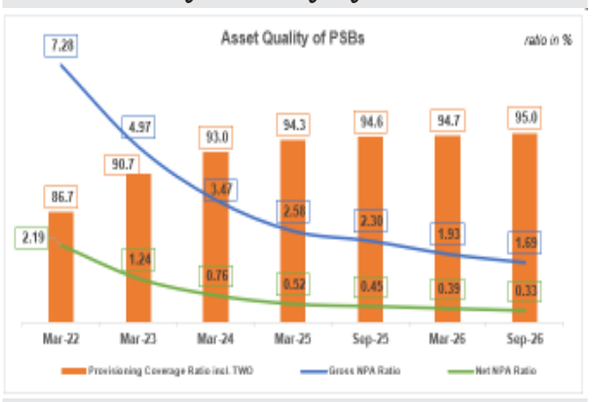
New-Generation Trade Partners Add to Export Momentum

India's export performance during April-September FY 2026-27 reflects sustained growth across several FTA partner markets and major trading destinations. ASEAN emerged as a particularly dynamic region, driven by the doubling of exports to Singapore and substantial increases in shipments to Malaysia, Vietnam and Indonesia. South Asian markets also contributed to the expansion, with Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives registering positive growth. At the same time, increased exports to Japan, South Korea, Oman, Australia and several European markets demonstrated the widening geographical spread of India's export destinations.

High-Level Committee on Banking for Viksit Bharat initiates stakeholder consultations

New Delhi, (PIB): The High-Level Committee on Banking for Viksit Bharat constituted by the Government of India, in its first two sittings discussed the key areas for examination under its Terms of Reference. It also identified stakeholder groups for consultation, including banks, non-banking financial companies, development financial institutions, regulators, industry associations, fintech organisations and others.To ensure a structured consultative process, the Committee has circulated questionnaires to stakeholder groups, inviting their views and suggestions on key areas of banking sector reforms. Going forward, the Committee will hold consultation meetings with key stakeholders to gather further inputs for its recommendations on Banking for Viksit Bharat 2047. These consultations will help the Committee frame recommendations to strengthen the Indian banking sector and make it competitive, resilient, inclusive and future-ready.

Public Sector Banks (PSBs) continue strong financial performance in first half of FY2026-27



New Delhi, (PIB):*The sustained improvement in financial health across different financial parameters, including, inter alia, capital adequacy, business growth, low slippages, healthy asset quality and outstandingly improved profitability, establishes the complete turnaround in overall functioning of Public Sector Banks (PSBs). It shows that PSBs are not only making profit but also meeting the requirements of credit supply need with improved underwriting capabilities, aided by technology and higher governance standards. PSBs' aggregate net profit reached ?1.10 lakh crore with 16.9% y-o-y growth and aggregate operating profit reached Rs.1.81 lakh crore with 13.9% y-o-y growth. Return on assets of PSBs continue to improve, reaching 1.11% with y-o-y improvement of 3bps. The continued improvement in profitability in both net and operating profit for the fifth consecutive year shows fruitful outcome of enablement of deeply engaged reforms drive and establishment of better governance standards by the Government.*

Aggregate business of PSBs grew by 15.5% y-o-y to ?301.6 lakh crore as on 30.9.2026, crossing the ?300 lakh crore business mark for the first time. While aggregate deposits grew by 13.1% y-o-y to reach ?275 lakh crore, the aggregate advances grew at 18.8% y-o-y to reach ?136.4 lakh crore. The robust credit growth having evenly panned out across different segments, i.e. Retail, Agriculture, MSME, shows PSBs' continued support to grassroot economic development, inculcation of entrepreneurship and deepening financial inclusion. Credit growth for retail, agriculture and MSME loans was recorded at 17%, 19.5%, 20.4%, respectively.PSBs' asset quality remains in continual improvement, recording another long-time low, with Gross NPA ratio declining to 1.69% and Net NPA ratio declining to 0.33%. Low levels of NPAs are aided by better underwriting standards visible through low slippages of 0.62% and continually focused collections efforts visible through improved recoveries and upgradations of 21.1%. All PSBs are now having provisioning coverage ratio of above 90%, reflecting prudent banking practices and resilient financial performance. Capital buffers of PSBs remain well above regulatory minimum benchmark through higher retained earnings and strong capital raising, showing availability of adequate cushion to support credit growth while also having capability to absorb systemic shocks. CRAR of PSBs was at 16.89% as on 30.9.2026, improved by 93bps y-o-y. The improvement was also aided by decline in RWA density by 94bps y-o-y to 47.9%. Cost to income ratio of PSBs also improved by 191 bps y-o-y to 47.38% for H1FY2026-27, aided by decline in cost per asset to 1.60% by 14bps y-o-y. The improved operational efficiency shows gains of investment in technologies and digital transformation, a reflection of efficient cost management.

Performance of PSBs is true reflection of outcomes of institutionalisation of reforms by the Government in PSBs, primarily aimed at better governance standards, improved operational efficiency, prudency in banking practices, enhanced risk management and continual adaptability of technology. The steps taken by the Government in improving operational standards of PSBs is now being reflected in the financial performance, aimed supporting India's growth aspirations of Viksit Bharat 2047.

Jakkanna, It's Time To Break The Varanasi Silence!



A year has passed out since the mammoth globetrotter event for SS Rajamouli's long awaited magnum opus Varanasi, which stars Mahesh Babu, Priyanka Chopra in the lead roles. Surprisingly, no other formal update has come from the team in these twelve months, making fans and moviegoers restless on the silence adopted by the makers. With less than six months to go for its theatrical release, pressure has been mounting on Rajamouli and his team to make some noise about the film. Quite shockingly, they are maintaining radio silence on the ongoing rumours in the media about potential postponement due to extensive post production work. While the team recently confirmed on social media that principal photography has been wrapped up and other activities are in full swing, they notably avoided addressing the speculation among trade circles that the film might not arrive on April 7th as announced by the team long back.

Given Rajamouli's long standing reputation for never rushing to the final product for the sake of meeting the deadlines and not compromising on the quality of the output, these rumours are slowly gaining ground as the team has not yet started any promotional activities. As Varanasi is being made on a massive budget with huge technical costs and carries enormous expectations, the team will naturally need considerable time to complete the VFX and other CG work. So, fans and regular movie audiences do not mind waiting further to witness this visual extravaganza. But, what frustrates them is uncertainty and last-minute disappointments. Moreover, many other big and medium budget films eyeing release around the same time would eagerly watch for an official word from Varanasi team to shuffle their plans.

Considering all this aspects, it is high time Rajamouli ends the rumour mills and and give a formal clarification on what is really happening with Varanasi and when the film hits the screens. This will surely give some peace of mind for fans and allow the media to stop further speculations.

Dulquer, Swapna Aim For A Hat-Trick!



Right from selecting interesting stories to planning engaging promotions, Swapna Cinemas has always been on point. The production house rarely fails to create positive vibes around its films. This consistent approach has helped Swapna Cinemas build a special identity in Telugu cinema. Films like Yevade Subramanyam, Mahanati and Sita Ramam are some of the best examples of its taste in cinema. Whenever the production house announces a new project, it naturally creates curiosity and positive expectations. However Swapna Cinemas is not just good at selecting interesting stories. The banner also knows how to create excitement around its films through promotions. From the first announcement to teasers, trailers and other promotional activities, the team has a clear understanding of how to keep audiences interested. Their promotional strategies create a positive atmosphere around a film even before it reaches theatres. The same approach can be seen with its upcoming film Aakasamlo Oka Tara featuring Dulquer Salmaan and Satvika Veeravalli in the lead roles. Sandeep Gunnam and Ramya Gunnam are producing the film under Lightbox Media while Swapna Cinemas and Geetha Arts are presenting it. Though Swapna Cinemas is presenting the film, the production house created the same positive vibe for this film as well.

The project has already started attracting attention among movie lovers. The promotional content released so far has created encouraging buzz around the film. The makers have managed to keep the audience curious through their promotional activities. Mainly, the recent fan meet with Dulquer Salmaan has also created lot of vibes around the film. Now movie lovers are hoping that Dulquer Salmaan and Swapna Cinemas will deliver another memorable film with Aakasamlo Oka Tara. Many are expecting this combination to score a hat-trick with this project. The promotions have already created a positive atmosphere. So we have to wait and see whether the film will live up to these expectations and impress audiences in theatres.

Director's Mother Hints At His Marriage With Actress?



Director and actor Tharun Bhascker has gained immense popularity with his movies like Pelli Choopulu and Ee Nagaraniki Emaindhi. The mother of Tharun Bhascker Geetha Bhascker is also well-known to the people of Telugu cinema as an actress. She has been a part of several movies like Fidaa and ENE. For the last few days, speculations are being spread regarding the romantic relationship of Tharun Bhascker and actress Eesha Rebba. Due to their appearance along with their bonding, many people have become curious about their relationship and even talked about their possible marriage ceremony soon. But both Tharun and Eesha have not confirmed anything about these rumors till date. Amid all these rumors, the latest comments of Geetha Bhascker during the recent event have become the talk of the town. While mentioning about her son, Geetha Bhascker has appreciated Eesha Rebba and thanked her for becoming a good support system for Tharun.

Geetha said, "But I forgot to mention one good thing. A soulmate, a good person. That is Eesha, his friend. His support, his family. It gives me confidence that somebody is there beside him. Sometimes, we cannot share everything even with friends. We should have a partner, we should have a soulmate. I am very happy. Thank you so much, Eesha. She could not come today, but I want to thank her for being such wonderful support." This statement has now become a hot topic among the fans. With the mentioning of a soulmate and life partner, many people are now wondering whether she was confirming the marriage of Tharun Bhascker and Eesha Rebba soon. Meanwhile ENE Repeat also known as ENE 2 is the upcoming Telugu buddy-comedy film and the official sequel to the 2018 hit Ee Nagaraniki Emaindi. The film is directed by Tharun Bhascker and is expected to bring back the fun, friendship and entertainment that made the first part popular among audiences. Srujan Yarabolu and Sandeep Nagireddy are producing the film while Vivek Sagar is composing the music.

Saree & Sreeleela – Crazy Combo



Sreeleela is gearing up for the release of OM on November 20, where she shares screen space with Dhanush, Sai Pallavi and Mammootty. At the Hyderabad pre-release event, she and Sai Pallavi also danced together on stage, and the video has gone viral. For her latest shoot, Sreeleela chose a wine-coloured organza saree with a golden embroidered border and tiny motifs spread across it. She paired it with a black sleeveless blouse, a choker with a green stone, drop earrings, a small bindi and a bracelet. Her hair was left open and flowing, which suited the rich carpet backdrop. Sreeleela has also explained her absence from Telugu films. She was doing a two-year medical internship in Mumbai, where she had to be physically present, so she could not pick films.

Dhurandhar Duo Set To Reunite For Another Biggie In 2028



Dhurandhar's blockbuster success appears to have paved the way for another exciting collaboration between Ranveer Singh and director Aditya Dhar. After several reports about their reunion were dismissed earlier, the latest buzz from Bollywood circles suggests that the duo is indeed planning to work together again.

The new film is being targeted for a theatrical release towards the end of 2028. Ranveer and Aditya Dhar have earned tremendous appreciation for Dhurandhar, and their next collaboration has naturally become a talking point.

However, Ranveer has another major project to complete before moving ahead with Aditya Dhar. The actor is currently working on Pralay, which is said to be a zombie-based action drama. The film is expected to be a different outing for Ranveer, who has been exploring ambitious subjects and larger-than-life characters. Once he wraps up Pralay, the actor is expected to join hands with Dhar for their next venture. Details regarding the genre, storyline, supporting cast, and technical team are being kept under wraps for now. With Dhurandhar creating a huge impact, expectations will be considerably higher for their next outing. If everything falls into place, audiences could witness this successful combination returning to the big screen with a bang.

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