Telangana HC seeks decision on consumer commissions in new districts

Hyderabad: The Telangana High Court on Monday, November 17, directed the state government to take a decision on establishing District Consumer Commissions in the 23 districts created after the formation of Telangana.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh and Justice GM Mohiuddin issued the order while hearing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by Aakula Sampath Kumar of Mancherial district.

The petitioner contended that, under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, every district must have its own commission, but the government had set up commissions only in the ten districts that existed before the State's bifurcation.

The court noted that despite its earlier direction on September 24 to file a counter on the matter, the government had not submitted one. It remarked that a policy decision on forming the commissions was expected within four weeks and ordered the authorities to submit an implementation report.

Government special counsel Pottigari Sridhar Reddy said the matter was under consideration and sought four weeks' time to file a detailed counter. Accepting the request, the bench instructed the government to file the report within the stipulated period and resumed the hearing to a later date.

In a related petition concerning the appointment of the State Consumer Commission's president, the bench directed the government to issue a notification within a week and posted that case for further hearing on December 4.

Sub-Registrar suspended after Telangana HC orders probe into bribery allegations

Hyderabad: The Stamps and Registrations Department has suspended Smt. Srilatha, the Sub-Registrar of Saroor Nagar in Ranga Reddy district, is following a Telangana High Court case over alleged bribery related to a property registration.

Srilatha, who was holding the additional charge of Saroor Nagar while serving as Sub-Registrar in Medak, was accused of demanding money to complete a registration process.

According to the petition filed in the Telangana High Court by Sudarshan, a resident of Chanchalguda, the Sub-Registrar had demanded a substantial bribe to complete the registration of his property.

He alleged that despite lodging a complaint with the police, no FIR was registered, compelling him to approach the High Court. During the hearing, Sudarshan also stated that Srilatha had previously completed two property registrations after accepting payment.

Taking a serious view of the matter, the High Court directed that both the giver and taker of the alleged bribe be investigated, and appropriate action be initiated.

The court instructed the police to register a case against Sudarshan himself for admitting to offering a bribe and ordered the Stamps and Registrations Department to conduct an inquiry against the Sub-Registrar.

Following the court's directions, the Ranga Reddy District Registrar conducted an internal investigation and submitted a report to the department.

Based on the findings, the Stamps and Registrations Department issued suspension orders against Sub-Registrar Srilatha pending further departmental action.

Telangana Cabinet clears Bill for welfare of Gig workers

Hyderabad: The Telangana Cabinet on Monday approved the Telangana Gig Platform Workers Registration, Social Security and Welfare Bill.

Mandatory registration of gig workers by aggregators, a tripartite board comprising workers, aggregators, and government to monitor gig worker welfare and a welfare fund for gig workers to be administered by the tripartite board are among the key provisions of the proposed legislation.

He said the Bill was aimed at doing justice to Gig workers. He termed the Bill a beginning to address the problems faced by Gig workers.

The Bill is expected to protect and support the 4.2 lakh gig workers in the state.

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had announced in April that the state government had prepared a draft bill for the welfare and security of gig and platform workers.

He also stated that this legislation should serve as a model for the entire country.

The Labour Department prepared the draft aimed at providing job security, insurance, and other rights to gig workers.

At a meeting on April 14, the Chief Minister had suggested several changes and additions to the draft. He stressed that the new law should prioritise the safety of workers while also fostering harmony and coordination between the companies and aggregators. He instructed officials to upload the draft bill online immediately and collect feedback from the public.The government had planned to pass and implement the Bill on May 1, International Labour Day, but its finalisation was delayed.

Telangana DCA flag 196 retail medical shops during inspection

Hyderabad: Telangana Drugs Control Administration (DCA) issued show-cause notices to a total of 196 retail medical shops on Monday, November 17, following the detection of several irregularities by inspection teams.

The DCA acted as part of its special drive to detect discrepancies in retail medical shops across the state.

The special drive focused on checking the sale of Schedule H1 drugs, including higher-generation antibiotics and habit-forming medications, to ensure they're dispensed only with a valid prescription from a registered medical practitioner.

Schedule H1 drugs are a category of prescription medications in India that includes many antibiotics, anti-tuberculosis drugs, and sedatives or hypnotics.

These drugs are intended for sale only with a valid prescription, while chemists are required to maintain a detailed register of sales.

The special drive was aimed at curbing misuse and ensuring public health safety.

Man held for duping 83 people, promised 2BHK houses in Hyderabad

: The Jeedimetla police, on Monday, November 17, arrested one person for allegedly cheating 83 people by promising them 2BHK houses in Hyderabad.

Based on a complaint by a local, Thailam Ramesh, and recorded statements from eight other victims, police have apprehended Bodimishetty Haribabu.

According to a release, Haribabu introduced himself as the personal assistant (PA) at the Quthbullapur MLA's office, gained trust and collected nearly Rs 1 lakh each from the victims.

Police are also examining the data to track the flow of funds and identify any additional victims or accomplices from his seized mobiles.

Telangana ACB apprehend two govt officers for demanding Rs 30k bribe

Hyderabad: Telangana Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) arrested two government officers demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 30,000 through a ration shop dealer in Yellandu of Bhadradri Kothagudem district.

According to the complainant, Mohammed Yakoob Pasha, a deputy tahsildar, an EPASS technical assistant at Girijana Co-Operative Corporation, demanded the money in exchange for not submitting an adverse report.

SC to Telangana speaker: 'Grossest contempt' over MLA disqualification delay

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday issued a contempt notice to the Telangana speaker for not complying with its direction to decide disqualification pleas against 10 BRS MLAs, who had defected to the ruling Congress.

On July 31, a top court bench headed by Chief Justice B R Gavai had directed the assembly speaker to decide in three months the matter of the disqualification of the 10 Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) MLAs.

The CJI-led bench termed the non-compliance of its earlier directions as the "grossest kind of contempt" while issuing notices to the speaker and others on the pleas filed by the BRS leaders.

The bench, however, exempted Telangana Speaker and others from personal appearance before it till further orders.

The bench also issued notice on a separate plea filed on behalf of the office of the speaker seeking extension of time by eight more weeks to decide the disqualification pleas.

Senior advocates Mukul Rohatgi and Abhishek Singhvi, appearing along with lawyer Sravan Kumar for the office of the speaker, said they were seeking extension of time.

The hearing on four disqualification pleas are complete and in three cases recording of evidence has concluded, said one of the lawyers.

"This should have been concluded…This is the grossest kind of contempt…It is for him to decide where he wants to celebrate the new year," the CJI said.

The bench has now posted the matters for further hearing after four weeks.

Germanten Hospital

Rohatgi assured the bench that he would personally convey the feelings of the court to the office of the speaker and hopefully, decisions will be taken in four weeks.

On November 10, the top court agreed to hear on November 17 the petition seeking contempt proceedings against the Telangana speaker.

The contempt plea stems from the apex court's July 31 judgment, delivered by a bench of the CJI and Justice AG Masih, in a batch of writ petitions filed by BRS leaders KT Rama Rao, Padi Kaushik Reddy, and KO Vivekanand.

The top court reiterated that the speaker acts as a tribunal while deciding disqualification pleas under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution and consequently does not enjoy "constitutional immunity".

The Tenth Schedule deals with provisions on disqualification on the grounds of defection.

HYDRAA receives 52 encroachement complaints during Prajavani

Hyderabad: Hyderabad Disaster Management and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) received 52 complaints during its Prajavani on Monday, November 17.

The complaints included encroachment of temple land belonging to Sri Govindaraju Swamy Devasthanam in Jagadgirigutta and sewage from Pragatinagar flowing into Ellamma Kunta in Kukatpally due to blocked canals.

Residents of Shamshabad village and RR Nagar Ayyappa Colony alleged that around 4,794 sq yard had been occupied illegally.

In Pragatinagar, the Lakeview Colony Welfare Association complained of encroachment and sought an official survey of Pragatinagar Cheruvu.

In Serilingampally, Silicon Country residents stated that builders encroached 3,320 sq yards for a clubhouse, including government land.

Complaints were filed by locals of Amberpet and Golnaka, who said that barriers had been installed across a public road and commercial activity inside their residential areas.

Residents of Jonnabanda in Old Alwal demanded immediate fencing and put up boards around the 9.61 acres of public land that has been encroached.

They said the site may be occupied again if it is not protected. They also complained about an illegal wall built across.

HYDRAA commissioner AV Ranganath reviewed all petitions and directed officials to conduct ground inspections.

Crack appears in five-storey Hyderabad building causing panic

Hyderabad: Panic struck after cracks appeared in a five-storey building during a construction activity that was underway at an adjacent site, in Hyderabad's Chakanwadi area.

The incident reportedly took place when pits were dug for laying pillars for a

new building.

A resident said that excavators were brought in and digging began the previous night. "At around 10 am, we noticed the cracks," he said, adding that the five-storey building had begun to cave in.

"If no immediate action is taken, the structure will collapse. The building houses tenants on one floor while its owners live on another. They have shifted now," the local resident said, appealing to the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) to act swiftly to safeguard the building.

Speaking to Siasat.com, Goshamahal sub inspector K Kaxmaiah dismissed media reports claiming the building had collapsed. He clarified that the structure had only developed a crack and had not bent.

"We (police) and GHMC officials reached the spot and have conducted an inspection. Repair work will be carried out soon," the officer said.

Stay updated with our WhatsApp & Telegram by subscribing to our channels. For all the latest Hyderabad updates, download our app Android and iOS.

IT Dept conducts raids at restaurants in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: The officials of the Income Tax Department reportedly have conducted raids at popular restaurants in Hyderabad. The raids are linked to suspicion of large-scale tax evasion.

As part of the search, the officials have searched the offices and residences linked to the restaurants.

As per a report in TOI, the searches are being conducted at 30 locations of restaurants of three brands in Hyderabad.

The branches of these brands are located across Hyderabad and Rangareddy districts.

The teams are examining the financial records, transactions, and other documents, the report mentioned.

KTR meets cotton farmers, flays Centre, Telangana govt for 'ignoring' their pleas

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president K.T. Rama Rao, accompanied by senior party leaders, on Tuesday visited Adilabad district to understand the "hardships" faced by farmers, particularly those cultivating cotton and soybean.

During his visit to the Adilabad Market Yard, K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) interacted with several farmers who expressed deep distress over the ongoing procurement crisis.

According to BRS, the farmers alleged that both the Central and State governments have completely ignored their pleas and failed to provide any form of support.

Farmers complained that despite Congress promising major relief for the agriculture sector, the government has not honoured any assurances. Even basic assistance required to sell their harvested crops has not been provided.

After meeting farmers, KTR addressed the media and questioned the State government's intentions. "If there is no problem for farmers, why is the Adilabad Market Yard shut today? Why did the government obstruct our visit to meet farmers?" he asked.

He condemned the severe decline in cotton and soybean procurement systems, stating that such a situation has never been witnessed in history.

KTR criticised the 'Kisan Kapas Mobile App', pointing out that many farmers do not own smartphones and several regions in Adilabad still lack proper mobile network connectivity.

KTR highlighted that due to unseasonal rain and extreme cold, the moisture content in cotton has naturally increased.

He recalled that during the previous BRS government, even cotton with 20–22 per cent moisture was procured after mounting pressure on the Centre.

"But today, they refuse to buy even at 12 per cent moisture. Farmers are left with no option and are being pushed to despair," he said.

He stated that not even one lakh quintals of cotton have been procured so far. KTR alleged that the government appears to be colluding with private traders to exploit farmers.

The BRS leader criticised the arbitrary rule limiting cotton procurement to only 7 quintals per acre, despite Adilabad's fertile lands producing 10–15 quintals per acre. "Where should farmers sell the remaining produce?" he questioned.

He slammed the State government for indulging in "political drama", claiming that they scheduled a video conference with the Centre only because BRS leaders were visiting the farmers.

He also pointed out that the recent Cabinet meeting failed to discuss the cotton crisis affecting more than half of Telangana's districts.

KTR further blamed the Congress government for the crisis across every stage of agriculture - power supply, fertiliser distribution, and now crop procurement.

He also attacked the BJP-led Central government for allowing cotton imports and removing import duties, thereby damaging domestic farmers' prospects.

The BRS leader warned that without mounting pressure on the Centre, the State government cannot resolve the crisis. "Protests are the only way forward. BRS will stand firmly with farmers," he declared.

KTR demanded immediate withdrawal of the fingerprint requirement, 12 per cent moisture restriction, and the 7-quintal-per-acre rule.

He insisted that cotton must be procured even without the Kisan Kapas app and called for compensation of Rs 20,000 per acre for all farmers affected by heavy rain.

He urged local BJP and Congress leaders, MPs, and Union Ministers from Telangana to exert pressure on the Centre to ensure "justice" for farmers.

KTR appealed to farmers to participate in the National Highways Blockade scheduled for November 21, organised jointly by farmer unions and various political parties in Adilabad.

Sub-Junior National Judo Championship begins in LB Indoor Stadium

The Sub-Junior National Judo Championship has launched with enthusiasm at the LB Indoor Stadium, where the event will run for three days. The competition was inaugurated by Mettu Saikumar, Chairman of the Telangana Judo Association, alongside Kailesh Yadav, President of the Judo Association. Athletes from various states and Union Territories have gathered to participate.

As part of the opening ceremony, the culture of Telangana was highlighted through vibrant women's dances performed to the traditional song "Bonala." Mettu Saikumar expressed his commitment to providing young athletes in Telangana with significant opportunities to excel, stating, "We aim to enhance the recognition of judo alongside other sports at both national and international levels."

The event also saw the awarding of the prizes by Rohin Reddy, reinforcing the championship's dedication to celebrating talent in judo.

xAI unveils Grok 4.1 with major leap in accuracy and speed

Elon Musk's artificial intelligence company, xAI, has rolled out Grok 4.1, its newest and most refined version of the Grok model. Announced by Musk through his platform X, the upgrade promises notable improvements in speed, accuracy, and overall user experience—marking another significant step in xAI's growing rivalry with established AI giants.
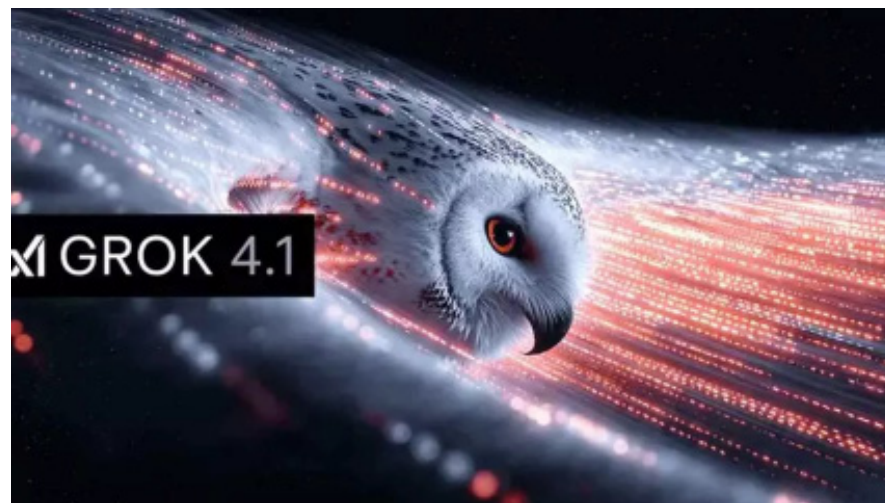
Musk shared the update directly with users, writing, "Grok 4.1 just released. You should notice a significant increase in speed and quality." His post set the stage for a wave of anticipation, as xAI detailed the model's capabilities and the extensive work that went into reducing errors and boosting reliability.

According to xAI, Grok 4.1 not only enhances performance but also deepens the model's emotional and creative responsiveness. The company says the new version excels in collaborative conversations while preserving the intelligence and stability of earlier releases. Internal evaluations reportedly show that Grok 4.1 is "exceptionally capable in creative, emotional, and collaborative interactions," a sign that xAI is aiming for a model that feels more human while remaining technically competent.

One of the biggest challenges AI companies face today is factual hallucination—when a model confidently presents made-up information as fact. xAI claims to have tackled this issue head-on. The company focused its post-training efforts on minimising hallucinations specifically in real-world, information-seeking prompts. Their testing involved production-level traffic and the widely used FActScore benchmark, which measures accuracy across 500 biographical questions.

The results show a clear improvement. While the earlier Grok 4 Fast model had a hallucination rate of 12 per cent, Grok 4.1 cut that number down to just 4 per cent, making it nearly three times more reliable. The FActScore benchmark further reinforced this progress, with Grok 4.1 scoring 2.97 per cent, a significant drop from the previous model's 9.89 per cent.

Beyond accuracy, Grok 4.1 has also made waves in competitive rankings. On LMArena, a respected platform for evaluating large language models, Grok 4.1 in quasarflux mode secured the top position with an Elo score of 1483—31 points ahead of the closest non-xAI competitor. Even the non-

reasoning tensor mode outperformed many full-reasoning setups from other companies, securing the second-highest rank overall.

Before its official launch, xAI conducted a two-week silent deployment from November 1 to 14, gradually introducing the upgraded model to users. During this time, continuous blind evaluations were carried out to measure user preference. In direct comparisons with the previous production model, Grok 4.1 achieved a win rate of 64.78 per cent,

indicating a strong positive response from users.

Grok 4.1 is now widely available. Users can access it on grok.com, the X platform, and through both iOS and Android apps. It can be selected directly through the model picker or used in Auto mode for an optimized experience.

With its renewed focus on accuracy, responsiveness, and real-world reliability, Grok 4.1 positions xAI as a formidable player in the rapidly evolving AI landscape.

OnePlus 15R Teaser Drops in India: Expected Price, Specs & Design Leak Ahead of Launch

OnePlus is gearing up for another major launch in India, and this time the focus is firmly on the upcoming OnePlus 15R. The brand has released its first teaser for the device, hinting that the official debut is just around the corner. As seen with previous models, the phone will first launch in China as the OnePlus Ace 6T, before making its way to India and global markets.

The biggest buzz surrounding the 15R is its processor. OnePlus China President Li Jie has already confirmed that the Ace 6T will debut as the world's first phone powered by the Snapdragon 8 Gen 5 chipset. This is the non-Elite version of Qualcomm's upcoming flagship processor, reportedly co-developed with OnePlus.

What really stands out is the claim that the chip features a dedicated gaming kernel aimed at maintaining 165Hz gameplay without frame drops. OnePlus has also secured 165Hz optimization for at least one major title—likely Genshin Impact—which makes it clear that gaming-focused users are a major target audience for this phone.

The teasers indicate that the

OnePlus 15R will carry forward the brand's new design language, including the distinctive squircle-shaped camera module that has already appeared on the OnePlus 13 series and the OnePlus 15.

Up front, the device is confirmed to feature a 165Hz display, adding to its gaming-first positioning. Leaks suggest a 6.7-inch OLED screen with 1.5K resolution, offering flagship-grade smoothness and clarity for both gamers and everyday users.

Chinese leaks provide a clearer picture of what to expect under the hood. The Snapdragon 8 Gen 5 chipset is believed to be paired with up to 16GB LPDDR5x Ultra RAM and 1TB of UFS 4.1 storage, easily putting the 15R in flagship performance territory.

One of the biggest talking points is the battery. Reports claim the Ace 6T—and likely the 15R—may house an 8,000mAh battery with 100W fast charging. If true, it would be one of the largest battery units ever used in a OnePlus smartphone.

Photography doesn't seem to be the phone's primary focus. Leaks suggest a 50MP + 8MP dual rear

camera setup and a 32MP selfie camera. Other expected features include a metal frame, ultrasonic in-display fingerprint sensor, dual speakers, NFC, an X-axis linear motor, and multiple colour options including Electric Purple, Flash Black, and Shadow Green. A special Genshin Impact Edition is also rumoured for China.

Looking at OnePlus' pricing trend—where the 12R started at ?39,999 and the 13R at ?42,999—a

yearly increase of around ?3,000 seems likely. With the new, more powerful chipset onboard, industry insiders expect the OnePlus 15R price in India to remain under ?45,000, though a lower starting point seems unlikely.

As pre-registrations for the Ace 6T begin in China, the India launch appears to be close behind. OnePlus fans won't have to wait much longer to see how the 15R shapes up in the competitive mid-flagship segment.

Big Tech's New Frontier: Racing to Build Data Centres on the Moon

Silicon Valley's ambitions are leaping beyond Earth as the world's biggest tech leaders explore a future where AI data centres operate in orbit — and eventually on the Moon. Sundar Pichai, Jensen Huang, Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos are reportedly at the forefront of this cosmic race, driven by the skyrocketing power demands of artificial intelligence and the growing constraints on Earth.

The Wall Street Journal has reported that companies like Google, Amazon, Nvidia, SpaceX and emerging space-tech startups are rapidly developing off-planet data infrastructure. The motivation is clear: in 2024, data centres powering AI consumed an estimated 1.5 per cent of global electricity — a number set to climb sharply. With global computing needs expanding faster than energy grids and land capacity can support, the industry is asking a provocative question: Why must data centres stay on Earth at all?

Google has made one of the most ambitious early moves with Project Suncatcher, a plan to run AI workloads using solar-powered data centres stationed in orbit. The concept solves two critical issues: unlimited access to solar energy in space and cooling that requires no water. Google aims to test two prototype satellites by 2027, marking one of the first real steps toward extraterrestrial cloud computing.

They aren't alone. Smaller innovators like Starcloud, Lonestar Data Holdings, and Axiom Space are all working on orbital and lunar storage systems. China has also entered the race, announcing a network of 12 AI-driven satellites designed to become the world's first orbital supercomputing constellation, known as the Three-Body Computing Constellation.

The logic of space-based computing is gaining traction. As Jeff Bezos observed earlier this year, "There is no Plan B. We have to save Earth." He has long championed shifting heavy industry and digital infrastructure off the planet. Bezos also called the Moon "a gift from the universe," highlighting its solar potential and low gravity as advantages for building large-scale tech systems. His aerospace company, Blue Origin, is already crafting vehicles capable of helping assemble such facilities in orbit and on the lunar surface.

Some of these concepts are moving from theory to reality. Lonestar Data Holdings confirmed that it recently tested a miniature data centre on the Moon. The device survived the landing, transmitted data successfully, and powered down earlier than expected — yet proved that computing on lunar soil is

possible. Meanwhile, Starcloud, working with Nvidia, plans to launch a satellite boasting a high-performance GPU, expected to become the most powerful compute system ever placed in orbit.

Elon Musk remains central to the push. SpaceX has supported many early missions with its reusable rockets and is also collaborating with Google on Project Suncatcher. Musk's broader

goal of enabling life on multiple planets aligns closely with establishing strong digital infrastructure beyond Earth.

Still, the path is riddled with challenges. Managing heat in a vacuum and shielding hardware from space radiation remain major engineering obstacles, as noted by Starcloud CEO Philip Johnston. Legal complexities also loom large. Lonestar CEO Chris Stott points out that under international space law; any lunar module or satellite falls under the jurisdiction of its launching country — "literally an embassy in space." This raises thorny questions around data sovereignty, cybersecurity and regulation.

For now, space-based data centres remain experimental, small-scale prototypes. But the momentum is unmistakable: as demand for AI intensifies, humanity's next generation of computing power may soon rise far above the Earth — and perhaps even settle on the Moon.

Elon Musk Unveils X Chat: A Privacy-First Challenger to WhatsApp and Arattai

Elon Musk has stepped deeper into the world of private communication with the launch of X Chat, a new messaging platform built directly into X (formerly Twitter). Designed as a strong rival to WhatsApp and India's homegrown Arattai, X Chat is positioned as a security-focused system offering users more control over their conversations and personal data.

Announcing the rollout on X, Musk shared his long-anticipated vision of turning the platform into a comprehensive communication hub. He posted, "X just rolled out an entire new communications stack with encrypted messages, audio/video calls and file transfer." The launch marks yet another step toward his larger ambition of transforming X into an all-in-one ecosystem. Musk also hinted that X Money, the platform's integrated financial service, will be available "soon," as part of this "everything app" strategy.

X Chat's core appeal lies in its enhanced privacy features. All messages—including group chats and shared media—are end-to-end encrypted, meaning only the sender and recipient can access them. While the platform acknowledges that some metadata like recipient details are not encrypted, the upgrade is significant, especially when compared with apps such as Arattai, which still lacks full encryption support.

Beyond encryption, X Chat gives users the ability to edit, delete, or set messages to disappear after sending. Deleted messages vanish completely without leaving a trace or a "This message was deleted" marker, setting it apart from WhatsApp's approach. Disappearing mes-

sages can also be timed, allowing users to automate chat clean-ups for better privacy.

One of the standout additions is the option to block screenshots. Users can restrict others from capturing their conversations and even enable notifications that alert them whenever someone tries to take a screenshot of a DM or group chat. This move significantly boosts user control over how their conversations are stored or shared.

X Chat also promises a clean, distraction-free interface. Musk's platform is rolling out the new messaging experience without ads and says it will not track user data, something that is expected to appeal to those increasingly concerned about digital privacy.

Unified Inbox and Upcoming Features

The service merges the older X DMs with the new X Chat interface, giving users a seamless, unified inbox. The company is also preparing to introduce voice memos, adding another dimension to communication on the platform.

Availability

X Chat is currently accessible on iOS and via the web, integrated through the existing DMs section of X. Android users will need to wait a little longer, though the company says the rollout for the platform is on the way.

With a strong emphasis on privacy, no-ad experience, and Musk's push toward transforming X into an all-purpose platform, X Chat positions itself as a bold new contender in the increasingly competitive messaging app market.

Perplexity's Comet Assistant Gets Major Upgrade With More Transparency, Control and Safety

Perplexity AI has rolled out one of its most significant enhancements yet to the Comet Assistant, with CEO Aravind Srinivas announcing a new focus on transparency, user choice and safer automation for web-based tasks. Revealed on Saturday, the update aims to give people a clearer understanding of how the browser-based AI agent works and ensure it operates only with user-approved permissions.

According to Srinivas, the latest version of Comet has been engineered to behave more like a responsible human assistant—visible, accountable and careful about when to act independently. The company hopes these improvements will help users feel more confident about letting the assistant handle complex online tasks.

In a detailed blog post, Perplexity explained that users will now have a front-row view of everything the assistant is doing. Whether Comet is browsing a webpage, clicking through links, scrolling, or following a multi-step process, its actions will be displayed in real time.

A new sidecar panel brings an added layer of clarity by revealing the assistant's reasoning and allowing users to follow its workflow as it unfolds. This design, Perplexity says, ensures people always know why Comet takes certain actions and how it arrives at an answer.

Another major improvement addresses how and when Comet takes control of tasks. Now, when someone enters a query in the omnibar or search interface, the assistant may ask if it should carry out the task autonomously. Users can choose from several options—handling the task themselves, allowing Comet to perform the action once, or granting it ongoing permission.

Perplexity emphasizes that this system ensures the assistant never oversteps, giving people the freedom to let it automate tasks only when they feel comfortable.

Stronger Guardrails for Sensitive Actions

Recognizing that certain actions require extra caution, the upgraded Comet Assistant pauses when it faces high-risk steps such as logging into accounts or proceeding with purchases. In these cases, the assistant will explicitly ask for permission before moving

forward.

Perplexity says this mirrors the judgment of a trusted human aide—someone who understands when a decision is too important to take without checking in first.

Part of a Broader Vision for Responsible AI

The changes to Comet fit into Perplexity's larger mission of creating reliable, transparent and user-centric AI tools across its ecosystem, which includes Deep Research, Labs, Email Assistant and Background Assistants.

As the company puts it, the goal is to shift the user mindset from wondering what an AI can do to deciding what they want the assistant to accomplish—confident in the knowledge that it operates safely and visibly at all times.

If you'd like, I can also create a shorter version, add subheadings, prepare social-media snippets, or draft a push-notification summary.

GoBoult Gears Up for IPO with Premium Mustang Series, Smartwatches Set for January 2026

GoBoult—formerly known to consumers as Boult—has built its reputation by offering affordable wearables tailored to India's value-driven market. Now, the homegrown brand is revamping its identity and ambitions as it prepares for an IPO, with a clear pivot toward premium devices. Leading this charge is the introduction of the Mustang Thunder, a new over-the-ear headphone positioned as the company's first major step into a higher-end segment.

Priced at Rs 7,999 but debuting at a special launch price of Rs 2,499, the Mustang Thunder marks a notable evolution for the brand. Speaking to India Today Tech, GoBoult CEO Varun Gupta said this shift is intentional, especially as the company looks to increase its Average Selling Price (ASP) without relying solely on volume. "If the number of units sold is not increasing, then we need to increase the value of the goods... There has to be a conscious move from our end to move towards higher ASPs," he explained.

A significant part of GoBoult's premiumisation strategy lies in thoughtful collaborations. While many competitors have been aggressively securing high-profile partnerships, Gupta stressed that GoBoult's approach is selective. "We want one or two limited partnerships where we believe we can deliver value, add value to the customer, and not just slap a logo," he said, indicating the brand's intention to maintain authenticity while moving upmarket.

The company's push into premium territory is deeply connected to its IPO roadmap. Gupta acknowledged that preparing for public listing requires strong financial fundamentals. When asked if this strategic shift was influenced by IPO plans, he said, "Yes. The idea is we want to be a company that focuses not just on top line but also on bottom line—value creation, profitability, and being healthy. For an IPO, that's a must."

Beyond product upgrades, GoBoult is also aggressively exploring international markets. With products already available in the UK and Nepal, the company aims to expand across Europe and Southeast Asia. Gupta shared that these global ventures are expected to serve as proof points by the time GoBoult goes public. "By the time of the IPO, we actually want to show successful case studies of our international launches," he noted.

Even with the move toward premium, GoBoult is not abandoning its core user base—consumers who prioritize affordability. Gupta reaffirmed that the brand's budget-friendly offerings will remain a constant. "Our cash-flow products— Rs 800, Rs 900, Rs 1200— are still obvious choices for many audiences who can't or won't spend more than Rs 1,300. So that segment stays stable." However, he emphasized that "growth, profitability, and innovation" will stem from the premium lineup.

Looking ahead, the company is doubling down on its Mustang series. In addition to the Mustang Thunder headphones, GoBoult is gearing up to release Mustang-branded smartwatches in January 2026. A car enthusiast himself, Gupta hopes this collaboration with Ford's iconic Mustang brand gives Indian buyers a symbolic taste of the legendary muscle car. "We are bringing that experience as an opportunity for Indian consumers to own a Mustang," he said.

With its bold strategic reset, GoBoult is signaling its ambition to evolve from a value-first wearable maker to a global premium player—one ready to enter the public market with confidence.

Hair care during pregnancy

Pregnancy is a time when a woman's body undergoes significant physical and hormonal changes. During the gestation period, the body prioritises nurturing the foetus, directing much of its nutritional resources there. If a woman's diet does not meet her increased nutritional needs during this time, deficiencies and hormonal fluctuations may occur—directly impacting hair growth. This often leads to reduced hair growth and increased hair fall.

After childbirth, the body takes time to return to its normal state. Many women experience heavy hair fall during this period, resulting in noticeable hair thinning. The combination of physical stress, emotional adjustment to a new life, and the demands of breastfeeding can all disrupt the natural hair cycle. A lack of essential nutrients—such as Vitamin B, iron, and zinc—further contributes to hair fall. Women who experience considerable blood loss during delivery are especially prone to iron deficiency, a well-known cause of hair thinning. Thyroid imbalances are another major factor affecting hair growth during and after pregnancy.

Nutrition for Healthy Hair

It is essential to follow a diet rich in Omega-3, Vitamins D, C and B12, calcium, iron, and protein. When your body receives adequate nutrition, your hair is more likely to remain healthy. I always recommend obtaining nutrients from natural food sources rather than supplements, unless prescribed by your doctor.

When to Begin Hair Care Treatments

The safest time to begin hair treatments during pregnancy is the second trimester. This is particularly important if you choose to colour your hair—always opt for chemical-free alternatives such as vegetable-based dyes or organic henna.

Gentle hair massages, regular trims, and natural treatments used with proper precautions are generally safe. However, certain treatments should be avoided. Hair straightening, keratin treatments, and some anti-dandruff products often contain strong chemicals that may be harmful when inhaled, posing risks to both the mother and the foetus. Always consult your dermatologist, read product labels carefully, and inform your doctor before undergoing any hair-related procedures.

Choosing Safe Hair Products

Given the complexities of modern cosmetics, identifying safe products can be challenging. It is best to choose items formulated with natural ingredients—plant extracts, botanical blends, essential oils, and herbal formulations free from harsh chemicals.

Pregnant and postpartum women can safely use herbal shampoos, herb-infused hair oils, and gentle conditioners that are free from strong synthetic chemicals.

Hair Care Guidelines During Pregnancy

Hair care during pregnancy should support hormonal well-being and maintain the natural hair cycle. Understanding what to do—and what to avoid—is essential.

What to Avoid

• Avoid dyeing your hair with chemical-based colours, perming, or highlighting. Substances applied to the scalp may be absorbed into the bloodstream.

• Avoid hair treatments containing chemicals such as minoxidil.

• Avoid harsh shampoos and conditioners with strong or harmful chemicals.

• Avoid combing wet hair, as it is more prone to breakage.

Safe Alternatives

• If youwish to get highlights, opt only for colouring the tips, avoiding contact with the scalp.

• Choose natural, herbal, or organic haircare products.

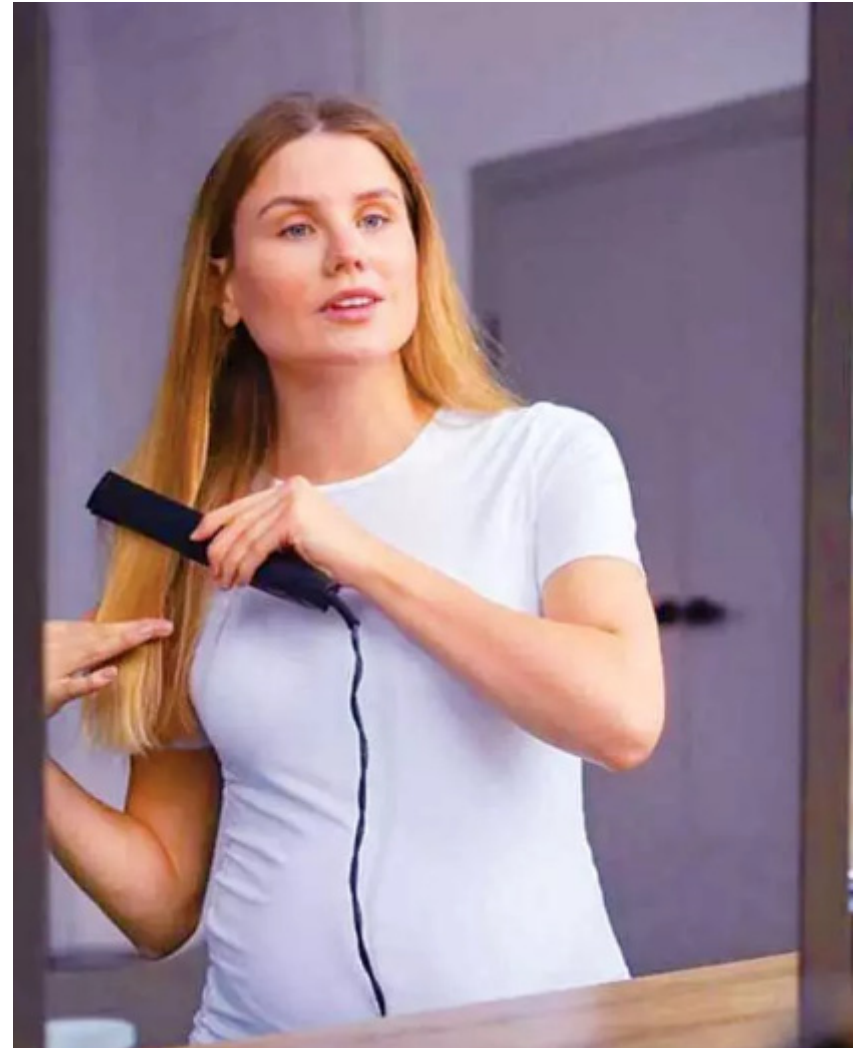• Use gentle, scalp-friendly formulations.

Simple DIY Remedies

• Curry Leaves & Coconut Oil Mask: Boil a handful of curry leaves in coconut oil, allow it to cool, and apply as a hair mask an hour before shampooing. This strengthens hair follicles and adds shine.

• Sesame Oil Blend for Hair Growth: Mix sesame oil with a few drops of lavender or rosemary essential oil to promote thick and healthy hair.

Diet for Strong, Healthy Hair

Healthy hair begins with a balanced diet.

• Include proteins from eggs, tofu, pulses, and cheese.

• Ensure adequate iron through beetroot, legumes, jaggery, dates, and spinach.

• For Vitamin D and calcium, incorporate milk, sesame seeds, ragi, and safe sun exposure.

• Add a variety of nuts and seeds to your daily meals.

• Supplement your diet with Vitamin C from citrus fruits and amla.

Hair Care Tips for Different Hair Types

•Fine Hair:Use volumizing shampoos and conditioners.

•Wavy Hair:Choose anti-frizz products and keep the ends well-hydrated.

•Thick Hair:Moisturizing shampoos and conditioners work best.

•Curly Hair:Opt for deep conditioning treatments and leave-in conditioners.

•Oily Hair:Use scalp-clarifying shampoos to reduce buildup, paired with lightweight conditioners.

India's GCC workforce to almost double to touch 3.46 million by 2030 in AI era

New Delhi: With over 58 per cent Global Capability Centres (GCCs) moving beyond AI pilots, the workforce in this sector in India is projected to reach 3.46 million by 2030, adding 1.3 million new job roles, a report said on Tuesday.

In 2025, nearly 70 per cent of GCCs are already investing in Generative AI (GenAI), while over 60 per cent will set up dedicated AI safety and governance teams by 2026, said technology and digital talent solutions provider, NLB Services.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) governance in India is rapidly institutionalising across the country's GCCs, the report said.

It estimated a significant impact on jobs in 2026 with 11 per cent increase in opportunities, thereby expanding personnel to 2.4 million in the sector.

As much as 75 per cent GCCs aim to embed GenAI in daily operations within the next year, driving efficiency and reconfiguring roles. Around 27 per cent of mid-level and 25 per cent of junior tech roles are being redesigned as AI copilots and automation tools become mainstream."India is at a critical intersection in its GCC 4.0 journey, building a unique and unmatched synergy of scale, skill and talent. Today, GCCs are no longer just exploring AI -- rather, many have or are moving towards deployment," said Sachin Alug, CEO, NLB Services.New roles are emerging across GCCs, including Cybersecurity and AI Governance Architects, Prompt Engineers, GenAI Product Owners and AI Policy and risk. Meanwhile, legacy roles are being phased out as GCCs modernise towards AI-native, product-oriented teams.