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No issue can be resolved through military conflict: PM Modi

New Delhi, March 5: Underlining that India believes in "rule of law, dialogue, and diplomacy", Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday that "no issue can be resolved through military conflict alone" and that New Delhi will continue to support the swift end of conflicts and every effort towards peace, whether it takes place in West Asia or Ukraine.

Modi, who met visiting President of Finland Alexander Stubb on Thursday for bilateral talks, made these comments a day after an Iranian navy ship was downed by a US submarine on Wednesday.

"India and Finland, both, believe in the rule of law, dialogue, and diplomacy. We are in agreement that



no issue can be resolved through military conflict alone. Be it Ukraine or West Asia, we will continue to support the swift end of conflicts and every effort towards peace," Modi said.

He also said that they agree that "reforming global institutions to address the growing global challenges is not only necessary

but also urgent". This was with reference to India's push for reforms at the UN Security Council, and other multilateral institutions. "And rooting out terrorism in all its forms is our shared commitment," Modi said.

Stubb, on his part, said, "Today we discussed security issues in the region. We have conflicts in both

regions, in West Asia and also, of course, in Ukraine. And for us, Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has lasted for too long, four years. We agreed that ending the war is in everyone's interests, a lasting peace can only be one that respects the principles of the United Nations." Earlier on March 3, for the first time

since Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was killed in strikes by Israel and the US, India had referred to the West Asia situation as "conflict in Iran and the Gulf region" and said "many lives have been regrettably lost and we express our grief in that regard".

In New Delhi, Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs, had issued a detailed statement—without naming Khamenei—to make four points: express "deep concern and great anxiety" over the fast-deteriorating situation, impact on Indian nationals in the region along with trade and traffic, express condolences over the deaths due to the strikes, and Delhi's efforts to help those in distress.

Samson blitz and relay catch heroics send India into T20 World Cup final

Mumbai, March 5: Defending champions India moved to the final of the Men's T20 World Cup as their players held their nerves to defeat England by seven runs in an absorbing and close second semifinal at the Wankhede Stadium here on Thursday. Replying to India's 253 for 7, England stopped on 246 for seven, triggering cheers and celebrations at the packed-to-capacity stadium.

England's Jacob Bethell nearly turned the tables with a breathtaking century that threatened a stunning late heist for the visitors, but the co-hosts survived the onslaught to set up a title clash with New Zealand at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Sunday.

The contest produced a staggering 499 runs, but amid the chaos two moments stood tallest — a commanding innings from Sanju Samson and a piece of fielding brilliance involving Axar Patel and Shivam Dube that shifted the match at a crucial juncture. Samson, elegant yet ruthless when



in rhythm, played the innings that gave India control of the contest. His 89 off 42 balls was not merely a display of power; it was an exhibition of timing and placement, the kind that makes strokeplay look deceptively simple. Eight fours and seven sixes flowed from his bat as India surged to 253 for

seven in their 20 overs.

Earlier in the evening, England had won the toss and opted to bowl, hoping the dew would assist their chase later. For a brief moment, the plan seemed sound when Abhishek Sharma fell early. But Samson quickly changed the mood.

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Iran Says Strait Of Hormuz Open For India, Closed For US, Israel & Europe



Tehran, March 5: Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has announced that the Strait of Hormuz will remain closed to vessels belonging to the United States, Israel, Europe and their Western allies. The statement was broadcast on Thursday by Iran's state broadcaster IRIB, amid escalating tensions in the Gulf and mounting uncertainty around one of the world's busiest maritime routes.

According to the IRGC, the decision aligns with Iran's rights under international law during wartime. The force warned that ships linked to the United States, Israel, Europe "and their supporters" entering the waterway would face military action. "We had previously said that, based on international laws and resolutions, in times of war, the Islamic Republic of Iran will have the right to control the passage through the Strait of Hormuz," the IRGC said in remarks carried by IRIB.

In practical terms, the strait has seen commercial traffic come to a standstill since the United States and Israel launched joint military operations against Iran on Saturday. The disruption has already pushed global oil prices sharply higher and triggered concerns about broader economic fallout.

Earlier in the week, Iranian authorities indicated that only vessels flying the Chinese flag would be permitted to pass through the strait. Officials described the move as a gesture of appreciation for Beijing's stance towards Tehran since the conflict in the Middle East escalated.

The move carries significant implications because the Strait of Hormuz serves as the only maritime outlet for ports around the Persian Gulf.

Iran's control of the channel has strained global supply networks, with most ship captains unwilling to risk sailing through the waterway while fighting continues in the Gulf. As a result, companies are being forced to reconsider logistics routes that have long depended on the strait for the movement of oil and gas.

Roughly one-fifth of the world's seaborne oil passes through the Strait of Hormuz, making it a critical artery for global energy supplies. Analysts note that while a blockade would severely affect Gulf exports, it would not disrupt the principal east-west maritime corridors linking Asia and Europe. The Persian Gulf itself is effectively a closed basin bordered by Kuwait, Iraq and Iran.

PM Modi pays tribute to Biju Patnaik on his birth anniversary

New Delhi, March 5 (UNI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday paid tributes to legendary Odisha leader and former Chief Minister Biju Patnaik on his birth anniversary, remembering his contributions to the development and progress of the state. In a message posted on the social media platform X, the Prime Minister recalled Patnaik's commitment to public service and his deep passion for advancing Odisha's growth.



"On his birth anniversary today, I pay tributes to Shri Biju Patnaik Ji and remember his passion towards furthering the progress of Odisha," Modi wrote.

Govt introduces 4 digital tools for census-2027

Over 30 lakh officials to be deployed

New Delhi, March 5: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday soft-launched four digital tools and formally unveiled the mascots "Pragati" (female) and "Vikas" (male) for the upcoming Census-2027.

The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) developed advanced digital platforms to facilitate enumeration operations across India, the Home Ministry said.

"Census-2027, to be conducted in 2 phases, is the world's largest census exercise. For the first time, the Census will be conducted digitally, and for the first time, the option of Self-Enumeration will be available," it said. The mascots "Pragati" and "Vi-



kas" are intended to serve as friendly, relatable faces of Census-2027, symbolising the equal participation of women and men in fulfilling the resolve to make India a developed nation by 2047. Through these mascots, information, objectives, and key messages related to Census-2027 will be disseminated in a citizen-friendly manner across

diverse sections of society, the ministry said.

Along with the mascots, the Home Minister also soft-launched four digital tools developed by the C-DAC to support enumeration operations across the country. One of the key platforms is the Houselisting Block Creator web application, which allows officials to digitally create

houselisting blocks using satellite imagery. This tool will help ensure proper geographic coverage and improve the accuracy of mapping for the census process. Another important tool is the HLO mobile application, a secure offline app that will be used by enumerators to collect houselisting data directly from households.

LoP Rahul Gandhi flags threat to India's oil supply amid West Asia tensions

New Delhi, March 5: Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Thursday voiced concern over the escalating tensions in West Asia and their potential impact on India, saying the country's energy security is at risk and calling for decisive leadership in the face of global uncertainty. In a post on X, LoP Gandhi said the world has entered a "volatile phase" and cautioned that "stormy seas lie ahead".

Highlighting India's dependence on energy imports, he noted that more than 40 per cent of the country's oil supplies transit through the Strait of Hormuz, making them vul-



nerable amid rising hostilities in the region. He added that the situation is even more precarious for LPG and LNG supplies.

"The conflict has reached our backyard, with an Iranian warship sunk in the Indian Ocean. Yet the Prime Minister has said nothing,"

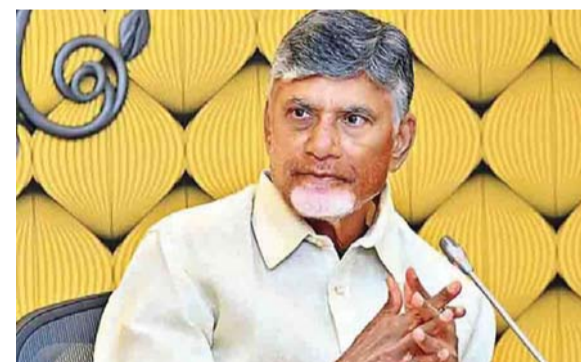
Gandhi said in his post.

He stressed that at such a critical juncture, India requires "a steady hand at the wheel" to navigate geopolitical and economic challenges. In a sharp attack on PM Narendra Modi, Gandhi alleged that the country has a "compromised PM who

has surrendered our strategic autonomy", asserting that strong and independent foreign policy leadership is essential to safeguard national interests.

The remarks come amid escalating tensions after the Iranian frigate IRIS Dena — which had recently participated in the Milan naval exercise in India — was sunk in the Indian Ocean in a US strike. Iran has condemned the attack as an "atrocious act at sea," while Washington has acknowledged responsibility. The incident has heightened concerns over security in critical maritime corridors, including routes vital for India's oil and gas supplies.

AP CM proposes Rs 25,000 incentive for third child birth



Vijayawada, Mar 5: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has announced that his government proposes to sanction an incentive of Rs 25,000 under 'Poshana-Siksha-Suraksha' package to encourage third child births as part of its path breaking population management policy to be introduced from April 1.

Speaking in the state legislative assembly on Thursday after presenting the draft proposals, the Chief Minister said the policy package includes grant of Rs1,000 per month to the third child for five years and free education upto 18 years. The population management policy to be finalised by March end, would be the first of its kind in the country, he said.

The Chief Minister recalled that the state government provided an opportunity to those having more than two children to contest the local body elections. The government also provided financial assistance under 'Talliki Vandanam' scheme irrespective of the number of children, to encourage population growth. Expressing serious concern over falling total ferti-

lity rate in Andhra Pradesh from 3.0 in 1993 to 1.5 at present, the Chief Minister noted that this drop posed a threat to economic growth with decline in number of young working people and the State would face ageing problem like in Japan, South Korea and Italy.

The Chief Minister said that government would give top priority for population care from now onwards and the draft policy was placed before the assembly session. He noted that as per 2023 reports, 6.70 lakh births were reported per year. If the same situation continues by 2047, the ratio of aged people would increase up to 23 per cent, he said adding, women workforce participation which stands at 31 per cent should be increased to 59 per cent to achieve 15 per cent Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). "Under the population management policy, the government is planning to introduce five stage life cycle system including Maturva, Sakthi, Naipunyam, Kshema and Sanjeevani and will provide facilities to women by setting up Maturva Centre of Excellence to render IVF services," he revealed.

District Administration Gears Up for 99-Day Development Drive from March 6

Indian Chronicle (Taj Khan), March 5: District Collector K. Haritha directed officials to ensure the effective and systematic implementation of the "Prajapalana-Pragathi Pranalika" 99-day programme across the district.

On Thursday, the Collector conducted a review meeting through Zoom with district-level officials of various departments, Mandal Parishad Development Officers (MPDOs) and Municipal Commissioners regarding the special action plan for the 99-day initiative. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector instructed officials to prepare a comprehensive action plan for activities to be carried out at the grassroots level from March 6 to June 12 under the supervision of various departments.

She stated that the 99-day programme will focus on ten key areas. From March 6 to March 15, sanitation activities should be



The Collector said the programme will include activities from village to district level focusing on:

- Cleanliness and sanitation of surroundings
- Clearance of pending files in government offices
- Health awareness
- Road safety under the "Arrive Alive" campaign
- Welfare programmes
- Child safety
- Prevention of drug abuse
- Farmer welfare and agriculture
- Education, youth and sports development
- Women's welfare and environmental protection

undertaken in villages and municipalities as part of government initiatives. She also directed officials to take up a special drive for the clearance of pending

files. The Collector further instructed that International Women's Day on March 8 should be celebrated in a grand manner as part of the programme. She empha-

sized that the success of the initiative requires the active participation of Sarpanches, Ward Members, Municipal Councillors, Chairpersons, MLAs and MLCs. With their cooperation, the 99-day programme should be conducted effectively across the district. She urged officials to work in coordination and ensure the successful implementation of the Prajapalana-Pragathi Pranalika 99-day programme throughout the district. Additional Collector (Revenue) M. David, officials from various departments, MPDOs and Municipal Commissioners participated in the meeting.

District-Level Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament Competitions at Little Flower Degree College, Uppal

KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, March 5 (Indian Chronicle): A district-level Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament program was organized on March 5, 2026, at Little Flower Degree College, Uppal. The event was jointly conducted by the College NSS Unit and Mera Yuva Bharat, Ranga Reddy District. A total of 200 students registered for the competition, out of which 120 students actively participated in the discussions.



Dr. Ch. Venkateswarlu, NSS Program Coordinator, attended the program as the Chief Guest. B. Harsha Vardhan, National Handball Play-

er and Youth Parliament Representative, participated as the Guest of Honour. The program was also attended by

College Director Rev. Brother John Kallarackal, Principal P. Jayanthi Reddy, and Dr. M. Prashanth (NSS Program Officer). The jury members included Professor Krishna Kumar M., Dr. C. Mallesh, Dr. G. Anjaneyulu, Isayya, and Dr. Ch. Venkateswarlu, who evaluated the speeches delivered by the students. At the end of the program, five students who showed outstanding performance were selected for the State-Level Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament competition.

Congress, BRS Parties Completely Failed to Address Public Issues – Former Uppal MLA N.V.S.S. Prabhakar

Emergency Meeting Held in Ramanthapur Under the Leadership of Former MLA N.V.S.S. Prabhakar

KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, March 5 (Indian Chronicle): Former Uppal MLA N.V.S.S. Prabhakar alleged that the leaders of the Congress and BRS parties in the Uppal constituency have completely failed to address the problems of the people and have not fulfilled even a single promise made to the public. On Thursday, Prabhakar convened an emergency meeting in Ramanthapur. Speaking on the occasion, he said that former corporators of the BRS and Congress parties had deceived the people by making false promises and failing to deliver on



them. He criticized officials as well, stating that they are neglecting public issues and only supporting whichever government is in power instead of serving the people responsibly. He said the authorities are ignoring the problems faced by the public. Prabhakar pointed out

that roads, drainage systems, and other basic infrastructure are in poor condition across the constituency, and no proper attention is being given to these issues. Due to this negligence, people are becoming increasingly concerned and dissatisfied. He further stated that peo-

ple are now losing trust in both the Congress and BRS parties. He said the BJP is a responsible party that works to address public needs, and as a leader who is always accessible to the people, he organized this emergency meeting to understand and discuss public issues. For-

Priority to Welfare of Persons with Disabilities: Additional Collector David

Indian Chronicle (Taj Khan), March 5: Special Measures Planned to Protect Rights of Persons with Disabilities The district administration will take special measures to protect the constitutional rights of persons with disabilities, said Additional Collector (Revenue) M. David.

He was speaking at a review meeting with members of the District Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, organized by the Department of Women, Child and Disabled Welfare at the Collectorate on Wednesday.

On the occasion, he stated that the administration is committed to providing all necessary facilities for



the welfare of persons with disabilities. He directed officials to ensure the provision of drinking water, shaded waiting areas and separate toilets at Cheyutha pension distribution centres to facilitate persons with disabilities.

He also instructed that wheelchairs, helpers and drinking water facilities be made available at SADAREM camps to assist beneficia-

ries. The Additional Collector clarified that steps will be taken to ensure that eligible persons with disabilities receive benefits under government welfare schemes as per the prescribed reservation norms. He also warned that strict legal action will be taken against those who behave inappropriately or discriminate against persons with disabilities. He further stated that meetings will be

conducted in every mandal to identify the issues faced by persons with disabilities and resolve them promptly. District Welfare Officer Bhaskar, District Rural Development Officer Dattarao, officials from the education, medical and welfare departments, and members of the Disabled Rights Committee including Islam Bin Ahmed, Venkatesh and Ravi Shankar, participated in the meeting.

Congratulations to Congress RS Candidate Vem Narender Reddy: Uppal Constituency Congress In-charge Parameshwar Reddy



KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, March 5 (Indian Chronicle): Uppal Constituency Congress Party In-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy expressed happiness over the selection of senior Congress leader and Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's advisor Vem Narender Reddy as the Rajya Sabha candidate from

the Congress Party. On this occasion, Uppal and Medchal Assembly constituency in-charges Parameshwar Reddy and Thotakura Vajresh Yadav, along with former TPCC General Secretary Narsa Reddy Bhoopathi Reddy, met Vem Narender Reddy on Thursday, felicitated him and conveyed their heartfelt congratulations.

Distribution of Exam Pads to 10th Class Students Under the Leadership of BRS Leader and Sahaya Foundation Founder Akula Mahender



KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, March 5 (Indian Chronicle): As per the instructions of Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy, a program to distribute exam pads to 10th class students was organized on Thursday at Chaitanya Bharathi School in Ganesh Nagar, Uppal, under the leadership of BRS leader and Sahaya Foundation Founder Akula Mahender. Speaking on the occasion, Akula Mahender encouraged

the students to study hard, achieve good results, and bring pride to their parents, teachers, and the constituency. He assured that they would always extend their support for the development of education. He also recalled that under the leadership of Bandari Lakshma Reddy, the MLA had earned recognition by providing fee assistance to students who secured MBBS ranks through the "Rank Mee-dhi Fee Naadhi" concept.

Cheques Distributed to MBBS Students by Minister Sridhar Babu

Under the Leadership of Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy



KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, March 5 (Indian Chronicle): Cheques were distributed to MBBS students from the Uppal constituency by IT, Industries and Legislative Affairs Minister Duddu Sridhar Babu, under the leadership of Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy, to support their medical education fees. A total of 8 MBBS students received cheques towards their medical education expenses. Speaking on

the occasion, Minister Sridhar Babu said that providing financial assistance to MBBS students through the BLR Charitable Trust is truly commendable. On this occasion, BRS State Leader Gandham Nageswar Rao, Kapra Division TRS Party President Bhairi Naveen Goud, Cherlapally Division Party President Nemuri Mahesh Goud, along with party leaders and activists, participated in the program.

Public Issues First, Development Next: Aakarapu Arun Patel

KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, March 5 (Indian Chronicle): During the earlier "Basti Bata" program conducted in the Venkat Reddy Nagar Division, Uppal Constituency Youth Congress President Aakarapu Arun Patel, along with Venkat Reddy Nagar leaders and officials, visited the area. During the visit, local residents brought to his notice the poor condition of the roads in their locality. Responding immediately to the concerns of the people, Arun Patel, with the support of Uppal Constituency in-charge Mandamula Parameshwar Reddy, took special initiative and ensured the sanctioning of the road works.

Arun personally inaugurated the road construction works in several areas of Venkat Reddy Nagar Colony, including the Government Hospital Line and the stretch from



Anjaiah Shop to Chari Hospital.

Fulfilling his promise and addressing the issue promptly, the colony residents expressed special gratitude to Parameshwar Reddy and Arun Patel for their commitment and dedication towards the development of the division.

Collector Chitra Mishra calls for effective implementation of 'Praja Palana-Pragathi Pranalika', reviews preparations for 99-day programme

Khaja Sikander Mohiuddin Staff Reporter, Indian Chronicle Karimnagar, Mar 05: District Collector Chitra Mishra on Thursday directed officials of various departments to ensure the successful implementation of the "Praja Palana-Pragathi Pranalika" programme, scheduled to be conducted in the district for 99 days from March 6 to June 12.

Reviewing the arrangements with officials at the Collectorate, Ms. Mishra said the programme, initiated by the State government, would be implemented in five phases and instructed departments to prepare action plans for foundation stone-laying ceremonies and inaugurations of development works taken up by the government.

She informed that Gram Sabhas would be held at the village level on April 2, followed by meetings at the mandal level on April 16,



constituency level on May 2, and district level on May 22. Officials were asked to explain the benefits being provided by the State government and details of various welfare schemes to the public during these meetings. The Collector also reviewed the 10-week special action plan prepared by different departments and offered several suggestions for effective implementation.

Ms. Mishra said the Planning Department would function as the nodal agency for the programme, which will focus on ten key themes including environ-

mental cleanliness from village to State level, clearance of pending files in government offices, health, the "Arrive Alive" road safety initiative, welfare measures, child safety and eradication of narcotic substances, farmers' welfare and agriculture, education, youth and sports, and women and environment. Additional Collectors Ashwini Tanaji Wakade and Lakshmi Kiran, RDO Maheshwar, Municipal Commissioner Praful Desai, Chief Planning Officer Ram Dattareddy, ZP CEO Srinivas and other district officials were present.

Congratulations to Vem Narendra Reddy by Ramanthapur Division President Mohammed Rafiq

KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, March 5 (Indian Chronicle): Ramanthapur Division Congress Party President Mohammed Rafiq and TPCC representative Mohammed Tofiq congratulated Congress Party Rajya Sabha candidate Vem Narendra Reddy. They met him at Nova Hotel in Shamshabad, felicitated him, and conveyed their best wishes. Speaking on the occasion, Vem Narendra Reddy said that the Congress Party recognizes everyone who works hard for the party. He advised party workers to strengthen the party from the village level to the state level and work until the Congress welfare



schemes reach the people. Minority leader Nayeem, Kumar, Raju and others participated in the program.

Dr. Guggilla Divyamurthy Appointed as Khammam District Publicity Secretary of The Buddhist Society of India

Arvapalli Nagesh Khammam Staff Reporter March 5 (Indian Chronicle): Eminent scholar Dr. Guggilla Divyamurthy, a native of Kothakothuru village in Nelakondapalli mandal of Khammam district, has recently been appointed as the District Publicity Secretary of The Buddhist Society of India, Khammam District. He received the appointment letter from Khammam District President Asaf Ali Lama of The Buddhist Society of India during a program held in Khammam. On this occasion, the district president honored Dr. Divyamurthy with a shawl in recognition of his contributions. Members of The Buddhist Society of India stated that Dr. Guggilla Divyamurthy has extensive knowledge about the history of Gautama Buddha and Buddhist stupas, which makes him well suited for the position. They also informed that his tenure will continue



until December 28, 2027. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Divyamurthy expressed happiness over receiving the position and said he was honored by the recognition. He also mentioned that he has been felicitated on 122 different platforms so far.

Among those who participated in the event were:

Kattekol Venkateswarlu, Vice President of The Buddhist Society of India, Khammam District
Boddu Baburao, recipient of the National Award for Best Social Service
Gadde Venkataramaiah, Khammam Town President of the Dr. Guggilla Divyamurthy Fans Association.

"Sports contribute to mental well-being Jagtial Town CI Karunakar.

Jagtial Staff Reporter, March 5 (Indian Chronicle): The students' sports meet was held grandly at Sury Global School in Jagtial town. Jagtial Representative, March 5 (Telugu Prabha): Jagtial Town CI Karunakar said that sports contribute to mental well-being and physical strength. The sports meet, titled 'Champions Challenge', was held at Sury Global School in Jagtial district headquarters. On this occasion, students participated enthusiastically in various sports competitions and showcased their talent. Speaking as the chief



guest, CI Karunakar said that if students acquire proficiency in a sport along with their studies from a young age, they have the opportunity to achieve success at the state and national levels. CI wished students to excel

in sports with discipline and perseverance. Traffic SI Mallesham, local Sarpanch Dava Thirupathi, school directors Sridhar Rao, Haricharan Rao, Maunika Rao, and Haricharan participated in the event."

Late former MLA Sayanna Birthday Celebrations



Secunderabad Cantonment. March. 5 (Indian Chronicle): Cantonment constituency Late former MLA Sayanna Birthday Celebrations were held on Thursday at Jayanagar BRS Party Office in Bowenpally by party workers. Former

Board Vice President Jakkula Maheshwar Reddy and former Board Member Pandu Yadav attended the program and garlanded Sayanna's portrait. Speaking on the occasion, Maheshwar Reddy said that Sayanna's services to the

people of the Cantonment area are unforgettable. He reminded that the Cantonment area has developed a lot during Sayanna's tenure. Sridhar, Vijay, Suresh, Madhu Raju, Jaihind Anil and others participated in the program.

Joyful Farewell to 10th Class Students

Arvapalli Nagesh Khammam Staff Reporter March 5, (Indian Chronicle): Additional DCP (AR) Kumaraswamy said that every student should aim to achieve great heights through quality education.

A farewell program for the 10th class students was organized grandly with great enthusiasm under the leadership of School Chairperson Mrs. Nishita Sharma at Sri Krishna Prasad Memorial High School.

Speaking on the occasion, Additional DCP (AR) Kumaraswamy advised students to follow proper plans and strategies to achieve 100% pass results in the 10th class examinations. He said that the SSC results play an important role in shaping a student's future and serve as an indicator of their overall development. He emphasized that concentration is



essential to achieve goals and encouraged students to study with dedication and bring pride to their school, teachers, and parents. Prizes were distributed to the winners of the sports competitions recently conducted for SSC students. Students appearing for the 10th class examinations were also provided with exam pads and geometry boxes.

Later, lunch was arranged for the students. The school students impressed everyone by wearing traditional attire and performing cultural dances and folk art forms.

Additional DCP (AR) personally served food to the students. AR ACP Narasayya, RI Kamaraju, School Principal Srinivas Raju, and teachers participated in the program.

Uppal Constituency Congress Party In-charge Parameshwar Reddy Participates in Iftar Dinner



KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, March 5 (Indian Chronicle): Uppal Constituency Congress Party In-charge Mandamula Parameshwar Reddy participated in an Iftar dinner along with Muslim

brothers. The event was organized by Congress leader Ala Basha at the Qutub Shahi Pedda Masjid in Uppal. On this occasion, Parameshwar Reddy extended Ramadan greetings to the Muslim

community and appreciated Ala Basha for organizing the Iftar dinner for those observing the fast, describing it as a noble service. He stated that religious harmony and unity are the strength of so-

ciety. Among those who attended the program were Aju, Khaja Maulana, Nagoor Basha, Mallikarjun, Anwar Pasha, Afzal Pasha, Eega Anjaiah, Tummala Devi Reddy, Manda Murali Krishna Red-

dy, Mohan Naik, Shekhar, Basha Basha, Khader Basha, members of the Qutub Shahi Uppal Pedda Masjid Committee, Muslim brothers, and local residents who participated in the Iftar dinner.

Late former MLA Sayanna Birthday Celebrations



Key highlights:

- Special puja was performed for the deity, attended by many Suhasinis.
- Lalita Sahasra Nama Parayana and Shiva-Parvati Kalyana are scheduled.
- The celebrations are being conducted under the guidance of Sri Man Nambi Venugopal Charya and Vishu Sharma. - Several dignitaries participated, including Uturi Kalyani, Pampatti Sulochana, Uturi Archana, Adhi Vanja, katkam Rama, Peddhi Ashwini, Shirisha, Swapna, Mahendar, Saththayya, and others.

Secunderabad Cantonment. March. 5 (Indian Chronicle): Cantonment constituency Late former MLA Sayanna Birthday Celebrations were held on Thursday at Jayanagar BRS Party Office in Bowenpally by party workers. Former

Board Vice President Jakkula Maheshwar Reddy and former Board Member Pandu Yadav attended the program and garlanded Sayanna's portrait. Speaking on the occasion, Maheshwar Reddy said that Sayanna's services to the

people of the Cantonment area are unforgettable. He reminded that the Cantonment area has developed a lot during Sayanna's tenure. Sridhar, Vijay, Suresh, Madhu Raju, Jaihind Anil and others participated in the program.

Special Sanitation Drive from March 6 to 15: District Collector Anudeep Durishetty, Workshop for Sarpanches and Councillors on March 12

Arvapalli Nagesh Khammam Staff Reporter March 5, (Indian Chronicle): District Collector Anudeep Durishetty has directed officials to clear all pending files in government offices within 10 days and implement the "Praja Palana - Pragathi Pranalika" 99-day special action plan from March 6 to June 12. On Thursday, the District Collector reviewed the implementation of the 99-day action plan with district officials. Speaking on the occasion, Collector Anudeep Durishetty said the government is launching the prestigious Praja Palana - Pragathi Pranalika special programme for 99 days from March 6 to June 12. He informed that a preparatory meeting will be held on March 6 at 10 a.m. under the leadership of the District In-charge Minister and other ministers.

The Collector instructed officials to give priority to sanitation activities and file clearance from March 6 to March 15. He said special sanitation drives should be conducted not only in villages and towns but also



in all government offices. Old and unused furniture should be removed, and surprise inspections will be conducted to monitor cleanliness. He also directed that all pending files in government offices must be cleared within 10 days. Officials of the Panchayati Raj and Municipal departments were instructed to carry out a 10-day intensive sanitation drive. DPOs, MPOs, Panchayat Secretaries, and Municipal Commissioners should conduct field inspections every morning and ensure that no garbage is left on roads. Public representatives such as ward members, sarpanches, municipal chairpersons, and mayors should be actively involved in the sanitation

drive. The Collector stressed that sanitation in public places should be given top priority and appropriate measures should be taken.

He further announced that a district-level workshop for sarpanches and municipal councillors will be organized on March 12, and officials should ensure full participation.

Collector Anudeep Durishetty also instructed local Assistant Engineers to ensure that 10,000 Indiramma houses in Khammam district are ready for house-warming by the end of the 99-day action plan. He directed officials to complete all arrangements for the preparatory meeting to be held under the leadership of the District In-charge Minister. SDC M. Rajeswari, District Chief Planning Officer A. Srinivas, District Panchayat Officer Rambabu, District Education Officer Chaitanya Jain, District Medical and Health Officer Dr. Rama Rao, Municipal Commissioners, and other district officials attended the meeting.

Telangana to see heavy rains, hailstorms after March 18

Hyderabad: Telangana will witness intense thunderstorms, accompanied by hailstorms, after March 18, according to a forecast by local weather enthusiast T Balaji. Dry weather will prevail till March 17, with temperatures hovering around 36 to 37 degrees Celsius in Hyder-

abad and 39 to 41 degrees Celsius in east Telangana. Districts of Hanumakonda, Jagtial, Jangaon, Karimnagar, Mahabubabad, Nalgonda, Rajanna Sircilla, Siddipet, Suryapet, Warangal and Yadadri Bhuvanagiri will experience temperatures less than 36 degrees Celsius

for the next two days, after which temperatures will rise to 36-40 degrees Celsius till March 9. Meanwhile, all other districts will experience temperatures between 36 and 40 degrees Celsius till March 9, the Indian Meteorological Department, Hyderabad, forecasted.

Grand Farewell Celebrations Held at Triveni School



Arvapalli Nagesh Khammam Staff Reporter March 5, (Indian Chronicle): A grand farewell program was organized for the Class 10 students by the management of Triveni School in Khammam. The event was held at Haritha Gardens in the town with great enthusiasm.

Neuropsychiatrist Dr. Divya Reddy attended the program as the chief guest and offered several suggestions to students regarding their upcoming examinations. She advised them to write their exams with confidence and without fear. She also encouraged students to stay away from social media and work hard to achieve their goals. Speaking on the occasion, Triveni Director Gollapudi Veerendra Chowdary said that for the past 22 years Triveni School in Kham-

mam has secured several state-level ranks in the Class 10 examinations. He stated that these achievements were possible due to the unique Triveni curriculum, the dedicated efforts of experienced teachers, and proper planning. He encouraged students to achieve even better ranks in the future.

School Principal Rajendra Prasad said that Triveni students are known as rankers and individuals with strong values. He added that in the Class 10 results, the school competes with its own previous achievements. Class 10 students also shared their experiences and memories during the event. Vice Principal Mustafa, teachers Swapna and Nayeem, Class 10 In-charge Sridhar, other teachers, and students participated in the program.

State govt has given priority to education, students should set high goals and move forward: District Collector Anurag Jayanti



(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle... March 5):- District Collector Anurag Jayanti said that the state government has given priority to education, students should set high goals and work continuously to achieve them. On Thursday, the Collector visited the SC Girls Residential School in Aleru Mandal Center.

He asked the concerned principal how many students were studying in the school, how many students were in intermediate. He asked how many teachers were there, whether they all stayed here or were com-

ing and going. He checked whether the food was cooked according to the menu today. He asked the students whether the food was being served tasty according to the menu of the day. The Collector tasted the lunch and had lunch with the students. He inspected the rice, vegetables and cooking supplies in the store room. He checked whether the vegetables and eggs were fresh or not. He advised the concerned officials to check the quality of the RO water filter regularly. Principal Venkatamma, teachers and staff participated in this program.

Aim for 100% Pass in Class 10 Annual Exams: District Collector Anudeep Durishetty



Arvapalli Nagesh Khammam Staff Reporter March 5, (Indian Chronicle): District Collector Anudeep Durishetty advised students to aim for 100 percent pass results in the Class 10 annual examinations and encouraged them to attend the exams without fear or pressure. He said that working hard and achieving a high position in life is the greatest gift students can give to their parents.

On Thursday, the Collector conducted a surprise inspection at the Telangana Social Welfare Residential School (Girls) located at Kodad Cross Road in Khammam Rural Mandal. During the visit, he inspected classrooms, the campus

surroundings, and the availability of basic facilities. He also checked the cleanliness of the kitchen, the quality of food, storage methods, and examined the stock of rice, pulses, vegetables, eggs, and other essential items in the storeroom. The Collector carefully verified the records and inspected the meals prepared according to the common menu for students. The Collector interacted directly with the students and asked about the facilities available in the school and the functioning of the mess committee. He advised that mess committee meetings should be conducted regularly and directed officials to pay special attention to

students' health, safety, and hygiene. He also instructed authorities to provide quality and nutritious food as per the prescribed menu. Later, he visited the Class 10 classroom and interacted with the students, motivating them to prepare for the examinations calmly and confidently without fear or stress. Speaking on the occasion, Collector Anudeep Durishetty said that students should focus on their studies and make good use of the remaining time, as only nine days are left for the examinations. He emphasized that how attentively students study is more important than how many hours they spend studying.

He advised students to

take the support of teachers, prepare thoroughly, and write their exams with confidence. The Collector suggested that students should attempt as many pre-final tests as possible before the main examinations, as writing more practice exams will help them face the final exams without stress. He added that students tend to remember better what they write than what they only read.

To reduce stress, he suggested that students practice breathing exercises and yoga regularly. During the examination period, students should not stay awake late at night and must ensure at least 7 to 8 hours of proper sleep every day. He also ad-

vised them to avoid outside food, limit unnecessary outings, drink sufficient water, and maintain good health so that they can concentrate on their studies.

The Collector said that students who attend exams with confidence in their preparation will achieve good results. As the Class 10 examinations will continue for about a month, he urged students to prepare with concentration to achieve better results. District Child Development Officer Jyothi, Principal K. Srilatha, Vice Principal D. Sandhyarani, teachers CH. Ellishwari, G. Sandhyarani, K. Vijayalakshmi, officials, and others participated in the program.

"Officials in AC Room Poor Left Like Orphans": BJP Leaders Criticize Evictions in Khammam



Arvapalli Nagesh Khammam Staff Reporter March 5, (Indian Chronicle): BJP State Treasurer Devaki Vasudeva Rao and District President Nelluri Koteswara Rao strongly criticized the government, alleging that poor families were forcibly evicted and left without basic facilities.

Addressing the media at Ambedkar Bhavan in Khammam on Thursday, the BJP leaders expressed concern that the poor were driven out without compassion and left like orphans in a place lacking basic amenities. They warned that while officials and leaders sit comfortably in air-conditioned rooms,

the suffering of homeless poor people will not go unnoticed. During the press meet, the leaders sharply criticized what they called the failures of the Congress government and accused officials of showing a double standard by supporting influential individuals. Allegations of Real Estate Mafia Behind Demolitions The BJP leaders alleged that the demolition of houses belonging to poor families was carried out to benefit the real estate mafia. They stated that authorities had ignored the poor who had been living in the area for nearly ten years, but suddenly carried out midnight demolition drives

with hundreds of police personnel and JCB machines.

According to them, the land value in the area has increased to hundreds of crores due to its proximity to the new Collectorate. They alleged that bulldozers were sent to demolish the houses of the poor only to benefit wealthy real estate interests.

The leaders further criticized the authorities for allegedly giving advance notices to owners of illegal buildings and farmhouses belonging to influential individuals, allowing them time to approach courts and obtain stay orders, while the poor were not given the same opportunity.

Develop professional skills among the youth and achieve development:- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Anurag Jayanti

(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle... March 5):- District Collector Anurag Jayanti said that in order to develop professional skills among the youth, the youth will get good job opportunities only when they develop technical skills. On Thursday, the District Collector made a surprise inspection of the Advanced Technology Center in Aleru mandal. He asked the principal about the various courses offered at the ATC. The Collector inquired about the training methods with the students as well as the trainers. While speaking, the Collector asked the principal how many students are there in this center. He asked if everyone is coming regularly. He also asked if internship



is provided to the students after completing the training here. The training provided to students on courses like Manufacturing Process Control, Automation, Industrial Robotics, Digital Manufacturing Technician, Advanced CSC Missioning Technician, etc. at the center was thoroughly inspected. Later, the Aleru ITI was inspected. They asked what courses

are being taught here. Talking to the students, the Collector said that if they have modern technical skills and are creative with new ideas, they can reach great heights. Principal Harikrishna, Municipal Commissioner Srinivas Reddy, Mandal Tahsildar Anjaneyulu, MPDO Satyanjaneya Prasad and concerned officials participated in the program.

Intermediate exams should be conducted in a peaceful atmosphere:- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Anurag Jayanthi



(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle... March 5):- Intermediate exams should be conducted in a peaceful atmosphere, District Collector Anurag Jayanthi said. On Thursday, the Collector made a surprise inspection of the examination center where the first year of Intermediate is being held at the Government Junior College in Aleru mandal center. He closely observed the manner in which the

students were writing the exams. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that the Intermediate exams in the district should be conducted in a disciplined and transparent manner. He inspected the facilities set up at the examination centers. He inquired about the attendance details, the functioning of the CCTV cameras, drinking water and medical facilities. He also suggested that special attention should be paid to

the security arrangements at the examination centers. He said that students should write the exams in a peaceful atmosphere. He ordered to take strict measures to prevent malpractice. He said that strong security measures should be taken for the transportation of answer sheets. He wanted to ensure that the students do not face any problems until the exams are completed. Staff and others participated in this program.



(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle... March 5):- Bhuvanagiri Municipal Chairman Tangallapalli Srivani Ravikumar, Bhuvanagiri Block Congress President Rikula Venkatesham, Councilor Polishetty Anil Kumar, Mandal leaders Ramesh and others attended the wedding ceremony of Surya Vikramaditya, son of Telangana State Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka.

ACB Raids at GHMC Office in Secunderabad

Indian Chronicle, Secunderabad, March 5: Officials of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) are continuing their crackdown on corrupt government employees. In the latest incident, an Audit Officer named Santosh, working at the GHMC Zonal Office in Secunderabad, was caught red-handed while accepting a bribe of 35,000.

According to officials, a retired employee, Anjaneyulu, had been visiting the office for the past six months seeking clearance of his retirement benefits. The file related to his benefits, amounting to approximately 28 lakh, was reportedly pending with Audit Officer Santosh. It is alleged that the officer deliberately delayed signing the file and repeatedly demanded a bribe from the complainant.

Frustrated with the delay, Anjaneyulu directly asked the officer what was required to clear the file. Santosh initially demanded 40,000 but later agreed to accept 35,000. With no other option, the retired employee approached the Anti-Corruption Bureau and lodged a complaint.

Acting on the complaint,

Audit Officer Santosh Caught Red-Handed Accepting 35,000 Bribe



ACB officials laid a trap and caught Santosh red-handed while he was accepting the bribe from the complainant at the GHMC Zonal Office in Secunderabad on Thursday. ACB official Sridhar stated that the operation was conducted as part of a planned trap following the complaint. He also urged the public to report any instances of bribery by contacting the Anti-Corruption Bureau directly or by calling the toll-free number 1064.

SFI Organizes District-Level Talent Test for Class 10 Students in Khammam

Arvapalli Nagesh Khammam Staff Reporter March 5, (Indian Chronicle): The Students' Federation of India (SFI) organized a district-level talent test for Class 10 students in Khammam city.

The test was conducted for top-performing students selected from various mandals across the district. From each mandal, five toppers were chosen and invited to participate in the district-level talent test held at Manchikanti Bhavan



in Khammam city. Assistant Professor Sarampalli Rambabu from SR & BGNR College and Two Town SIVenkatesh attended the program as chief guests.

Speaking on the occasion, the guests encouraged students to focus on

their studies and aim for academic excellence. They appreciated the efforts of SFI in organizing such programs that help identify and encourage talented students. SFI District President Raju and District Secretary Praveen, District Vice President Venkatesh,

Khammam Division President Trinath, District Committee members Sindhu and Sushanth, along with city leaders Lokesh, Lohith Kumar, Shyam, Jani Pasha, Jani Ashok, Sai, Harika, Keerthana, Navya, and Poojitha, participated in the program.

Government's 99-day plan.. Review meeting on environmental cleanliness.. clearance from 06 to 15 of this month:- Bhuvanagiri Municipal Chairperson Tangallapalli Srivani Ravikumar

(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle... March 5):- As per the orders of the Telangana State Government, as part of the 99-day plan, a review meeting was organized in the office of Chairperson Tangallapalli Srivani Ravikumar to commemorate the public administration progress plan program to be organized on environmental cleanliness and files clearance from 06 to 15 of this



month for the MAUD department and instructions were given to the concerned officials about

the work to be done. Vice Chairperson Pothamsetty Manjula Venkateswarlu, Municipal Commissioner

G. Ramalingam, heads of various departments, staff and others participated in this program.

Appointment of Banoath Ravinder Naik as Zonal Coordinator at Telangana State EC Meeting



Nacharam, Indian Chronicle, March 5: Telangana State EC Meeting held under the leadership of National President Mayawati, and as per the directions of Central Coordinators Attar Singh and Suresh Arya, State President Ibrahim Shekhar appointed District Working President Banoath Ravinder Naik as the Zonal Coordinator.

On this occasion, party leaders and members congratulated him and honored him with a shawl for his continuous dedication towards achieving Bahujan political empowerment. They appreciated his commitment in carrying out the responsibilities assigned by the party, working collectively with everyone, and contributing his time, talent, and treasure for the growth of the party while steadily rising step by step within the organization.

Speaking on the occasion, Banoath Ravinder Naik said

that if BCs, SCs, STs, and Minority communities unite, they can easily achieve political power. He emphasized the need to end the dominance of Manuvadi parties and stated that the only alternative for Bahujan empowerment is the Bahujan Samaj Party. District In-charges Goud Sudarshan and Raagiri Gnanesh, District Vice President Erravelli Mallesh, District General Secretary Sukra Dayanand, District Treasurer Koppu Rajayya, District BVF Convener Vijay, Office Secretary Ramakant, Medchal Assembly In-charge Mallepogu V. Jayaraj, Uppal Assembly In-charge Konda Apparao, Uppal Assembly President Mindrala Narasimha Rao, Kukatpally Assembly In-charge Jeripothula Venkat Swamy, Gyara Govardhan, along with assembly, mandal, sector, and booth-level leaders participated in the program.

Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy Inspects Redevelopment Works at Hyderabad (Nampally) Railway Station



Indian chronicle, Secunderabad, March 5: Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy inspected the progress of redevelopment works at Hyderabad (Nampally) Railway Station on Thursday, March 5, 2026.

He was accompanied by South Central Railway (SCR) General Manager Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, Secunderabad Division Divisional Railway Manager Dr. R. Gopalakrishnan, SCR Chief Administrative Officer (RSP) Sandeep Jain, SCR Chief Public Relations Officer A. Sridhar, and other senior railway officials.

During the visit, the Union Minister toured various construction areas at the station and reviewed the progress of the ongoing

redevelopment works. He inspected the station building works, basement parking facilities, circulating areas, and also reviewed the safety measures being implemented at the construction sites.

Later, addressing media representatives at the station, G. Kishan Reddy said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, railway infrastructure development in Telangana is progressing rapidly. He stated that the Hyderabad Railway Station is being redeveloped at a cost of 327.27 crore with iconic, modern urban infrastructure and world-class passenger amenities that align with the city's brand image.

He noted that the station

currently handles around 60 trains daily and serves an average of 28,000 passengers per day. Once completed, the redevelopment project will significantly enhance the travel experience for passengers and meet the future needs of rail users. Explaining the upcoming facilities, the Minister said the station will feature 16 lifts, 8 escalators, 2 travelators, basement parking, a foot over bridge, CCTV surveillance, Wi-Fi connectivity, food court, pharmacy and medical facilities, and amenities for differently-abled passengers. The Union Minister further stated that 5,454 crore has been allocated for railway development in Telangana for the financial

year 2026-27. Infrastructure projects worth 47,984 crore — including new railway lines, doubling, third lines, bypass lines, station redevelopment, and safety enhancement works — are currently in progress in the state.

He also mentioned that 346 km of new railway lines and 513 km of doubling, third line, fourth line, and bypass line works have already been completed in Telangana.

Highlighting railway safety advancements, the Minister said that Kavach 3.2, the indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection System, has been implemented across 639 route kilometers covering 63 stations in Telangana. Upgra-

dation works to Kavach 4.0 are currently underway in these sections, while additional installations are being taken up across 384 route kilometers.

He further informed that among the seven high-speed rail corridors announced in the Union Budget, three corridors are connected to Telangana:

Hyderabad – Chennai via Vijayawada,

Hyderabad – Bengaluru via Mahabubnagar, Hyderabad – Pune Earlier, SCR General Manager Sanjay Kumar Srivastava delivered the welcome address. RSP Chief Administrative Officer Sandeep Jain briefed the media about the key features of the redevelopment project.

Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Library Chairman Awais Chisti hosts Iftar banquet



(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle... March 5):- In the local Crystal Township of Bhuvanagiri

town, under the auspices of District Library Chairman Awais Chisti, an Iftar banquet was organized for the relatives on the occasion of the

holy month of Ramzan. Addu Azhar Nazim Ashwak Aleem Fahim Afzal and prominent people from Hyderabad participated in this program.



(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle... March 5):- A view of Municipal Chairman Thangalpalli Srivani Ravikumar, Congress Party Bhuvanagiri Town President Kura Venkatesh and others, who inaugurated a new jewelry shop in Bhuvanagiri town on Thursday.

Vem Narendra Reddy Selected as Rajya Sabha Member from Telangana - Byri Srinivaas Goud Congratulates

NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, March 5, (Indian chronicle): Byri Srinivaas Goud, Founder and President of Green Peace Environment & Water Harvesting Foundation, extended heartfelt congratulations to Vem Narendra Reddy on being selected as a Rajya Sabha Member from Telangana State. He stated that Narendra Reddy's selection to the Rajya Sabha is a matter of pride for Telangana.



He expressed confidence that Narendra Reddy will effectively represent the aspirations of the people of the state at the national level and contribute to the

development and welfare of Telangana. Byri Srinivaas Goud further said that Narendra Reddy's experience and leadership would strengthen the voice of Telangana in Parliament and help in addressing key issues related to development, environment, and public welfare. He wished Narendra Reddy success in his new responsibility and hoped that he would continue to work for the progress of the state and the well-being of its people.

Road Accident Case Registered Near Army Dental College

NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, March 5, (Indian chronicle): A road accident case has been registered based on a complaint filed by P. Rajamma. According to the complaint, on March 5, 2026, at around 4:30 PM, she was informed by locals that her elder son Ajay (22), a driver and resident of Shantinagar, was travelling on a Pulsar motorcycle (TS-04FC8370) along with his friend Eruman from Chenapuram towards Army Dental College. When they reached near Army Dental College, a Tata Nexon car (TG22A3637) coming from the opposite direction allegedly drove in a rash and negligent manner and collided with their motorcycle.



In the accident, Ajay sustained injuries to his head and legs. Due to the impact, the Pulsar motorcycle also hit a scooter (TS08JK6719) that was coming from the opposite side, causing injuries to the persons travelling on it as well. Ajay and Eruman, who were on the motorcycle, were shifted to Gandhi Hospital for treatment. Based on the complaint lodged by Ajay's mother Rajamma, police have registered a case and started an investigation into the incident.

Minister Ponguleti Blesses Newly Married Couples

Arvapalli Nagesh Khammam Staff Reporter March 5, (Indian Chronicle): Khammam: Telangana Revenue, Housing, and Information Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy toured several areas of the district on Thursday and attended multiple wedding ceremonies. During his visit, the minister participated as the chief guest at various marriage functions held in his constituency and other mandals of the district, offering blessings to the newly married couples. On the occasion, he presented silk clothes to the newlyweds and wished them a happy and prosperous married life, blessing them to live together in peace and happiness for many years.



At Kusumanchi mandal headquarters, the minister attended the wedding ceremony of Bonagiri Ven-

kateswara Rao's son held at Sri Vijayarama Function Hall and blessed the couple. In Khammam, he attended the wedding of Inturi Pullayya's son at Mogili Papireddy Convention Hall in Khanapur. He also participated in the marriage ceremony of MPO Chippa Shiva's daughter held at Vasireddy Function Hall on the Khammam Bypass Road, conveying his best wishes to the couples. The minister also attended the wedding ceremony of Maddhineni Ashok Rao's

son at AR Gardens in Reddypalli (Edulapuram), where he presented silk clothes to the couple and offered his blessings.

Enkooor & Thallada, Later, he attended the wedding of Mukthi Venkateswarlu's son at Nacharam village in Enkooor mandal and the wedding of Ailuri Srinivas Reddy's son at Kurnavalli village in Thallada mandal, blessing the newly married couples. The minister's visit brought joy to the families and well-wishers attending the ceremonies.

Former Boduppal Mayor Attends Beerappa Swamy Idol Installation in Devender Nagar

NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, March 5, (Indian chronicle): Former Boduppal Mayor Thotakura Ajay Yadav participated in the idol installation ceremony of Sri Sri Beerappa Swamy held at Devender Nagar in the 11th Division of Boduppal Circle under Medchal constituency. Local residents and community members organized the religious event with devotion and traditional rituals. Ajay Yadav joined the ceremony, offered prayers, and interacted with the devotees who attended the programme in large numbers.



The organizers stated that the installation of the Beerappa Swamy idol was carried out to strengthen spiritual values and unity among the residents of the area. Several local leaders, devotees, and youth from the locality were present during the ceremony.

New 315 KV Transformer Installed to Resolve Power Issues in Dharani Colony



NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, March 5, (Indian chronicle): Medipally: Authorities have taken steps to resolve electricity problems in Dharani Colony of Medipalli under the 9th Division of Boduppal Circle in Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation. Considering the needs of the residents, a new 315 KV transformer has been installed by replacing the old transformer, and the replacement process has been successfully completed. Speaking on the occasion, Tungaturthi Ravi said that the electricity department responded promptly after noticing the frequent power inter-

ruptions in the colony. He expressed special thanks to the officials for installing the new transformer. He said the new transformer would help eliminate low-voltage issues in the colony and ensure uninterrupted power supply to residents. Maniram Naik, Dharani Colony President Chandrasekhar Chintam, General Secretary Bheemidi Srinivas Reddy, Chandrasekhar Naik, association members Saritha, Krishna Reddy, Jayashree Reddy, Srinivas, Shravan, Yadav Reddy, Tirumal Reddy, Yadagiri, residents of the colony, and electricity department officials AE Pradeep and staff participated in the programme.

Kapra Press Club Oath-Taking Ceremony Held Amid Grand Celebrations

NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, March 5, (Indian chronicle): Kapra: Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy said he would work for the welfare of journalists. He attended the oath-taking ceremony of the newly elected Kapra Press Club executive committee as the chief guest. The programme was held on Thursday at Bhavani Nagar Community Hall in the AS Rao Nagar Division. Speaking on the occasion, Lakshma Reddy said he would always be accessible to journalists and assured that he would strive to resolve the issues faced by them if they bring the problems to his notice. He said journalists have the responsibility to inform society with facts and report the truth fearlessly. Former Uppal MLA and BJP leader Bethi Subhash Reddy said he has maintained a close association with journalists in the Uppal constituency since the Telangana movement period. He said journalists play a key role in highlighting public issues and assured continued support to them. Former Cher-



- Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy promises support for journalists' welfare
- Event held at Bhavani Nagar Community Hall
- Leaders from various political parties attend
- Press Club members felicitated
- Special honour by Bhavani Nagar Colony Welfare Association
- Gandhi Global Family extends congratulations
- Newly elected committee takes oath in the presence of MLA
- Journalists must report truth fearlessly: Bandari Lakshma Reddy

lapally corporator Bonthu Sridevi advised journalists to maintain neutrality in reporting news. She said leaders would extend assistance whenever journalists face difficulties. Former Kapra corporator Swarna Raju Shivamani said journalists have widely publicised

development and welfare activities carried out over the past decade and their support has been valuable in public service. BRS state leader Singireddy Somasekhar Reddy said he has maintained cordial relations with Kapra journalists since his student days and

assured his support for their welfare. Several leaders and public representatives attended the programme, including former corporators Jarripothula Prabhudas, Pannala Devender Reddy, Singireddy Dhanpal Reddy, Golluri Anjaiah, Gundarapu Srinivas Reddy, Congress

leader Kotha Anji Reddy, former TDP state secretary Neerugonda Satish Babu, BJP division president Tummala Sandhya Reddy, Cherlapally division president Challa Prabhakar, BJP leaders Ambati Venkatachalam, Kanukula Rajinikanth Reddy, GVN Rao, Sudugu Mahender Reddy, HB Colony division president Ram Pradeep, Sampath Rao, Regonda Venkulu, BRS AS Rao Nagar division president Kasam Mahipal Reddy, Murali Panthulu, BRS Kapra division president Bairi Naveen Goud, Vanjari Praveen, Nemuri Mahesh Goud, Sher Manamma, Gogikar Shivakumar, SA Rahim, Regalla Satish Reddy, Shiv Sena state secretary Poosa Srinivas, BJP leader Survi Srinivas, former TNSF general secretary M. Shivinand, BRS leaders Sunkara Sushil, Arya Vysya community leaders Gampa Krishna Gupta, Rebelli Srinivas Gupta, Tirumalanagar colony president Mallesh Goud, Mahatma Gandhinagar colony president Budampalli Srinivas Goud, Telangana former Paramilitary Association state president Bura

Saidaih Goud and others. Felicitations by Bhavani Nagar Colony Welfare Association Members of the Kapra Press Club were felicitated by the Bhavani Nagar Colony Welfare Association. Colony president G. Krishna Reddy, general secretary K. Chiranjeevi, treasurer CHV Rama Raju, vice presidents BV Pulla Rao and K. Hanumaiah, joint secretaries N. Sadalakshmi and T. Srinivas Gupta, organising secretary CH. Ashok Reddy, sports and cultural secretary G. Venkat Reddy, advisors V. Shekhar, V. Sriramulu, B. Srinivas Gupta, NG Bala Gangadhar Rao, P. Shiv Prasad, N. Surender and colony leader Mogulayya attended. Felicitations by Gandhi Global Family The newly elected Press Club committee members were also honoured by the Gandhi Global Family. United States president of the organisation Gunna Rajender Reddy, state assistant secretary Yanala Prabhakar, state organising secretary M. Madhu, Subhash Chandra Bose and others participated.

CPI(M) Medchal–Malkajgiri District Committee Holds Commemoration Meeting on Joseph Stalin's 73rd Death Anniversary

NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, March 5, (Indian chronicle): A memorial meeting was held on at the CPI(M) District Party Office in Kamalanagar under the leadership of the CPI(M) Medchal-Malkajgiri District Committee to mark the 73rd death anniversary of world communist leader Joseph Stalin. The meeting was presided over by senior party leader Godugu Yadagiri Rao. At the beginning of the program, CPI(M) District Secretary Member Komati Ravi and senior leader Janardhan Reddy garlanded Stalin's portrait and paid floral tributes. Speaking on the occasion, Komati Ravi said Joseph Stalin



was a prominent revolutionary leader. He stated that Stalin played a crucial role in the success of the Russian Revolution under the leadership of Vladimir Lenin and later in strengthening and developing the Soviet Union after Lenin's death. He also noted that

Stalin led the Soviet Union in the fight against Adolf Hitler during World War II and played a key role in defeating fascism. Komati Ravi further said that the victory of the Soviet Union inspired several countries around the world in their struggles for independence

and contributed to the emergence of many socialist nations. He added that the achievements of the Soviet Union also encouraged anti-colonial movements, including India's freedom struggle. Leaders Janardhan Reddy, Srimannarayana, and Godugu

Yadagiri Rao also spoke at the meeting. They said that after Stalin's death, several bourgeois intellectuals and moderate forces in the Soviet Union, including Nikita Khrushchev, criticized Stalin. However, they noted that Stalin's role in building socialism and his contributions to global anti-fascist struggles remain historically significant. Later, party members paid floral tributes to Stalin's portrait. Among those who participated in the program were M. Srinivasa Rao, Umamaheswara Rao, Shobha, Sharada, Ravi, Shekhar Reddy, Lakshmaiah, Uday Bhaskar, Shivarama Krishna, Venkateswara Rao, K. Mallesham, Srimannarayana and others.

Celebrate International Women's Day on March 8



Arvapalli Nagesh khammam Staff Reporter March 5 (Indian Chronicle) women's committee meeting was organized at the PRTU district office to discuss the arrangements for the International Women's Day celebrations to be held on March 8. On the occasion, games will be conducted for women at

the PRTU district office, followed by a seminar on the topic "Women Empowerment."

Circle Inspector Mrs. Anjali will attend the event as the chief guest. Women leaders Sujatha, Bharathi, Rehana, Madhavi, Saidarani, Snehalatha, Nafeesa and others participated in the meeting.

Land Dispute Intensifies in Charlapalli, Medchal–Malkajgiri District



NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, March 5, (Indian chronicle): A land dispute in Charlapalli of Medchal-Malkajgiri district has intensified as officials of HYDRA conducted an inquiry into a site located in Survey No. 186/4. Acting on a complaint filed by the EC Nagar Housing Society, officials visited EC Nagar in Charlapalli and heard arguments from both par-

ties involved in the dispute. During the inquiry, officials directed both sides to submit relevant documents related to the ownership of the land. Representatives of the housing society stated that the land had been handed over to GHMC through a gift deed and claimed that it is government property. However, individuals claiming private ownership argued that the land was surveyed and handed over to them

following orders issued by the High Court. With the value of the land increasing significantly in recent years, the dispute has gained greater attention. HYDRA officials stated that a final decision will be taken based on the documents submitted by both parties. Officials also issued instructions that no construction activities should be carried out on the disputed land until official orders are issued.

'Operation Crackdown': Karimnagar police tighten noose on mule accounts



Khaja Sikander Mohiuddin Staff Reporter, Indian Chronicle Karimnagar, Mar 05: Police Commissioner Gautham Alam said the police have intensified action against individuals allowing their bank accounts to be used by cyber criminals as part of the State cyber security wing's ongoing 'Operation Crackdown'. Officials of the Karimnagar Police Commissionerate have identified 34 mule accounts across four major banks in the city that were allegedly used by cyber fraudsters to route illegally obtained money.

According to police, 162 complaints related to these accounts have been received through the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP). Investigations revealed that cyber criminals carried out more than 1,000 illegal transactions through the identified accounts. So far, the police have registered 20 cases and initiated action against the accused under Section 112 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Speak-

ing at a review meeting held at the Commissionerate conference hall on Thursday, Commissioner Alam said some individuals were sharing their bank account details and phone numbers linked to the accounts with unknown persons after being lured by agents promising small commissions. Cyber criminals, he said, were diverting money defrauded from victims into such mule accounts and later withdrawing or transferring the funds for their own use. The Commissioner warned that sharing bank account details or renting out accounts to strangers is a criminal offence and those involved would be treated as accomplices in cyber crimes.

He urged the public not to share bank account details, ATM cards or OTPs with anyone and to remain cautious of people offering monthly commissions to use their accounts. Citizens noticing suspicious transactions should immediately inform the police.

Congress Betrayed Madiga Community in Rajya Sabha Seats: Manda Krishna Madiga



Indian chronicle, Secunderabad, March 5 : MRPS Founder and National President Manda Krishna Madiga alleged that the Congress government in Telangana has betrayed the Madiga community by not allocating even a single Rajya Sabha seat to them despite being the largest Scheduled Caste population in the state.

Speaking at a press conference at the MRPS National Office, he said that under

the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, the Madiga community is facing increased injustice. He criticized the government for not allocating representation to Madigas in Rajya Sabha, Lok Sabha, and recent MLC appointments.

He further alleged that the government has failed to properly implement SC reservation categorization, resulting in injustice to thousands of Madiga unemployed youth in recent

recruitment processes. Madiga also expressed concern over the Karla Rajesh incident, stating that despite 110 days of protests, the government has not responded to the issue.

As a mark of protest against the government's decision, MRPS announced statewide protest programs until March 13, including black flag demonstrations in front of Congress district offices and protests in universities with Madiga students.

UIDAI completes Aadhaar biometric updates for 1.2 crore students: Govt

New Delhi, March 3 (IANS) In a major achievement, the Unique Identification Authority of India has covered more than 1.03 lakh schools across the country to help students complete their mandatory biometric update (MBU) in Aadhaar easily within their school campuses, Ministry of Electronics & IT said on Tuesday.

So far, around 1.2 crore school children have completed their biometric updates under this large-scale



drive. The exercise aims to ensure that children's Aadhaar details remain accurate

and up to date, which is important for availing government benefits and services.

Exam Pads Distributed to Class 10 Students: RV Foundation Chairman Tungathurthi Ravi - Students also receive pens, pencils and scales



NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, March 5, (Indian chronicle): Medipally: RV Foundation Chairman and Peerzadiguda Municipal Corporation Congress Party President Tungathurthi Ravi distributed exam pads to Class 10 students studying in government schools on Thursday. Along with the exam pads, students were also provided with pens, pencils and scales to support their preparation for the upcoming examinations. The distribution programme was organised under the auspices of the RV Foundation at government

schools located in Medipally (Division 9) and Peerzadiguda (Division 10) under Boduppal Circle of Medchal-Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation. Addressing the students on the occasion, Ravi said that the Class 10 examination is the first important step in shaping a student's future. He encouraged students to study with dedication and clear goals to achieve success in life. He advised students to prepare for the examinations with confidence and without fear or stress. He also stated that the RV Foundation is committed to supporting poor students and that the ini-

tiative was taken to provide small but useful assistance to them. He assured that more service programmes for students would be organised in the future. Ravi further urged government school students to study with discipline and achieve results on par with private schools, bringing pride to their parents and teachers. Peerzadiguda School Headmaster and MEO Srinivas Reddy, Medipally Headmaster Satya Prasad, Congress leaders Mohammed Mazer, Nagaraju, Barre Nagaraju, Sharath Goud, Prabhanjan, Srikanth and others participated in the programme.



BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao, along with BRS party leaders, attended the wedding ceremony of Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka's son. On the occasion, they conveyed their greetings and blessed the newly married couple, wishing them a happy and prosperous married life.

Privacy on new Galaxy S26 series upgraded as more Indians use AI: Samsung's JB Park

New Delhi, March 5: Everyday usage of AI by the Indian consumers is among the highest in the world, Samsung Southwest Asia President and CEO, JB Park, said on Tuesday, adding that the privacy on the new Galaxy S26 series has been upgraded given that "we are now in the era of AI." Samsung recently unveiled its newest flagship, the Galaxy S26 Ultra, and the new Privacy Display feature on the smartphone has found universal appeal across the technology landscape. "India plays a strategic role in Samsung's global innovation ecosystem. Our engineers from the Bengaluru and Noida

R&D facilities have made significant contributions in the development of Galaxy S26 series," said Park. "The Galaxy S26 series is being manufactured at Samsung's Noida factory in India," he added.

Park further stated that the industry-first feature heralds a new era of privacy for the smartphone industry.

"The privacy on Galaxy S26 series has been upgraded given that we are now in the era of AI. Unlike third-party filters, Privacy Display is integrated directly into the display, preserving the viewing experience in everyday use while limiting visibility from side angles. Users can

limit privacy to specific parts of the screen or customize when it activates, making discreet protection feel seamless and intuitive," he explained.

Galaxy S26 series also enhances on-device privacy with personal context processing that ensures sensitive data never leaves the device. While the S26 series offers an array of AI agents, users remain in control of exactly how and when their personal information is shared, maintaining full autonomy over their data. "Even when interacting with partner AI agents through Samsung apps (including Samsung Note, Calendar,

UIDAI launched the mission mode MBU drive for school children in September 2025 after successfully integrating its system with the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) application. This integration with UDISE+, managed by the Union Department of School Education and Literacy, allowed authorities to track the biometric update status of students in schools. It helped identify children

whose biometric updates were pending and enabled the organisation of special camps within school premises, the ministry stated. UIDAI's regional and state offices have been working closely with state education departments, district administrations, schools and other ecosystem partners to carry out the exercise smoothly. Around 4,000 machines are currently being used for the drive, and the authority

is in the process of increasing this number to speed up the work, as per the official data. Updating children's biometrics in Aadhaar is important as it helps them during authentication for various government schemes, scholarships and registrations for competitive and university entrance examinations such as NEET, JEE and CUET. UIDAI has been urging parents and guardians to ensure that their children complete this mandatory update.

Build Public Confidence in Government Hospitals: Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy

Improved performance by medical staff can bring change 200-bed hospitals to be constructed in Paleru constituency Tirumalayapalem



Arvapalli Nagesh Khammam Staff Reporter March 5, (Indian Chronicle) State Revenue, Housing, and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy said that people should develop confidence in the medical services being provided at government hospitals. He emphasized that such confidence can be built through improved performance and dedication from medical staff.

On Thursday, the minister visited Tirumalayapalem and, along with Additional Collector P. Srinivasa Reddy, laid the foundation stone for a 100-bed government hospital to be constructed at an estimated cost of 26 crore. On the occasion, he also

distributed Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak cheques to 39 beneficiaries.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said the 100-bed hospital is being constructed at the mandal headquarters to provide better medical facilities to the people. He noted that since a large number of tribal communities live in this region, earlier residents had to travel to Khammam even for emergency medical services.

He said that after the formation of the present government, facilities required for safe deliveries have been provided and staff appointments have been made in the area. Once the construction of the new hospital is completed, it will be

equipped with all modern facilities comparable to a district hospital.

The minister stated that the government is giving top priority to the education and healthcare sectors. He urged doctors and medical staff to ensure they are available to patients even during late hours so that people can trust government hospitals.

He also mentioned that during his recent visits to Yellandu, Charla, and Pinapaka, he was impressed with the performance of government hospitals where staff were delivering excellent results. Development works are also underway in hospitals at Kusumanchi and Tirumalayapalem, he added. Minister Ponguleti

further announced that special rewards will be given to medical staff in the Paleru constituency who provide quality healthcare services to the public. He said that the construction of two 100-bed hospitals in the constituency itself shows the priority the government is giving to the healthcare sector.

He directed officials to complete the construction of the hospital by December 2026 and instructed healthcare staff to reside at the Tirumalayapalem headquarters. District officials were also asked to regularly inspect hospitals and monitor their performance.

Additional Collector P. Srinivasa Reddy, speaking at the event, said the exist-

ing 30-bed hospital in Tirumalayapalem is being upgraded to a 100-bed facility, which will help reduce the burden on Khammam Government Hospital. He also noted that the number of deliveries conducted at the hospital has increased over the past six months.

Later, the minister distributed Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak cheques to 39 beneficiaries. District Medical and Health Officer Dr. Rama Rao, DCHS Dr. Rajasekhar, Housing PD Srinivas, Deputy DM&HO Dr. Chandu Naik, the Hospital Superintendent, medical staff, MPDO Silab Saheb, Tahsildar Wilson, public representatives, and other officials participated in the program.

AINU Banjara Hills Launches Centre for Functional and Female Urology on International Women's Day

IPS Ms. Shikha Goel lauds the initiative as a transformative step toward advancing comprehensive, women-centric urological care and empowering women's health



Hyderabad, 5th March: In a powerful step toward inclusive and patient-centric healthcare, Asian Institute of Nephrology and Urology (AINU) Banjara Hills marked International Women's Day with the launch of its dedicated Centre for Functional and Female Urology, reinforcing its commitment to addressing the often-overlooked urological health concerns of women. Dedicated Centre for Functional and Female Urology focuses on addressing conditions such as urinary incontinence, pelvic organ prolapse, recurrent urinary tract infections, and other complex urological disorders that uniquely impact women.

The newly established centre brings together three key components under one roof: All-Women Operation Theatre (OT): A dedicated surgical facility staffed entirely by women healthcare professionals, ensuring enhanced comfort, privacy, and dignity for female patients undergoing urological procedures.

Pelvic Floor Rehabilitation: A structured, non-surgical treatment program offering pelvic floor muscle training, and guided physiotherapy to help women regain bladder control and improve quality of life. Urodynamic Studies (UDS): Advanced diagnostic testing to evaluate bladder function and identify conditions such as urinary incontinence, overactive bladder, voiding dysfunction, and neuro-urological disorders.

Urological health concerns among women ranging from urinary incontinence and recurrent infections to complex reconstructive and pelvic floor conditions often go unaddressed due to hesi-

tation, social stigma, or lack of awareness. Recognizing this gap, AINU's All-Women OT initiative ensures that female patients undergoing select urological procedures are supported by an entirely women-led clinical team, including surgeons, anesthetists, nurses, and OT technicians. This initiative is designed not only to enhance patient comfort but also to empower women to seek timely medical intervention without fear or embarrassment. Over the past five years, AINU female urology team has successfully performed 307 major female urological surgeries, addressing complex conditions such as urinary leakage, urinary fistulas, cystoceles, and female urethroplasty. This milestone helped to create path to launch dedicated Centre for Functional and Female Urology. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Sarika Pandya, Senior Consultant Female Urologist (Centre for Female Urology), AINU Banjara Hills said, "Many women silently suffer from urological problems due to social stigma, lack of awareness, and limited access to specialized care. The Centre for Functional and Female Urology seeks to bridge this gap by offering evidence-based treatments, minimally invasive surgical options, pelvic floor rehabilitation, and personalized counseling under one roof."

"This initiative is not just about infrastructure; it is about empowering women to prioritize their health without fear or hesitation. By creating a space led entirely by women professionals, we hope to encourage more women to come forward and seek timely medical intervention," said Dr. Deepti Sureka, Consultant Female Urologist (Centre for Female Urology), AINU Banjara Hills.

The Centre for Functional and Female Urology is designed to provide holistic and patient-centric care for conditions that are often under-reported due to stigma or lack of awareness. From adolescent girls to elderly women, the facility offers specialized evaluation and tailored treatment plans for urinary incontinence, pelvic organ prolapse, recurrent urinary tract infections, bladder pain syndrome, and other functional urological concerns

About Asian Institute of Nephrology & Urology

Asian Institute of Nephrology & Urology (AINU), part of Asia Healthcare Holdings, is India's leading super-specialty hospital network exclusively focused on Urology and Nephrology. With seven cutting-edge hospitals across four cities, AINU is at the forefront of delivering world-class kidney and urological care. Known for its clinical excellence, AINU offers advanced services including Urology Robotic Surgery, Uro-Oncology, Reconstructive Urology, Nephrology & Kidney Transplantation, Dialysis, Female Urology, Pediatric Urology, Men's Health & Andrology. A trailblazer in Robotic Urological Surgery in India, AINU has treated over 500,000 patients, performed more than 1400 robotic surgeries, and operates a 500+ bed network. Accredited by NABH and recognised for postgraduate training programs like DNB and FNB, AINU continues to redefine standards in specialised care and innovation.

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India's cleantech hiring surges 56% in last 2 years

New Delhi, March 5: India's cleantech industry -- which includes products, services and processes -- emerged as one of the country's fastest-scaling talent markets, with hiring rising 56.6 per cent over the past two years, a report said on Tuesday.

Despite a near-term moderation, workforce expansion remains strong, with headcount growing 13.4 per cent year-on-year (YoY) which highlights a shift from capital-led expansion to execution-focused scaling, CIEL HR stated in its latest report.

While the study also flagged a gender imbalance, with women comprising 11 per cent of the workforce and 15 per cent of leadership roles. The report also pointed out metro dominance in hiring, with the Delhi NCR region accounting for 44 per cent of total job openings.

On the other hand, Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities emerged as the second-largest hubs with 30 per cent of openings, followed by Mumbai

(9 per cent), Bengaluru (6 per cent), Pune (5 per cent) and other metros (6 per cent).

CIEL HR stated that India produces over one million engineering graduates annually. "The talent pipeline remains misaligned with advanced skills required in renewable energy systems, storage technologies and grid integration," it said.

Aditya Narayan Mishra, MD and CEO, CIEL HR, said talent scarcity, skill gaps and underrepresentation of women are emerging as key constraints for the sector's next growth phase.

In addition, nearly 48 per cent of roles offer annual salaries of Rs 10 lakh and above, compared with 40 per cent in the IT sector.

The sector's workforce remains fluid, with a median tenure of 2.7 years, according to the HR consultancy firm. "Professionals are often hired for specific growth stages such as project execution or commercialisation, leading to high mobility," it said.

CEPA could double apparel Indian exports to Canada in 3 years: AEPC

New Delhi, March 5: Industry body Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) on Tuesday welcomed the strengthening India-Canada ties, especially resumption of negotiations on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), which could significantly boost apparel exports to Canada.

Dr A. Sakthivel, Chairman, AEPC, said that the signing of CEPA could double the exports to Canada in next three years, besides creating huge opportunities for investment and job creation. The comprehensive trade framework will be an economic anchor for expanding bilateral trade and reinvigorating investment based on economic complementarities, he added. Apparel exports to Canada currently amount to \$250 million. AEPC welcomed the visit of Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney and his address to the CEO's Forum alongside Prime Minister Narendra Modi, reaffirming a shared commitment to strengthen bilateral economic engagement and pursue a



mutually beneficial CEPA.

"The partnership offers a significant opportunity for sustainable energy production, making India an ethical and responsible sourcing destination," Sakthivel said.

The stronger ties will also lead to transfer of technologies and R&D partnerships besides AI and automation which will help industry scale its production and improve upon the global compliances, the industry association said. Both leaders underscored the central role of skilling and talent mobility in advancing people-to-people ties between India and Canada, Chairman AEPC noted.

In New Delhi, Canada and India announced a "Strategic

Energy Partnership" that will see Canadian company Cameco supply nearly 22 million pounds of uranium from 2027 to 2035 to fuel India's civil nuclear reactors.

The Canadian government is explicitly tying CEPA to a goal of more than doubling two-way trade to \$70 billion by 2030, a recent report said.

PM Modi and his Canadian counterpart discussed restoring diplomatic staffing levels in both countries to their previous strength, an official statement said. After Carney took over as the Canadian PM, some calibrated steps to restore India-Canada ties have been taken, leading to the appointment of Dinesh K Patnaik as the Indian High Commissioner to Canada.

Nagaland varsity's study highlights genetic richness of wild banana for climate-resilient farming

Kohima, March 5: Researchers at Nagaland University, the only Central varsity in the state, have conducted an extensive study on the genetic diversity of 'Musa sikkimensis', a wild banana species native to the Eastern Himalayas and Northeast India, underscoring its significance for climate resilience, food security and sustainable agricultural development. According to the research team, Musa sikkimensis, commonly known as the 'Darjeeling banana' or 'Sikkim banana', is a wild-seeded species that serves as a crucial genetic reservoir.

It possesses traits linked to disease resistance, environmental stress tolerance and climate adaptability, making it an invaluable resource

for future banana breeding and crop improvement programmes. Although not widely cultivated for edible fruit, it plays a crucial role in strengthening crop resilience and ensuring sustainable production. The research team found that local banana germplasm exhibits strong adaptive potential across diverse environmental conditions, reinforcing its importance for conservation and future breeding initiatives.

Nagaland, located within the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot, hosts a rich diversity of indigenous banana genotypes. However, increasing anthropogenic activities, environmental pressures and deforestation have placed many wild genotypes at risk of



decline and possible extinction, making conservation research critical. The research titled 'Exploring the Genetic Diversity of Musa sikkimensis Land Races in Nagaland',

India underscores the urgent need to conserve endangered banana germplasm in one of the world's richest biodiversity regions. The findings were published in a peer-reviewed

scientific journal that publishes research on plant and animal biology, biodiversity, ecology, and environmental conservation. The paper was co-authored by Nagaland

University Research Scholars K. R. Singh and Dr. S. Walling and Dr. Animesh Sarkar. Highlighting the need for such research to conserve the rich biodiversity of the Northeast, Prof. Jagadish K. Patnaik, Vice-Chancellor, Nagaland University, said, "I am pleased to announce a significant scientific breakthrough achieved by researchers of Nagaland University, who have successfully developed a biodiversity corridor to conserve the indigenous banana germplasm which was facing the risk of extinction." He said that this pioneering initiative reflects our University's deep sense of accountability and responsibility toward safeguarding the wild flora of the hilly terrains of Northeast India. "It also

highlights our commitment to scientific advancement rooted in local genetic resources and traditional ecological wealth. In the climate changing scenario, this research will pave the way for future crop improvement programmes by strengthening genetic resilience, enhancing adaptability, and ensuring nutritional security," the VC said.

The study builds on a series of postgraduate and doctoral research projects conducted under the supervision of Dr. Animesh Sarkar, Associate Professor, Department of Horticulture of the Nagaland University, focusing on banana biodiversity, germplasm mapping, characterisation of wild species and evaluation of genetic resources in the state.

Highlighting the role of this research in addressing conservation challenges and safeguarding local germplasm, Dr. Sarkar, said, "We aimed to address challenges in identifying and conserving local banana genotypes growing in remote forest regions of Nagaland. Through collaboration with banana experts from Northeast and South India, our research team successfully identified and documented several previously unclassified genotypes." He further said: "Field exploration presented significant challenges, including difficult terrain, limited accessibility to remote forest areas and low awareness among farmers regarding the importance of germplasm conservation.

Climate crisis in India is being normalised

As the year comes to an end, it's the perfect time to look back—not to count how much I wrote, but to sit with what it all meant. Writing week after week, moved through conflicts, controversies, injustices, silences, and moments of uneasy hope. Each article felt urgent in the moment; in hindsight, that urgency shifts into reflection. What did we speak about repeatedly? What remained unresolved? What truths were too uncomfortable to stay in headlines for long? Before writing the final piece of the year, it feels necessary to look back at what stood out, what lingered, and what we collectively chose not to see.

Amid all the headlines, the shouting debates, and the endless political distractions, one reality stands out to me most sharply—and ironically, it is the one I barely wrote about. The climate crisis. Global warming. The slow, relentless unravelling of the world we live in.

It is not absent because it is insignificant; it has become normal. Heatwaves that kill, floods that erase livelihoods, winters that arrive late or not at all—these are no longer treated as emergencies but as seasonal inconveniences. In India, especially, where millions live at the mercy of monsoons, heat, and agriculture, climate change should have been at the centre of every conversation. Instead, it has been pushed to the margins, mentioned only when disaster strikes and forgotten the moment the news cycle moves on.

Think about it: rising heat is now claiming one life every single minute across the globe. In India alone, 4,064 people have perished in just nine months. India also faces 4.2 per cent of global economic loss due to extreme weather events. And yet, does this stir the headlines, the debates, the sense of urgency it deserves? These aren't isolated disasters; this is the slow, creeping toll of extreme weather, already showing its bite. And it's only the beginning. But instead of waking up to a crisis, somehow, for us, it feels like it's becoming the "new normal."

What worries me most is the acceptance that this is just how things are now. That temperatures will rise, water will run out, air will choke us—and we will simply adjust. When a crisis stops shocking us, it stops mobilising us. And that, perhaps, is the most dangerous phase of all.

Cities crossing 45–50°C. Workers are collapsing on roads and construction sites. Elections held in searing heat. Schools shutting down, water tankers becoming lifelines. What this heatwave revealed is that global warming in India is no longer a future threat or an environmental issue. It is a governance crisis. A labour issue. A public health emergency. A gendered burden. A quiet culling of those least equipped to escape it.

Climate experts have been warning us for years that by 2050, India will be among the first places where temperatures will cross the limits of human survivability. Yet what we rarely discuss is the nature of the heat India faces. It is not just heatwaves—it is heat trapped inside humidity. The kind of heat where sweat no longer cools the body, where even a healthy person cannot survive outdoors for long. This is what wet-bulb temperature measures, and it is far more dangerous than dry heat alone. Surveys already show that over 70 per cent of Indians have experienced severe heatwaves, drought, water shortages, and suffocating air pollution in recent years. This is a lived reality now.

If we zoom in, the climate crisis in India is also a class crisis, and nowhere is this clearer than in the lives of workers. Heat does not fall equally. For those who can afford air-conditioned rooms, flexible work hours, and healthcare, rising temperatures are an inconvenience. For daily-wage labourers, construction workers, sanitation workers, farmers, street vendors, and gig workers, heat is a direct threat to survival. Missing a day of work because the body cannot endure 45 degrees means missing a day's food. There is no paid leave from climate collapse.

Climate change, in this sense, is not just melting glaciers or rising seas—it is extracting labour from bodies already pushed to their limits, quietly deciding whose lives are expendable and whose comfort will be preserved.

At the same time, India's position in this crisis is deeply paradoxical. We are not among the historical giants of carbon pollution, yet we stand on the frontlines of its consequences. This gives a responsibility—to play a firm diplomatic role and push the world's biggest emitters out of their comfort zone. Climate action can no longer be treated as charity or goodwill; it is a legal, moral, and survival obligation. For countries like India, it strengthens the case we have long made: that development and climate justice cannot be separated, and that those who profited most from industrialisation must carry a proportionate share of the burden.

There were many notable events in 2025, but sometimes it is what slips through the gaps that is the most important. In a media cycle driven by the latest outrage, we must pay attention to the threats of the future and demand they be solved before it's too late. The vulnerable in India are already paying the price of climate change. If not addressed, it will lead to a cascade of even more devastating and unpredictable consequences—social, economic, and political. Let's make sure this is addressed—before it's the only headline.

Another dimension of the climate crisis that often escapes attention is its growing impact on food security. Agriculture in India remains deeply dependent on predictable monsoons and seasonal balance. When rains arrive late, fall too heavily in a short span, or fail entirely, farmers are left with ruined crops and mounting debt. For millions of small and marginal farmers, climate variability is not an abstract global issue—it determines whether a family will have income, food on the table, or the ability to continue farming at all.

Water stress is also becoming an increasingly urgent concern. Many cities and villages are already facing declining groundwater levels, forcing communities to depend on water tankers or travel long distances for basic needs. As temperatures rise and rainfall patterns shift, rivers, reservoirs, and aquifers are under growing pressure. Without sustainable water management, India could face severe shortages that affect households, agriculture, and industry alike.

Public health systems are also being tested in ways they were never designed to handle. Heat-related illnesses, respiratory problems caused by pollution, and the spread of climate-sensitive diseases are becoming more frequent. Hospitals and clinics, especially in rural and semi-urban areas, often lack the infrastructure to respond effectively to such climate-linked health emergencies, leaving the most vulnerable communities exposed.

Yet within this challenge also lies an opportunity. India has the potential to lead in renewable energy, sustainable infrastructure, and climate-resilient development. Investments in solar power, green transport, urban cooling strategies, and climate-smart agriculture can help reduce risks while creating new economic opportunities. Addressing the climate crisis does not mean slowing development; it means reshaping it so that growth becomes both sustainable and inclusive.

India's digital future sovereignty or stagnation?

SRINATH SRIDHARAN

As India enters 2026, it is tempting to declare victory in the digital race. Over the past decade, the country has built population-scale platforms that work: payments that move at near-zero cost, identity systems that reach the margins, and digital rails that have quietly reshaped everyday life.

But there is an uncomfortable possibility we are mistaking velocity for depth—treating digital progress as a festival rather than a sovereign foundation. The years ahead will test whether India has merely digitised consumption, or whether it has built the authority to shape the global digital order itself. The shift from being a user of systems to an author of them is where India's real reckoning begins.

For years, India's scale compensated for structural weakness. A vast user base made platforms viable even when technological depth was thin and R&D uneven. That comfort will now fade. Global technology is consolidating around end-to-end control—chips, cloud infrastructure, proprietary models, and intellectual property. India processes the world's transactions but does not yet sell the systems that define them. We export engineers, not operating systems. We generate data at planetary scale, yet import the intelligence built on it. The digital century will belong to those who design the rules, not merely comply with them.

The same acceleration



that unlocked efficiency has also created a parallel shadow economy that moves just as fast. Digital fraud is becoming a full-fledged industry—automated, adaptive, and relentlessly scalable. AI-native systems will personalise attacks in real time, fuse synthetic identities with deepfake extortion, and exploit regulatory lag at machine speed.

This is not a policing failure. It is an architectural one. Weak digital stacks and uneven capacity in our supervisory and policing frameworks invite criminal innovation. Reactive enforcement will always arrive too late. Prevention must be embedded by design—through real-time intelligence, AI-driven supervision, and systems built on adversarial assumptions. In the digital economy, trust will be the foundation of legitimacy.

The early AI moment felt open and decentralised. That phase is ending. AI is

consolidating around access to compute, energy, proprietary data, and national policy alignment. The world is dividing between countries that can train frontier models and those that merely deploy them—between those who own intelligence and those who rent it. Despite abundant talent and widespread adoption, India's AI ecosystem remains thin in foundational research, indigenous models, and large-scale compute capacity. AI will no longer be a sector. It will become an industrial input—like electricity once was.

Recent commentary has rightly observed that the future of AI will not be decided by chips or data centres alone, but by how technological capability translates into real-world impact and public trust. This is precisely why India must prioritise indigenous models, localised data, and institutional value creation if it is to shape the next era of digital power.

Becoming AI-first nation

is less about software and more about institutional fitness. Without reforming how decisions are made, data is governed, and outcomes are measured, AI risks improving process speed without improving citizen experience—a technological upgrade to an unchanged state. An AI-first state without institution-first reform risks becoming a faster, colder version of the same old distance between power and people.

Quantum computing will not disrupt consumer life overnight, but strategically it is already reshaping power. Its real impact lies in cryptography, national security, optimisation, and scientific advantage. Countries that invested early—not only in labs but in talent pipelines and applied research—will gain asymmetric leverage.

India's quantum efforts remain fragmented and under-scaled relative to ambition. In deep technologies, there is no safe middle.

After decades of software-first thinking, hardware is once again decisive. Semiconductors, sensors, robotics, edge devices, and specialised chips now determine latency, security, energy efficiency, and autonomy. Software ambition without hardware access is aspiration without leverage.

This asymmetry matters. Hardware sets the limits of software sovereignty. Any serious industrial strategy for the digital century must reunite hardware and software—linking semiconductor manufacturing, electronics ecosystems, and applied research into a coherent national capability. As AI-generated content floods markets and automation mediates decisions once made by humans, credibility will become scarce. The next phase of competition will not be driven by novelty alone, but by integrity. Systems that can prove provenance, auditability, explainability, and resilience will command dis-

ISRO's BlueBird launch is a new phase in India-US space ties denial to cooperation

AJEY LELE

On 24 December 2025, the Indian Space Research Organisation launched the LVM3-M6 / BlueBird Block-2 mission for its US-based commercial customer, AST SpaceMobile. This was the ninth flight of the LVM3 rocket, which has maintained a perfect track record so far. Beyond the operational success, it is important to assess the mission's broader importance across the technological, commercial, and geopolitical arenas. From an Indian perspective, this launch highlights ISRO's ability to handle complex, high-stakes missions for global clients. In two earlier launches in October 2022 and March 2023, ISRO successfully placed 72 satellites into orbit for the UK-based agency OneWeb as part of its global Low Earth Orbit (LEO) constellation for internet connectivity.

With the launch of the BlueBird-6 communications satellite (for mobile telephony), ISRO further demonstrates to satellite manufacturers and operators that it offers a proven, reliable, and time-tested launch services capability. It's also another significant chapter in the evolving India-US space partnership. Technologically, the mission establishes ISRO's heavy-lift credentials and the viability of direct-to-device satellite connectivity. Developed by the Indian space agency, LVM3 is a three-stage launch vehicle comprising two solid strap-on motors (S200), a liquid core stage (L110), and a cryogenic upper stage (C25). It has a lift-off mass of 640 tonnes, a height of 43.5 m, and a payload capability of 4,200 kg to geosynchronous transfer orbit (GTO).

In its earlier missions, LVM3 successfully launched Chandrayaan-2, Chandrayaan-3, and two OneWeb missions carrying a total



of 72 satellites. The previous LVM3 launch was the LVM3-M5/CMS-03 mission, which was successfully completed on 2 November 2025. With this mission, ISRO has put the BlueBird Block-2 satellite into Low Earth Orbit. At 6,100 kg, it is the largest commercial communications satellite deployed in LEO so far and the heaviest payload launched by LVM3 from Indian soil. For ISRO, this is a major achievement and opens the door for undertaking heavy satellite launches in future for scientific, strategic, and commercial purposes. The LVM3's configuration, with two S200 solid boosters, a liquid core stage, and a high-thrust

cryogenic upper stage, is central to this capability. For long, cryogenic propulsion posed a technological challenge for ISRO. But with the success of this mission, it has demonstrated growing confidence in designing and operating high-thrust cryogenic systems. The precise orbital injection of the BlueBird Block-2 satellite further demonstrates the technical maturity of the LVM3 vehicle and ISRO's integration of propulsion, guidance, and satellite systems, enabling a smooth mission execution. After ISRO put the satellite in a perfect location, the owner company, AST SpaceMobile, took control of the system and confirmed

nominal telemetry. The platform is an answer to dead zones, one of the most persevering problems in mobile telephony. Unlike conventional systems, it does not rely on ground towers or specialised satellite phones, but connects directly with mobile handsets. For this purpose, there is a massive phased-array antenna connected to the satellite, covering approximately 223 square metres of area. This will allow the satellite to pick up faint signals from a smartphone and beam back high-speed 4G and 5G broadband. In short, the satellite itself functions as a powerful cell tower, without the obstructions that cell towers on Earth confront.

In recent years, cooperation between the United States and India has expanded to areas such as human spaceflight and Earth observation. Notably, NASA supported India's plan to send an astronaut to the International Space Station during the Axiom-4 mission. Earlier this year, ISRO also successfully launched the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) Earth observation satellite, a major joint mission that reflects growing trust and technical collaboration between the two agencies. At the same time, there is some historical irony in the backdrop of this cooperation. In the early 1990s, the US actively worked to block India's access to cryogenic engine technology, significantly limiting ISRO's ability to launch heavy satellites. Decades later, the situation has reversed. Today, a US private company has approached ISRO to launch its satellite, underlining how far India's launch capabilities have matured. It's a statement not just on ISRO's technological self-reliance and credibility, but on how India-US relations have transitioned from technology denial to cooperation in space.

Centre seeks proposals under Rs 500 crore scheme to cut medical device imports

New Delhi, MARCH 5 (UNI) The Centre has invited proposals under two marginal investment sub-schemes to reduce India's heavy dependence on imported medical devices and support clinical studies in the medtech sector, more than a year after the schemes were first announced. India currently imports nearly 70 per cent of its medical device requirements. To address this gap, the Department of Pharmaceuticals launched a Rs 500 crore support package in November 2024 to strengthen domestic manufacturing and innovation in the medical device industry. According to a recent notice, eligible



applicants have been asked to submit their proposals by January 10, 2026. Under the first sub-scheme, the government has earmarked Rs 180 crore to support 30 applicants through marginal investment assistance. The aim is to en-

courage domestic production of key components and raw materials used in medical device manufacturing and reduce reliance on imports.

At present, Indian manufacturers depend heavily on imported raw materials and

components, making supply chains vulnerable and costs higher. To address this, the scheme offers a one-time capital subsidy ranging from 10 to 20 per cent of the project cost, capped at Rs 10 crore.

The support will be provided on a reimbursement basis. The scheme covers projects related to the production of key components, raw materials, accessories and finished medical and in-vitro devices that fall under the Global Tender Enquiry list. This list includes advanced medical equipment that government bodies are allowed to procure through global tenders when such technology is not easily available in India. The second

sub-scheme focuses on supporting clinical studies for medical devices. Called the Medical Device Clinical Studies Support Scheme, it has a total outlay of Rs 110 crore and is designed to help both established companies and start-ups generate clinical evidence for their products. Under this scheme, manufacturers can receive financial support of up to Rs 2.5 crore for animal studies and up to Rs 5 crore for clinical investigations and post-market clinical follow-up studies on approved devices. In addition, support of up to Rs 1 crore is available for clinical performance evaluation of new in-vitro diagnostic products.

Rajasthan Deputy CM inaugurates two-day medical camp for ex-servicemen

Jaipur, MARCH 5 (UNI) In a significant tribute to the spirit of service and sacrifice of India's veterans, Military Hospital, Jaipur, organised a two-day medical camp for ex-servicemen on Monday.

The camp is a part of the lead-up to Army Day celebrations, which were inaugurated by Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari. The initiative marked a historic step towards ensuring comprehensive, free-of-cost medical care for veterans and their families. The camp offers integrated healthcare services, including a Bone and Joint Wellness Clinic with on-the-spot X-ray and BMD testing, specialist con-



sultations by eminent orthopaedic surgeons and personalised physiotherapy with live exercise demonstrations. Comprehensive cardiac care is also offered through expert cardiologist consultations, supported by on-site ECG and ECHO facilities, along

with same-day availability of prescribed medicines. While addressing the august gathering, Lieutenant General Manjinder Singh, Army Commander, Sapta Shakti Command, highlighted that within the Command, there are approximately 3,70,000

ex-servicemen and 7,30,000 dependents, out of which around 31,000 are cardiac and nearly 16,000 are orthopaedic patients. Recognising this essential need, the medical camp was designed to provide targeted, high-quality healthcare facilities catering specifically to them.

He also mentioned the previous health care activities organised for ex-servicemen by Military Hospital Jaipur, like cataract surgery eye camp and establishment of a cardiac lab. The camp served as a one-stop centre for diagnostics, medical advice and health guidance, reflecting the Indian Army's enduring commitment to the wel-

fare of its retired personnel and their families. Beyond clinical care, the initiative sought to motivate veterans to remain active, self-reliant and health-conscious, promoting physical fitness and mental well-being in their post-service life.

Military Hospital, Jaipur, continues to uphold its reputation as one of the premier military medical institutions in the region, dedicated to delivering world-class healthcare to serving and retired personnel alike.

Monday's camp stands out as a testament to its vision of compassionate, inclusive and community-driven medical service

Guwahati to Host Human Capital Working Group Meeting Ahead of India AI Impact Summit 2026



New Delhi, MARCH 5 (UNI) IndiaAI, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, in collaboration with the Government of Assam, and IIT Guwahati, will convene the Human Capital Working Group Meeting on January 5-6, 2026, in IIT Guwahati campus. The Working Group is chaired by Prof. T. G. Sitharam, Chair of the Human Capital Working Group and former Chairman, AICTE, Government of India. The two-day meeting will bring together senior policymakers, academic leaders, industry experts, and practitioners to deliberate on the future of education, skilling, and workforce readiness in the age of Artificial Intelligence. The event will see participation from Shri Syedain Abbasi, IAS, Special Chief Secretary, Government of Assam, Shri K. S. Gopinath Narayan, IAAS, Principal Secretary (IT), Government of Assam, Shri. Ashwani Kumar, IAS, Director IT Dept, Government of Assam

Prof. Jaliha, Director IIT Guwahati, Prof. Gautam Barua, Former Director IIT Guwahati, Smt. Shikha Dahiya, Joint Director, IndiaAI, MeitY, and other government officials, academicians and dignitaries. The inaugural session will also feature a Summit Address by Prof. T. G. Sitharam, outlining the Human Capital vision under the India AI Impact Summit framework. Anchored in the objective of treating AI as a public utility, the Working Group Meeting will focus on designing inclusive, scalable, and responsible approaches to AI-led workforce transition. Deliberations will place particular emphasis on education reform, gender-responsive AI strategies, and domain-specific augmentation of human capabilities, ensuring that AI adoption strengthens human potential rather than displacing it. The agenda includes expert panel discussions on Gender-Responsive Strategies for the AI Transition,

Redefining Education for the Cognitive Age, The Architecture of the National Language Translation Mission, Building an Inclusive and Empowered India, and The Reverse Engineering Approach to AI Education. Together, these sessions will examine how India can reimagine learning systems, language access, and skills pathways to prepare citizens for an AI-enabled economy.

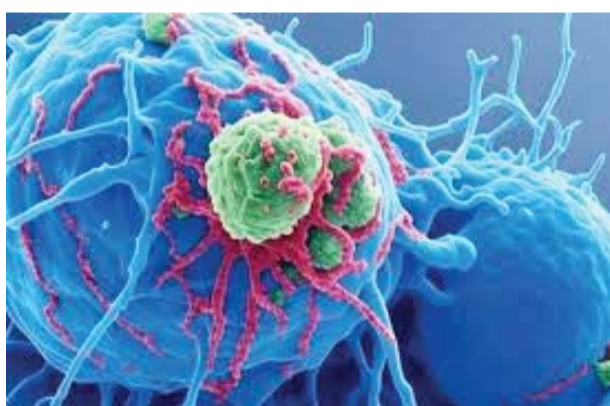
The Guwahati convening will serve as a key regional and thematic precursor to the India AI Impact Summit 2026, scheduled to be held from February 15-20, 2026, in New Delhi, where national and global stakeholders will converge to shape the future of inclusive, responsible, and impact-driven AI.

Outcomes from the Human Capital Working Group Meeting are expected to directly inform the Summit's deliberations, reinforcing India's commitment to building a workforce that is resilient, future-ready, and empowered to thrive alongside AI.

Indian scientists find missing link in body's cells to boost therapies for Alzheimer's, cancer

New Delhi, MARCH 5 (UNI) Researchers from the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) have uncovered a surprising player in autophagy, or the "self-eating" process that removes damaged parts of cells that can pave the way for developing therapies for diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and cancer.

Autophagy is a key biological process where cells clear out damaged and unwanted materials. When a cell fails to clear waste, its health suffers, especially in long-lived neurons. The autophagy pathway, which removes damaged material and defends against infections, is disrupted in diseases like Alzheimer's and Huntington's. In cancer,



autophagy plays dual roles. Autophagy initially prevents cancer but later supports tumour growth. Autophagy also acts as a tumour suppressor by maintaining genome integrity and cellular homeostasis by clearing cellular junk such as protein aggregates and damaged mitochondria. But it is also a double-edged

sword as certain types of cancer cells hijack autophagy for their own survival and propagation. Understanding its regulation is crucial for the development of effective therapies.

The team from JNCASR, an autonomous institution under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), found that a group of pro-

teins called the exocyst complex, which normally helps move important molecules to the cell surface, also plays a key role in autophagy. This complex comprises a team of 8 proteins; interestingly, 7 of the 8 proteins are required to help the cell grow the trash bag so that it can completely wrap up the waste. When this complex is missing, the cell's bag-making factory stops working properly and even starts producing faulty, non-functional factories.

The researchers led by Prof. Ravi Manjithaya used simple yeast cells to elucidate the formation of autophagosomes (cellular "trash bags"), thereby providing insights into how this vital process operates in higher organisms.

US researchers find gut bacteria that can help lose weight, boost metabolic health

New Delhi, MARCH 5 (UNI) US researchers have found a gut bacterium that may help people lose weight and enhance their metabolic health. This comes amid several weight-loss injections and medications that have proved their ability to help people lose weight.

In studies on mice, the team from the University of Utah found that a specific type of gut bacteria, called Turcibacter, can improve metabolic health and reduce weight gain.

People with obesity tend to have less Turcibacter, suggesting that the microbe may promote healthy weight in humans as well. The results could lead to new ways to control weight



by adjusting gut bacteria, said the team, in the paper published in the journal Cell Metabolism. Turcibacter, a rod-shaped bacterium, was found to single-handedly reduce blood sugar, levels of fat in the blood, and weight gain for mice on a high-fat diet. Turcibacter's effects are unlikely to be unique; many different gut bacteria

probably contribute to metabolic health. And results based on animal models may not apply to people.

"We have improved weight gain in mice, but I have no idea if this is actually true in humans," Round said. But the researchers remain hopeful that Turcibacter could provide a starting point for developing treat-

ments that promote healthy metabolism and prevent excessive weight gain. Turcibacter appears to improve metabolic health by affecting how the host produces a fatty molecule called ceramides, the researchers found. Ceramide levels increase on a high-fat diet, and high levels of ceramides are associated with many metabolic disorders, including type 2 diabetes and heart disease. But the fats produced by Turcibacter can keep ceramide levels low, even for mice on a high-fat diet. "With further investigation of individual microbes, we will be able to make microbes into medicine and find bacteria that are safe to create a consortium of different bugs."

Govt approves 22 proposals under the 3rd tranche of Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS)

New Delhi, MARCH 5 (UNI) In continuation to the approvals of 24 applications for INR 12,704 crore announced earlier, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has further approved 22 proposals under the Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS) with projected investment of INR 41,863 crore, projected production of INR 2,58,152 crore. These approvals are expected to generate 33,791 direct employment opportunities.

These approvals include manufacturing of 11 target segment products, which have cross sectoral application such as mobile manufacturing, telecom, consumer electronics, strategic electronics, automotive and IT hardware products. These 11 products are

as follows: 5 bare components like PCB, Capacitors, Connectors, Enclosures and Li-ion Cell 3 sub-assemblies like Camera Module, Display Module and Optical Transceiver 3 supply chain items like Aluminium Extrusion, Anode Material and Laminate (Copper Clad)

The approvals for PCBs (including HDIs) have been given to 9 applicants which include India Circuits Private Limited, Vital Electronics Private Limited, Signum Electronics limited, Epitome Components Private Limited, BPL Limited, AT & S India Private Limited, Ascent-K Circuit Private Ltd, CIPSA TEC India Pvt Ltd and Shogini Technoarts Pvt Ltd. Further, approval for manufacturing of Capacitors, which are essential for energy storage and power conditioning in electronic

circuits, has been awarded to Deki Electronics Limited and TDK India Private Limited, a major global manufacturer of electronic components and systems. For manufacturing of high-speed Connectors, approval has been given to Amphenol High Speed Technology India Private Limited. Further, approval for manufacturing of Enclosures for Mobile, IT Hardware products and related devices are granted to Yuzhan Technology (India) Private Limited, a global manufacturer of electronic components, Motherson Electronic Components Private Limited, a leading Indian manufacturer of electronic components and systems, and Tata Electronics Private Limited, a leading Indian electronics manufacturer and a trusted global brand. Also, an ap-



plication for manufacturing of Li-ion cells for digital applications, which serve as rechargeable energy storage units for consumer and industrial electronics, has been approved for ATLBattery Technology (India) Private Limited, one of the leading global players in Li-

Module Sub Assembly; and Samsung Display Noida Private Limited, one of the top global Electronics brands, for manufacturing of Display Module Sub-Assembly.

Further, to deepen the electronics manufacturing supply chain, approvals have also been given to NPSPL Advanced Materials Private Limited for manufacturing of Anode material which is a critical item for lithium-ion cell manufacturing that determines energy density and life-cycle of Li-ion cells; Wipro Global Engineering and Electronic Materials Private Limited for manufacturing of Laminate (Copper Clad), which is the base material for PCB manufacturing and constitutes a significant part (~30%) of the bill of materials of PCB manufacturing; and Hindalco Industries Limited for manufacturing

of Aluminium Extrusion for mobile phones enclosures, which are currently being 100% imported.

The approved units are spread across eight states viz. Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, reinforcing the Government's focus on geographically balanced industrial growth and expansion of electronics manufacturing across the country. With the latest tranche of approvals, a total of 46 applications have been approved under the ECMS so far across 11 states, with a total investment of Rs. 54,567 crores, generating direct employment for about 51,000 people. Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Shri Ashwini

Vaishnav noted that this programme has strengthened India's electronics manufacturing ecosystem.

, enabling large portions of domestic demand to be met indigenously. Outlining the vision for the electronics sector, he noted that India would still be a very young demography in 2047 when growth would have stopped in many other economies. He added that India would be the only economy which will continue to grow till 2100 and hence it is important to set all the structural foundational blocks in place, so that the growth continues. Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Shri. Jitin Prasada said that India is being seen as the next big Electronics manufacturing destination and is emerging as a reliable partner amidst global geopolitical uncertainty.

Municipalities Minister chairs Cooperation Committee regular meeting

Manama, March 5 (UNI): Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak, Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture Minister, chaired the regular meeting of the Cooperation Committee between the Capital Municipality Council, municipal councils and government entities. He highlighted the pivotal role undertaken by the Capital Municipality Council and municipal councils in supporting the development, progress and prosperity process.

The minister emphasised the importance of continuing to enhance frameworks of cooperation and coordination between government entities, the Capital Municipality Council and

municipal councils. This aims to ensure the integration of efforts in continuing the implementation of service projects and achieving the desired aspirations and objectives.

He also noted the keenness to continue adopting qualitative initiatives and the ideas and visions presented by municipal councils, and discussing them with the relevant entities in a manner that contributes to serving the community and enhancing the quality of services provided. The meeting reviewed the road and sewerage projects plan in the Capital Governorate and the Muharraq Governorate, in addition to reviewing



the latest developments related to the implementation of plans and projects in the Northern Gover-

norate and the Southern Governorate. During the meeting, participants also discussed mechanisms to

address challenges facing municipal projects, stressing the need to accelerate implementation timelines

and enhance efficiency. Officials underscored the importance of adopting sustainable solutions and

strengthening follow-up to ensure projects meet citizens' needs and contribute to balanced development across all governorates. The minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to providing full support to municipal councils to enable them to effectively carry out their responsibilities. He stressed that strengthening institutional coordination would help overcome obstacles, improve service delivery, and ensure optimal utilisation of available resources.

Members of the municipal councils, in turn, expressed their appreciation for the continued cooperation with government entities, highlighting the

positive impact of joint efforts on improving infrastructure and public services. They also presented several proposals aimed at enhancing municipal performance and addressing priority needs in their respective areas.

The meeting concluded with an emphasis on maintaining regular communication and follow-up between all concerned parties, with a view to ensuring the timely completion of projects. Participants agreed on the importance of monitoring progress and evaluating outcomes to achieve sustainable development and improve the overall quality of life for citizens.

Curfew imposed in Nepal's border city Birgunj to prevent religious strife

Kathmandu, March 5 (IANS) The local administration in Nepal's Parsa district on Monday imposed a curfew in parts of Birgunj city, which borders Raxaul in India, to prevent possible religious strife following the vandalism of a mosque in southern Dhanusha district on Saturday. After a video showing the vandalism of the mosque circulated on social media, members of Nepal's Muslim community staged protests in Birgunj on Sunday, chanting slogans and burning tyres on the streets.

Protests also erupted in other parts of Madhesh Province, including Kamala Municipality in Dhanusha



district. According to the police, the incident began with a TikTok video in which two Muslim youths were seen making offensive remarks about Hindus. Subsequently, a group of Hindu individuals vandalised and set fire to the mosque in Dhanusha.

With protests by the Mus-

lim community intensifying from Sunday, the District Administration Office, Parsa, on Monday imposed a prohibitory order banning any kind of fair, public meeting, procession, or protest in certain areas of Birgunj city, effective from 1 pm on Monday until further notice.

Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre records OMR15 million revenues in 2025

Muscat, March 5 (UNI) Muscat: The Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC) contributed in 2025 to creating a qualitative transformation in the conferences and exhibitions tourism sector in the Sultanate of Oman. The direct economic impact of the sector reached approximately OMR15 million, supported by the participation of more than 20,000 delegates and investors from around 60 countries, through 15 regional and international events.

Engineer Said bin Salim al Shanfari, Chief Executive Officer of the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre, affirmed that the achievements recorded dur-



ing 2025 reflect the centre's position as a national platform that directly supports the national economy and enhances the Sultanate's competitiveness in the conferences, exhibitions and events tourism sector.

He stated that throughout

the year, the centre hosted a diverse range of conferences, exhibitions, cultural and artistic events, concerts, graduation ceremonies and major gatherings, amounting to more than 250 local, regional and international events. These events at-

tracted over 1.9 million visitors, participants and investors, reinforcing the centre's role as a multi-use destination where cultures meet and sustainable economic and social experiences are created. Al Shanfari explained that hosting these events contributed to revitalizing key sectors, including tourism, hospitality, transportation and retail, and led to higher hotel occupancy rates. He noted that the centre has also played an important role in promoting the Sultanate of Oman internationally as a destination capable of hosting world-class events, in line with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040, which

focuses on economic diversification and strengthening a knowledge- and services-based economy. This is achieved through strategic cooperation with the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism and the Oman Convention Bureau, within an integrated national promotional framework.

He emphasized that sustainability represents a core pillar of the centre's operational strategy. During 2025, more than four sustainability projects were implemented, including expanding the use of solar energy, planting Omani fruit trees to support biodiversity, and implementing food-waste reduction initiatives.

Drone strikes kill 2 in Russian border regions ahead of Ukraine peace talks

Moscow, March 5 (UNI) Two people were killed in Ukrainian drone strikes in Russian border regions, local officials said Sunday, ahead of peace talks to end the nearly 4-year-old war in Paris this week. Belgorod regional Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov said one person died and two others, including a young child, were wounded when a Ukrainian drone struck a car. Another person was killed in a drone strike on a village in the Kursk region, regional Gov. Alexander Khinshtein said Sunday.

In Ukraine, three people were wounded in the Kharkiv region in drone strikes overnight into Sunday, the country's State Emergency Service said.



Meanwhile, the death toll from a Russian missile attack on the city of Kharkiv on Friday increased to five when body parts were found under the rubble of a building, Kharkiv Mayor Ihor Terekhov said Sunday.

The latest attacks came after national security ad-

visers from Europe and other allies visited Kyiv on Saturday to discuss security guarantees and economic support, as a U.S.-led diplomatic push to end the war in Ukraine intensifies.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, preparing to travel to Paris for a meeting with

partners, said Saturday that work on the peace proposals could now accelerate as Ukraine has shared all documents under discussion with the 18 national security advisers, including those on security guarantees.

He said representatives from Ukraine's General

Staff and military sector would meet on Monday in Paris, followed by a meeting Tuesday of European leaders, where he said he hoped documents on security guarantees would be finalized. He said there also would be meetings with U.S. representatives in Paris.

Cannot accept any country acting as international judge: China

BEIJING, March 5 (UNI): Referring to recent developments in Venezuela, where the United States captured President Nicol's Maduro and his wife under Operation "Absolute Resolve", Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Beijing cannot accept any country acting to be an international "judge" or playing the role of international "policeman".

"We have never believed that any country can act as the world's police, nor do we accept that any nation can claim to be the world's judge," Wang told his Pakistani counterpart Ishaq Dar, during a meeting in Beijing on Sunday Wang admitted



that the global landscape has become "increasingly volatile", marked by growing unilateralism, and said that the type of "bullying behaviour" recently witnessed is "unacceptable". "The sovereignty and security of all countries should be fully protected under international law," China's top

diplomat added, in his first public remarks after images of the 63-year-old Maduro blindfolded and handcuffed emerged on social media, sparking mixed reactions from countries. Wang reiterated China's long-standing position against the use of force in international affairs.

"We consistently oppose the threat or use of force in international relations and the imposition of one country's will on another," he said while opposing the use of the threat of force in international relations and rejecting attempts to impose one country's will on others. On January 3, the United States launched a large-scale military operation.

Business leaders of Pak,Afghan hold talks on reopening

Kabul, March 5 (UNI) Business leaders of Afghanistan and Pakistan held discussions on reopening the Torkham border crossing, aiming to ease trade disruptions between two nations, local media reported on Monday. The Taliban-run Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment said that they and Pakistani counterparts agreed to establish a joint delegation to hold talks in Jalalabad next week to discuss practical steps forward. The chamber said the first phase would enable stranded cargo containers to cross the border, followed by talks on the full reopening of the Torkham crossing.



The Torkham crossing is one of the most key trade routes between Afghanistan and Pakistan, which enables the movement of large volumes of food, fuel, and

commercial goods between the two nations. On Sunday, people held a protest in the Landi Kotal area of Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to demand an immediate reopening of the Torkham border, local media reported. Traders, transporters, tribal elders, daily wagers, activists of political parties and civil society were part of the protest held under the banner of the All Borders Coordinators Council. Rep-

resentatives from various organisations and groups, who were directly impacted by the border shutdown with Afghanistan since October 12, participated in the protest, the Dawn reported.

While addressing the protesters, the speakers said that the border closure has caused economic murder of thousands of people, the majority of them being tribesmen, as they were fully reliant on the cross-border trade.

They called the Torkham border an important business gateway to Central Asia and said that the border crossing served as an economic hub for thousands of families, as their livelihoods were linked to it.

According to them, all commercial activities have stopped in the town due to the border closure.

Kamala Harris calls Trump's Venezuela action 'unlawful and unwise,' says move driven by oil

WASHINGTON, March 5 (UNI): Former US Vice President Kamala Harris on Saturday strongly criticised President Donald Trump's military action in Venezuela, calling it "unlawful and unwise" and accusing him of pursuing "regime change for oil" while seeking to play the role of a "regional strongman". "Donald Trump's actions in Venezuela do not make America safer, stronger, or more affordable," Harris said, arguing that the operation risks repeating past US interventions sold as strength but ending in instability.

Harris acknowledged that Venezuelan President Nicol's Maduro is a "brutal, illegitimate dictator," but said that does not provide justification to the US



action. "That Maduro is a brutal, illegitimate dictator does not change the fact that this action was both unlawful and unwise," she said. "The American people do not want this, and they are tired of being lied to."

While rejecting the Trump administration's argument of pursuing the operation due to drugs or democracy, she said, "This is not about drugs

or democracy. It is about oil and Donald Trump's desire to play the regional strongman," Harris said. She added that if Trump truly cared about either issue, "he wouldn't pardon a convicted drug trafficker or sideline Venezuela's legitimate opposition while pursuing deals with Maduro's cronies." Harris warned that the operation could destabilise the region and

endanger US forces. "The President is putting troops at risk, spending billions, destabilizing a region, and offering no legal authority, no exit plan, and no benefit at home," she said.

In a post on X, Harris said the United States needs leadership focused on domestic priorities. "America needs leadership whose priorities are lowering costs for working families, enforcing the rule of law, strengthening alliances, and, most importantly, putting the American people first," she wrote.

Harris, who contested the most recent presidential election against Trump, reiterated that the Venezuela operation lacked a clear legal basis and a defined exit strategy.

In South Asia, India Bears the Burden of Nearness

SHYAM TEKWANI

This season, once again, the street in Bangladesh fills before it decides why it has filled. Bangladesh has once again become the place where South Asia's unease gathers. The protests are familiar in form – students, slogans, police lines – but their cause resists precision. They are not only about water, though the rivers matter. They are not only about borders, though the dead along them are remembered. They are not only about diplomacy, though the language of insult and interference circulates freely. What moves beneath these moments is older and more intimate: a feeling that pressure is being applied from beyond the horizon, that decisions are being made elsewhere and lived locally, that proximity itself has become a burden. India enters these scenes less as an actor than as a presence: structural and unavoidable, and therefore endlessly interpretable.

This essay begins here, not because Bangladesh is exceptional, but because it is emblematic. Over the past half-century, similar moments have surfaced across South Asia, appearing suddenly, intensifying quickly, and dissolving without resolution. Moments like this have come to be called “India Out”, though what



they name is not an ideology so much as a recurring strain of proximity.

India is rarely absent in South Asia. Even where it is not invoked, it is felt: through rivers that thin without warning, through fuel queues that lengthen toward dusk, through borders that harden unexpectedly, through a rumour that arrives before reason can intervene. For many of its neighbours, India is not a policy problem so much as a condition of life: proximate, immense, and inescapable. It is this condition, more than any single action, that explains why, at moments of strain, the street turns outward and demands that India go.

These moments do not announce themselves as ideology. They do not sustain programs or carry manifestos. They appear instead as moods. A gath-

ering thickens at a crossroads; a slogan hardens; a phrase repeats itself until it no longer sounds like news but like truth. By the time the words ‘India Out’ are painted or shouted, the work has already been done elsewhere: in the mind, in the image, in the shared sense that something has been taken, withheld, or imposed without consent.

Over decades, since India ceased to be an episodic actor and became a structural presence in the lives of its neighbours, such moments have surfaced repeatedly across Bangladesh, the Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. They differ in scale and consequence. Some pass without blood; others do not. Yet they share a peculiar intimacy. India is not a distant empire to be denounced, but a neighbour whose presence is already

woven into daily life; into water, trade, labor, language, cinema, and news.

To protest India, then, is not to reject an abstraction. It is to recoil from a closeness that, at certain moments, becomes unbearable. In Bangladesh, the earliest murmur rose not from the street but from the river. When the Farakka Barrage was commissioned in the mid-1970s, the grievance it produced was slow, almost geological. Water does not protest; it withdraws. Crops fail quietly. Livelihoods erode before they break into the open. The Farakka Long March of 1976, disciplined, largely non-violent, did not accuse India of malice so much as of indifference. India appeared there as a force upstream, unseen yet decisive, capable of altering lives downstream without ever

crossing a border.

That image endured. Long after the slogans faded, the sense of hydrological vulnerability remained, ready to be recalled whenever scarcity returned. Along the border, death arrived more abruptly. Civilians shot while crossing fields or tending cattle did not require ideological framing to become symbols. Each killing was small in number, large in meaning. Protest followed death, not the other way around. Over time, these incidents accumulated into a quiet conviction that India's power was asymmetrical and casually exercised. When, in more recent years, diplomatic incidents or perceived slights ignited protests, they did so against this sedimented memory. India had already been cast, not as an enemy, but as a presence insufficiently attentive to the fragility of those living nearest to it. In recent months, this older sense of asymmetry has taken on a sharper edge. What gathers in the street now is less a rejection of India itself than an anger at India's visible alignment with a political order that many Bangladeshis no longer recognise as legitimate.

The Maldives, by contrast, turned exposure into performance. Beginning around 2020, India Out appeared not as an accusation but as a brand.

CAG Audit Report Finds PMKKKY Goals Are Unmet in Karnataka

HIMANSHU UPADHYAYA

This flagship scheme was designed as per the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (Amendment) Act, 2015; immediately after National Democratic Alliance government came into power in May 2014. The amendment to India's framework law governing the mining sector was rooted in the belief that part of the royalty paid by mining leaseholders shall remain in the district to ensure the overall welfare of mining affected people. Thus, a specified percentage of mining royalty will remain at district-level District Mineral Fund to be managed by organisations named District Mineral Foundation Trusts.

In September 2015, as per the provisions of MMDR (Amendment) Act, the Union ministry of mines issued guidelines for the implementation of what it termed the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana. The objectives of PMKKKY are:

This performance audit on PMKKKY implementation in Karnataka points out that as on March 31, 2023, the District Mineral Fund amounted to Rs 4003.51 crore; whereas expenditure had remained sluggish at Rs 1826.46 crore (i.e. 45.62%). However, as we analyze the audit findings, the message that emerges is not just sluggish expenditure, but also



instances of works getting awarded without inviting tenders, as well as money getting spent to what auditors have termed as “irregular and inadmissible expenditure”.

In a shocking audit finding, auditors reveal that authorities had not paid enough attention to planning processes, thereby defeating the participatory purpose that was at the heart of the PMKKKY. In test-checked districts, CAG found that DMFTs had not prepared any Master Plan or Vision Document for the activities to be taken up. While the PMKKKY Guidelines, model rules and Karnataka DMFT Rules provided for the very basic activity of preparing lists of mining affected people and mining affected villages in respective districts, after almost a decade of PMKKKY implementation, these basic lists were not prepared and were not

found on records. In absence of such basic lists, the targeting of works under PMKKKY for mining affected villages and people remained an unachieved goal.

The performance audit also revealed that monitoring and impact evaluation remained neglected tasks. CAG audit states: “[T]hrough the State Level Steering Committee, headed by honorable Chief Minister, was constituted in March 2018, five years later, as on June 2023 no meeting were held”.

As envisaged under Rule 5A of Karnataka DMFT Rules 2016, the SLSC shall meet at least once a year. The mechanism meant to ensure checks and balances has utterly failed, since the State-Level Empowered Committee, headed by Chief Secretary, whose prerogative was to ensure timely monitoring and review the progress of projects financed by DMFTs

and functioning of DMFT Managing Committees, had met only four times between March 2018 and June 2023. As per Rule 5B of Karnataka DMFT Rules 2016, the SLEC shall meet at least three times in a year. Thus, against the mandatory minimum requirement of 15 meetings, the SLEC could meet only four times, exposing poor compliance.

Similar shortfalls and non-compliance with basic planning and monitoring mechanism were noticed with regard to mandatory minimum requirement of meetings of DMFT Governing Councils and Managing Committees in test checked districts, as explained in the table below: *Vijayanagara DMFT came into being only after the erstwhile Ballari district was bifurcated, leading to creation of Vijayanagara as separate district on November 17, 2021. Hence,

the mandatory minimum number of meetings for this test-checked districts are not at the same level as for other four test-checked districts.

CAG auditors also found several deviations in the way projects got approved and managed, defeating the very purpose of creating a fund to address the legacy development and welfare issues in mining affected districts. While PMKKKY guidelines of the Union Ministry of Mining, as well as Rule 18(2) of Karnataka DMFT Rules, had unambiguously underlined upon a judicious prioritisation of projects, by defining High Priority Areas (60% fund utilisation) and Other Priority Areas (remaining 40% fund utilisation), the audit observed a relatively lower allocation for projects in areas such as Environment Preservation, Afforestation and Pollution Control measures (EPPC), Welfare of Women and Child Development (WCD); and Welfare of Aged and Disabled People (WAD), Skill Development and Sanitation.

The table below suggests how the DMF funds witnessed, what researchers on public finance and accountability have termed as “line department capture” by district level bureaucracy staking a claim to DMF money to finance projects in healthcare, education and water supply sectors.

Can Innovation Happen Only with Science and Engineering?

What if everything we've heard about the importance of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) graduates for the needs of economic growth and for fuelling innovation is only partially correct?

The mantra is insistent: every country is exhorted to produce more graduates in STEM fields, citing their critical, even exclusive importance for economic growth, innovation, and competitiveness. In every country, from India to the United States, alarms are being raised about the number of STEM graduates produced by China and their role in promoting the meteoric rise of new growth centres in the economy. It is strongly implied that unless very large numbers of STEM graduates are churned out, it will sound the death knell of prospects for growth, and everything that goes with it, both domestically and globally.

There is no disputing the critical role scientists and engineers play in the development of technology, nor the contribution of many technology intensive sectors to economic growth. However, STEM is not the whole story.

The STEM narrative comes at the expense of graduates in arts, humanities, and even social sciences. At least some of the latter, above all, economics, are more easily defended in this narrative. Also, sociology, political science, psychology and history are understood to have a direct bearing on the evolution, efficacy and development of institutions of governance, society and economy. Since economics is prone to ever encroaching disciplinary imperialism, its methodology and data also nudge a significant part of the research in other social sciences towards the economic dimension.

The traditional approach to education in the arts and humanities has been to stress one of two following broad streams: First, there are those who enter the arts and humanities streams to pursue careers in those fields. They contribute uniquely to society, not just by creating movies, music, literature, all of which are an integral part of being human. It should also be noted that this cultural vibrancy by itself has positive economic consequences. Second, instruction in the arts and humanities provides a broad liberal arts education for a well-rounded, comprehensively educated citizenry. And indeed, this is valuable for a democratic, and socially and economically vibrant future. But there is a possible third stream: we could liberate the arts and humanities from their assigned place for balanced, harmonious development of society and unleash them onto other reaches of the economy, not just in kindred fields of advertising and marketing, but also in product development, and, dare we say it, the process of innovation itself. The broad challenge is to combine the numeracy, systematic data collection, analysis, experimentation, and logic of the hard sciences with the free-flowing yet focused cre-

As one of the most innovative economies in the world, Japan places a high value on the contribution of arts to design and innovation in manufacturing. For example, Origami, the traditional Japanese paper folding art inspired developments in tire design, seismic engineering, and innovations in lightweight, yet strong materials. Both artists and scientists look for universal patterns; while Schrödinger is said to have acquired at least some insights for his quantum wave equation from musical harmonics, geometric designs in Hindu/Buddhist art (e.g., Sri Yantra) have influenced computer graphics. Einstein attributed his insights to intuition and imagination, inspired by music and literature, and C.V. Raman believed in the connection between science and music. Even the most prosaic among us can testify to a glimmer of insight, or even some revelation or nourishment generated by the feeling of wonder evoked by a piece of music or literature.

ativity of the arts – the magical prism through which they view the world – in the service of technological innovation. Of course, there may well be many in those fields who may look down upon these humdrum, earthly and practical concerns!

An assumption about arts and humanities is that they are soft subjects, without the rigour and rules demanded by the hard sciences. But whether it be music, or painting, or poetry, these are disciplines with structures, systems, and organisation. The rules and structures are often subtle, not overt or obvious to those not in the field. Creativity in those fields is enabled by rules and organisation, and is not about giving free reign to whimsical arbitrariness, a charge often levied by the STEM folk at the arts and humanities practitioners. The arts and humanities could enable a different sensibility, a creative leap, especially in the conception and design of new goods and conveniences. In a deep sense, everything is connected to everything else and people trained in what appears to the uninitiated to be the “unstructured” world of arts and humanities can display sensitivity to the most distant, unconnected relationships and view the world and its challenges through multiple frames of reference.

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Globally, the annual share of STEM graduates ranges between 20 and 40% of total college graduates. With notable exceptions, employers across-the-board are hesitant about hiring language majors and arts graduates, but creativity, the underlying driver of innovation as well as economic and societal growth has many sources, and there is surely no reason to believe that the creative mindset is disproportionately present in science and engineering graduates.

At a time when there is no consensus on a universal path of development, we might also want to consider the following: the principles of math, science, engineering, and even economics, are the same across the world. The arts, humanities, and culture, however, are specific to countries and regions. To the extent that each country needs to find its own development path, arts and humanities can be an important input in that process, particularly in the innovative sectors (LLMs may be statistical models but, after all, deal with language as the vehicle of meaning, information and reasoning). At a time when the search for the next big idea is a constant refrain, we should ask ourselves if it is possible to harness the creative outlook inculcated through the arts and humanities to best prepare ourselves for the next stage of human development and economic growth where we can all benefit from a seamless integration of sciences, arts and humanities.

Necessity is indeed the mother of invention and innovation, but there are other motivating factors at work, as well. After all, before there was science or engineering, there was art and music, charging us with a sense of awe and amazement, and prompting us to explore, discover and invent.

Samson blitz and relay catch heroics send India into T20 World Cup final

FROM PAGE 1

Partnering Ishan Kishan, he began dismantling the bowling with crisp drives and fearless lofted strokes. Kishan contributed a sparkling 39 from just 18 deliveries, and together the pair stitched a blazing 97-run partnership that lifted India to 117 by the halfway mark of the innings.

Samson reached his half-century with typical authority and continued to attack the English attack, forcing constant field changes. Even when he eventually departed, India had already built the platform. The momentum was carried forward by Shivam Dube, who struck 43 from 25 balls with muscular hitting, while Hardik Pandya added a brisk 27 from 12 deliveries. Tilak Varma then produced a brief but explosive cameo of 21 from just



seven balls, ensuring India crossed the formidable 250 mark. If India's innings was

impressive, England's response was nothing short of audacious.

After losing early wickets, the chase found its heartbeat in the partnership

between Jacob Bethell and Will Jacks. Bethell played with remarkable confi-

dence, unfurling strokes all around the ground, while Jacks provided the muscle at the other end. The pair added 77 runs from just 39 balls, and suddenly the required rate no longer looked intimidating.

Bethell was in sublime touch, striking boundaries with authority and sending the spinners into the stands. As the partnership grew, so did England's hopes. Then came the moment that altered the rhythm of the chase.

Jacks launched a towering shot towards the deep boundary. Axar Patel sprinted across, leapt near the rope and plucked the ball in mid-air, only to realign his momentum would carry him beyond the boundary line. In a flash of awareness, he tossed the ball back into play. Shivam Dube, racing in from the

deep, judged the rebound perfectly and completed the catch inside the field.

It was a relay effort of rare athleticism, the sort that brings an entire stadium to its feet. More importantly, it dismissed Jacks for 35 and broke a partnership that had begun to tilt the contest England's way.

Bethell, however, continued to fight. The young batsman went on to produce a magnificent century, scoring 105 from just 48 balls with eight fours and seven sixes, keeping England in the contest deep into the final overs.

But wickets at key moments prevented the chase from gathering unstoppable momentum. Hardik Pandya struck twice at crucial stages, while Jasprit Bumrah applied the squeeze with a masterful spell at the death, conced-

ing just six runs in his final over — the 18th of the innings — to tilt the balance back in India's favour. Varun Chakaravathy and Axar Patel also chipped in with a wicket each.

The drama lasted until the final over. With England needing a late miracle, Jofra Archer swung freely and smashed three sixes in the last over. Off the final ball he launched Dube over the ropes once more, finishing unbeaten on 19 from just four balls. Yet the target proved just beyond reach. England closed on 246 for seven, leaving India victorious by seven runs after one of the most breathless contests of the tournament.

For India, it was Samson's authority with the bat and a moment of brilliance on the boundary that defined the evening.

Madrid under pressure ahead of Vigo trip & City showdown

Madrid, Mar 5 (UNI) Real Madrid and head coach Alvaro Arbeloa face a pivotal night on Friday when they travel to face Celta Vigo, needing a win to keep their title hopes alive and to avoid a wave of criticism just days before the club's biggest match of the season. Monday's 1-0 defeat at home to Getafe CF left Madrid four points behind FC Barcelona in the title race in La Liga, making victory in Vigo essential. Failure to take three points could allow Barcelona, which faces Athletic Club, to extend its lead to six or seven points. The defeat also dealt a blow to Arbeloa's hopes of holding on to the Madrid job in the long term after another ill-disciplined display, according to Xinhua.

Franco Mastantuono was sent off and handed a two-game ban for insulting the referee, while defender Antonio Rudiger was fortunate to remain on the pitch after appearing to drive his

knee into the head of Getafe's Diego Rico. Madrid also paid a heavy injury price.



Rodrygo tore knee ligaments, ruling him out for the rest of the season, the World Cup finals and the start of next campaign. Kylian Mbappe will also miss Friday's game with a knee sprain amid persistent speculation the problem may be more serious than the club has admitted, raising fears he could face a

race to recover in time for the summer. Jude Bellingham, Raul Asencio, Dani Ceballos and Eder Militao remain sidelined, while Eduardo Camavinga is also a doubt after a mouth infection ruled him out on Monday. With so many absences, Arbeloa has few options to rotate his squad ahead of Wednesday's clash

with Manchester City in the first leg of their UEFA Champions League last-16 tie. City won 2-1 in Madrid when the sides met earlier this season in the competition's league phase, and although Pep Guardiola's side has shown occasional vulnerabilities, its attacking strength still makes it one of the most dangerous

opponents in Europe.

The pressure on Real Madrid is therefore mounting, with fans and analysts questioning the team's consistency at a crucial stage of the season. Dropped points in recent weeks have allowed Barcelona to gain momentum in the title race, leaving little room for further mistakes. A convincing performance against Celta Vigo could help restore confidence within the squad and calm growing concerns among supporters.

Celta Vigo, meanwhile, will look to take advantage of Madrid's injury troubles and fragile form. Playing at home, the Galician side is expected to press aggressively and capitalize on any defensive lapses. Matches in Vigo have historically proven challenging for many top teams, and Madrid will need discipline and focus to avoid another setback. Much of the responsibility may now fall on the remaining senior players to guide the team through this difficult phase.

Clubs vote in favour of six-team Championship play-off

London, Mar 5 (UNI) EFL clubs have voted in favour of expanding the Championship play-offs from four to six teams. The new system is similar to the format used in the National League and will be introduced for the 2026-27 season. It means teams finishing from third to eighth will compete for promotion to the Premier League, according to BBC sport.

Clubs finishing third and fourth will progress directly to the semi-final, while a one-legged quarter final will be played with fifth at home to eighth and sixth hosting seventh. Semi-finals will remain as two legs and the final will still take place at Wembley at the end of May. There are currently no plans in place to expand the play-offs in League One or League Two. The proposal has been under consideration for a number of seasons and was approved by the EFL board and Football Association.

"The decision is intended to increase the number of competitive fixtures during the closing stages of the



campaign, while also giving two additional clubs the opportunity to reach the play-off final at Wembley Stadium and progress to the Premier League," the EFL said.

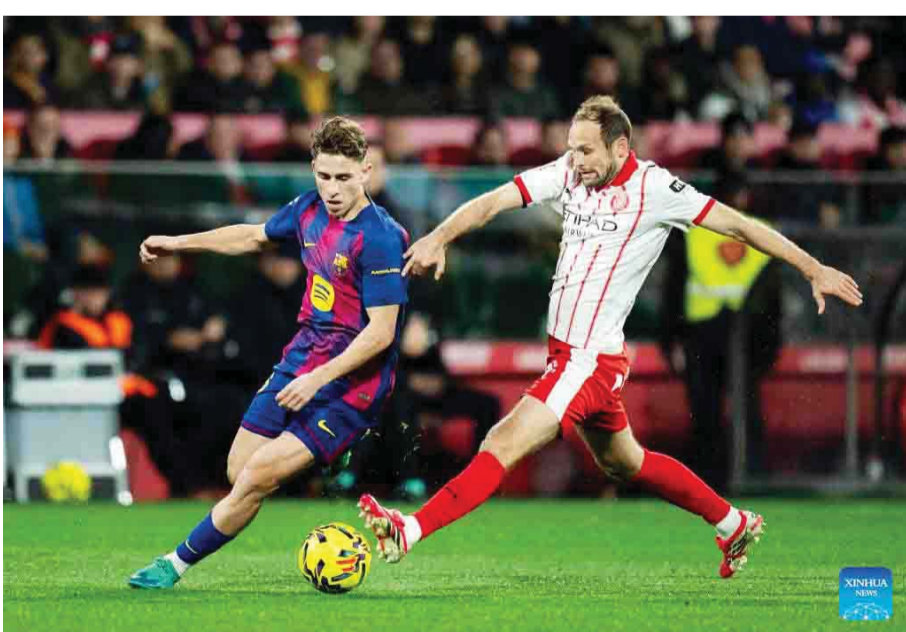
The second tier play-offs have been contested by four teams since its introduction in the 1986-87 season. Millwall finished eighth in the Championship last season on 66 points with Bristol City claiming the final play-off spot on 68 points. Third-placed Sheffield United, who lost the play-off final to Sunderland, got 90

points. EFL chief executive Trevor Birch said the play-offs have become a "highlight of the domestic football calendar, capturing the drama, suspense and jeopardy that make the EFL so special".

"Following several months of discussion with clubs and other stakeholders, we are confident this change will further strengthen the Championship as a competition and give more clubs and their supporters a genuine opportunity of achieving promotion," Birch said.

Debuts, tension and a cup final dry run in La Liga's matchday 27

Madrid, Mar 5 (UNI) Real Madrid faces a must-win match on Friday night, while Athletic Club hosts FC Barcelona in a meeting between two beaten Copa del Rey semifinalists and Atletico Madrid welcomes Real Sociedad in a preview of next month's cup final as Matchday 27 of La Liga unfolds this weekend. Real Madrid's home defeat to Getafe on Monday set alarm bells ringing at the club, which has slipped four points behind Barcelona in the title race. The result also raised questions about the long-term future of coach Alvaro Arbeloa ahead of next week's Champions League last-16 tie at home to Manchester City, with the outcome likely to influence whether he remains in charge at the end of the season, according to Xinhua. Madrid travels to face sixth-place Celta Vigo without Kylian Mbappe, who is struggling with a knee injury, Rodrygo, whose sea-



son ended Monday with a torn cruciate ligament, and Franco Mastantuono, who received a two-game ban for insulting the referee in that match.

Those absences add to those of Raul Asencio, Jude Bellingham and Eder Militao, leaving Arbeloa with a selection headache. Barcelona produced an impres-

sive performance against Atletico Madrid on Tuesday but fell short of overturning a 4-0 first-leg deficit in the Copa del Rey semifinal.

The Catalan club will know Madrid's result before kicking off at Athletic Bilbao's San Mames Stadium, with anything less than a win offering the chance to extend its lead at the top of

the table. Jules Kounde and Alejandro Balde both suffered muscle injuries on Tuesday, while Robert Lewandowski could play wearing a protective mask after fracturing an eye socket last weekend. Athletic Club lost 1-0 to Real Sociedad on Wednesday to miss out on the Copa del Rey final and has several players injured,

including Nico Williams, Benat Prados, Maroan and Yeray Alvarez, limiting coach Ernesto Valverde's options.

By a twist of fate, Atletico Madrid hosts Real Sociedad just days after both teams booked places in the Copa del Rey final, with Saturday's match serving as a dry run for April's showdown. Atletico coach Diego Simeone is expected to rotate his squad ahead of a Champions League visit to Tottenham, which could offer an opportunity for Real Sociedad, who drew the first meeting this season 1-1 in coach Pellegrino Matarazzo's first game in charge. Elsewhere, two coaches make their debuts in key matches.

Martin Demichelis takes charge of Mallorca for the first time as his side visits Osasuna. Mallorca begins the weekend third from bottom and is in urgent need of inspiration after a poor run of form dropped it into the relegation zone.

Raducanu to 'tap into a few people' over coaching

London, Mar 5 (UNI) British number one Emma Raducanu says she is going to be "tapping into few people" as she tries to rediscover her natural way of playing.

The 2021 US Open champion says she remains open to the idea of having another full-time coach - as long as they do not dictate the way she should play - but is wary of the scrutiny they will attract. Raducanu's partnership with Francisco Roig ended after January's Australian Open because of disagreement over her playing style. The Spaniard was the seventh full-time coach Raducanu had worked with. "Right now, it's more about bringing my instincts back out, getting back in touch with myself," Raducanu told BBC Sport after two-hour practice session before her first match at Indian Wells in California.

"I have had lot of people telling me what to do, how



to play, and it hasn't necessarily fit. "So I want to come back to my natural way of playing. That takes time to relearn because that's something that has been coached out of me little bit. "I don't necessarily want to have one coach in the role because anyone I bring in is straight away going to be scrutinised - even if it's trial.

"I might feel the pressure to stick with them, even if it's not necessarily the right decision. "I would love to

have coach that works well, but I don't think it's necessarily going to be easy to find one person and they are going to check every box.

"I definitely have my mind open to it. It's just that I would rather someone not come in and tell me 'let's do this', and I disagree with it but have to listen to them. "So far Alex is has been really good, but I am definitely going to tap into few people here and there."