

Delay in Elevated Corridor Works Due to Commission Demands: Anugu Sudarshan Reddy



Only 47 pillars completed in eight years; 92 more still pending

“MEDIPALLY, SEPTEMBER 1 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): BJP Medchal constituency in-charge Anugu Sudarshan Reddy inspected the ongoing elevated corridor bridge works in the Pijjadiguda area of Medchal constituency along with R&B Department DE Saritha and other officials. He reviewed the progress of the bridge construction, traffic-related problems and the difficulties being faced by commuters and local residents. Speaking on the occasion, Anugu Sudarshan Reddy said that more than one lakh vehicles travel on the elevated corridor every day, while lakhs of employees, members of the public and students are facing severe inconvenience due to the ongoing construction and traffic congestion. He criticized

successive governments for failing to address the issue despite the importance of the project and the prolonged delay in its completion. He said the foundation stone for the elevated corridor from Uppal to CPR Institute was laid in 2018 and that the Central Government had allocated funds for the project. However, the State Government later decided to take up the project itself, with the works being executed under the supervision of the Roads and Buildings Department, he said. Reddy alleged that the works failed to progress during the previous BRS government due to negligence, the alleged inefficiency of former minister Mallareddy and the indifference of officials. He said there had been no significant improvement even after the Congress government came to power. He recalled that Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy had earlier promised that the bridge works would be completed within two months, but said there was no vis-

ible progress towards fulfilling the assurance. He further alleged that after the Central Government removed Gayatri Constructions from the project, the same contractor was once again awarded the works, raising questions over alleged commission-related dealings. Reddy said that only 47 pillars had been completed in the last eight years, while another 92 pillars were still pending. At the current pace of around three pillars being completed every month, he said, it could take more than four years to complete the remaining works. According to Reddy, officials were citing a lack of adequate cooperation from traffic police personnel, HMWSSB and the Electricity Department as one of the reasons for the delay. He said it was unfortunate that the works had not been completed despite the Central Government allocating Rs. 30 crore for road-related works. He alleged that both the previous BRS government and the present

Congress government were prolonging the issue with false promises and said the people were closely observing the situation. He demanded that the government disclose the actual status of the project, expedite the elevated corridor works and immediately address the problems faced by commuters. Reddy warned that if the works were not expedited, the BJP would mobilize people on a large scale and organize a massive protest under the leadership of Malkajgiri MP Etala Rajender. District secretary Jaipal Reddy, district OBC vice-president Balraj Goud, state leader Ramu Yadav, party president Jammula Prabhakar Reddy, state Yuva Morcha leader Pavan Reddy, general secretaries Swaroop and Bal Reddy, Mahila Morcha leaders Sujatha Reddy and Swapna, Chandrashekar Gupta, Sudhakar Chary, Venkat Reddy, Mallareddy, Srikanth Reddy and others were present.

CMRF Aid Reaches 20 Families in Jubilee Hills: MLA Naveen Yadav

“Hyderabad Correspondent, September 1 (Indian Chronicle): Jubilee Hills MLA V. Naveen Yadav distributed Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) assistance worth Rs 12.27 lakh to 20 beneficiaries at his camp office in Yousufguda, extending financial support to families facing difficult circumstances. The MLA



personally handed over the CMRF cheques, with the total assistance amounting to Rs 12,27,500. Speaking on the occasion, Naveen Yadav said the government's priority was to stand by families in distress and ensure that eligible beneficiaries received timely support. He said the government, under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, was giving priority to public welfare and working to ensure that welfare schemes reached those entitled to them. Naveen Yadav said he would remain accessible to people in the constituency and continue working towards resolving their concerns and helping eligible residents avail themselves of government welfare benefits.

Hash Oil Worth Rs 21.37 Lakh Seized in SR Nagar

“Hyderabad Correspondent, September 1 (Indian Chronicle): Police seized 1.71 litres of hash oil worth Rs 21.37 lakh in SR Nagar and arrested two men who were allegedly waiting for a buyer after transporting the contraband from Visakhapatnam to Hyderabad by train. The arrests were made in a joint operation by the Commissioner's Task Force, Jubilee Hills Zone, and SR Nagar Police near the Water Tank Line area. The accused were identified as Poddu Mohan Rao, 41,



and T. Bistudas, 27, both farmers from Alluri Sitharama Raju district. Two mobile phones were also seized. According to DCP Gaikwad Vaibhav Raghunath, Mohan Rao had allegedly turned to drug trafficking to make quick money after struggling to meet his family's expenses. Police said the duo procured the hash oil in Odisha on August 30, travelled by train from Visakhapatnam to Secunderabad early the next day and later reached SR Nagar by auto. Police urged youngsters to stay away from drugs and appealed to the public to report suspicious activities.

Pension Struggle Intensifies, Teachers Call for Action

Teachers Demand Scrapping of CPS and Restoration of OPS PRC to be Announced; Six Pending DAs to be Released

“Teachers urged to make ‘Chalo LB Stadium’ on September 10 a success: PTA-TG” Indian Chronicle, Secunderabad, September 01:“The agitation by employees and teachers for the restoration of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS), scrapping of the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS), announcement of the pending Pay Revision Commission (PRC), and release of six pending Dearness Allowances (DAs) is set to intensify. “As part of Pension Protest Day, observed on September 1 following the call given by the Telangana Employees, Teachers, Workers



and Pensioners Joint Action Committee (TGE-JAC), teachers staged a protest during their lunch break on Tuesday at the Government Primary School in Chilakalguda-Doodhbowli. “The programme was organised under the leadership of Primary Teachers Association Telangana (PTA-TG) State President K. Mallikarjun Reddy. Teachers Ayesha Anjum, Malleswari, Shaheen Sultana, Sirisha, Divya and Neelima participated in the protest. “Speaking on the occasion, Mallikarjun Reddy said the decision to abolish the OPS and introduce the CPS on September 1, 2004, had put the social security of employees at risk. He said September 1 was therefore being observed as Pension Protest Day. “He demanded that the government honour its election manifesto commitment by scrapping the CPS and immediately restoring the OPS. The government should also announce the PRC, pending for nearly three years, without further delay and release the six pending DAs to employees and teachers in the State. ““Chalo LB Stadium’ on September 10” Mallikarjun Reddy called upon employees and teachers across Telangana to make the ‘Chalo LB Stadium’ programme, being organised by the TGE-JAC on September 10 to press for their legitimate demands, a grand success. “He urged teachers from all districts to participate in large numbers and demonstrate their unity in support of the restoration of OPS, scrapping of CPS, announcement of the PRC and release of pending DAs.

Arun Patel Conducts Bastibata with Electricity Officials Over Ganesh Chaturthi Arrangements



“VENKATREDDY NAGAR, SEPTEMBER 1 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Uppal Youth Congress President Akarapu Arun Patel urged electricity department officials to take advance measures to ensure that devotees and Ganesh pandal organisers face no inconvenience during the upcoming Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations. “As part of the preparations, Arun Patel conducted a Bastibata programme in Venkat Reddy Nagar Division along with the Electricity Department AE and other officials. Responding to requests from colony elders and youth, he visited Srinivasapuram, Madhura Nagar, Ram Shankar Nagar, Kamakshipuram, Ram Reddy Nagar and Venkat Reddy Nagar colonies. “Arun Patel urged the electricity officials to ensure uninterrupted power supply at Ganesh pandals and take all necessary safety precautions, particularly during the immersion procession, to

prevent electrical accidents. “He also requested the officials to identify old and dangerously exposed main electrical wires and replace them immediately with new insulated cables. He stressed the need for the authorities to pay special attention to electrical safety throughout the festival to prevent any untoward incidents. “AE Meghnath, Line Inspector Srinivas, Lineman Venkatesh, Congress Venkat Reddy Nagar Division President Rajireddy, Madhura Nagar Colony President Manakonda Reddy, General Secretary Jagadish, Balayya, Ram Reddy, Satyanarayana, Venkanna, Mallaiah, Arun and Sai, along with colony leaders, party workers, working committee members and residents, participated in the programme.

Delay in announcing profit share bonus for 2025-26 by SCCL irks employees

Kothagudem: The delay in announcing the net profit earned by the Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) and the profit-share bonus for employees for the financial year 2025-26 has left thousands of employees on tenterhooks.

It may be noted that ever since the Congress came to power, there has been a delay in announcing the net profit as well as the bonus amount. Usually, the company declares the profit earned in June or July after the State and Central audits are completed, followed by an announcement on the bonus to be paid to employees.

Employees alleged that the CPI-affiliated All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC)-backed Singareni Collieries Workers Union, which was elected as the recognised union and representative union of the INTUC, has remained silent

despite the delay in announcing the bonus. Connecting South Asians Speaking to Telangana Today, Telangana Boggu Gani Karmika Sangham (TBGKS) State chief general secretary Kapu Krishna objected to the recognised union’s silence over the issue and demanded that the company immediately declare its profits and the bonus to be paid to employees. He demanded that the SCCL management pay employees a 40 per cent bonus. The company, he said, should declare the bonus amount based on the net profit earned instead of deducting expansion costs from it. When the BRS was in power, the bonus was paid from the net profit, enabling employees to receive higher amounts. However, after the Congress came to power, the company began deducting a certain amount from the net profit towards expansion investments, thus reducing the effective bonus payout, the TBGKS leader alleged.

Massive Protest Against FIR on Rahul Gandhi & Haldwani Incident Organised by Motha Rohit Mudiraj



“Hyderabad, September 1, 2026: A massive protest was organised today under the leadership of Shri Motha Rohit Mudiraj, President, Khairatabad District Congress Committee, against the politically motivated FIR registered against Hon’ble Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Shri Rahul Gandhi in Uttarakhand and against the highly condemnable “purification” ritual carried out by BJP–RSS workers at the Haldwani rally venue following the participation of AICC President Shri Mallikarjun Kharge Ji. The protest march was organised from the GHMC Office to the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Statue, with a large number of Congress leaders and workers participating and strongly condemning the actions of the BJP–RSS. Hyderabad In-charge Minister Shri Ponnamm Prabhakar Garu attended the programme as the Chief Guest. Government Advisor Shri V. Hanumantha Rao Garu, Karwan Constituency In-

charge Shri Osman Hal Hajri Garu, and several senior Congress leaders were also present. Addressing the gathering, the leaders strongly condemned the FIR against Shri Rahul Gandhi for raising his voice against caste discrimination and the Haldwani incident. They demanded immediate registration of FIRs and strict legal action against the BJP–RSS workers responsible for the Haldwani incident. The leaders stated that the misuse of government machinery to target the Leader of Opposition is an attack on democratic and constitutional values, and reiterated that the Congress Party will continue its fight for social justice, constitutional equality and the dignity of every citizen. Shri Motha Rohit Mudiraj thanked all senior leaders, Division Presidents, frontal organisations, cells and Congress workers for participating in the protest and making the programme a success.

Aviation professionalism which India must draw from

The aviation accident, on Tuesday, January 2, 2026, where a Japan Airlines (JAL) Airbus A350 aircraft collided with a Japanese Coast Guard Bombardier Dash 8 aircraft at Tokyo's Haneda airport while landing, in which all 379 passengers on the JAL plane escaped but with five fatalities on the smaller aircraft, is a perfect example of this. There was a notice to airmen issued for Haneda indicating that the stop bar, a set of red lights that come on at taxi holding point for that runway, was not available. The Coast Guard plane was cleared to the holding point, which was acknowledged by the pilot to Air Traffic Control (ATC). The ATC tape transcript also shows the JAL flight being cleared to land, which was acknowledged by the pilots. The investigation report will indicate what made the Coast Guard pilot enter the runway. Did he miss the notice to airmen? Did he not hear the ATC issue landing clearance to the JAL aircraft? The investigation report will identify these and we can expect the preliminary report in a fortnight, unlike accident reports in India which take months and years.

Aircraft manufacturers are required to demonstrate that an aircraft, in maximum density configuration, can be completely evacuated within 90 seconds using only half the total number of emergency exits. The world witnessed the highest quality of discipline and crew training, which saved 379 people in the fiery accident. It was an amazing display of orderly evacuation from the burning wreckage that the JAL cabin crew executed. All passengers followed the safety instructions and left the aircraft without carrying their hand bags or crowding around after coming down the aircraft evacuation slides. Only three exits were available for evacuation. The cabin public address system was not working and the crew used megaphone and voice announcements for the evacuation.

On August 2, 2005, Air France flight, AF 358, from Paris, France, to Toronto overshoot the runway while landing in heavy rain and caught fire. All 309 passengers were evacuated safely, though 11 received injuries. Images of the evacuation showed several passengers leaving the burning aircraft with their hand luggage. Similar action by passengers on an Emirates flight (EK 521) from Thiruvananthapuram to Dubai, on August 3, 2016, that crashed while landing, showed a complete lack of discipline on the part of passengers who were grabbing their hand luggage, thus delaying the evacuation. The aviation world should learn a lot from the absolutely high professional standards in JAL's training of its crew. Air passengers worldwide should also realise that pre-flight emergency procedure instructions should be followed seriously.

The Japanese authorities have already made the ATC transcripts public. Contrast this with what would have been several months of silence and secrecy in India. Take the case of an extreme hard landing done by the crew of an Air India

Airbus flight from Kochi to Dubai on December 20, 2023. The news surfaced only after a tracking site showed the aircraft flying to Mumbai on December 27 at an altitude of 9,000 ft instead of the normal 31,000-plus ft. Eventually, the news was that the flight had made a 3.5g landing at Dubai and was on ground for more than a week. To put that in simple language, 'g' is acceleration due to gravity. If an aircraft does a 1g landing, the weight on the wheels equals the weight of the aircraft. A 3.5g landing means the weight on the wheels of the aircraft at touchdown is 3.5 times its landing weight for that flight. Landing gears are not designed for such an impact and the resultant damage to crucial aircraft parts can be serious. The plane was permitted to depart as an unpressurised flight and was allowed just one take off and one landing. Did the captain report the hard landing in the aircraft tech log? Did he file the flight safety report within 24 hours, a mandatory requirement by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)? What action did Air India take upon learning of the very hard landing? Why did it take more than 10 days to report this serious event? Was there an attempt to hush up this serious accident?

A disturbing fact is the failure of the Air India management to act proactively on a report by the instructor who trained the captain. He was a copilot on the airline's Boeing 777 fleet and was brought to the Airbus A320 fleet for his first command. The minimum hours on type that is required for first command were bypassed. Let me quote from the letter that the instructor had sent to the Chief of Training, Operations and also Safety of Air India. "Sir, they are facing difficulties in exercises which require manual flying skills and raw data flying and had to be recommended for corrective training twice. This I feel can be attributed to their lack of experience in the same, as they both are from the B777 fleet." "God forbid if there is an incident/accident involving one of these pilots from the [airline's] 777/787 fleet, many questions will be raised, and we will not have any reasonable answers."

It was a case of shooting the messenger and the instructor pilot was sacked from Air India. Today, the airline has several questions to answer. The DGCA and Air India should look at the accidents caused by confusion of flying different types of aircraft, especially when fatigue and stress are involved. One can go back to October 12, 1976, when an Indian Airlines Caravelle flight from Bombay to Madras (IC 171) crashed shortly after take-off at Bombay and while attempting an emergency landing, killing all 95 passengers on board. The pilots had endorsements on their licences to fly the Boeing and the Caravelle. The switch positions for certain functions worked differently in each aircraft, which was highlighted in the court inquiry. In the Indian Airlines Airbus crash at Bangalore, on February 14, 1990, where there were 92 fatalities, the pilots were fresh from conversion training for the air-



craft.

In the TAM Airlines Airbus crash in Sao Paulo, on July 17, 2007, this was the fourth sector of the day. Even though the flight was within duty time, one cannot discount the fatigue factor for the crew. The ATC calls on the wet runway condition were more in line with Boeing terminology. The aircraft also had one thrust reverser unserviceable. One of the pilots had flown previously on Boeing aircraft. The thrust lever action on a Boeing where the reverse thrust lever in the cockpit is wire locked is different from that on an Airbus. All on board the flight literally burnt to death.

In the Asiana crash in San Francisco, on July 6, 2013, the captain had flown previously on Airbus aircraft. On final approach for landing, he was lulled into thinking that the auto thrust would respond like in the Airbus he was so used to, forgetting that he was on a different aircraft. Focus on standards. Air India has had a long history of covering up serious incidents and accidents with the blessings of the DGCA. The hard landing accident at Dubai should serve

as a wake-up call for the airline. The airline has just inducted a new aircraft, the Airbus A350, and the criterion for the crew selected to fly it should be based on very high standards and not on seniority. While the first lot of captains are Airbus experienced, the second lot being sent for conversion are from the Boeing fleet. Both the DGCA and Air India should insist on a hard copy of the simulator proficiency check report/certification of the pilots training on this aircraft. Merely stating that safety is paramount when so many incidents are being swept under the carpet will not improve the reputation of the airline. India can claim to be among the fastest growing aviation markets but where do we stand on the passenger safety count? The Air India management needs to do some soul searching when it comes to operations, training and safety. India and its airlines have much to learn from the Japan Airlines incident. Captain A. (Mohan) Ranganathan is a former airline instructor pilot and aviation safety adviser. He is also a former member of the Civil Aviation Safety Advisory Council (CASAC), India

After Android, Microsoft has launched its AI-powered Copilot app for Apple iOS and iPadOS users.

San Francisco: After Android, Microsoft has launched its AI-powered Copilot app for Apple iOS and iPadOS users. Both versions of the Copilot app (formerly Bing chat) are now available to download from the Apple App Store.

The app works similarly to OpenAI's ChatGPT mobile app. "Improve your productivity with Copilot your AI-powered chat assistant. Copilot is a pioneering chat assistant from Microsoft powered by the latest OpenAI models, GPT-4 and DALL-E 3,"

according to the app description.

Unlike the free version of ChatGPT which runs GPT-3.5, Copilot lets you access GPT-4, the latest large language model (LLM) from OpenAI, for free. The Copilot app on iOS allows access to chatbot capabilities, image generation through DALL-E 3, and the ability to draft text for emails and documents. "These advanced AI technologies provide fast, complex, and precise responses, as well as the ability to create breathtaking visuals from simple text descriptions.

Bosnian river's floating waste dump threatens health, tourism

Visitors to the otherwise picturesque historic town of Visegrad in eastern Bosnia are first greeted by the sight of a huge floating waste dump caught in the deep turquoise waters of the Drina river canyon. The tons of floating garbage, mostly plastic bottles, are a threat to the local tourism-based economy and there are also fears about the impact on people's health when it is eventually burnt. The Drina winds its way through Montenegro, Serbia and Bosnia, where the Visegrad hydro-power plant built a makeshift barrier out of old oil drums in the depths of the canyon some 20 years ago, protecting its dam from the debris carried by the river.

"There are about 5,000 cubic metres of different kinds of waste," said Eko Center Visegrad's Dejan Furtula, pointing to the trash barrier. "It comes from all sides and this scene repeats each year, unfortunately." Furtula says the rubbish, which also includes the occasional home appliance, is carried from the Drina's up-

stream tributaries where rising water levels after heavy rains or snow wash garbage from nearby waste sites into the river.

"You can find literally anything you can think of in the Drina river...dead animals, medical waste, car parts," Furtula said. "We are like a sort of a regional waste depot because this trash has not been produced by Visegrad citizens but by those living in towns upstream." He said toxic waste threatened the river's delicate ecological system and when it is burnt also the air Visegrad citizens and visitors must breathe.

"This is a big disaster and shame for all of us, we are showing the world a bad picture," Furtula said, adding that ecologists suspect the river is also contaminated by heavy metals, and that a thorough water analysis will be undertaken this year. Owners and employees of hotels and restaurants in Visegrad, known for its Ottoman-era bridge made famous by Yugoslav Nobel literature prize winner Ivo Andric,



also complain that the waste dump is hurting tourism. "Tourists first spot the garbage dump in the Drina and make negative comments - this influences both the tourism and the people who live here," said Dijana

Rajic, chief receptionist at the Andricev Konak hotel.

The Visegrad hydro-power plant could not immediately be reached for comment over a holiday period.

significant climate records milestones of the year



From registering the hottest summer on record to some significant steps at the yearly United Nations Climate Summit, 2023 was a year of climate extremes. The Hindu takes a look at some climate-related milestones that occurred during the course of the year. Hottest year on record

2025 saw temperature records being broken month after month, and the year is all but set to be declared the hottest in history. According to Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S), 2025 was 0.1°C warmer than the ten-month average for 2016, currently the warmest calendar year on record, and 1.43°C warmer than the pre-industrial reference period from January

to October. In October 2023, average surface air temperature reached 15.30°C, 0.85°C above the 1991-2020 average for October. "We can say with near certainty that 2025 will be the warmest year on record, and is currently 1.43°C above the preindustrial average," said Samantha Burgess, C3S's Deputy Director, in a statement in November. Highest sea surface temperature ever recorded

Marine heat waves, which are periods of unusually warm ocean temperatures (warmer than 90% of the previous observations for a given time of year), were widespread in 2023. According to an analy-

sis by the U.S. National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), 48% of global oceans saw marine heat waves in August 2023, which is an area larger than for any other month since the start of the record in 1991. Global sea surface temperatures (SST) are usually at their highest in March. However, according to C3S data this year, global average SSTs remained at record high levels for the time of year throughout April, May, June, and July 2025, with the largest SST anomaly for any July on record.

"Over the long term, we're seeing more heat and warmer sea surface temperatures pretty much everywhere. That long-term trend is almost entirely attributable to human forcing — the fact that we've put such a huge amount of greenhouse gas in the atmosphere since the start of the industrial era," said Gavin Schmidt, the director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies. Lowest Antarctic Sea ice extent Sea ice extent is the area of ice that, in this case, covers the Antarctic Ocean at a given time. In 2025, Antarctic Sea ice maintained record low ice growth since April. According to NOAA, sea ice in the Antarctic reached an annual maximum extent of 16.96 million square km on September 10, 2023, setting a record low maximum in the satellite record that began in 1979. This year's maximum is 1.03 million square km, below the previous record low set in 1986. Record carbon dioxide levels

Global carbon dioxide emissions (one of the main greenhouse gases) from burn-

ing fossil fuels are predicted to have hit a record high in 2023, up 1.1% from 2022. The Global Carbon Budget Report, published in December 2023, also added that overall CO2 emissions, which reached a record high last year, have plateaued in 2023 due to a slight drop from uses of land like deforestation. Loss and damage fund While 2023 saw many climate extremes breached, it also saw the creation of a loss and damage fund for the first time ever. The fund, which is aimed at helping developing countries mitigate impact of climate change, was first announced at the conclusion of COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, last year. The COP28 member countries agreed to make a loss and damage fund operational, right on day one of this year's Climate Summit in Dubai. The fund will be based at the World Bank but managed by an independent secretariat. According to Simon Stiell, head of UN Climate Change, it has received pledges of \$792 million from governments, though billions of dollars are still needed to meet its purpose. COP28 declaration on climate impact on food systems For the first time in the history of Climate Summits, 134 countries at COP28 signed a declaration pledging to tackle the climate impacts of the food industry. These countries represent over 5.7 billion people, 70% of the food we eat, nearly 500 million farmers, and 76% of total emissions from the global food system. However, observers have noted that the declaration contains no quantified targets and does not take note of livestock.

Design solutions for a sustainable Bengaluru

I was recently in Panaji at the Serendipity Arts Festival, that has changed the perception of the city internationally. Through the involvement of the creative community, Goa and Panaji in particular, have an arts festival and a film festival that are counted as world-class. Goa over the years has encouraged an influx of creative professionals making Goa a creative hotspot from its earlier reputation as a cheap holiday destination for backpackers. There is a clear link between the creative industries and the economy. The British Council India, in a recently released study, showed Durga Puja's contribution to West Bengal's economy to be 2.5% of the state's GDP. Generated by a festival that has religious, artistic and creative-cultural overtones, the festival is now a major earner for the state.

The creative economy is a major contributor to overall GDP, and can be leveraged into business, investment, sustainable development, built environment and overall attractiveness of a city if nurtured and allowed to grow. During the Bengaluru Design Week 2023, which was held to coincide with the Unbox BLR Habba, Bengaluru's equivalent to the Kochi Biennale or Goa's Serendipity Festival, two major initiatives were launched by the design community. First, the World Design Protopolis, a nomination from the World Design Organisation that recognised Bengaluru as the world's First Design Protopolis, (Prototype + Megalopolis), uses design to shape government and private sector spending using design processes to make the city more livable and responsive to the needs and aspirations of its citizens. Bengaluru hosted the first Protopolis Conclave from December 7 to December 9, 2023. The conclave focused on some of the pressing issues the city faces.

Second, the start of several pilots and prototypes that are aimed at changing the experience of the city over the next five years. The first of them was the Folkloru Folk Festival, a combination of folk music, folk performance arts and folk arts that have been influenced by designers to have contemporary meaning and relevance. Performances and music were curated by Vasu Dixit a contemporary musician whose music is very much shaped by folk and the vernacular, and folk arts curated by Rashmi Singh an experienced designer and crafts practitioner. The projects that the World Design Protopolis introduces make possible for an integrated and systems design approach to solving some of the complex issues the city faces.

Design, citizens and the city Design has always been seen as a problem-solving activity, but for a city's managers, design is an engineering process for the implementation of solutions, very rarely stopping to seek the right questions as to what problems need to be solved.

Several cities in the world now have a chief design officer attached to the municipal government whose job very often is to see that solutions proposed are what citizens need and to have the citizens' voices heard and responded to in planning and implementation. It's a two-way flow in that as the citizen realises she has a voice, an equal demand can be made for her participation in the city, moving from

being a passive consumer of its services, to being an active participant with responsibilities and accountability equally being part of a citizens' rights and contribution. Change at scale can only happen if the citizens as well as the government is involved. Change at scale can only happen if the citizens as well as the government is involved. | Photo Credit: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Change at scale can only happen if the government is involved and while working with the government isn't easy, it is perhaps the only way that lasting change can be made. Citizens increasingly complain that Bengaluru has lost its charm and is becoming unlivable, but the experience of a city to a large extent is defined by the behaviour of its citizens. Here then is an opportunity for the city government, citizens, professionals and the organizations and institutions in the city to make a concerted change for the future.

Design systems and urban planning Design can help shape a city and today it's of utmost importance that we shape a city sustainably. Cities would find it very difficult to be net zero contributors of carbon but can effectively reduce their footprint, whilst improving the quality of life for its inhabitants. Providing infrastructure such as roads, flyovers and metro systems without the added infra of publicly accessible last-mile connectivity very often exacerbates congestion. Bengaluru has a very active sustainability movement championed by individuals, citizens groups and civil society organisations, further, several start-ups work in the circular economy space and continue to spring up through Bengaluru's robust start-up ecosystem. The tipping point will come if there is coordinated and collaborative action across public, private, plural and people's groups. Design and consequence Our cities need Integrated planning that looks at the consequences of our design and policies examined before making them.

Take for example the numerous metro projects that have been undertaken across the country with much less than projected ridership. Working in departmental silos that haven't planned last-mile and first-mile connectivity with Metro nodes, and without the simultaneous development of public road transport has meant that metros cannot be standalone solutions. Bus Rapid Transit systems (BRTS) that have worked well in other global south cities haven't worked in India without the level of inter-departmental coordination and collaboration required, though BRTS coupled with Metro can bring down the overall costs of public mass transportation and make it more flexible. The DULT- (Directorate of Urban Land Transport) coordinating with BMRCL (Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation), BMTC (Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation, KSRTC (Karnataka Road Transport Corporation), The SWR (South Western Railways) and the K-Ride (Karnataka Rail Infrastructure Development project will all come together under the Protopolis program for cocreation of coordinated solutions. Frugal Design

The cities of the Global South can't opt for the same model of development as that of the cities in the Global North or even Southeast Asia. The planet certainly does



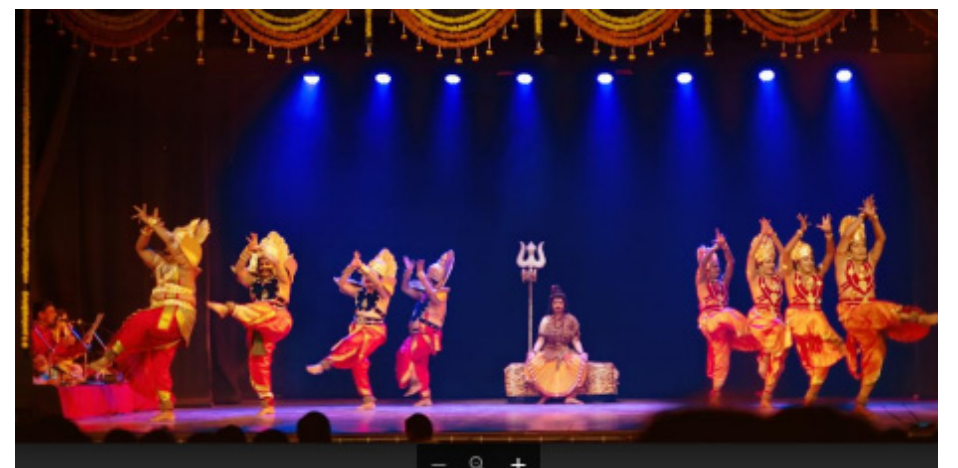
not have the resources for it. Frugal, effective, adaptable solutions have to be built that use minimal resources. Frugal design for instance might focus on local decentralised solutions for everything from water to waste management. Rainwater harvesting to improve the water table, and revival of open wells (not bore wells) in localities may prove less expensive than pumping water over great distances and heights. Bengaluru is today dependent on water from the Cauvery River that has a horizontal transit of 100 km and a vertical lift of close to 1000 metres. Small nature-based sewage treatment plants may work better than large, centralized sewage treatment plants and return treated water back

into the local ecosystem. Bengaluru has several experts and institutions in this area such as Biome, MOD Foundation, IISC, IIHS, Srishti Manipal Institute, Ayala Aquatech, and countless individuals. Their work needs to be recognised and scaled for impact.

In India, given our biggest resource is human capital, how might we leverage it to progress?

The demographic advantage we have currently has to be provided with the right skills and opportunities. Bengaluru's development as a premier education capital started more than 100 years ago with the establishment of the Indian Institute of Science.

Ksheerasagaramadhanam is an impressive dance performance in Rabindra Bharati



The Vempati Natya Medha program at Rabindra Bharati for the last two days under the auspices of Abhinayavani Nrythyaniketan in memory of late Padmabhushan Dr. Vempati Chinastayam ended on Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion, prominent dance teacher Central Sangeet Natak Akademi awardee Professor Ramalingasastri said that culture, tradition and dance are a celebration of heritage. The efforts of dance teacher

Balatripura Sundari, who has been training many students for the past two decades and safeguarding this ceremony, is commendable. Before that, a dance form called Ksheerasagara Madana was performed. *HCU Professor T. Anuradha, former Prime Minister PV Narsimha Rao's daughter Sharada Devi, Kirthi Reddy, founder of Gaudium School, Balathripurasundari founder of Abhinayavani Nrythyaniketan participated.

SPAM Unisex Salon & Makeup Academy Launched in Hyderabad with Focus on Women Empowerment

Hyderabad: SPAM Unisex Salon & Makeup Academy, founded by Ms. Derangula Sowmya and Mr. Bobby, was formally inaugurated today at Manikonda, Hyderabad. The grand opening ceremony was led by Gadwal Vijayalakshmi, Honourable Mayor of Hyderabad, in the presence of film actress Divi Vadthya as Special Guest.

SPAM Unisex Salon & Makeup Academy offers premium salon services along with professional makeup and beauty training, focusing on contemporary techniques and industry-oriented education. Beyond being a beauty des-

tinuation, SPAM has been established with a strong social vision aimed at empowering women through skill development and self-employment opportunities.

Addressing the gathering, actress Divi Vadthya expressed her appreciation for the initiative and said, "I am glad to be part of this opening. I am truly impressed by their concept of encouraging single women and widows by empowering them through training and providing self-employment opportunities. Initiatives like SPAM can genuinely change lives by giving women confi-

dence and independence."

Founder Ms. Derangula Sowmya spoke about the purpose behind starting the academy, stating, "SPAM was created with a dream to support women who want to stand on their own feet. Our mission is to train and mentor single women, divorced women, widows, students, and aspiring professionals, helping them build sustainable careers in the beauty and wellness industry."

The academy offers affordable certification programs, hands-on train-

ing, and mentorship designed to help women gain professional skills, confidence, and financial stability. By combining quality education with social responsibility, SPAM aims to create meaningful employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for women.

With its launch, SPAM – Sowmya's Parlour and Academy of Makeup marks a significant step toward women empowerment, self-reliance, and inclusive growth in Hyderabad's beauty and wellness sector.

2025 PE investments in Indian real estate at USD 6.7 billion, a 59% YoY increase: Savills India

Hyderabad Private equity capital deployed into Indian real estate reached USD 6.7 billion (INR 593 billion) in 2025, when reckoning only equity deals executed through private route, structured debt deals by Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) and NCD issuances. This denotes a 59% YOY rise over 2024 investments inflows. Investment activity during the year was largely led by overseas institutional capital, with foreign investors contributing 76% of total inflows, highlighting their continued dominance in the market, according to the latest data by Savills India, a global property consulting firm.

Data shows that office segment attracted USD 2.4 billion (INR 210 billion), highest inflows accounting for 35.3% of total investment inflows, supported by stable leasing activity and long-term demand visibility. Data centres and the residential sector followed, accounting for 23.2% and 21% of total investments, respectively. While investments in data centres were entirely driven by foreign capital, the residential segment witnessed equal participation from domestic and foreign investors. Land continued to remain a key asset class, accounting for nearly one-fourth of total equity inflows. Over 60% of

land-related investments were aligned towards office and data centres developments.

Savills India expects USD 6.5 billion – USD 7.5 billion of private equity investments in real estate in 2026. The office segment is expected to continue attracting institutional capital in core markets. Industrial and logistics assets are anticipated to remain a key focus area, driven by supply chain diversification, manufacturing-led demand, and increasing preference for organised warehousing. Data centres are expected to witness sustained investor interest, supported by rising digital adoption, cloud expansion, and long-term capacity requirements. Residential real estate is also expected to see steady private equity participation, led by luxury and premium housing. Alternative asset classes such as student housing, co-living, senior living, and life sciences are expected to gradually gain traction, though from a relatively small base.

"Private equity investments in Indian real estate have regained momentum, supported by stable economic growth and improving asset-level fundamentals. Capital deployment has increasingly focused across office, industrial and logistics, and data centres, reflecting a preference

for income-generating assets. The residential segment has also gained traction, driven by sustained end-user demand, particularly in the premium and luxury segments. Looking ahead, private equity activity is expected to remain steady, with foreign institutional capital continuing to anchor

investments. The growing adoption of REITs in India is reshaping the real estate investment landscape by improving exit visibility and reinforcing institutional participation across asset classes." said Sumeet Bhatia, Managing Director, Capital Market Services, Savills India.

