

Global Summit Will Transform Telangana: CM Revanth

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed officials to ensure that the Invest Telangana Global Summit, scheduled to take place from December 7 to 9 at Bharat Future City, was organised on an international scale. He ordered officials to finalise all preparations for the summit by the end of November.

Revanth Reddy provided key directives regarding the arrangements for the summit which has the theme "Your investments are safe with us". It will be hosted on the premises of the Young India Skills University and the Chief Minister emphasised the need to expedite its construction and focus on the summit's logistics.

During his visit to Bharat Future City on Monday, the Chief Minister inspected the construction progress on the university campus. He instructed that the pace of construction



tion be increased to ensure completion as soon as possible, ideally 15 days ahead of the deadline. He suggested increasing the workforce if necessary.

He also inaugurated the Future City police commissionerate building at Ibrahimpatnam and laid the foundation stone for the National Institute of Urban Management (NIUM) complex in Bharat Future City.

Revanth Reddy urged

officials to ensure that the summit was organized to a standard that effectively attracted entrepreneurs from both within the country and abroad. Instructions were given to ensure that the work on the open premises is completed by November 15.

The Chief Minister stated that the Invest Telangana Global Summit 2026 was not merely a business conference, but a historic platform des-

igned to transform the political and economic landscape of Telangana. The arrangements should impress industrialists visiting from various parts of India and abroad, he said.

He emphasised the need for a well-planned approach toward the summit preparations, starting immediately. He further directed officials to form a committee to oversee the arrangements for the Global Summit on an ongoing basis.

Telangana Plans Buffer Stocks To Face El Niño

HYDERABAD: Irrigation and civil supplies minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said the state was planning to strengthen its foodgrain buffer to protect 3.42 crore people dependent on the PDS against possible drought, crop losses and rising food prices amid the anticipated El Niño impact. He said essential commodities, including wheat flour, were under consideration for distribution through the PDS.

At a high-level review meeting in his Secretariat chambers, he directed officials to plan procurement and stock management well in advance to ensure uninterrupted supplies even if the next agricultural seasons are affected by deficient rainfall. Reviewing rice stocks and procurement plans, he stressed that Telangana should be prepared for adverse seasonal conditions rather than depend entirely on the success of the forthcoming paddy harvest.

The minister said Telangana requires about 2.38 lakh metric tonnes of rice every month, amount-



ing to 28.56 lakh metric tonnes annually, to meet the combined requirements of the Central Pool PDS, other welfare schemes and the state pool, including the mid-day meal programme.

As of October 16, the civil supplies department's stock position showed 9.64 lakh metric tonnes of rice in buffer godowns — 3.50 lakh metric tonnes under the Central Pool and OWS, and 6.14 lakh metric tonnes under the state pool. A further 18.39 lakh metric tonnes of pending custom-milled rice deliveries were awaited.

With existing stocks and pending receipts taken together, availability was estimated at 28.03 lakh metric tonnes, sufficient to meet combined requirements for about 11.7 months, up to September 2027. The minister emphasised the need to ensure that quantities expected from millers and other sources reach government stocks on schedule, noting that the position provides a cushion for another five months.

He also examined the possibility of providing selected essential commodities through the PDS to cushion households against potential price increases. Items considered included wheat flour, red gram, palm oil, sugar, tamarind and chilli powder. Officials were asked to work out per-beneficiary quantities, procurement arrangements and financial burden before placing the proposal for a decision.

Civil supplies commissioner Stephen Ravindra and senior officials took part in the review.

A Silent Revolution Is Underway: Uttam

HYDERABAD: A silent revolution is sweeping the country under the leadership of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, with people increasingly looking for an alternative to the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, irrigation minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said on Monday.

Addressing the annual Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Yatra Commemoration Day and Rajiv Sadbhavana Award function at Charminar, Uttam Kumar Reddy expressed the confidence that growing public support for Rahul Gandhi and the Congress reflected a wider desire for political change at the national level. He called upon Congress workers to stand firmly behind Rahul Gandhi in the struggle to defeat the BJP and strengthen the forces of secularism, democracy and national unity.

The programme, organised annually since 1990 to commemorate former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi's message of communal harmony and national integration, also highlighted his contributions to technological advancement, democratic decentralisation, youth empowerment and peace-building.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said Rahul Gandhi had



provided effective leadership to the Congress through challenging political circumstances as well as favourable periods. The growing participation of people in Congress programmes across the country, he said, indicated that a silent political transformation was gathering momentum.

Recalling Rajiv Gandhi's association with Hyderabad through the Sadbhavana Yatra, Uttam Kumar Reddy congratulated former PCC president and government adviser V. Hanumantha Rao and the Rajiv Sadbhavana Award Committee for maintaining the tradition for more than three decades. He said he had regularly attended the programme irrespective of the position he held.

Dr C. Mallikarjuna, chief consultant urologist of the Asian Institute of Nephrology and Urology, was honoured in recognition of his service to society.

Present at the event were Congress MP M. Anil Kumar Yadav, former minister J. Geetha Reddy, PCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud, Hanumantha Rao, Hyderabad DCC president Syed Khalid Saifullah, former MP M. Anjan Kumar Yadav and senior party leader Mohammed Feroz Khan.

Seethamma Sagar Project Works To Resume From November: Thummala

Bhadradi Kothagudem: Telangana Agriculture Minister Thummala Nageswara Rao on Monday said construction of the Seethamma Sagar project would resume in November, following the resolution of legal hurdles that had stalled the project work. The Minister, who inspected the Seethamma Sagar project works in Aswapuram mandal, directed officials to increase water storage at the Dummugudem barrage to prevent drinking water shortages during the coming summer.

Speaking to the media, he informed that the legal



hurdles had been cleared following the initiative of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and a favourable Supreme Court verdict, adding that final approvals from the Centre were

expected by the end of this month. A Supreme Court Bench led by Chief Justice BR Gavai and Justice Surya Kant in July had upheld the validity of environmental clearances already granted to the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme, Seethamma Sagar Multipurpose Project and Gouravelli Reservoir, paving the way for their execution. The Minister directed officials to resume construction, which had remained stalled for five years, in November. He said silt accumulation had reduced the water storage capacity at the Dummugudem barrage to around 0.5 TMC.

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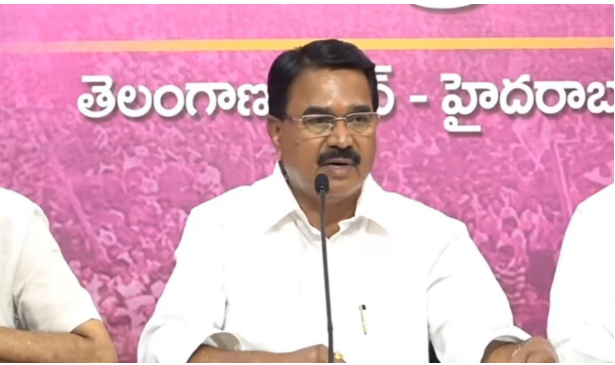
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OF SURPLUS FOOD STOCKS AND EMPTY STOMACHS

India is a nation of curious paradoxes: surplus food production yet millions go to sleep on empty stomachs; the world's fastest-growing major economy yet its per capita income is a paltry \$2,485; and a rising number of billionaires yet unemployment levels continue to grow. No wonder India's standing in the world on various development indices has been steadily declining. Those in the government may continue to be in denial mode and question the methodologies used by international agencies to compile global rankings, but one cannot turn a blind eye to the stark ground realities. World Food Day, observed on October 16, has once again brought into focus the country's inherent contradictions and its continuing struggle with serious hunger and malnutrition, despite improvements in key nutrition indicators over the past two decades. According to the Global Hunger Index (GHI), India ranks 100th among 122 countries, with a score of 24.1, indicating a serious hunger situation. While undernourishment and child stunting have declined, child wasting remains high at 19%, with India lagging behind Bangladesh and Nepal on hunger indicators. The GHI score is based on undernourishment and child mortality indicators. It is a tool used by international humanitarian agencies to estimate and track hunger levels. It is ironic that a country with surplus foodgrain stocks is home to an alarmingly large number of malnourished children. Despite rapid urbanisation and improved access to quality food, many children in India do not get the required nourishment. Though India has successfully narrowed the inequities in severe child food poverty between poorer and wealthier households by at least 5 percentage points over the past decade, malnutrition and stunted growth remain matters of serious concern. While targeted government policies to improve nutritional standards, community-driven initiatives and partnerships aimed at expanding access to nutritious food for the most vulnerable children are yielding credible results, the country cannot afford to become complacent. A lot needs to be done to achieve nutritional equality. UNICEF's guidelines emphasise the need for children to consume a diverse diet from at least five of the eight food groups daily. The GHI assesses hunger through four indicators: undernourishment, child stunting, child wasting and under-five mortality. These indicators reflect different dimensions of food insecurity and malnutrition. A higher score indicates a more severe hunger situation. India's GHI score has fallen from 37 in 2006 to 24.1 in 2026, reflecting gradual progress in tackling hunger. The score stood at 28.8 in 2012 before declining to 25.8 in 2018. Although these figures point to sustained improvement, India's continued classification in the "serious" category highlights the challenges that remain. Despite having enough grain in storage, structural inequities, cold-chain bottlenecks, and regional supply chain failures mean that food often fails to reach vulnerable rural and marginalised communities.

BRS blames power outages for withering paddy crops in Palamuru



Wanaparthi: The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) has blamed Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's inefficiency and lack of foresight for the hardships faced by farmers, particularly in his home district of Palamuru, where paddy crops are withering due to frequent power outages. Former Agriculture Minister Singireddy Niranjan Reddy on Monday inspected withered paddy crops belonging to tribal farmers at Peddagudem Thanda. Farmers, including Roopla Naik, Desha Naik, Chandu Naik and Dudya Naik, expressed their distress over the crop losses. Tribal farmers, including women, said they had invested around Rs 25,000 per acre, but their efforts were going in vain as the crops dried up due to an unreliable power supply. They blamed the government for failing to ensure uninterrupted electricity for irrigation. Speaking on the occasion, Niranjan Reddy said the crisis was not a natural drought but one caused by the Congress government's failures. He demanded a State-wide assessment of crop losses and compensation for affected farmers,

pointing out that 2.5 crore people in Telangana depended directly or indirectly on agriculture. He assured the farmers that the BRS would stand by them and fight for compensation. "In Peddagudem Thanda alone, paddy crops across 150 acres have completely withered. The crops dried up because the fields could not be irrigated due to an unreliable power supply," he said. Niranjan Reddy said crop losses ranging from 100 to 500 acres had been reported in villages, leaving farmers in distress despite the availability of water. Criticising the Chief Minister's handling of the power situation, the former Minister said Revanth Reddy lacked a basic understanding of power supply and was making unsubstantiated claims about coal shortages. He pointed out that around 70 TMC of water was available in the Srisailem project, yet the pumps supplying water to the Palamuru and Kalwakurthy Lift Irrigation schemes were not being operated. He attributed the problem to poor maintenance, which had led to frequent pump breakdowns and repairs. Niranjan Reddy alleged that the Chief Minister and his Ministers were running the government without foresight or a clear strategy. "Revanth Reddy allowed River Godavari and Krishna waters diversion into Andhra Pradesh. About 100 TMC of Krishna water had been diverted to the neighbouring State," he added

NHM employees' strike enters seventh day in Nagarkurnool

National Health Mission employees in Nagarkurnool continued their indefinite strike for the seventh day on Monday, wearing nooses around their necks to highlight their distress. They demanded regularisation, equal pay, health benefits, annual increments, loyalty bonuses and maternity leave.

Nagarkurnool: The indefinite strike by employees working in various cadres under the National Health Mission (NHM) in Nagarkurnool entered its seventh day on Monday, with protesters wearing nooses around their necks to highlight their distress over the government's failure to address their demands.

The demonstration was organised under the aegis of the NHM Joint Action Committee (JAC). The employees warned that if the government failed to come to their aid, they would be left with no option but to resort to extreme measures.

The protesters expressed anguish over their continued employment under contract and outsourcing arrangements despite providing medical services to the public for several years. They alleged that their grievances remained unresolved despite their



long service in the health sector. They appealed to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and Health Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha to intervene immediately and take concrete steps to resolve their issues. Their key demands include regularisation of contract employees, implementation of the principle of equal pay for equal work, and extension of the Employees' Health Scheme (EHS) benefits to NHM staff. They also sought annual increments, loyalty bonuses and 180 days of maternity leave. JAC leaders urged the government to recognise the contribution of NHM employees to public health and provide them with job security. The employees made it clear that they would continue their agitation until the government addressed their demands.

MEA Rejects OIC Remarks, Reaffirms J&K, Ladakh as Integral Parts

India on Monday strongly trashed an Organisation of Islamic Cooperation's (OIC) resolution on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, and said the grouping has allowed itself to be "misused" by Pakistan for its "bigoted agenda". New Delhi, in a strong reaction, said the references to India by the OIC are "malicious, biased and false, and have been orchestrated by Pakistan". "We categorically reject the anti-India references in the resolutions of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Baghdad on October 17-18," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said. "The references to India are malicious, biased and false, and have been orchestrated by Pakistan. We are disappointed that the OIC has once again allowed itself to be misused by Pakistan for its bigoted agenda," it said. The MEA said the OIC has "no locus standi whatsoever" to comment on matters that are strictly internal to India. "The Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are integral and inalienable parts of India. Politically motivated propaganda can never alter this reality. "Over the past years since the abrogation of Art 370, Jammu and Kashmir has seen significant economic growth and benefits accruing directly to its people through infrastructure development, tourism and connectivity," it said. This, the MEA said, is in "stark contrast" to the situation in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir where Islamabad has "unleashed violence, repression and brutality on civilian protesters, killing scores of them, including women and children." The MEA said that "no amount of media blackout has been able to hide these grave violations of human rights". "The only issues related to Jammu and Kashmir that remain to be addressed are Pakistan vacating from areas under its illegal and forcible occupation and ceasing its continued support to cross-border terrorism," it said in a statement.



Speed Up Utilisation of SC and ST Sub-Plan Funds: Bhatti



Hyderabad: Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka has directed officials to accelerate the utilisation of Sub-Plan funds allocated in the state budget for the welfare and development of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). He stressed the need to expedite expenditure in accordance with budgetary allocations and pay special attention to departments lagging behind in fund utilisation. He also instructed officials to formulate a comprehensive action plan covering financial reforms, resource mobilisation and debt restructuring to further strengthen the state's financial position. During a review meeting with senior Finance Department officials at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat on Monday, Bhatti Vikramarka reviewed the implementation of the SC and ST Progress Sub-Plan, department-wise budget allocations, expenditure incurred so far and various aspects of the state's financial management. He emphasised that the departments concerned must act responsibly to ensure that allocated funds are spent in accordance with the intended objectives. The Deputy Chief Minister made it clear that there should be no delay in utilising funds earmarked for the welfare, social advancement and economic empowerment of SC and ST communities. He directed the departments to effectively implement their expenditure plans to ensure that Sub-Plan funds allocated on a population basis are utilised efficiently for the welfare and development of these communities. He further instructed officials to ensure full utilisation of funds earmarked under the special SC and ST budget heads, in accordance with statutory provisions and budgetary allocations, just as funds under general budget heads are utilised. He called for identifying gaps in expenditure and taking immediate corrective measures to address them. Bhatti Vikramarka asked Finance Department officials to conduct special reviews with departments that were lagging in fund utilisation and accelerate expenditure. He directed officials to convene meetings shortly with the secretaries of departments that have significant gaps in expenditure, beginning with the departments requiring priority attention. The review will cover departments including Agriculture, Medical and Health, Energy, Municipal Administration, Panchayat Raj, Social Welfare, Industries and Tribal Welfare, followed by other departments. He instructed officials to prepare a comprehensive report covering the funds allocated to each department, expenditure incurred so far and measures required to ensure the effective utilisation of the remaining funds. To strengthen the state's financial position, the Deputy Chief Minister directed officials to make effective use of available resources and identify additional sources of revenue. He stressed that budget formulation must take actual financial conditions into account, giving priority to expenditure control, efficient utilisation of funds and the availability of financial resources required for development programmes. He held detailed discussions with officials on the financial reforms being implemented by the Finance Department, measures to mobilise government revenue and strategies for debt restructuring. Bhatti Vikramarka emphasised the need to formulate robust plans aligned with the long-term interests of the state's financial management. He called for financial decisions that take future requirements into account and contribute to sustainable economic growth. The Deputy Chief Minister suggested utilising the services of experienced consultants and financial experts to adopt best practices in financial management. He directed officials to consider expert advice and recommendations while formulating plans suited to future requirements. He also stressed the need for continuous monitoring to ensure coordination between budgetary allocations, expenditure and the implementation of development programmes. He underscored that efficient financial management was essential not only to ensure that welfare funds reach eligible beneficiaries but also to maintain the stability of the state's economy and achieve its development goals.

SAIDABAD POLICE ARREST 23-YEAR-OLD IN HONEY TRAP CASE; Rs.25.16 LAKH EXTORTED AND CHEATED.



AMEER HUSSAIN CRIME BEURO CHIEF

Saidabad Police have arrested a 23-year-old man in connection with an alleged honey-trap and extortion racket in which he reportedly extorted and cheated victims of a total of ?25.16 lakh by creating fake social media profiles using women’s identities.

The accused, identified as Kondabhattula Pavan Kumar, a resident of Kukatpally, allegedly operated fake Facebook and Instagram accounts posing as women. According to police, he befriended people online, engaged them in intimate conversations and persuaded them to share private photographs and videos.

Police said the accused allegedly stored the material on multiple mobile phones and social media accounts before threatening victims with exposure. He reportedly posed as the woman’s brother and threatened to have complaints filed against the victims unless they paid money.

Investigators stated that the accused primarily used photographs of a woman from Kolkata under the name “Chandana”. Police have reportedly alerted the woman through her workplace and the local police in Kolkata.

Rs.25.16 LAKH IN EXTORTION AND CHEATING

According to the press note, the accused allegedly extorted ?18 lakh from victims and cheated others of ?7.16 lakh through separate activities, taking the total amount involved to ?25.16 lakh.

One of the reported victims was a friend from his diploma course, from whom the accused allegedly extorted ?4 lakh. He is also accused of cheating a software employee of approximately ?7 lakh by promising investment returns.

Police further stated that the accused allegedly obtained a salary advance of ?16,000 while working at a private company in Basheerbagh and left without informing the management. Two additional victims reportedly lost ?6.8 lakh and ?7 lakh, respectively, and further cases may be registered.

OVER 1,000 PEOPLE CONTACTED ONLINE

The investigation revealed that the accused allegedly chatted with more than 1,000 people and that 82 victims had shared private photographs or videos. Police identified 24 victims from other Indian states, including Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Punjab, and nine victims from other countries, including Dubai, Turkey, Pakistan and Canada.

The alleged victims included doctors, businessmen, lecturers, private-sector employees, delivery personnel and gig workers.

13 FAKE INSTAGRAM AND 14 FACEBOOK ACCOUNTS

Police said the accused allegedly operated 13 Instagram accounts and 14 Facebook accounts using different identities. He also reportedly used two WhatsApp accounts and three mobile numbers to communicate with victims and carry out the alleged extortion.

During the operation, police seized three mobile phones, including Redmi, Vivo Y29 and Samsung Galaxy devices, along with an HP laptop and a 16 GB pen drive.

The case has been registered at Saidabad Police Station under Crime No. 358/2026 under Sections 308(7) and 351(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), along with Sections 66C, 66D, 66E and 67A of the Information Technology Act.

The investigation was conducted under the supervision of Charminar Zone DCP Khare Kiran Prabhakar, Additional DCP Md. Majeed and Saidabad Division ACP Soma Venkat Reddy. Saidabad SHO B. Chandra Mohan is the investigating officer.

Police said further investigation is underway and additional cases may be registered in connection with the alleged racket.

Further details awaited.

Singareni Celebrates Saddula Bathukamma Festival in Grand Style at Manuguru!

Bathukamma Symbolises Telangana’s Culture and Traditions: Area General Manager Durgam Ramachander



Manuguru, October 19, 2026: The Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Manuguru Area, celebrated the Saddula Bathukamma festival with great enthusiasm and traditional fervour at Bhadradri Stadium in P.V. Colony on October 18, 2026. The celebrations highlighted the rich cultural heritage, traditions and nature worship associated with Telangana’s iconic floral festival.

Women participated in large numbers, bringing beautifully arranged Bathukamma floral stacks made with colourful seasonal flowers. Traditional songs, folk dances and festive activities filled the stadium with joy and enthusiasm.

Bathukamma Reflects Telangana’s Cultural Pride

Speaking on the occasion, Manuguru Area General Manager Durgam Ramachander, who attended the programme as the chief guest, said that Bathukamma represents the devotion, creativity and unity of Telangana women.

He stated that arranging different varieties of seasonal flowers into beautiful Bathukamma stacks and celebrating collectively through traditional songs and dances reflects the glory of Telangana’s cultural heritage.

The General Manager emphasised that Singareni gives importance not only to the welfare of its employees but also to the cultural and social activities of their families. Such celebrations help preserve traditions for future generations while strengthening friendship, harmony and unity among employees and their families.

He extended his heartfelt Bathukamma greetings to all women and wished everyone happiness, good health, peace and prosperity.

Seva President Highlights the Significance of Bathukamma

Area Seva President Durgam Sumathi Ramachander said that Bathukamma repre-

sents the self-respect, cultural identity and traditional values of Telangana women.

She noted that the festival showcases the uniqueness of Telangana’s women through colourful floral arrangements, traditional songs and collective celebrations. She added that the festival, which celebrates nature and expresses wishes for family well-being and social prosperity, brings happiness into everyone’s lives.

She wished that all women and their families would enjoy happiness, peace and prosperity.

Colourful Floral Arrangements and Traditional Performances Steal the Show

Bhadradri Stadium wore a festive look as women arrived in traditional attire carrying beautifully decorated Bathukamma floral arrangements. The atmosphere resonated with traditional Bathukamma songs and folk dances, creating a vibrant cultural spectacle.

Bathukamma competitions were also organised as part of the celebrations. Winners are to be presented with first, second and third prizes, along with consolation prizes.

Dignitaries and Singareni Representatives Attend

The programme was attended by Manuguru DSP Ravinder Reddy, Palvancha DSP Satish, Manuguru CIP. Nagababu, SO to GM D. Venkata Rama Rao, Kondapuram Agent J. Venu Madhav, AGM (Personnel) S. Ramesh, AITUC Vice-President Y. Ramgopal, INTUC Bank Secretary V. Krishnam Raju, CMOAI General Secretary V. Madan Naik, Manuguru OC Project Officer E. Srinivas, senior Singareni officials, trade union representatives, women’s association members, Seva members, employees and their family members.

The celebrations reflected Singareni’s commitment to promoting Telangana’s cultural heritage while fostering unity and togetherness among its employees and their families.

ZPL Cricket League Winner Team to be awarded Rs 60,000

Zaheerabad October: Former Minister A. Chandrasekhar attended the ZPL cricket match being held at Bagareddy Stadium in Zaheerabad town as the chief guest and presented cash prizes to the winning team, Zyan Sand Supply runner team Khan CC Idsmt, who faced each other in the final match. Speaking on the occasion, former Minister Chandrasekhar said that his aim is to develop sportsmanship among the youth, to talent of the players in rural areas and to encourage the youth towards sports. He said that sports instill discipline, unity, perseverance, and leadership qualities in the youth, and by encouraging talented athletes, they will have the opportunity to rise to higher levels. Along with Municipal Chairman Yunus, Town President Naresh Goud, Huggelli Ramulu, Arshad Ali, Kandem. Narsimlu, B. Srinivas Reddy, Maqsood Ahmed, Khajamia, Councilors Mahesh Kumar, Nizam, Chauhan Vakeel, Moiz, Ghaus, Ayub,



Srinivas Rathod, organizers and others participated in this program.

Former Minister Chandrashekhar participated in Devi Navratri celebrations

Zaheerabad October: Former Minister A. Chandrashekhar participated in the Devi Navratri celebrations being held in Khanjamalpur village of Mogudampalli mandal of Zaheerabad constituency and performed special pujas. On this occasion, seeking the blessings of the Goddess, he wished that all the people of Zaheerabad constituency may prosper with good health, happiness and wealth. He prayed that the grace of the Goddess may always be there for the welfare of the people, the development of the villages and the well-being of the society. Atma Committee Chairman Ramalinga Reddy, Mandal Presidents Pawan Rathod, Huggelli Ramulu, Arshad Ali, Town President Naresh Goud, former Presidents Maqsood Ahmed, Srinivas Reddy, Kandem Narsimlu, Village Sarpanch Brahmanand Reddy, Councilor Mahesh Kumar, Sarpanch Prem Rathod and others participated in this program.



Rudrabhishekam and Kumkumarchana at Siddheshwar Temple



Zaheerabad October: Rudrabhishekam and Kumkum archana ceremonies were held grandly at Siddheshwar Temple on the occasion of Ashviyuja Monday along with Sri Mangala Gauri on Algol Road, Zaheerabad town. The ceremony was performed by the priest Sangameshwar Swami as per the instructions of the temple’s E.O. Shivarudrappa. Ashok Patil, Meera Patil, Siddhansh Patil and Manisha Patil from Zaheerabad participated in the archana ceremony. food distribution ceremonies are held on every Amavasya and every Monday. On the occasion of Sharannavaratri, the Raja Rajeshwari Goddess was decorated with colorful flowers.

Naidu Seeks Good Majority For NDA In Local Body Polls

Vijayawada: Telugu Desam national president and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has urged people to support the NDA in the upcoming local body elections in Andhra Pradesh and vote in favour of the alliance, as they did in the 2024 elections.

Naidu noted that the TD-led alliance won the 2024 Assembly elections with a strike rate of 94 per cent and a vote share of 57 per cent. He urged people to remain cautious about the YSR Congress and protect democracy, accusing the opposition party of perpetrating violence.

Addressing the media on Monday, Naidu said he had been making all-out efforts to ensure welfare, development and good governance since the alliance assumed power in 2024.

“We have spent ₹1.50 lakh crore on welfare, including ₹76,000 crore on welfare pensions alone. Senior citizens receiving a monthly pension of ₹4,000 are gaining self-respect and have become contributors to their families’

incomes,” he said.

He said the government was providing social security pensions worth ₹36,000 a year and described the scheme as the world’s largest direct benefit transfer (DBT) programme.

Naidu listed schemes such as Super Six, Thalliki Vandanam, Annadata Sukhibhava, Stree Shakti and Deepam, saying they were intended to improve people’s lives.

“I have been reviewing the implementation of welfare schemes and development works constituency-wise through the Real-Time Governance Society (RTGS) and an interactive voice response system (IVRS), while holding officials accountable for lapses. We are handling El Niño efficiently and ensuring a planned supply of drinking water. I am using technology to improve people’s lives,” he said.

Naidu said the government was working towards providing a tap connection to every household and promoting artificial intelligence, information technology, data centres and green energy to



restore Andhra Pradesh’s lost brand image.

“We are moving towards direct elections for the benefit of the people. I wish Andhra Pradesh to become India’s No. 1 state soon,” he said.

The Chief Minister claimed that the state had attracted investments worth ₹22 lakh crore, with a commitment to generate 20 lakh jobs. He also dismissed the alleged misinformation campaign surrounding the Mega DSC-2025 recruitment process, saying that truth had prevailed.

Naidu said Rayalaseema was

emerging as a knowledge economy and a global horticulture hub, with an investment plan worth ₹1 lakh crore. The region was also developing as a green energy hub, while Jonnagiri village was gaining prominence through gold mining, he added.

Criticising the previous YSR Congress government over the execution of the Polavaram irrigation project, Naidu alleged that its failures had led to the diaphragm wall being washed away in the Godavari river. He said work had progressed rapidly since his government assumed office and that all

works, including land acquisition and rehabilitation and resettlement, would be completed by March 2027.

Naidu also expressed confidence in the proposed interlinking of five rivers, connecting the Godavari with the Cauvery, saying it would benefit four southern states by improving water availability for drinking and irrigation. He outlined the development of Amaravati as the state capital and criticised the previous government’s three-capitals proposal, accusing it of creating confusion among the people.

Explaining the selection

of candidates for the local body elections, Naidu said the alliance had adopted social engineering to reflect public preferences and ensure representation for different communities.

“BCs, SCs, STs and minorities have been allocated 63.6 per cent of the seats. BCs alone account for more than 35 per cent,” he said, adding that the candidates included educated individuals, youth, women and loyal party workers.

Naidu accused the YSR Congress of having a culture of violence and criminality, claiming that its leaders had failed to learn lessons despite the party being reduced to 11 Assembly seats in the 2024 elections.

He targeted YSRC president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy over his stay in Bengaluru and accused him of running what he described as a mafia. Naidu also criticised Jagan for visiting the party office in Tadepalli, addressing the media and subsequently meeting the State Election Commissioner, alleging that he had violated established

norms.

The Chief Minister further accused the YSRC of resorting to violence, drawing comparisons with the criminal activities of Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar.

“The next 20 years are going to be inspiring. Andhra Pradesh will become the number one state. Let us save the state from rowdiness. We will not allow ‘rafa-rafa’ politics here. I have never resorted to violence in my political life, nor have I feared anyone,” Naidu said.

He claimed that Andhra Pradesh had remained peaceful over the past two-and-a-half years but expressed concern over recent incidents of political violence. He also accused the YSRC of using Gen Z as pawns to perpetrate violence.

Naidu criticised the previous YSRC government for allegedly encouraging unanimous elections in local bodies. He claimed that in 2014, voting in the MPTC and ZPTC elections was recorded at only 2% and 0.09%, respectively.

Jagan calls for changes to Election Commissioner appointment law

YSRCP chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has expressed regret over his party’s support for the 2023 Election Commissioners appointment law. He called for a neutral selection panel and alleged that Andhra Pradesh’s ruling coalition was obstructing opposition candidates’ nominations

Tadepalli (Andhra Pradesh): Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) President Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy said on Sunday that he regrets supporting the 2023 law on appointment of Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners, saying the ruling Telugu Desam Party-led coalition government should not control the selection process.

Addressing a press conference, Reddy added that be it State Election Commissioner or Central Election Commissioner, the ruling TDP should not nominate them.

YSRCP had supported Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023.

“Earlier at the Centre, YSRCP supported the system wherein the ruling



party can nominate the Election Commissioner but today we are regretting the mistake we made by supporting it,” the YSRCP Chief said.

He remarked that an examiner cannot be appointed by the student.

“No matter, how sincere is the examiner, he has to face the criticism, if appointment is not done by a neutral body,” Reddy said, demanding restoration of the earlier system of appointment of Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners.

The YSRCP Chief said the panel comprising

Leader of Opposition, Chief Justice of India and Prime Minister should appoint the Chief Election Commissioner.

He added that the presence of Chief Justice of India will make it a neutral body.

“Currently, Prime Minister and a Minister nominated by the Prime Minister have two votes and Leader of Opposition one vote. Since two votes go in favour of one person, he will be a nominee of the government. This is a flaw in the system. We realised this after we made the mistake,” he said.

Calling for reforms to restore the earlier system, the YSRCP Chief added that this was necessary to ensure the credibility of election system.

He demanded similar reform for appointment of State Election Commissioner (SEC).

He said the Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu or the TDP should not appoint the State Election Commissioner.

THE YSRCP Chief was speaking to media after meeting State Election Commissioner Anil Chandra Punetha to complain about the attempts by the ruling TDP-led coalition government to stop YSRCP candidates from filing nominations for the upcoming local body polls.

Stating that SEC Punetha is appointed by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, the YSRCP leader alleged that SEC was acting on his directions.

Jubin Nautiyal’s Father Joins Congress

New Delhi: Former BJP leader Ramsharan Nautiyal, father of Bollywood singer Jubin Nautiyal, joined the Congress on Monday, ahead of next year’s Uttarakhand Assembly elections. The Opposition party also stepped up its attack on the Centre over the appointment of Dushyant Kumar Gautam as Sikkim Governor, alleging that the move was intended to shield him from legal action in the Ankita Bhandari murder case.

Nautiyal joined the Congress in the presence of AICC general secretary and Uttarakhand in-charge Kumari Selja, state Congress president Ganesh Godiyal and Leader of the Opposition in the Uttarakhand Assembly Yashpal Arya in New Delhi.

Welcoming him back, Selja said, “Our old associate, Ramsharan Nautiyal, felt stifled within the BJP. He became disillusioned with the environment and the way things functioned there.”

Godiyal expressed confidence that Nautiyal’s return would strengthen the Congress ahead of the Assembly elections.

Nautiyal had quit the Congress about 12 years ago to join the BJP. He contested the 2022 Assembly elections from Chakrata on a BJP ticket but lost. He had also served as chairperson of the Dehradun District Panchayat.



His son, Jubin Nautiyal, is known for Bollywood hits such as Raataan Lambiyan from Shershaah and Zindagi Kuch Toh Bata from Bajrangi Bhaijaan.

Meanwhile, the Congress intensified its criticism of the Centre after Mr Gautam was sworn in as Sikkim Governor on Monday, alleging that his appointment was aimed at protecting him from scrutiny in the Ankita Bhandari murder case.

Ankita, a receptionist at the Vanantra Resort near Rishikesh, was murdered on September 18, 2022. Her body was recovered from the Chilla canal four days later. Resort owner Pulkrit Arya, son of former BJP leader Vinod Arya, and two accomplices were subsequently convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment.

The case had triggered widespread protests, with Ankita’s family and activists demanding an investigation into allegations that an unidentified

VIP was linked to the crime. Mr Gautam’s name has been raised in connection with these allegations, which remain unproven.

Selja alleged that the CBI had not examined all aspects of the case and that Gautam had not been questioned. She questioned why the BJP government was allegedly protecting him and criticised the detention of protesters demanding justice.

Congress leaders and Ankita’s parents have opposed Gautam’s appointment. Last week, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi wrote to President Droupadi Murmu, urging her to seek reconsideration of the appointment pending completion of the CBI investigation.

Describing his letter as a “last resort”, Gandhi maintained that allegations concerning the unidentified VIP should be thoroughly investigated before Gautam assumed office.

CM Naidu Banks On Social Re-Engineering In Mayoral Nominations

Vijayawada: Alliance partners Telugu Desam, Jana Sena and BJP are putting collective efforts to sweep the local body elections-2026. Telugu Desam national president and chief minister Chandrababu Naidu asked his party’s rank and file to be active in the election field.

Naidu has sought to com-

bine social engineering with electoral considerations in the selection of candidates for the urban local body elections, saying the party had ensured equal opportunities for different social groups in proportion to their population.

Naidu said candidates were selected after considering public opinion and feed-

back from party cadres, with preference given to aspirants who secured more than 50 per cent support in opinion surveys. The 11 mayoral seats being contested by the TD have been allocated to candidates from 11 different social groups, he said.

The CM directed NDA leaders at the grassroots level

to respect the interests of alliance partners and adhere to the coalition dharma. Strengthening the TD as well as the alliance was important, he said, asking leaders to explain to the aspirants who had been denied tickets as to why this was so, and resolve the related disputes amicably.

Naidu alleged that the YSR Congress was attempt-

ing to disturb law and order during the local body elections. He asked party leaders to closely monitor its activities, alert the government machinery and effectively counter any attempts to disrupt the polls. He called for unity among alliance partners to demonstrate their collective strength in the elections.

Meanwhile, Telugu Desam

MP Sana Satish alleged that violence in Rayalaseema was being orchestrated at the direction of YSR Congress leaders in Tadepalli. Referring to incidents in Punganur and Pulivendula, he demanded the immediate arrest of Mithun Reddy after registering a criminal case against him. He also called for monitoring of YSR Congress president YS

Jagan Mohan Reddy’s movements until the elections were completed.

BC welfare minister S Savitha accused the YSR Congress of targeting even its own workers and challenged Jagan Reddy and his party leaders to come upfront for a debate on the government’s development record.

Conserving Water Resources For Drinking Water Is Everyone's Responsibility: Tummala

Agriculture minister Tummala Nageswara Rao on Monday stressed that everyone had a responsibility to conserve water resources with a primary focus on meeting drinking water needs in the light of the effect of super El Nino.

Inspecting the Dummugudem anicut dam, located near Ammagaripalli of Ashwapuram mandal in Bhadradri-Kothagudem district, he said super El Nino effect, which was driving global climate change, could lead to severe conditions of water scarcity due to deficit rainfall. There is growing concern on water availability for the coming summer. Hence, everyone should consider conservation of water as their responsibility, he added.

Keeping in mind the situation, the state government was taking necessary arrangements to prevent power shortages during the summer. He underlined the need to take up precautionary measures in the management of both water and



energy resources.

He instructed the officials to coordinate effectively to ensure that only surplus water, which would remain after meeting drinking water requirements, should be diverted for other purposes. If there is insufficient water to meet drinking water needs, its use for other purposes must be restricted, he made it clear.

He pointed out that Dummugudem barrage has a storage capacity of 0.8 tmc ft, but it was currently only possible to store approximately 0.5 tmc ft of water. The Chief Minister has directed the officials to evaluate the technical aspects to maximise water storage through the use of sandbags.

He urged the farmers to make decisions on crop cultivation, keeping current weather conditions in mind. Investment required for cultivation can range from two or three lakh rupees per acre, hence the farmers should consider the availability of water, electricity, and groundwater resources while choosing the crops for cultivation.

Bhatti Panel to Steer State Out of Drought



HYDERABAD: The stae government on Monday set up a six-member Cabinet sub-committee headed by Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka to oversee the state's preparations and actions to mitigate the impact of El Nino on the state.

The committee will regularly monitor the situation and issue necessary directions to the concerned departments and also submit its recommendations from time to time for taking appropriate measures to overcome the drought and El Nino conditions in the State, the government said.

Its other members, announced on Monday by Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju in a government order, are ministers N Uttam Kumar Reddy (irrigation), Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy (revenue), Tummala Nageswara Rao (agriculture), Danasari 'Seethakka' Anasuya (panchayat raj and rural water supply), and Vakiti Srihari (animal husbandry and fisheries).

The group has also been vested with the responsibility of raising the relevant issues with the Government of India. Once the full assessment of impacts of El Nino is prepared, the state is expected to approach the Centre with its report for assistance.

With this year's monsoon over Telangana severely impacted by El Nino, Telangana is already facing drought conditions to varying degrees in around 315 of its 621

mandals, with fears of the poor rainy season impacting agriculture output in lakhs of acres, and creating a potential drinking water crisis across the state in the months to come.

The announcement of the committee followed last Thursday's cautionary note by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy that while the current situation appeared manageable, if not attended to and adequate preparations not put in place, it could possibly develop into a serious crisis.

The government has directed all district collectors to submit detailed reports on the conditions on the ground, whether related to crops under stress from lack of water, and on contingency plans to ensure people have enough drinking water for the next 10 months till next year's monsoon season sets in.

Former chief secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao, government adviser and ex-officio special chief secretary to Chief Minister, will be a special invitee for the committee and will coordinate and provide updates on the situation from time to time, the government said.

The Chief Minister had announced the appointment of Ramakrishna Rao as a nodal officer, to function as a single point source for public dissemination of information on the government's responses to the El Nino caused crisis, in a bid to ensure that authentic information reaches the public.

Minister Praises Govt For GO To Fill 49 Assistant Professor Posts In Satavahana University

Karimnagar:Transport minister Ponnampallabharathi has expressed his happiness for the government issuing a GO to fill 49 assistant professor posts in Satavahana University.



In a statement on Monday, the minister said that in the first phase, the government would recruit 429 assistant professors in seven universities. Of these, 49 posts would be filled in Satavahana University.

The finance department issued GOs 141, 142 for this purpose. Notification for the recruitment would be released by the end of this month by following the common guidelines and roster.

The vacancies to be filled are seven each in Computer Science Engineering (CSE), Artificial Intelligence and Electronics and Communications Engineering (ECE), five in Information Technology, one in Electrical and Electronics Engineering (EEE), two in Mechanical Engineering, one in English, two each in Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry, one each in Physical Education department and Librarian, eight in Law, two in Pharmacy and 1 in Commerce.

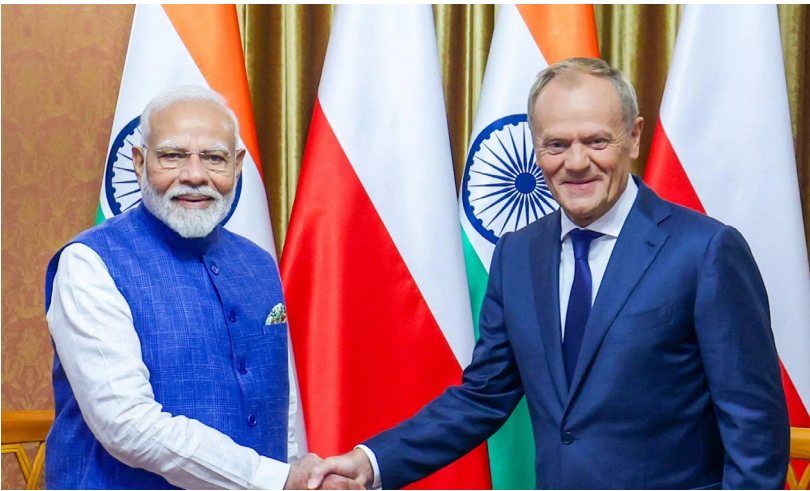
Modi, Polish PM Tusk To Hold Talks on Thursday

New Delhi: Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk will arrive in India on Wednesday for a three-day visit during which he will hold talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi and meet business leaders in Bengaluru.

Tusk will be accompanied by Poland's finance and economy minister Andrzej Domanski and a large business delegation, the external affairs ministry said on Monday.

This will be Tusk's second visit to India as Poland's Prime Minister, following his visit in 2010 during an earlier term. He also visited New Delhi in 2017 as president of the European Council for the India-EU Summit.

"Prime Minister Tusk shall hold bilateral talks with Prime Minister Modi on October 22, during which both leaders shall review the entire spectrum of bilateral relations, which was elevated to a Strategic Partnership during the visit of PM Modi to Poland in August 2024," the



ministry said.

The two leaders will also exchange views on regional and global developments.

Tusk will travel to Bengaluru to engage with business leaders, particularly in the information technology and space sectors.

India-Poland Business Forums are scheduled in New Delhi on October 22 and Bengaluru on October 23.

"The visit will provide the opportunity to further strengthen the India-Poland Strategic Partnership and advance cooperation in areas of mutual interest, including trade and investment, defence, emerging technologies, renewable energy, education, culture and people-to-people ties," the ministry said.

It added that the visit would also strengthen the India-EU strategic partnership.

The two countries elevated bilateral ties to a strategic partnership during Mr Modi's visit to Poland in August 2024

Rajnath To Represent India At SCO Meet

NEW DELHI: Defence minister Rajnath Singh will represent India at the 25th meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on Tuesday, the external affairs ministry said on Monday.



"The meeting will focus on strengthening multilateral cooperation among SCO Member States, particularly in the areas of trade, economy, investment, connectivity, innovation and cultural-humanitarian exchanges," the ministry said.

The meeting will also review ongoing cooperation initiatives and consider decisions relating to the organisation's financial and institutional functioning.

"India remains actively engaged in various SCO mechanisms and continues to contribute to regional cooperation through initiatives in areas such as startups and innovation, digital public infrastructure, and people-to-people exchanges," the ministry said.

It added that the meeting would allow India to exchange views with member states on advancing practical and mutually beneficial cooperation within the organisation.

The previous Council of Heads of Government meeting was held in Moscow in November 2025, with external affairs minister S. Jaishankar representing India.

The SCO is a 10-member regional grouping.

Shah To Honour Police Martyrs On October 21

Union home minister Amit Shah will pay homage to police personnel killed in the 1959 Ladakh ambush at the National Police Memorial in New Delhi on Wednesday, October 21, to mark Police Commemoration Day.

Shah will preside over a joint parade by the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and Delhi Police, address the gathering and lay a wreath at the memorial.

Police Commemoration Day is observed annually in memory of 10 police personnel killed by heavily armed Chinese troops at Hot Springs in Ladakh on October 21, 1959, and other personnel who have died in the line of duty.

Shah will also flag off a motorcycle rally themed "Fight Against Drugs", involving about 90 riders from states, Union Territories, CAPFs and other central police organisations.

The rally is part of a nationwide campaign under which police riders from across the



country will converge at Ekta Nagar in Gujarat for the Ekta Parade on October 31.

Participants will include riders from Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi, besides the CRPF, CISF, BSF, SSB, ITBP, NSG, Railway Protection Force, National Disaster Response Force and National Investigation Agency.

The event will be attended by the Union minister of state for home affairs, lawmakers with police backgrounds, senior and retired police officers, and other dignitaries.

Commemorative activities will continue at the memorial from October 22 to 30, including visits by families of deceased personnel, police band performances, motorcycle rallies, a Run for Martyrs, blood donation camps, competitions for children and screenings of films highlighting the service and sacrifice of police personnel.

Similar programmes will be held by police forces across the country, the home ministry said.

Zydex Takes Breathable Mineral Paints to the Economy-to-Mid Segment, Eyes 1% Market Share

Hyderabad , October 19, 2026: Premium-looking, high-performance walls may no longer need premium-only pricing. Zydex Paints is set to introduce a new interior and exterior portfolio built around special mineral-modified latex binders, MineraTek, taking a category associated with premium residential and architectural projects into India's economy-to-mid paint segment. Over the next three years, the company is targeting a 1% share of the segment, backed by investments in research and development, manufacturing, distribution and market expansion.

The new range is designed to extend the benefits of advanced mineral technology such as breathability and water repellence to a broader market while maintaining competitive pricing required for the economy segment. Zydex has invested across formulation, testing and technology development to build a proposition that combines material performance with greater price accessibility.

At the core of the range are hybrid organo-mineral binders, developed by Zydex through its continuous research, local manufacturing and adaptation for the country's diverse climatic and application needs. The technology long associated with premium residential and architectural applications are now being brought to mainstream consumer category. The company's MineraTek platform and special Organo-Silicate binders span both interior and exterior applications, with the introduction of three new products: NIVO for interiors and DRIO, DRIO Max for exterior surfaces. The larger intent is to make the aesthetics and performance associated with elite spaces more widely attainable, so sophisticated walls are no longer confined to sophisticated pin codes.

Dr. Moulik Ranka, Managing Director, Zydex Group, said, "We are building Zydex with a clear long-term ambition to emerge as a technology leader in paints and surface solutions over the next five to ten years. Our strategy is not to follow the market with incremental products, but to create differentiated solutions rooted in material science and make them relevant at scale. Mineral technology is one such opportunity where we believe Zydex can reshape the value proposition for a much broader consumer base. The investments we are making today in research, manufacturing and market capability are intended to build a business that can lead through innovation over the long term."



That long-term ambition is being supported by manufacturing capacity already in place to address anticipated growth over the next four to five years. The existing infrastructure gives Zydex the flexibility to scale production as demand develops, without requiring an immediate capacity build-out.

The company's market-development strategy will initially focus on 60 priority markets across Tier 1, Tier 2 and select rural locations. Dealer, painter and applicator engagement will be central to the rollout, supported by on-ground activation and broader brand-building initiatives designed to build both consumer awareness and trade confidence.

Zydex has introduced the forthcoming portfolio to select dealers and applicators through a soft launch in Singapore and will follow it with a series of launch and product training events across India. The company is also strengthening its capabilities across sales, distribution, application and technical services to support wider market expansion.

The opportunity, lies in broadening what consumers expect from

paint. Colour, finish and price remain important, but Zydex sees growing room for performance, durability and lifecycle value to play a larger role in purchase decisions.

Mr Amrendra Mishra, COO, Zydex Paints, said, "Competition in India's paint industry is intensifying, but the opportunity is also shifting from price and colour alone to stronger product performance and long-term value. We see a clear gap between advanced paint technology and its accessibility to the mass market. Zydex is addressing that gap by bringing silicate mineral paint technology to a wider consumer base while retaining its core performance proposition. Our focus is to build a differentiated position through innovation, accessible pricing and strong execution across distribution, applicator engagement and technical support."

Silicate mineral paints are distinguished from conventional surface paints by their mineral chemistry and breathable structure. Designed to facilitate the release of trapped moisture while limiting external water ingress, the system contributes not only to the appearance of a surface but also to its long-term integrity and protection.

The silicate mineral paints combine breathability, water repellence and Fire resistance in a single mineral-based paint system. They meet fire-resistance requirements as per ASTM E84, and are tested to EN ISO 7783 for vapor permeability, allowing trapped moistures to escape dramatically faster than acrylic paints. At the same time, they offer water repellent performance as per EN 1062-3, helping protect surfaces from external water ingress while maintaining breathability. This allows Zydex to bring together refined aesthetics and functional surface protection within a single proposition. The range has also been evaluated under Indian climatic conditions, including trials conducted in Kerala ahead of the monsoon season.

The new range represents a significant step in Zydex's evolution within the paints category, combining international technology heritage with local research, manufacturing capability and a growing market presence. The broader ambition is to take a solution once associated with select, high-end applications and establish it as a credible, aspirational choice for a much wider section of Indian consumers.

Manuguru Witnesses First-Ever Navadurga Akhanda Jyothi Pooja

Grand Spiritual Celebrations at Ailamma Nagar Peddamma Thalli Temple; Devotees Immerse Themselves in Divine Devotion



Manuguru: The Sharannavaratri celebrations at Sri Sri Kanakadurga Sametha Peddamma Thalli Jeevalayam, located in Ailamma Nagar, Manuguru town of Bhadradi Kothagudem district, are being celebrated with great devotion and spiritual fervour. As part of the festivities, the temple witnessed a special *Navadurga Pooja and Akhanda Jyothi ceremony for the first time in Manuguru*, on Sunday, marking Ashtami and the worship of Goddess Durga. The programme was conducted under the guidance of Raparthi Srihari Nath Guruswamy.

A Unique Spiritual Shrine Where Two Divine Powers Reside on One Pedestal

The temple is regarded as a distinctive spiritual shrine where two divine powers are worshipped on a single pedestal. For the first time in Manuguru's history, the Goddess was beautifully adorned in the forms of the Navadurgas. A special Padi Mandapam was constructed using banana trees, and the

Akhanda Jyothi was ceremoniously lit, attracting the attention of devotees.

From the morning onwards, special rituals, including Abhishekam, Kumkumarchana, Chandi Parayanam and Navadurga Stotra recitation, were performed. In the evening, the Akhanda Jyothi was lit in the presence of devotees, followed by special Harathi to the Goddess. The temple premises resonated with devotional chants and the enthusiastic praises of devotees.

Devotional Songs and Sacred Recitations Create a Spiritual Atmosphere

Sheshagiri Sharma (Giri) performed the rituals as the temple priest. Venkateswarlu Guruswamy captivated devotees with devotional songs in praise of the Goddess. Members of the Geetha Dharma Prachara Samithi conducted recitations of Lalitha Sahasranamam, Bhagavad Gita and Hanuman Chalisa at the temple.

A large number of Bhavani Deeksha devotees, women devotees and local residents attended the Navadurga Akhanda Jyothi Pooja and offered prayers to the Goddess. Devotees participated enthusiastically in the devotional singing, immersed in spiritual fervour. Later, Theertha Prasadam and refreshments were distributed among those present.

Temple Committee Pledges to Celebrate the Festival on a Grand Scale Every Year

Speaking on the occasion, temple committee members expressed their happiness over organising the unique Navadurga Akhanda Jyothi Pooja for the first time in Manuguru. They stated that, with the blessings of the Goddess and the cooperation of devotees, the celebrations would be organised on an even grander scale in the coming years.

Raparthi Srihari Nath Guruswamy, Bhavani Deeksha devotees, temple committee members, women devotees' group members, residents of Ailamma Nagar and several other devotees participated in the programme.

With the worship of the Navadurgas, the radiant Akhanda Jyothi and continuous devotional chanting, Manuguru witnessed a magnificent atmosphere of spirituality and devotion.

Grand Bathukamma Celebrations Held Under Jagga Reddy and Nirmala Jaggareddy's Leadership in Sangareddy

Six Stages Host Cultural Performances; 32-Foot Maha Bathukamma Made with Eight Tonnes of Flowers Becomes the Main Attraction

SANGAREDDY, Correspondent: October 19, 2026.: Bathukamma celebrations were held on a grand scale at the Mahaboob sagar Cheruvu bund in Sangareddy town, amid colourful floral arrangements, traditional songs and enthusiastic participation by women. The celebrations, organised under the leadership of Jagga Reddy, attracted a large number of women and residents, transforming the lake bund into a vibrant festive venue with elaborate lighting and cultural programmes.

The highlight of the celebrations was a massive 32-foot Maha Bathukamma, crafted using eight tonnes of steel and decorated beautifully with a variety of colourful flowers. The gigantic floral arrangement drew considerable attention, with people gathering in large numbers to witness the spectacular display.

Six special stages were arranged along the lake bund to facilitate Bathukamma celebrations. Artists entertained the gathering with folk songs, traditional performances and lively cultural programmes. The stages were decorated with special truss lighting, while large screens, floodlight towers and decorative electric lights illuminated the surroundings, creating a festive atmosphere.

Jagga Reddy arrived at the venue at around 5 p.m. and personally inspected the arrangements before joining the celebrations and encouraging the participants. Nirmala Jaggareddy attended the event along with her daughter Jaya



Reddy and other family members. Nirmala Jaggareddy and Jaya Reddy joined women in playing Bathukamma, sharing the festive spirit and celebrating Telangana's rich cultural traditions.

The performances of folk artists were among the major attractions, particularly those by folk singer Kanakavva, whose songs captivated the audience. Women dressed in traditional attire gathered with their floral Bathukammas, singing, clapping and dancing enthusiastically.

The decorative lighting arrangements installed across Sangareddy town over the preceding ten days in connection with the Bathukamma and Dasara festivals further enhanced the festive atmosphere.

The celebrations reflected the cultural heritage and traditions of Telangana, with floral displays, folk music and the enthusiastic participation of women adding colour and vibrancy to the occasion.

TPCC General Secretary Topaji Ananth Kishan, Municipal Chairperson Vanitha Santhosh, Kuna Santhosh, Kiran Goud, Mahesh Mudiraj, Councillor Srikanth Goud and several other leaders participated in the celebrations.

CP SAI CHAITANYA ATTENDS CHANDI YAGAM :

Nizamabad, October 19, 2026 : Nizamabad Police Commissioner P. Sai Chaitanya, attended the Chandiyagam Homam organised as part of the Navaratri celebrations at the Durga Parameshwari Mata Temple on the Police Parade Grounds in Nizamabad on Monday. The Commissioner participated in the religious programme and sought the blessings of the Goddess. An Annadanam (community meal) was organised following the homam. Additional DCP (Administration) N. Shubham Prakash, Additional Collector (Local Bodies) Bhujanga Rao, Additional Collector (UT) P. Suresh, DM&HO Dr. Rajashree, ACPs of Nizamabad and Armed Reserve (AR), Circle Inspectors, Reserve In-



spectors, Sub-Inspectors, Reserve Sub-Inspectors and other officials participated in the programme.

CM Revanth Reddy's Dasara Visit: Arrangements Completed at Kondareddypally

Collector Adarsh Surabhi, SP Dr Sangram Singh G. Patil and CM's security officials inspect

Nagarkurnool : The district administration has completed arrangements for Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's visit to his native village, Kondareddypally, in Vangoor mandal of Achampet constituency on Tuesday to participate in Dasara celebrations. In-charge Collector Adarsh Surabhi directed officials to give special attention to security, transportation, sanitation, drinking water supply and other essential facilities to ensure the smooth conduct of the visit.

On Monday, CM's security officials, In-charge Collector Adarsh Surabhi, Superintendent of Police Dr Sangram Singh G. Patil, the Chief Minister's brother Krishna Reddy and other officials visited Kondareddypally and inspected the arrangements at various locations. During the visit,



the Chief Minister is scheduled to offer special prayers at the Katta Maisamma and Anjaneya Swamy temples. In the evening, as part of the traditional Dasara celebrations, he will walk to the Jammi tree on the outskirts of the village and perform special rituals.

Later, a review meeting was held at the Kondareddypally Gram Panchayat office under the chairmanship of In-charge Collector Adarsh Surabhi. Officials reviewed security measures, traffic management, public movement, sanitation, drinking water supply and facilities at the event venues. The Collector instructed all departments to complete pending works within the stipulated time and coordinate closely to avoid any inconvenience to the public. He also directed police officials to remain alert and ensure foolproof security and smooth traffic movement throughout the Chief Minister's visit. Achampet Sub-Collector Saloni Chhabra, Additional Collectors B. Chennayya and Deva Sahayam, Additional SP Venkateshwarlu, IWO SP Ram Chander, CM's security officer Sridhar Reddy and other district and mandal-level officials attended the meeting.

Singareni Officers Get Dussehra Gift with Major Salary Hike

1,800 Officers to Benefit from Revised Pay Structure on Coal India Lines — Increased Salaries from October

SINGARENI: The Telangana government has delivered a Dussehra gift to Singareni officers by approving a long-awaited salary revision on the lines of Coal India Limited. The decision follows the assurance given by Deputy Chief Minister and Energy Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, bringing relief and cheer to approximately 1,800 officers working in Executive Cadres 1 to 7.

The Singareni management has issued official orders approving the revised pay structure. The increased salaries are scheduled to be paid from the October 2026 salary onwards.

Significant Increase in Basic Pay

Under the revised salary structure, the basic pay of Executive Cadre-1 officers will increase from ₹40,000 to ₹60,000. Officers in the higher cadres will also receive revised basic salaries.

Executive Cadre-1:* ₹60,000
Executive Cadre-2:* ₹70,000
Executive Cadre-3:* ₹80,000
Executive Cadre-4:* ₹90,000
Executive Cadre-5:* ₹1,00,000
Executive Cadres-6 and 7:* ₹1,20,000

The revised basic pay will be effective from January 1, 2017, while the financial benefits will ap-



ply from September 25, 2026. Singareni Director (Personnel) Gautam Potru issued the orders on Monday evening.

Bhatti Vikramarka's Assurance Fulfilled

Singareni officers had requested the state government to implement a salary structure similar to the one followed by Coal India Limited. Responding positively to their demand, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka directed the Singareni management in July to take the necessary steps to announce the revision before Dussehra.

Following the directive, the management constituted a special committee to examine the proposal. Based on the committee's report and subsequent board approval, the salary revision was finalised.



Officers' Association Expresses Gratitude

Leaders of the Singareni Officers' Association thanked Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister and Energy Minister Bhatti Vikramarka for approving the revision and fulfilling their assurance.

The association leaders welcomed the decision and stated that officers would work with renewed dedication to meet the state's energy requirements, increase coal production and contribute to Telangana's development.

Rs. 596 Crore Bonus for Workers; Salary Revision for Officers

The state government recently announced a bonus of ₹596 crore for approximately 39,000 Singareni workers and employees on the occasion of Dussehra. Contract workers are also set to receive a bonus of ₹5,500 each, as announced by the government.

With the latest salary revision for officers, the decisions have brought cheer among sections of the Singareni workforce. The measures are expected to boost employee morale and encourage greater commitment towards coal production and the organisation's progress.

DCC President Thota Devi Prasanna Participates in Devi Sharannavaratri Celebrations

Offers Prayers at Various Temples and Takes Part in Annadanam Programme

Bhadradi Kothagudem, October 19: Devi Sharannavaratri celebrations are being observed with great devotion and spiritual fervour across the district. As part of the festivities being held from October 11 to October 21, Bhadradi Kothagudem District Congress Committee (DCC) President Thota Devi Prasanna visited several temples on Monday, offered prayers to Goddess Durga, and participated in an Annadanam (food distribution) programme.

During the celebrations, she sought the blessings of the Goddess and interacted with devotees participating in the religious



festivities. The Annadanam programme reflected the spirit of service, devotion and community welfare associated with the Navaratri celebrations.

The programme was attended by DCC General Secretary M. Pedababu, SC Cell District General Secretary Dara Chiranjeevi, Town President Paramesh, 18th Division Corporator Purna, Majeed, Venkatachari, Srinivas, Vijay, and several Congress leaders and party workers.

The participation of Congress leaders in the Sharannavaratri celebrations highlighted the importance of devotion, social service and community harmony.

The celebrations continued in a spiritually vibrant atmosphere, with devotees coming together to seek the blessings of the Goddess and participate in service activities

Foundation Stone to Be Laid for New Fire Station Building

Khanapur MLA Vedma Bojju Patel to Attend the Ceremony

Nirmal District : The foundation stone for the construction of a new fire station building at Komaram Bheem Junction in Thimmapur, within the Khanapur Municipality limits, will be laid on the 21st of this month, District In-charge Fire Officer Mamidi Bhagwan Reddy announced.

The ceremony will be held at 11:00 AM on Wednesday, with Khanapur MLA Vedma Bojju Patel attending as the chief guest and laying the foundation stone. The Khanapur Municipal Chairperson, along with other public representatives and officials, will also participate in the programme.

The new fire station building is expected to improve emergency response services in Khanapur and its surrounding areas. It will enable fire department personnel to respond more quickly to fire accidents and other emergency situations, thereby enhancing public safety.

District Fire Officer Mamidi Bhagwan Reddy appealed to public representatives, officials, and the general public to participate in the foundation stone-laying ceremony and help make the programme a success.



Officials Crack Down on Medical Shops in Manuguru!

Drug Inspector Ashwini and CI Nagababu Conduct Inspections; Warn of Strict Legal Action for Violations

Manuguru: Drug Inspector Ashwini, along with CI Nagababu, conducted inspections at medical shops in Manuguru to check compliance with drug regulations and ensure the safe sale of medicines to the public.

During the inspections, the officials examined shop licences, medicine stocks, expired drugs, purchase bills, sales records, and the sale of medicines that require a doctor's prescription. They also checked the availability of qualified pharmacists and the methods used to store medicines.

Strict Compliance with Drug Regulations Is Mandatory

The officials instructed medical shop owners to strictly follow government regulations. They emphasized that expired medicines must not be sold and that prescription-required medicines should not be dispensed in violation of the prescribed rules.

The officials warned that legal action would be taken against medical shops found violating the regulations. They also stressed that shop owners must maintain proper records, ensure appropriate storage of medicines, and conduct their businesses responsibly.

The inspections are aimed at ensuring compliance with drug regula-



tions and safeguarding public health. Medical shop operators were advised to remain vigilant and avoid any practices that could put the health and safety of customers at risk.

Public Health Comes First — Violations of Drug Regulations Will Invite Legal Action!*

Collective Efforts Needed to Eradicate Bonded Labour

Extensive Awareness Must Be Created About Workers' Rights
District Collector Bhavesh Mishra Launches 'Swatantra Ratham'

Nirmal District Correspondent: Nirmal District Collector Bhavesh Mishra called upon officials to work in coordination to eradicate bonded labour and create widespread awareness among the public about workers' rights and labour laws.

On Monday, the Collector formally launched the government's 'Swatantra Ratham' (Freedom Chariot) campaign vehicle by flagging it off at the Collectorate premises. The campaign has been initiated by the state government to eradicate bonded labour across Telangana and educate people about workers' rights.

Speaking on the occasion, the Collector stated that people should be educated through skits, songs and other awareness programmes about the harmful consequences of bonded labour, the laws enacted to prevent it, and the rights guaranteed to workers.

He instructed officials to ensure that the campaign vehicle visits all parts of the district and creates awareness among unorganised workers employed in agriculture, brick kilns, mining, quarries and other sectors.

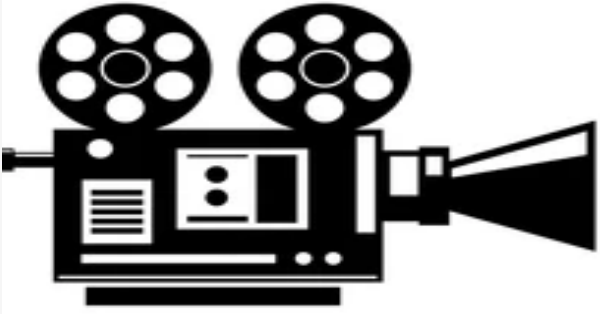
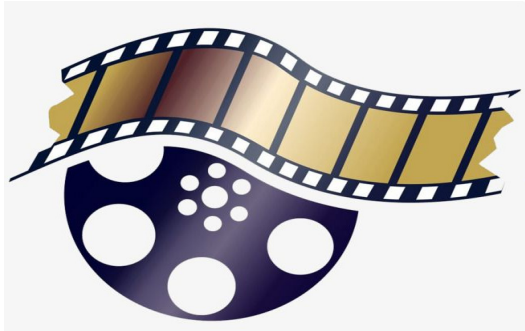
The Collector further emphasised the need to educate the public so that victims of bonded labour, as well as those who identify such cases, come forward and lodge complaints without delay. He directed officials to widely publicise the toll-free helpline number 080-69434343 to facilitate reporting of bonded labour cases.

Subsequently, the Collector unveiled posters highlighting the importance of eradicating bonded labour. On the occasion, he also administered a pledge to work towards the elimination of bonded labour.

Additional Collectors Rathod Ramesh and Venkata Madhava



Rao, Labour Department Officer Rajalingam, campaign vehicle staff and other officials participated in the programme.



CINEMA

All Eyes On Aakasham lo Oka Taara

Dulquer Salmaan has technically become a Telugu star, and all his films are gaining traction in Telugu.



Dulquer Salmaan has technically become a Telugu star, and all his films are gaining traction in Telugu. The star actor is working on an interesting film titled Aakasam lo Oka Taara. The team is happy with how the film is progressing in post-production, and the recently released teaser has caught a lot of attention. Especially amid a lineup of action films at the box office, audiences are craving a feel-good, light-hearted entertainer. Aakasam lo Oka Taara can be that film.

Audiences are tired of the back-to-back action-oriented films at the box office. Viewers are unhappy with violence crossing all the lines on screen. What audiences need is a simple, sweet, grounded film that resonates on all levels. In this scenario, Aakasam lo Oka Taara can satisfy that

hunger and give audiences a memorable film this winter season.

According to film sources, streaming giant Netflix grabbed the digital streaming rights for the film for a whopping amount. Since Dulquer's previous films fared well at the box office, they seem to have offered quite a good amount, with which the team almost got back their investment. As of today, the film is breaking even, and any magic after release will turn it into a big profit.

Savtika Veeravalli makes her debut as a lead heroine with the film. Gunnam Gangaraju and Vasanth Jurru wrote the screenplay. Sandeep Gurram and Ramya Gurram are producing the film. The film will head for a grand release on November 20th.

Reality Devika Bhat FL: Simple and Captivating

Kiran Abbavaram has joined hands with producer Sudhakar Chaganti to craft an engrossing family drama, Reality.

Kiran Abbavaram has joined hands with producer Sudhakar Chaganti to craft an engrossing family drama, Reality. The movie glimpse has made a highly positive impression on audiences with the way Kiran presented the middle family with their joys and sarrows combined into one engrossing package of emotions.

As a first time director, Kiran left a grand impression on audiences to watch his film in theatres. Now, the makers have unveiled leading lady Devika Bhat's first look and it is simple, captivating. We see her wearing a green saree and sharing a romantic moment with Kiran in the kitchen.

Their moment of closeness leaves audiences wanting for more. Already, Kiran left a lasting impression with his highly relatable line from the glimpse about how every middle class man aims to lead a debt free life. With this new look, he proved Reality is a sweet family feast releasing on 25th December.



Itlu Arjuna, I Felt It Risky Initially: Nagarjuna

Filmmaker Venky Kudumula is embarking on a new journey as a producer with Itlu Arjuna, a new-age romantic entertainer that is set for a theatrical release on October 30. Backed by his newly established banner, What Next Entertainments, the film introduces Aniesh as the lead actor.

The project has received an encouraging endorsement from King Nagarjuna, who watched the film and praised its novel concept and narrative approach. The star was particularly intrigued by the idea of telling a love story from the perspective of a man who cannot speak. Nag's support has added to the excitement surrounding the film, much to the delight of producer Venky Kudumula and the debutant team.

Praising the film, Nagarjuna said, "I have always loved new energy and new talent. I am presenting this film because I genuinely love cinema and want to encourage good films."

Recalling how Uyyala Jampala introduced several talents to the industry, Nagarjuna expressed confidence in Itlu Arjuna and its fresh team. He admitted that Aniesh playing a mute character in his debut film initially made him wonder whether the actor was taking too big a risk. However, watching the completed film completely changed his opinion.

"I was genuinely surprised by Aniesh's performance. Sometimes, even actors who have done 20 films may not find it easy to portray a mute character. But Aniesh performed so convincingly through his eyes, hands, body language and expressions, without any hesitation," he said.

Nagarjuna also praised Anaswara Rajan's performance, Mahesh Uppala's dedication and the film's engaging screenplay. He revealed that cinematographer Raja impressed him so much that he immediately signed him for his 100th film, King. With Thaman's music adding further appeal, Itlu Arjuna is scheduled for release on October 30.

Directed by Mahesh Uppala, Itlu Arjuna features Anaswara Rajan as the leading lady. It has cinematography by Raja Mahadevan, while Thaman S has provided a blockbuster music.



Keerthy Suresh Set to Showcase New Skills



Keerthy Suresh is all set to bring a refreshing dose of fun to the Sankranthi season with January 12 Vidudala. The makers of the much-awaited film have unveiled her first look as Latha Reddy on the occasion of the actress's birthday, offering a glimpse into her distinctive appearance and character.

The first-look poster captures Keerthy Suresh in a village-inspired avatar that instantly grabs attention. Sporting a purple langa voni, a headscarf and stylish sunglasses, she is seen sitting on a tractor with a charming smile. The rustic backdrop and her quirky village belle look have sparked curiosity about her role in the film.

Keerthy Suresh became a household name among Telugu audiences with successful films such as Nenu Local and Mahanati. While the former showcased her appeal in a commercial entertainer, the latter established her acting credentials with a National Award-winning performance. She also shared screen space with Mahesh Babu in Sarkaru Vaari Paata. With January 12 Vidudala, the actress appears ready to explore another entertaining character and showcase a different side of her talent.

Directed by Anil Ravipudi, the film features Victory Venkatesh and Nandamuri Kalyan Ram in the lead roles, with Krithi Shetty also playing a key part. The previously released first-look posters of the principal cast have already generated considerable interest.

Anil Ravipudi has established a strong reputation for delivering commercial entertainers during festive seasons. With its ensemble cast and promise of humour and family entertainment, January 12 Vidudala is gearing up for a Sankranthi release on January 12.

Alia Bhatt's traditional Bengali look steals the show at Durga Puja

Alia Bhatt attended North Bombay Sarbojanin Durga Puja celebrations in a traditional Bengali look. Ranbir Kapoor joined singer Harshdeep Kaur for an impromptu rendition of 'Kabira'. The couple will reunite on screen in the film 'Love & War' in 2027

Mumbai: Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt attended the North Bombay Sarbojanin Durga Puja celebrations, embracing an elegant traditional Bengali look for the festivities.

The 'Gangubai Kathiawadi' actress looked stunning in a bright fuchsia-pink saree featuring delicate gold dot motifs and a metallic border. She paired it with a sky-blue blouse with structured puff sleeves. Adding a distinctive touch, the back of the blouse featured four vertically arranged lotus motifs beneath a crescent-shaped moon.

Alia accessorised her outfit with statement gold jhumkas, golden bangles and a cocktail ring.

Further enhancing the traditional appeal of her ensemble, the 'Jigra' actress wore her hair in a neat low bun adorned with delicate gold hair accessories and a gajra. Keeping her makeup subtle, she opted for kohl-rimmed eyes, glossy lips and a small black bindi.

Alia was also seen participating in the aarti during the festivities.

On Saturday, actor Ranbir Kapoor also sought blessings at the North Bombay Sarbojanin Durga Puja pandal.

Adding to the festive mood, Ranbir gave an impromptu singing performance at the pandal. He joined singer Harshdeep Kaur to sing 'Kabira', a popular track from his 2013 film 'Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani'. The film was directed by Ayan Mukerji, who was also present at the pandal.

Ranbir wore a red-and-gold kurta paired with white pyjamas as he arrived at the Durga Puja venue.

Alia and Ranbir will soon be seen together on screen in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's much-anticipated film 'Love & War', which will also feature Vicky Kaushal in a key role.

'Love & War' is slated for theatrical release on January 21, 2027.

