



## The Campus Chronicle

From the Department of Social Sciences

2



Celebrating the Shortest Days with Global Winter Festivities

3



CII Partnership Summit: AP Closes Deals Worth ₹13.25 Lakh Crore

4



Amaravati Declared India's First Integrated Financial City

## PM Modi Outlines Global Initiatives at G20 in South Africa

Key proposals included the G20–Africa Skills Multiplier Initiative

LBC News Network

Visakhapatnam

Prime Minister Narendra Modi concluded a highly engaged visit to Johannesburg, South Africa, for the G20 Leaders' Summit, which took place from November 22 to 23, 2025.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi attends a plenary session on the opening day of the G20 Summit at the Nasrec Expo Centre, in Johannesburg, South Africa, on Saturday, Nov. 22, 2025

The summit, held for the first time on the African continent, saw PM Modi presenting India's human-centric vision for global development and cooperation.

Minister put forward a comprehensive six-point agenda for the G20 to consider, aimed at fostering inclusive and sustainable growth.

the G20–Africa Skills Multiplier Initiative, which aims to prepare one million certified trainers in Africa over the next decade, and an urgent G20 Initiative on Countering the Drug–

Terror Nexus to curb illicit financing for terrorism. He also proposed a G20 Open Satellite Data Partnership to share space-based information with the

Terror Nexus to curb Other significant initiatives proposed were the establishment of a Global Traditional Knowledge Repository, a G20 Global Healthcare Response Team, and the Critical Minerals Circularity Initiative.

The visit reinforced India's role as a leading voice for the Global South and its commitment to reforming global governance structures.

Modi also stressed the necessity of UN Security Council reform at the IBSA meeting.

In his address, the Prime

Minister put forward a

## Top Commander Madvi Hidma Killed in Andhra Pradesh Encounter

The severe cyclonic storm crossed the Andhra Pradesh coast near Antarvedi

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Visakhapatnam

One of India's most wanted Maoist leaders, Madvi Hidma, was killed on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, during an exchange of fire with security forces in the Maredumilli forest area of Andhra Pradesh.



A view of the Pamuleru stream in Papikonda National Park in which six Maoists were killed

The intelligence-led operation, executed in the Alluri Sitarama Raju district near the Chhattisgarh–Odisha border, resulted in the neutralisation of six insurgents. Among the dead were Hidma, a senior

Central Committee member of the banned Communist Party of India (Maoist), and his wife, Madakam Raje (alias Rajakka).

Hidma was the elusive commander of the dreaded People's

Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) Battalion No. 1. Recognized for his ruthless guerrilla tactics and mastery of forest terrain, he was linked to several high-casualty attacks on security personnel over two decades, including the

2010 Dantewada ambush and the 2013 Darbha Valley attack. With this encounter in Andhra Pradesh, nine Central Committee members of the Maoists have been eliminated by security forces in Chhattisgarh,

Jharkhand, and Andhra Pradesh. Security officials confirmed the recovery of firearms, including AK-47 rifles, and a cache of explosives from the encounter site.

The successful operation, conducted at the strategic tri-junction bordering three states, is being hailed as the most significant operational success against Left-Wing Extremism in recent years. This victory is expected to severely disrupt the Maoist organization's command structure and tactical capabilities, given Hidma's seniority.



## Celebrating the Shortest Days with Global Winter Festivities

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Visakhapatnam

When the mercury drops and the days grow short, cultures worldwide don't retreat into the darkness—they bring the light.

The winter season, far from being a desolate period, is transformed into a global tapestry of festivals, lights, family gatherings, and ancient rituals that celebrate resilience, renewal, and the promise of the sun's return. These celebrations, rooted in history and tradition, offer a fascinating glimpse into humanity's collective spirit.

*The Triumph of Light: Solstice and Ancient Roots*

Many of the world's most cherished winter holidays are directly or indirectly linked to the Winter Solstice, the shortest day and longest night of the year (around December 21st in the Northern Hemisphere). This astronomical event has inspired rites of rebirth for millennia.

In Iran, families gather for Shab-e Yalda (Yalda Night) to celebrate the longest night. Meaning "birth," Yalda marks the traditional victory of light over darkness and the birthday of the sun god, Mithra. Families stay awake, reading poetry from the divan of Hafiz, eating watermelon and pomegranates—foods whose red color symbolizes the sunrise.

In China, the Dongzhi Festival ("arrival of winter") is a time for family reunion and eating special foods like tang yuan (glutinous rice balls) in red bean soup. Dating back to the Han Dynasty, it celebrates the increasing

light after the solstice and a time of renewal.

Meanwhile, at the prehistoric site of Stonehenge in the United Kingdom, thousands



gather to witness the Winter Solstice sunrise, which aligns perfectly with the ancient stone monument, echoing pagan rituals of old.

*Festivals of Illumination: Hanukkah and St. Lucia*

The necessity of creating light during the dark winter has birthed spectacular festivals of illumination.

The Jewish eight-day celebration of Hanukkah, or the Festival of Lights, commemorates the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem in the 2nd century BCE. According to tradition, a single cruse of oil, enough to burn for one night, miraculously lasted for eight.

The holiday is observed with the nightly lighting of the menorah, special prayers, and eating foods fried in oil, such as latkes (potato pancakes) and sufganiyot (jelly-filled donuts), to commemorate the miracle of the oil.

In Sweden and other Scandinavian countries, St. Lucia's Day on December 13th officially heralds the start of the Christmas season. The tradition honors St. Lucia, an early Christian martyr, but also incorporates

Norse solstice practices of lighting fires to ward off evil spirits.

The custom involves a procession where the eldest daughter in the



family, or a chosen girl in the community, dresses in a white gown with a red sash and wears a wreath of candles on her head, bringing lussekatter (safron buns) to her family.

*Unique Customs and Quirky Traditions*

Not all winter festivities are solemn or quiet; many involve unique, sometimes strange, customs that are incredibly fun.

In Austria and parts of Germany, the fearsome, devil-like creature known as Krampus is a terrifying counterpart to the benevolent St. Nicholas. On Krampusnacht (Krampus Night, December 5th), men dress up as the horned beast to parade through the streets, chasing and swatting "naughty" people with sticks. This tradition is a blend of pre-Christian Alpine folklore and Christian belief.

Across the Atlantic, in Oaxaca, Mexico, they celebrate La Noche de Rábanos (The Night of the Radishes) on December 23rd. This wildly creative event sees artisans carve massive, oversized radishes into intricate figures and scenes, often depicting

Mexican folklore, nativity scenes, or alebrijes (mythical creatures). The tradition began as a way for vendors to entice customers with beautifully carved produce.

And in the cold climate of Québec City, Canada, the annual Québec Winter Carnival is one of the largest winter festivals in the world, running for over two weeks in late January and early February.

*The Spirit of Giving: Global New Year Celebrations*

The winter season culminates with the transition to a new year, celebrated globally with fireworks, feasts, and hopes for prosperity.

In Spain and many Latin American countries, the tradition for New Year's Eve (Nochevieja) is to eat twelve grapes—one for each stroke of the clock at midnight—to ensure twelve months of luck and prosperity.

In Japan, New Year's, or Oshōgatsu, is a period focused on family and reflection. People clean their homes to purge bad luck, pay visits to temples (called hatsumōde), and exchange otoshidama, small envelopes containing money for children. The traditional New Year's meal is osechi-ryōri, a collection of colorful dishes packed in special boxes, each dish symbolizing a wish for the coming year.

From the quiet contemplation of the solstice to the loud exuberance of New Year's fireworks, winter provides a stage for the world to connect through shared themes of light, warmth, and the promise of a fresh start.

*-LBC Editorial Team*

“Be yourself; everyone else is already taken.”  
– Oscar Wilde

### Utility Numbers

Police	100	Reservation Enquiry	1345
Fire	101	Disha	112
Ambulance	108		
Rail General Enquiry	131		



## CII Partnership Summit: AP Closes Deals Worth ₹13.25 Lakh Crore

*The investments, led by the energy and IT sectors, are expected to generate over 16 lakh jobs*

LBC News Network

Visakhapatnam

The 30th edition of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Partnership Summit concluded on Saturday, November 15, 2025, after two days of intense global deliberations in Visakhapatnam.

The event, held from November 14 to 15, focused on the theme, "Technology, Trust, and Trade: Navigating the



New Geoeconomic Order." Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan inaugurated the summit, which attracted over

2,500 delegates from 77 countries. The Andhra Pradesh government announced a record haul, signing 613

Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) that committed an investment pledge of ₹13.25 lakh crore (approximately \$159 billion). The investments, led by the energy and IT sectors, are expected to generate over 16 lakh jobs and firmly establish the state as a premier destination for future technologies like Artificial Intelligence and green energy, aligning with the vision for a developed India by 2047.

## Vizag Set to Become AI Hub: Digital Connexion Pledges \$11 Billion Data Centre

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Visakhapatnam

Digital Connexion, a joint venture involving Reliance Industries, Brookfield, and Digital Realty, announced a massive \$11 billion investment commitment to establish a 1 Gigawatt (GW) AI-native data centre campus in Visakhapatnam.

The announcement was formalized on Wednesday, November 26, 2025, through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Andhra Pradesh Economic Development



Board. This substantial five-year investment, which is equivalent to approximately ₹98,000 crore, will see the development of a 1 GW, purpose-built facility across a 400-acre site.

Designed to host the world's most advanced Graphics Processing Units (GPUs) and AI

processors, the centre will support next-generation workloads for hyperscalers and enterprises. This commitment reinforces Visakhapatnam's emerging status as a critical hub for India's rapidly accelerating digital and AI infrastructure.

## David Beckham Visits Vizag School to Promote Project-Based Learning

LBC News Network

Visakhapatnam

Former England football captain and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, Sir David Beckham, made a surprise visit to a government residential girls' school near Visakhapatnam on Wednesday, November 26, 2025.

Beckham visited the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule school in Kothavalasa (Vizianagaram district) to observe and promote Project-Based Learning (PBL) in action. His trip was part of a wider initiative supported by the 'Education Above All' foundation, which aims to modernize and enhance classrooms across several Indian states.

During the visit, the global icon toured classrooms, sat in on a PBL session, and joined students for a reading circle.

The day culminated outdoors, where a thrilled group of girls invited him to participate in a lively football drill.



## Hinduja Group Pledges ₹20,000 Crore for Power, EV Projects in AP

LBC News Network

Visakhapatnam

The Hinduja Group, a diversified conglomerate, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Andhra Pradesh government, committing a massive investment of ₹20,000 crore (approximately \$2.4 billion) in a phased manner.

The agreement was formalized on, November 3, 2025, in London, during Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's investment tour ahead of the CII Partnership Summit.

The investment is primarily focused on the



energy and mobility sectors.

These ambitious projects are expected to generate thousands of direct and indirect jobs across the state.

Key initiatives include the expansion of the existing 1,050 MW Hinduja National Power Corporation plant in Visakhapatnam by an

additional 1,600 MW, development of large-scale solar and wind projects, and the establishment of an electric bus and light commercial vehicle manufacturing unit in the state.

This move is aimed at positioning Andhra Pradesh as a national hub for green energy and electric mobility.

CITYSTORIES



STATE AFFAIRS

## Amaravati Declared India's First Integrated Financial City

The initiative is expected to significantly boost economic activity and generate over 6,500 jobs

LBC News Network  
Visakhapatnam

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, along with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, laid the foundation stone on Friday, November 28, 2025, for the construction of offices for 15 major public sector banks and insurance companies in Amaravati.

The event marked a major milestone in the capital city's development, with Sitharaman declaring that Amaravati is set to become the country's first



integrated Financial City. The projects, involving major institutions like SBI, LIC, and NABARD, represent a combined investment of

over ₹1,328 crore. The Finance Minister praised the effort to cluster all major PSU financial institutions on one street, calling it a "historic first" for any state capital in India. Chief Minister

Naidu added that the specialized financial district is designed to attract global finance firms and Fintech start-ups.

The initiative is expected to significantly boost economic activity and generate over 6,500 jobs, creating a robust ecosystem crucial for the state's economic transformation, strengthening the financial backbone of the greenfield capital.

## Administrative Overhaul: AP Approves Three New Districts, Total Now 29

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Visakhapatnam

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday, November 25, 2025, approved the creation of three new districts, increasing the total number of administrative units in the state from 26 to 29.

The decision followed a detailed review of recommendations by the Group of Ministers on district reorganisation.

The three new districts to be carved out are



Polavaram, Markapuram, and Madanapalle. The move fulfills a promise to correct perceived administrative errors from previous reorganizations and bring governance closer to the people. The restructuring also includes the

formation of five new revenue divisions and one new mandal, significantly reshaping the state's administrative map. The final notification is expected following Cabinet approval.

## Coastal AP Braces for Cyclone Ditwah's Extreme Rainfall

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Visakhapatnam

Andhra Pradesh's disaster response teams were placed on high alert as Cyclonic Storm Ditwah intensified over the Bay of Bengal, threatening the North Tamil Nadu and South Andhra Pradesh coast.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued an Orange to Red Alert on Saturday, November 29, 2025, forecasting extremely heavy rainfall for districts in South Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema on November 30.

The districts of Nellore, Tirupati, and Chittoor were identified as particularly vulnerable to high wind speeds and potential flash floods.

Fishermen were strictly advised not to venture into the Bay of Bengal until December 1, and coastal communities were urged to move to safety shelters.

## AP Tourism Unveils 'Driver-cum-Guide' Service with Rapido

LBC News Network  
Visakhapatnam

The Andhra Pradesh government, in a pioneering move for the national tourism sector, officially announced the launch of the Driver-cum-Guide Mobility Scheme in collaboration with ride-hailing company Rapido.

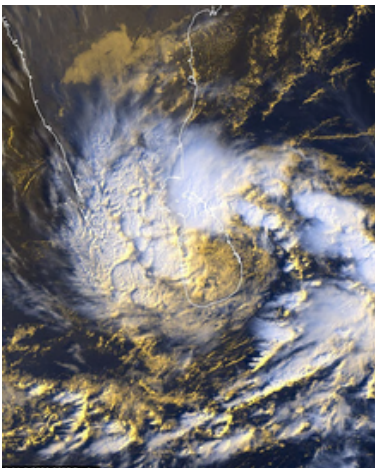
The initiative, hailed as the first of its kind in India, was unveiled by Tourism Minister K. Durgesh on Thursday, November 27, 2025.

The scheme is designed to enhance the tourist experience by integrating transport and guiding services. Drivers with good Rapido ratings will receive specialized



training from the Tourism Department covering the state's history, culture, hospitality, and safety protocols. Services will initially roll out in major destinations like Vijayawada, Tirupati, and Visakhapatnam. To streamline travel, co-branded helpdesks will be established at airports

and railway stations. The partnership, formalized during the recent CII Summit, aims to boost the incomes of local cab and auto drivers while providing visitors with knowledgeable, certified guides directly accessible via the Rapido app. This unique PPP model is expected to become a national benchmark.





## ETV hosts Karthika Deepotsavam on the campus

LBC News Network

College



On November 2, 2025, ETV hosted the vibrant Karthika Deepotsavam at Dr. Lankapalli Bullayya College. The event brought together nearly 1,000 women, all united in joy and tradition. It was a remarkable day filled with cultural festivities, illuminating the college grounds with a sense of community and togetherness.

## College wins the overall weightlifting championship in both men's and women's categories

LBC News Network

College



Dr. Lankapalli Bullayya College hosted an inter-college weightlifting championship competition on its campus. The event was inaugurated by the Secretary and Correspondent, Dr. G. Madhu Kumar. In the women's category, Bullayya College won the overall championship trophy, with Satya Degree College from Vizianagaram finishing as the runner-up. In the men's category, Bullayya College also secured the overall championship title, while Mrs. AVN College took home the runner-up spot.

The prize distribution ceremony was attended by Andhra University Rector Prof. Pulipati King and the Director of the Andhra University Sports Board, Prof. N. Vijay Mohan, who presented prizes to the winners. Notable participants in the program included Principal Dr. G.S.K. Chakravarty, Physical Education Department Head Dr. Y. Srinivasa Rao, Physical Director Dr. B.R.S. Lakshmana Reddy, retired weightlifting coach Mr. Ratnakar, Junior College Vice Principal Major T. Brahmananda Reddy, and various weightlifting coaches.

## College celebrates Bharat Scouts & Guides Foundation Day

LBC News Network

College



On November 07, 2025, the College celebrated Bharat Scouts and Guides Foundation Day. The event began with the ceremonial garlanding of the portraits of Lord Baden-Powell and Olava Baden-Powell, honouring their enduring legacy in the Scouting movement.

Dr. G.S.K. Chakravarty, Principal (UG & PG), Mr. K. Someswara Reddy, Principal (Intermediate), Major T. Brahmananda Reddy (Vice-principal and Rover Leader), G. Surya Y(Ranger Leader), Fly. Lt. Dr. B.R.S. Lakshmana Reddy (Rover Leader) and K. Swathi Yadav (Ranger Leader) participated in the ceremony and offered heartfelt tributes. Rangers and Rovers of the college also actively took part in the programme. As part of their service initiative, they gave 75th Foundation Day Celebration stickers for a cause and charity, reinforcing the spirit of social responsibility.

The dignitaries emphasised the core values of the Bharat Scouts and Guides—\*duty to God, duty to self, and duty to others\*—and encouraged students to reflect these principles in their everyday actions. The celebration embodied the spirit of service, discipline and community leadership that the Scouts and Guides movement upholds.

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## Junior College observes Vigilance Awareness Week

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Dr. Lankapalli Bullayya Junior College observed Vigilance Awareness Week, a significant initiative aimed at promoting integrity and eradicating corruption, with the active support and participation of all citizens.

As part of this, an essay writing competition was organised for students, encouraging them to articulate their perspectives on the vital importance of vigilance in various aspects of life. This competition not only fostered creativity and critical thinking among participants but also helped to enhance their awareness of ethical responsibilities within the community.

## BA student secures third position at All India level for 12th Junior National Target Ball Championship

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College



The 12th Junior National Target Ball Championship was held in Bhopal from October 26 to 30, 2025. In these competitions, Dr. Lankapalli Bullayya College students R. Nikhil, a third-year B.Sc student, and G. Deepak Chakri, a first-year BA student, excelled and secured third position at the All India level. On this occasion, the Secretary & Correspondent, Dr. G. Madhu Kumar, congratulated the students.

Principal Dr. G.S.K. Chakravarty, Physical Education Department Head, Dr. Y. Srinivasa Rao, and Physical Director Dr. B.R.S. Lakshmana Reddy also congratulated the students for their achievement.

## Students win medals in the inter-college women's boxing championship

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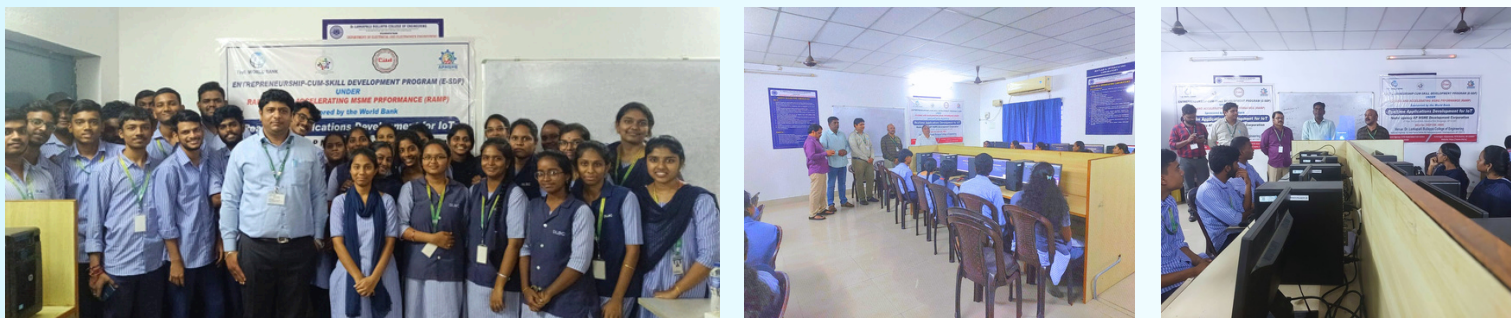
Bullayya College students won medals in the inter-college women's boxing championship held at AU. Hina, a second-year BA student, won the gold medal in the 48kg category, Mallika, a third-year Engineering student, won the gold medal in the 51kg category, Soujanya, a second-year B.Com student, won the bronze medal in the 54kg category, and Harshita, a third-year BA student, won the silver medal in the 57kg category, making Bullayya College the overall team championship winner. S.G.S Mallika, a third-year engineering student, won the Best Boxer Award.

On this occasion, Secretary and Correspondent Dr. G. Madhu Kumar congratulated the students. UG & PG Principal Dr. GSK Chakravarty, Engineering College Principal Prof. D. Deepak Chowdary, Physical Education Department Head Dr. Y Srinivasa Rao, and Physical Director Dr. B.R.S. Lakshmana Reddy participated in the program.



## Three-week Entrepreneurship Skill Development Programme organised for ECE students

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The Central Institute of Tool Design (CITD), Hyderabad, in collaboration with the Nodal Agency – Andhra Pradesh MSME Development Corporation, is currently organising a three-week Entrepreneurship Skill Development Programme (ESDP) on “Real-Time Applications Development for IoT” for ECE students at Dr. Lankapalli Bullayya College of Engineering (Autonomous).

The program is being conducted in two batches, with a total of 60 students actively participating. This initiative aims to enhance students’ practical skills in Internet of Things (IoT) applications, bridging the gap between academics and industry requirements.

On this occasion, Secretary and Correspondent Dr G. Madhu Kumar addressed the students and encouraged them to utilise such training opportunities to become industry-ready professionals. He also expressed his gratitude to Dr Vijay Krishnakanth, Principal Director, CITD Hyderabad, for extending this collaboration, and conveyed his hope for more such programs to be hosted at the college in the future.

Prof. D. Deepak Chowdary, Principal of Dr. Lankapalli Bullayya College of Engineering (A), and Dr. J. Babu, Head of the Department (ECE), highlighted the importance of this program in helping students gain practical exposure to real-time IoT applications and prepare them for upcoming technological advancements.

The program is being organised by the Skill Development Centre (SDC) Department of the college under the coordination of Mr D. Bhujang Rao, who has played a key role in facilitating this training by coordinating with CITD and ensuring the smooth execution of all sessions.

## 11 students from Engineering selected for Infosys

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College

*Congratulations!*

**We proudly congratulate our talented students of the 2022-2026 batch for their remarkable achievement in the Infosys Pool Campus Recruitment Drive!**

**11 Students Selected for Infosys**

**Wishing you all a bright and successful career ahead**



Junior College student wins medals in Aquasports competitions

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Dr. Lankapalli Bullayya Junior College student B. Preeti, a first-year Bi.P.C. student, excelled in the Under-19 Aquasports and Swimming competitions organised by the School Games Federation of India. Preeti, who won a gold medal in 50 meters backstroke, a gold medal in 100 meters backstroke, and a silver medal in 200 meters backstroke in the competitions held at the GVMC Aqua Sports Complex from 8th to 10th of November, has been selected for the upcoming national-level competitions in Delhi.

On this occasion, Secretary and Correspondent Dr. G. Madhu Kumar congratulated Preeti. He wished her to excel in national competitions and win medals. Junior College Principal Mr. K. Someswara Reddy, Vice Principal Major T. Brahmananda Reddy, Physical Education Department Head Dr. Y Srinivasa Rao, and Physical Director Dr. B.R.S. Lakshmana Reddy participated.

SDC organizes an Add-on course for 2<sup>nd</sup> year MCA students

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College



The Skill Development Center of Dr. Lankapalli Bullayya College has organised an Add-on Course on Data Science, AI, and Machine Learning using Python for 2nd Year MCA students, in collaboration with Prajna Resources Pvt. Ltd., with support from industry experts.

This course will enhance students’ skills and help them take up current, industry-oriented projects in the upcoming semester. It will also support students in becoming industry-ready by the time they complete their MCA program at Dr Lankapalli Bullayya College.

AI training session conducted for journalists and students

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College



On November 17, 2025, Mr. Sudhakar Reddy Udumula, Editor- Investigations at Times of India, conducted an AI training session for journalists and students under the ADiRA initiative (AI for Digital Readiness and Advancement) at Block-7, Computer Lab.

During the session, he discussed how to detect AI-generated videos and deepfakes, as well as the various tools and websites available for checking AI-generated content, including text, photos, videos, and audio. He emphasised the importance of learning AI tools, highlighting that in today's world, AI and humans collectively form the workforce.

Mr. Sudhakar Reddy addressed how careers are evolving due to the introduction of AI and what we can expect in the near future. He explained the fundamentals of how AI works and introduced the best tools for various tasks. Additionally, he pointed out the potential pitfalls of AI and stressed the need to verify any content generated through these technologies.

Mr. Sudhakar Reddy also explored how AI can be utilised in newsrooms, discussing its limitations and the precautions necessary when using AI tools. Using a PowerPoint presentation and live demonstrations, he illustrated how various AI tools can be leveraged to make a journalist's work more efficient.

He concluded the session by stressing our ethical responsibilities when using AI. The training was interactive and hands-on, allowing participants to gain a deeper understanding of AI and encouraging them to continue enhancing their knowledge and applying it responsibly.



OUTLOOK

The Decline of Reading for Pleasure in the Digital Age

LBC News Network  
Visakhapatnam

The modern student exists in an ecosystem of ceaseless digital engagement, and the silent victim of this environment is the sustained, self-directed act of reading for pleasure. This is not hyperbole; it is a measurable, factual freefall.

Surveys in both the US and the UK track this decline relentlessly. In the United States, daily reading for pleasure has dropped by over 40% in the last two decades. Meanwhile, the National Literacy Trust in the UK found that only about one in three children aged eight to 18 read in their spare time—a 36% decrease from 2005 figures.

These numbers don't just represent fewer people curling up with a novel; they signify a profound shift in how young minds allocate their time, and, more worryingly, how they process information.

The digital age, with its promise of instantaneous connection and endless information, has inadvertently cultivated a preference for fragmented, high-stimulus content.

This culture of constant partial attention, driven by infinite scrolls and notification chimes, is fundamentally incompatible with the quiet demands of a sustained narrative or a complex non-fiction argument.

Reading for pleasure often referred to by cognitive scientists as "deep reading" is more than just a leisure activity; it is a critical cognitive workout.

Deep reading involves an array of sophisticated mental processes, including inferential reasoning, critical analysis, and the ability to track complex plot

structures over hundreds of pages. However, the rapid-fire, low-friction consumption encouraged by platforms like TikTok and Instagram actively



undermines these skills. When we spend hours consuming content optimized for rapid gratification, our brains become accustomed to constant novelty and minimal attention commitment.

Researchers like Dr. Gloria Mark have found that the average attention span when interacting with digital media has shrunk significantly, making the sustained focus required



for a 300-page book feel tedious and effortful. The immediate consequence for students is a reduced capacity for concentration, which inevitably bleeds into academic performance. Complex subjects, whether it's analyzing historical causality or solving multi-step mathematical problems, require the same deep focus and mental resilience that reading a challenging book cultivates.

If the neural pathways needed for sustained attention are constantly being interrupted and redirected by external notifications, students lose the ability to sit with discomfort and engage in genuine intellectual labor.

Beyond academic rigor, the decline in pleasure reading carries a severe

emotional and ethical consequence: the atrophy of empathy.

Literary fiction, in particular, is a powerful

engine for developing Theory of Mind—the capacity to comprehend that other people hold beliefs and desires that may differ from your own.

When a reader engages with a novel, they are forced to inhabit the inner world of a character, to analyze their motivations, rationalize their flaws, and anticipate their actions. This sustained imaginative effort acts

as a simulated training ground for real-world social interaction.

As students replace the slow, deliberate process of narrative immersion with the performative, curated snippets of social media, they exchange deep emotional engagement for superficial social comparison.

The result is a generation that risks becoming proficient in consuming headlines and short clips but less capable of engaging with the complex, messy narratives of human experience.

Reversing this decline requires more than simply banning phones; it demands a cultural recalibration.

Educators and parents

must actively champion the cause of uninterrupted time.

This means setting aside screen-free hours, creating quiet reading spaces, and, most importantly, modeling the behavior we wish to instill.

It also means linking reading back to genuine interests. Data suggests that students are still motivated to read when they have the freedom to choose what they read, whether it's fiction tied to a favorite TV show, a graphic novel, or a deep dive into an area of historical fascination.

We must recognize that the ability to engage in deep reading is not merely a nostalgic hobby; it is a foundation of critical thinking, advanced problem-solving, and emotional intelligence.

In an age where information overload threatens to drown out nuance, the sustained focus demanded by a book is not an obstacle, it is the essential tool for building a resilient mind. We must encourage students to turn off the noise and reclaim their inner lives, one deliberate page at a time.

-LBC Editorial Team



## NIA Probe Uncovers Terror Network in Red Fort Blast Case

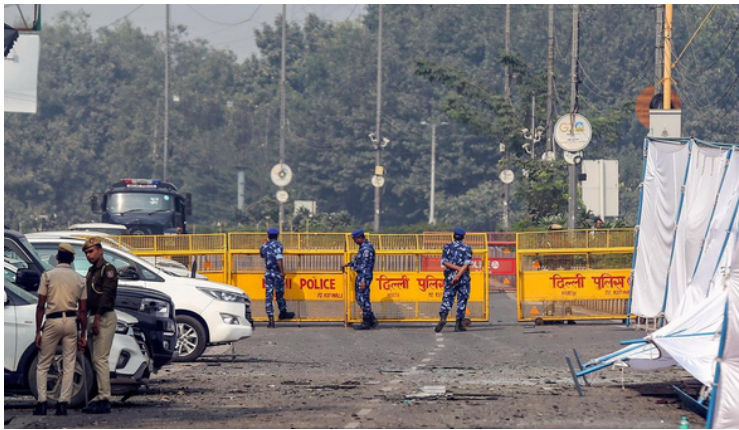
*The blast, which killed at least 15 people, was officially declared a terrorist incident by the government*

LBC News Network

Visakhapatnam

The investigation into the deadly car explosion near the Red Fort on November 10, 2025, has significantly advanced, with the National Investigation Agency (NIA) uncovering a vast 'white-collar' terror module.

The blast, which killed at least 15 people, was officially declared a terrorist incident by the government.



The probe has focused on radicalized individuals, including several doctors associated with a university in Faridabad, Haryana. The perpetrator, Dr. Umar

Un Nabi, confirmed through DNA analysis, allegedly drove the explosive-laden Hyundai i20. So far, the NIA has made seven arrests, including co-conspirators

who provided logistical support and were allegedly linked to the terror outfits Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind.

The ongoing multi-state investigation continues to trace the wider network and its foreign handlers, believed to be operating from countries like Turkiye and Pakistan.

Authorities are seeking international assistance for these linkages.

## NDA Secures Massive Mandate in High-Turnout Bihar Polls

LBC News Network

Visakhapatnam

The ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) swept the Bihar Legislative Assembly elections, securing a decisive mandate with 202 seats in the 243-member House.

The results were declared on November 14, following a two-phase polling process held on November 6 and November 11, 2025.

The election witnessed a historic voter turnout, reaching approximately 67.25%, the highest recorded since 1951, driven significantly by high female



participation. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) emerged as the single largest party, solidifying the NDA's dominance.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is set to take the oath for a record tenth time. Conversely, the opposition Mahagathbandhan, led

by the RJD, managed only 35 seats, leading to post-poll internal reviews regarding strategy and leadership.

The result affirms the NDA's narrative and strategic consolidation across the state.

## Peace Push Intensifies: US and Ukraine Refine Peace Framework

LBC News Network

Visakhapatnam

The diplomatic push for an end to the Russia-Ukraine conflict has accelerated, with representatives from the United States and Ukraine meeting in Geneva on November 23, 2025, to discuss a US-proposed peace plan.

The talks were deemed "constructive," resulting in a joint statement confirming the drafting of an "updated and refined peace framework."

The intensive diplomacy followed controversy over an initial 28-point US draft that Kyiv and European allies criticized as too favorable to Russia, particularly concerning territorial concessions and security guarantees.

Ukrainian officials, including President Zelenskyy's office, have been working closely with US special envoys to modify the proposal, emphasizing that any final agreement must fully uphold Ukraine's sovereignty and ensure a sustainable, just peace.



## COP30 in Amazon Concludes with New Climate Finance Goals

LBC News Network

Visakhapatnam

The 30th UN Climate Change Conference (COP30), held in Belém at the gateway to the Amazon from November 10 to 21, 2025, concluded with the adoption of the Belém Political Package.

This year's conference, framed as the "implementation COP," focused heavily on translating commitments into tangible action.

Key outcomes included a political signal to triple adaptation finance by 2035 to help vulnerable nations cope with climate



impacts, and the launch of a new mechanism to guide a "Just Transition." Delegates also worked on mobilizing at least \$1.3 trillion per year in climate finance for developing countries by 2035.

Hosting the event in the Amazon put a spotlight on deforestation and

biodiversity preservation, resulting in new initiatives, although the final agreement lacked a clear, consensus-based roadmap for phasing out fossil fuels.

The Loss and Damage Fund for vulnerable nations was officially operationalized.

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## South Africa Secures 2-0 Series Win Over India in Test Cricket

*The Indian Women's Cricket Team has secured its place in the final of the ICC Women's ODI World Cup*

LBC News Network

Visakhapatnam

The Indian cricket team lost the two-match Test series at home, as South Africa secured a 408-run victory in the second Test at the Barsapara Cricket Stadium.

The defeat, which ended the series on November 26, 2025, stands as India's largest loss in Test cricket by a margin of runs. South Africa achieved its



first Test series win on Indian soil in 25 years. Off-spinner Simon Harmer was a key factor, taking 6/37 in the final innings to dismiss India's batting lineup for 140,

chasing 549. All-rounder Marco Jansen, who scored 93 and took 6/48 in the first innings, received the Player of the Match award. The victory was built on strong

bowling discipline and consistent performances from their middle order.

The pitch conditions, offering early turn and bounce, were expertly exploited by the visitors' bowlers.

The Indian team management faces scrutiny regarding its selection decisions and batting strategy in both matches.

## India Retains Title, Wins Women's Kabaddi World Cup in Dhaka

LBC News Network

Visakhapatnam

The Indian women's kabaddi team clinched its second consecutive World Cup title, defeating Chinese Taipei with a score of 35-28 in the final held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on November 24, 2025.

The victory reinforces India's dominance in the sport, securing the trophy for the second time, following their inaugural win in 2012.

The Indian team maintained a perfect record throughout the



tournament, displaying strong discipline and effective raiding.

They dominated their group stage matches before securing a 33-21 win against Iran in the semi-final. In the final match, India maintained control after a

competitive first half, relying on captain Ritu Negi's leadership and the pivotal performance of raider Sanju Devi, who was later named the Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the tournament.

## Portugal Clinches Maiden FIFA U-17 World Cup Title in Qatar

LBC News Network

Visakhapatnam

Portugal secured its first-ever FIFA U-17 World Cup title, defeating fellow European side Austria 1-0 in the final held at the Khalifa International Stadium on November 27, 2025.

The victory caps a historic run for the Portuguese youth squad, who are also the reigning European U-17 champions.

The decisive goal came in the 32nd minute from forward Anísio Cabral, who finished a well-worked attacking move, securing his seventh goal of the tournament.

The final was a tightly contested affair, with Austria pushing hard for an equalizer in the second half but ultimately being thwarted by a disciplined Portuguese defense and some close misses, including a shot that struck the post. The tournament, hosted by Qatar, was the first under FIFA's new expanded 48-team, annual format.

## Rybakina Wins Maiden WTA Finals Title in Riyadh

LBC News Network

Visakhapatnam

Elena Rybakina concluded the women's tennis season by winning her first-ever WTA Finals title.

The tournament, contested by the world's top eight singles players and doubles teams, was held in Riyadh from November 1 to 8, 2025.

Rybakina, the Kazakh sixth seed, defeated World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka in the singles final, triumphing in straight sets with a score of 6-3, 7-6(0).

Rybakina's path to the trophy was notable as



she went a perfect 5-0, remaining undefeated through both the round-robin stage and the knockouts, demonstrating powerful serving and solid baseline play.

She collected a record prize money of \$5.235 million, the largest payout in women's sports history, for her victory.

The total prize pool for the event was a record \$15.5 million, reflecting

the WTA's continued push for increased parity.

In the doubles competition, Veronika Kudermetova and Elise Mertens secured their second WTA Finals title, defeating Timea Babos and Luisa Stefani 7-6(4), 6-1. Rybakina's strong performance saw her climb back into the WTA Top 5 rankings.

