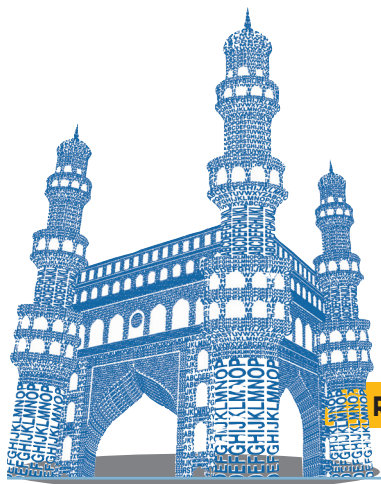




HYDERABAD HEADLINES

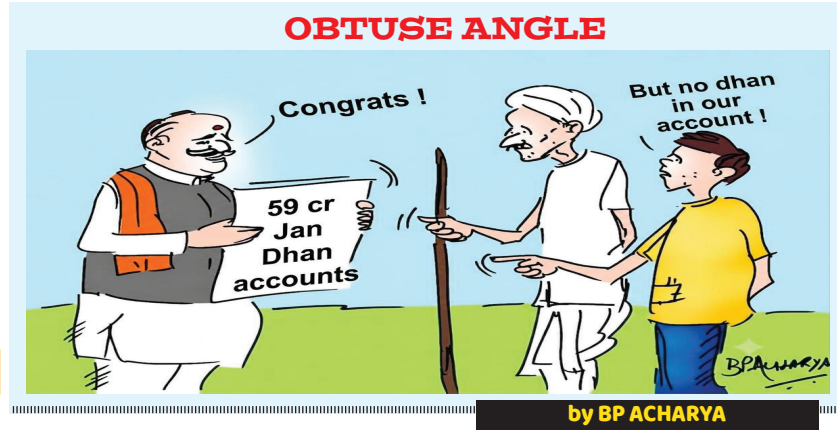
RNI NO.APENG/2010/33328 VOL NO. 17 ISSUE NO.: 127

RANGAREDDY (HYDERABAD) PAGES: 12

RS. 1/-

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

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SHORT

TAKES

Zomato Adopts 'Zero Tolerance' on Analog Dairy



New Delhi, AUG 31: Zomato has announced a 'zero tolerance' policy against restaurants selling food made with analog cheese, paneer or other analog dairy products. It said such items will be removed from the platform, and restaurants violating the policy may also be delisted. Zomato urged restaurants to use natural dairy products and verify ingredient labels to ensure food safety, quality and transparency for customers.

CM Revanth Pitches 1,000-Day vs 10-Year Debate

CM Slams KCR for confining to his farm house for the last 1000 days

Calls to hold dharnas demanding the resignation of KCR as opposition leader from Tuesday

KCR draws Rs 1,24,44,000 salary and government spent Rs 21 crores for KCR's security and other facilities

The CM says he never misused power for personal gains

* Announces TIMS (Alwal) and TIMS (LB Nagar) will be named after former CM Anjaiah and Konda Lakshman. Warangal Super specialty names after Professor Jayashankar

* KCR promoted his family members as ministers and MPs

* CM Revanth Reddy addressed a public meeting after inaugurating high level bridge at Musarambah - Amberpet today



HYDERABAD, AUG 31

Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy challenged opposition leader K Chandrashekar Rao for a debate on the performance of the People's Government during the 1000 days and the 10 year BRS rule in the Telangana state Assembly. Further, the Chief minister called to hold dharnas demanding KCR's resignation for confining to his farm house and

not meeting people for the last 1000 days.

Addressing a public meeting after inaugurating the bridge in the city today, the CM slammed the BRS Chief for not attending the assembly session. "If KCR truly intends to do justice to

Telangana and has any faith, the BRS leader must attend the Assembly. I am ready for a debate in the Assembly comparing what KCR achieved in 10 years and the performance of 1,000 days of my government". Continuing his tirade against the BRS President, CM Re-

vanth Reddy said that protests demanding the opposition leader's resignation must be held for six days from Tuesday. A big protest programme should be organized at Indira Park on September 6. The CM said he is ready to speak about all these issues during the Assembly session commenced on September 7. The Chief Minister ridiculed a comparison between KCR and his government.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Hyderabad to become India's global knowledge hub

02

CS Reviews Progress of RAILWAY PROJECTS

Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju held a meeting with South Central Railway General Manager

DPRs for 17 railway projects covering 2,023 km at an estimated cost of 50,870 crore



Hyderabad, August 31: Chief Secretary Shri Sanjay Jaju directed the concerned departments to work in close coordination to resolve pending issues related to ongoing railway projects in the State at the earliest. Chief Secretary held a review meeting on Monday at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat with South Central Railway General Manager Shri Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, Special Chief Secretaries Shri Vikas Raj, Shri Naveen Mittal and other senior officials to review various issues concerning railway projects in Telangana.

The meeting discussed the progress of railway projects in the State, issues being faced in their implementation, land acquisition, administrative approvals

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

How Did Kondal Become Defence Chairman?: KRISHANK

Hyderabad, August 31: Central Government must investigate the alleged business links and foreign deals involving CM Revanth Reddy's family members

Hyderabad: BRS leader Manne Krishnak demanded that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu disclose complete details of the Chief Minister's foreign tours, the investments actually brought to Telangana through these visits, and the business agreements allegedly linked to members of the Chief Minister's family. Krishnak said that the Chief Minister and Telangana Government delegations have travelled to Singapore, South Korea, Japan, Dubai, Davos, the United States, the United Kingdom and other destinations.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >



Show all →

Experience

Chairman
Reddy - Tesseract India Pvt. Ltd. - Full-time
Jul 2026 - Present - 2 mos
Hyderabad, Telangana, India - On-site
Reddy Tesseract India Pvt Ltd. is a joint venture of Reddy Technologies Ltd. (ISRAEL) & Tesseract Advanced Systems Pvt. Ltd. (INDIA)
Reddy Technologies brings fully customized power and motion systems that meet the exact demands of military, aerospace, or industrial projects.
Tesseract brings advanced manufacturing technologies to produce world-class products to Indian Defense majors.

Bhatti calls for tight coordination for Invest Telangana Global Summit-2026

HYDERABAD, AUG. 31

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka directed officials of all departments to work in close coordination to organise the Invest Telangana Global Summit-2026 in a prestigious and successful manner.

He instructed officials to meticulously plan and



monitor every aspect of the summit in advance, leaving no scope for lapses in the arrangements.

The Deputy Chief Minister held a review meeting with senior officials at Praja Bhavan on Monday to discuss arrangements for the Invest Telangana Global Summit-2026, which will be

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

From Villages to Cities..!

HYDERABAD, AUG 31

The government has placed special focus on further strengthening Telangana's transportation system. Along with repairing old roads, it has expedited measures for constructing new roads. It is undertaking the construction of roads, bridges, elevated corridors, ring roads and expressways. By designing major projects in line with future requirements, it is improving transport connectivity from rural areas to Hyderabad city. Considering roads to be crucial for transportation conveni-

- ◆ People's Government Gives Special Focus to Road Construction
- ◆ Mega projects designed to meet future requirements
- ◆ Expressways..
- ◆ Elevated Corridors..
- ◆ HAM road project launched with an outlay of Rs. 13,000 crore

ence, industrial development, attracting investments, and expanding healthcare and judicial services, the government has accelerated the works. Through these efforts, the Peo-

ple's Government is moving forward with the objective of developing Telangana into a state with the best infrastructure in the country.

Rapid Expansion of Roads
The Roads and Buildings Department maintains a road network of 29,075 kilometres across the state. After the People's Government came to power, 239 development works worth Rs. 6,617.86 crore were approved. These include the development of 1,659 km of roads and the construction of 62 bridges. So far, the expansion of 514.8 km of roads, construction of 69 bridges, and

restoration of 617 km of roads have been completed. Four major road projects—Amberpet, BHEL, Aramghar-Shamshabad, and Nirmal-Khanapur—have been launched. The government believes that road expansion will reduce travel time as well as logistics costs, thereby benefiting industries.

Record Project Under HAM Model
In what is being described as the largest road construction programme in the state's history, the government has launched the construction of 441 roads covering 6,092 km

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

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FAST SETTING CEMENT

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TAMPER PROOF PACKING

3 TIMES BETTER

Germany Invited to Invest in Telangana Chips

Minister Sridhar Babu urges GIBA delegation to support Telangana-Germany logistics corridor

Hyderabad, August 31: Telangana IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu on Monday urged the German Indian Business Alliance (GIBA) to encourage German companies to invest in semiconductor manufacturing in Telangana. The Minister said the State government was working to develop Telangana as a semiconductor manufacturing hub and sought greater participation from German companies in the sector.



A GIBA delegation, led by Kelsterbach Mayor Manfred Ockel, met Mr. Sridhar Babu at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat on Monday. During the meeting, the Minister outlined investment opportunities in Telangana in sectors including semiconductors, life sciences, aerospace and defence, electronics, advanced manufacturing, precision engineering, automobiles and automation. Mr. Sridhar Babu said the State government was prepared to provide necessary support to companies setting up operations in Telangana, including expedited approvals, infrastructure, investment incentives and skill development. He said Telangana's talent pool and industrial ecosystem could be leveraged by German companies, while the State was keen to benefit from Germany's strengths in advanced technology, precision engineering and advanced manufacturing.

The Minister also urged the delegation to support the establishment of a Telangana-Germany logistics corridor to facilitate the movement of goods and improve access for Telangana-based exporters to German and wider European markets. Mr. Sridhar Babu also requested the GIBA representatives to create awareness among German industrialists about the Telangana Rising Global Summit 2026, scheduled to be held on December 7, 8 and 9, and encourage their participation. The meeting was attended by GIBA chairman Selvakumar Periasamy, CEO Nirmal Raman Kannaiyan, Innovation Hub Rhein-Main CEO Stefan Witkindt, and FTCCI representatives K.K. Maheshwari, Srinivas Garimella, Vinod Kumar Agarwal and Lokesh Fatehpuriya, among others.

HYD TO BECOME INDIA'S GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE HUB

HYDERABAD, AUGUST 31

The Telangana Rising delegation led by Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri A. Revanth Reddy, along with IT and Industries Minister Shri D. Sridhar Babu, and comprising officials Mrs Santha Kumari, Vice Chairperson of Dr MCR HRD Institute, Mr K Ramakrishna Rao, Advisor to CM and Ex-officio Special Chief Secretary and Mr N. Sridhar, Principal Secretary, CMO, during their visit to the United Kingdom, and the officers' tour to United States from August 19 to 29, scored major wins towards the goal of transforming Hyderabad into India's first and biggest global knowledge hub.

Hyderabad, a powerhouse in software, pharma, life sciences, manufacturing, and a rising power in defence and aerospace, will soon be transformed into India's first global knowledge hub with the presence of America's Ivy League and the best educational institutions from Europe and Asia.

Northeastern University (Boston) and the University of London, a federation of 17 independent schools in England, will be setting up their first offshore campus in India, in Hyderabad.

London School of Economics (LSE) and School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), during their very fruitful discussions with the delegation agreed to send teams to explore setting up offshore schools, supporting industry interaction, improving pedagogical methods, classroom interaction models, and bringing their faculty to be stationed here.

- **University of London campus in Hyderabad soon**
- **Northeastern University to explore establishing offshore campus at Bharat Future City**
- **Harvard University expressed intent to begin short-term courses for government, corporate professionals in Hyderabad courses**
- **\$3 trillion Telangana Rising vision rises with partnership with world's best educational institutions**

Harvard University has expressed intent to start their short-term executive education programmes for senior government and corporate officials at Dr MCR HRD Institute in Hyderabad.

The TelanganaRising team had fruitful discussions with representatives, top leadership, senior faculty members and administrators from Oxford University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, London Business School, Cambridge University and Imperial College London.

Hon'ble Chief Minister held a meeting with officials to review the trip and the progress made, and gave directions on the way forward. He asked officials to lead, manage and oversee the realization of the vision to create the global knowledge hub and to bring the world's best academic institutions – universities, colleges and schools – to Hyderabad through collabora-



tions or offshore campuses so they may offer their certification programmes and courses here with utmost focus and dedication.

"I am happy and proud to share with my four crore people of Telangana that our vision to transform Telangana into a \$3 trillion economy by 2047, with an intermediary goal of \$1 tn by 2034, has received a big boost with the successful conclusion of agreements, memorandums of agreement and letters of intent with some of the best institutions of the world. We will bring the best educational offerings to the youth and children of not only Telangana but entire India," said Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, summarising the highly successful tour to the UK.

Chief Minister Reddy encouraged youth and children to use these institutions to become best professionals globally and contribute to the vision of Telangana Rising.

Officials who went to the USA and met teams from Northeastern

University, Virginia Tech University and concluded agreements successfully briefed the Chief Minister about the details of the discussions and explained that more agreements will follow soon.

The Chief Minister, who holds the education portfolio, has made education, skills and sports for youth and children one of his flagship drives and is rejuvenating and revitalising the entire education system from nursery, KG, primary, middle and high school, skilling and sports education, and has made massive investments into the infrastructure in Telangana public schools, Young India Integrated Residential Schoos, Young India Physical Education and Sports University, polytechnics and the transformation of ITI into Advanced Technology Centres (ATCs).

IT and Industries Minister Shri D. Sridhar Babu, who led the meeting with the London Business School, said, "Historically, Hyderabad has grown in the knowledge

economy, be it software, pharma, life sciences, research and GCCs, because of our excellent manpower trained by our wonderful tech and engineering colleges, business schools, medical colleges and universities. With the creation of a global knowledge hub in Hyderabad, there will be an exponential growth in the state with the entry of even more GCCs and companies in Telangana. Our skills university, ATC and polytechnics will also ensure skilled blue-collar workers, which will give a massive leg up in developing manufacturing activity in our state."

Speaking about the successful tour, Mrs Santhi Kumari said, "We will begin classes, especially short-term classes and executive programmes at our Dr MCR HRD Institute campus. Classrooms are being redeveloped and redesigned for the purpose of world class education dissemination. People of Hyderabad and India, be it government officers and PSU employees and private employees, can participate in educational programmes from these great institutions from Hyderabad soon."

Speaking about the programmes, Mr Ramakrishna Rao said, "We will develop the global knowledge hub in Hyderabad, with different facilities coming up at the MCR-HRD campus, and in the future, at the Bharat Future City."

Revanth Reddy also instructed officials to ensure that the Invest Telangana Global Summit on December 7, 8 and 9, also had a separate track on global educational institutions and sports facilities and their impact on the state.

CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

How Did Kondal Become Defence Chairman?: KRISHANK

➤FROM PAGE 1

"After all these foreign tours, how many industries have actually been established in Telangana ? How much investment has actually materialised ? How many jobs have been created ? The Government must place these facts before the people of Telangana," he demanded.

He said the Government has repeatedly claimed that prestigious global educational institutions such as Harvard and Oxford would be brought to the proposed Fourth City.

"If these foreign tours have been so successful, the Government should tell the people which international university or institution has actually come to Telangana so far," Krishank said.

Government Must Answer Questions on Israel Agreement
Krishank said that during Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's Davos visit this year, he met representatives of the Israel Innovation Authority.

He referred to the subsequent agreement involving Israeli Redler TechnologiesT-esseract Advanced Systems Private Limited and demanded that the Government clarify the alleged links between the company and Chief Minister's

brother Kondal Reddy.

"The Chief Minister meets representatives associated with the Israeli Government. Subsequently, his brother Anumula Kondal Reddy meets persons connected with the same ecosystem, and thereafter an agreement emerges. This sequence raises several questions that deserve clear answers," Krishank said.

He further alleged that Minister Sridhar Babu had earlier maintained that Anumula Kondal Reddy had no connection with the company, whereas information that subsequently emerged appeared to indicate links with the company.

"The Minister must explain the contradiction between his earlier statements and the information now in the public domain," he demanded.

Central Government Must Order a Comprehensive Investigation

Krishank demanded a comprehensive investigation by the Central Government into the foreign meetings, agreements and business dealings allegedly involving members of the Chief Minister's family.

"In what capacity did Anumula Kondal Reddy meet foreign officials and representatives ? How are agreements

with foreign entities being facilitated ? On what basis are lands being allotted to companies in Telangana ? These are matters that require an independent investigation," he said.

Krishank also demanded transparency regarding the composition and activities of official delegations accompanying the Chief Minister on foreign tours.

"Who accompanies the Chief Minister on these foreign visits ? What meetings are held abroad ? Are any private business meetings conducted alongside official Government engagements ? When the promised investments are yet to visibly materialise in Telangana, how are companies allegedly connected to the Chief Minister's family securing business opportunities ? The people deserve answers," he said.

Questions Remain Over US Deals

Krishank also referred to allegations surrounding an agreement between Swachh Bio owned by Anumula Jagdeesh signing an MoU worth around ₹1,000 crore during an earlier visit to the United States.

He said Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had also not ade-

quately responded to questions raised by BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao regarding business transactions involving Maxbien Pharma and Medico.

"These are serious questions involving public office, Government policy and potential private interests. They cannot simply be brushed aside through press conferences or social media statements," Krishank said.

"Foreign Tours Must Be for Telangana, Not Family Business Interests"

Krishank pointed out that while Rahul Gandhi questions deals between Israel and Govt of India then why is Congress Chief Minister's brother signing Deals with Israel defence companies.

Krishank said the purpose of a Chief Minister's foreign tour should be to attract industries, investment, technology and employment opportunities to Telangana.

Krishank demanded that the Central Government conduct a comprehensive investigation into the companies concerned, foreign agreements, meetings with foreign representatives, land allotments and the circumstances surrounding the Chief Minister's foreign tours.

PM Post Race Heats Up,... Vijay in Focus

➤FROM PAGE 1

people of the state and prove his capabilities in development and governance, and only then consider national politics and the Prime Minister's post.

However, TVK believes that Vijay enjoys widespread popularity beyond the state and at the national level. Against this backdrop, political circles are discussing whether the party is moving ahead with a strategy of projecting Vijay as the Prime Ministerial candidate from now on, keeping the 2029 Lok Sabha elections in mind.

Bhatti calls for tight coordination...

➤FROM PAGE 1

organised by the Praja Government on December 7, 8 and 9. IT & Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu, Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju, members of the sub-committees and other senior officials attended the meeting.

ing the 2029 Lok Sabha elections in mind.

Overall, Congress's aspirations to make Rahul Gandhi Prime Minister on the one hand, and TVK's demand to bring Vijay into the race for Prime Minister on the other, have opened a fresh debate over future leadership within the INDIA alliance. Although there is still time before the 2029 elections, it remains to be seen how this early contest for the Prime Minister's chair will shape the alliance's politics.

Bhatti Vikramarka suggested setting up a special war room at Praja Bhavan to review every aspect related to the summit on a regular basis and enable quick decision-making wherever necessary. He said the war room should monitor the progress of arrangements

on a daily basis and further strengthen coordination among various departments.

The Deputy Chief Minister directed officials to constitute special committees for organising the summit and appoint senior officers as heads of each committee.

CM Revanth Pitches 1,000-Day vs 10-Year Debate

➤FROM PAGE 1

"Is there any other opposition leader in the country who has stayed out of the public eye for 1,000 days? Telangana is a state where the main opposition has completely failed". The BRS leaders also sold blood of the party workers by organizing blood donation camps in the party head office Telangana Bhavan, teh CM charged.

The CM also disclosed that KCR drew Rs 1.24 crore salary in 1000 days and the government also spent Rs 22 crore for the BRS leader's security and other facilities. "If a government employee fails to report for duty for a year, they are dismissed. What should be done with KCR?"

Stating that he never misused the power, CM Revanth Reddy questioned KCR for not meeting the poor, women, students, farmers, Dalits, and Adivasis even for a single day. The BRS Chief never stepped out unless it was for his grandson's hospital visit or the death of a relative. The Chief Minister said that he has not taken a single hour of leave in 1,000 days.

The CM accused KCR of exploiting the power to provide political opportunities to his family members. KCR made his son and son-in-law ministers in his cabinet. In the Congress government, Ponnam Prabhakar and Vakati Srihari were elevated as ministers. Hanumantha Rao has been appointed as a government advisor and made Anil Yadav an MP. It was KCR who promoted Errabelli Dayakar as minister and he made Adhuri Laxman a minister. Venkat Rami Reddy was made an MLC in the BRS government and Addanki Dayakar was given the MLC post in the People's government. KTR was appointed as BRS working President and Mahesh Goud from the weaker sections community was appointed as the TPCC President.

The CM announced that TIMS, Alwal would be named after former CM An-

jaiah and the LB Nagar TIMS hospital after Konda Laxman. The Government also decided to name the Warangal super specialty hospital after Professor Jayashankar.

CM Revanth Reddy warned if anyone touched the Rajiv Gandhi statue installed at the State Secretariat. We also installed the statue of Sardar Sarvai Papanna and Mahatma Jyotiba Phule on Necklace Road. Telangana martyr Srinkatha Chary's mother Shankaramma was appointed as a member of the Women's Commission and named the Women's University after Chakali Ilamma and also appointed Chakali Alamma's granddaughter as a member of the Women's Commission.

The Chief minister criticized KCR family for looting public money and constructing farmhouses spanning 1,000 acres during the BRS rule. KTR built one farm house on 100 acres, and Kavitha built on 50 acres in Janwada.The Osmania Hospital was inundated during the floods but the KCR government did not take any measures. Our government was constructing a new Osmania Hospital at a cost of ₹2,000 crore.

CM Revanth Reddy listed out the schemes mainly the allotment of 'Indiramma' houses in the names of women, issuing ration cards to everyone, providing six kilograms of fine-quality rice to 3.48 crore people including the BRS supporters. Did KCR ever give this any thought? We are constructing 7 lakh 'Indiramma' houses and building one lakh 'Indiramma' houses for the poor in Hyderabad, the Chief Minister said that the state government also solved the issue of SC categorization within 1,000 days, conducted BC caste census, introduced a policy for Gig workers, new policies for sports, IT, tourism, and endowments also.

CS Reviews Progress of RAILWAY PROJECTS

➤FROM PAGE 1

required from various departments and the support to be extended by the State Government for timely execution of the projects. Chief Secretary emphasised that railway connectivity is crucial for the economic, industrial and regional development of Telangana. He directed the concerned departmental officials and District Collectors to expedite the resolution of pending issues and ensure that the railway projects are completed within the stipulated timelines. Officials informed the Chief Secretary that DPRs for 17 railway projects covering 2,023 km, with an estimated cost of ₹50,870 crore, have been submitted to the Railway Board.

Special focus on pending issues

The meeting reviewed around 21 issues, including construction of railway underpasses and overbridges, approach roads, widening of roads, doubling of railway lines and improvement of public transport connectivity to Charlapalli Railway Station, among others.

CS directed the senior officials of the concerned departments to undertake joint inspections along with South Central Railway officials and identify appropriate solutions for resolving the pending issues. In accordance with the directions of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, the officials were directed to prepare appropriate plans for expansion of railway lines in the Future City, Outer Ring Road (ORR) and Regional Ring Road (RRR) areas. He also instructed the officials of the Municipal Administration, Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board (HMWSSB), Revenue, Energy, Roads & Buildings departments to work in close coordination to facilitate the implementation of railway projects.

Chief Secretary emphasised that State Government departments and South Central Railway officials should maintain continuous coordination for the timely execution of the projects. He assured that the State Government would extend all necessary cooperation and support.

Mobilizing funds under PM Gati Shakti

Chief Secretary directed the officials to prepare comprehensive Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) to secure funds under the PM Gati Shakti initiative of the Government of India. He also called for preparation of comprehensive DPRs for the expansion of MMTS, establishment of railway terminals in the ORR and RRR regions around Hyderabad keeping in view the future requirements of the city, and land acquisition required for future railway connectivity, including bullet train corridors.

The meeting was attended by GHMC Commissioner R.V. Karnan, TGIIC MD Shashanka, RTC MD Nagi Reddy, Special Secretary Finance Sikta Patnaik, Medchal-Malkajgiri Commissioner Vinay Krishna Reddy, City Police Joint Commissioner (Traffic) Joel Davis, District Collectors of Sangareddy, Medchal-Malkajgiri, Siddipet, Hanamkonda, Karimnagar, Medak, Mahabubnagar, Wanaparthy, Jogulamba Gadwal, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri, Nizamabad, Nirmal, Jangaon and Vikarabad, along with senior officials of South Central Railway and other officials.

SHORT
TAKES

Youth Congress protests at BJP of-
fice, demands Amit Shah's resignation



HYDERABAD: The Telangana Youth Congress, led by its State president Jakkidi Shiva Charan Reddy, staged a protest by laying siege to the BJP State office here on Monday, condemning what it described as the BJP's alleged mistreatment of AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge. The protesters demanded that Union Home Minister Amit Shah take moral responsibility for the reported use of pellet guns against students and resign from his post immediately. As part of the protest, Youth Congress activists painted the BJP State office black, burnt the BJP flag and set fire to an effigy of Amit Shah. They raised slogans against the BJP and the Union government in large numbers. Police intervened to foil the protest and arrested Jakkidi Shiva Charan Reddy along with several other Youth Congress leaders and activists. They were subsequently shifted to a police station.

No More Talks... It's Time for a Fight!

- **PRC-OPS implementation is the goal; 'Do or Die' this time, says JAC Chairman Dharam Srinivas Reddy**
- **Employees gear up for September 1 'Pension Betrayal Day'**
- **Joint Karimnagar district preparatory meeting on September 8; 'Chalo Hyderabad' on September 10**

KARIMNAGAR

After making repeated representations, submitting appeals and holding discussions with the government for the past three years over the long-pending issues of employees, teachers and pensioners, there has been no satisfactory resolution, said Employees' JAC Chairman and TNGOs Karimnagar district president Dharam Srinivas Reddy.

He said the time had come to move beyond representations and discussions and launch a united struggle for the legitimate rights of employees.

Speaking ahead of the September 1 'Pension Betrayal Day', Srinivas Reddy said the employees' movement would continue until the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) was scrapped and the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) was restored.

Pension is not charity, but an employee's right

"Pension is not charity. It is an employee's right. It is neither a favour nor ex-gratia. It is a social and economic security for an employee's life after retirement," he said. He said employees who joined government service after 2004 were being denied assured pension security in their old age, leaving their future dependent on market fluctuations and investment performance. "Employees who act as a bridge between the government and the people and dedicate themselves to public welfare have pension-related insecurity, while the tension continues to mount," he said.

Employees waiting for PRC for three years



Srinivas Reddy said the tenure of the 2018 Pay Revision Commission (PRC) ended in 2023 and employees had been waiting for a new PRC ever since.

Though committees, reports and assurances regarding the PRC had been repeatedly announced, there had been no visible implementation on the ground, he alleged. He demanded immediate implementation of the PRC in view of rising prices and release of all pending Dearness Allowances (DA). He also sought improvement of the health-card system for employees and immediate settlement of all dues payable to retired employees. "We are not seeking charity. We are only asking for what is legitimately due to us. It is unfortunate that employees have to stage protests and even approach courts for their pending dues," he said.

"Do not mistake our patience for weakness"

The JAC leadership had held several rounds of discussions with the government over the last three years and repeatedly brought employees' issues to its notice, he said.

Employees' organisations had maintained restraint keeping in mind their responsibility towards the public and hoping that the issues would be resolved through dialogue, he added.

However, the growing dissatisfaction among employees could no longer be ignored, he said. "Patience has its limits. Do not test our patience and do not mistake our restraint for helplessness," Srinivas Reddy warned.

"Struggles are not new to us"

Recalling the crucial role played by employees in the Telangana statehood movement, he said employees had participated in several major agitations, including the Sakala Janula Samme, non-cooperation movement, work-to-rule, pen-down and chalk-down protests. "Struggles are not new to us. If necessary, we are ready to sound the strike siren once again. Our movement is neither against the government nor against the people. It is a struggle for our legitimate rights, the future of our families and security in our old age," he said.

"No more discussions... it's time for a struggle"

Srinivas Reddy demanded that the government immediately come forward with a dignified solution to the demands for PRC implementation and restoration of OPS. "For three years, we submitted representations, made appeals and held discussions. Enough of representations. No more discussions... it is time for a struggle. It is do or die this time. PRC must be implemented and OPS must be restored," he asserted.

September 1 to be observed as Pension Betrayal Day

He called upon employees to observe September 1 as Pension Betrayal Day by attending duties wearing black badges and participating in protest programmes during lunch breaks.

He urged employees to demonstrate their unity by organising programmes at district, mandal and office levels.

Preparatory meeting on September 8

As part of preparations for the September 10 Chalo Hyderabad programme, a joint Karimnagar district preparatory meeting will be held at 5 p.m. on September 8 at the TNGOs Community Hall in Karimnagar, Srinivas Reddy said. Employees' JAC Chairman and TNGOs State President Maram Jagadeeshwar, Secretary General Eluri Srinivasa Rao, TNGOs State General Secretary Mohammed Mujeeb Hussain, along with joint district office-bearers, leaders of various employees' organisations and employees are expected to attend the meeting.

Call for united action

The leaders appealed to employees across the district to make the September 1 Pension Betrayal Day a success and participate in large numbers in the September 10 Chalo Hyderabad programme.

"Pension is not charity... it is an employee's right!"

"Scrap CPS... restore OPS!"

"Our strength is in united struggle... our goal is to secure our rights!"

"Now is not the time to wait. It is time to stand united. It is no longer the time for appeals, but for a struggle to secure our legitimate rights. Our movement will not stop until PRC is implemented and OPS is restored," Srinivas Reddy said.

The joint statement was also signed by JAC Convenor and TNGOs district president Madipalli Kali Charan Goud, district TNGOs secretary Sangyam Lakshman Rao, Adla Aravind Reddy, Muppidi Kiran Kumar Reddy, Sardar Haremander Singh, Ragi Srinivas, Guda Prabhakar Reddy, Women Employees' District Chairperson Sharada Sunitha, Fourth Class Employees' Joint District president and secretary Kota Ramaswamy and Shankar, town president and secretary Rajesh Bharadwaj and Sumantrao, and rural president and secretary Vastavi Kugoud and Sriman Reddy, besides Polu Kishan, Satyanarayana and Naresch.



Kavitha signals new political path, slams BRS over corruption

NIZAMABAD

Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) president Kalvakuntla Kavitha on Monday called for the emergence of a "new force" in Telangana politics and appealed to the people of Nizamabad for another opportunity to serve them.

Addressing the Panchajanya Sankalpa Sabha in Nizamabad, Kavitha pitched herself as a dedicated public servant beyond party affiliations. "I have worked here as the daughter-in-law of Nizamabad. Give me another opportunity. You are my strength," she said, adding that if her goal were merely political survival, she could join any party, but her sole objective remains working for the people.

Turning emotional while addressing the legal cases against her and her time in Tihar Jail, Kavitha reiterated her innocence. "No matter how many cases were filed against me, I maintained that I had done nothing wrong. Why was I sent to Tihar Jail?" she asked.

She expressed deep anguish over her removal from her former party during difficult times, noting that her mother-in-law was her primary source of support during her imprisonment.

Kavitha launched a scathing attack on former BRS minister Vemula Prashanth Reddy, likening him to the mythological character 'Shakuni'.

The TRS president accused him of creating a rift between BRS chief K. Chandrashekar Rao and his son. While stating she could forgive leaders like T. Harish Rao and Joginapally Santosh Kumar, Kavitha asserted she would never forgive Prashanth Reddy, alleging he met with Congress leaders just two days after the BRS lost power. Raising policy and governance issues, the TRS chief heavily criticised the mega Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project.

She alleged that despite spending nearly ₹1 lakh crore on the project, not a single acre in Nizamabad district received irrigation water. Kavitha further charged that widespread corruption occurred under the previous BRS regime, claiming the assets of then-MLAs grew substantially over their ten-year tenure.

Harish accuses CM Revanth of failing to protect Telangana's water rights

HYDERABAD

Former minister and BRS Deputy Floor Leader Harish Rao on Monday strongly criticised Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for remaining silent while Andhra Pradesh is allegedly diverting Krishna waters through the Veligonda Project.

In a statement posted on 'X', Harish Rao accused the Congress government of failing to protect Telangana's legitimate share of Krishna waters and said its silence amounted to a grave injustice to the farmers of the state.

At a time when Telangana is facing increasing irrigation challenges, the Andhra Pradesh government is allegedly diverting Krishna waters through Veligonda despite the absence of an established allocation and adequate flood flows. Instead of questioning this diversion and protecting Telangana's water rights, the Revanth Reddy government has



chosen to remain silent, Harish Rao said. He pointed out that several major projects in Telangana's Krishna basin, including Bheema, Kalwakurthy, Nettampadu and Koilsagar, are facing severe water shortages, leaving their ayacutis dependent on inadequate supplies.

"On one side, Telangana's own Krishna basin projects are struggling

for water and farmers are suffering. On the other, Krishna waters are being diverted beyond the basin to Andhra Pradesh. Why is the Revanth Reddy government silent?" Harish Rao questioned.

He said the alleged diversion through Malyala, Muchumarri, Pothireddypadu, the Nagarjuna Sagar Right Canal and now Veligon-

da raises serious questions about the protection of Telangana's water rights. "This is a direct injustice to farmers in Palamuru, Rangareddy, Nalgonda and other parts of Telangana. The Chief Minister should explain why water that should be secured for Telangana's farmers is being allowed to flow elsewhere," Harish Rao said.

The BRS leader also questioned the role of the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB), saying that the institution responsible for overseeing the utilisation of Krishna waters cannot remain a mute spectator when Telangana's interests are at stake.

"If the KRMB itself remains a spectator while Telangana's water rights are being undermined, who will protect the interests of Telangana?" he asked. He also demanded that Union Minister Kishan Reddy immediately intervene and ensure that the KRMB takes necessary action to protect Telangana's rightful share of Krishna waters.

TGCHE's TJHE Marks a Global Academic Milestone

HYDERABAD

The Telangana Council of Higher Education (TGCHE) has reached another significant milestone in its journey towards taking Telangana's higher education discourse to the global academic community with its flagship journal, the Telangana Journal of Higher Education (TJHE). The ISSN International Centre has confirmed the Print ISSN 3139 292X for the journal, complementing its existing e-ISSN 3108 0693.

Both versions are now officially recorded in the ISSN Network and are visible through the official ISSN Portal. TJHE has completed one and a half years of uninterrupted publication as an international, peer-reviewed, biannual journal, with its three issues so far focusing on Technology and Higher Education; Internationalisation of Higher Education; and Universities in



The Twenty-First Century: Renewal, Reforms and Roadmaps. The forthcoming issue will focus on "Artificial Intelligence and Higher Education," addressing one of the most consequential and transformative developments shaping universities worldwide.

The recognition of its Print ISSN has further strengthened TJHE's international visibility, with the journal now included in ROAD (Directory of Open Access Scholarly Resources), a global aggregation service sup-

ported by UNESCO. TJHE is also discoverable through platforms such as Google Scholar, ResearchGate and Academia.edu, and is listed in international indexing services including Index Copernicus, while the Council continues its efforts towards inclusion in leading abstracting and citation databases such as Scopus and Web of Science. Through TJHE, TGCHE is creating a credible platform for academics, researchers, policymakers and higher education practitioners to share research, ideas and policy perspectives on the evolving landscape of higher education.

The journal reflects the Council's commitment to promoting quality, innovation, research and global engagement, and marks an important step in positioning Telangana as a contributor to international conversations on the future of universities and higher education.

BJP reiterated demand of a white paper on 22-A and judicial inquiry

HYDERABAD

Alleging that people are facing severe hardship due to the Congress government's thoughtless decisions, BJP State President N Ramchander Rao reiterated party's demand to release a white paper immediately detailing comprehensive reasons why farmers lands were included in 22-A and order a comprehensive judicial inquiry into the conspiracies behind the 22A confusion and who is benefiting from it.

He was addressing a massive dharna camp of farmers at Siddipet along with MP Raghunandan Rao protesting the plight of citizens caused by the 22-A prohibited list. Siddipet farmers and others organized protests in front of RDO Office in Siddipet district headquarters, protesting against the illegal inclusion of farmers' registered patta lands under the 22A prohibited list and the harassment caused to them.

Rao affirmed that the BJP will always stand by the farmers and would continue an uncompromising struggle for their rights.

He alleged that Congress government led by Revanth Reddy has failed to protect the interest of



the farmers and not implemented affectively either Rythu Bharosa or Rythu Bhandhu. He expressed concern that the Congress, which came to power promising Rs. 15,000 instead of Rs. 12,000 under Rythu Bharosa and pledging Rythu Bhandhu for tenant farmers as well, has abandoned them.

Rao stated that the highest number of suicides currently occurring in the state are among tenant farmers. Meanwhile, regular farmers are experiencing severe distress to protect their land due to 22-A.

BJP state chief criticized that while the previous government caused misery for farmers in the name of 'Dharani', the present government's 'Bhu Bharathi' has turned out to be even worse. Due to senseless and thoughtless policies, lakhs of acres and plots in

places like Malkajgiri, Chevella, and Siddipet have listed under the 22A prohibited list, causing hell for nearly 50 lakh people statewide. Families are spending sleepless nights in intense panic, unable to sell their land when needed for their children's education or daughters' marriages.

Rao questioned whether it is not the government's responsibility to rectify the mistake, especially after Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy personally acknowledged that an error was occurred. He mocked that earlier it was KCR & Family and now it is Revanth Reddy & Brothers. Only party changed and rulers changed, but the problems of the Telangana people remain unresolved.

He alleged that Revanth Reddy has more experience and interest in real estate than in governance. He criticized that the Congress government's corrupt strategy is to create land disputes to grab poor people's land, drop their prices, scare the poor, grab their lands, and sell them at higher rates. He demanded to know who would compensate the public for the mental harassment caused by the government.

Kakatiya University signs MoU with Reutlingen University, Germany

Dr Srinivas Vooradi

WARANGAL

In line with the vision of Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Kakatiya University has taken another key step towards providing international level higher education opportunities to its students. Kakatiya University Vice-Chancellor Prof K. Pratap Reddy and Principal Secretary, Education Department, Government of Telangana Yogita Rana signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) online with Reutlingen University, Germany as part of their visit to Germany.

In the presence of Kakatiya University Vice-Chancellor Prof K. Pratap Reddy, Registrar Prof V. Ramachandram and Program Director/Vice Dean - Industrial Engineering, International Project Engineering, Knowledge Foundation, Reutlingen University Professor Brune Jochen, as well as Program Manager - International Programs, Knowledge Foundation, Reutlingen University Deglemann, exchanged MoUs.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor (VC) of Kakatiya University Prof Pratap Reddy said that



as part of the agreement, Kakatiya University students will have the opportunity to continue their higher education in Germany through a 3+2 Master's course. In this, the first three years of education can be completed at Kakatiya University and the next two years of Master's education can be pursued at Reutlingen University in Germany. Students who successfully complete the first three years of education will be awarded a Kakatiya University degree, and then a Master's degree from Reutlingen University. Students from the departments of Computer Science, Artificial

Intelligence (AI), and Machine Learning (ML) Engineering will be given the opportunity to continue their education in Master's courses such as Master of Professional Software Engineering at Reutlingen University, and students from other departments will be given the opportunity to continue their education in Master's courses such as Master of Digital Business Management, he added. Through this program, 20 students from Kakatiya University will be selected on merit-cum-reservation basis, with partial support from the university. The agreement will greatly help the

selected students to pursue higher education at an international level, as well as to access higher education and future employment opportunities in Germany.

An exchange of MoUs was held at Osmania University, Hyderabad on Monday. The event was held in the presence of Osmania University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Kumar. Professors Brune Jochen and Stefan Deglemann from Reutlingen University, Germany participated in the event online. Kakatiya University OSD Prof Venkatram Reddy, RUSA Nodal Officer Prof Mallikarjun Reddy and others were present.



Supreme Court Hears Plea Over ‘Cockroach Janata Party’ Rally..

NEW DELHI, AUG 31

The issue of the ‘Cockroach Janata Party’ rally scheduled to be held in Delhi on September 5 has reached the Supreme Court. Senior advocate Dr. Rizwa filed a petition on behalf of a retired police officer, alleging that the rally had been announced without obtaining permission from the concerned authorities. The petitioner urged the court to exercise caution regarding the rally, stating that the national capital is facing a sensitive security situation in view of the BRICS summit.

During the hearing, the Supreme Court made important observations. It made it clear that no one is questioning the public’s right to protest. However, a bench headed by the Chief Justice stated that it is the government’s responsibility to enforce the law and protect public safety and maintain law and order.

The court advised the petitioner to approach the High-Power Committee for the necessary permissions related to the rally and adjourned the next hearing to September 10.

Andhra Liquor Scam: SC Pulls Up SIT Over Handling of Kesireddy Arrest

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 31

The Supreme Court on Monday declined to stay an Andhra Pradesh High Court order that had quashed the arrest and consequential remand of Kesireddy Rajasekhara Reddy, alias Raj Kesireddy, in connection with the multi-crore Andhra Pradesh liquor scam, while expressing serious concern over the manner in which the Special Investigation Team (SIT) handled the investigation and his arrest.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, along with Justices Joymaya Bagchi and V. Mohana, questioned the SIT’s decision to seek a production warrant against Raj Kesireddy at a time when his anticipatory bail petition was pending and he was already in custody in connection with another case.

The Bench questioned the necessity of seeking a production warrant under such circumstances, observing that Raj Kesireddy was already in custody and, therefore, there was no apparent possibility of him absconding.

The CJI-led Bench also questioned what it described as an apparent contradiction in the SIT’s position. The investigating agency had sought custodial interrogation and obtained a production warrant, but when Raj Kesireddy was subsequently produced before the court, the SIT reportedly did not seek to take him into police custody and instead sought his judicial custody.

The Supreme Court issued notice on the petition filed by the State of Andhra Pradesh and the Additional Superintendent of Police, challenging the High Court’s order. The matter was adjourned after the respondents sought time to file their counter-affidavit.

The proceedings stem from the Andhra Pradesh High Court’s earlier decision holding that the arrest and consequential remand of Raj Kesireddy were legally unsustainable. The High Court had found that the manner in which the grounds of arrest were communicated to him violated the constitutional safeguard guaranteed under Article 22(1).

The High Court had emphasised that informing an arrested person of the grounds of arrest was not merely a procedural formality but a substantive safeguard intended to protect personal liberty. It held that the grounds of arrest must be communicated in writing and within a timeframe that would enable the accused to consult legal counsel, effectively oppose the request for remand and seek bail. Relying on earlier judgments of the Supreme Court, the High Court further held that written grounds of arrest should be furnished to an accused at the earliest possible opportunity. Even in exceptional circumstances, the grounds should be supplied no later than two hours before the accused is produced before the Magistrate for remand, the court held.

On that basis, the High Court quashed Raj Kesireddy’s arrest and the consequential remand, while making it clear that the investigation into the allegations could continue.

A single-judge Bench of Justice Tuhin Kumar Gedela had directed Raj Kesireddy to cooperate with the investiga-

tion whenever he was called by the investigating agency and to comply with the conditions imposed by the court.

The case relates to the alleged Rs 349 crore liquor transportation scam in Andhra Pradesh during the previous government led by the YSR Congress Party. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has been investigating the matter on the basis of an FIR registered by the Andhra Pradesh CID following a complaint alleging that the state exchequer suffered losses of around Rs 4,000 crore.

According to the ED, its investigation has indicated that hundreds of crores of rupees were allegedly transferred through kickbacks, hawala transactions and money-laundering channels as part of the alleged liquor scam. The financial probe agency has claimed that its investigation traced a money trail involving Rs 1,048.45 crore in alleged kickbacks. According to the agency, the payments were allegedly collected through a combination of cash and gold transactions, as well as other financial arrangements.

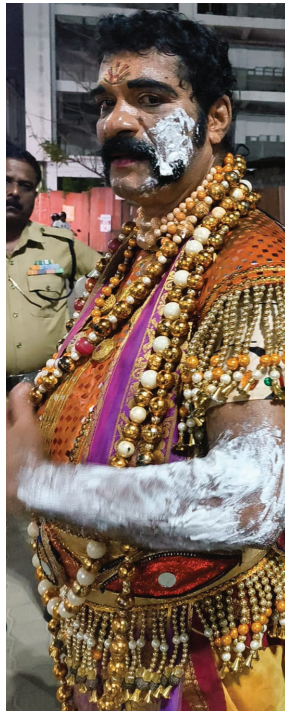
Onam Artist Dressed as ‘Mahabali’ Allegedly Attacked with Boiling Oil

Kochi, August 31: A complaint has been filed by an artist dressed as Mahabali, alleging that boiling oil was poured on him during the Onam season. Chandrababu, a native of Karunagappally, lodged the complaint with the police regarding the assault.

He is an artist who has been making a living by portraying Mahabali for many years. The incident occurred yesterday evening at a roadside eatery (thattukada) in Pullikkanakku, Kayamkulam. Chandrababu, in his full Mahabali attire, visited the shop for tea and snacks.

After finishing his meal, he paid the bill and jokingly asked the shop owner, “Don’t you have anything special for Maveli, considering it’s Onam?” This question reportedly triggered the conflict.

According to Chandrababu, a heated argument ensued, during which the shop owner intentionally poured boiling oil—used for frying snacks—onto his body. “We, who live by our art, do not deceive anyone. It is deeply saddening to face such cruelty just for asking a question while in costume,” Chandrababu said. However, the shop owner has completely



denied these allegations.

He explained that during a dispute regarding money, oil accidentally splashed from the frying ladle onto Chandrababu’s body.

Based on Chandrababu’s complaint, the police have registered a case and initiated a detailed investigation into the incident.

CM SARMA REVIEWS ASSAM DAIRY SECTOR

Guwahati, August 31: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday reviewed the state’s dairy sector and directed the Directorate of Dairy Development to take focused measures to increase milk production, expand the cooperative network, strengthen processing capacity and build a stronger dairy value chain.

The meeting reviewed milk availability, production, demand and the district-wise milk base. Officials also discussed the status of Dairy Cooperative Societies (DCS), including the gap between organised and registered societies, and reviewed implementation of the Rs 5 subsidy scheme, its coverage and beneficiary gaps.

Officials informed the Chief Minister that Assam currently produces 33.53 lakh litres of milk per day, with annual production at 12,240 lakh litres. The state has 2,006 organised DCS, of which 1,032 are registered. Existing milk processing capacity stands at 4.95 lakh

litres per day, while another 4.20 lakh litres per day is being added.

Upcoming processing projects are located at Bajali, Kaliapani in Jorhat, Lahowal in Dibrugarh, Rangajan Gaon in Dhemaji, Jamugurihat in Sonitpur and Rani in Kamrup.

Sarma directed officials to hold a day-long brainstorming session involving the Veterinary and Cooperative departments, milk processors and dairy farmers. Discussions will focus on subsidy reforms, high-production areas, traditional dairy pockets, a hub-and-spoke collection model, infrastructure gaps and establishing DCS in every village.

He also ordered immediate filling of vacant Dairy Directorate posts, a comprehensive livestock survey and focused conservation of the Lakhimi breed through women-led cooperatives.

Minister Nilima Devi, Chief Secretary Ravi Kota and senior officials attended the meeting.

Lifetime Achievement Awards for Anjani Kumar, Sameer Sinha and Meenakshi Negi

DEHRADUN, AUG 31

In recognition of their distinguished and long-standing services to public service, administration and the nation, Anjani Kumar, IPS (Andhra Pradesh), Sameer Sinha, IFS (Uttarakhand), and Meenakshi Negi, IFS (Karnataka) have been conferred with the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award. The awards were presented by Uttarakhand Governor Lieutenant General Gurmit Singh at a special event held in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

The three officers were selected for the award in recognition of their dedication, integrity, professional expertise and leadership qualities in public service, as well as their highly effective discharge of the responsibilities entrusted to them.

Speaking on the occasion,



sion, Governor Gurmit Singh praised the awardees for their dedication, commitment to duty and leadership qualities. He stated that officers who serve with commitment and distinction not only strengthen administrative systems but also serve as an inspiration to future generations.

The event in Dehradun

marked an important occasion to honour officers who have rendered distinguished service over many years in the fields of administration and policing. The valuable contributions of officers who dedicated their professional careers to serving society and the nation were recognised and honoured on the occasion.

7.8% GDP Growth... A Testament to People’s Confidence in Modi

** India is moving rapidly ahead*

amid global uncertainty: Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy

New Delhi, August 31: Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy said it was encouraging that India recorded GDP growth of 7.8 percent in the first quarter of the financial year 2026–27. He said that the increase in the growth rate compared with the 6.9 percent recorded in the first quarter of 2025–26 was a testament to the resilience of the Indian economy.

Kishan Reddy said that achieving 7.8 percent growth despite global economic uncertainty, fluctuations in oil prices, and challenges in supply chains was a major achievement. He said this reflected the confidence of the people and business community in the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as well as in the strong economic policies and reforms being



implemented by the central government.

He said the 8.6 percent growth recorded by secondary sectors such as manufacturing, construction, and electricity, along with 10 percent growth in the services

sector, was a positive development. He said that financial, real estate, IT, and professional services recording 12.1 percent growth demonstrated the strength of India’s services sector. He also described the 3.6 percent growth in the agriculture sector as encouraging.

Kishan Reddy said the latest GDP figures were a strong response to those spreading misinformation about the Indian economy. He said that ongoing reforms in areas such as infrastructure, manufacturing, agriculture, services, digitalization, and ease of doing business were driving the country forward on the path of development. He said the 7.8 percent growth was another significant step toward achieving the goal of a ‘Viksit Bharat’ by 2047.

Yogi, Vaishnaw Mourn Nepal Flood Victims

Chief Minister and Railway Minister Start Nepalganj Road-Nanpara-Bahraich Broad Gauge Rail Section in a Simple Programme

Gorakhpur, AUG 31: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Yogi Adityanath, along with Union Minister for Railways, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw; Shri Jagdambika Pal, Member of Parliament from Domariaganj; Dr. Anand Kumar Gond, Member of Parliament from Bahraich, and other dignitaries, inaugurated the gauge conversion and electrification of the Nepalganj Road-Nanpara-Bahraich rail section. The 56.15-km-long section has been converted to Broad Gauge and electrified at a cost of approximately ₹730 crore. Four existing train services were also extended up to Nepalganj Road. The programme began with a tribute to the victims of the recent floods in Nepal, with all those attending the programme observing two minutes of silence.

Expressing concern over the situation in neighbouring Nepal, the Union Minister said that India and Nepal share strong cultural ties. He expressed condolences to the families affected by the natural disaster in Nepal and said the Government of India is making every possible effort to provide assistance. Shri Vaishnaw said the Railways had also been making arrangements for passengers rescued from affected areas and reaching India. He

said the Railways has arranged special coaches and other necessary facilities to help them reach their destinations. Shri Vaishnaw added that the Railway Board is working in coordination with railway zones, district and State authorities and the Ministry of External Affairs to facilitate the safe movement and return of passengers affected by the situation in Nepal.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Yogi Adityanath also expressed condolences over the recent natural disaster in Nepal. He said the tragedy had affected not only the friendly nation of Nepal but also people in several countries, including India, and conveyed his condolences to the families who have lost their members in the disaster.

Nepalganj Road-Nanpara-Bahraich Section Now Integrated into the Broad Gauge Railway Network

The Nepalganj Road-Nanpara-Bahraich metre-gauge rail section was originally constructed in 1886. With the completion of gauge conversion and electrification, the section has now become an integral part of the Broad Gauge railway network, providing improved connectivity to Bahraich, Risiya, Matera, Nanpara, Babaganj and Nepalganj Road stations.



Speaking about the railway section being inaugurated, Shri Vaishnaw said the conversion of the Nepalganj Road-Nanpara-Bahraich section is now connected to the wider railway network of the country. Shri Vaishnaw said the broad-gauge conversion programme is nearing completion across the country.

Extension of Long-Distance Train Services up to Nepalganj Road

To further enhance passenger connectivity, the Ministry of Railways has approved the extension of 14213/14214

Varanasi–Bahraich Express, 15132/15131 Varanasi City–Gorakhpur Express and two pairs of 75109/75110 and 75111/75112 Gonda–Bahraich train services up to Nepalganj Road.

With these services, passengers from Nepalganj Road and adjoining areas will get direct rail connectivity to Gonda, Gorakhpur, Varanasi and other major cities. The extension fulfills a long-standing demand of the people of the region and will significantly improve access to major urban and economic centres. The enhanced connectivity

will also benefit people from neighbouring Nepal, particularly those travelling to and from the border region for employment, education, healthcare, trade and other purposes. Shri Adityanath said the inauguration of the rail section and launch of four new train services marked the realisation of a decades-old dream for the people of the region. He said the new rail connectivity would strengthen links between Bahraich, Rupaidiha and Nepalganj and provide greater convenience to people on both sides of the border.

New Opportunities for Aspirational District Bahraich

The completion of the gauge conversion project in the border area of aspirational district Bahraich is expected to give a major impetus to the region’s socio-economic development. Improved rail connectivity will facilitate greater movement of people and goods and promote trade, employment, tourism and social and cultural activities in the region.

The direct Broad Gauge connection will also provide better access to wider markets for local products and strengthen

economic linkages between the border areas and major cities of Uttar Pradesh and beyond.

The improved rail infrastructure is expected to generate new opportunities for the people of the region and contribute to the overall development of Bahraich and adjoining areas.

Electrification of the rail section will enable the operation of electric locomotive-hauled trains, reducing dependence on diesel traction and helping lower carbon emissions. The initiative is aligned with Indian Railways’ efforts towards energy-efficient and environmentally sustainable railway operations.

Railway Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw said that comprehensive planning is underway to strengthen the railway network across Uttar Pradesh, particularly the Purvanchal region. He said that seven major railway networks are being strengthened through the addition of third and fourth lines wherever double lines already exist. He highlighted the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Moradabad-Sitapur-Burhwal-Gonda-Gorakhpur network serving Purvanchal and said that the Delhi to Gonda section has already been approved.

He added that a major transformation in the State’s rail

connectivity would come with the development of high-speed rail connectivity. Referring to the proposed high-speed rail connectivity, Shri Vaishnaw said travel times would be significantly reduced. He said the Delhi-Agra journey would take 58 minutes, Delhi-Kanpur 1 hour 45 minutes, Delhi-Lucknow 2 hours 12 minutes and Delhi-Prayagraj around three hours. He added that Delhi-Varanasi would take about three and a half hours.

Shri Vaishnaw further highlighted that the proposed connectivity would eventually extend towards Patna. He said the 1,170-km journey between Delhi and Patna could be completed in around four and a half hours. He emphasized this would allow people to travel between major cities of Uttar Pradesh and other parts of North India within much shorter timeframes.

The completion of the Nepalganj Road-Nanpara-Bahraich rail section and the extension of long-distance train services mark an important milestone in strengthening rail connectivity in the border region. The project will not only connect the region more effectively with major cities across the country but will also create new avenues for socio-economic and cultural development.



EDITORIAL

A Strategic Balancing Act: Modi and Pezeshkian at the Bishkek Summit

On the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's face-to-face meeting with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian comes at a critical juncture for Eurasian geopolitics and West Asian security. Against the backdrop of escalating conflict in West Asia and mounting geopolitical fractures between major world powers, the exchange highlights India's steadfast commitment to strategic autonomy and regional stability. While the SCO main floor provided a platform for multilateral consensus on regional trade, security, and counter-terrorism, it was this bilateral interaction that underscored New Delhi's delicate balancing act across volatile geopolitical fault lines.

The meeting carries multi-layered significance, chief among which is India's economic and security interests tied directly to West Asia. The region remains central to India's energy security, home to millions of Indian expats, and an indispensable corridor for trade. Heightened volatility in West Asia, particularly threats to vital maritime trade channels like the Strait of Hormuz, presents severe economic risks for New Delhi. In his discussions with President Pezeshkian, Prime Minister Modi firmly articulated the necessity of dialogue and diplomacy over armed conflict, emphasizing the crucial need to safeguard the freedom of navigation and uninterrupted commercial transit. By doing so, India reinforced its role as a voice of moderation, urging Tehran toward peaceful resolution while safeguarding global economic interests.

Beyond immediate crisis management, the high-level engagement reaffirmed the strategic weight of connectivity initiatives, notably the Chabahar Port project and the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC). For India, Chabahar is not merely an infrastructure venture; it is a vital bridge to Central Asia and Afghanistan that bypasses landward constraints. For Iran, under persistent Western sanctions, working alongside India ensures trade diversification and access to South Asian markets. Despite external economic pressures and supply chain disruptions, both leaders demonstrated a shared intention to maintain momentum on these long-term regional corridors. Equally telling was the broader diplomatic setting in Kyrgyzstan. Holding this meeting within the framework of the SCO—a grouping dominated by non-Western powers including China and Russia—enables India to maintain an independent foreign policy posture. While India continues to deepen its partnership with Western nations across the Indo-Pacific, its active participation in Central Asian multilateral forums proves that New Delhi does not view global diplomacy as a zero-sum choice. Engagement with Tehran is vital to countering regional extremism, stabilizing Afghanistan, and securing land routes into Eurasia.

Ultimately, the Modi-Pezeshkian interaction in Bishkek illustrates the pragmatic core of modern Indian diplomacy. By fostering direct lines of communication with Iran during a time of high regional tension, India protects its economic interests, advocates for maritime stability, and solidifies its role as a bridge-builder between competing international blocs. As global instability deepens, such pragmatic engagement serves as a vital anchor for regional peace and security.



FIRST MONDAY

A new week begins
With a languid Monday,
And you no longer have
The mundane excuse of
Keeping busy with
Inconsequential trivia,
Or tilting at windmills,
For imaginary battles,
Seldom fought and never won.

A little tentatively and
Somewhat shyly,
I seeks my company,
Me with me,
For a day, perhaps a week
And beyond ...
(First working day
after retirement 02/11/2020)



...: — BP Acharya — ...



ADITYA-L1: LEARNING TO READ THE SUN BEFORE IT STRIKES

Can the Sun give us a warning before unleashing a major flare? A new finding from India's Aditya-L1 suggests that it might. On August 28, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) reported that the mission had detected small, short-lived brightenings in the solar atmosphere in the hours before major solar flares. It is not yet a forecasting system. But it could be an important clue towards building one.

The significance of the finding lies in what happens before a solar flare erupts. Scientists examined seven M- and X-class flares and identified 102 short-lived ultraviolet brightenings during their pre-flare phases. The observations brought together data from three Aditya-L1 instruments — the Solar Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (SUIT), the High Energy L1 Orbiting X-ray Spectrometer (HEL1OS) and the Solar Low Energy X-ray Spectrometer (SoLEXS). This simultaneous ultraviolet and X-ray view offers a more complete picture of what happens in the solar atmosphere before a flare.

Of the 102 ultraviolet transients, 49 had X-ray counterparts. Further analysis showed that 29 of those were associated with the same active region being studied. Many of the brightenings were concentrated near the magnetic boundaries of the eventual flaring region. The pattern suggests that small-scale releases of magnetic energy may occur as an active region moves towards instability, progressively preparing the conditions for a major eruption.

This is an intriguing possibility. The most important question in solar-flare research is not simply what happens during an eruption, but whether there are detectable signs before it begins. If such signals are found to occur consistently, they could eventually provide valuable warning time.

But the finding needs to be viewed with caution. Aditya-L1 cannot yet predict when a major solar flare will occur. Seven events are not enough to establish a dependable forecasting method. Scientists will have to test the pattern across a much larger number of flares, determine how much advance warning it can provide, and establish whether these brightenings can reliably distinguish major eruptions from ordinary solar activity.

The achievement, therefore, is not that India has solved the problem of solar-flare prediction. It is that Aditya-L1 has identified a potentially important piece of the puzzle.

Why Solar Flares Matter:

This is not merely a question for solar physicists.

Modern life increasingly depends on systems operating above the Earth. Satellites support navigation, communications, weather forecasting, Earth observation and several critical services. Strong solar activity can disturb radio communications and navigation, affect satellite operations and increase radiation risks for spacecraft and astronauts.

The danger should not be exaggerated. A major solar storm does not automatically mean that modern civilisation will come to a standstill. The more realistic concern is disruption to particular systems that have become increasingly important to modern economies and national infrastructure.

That makes better space-weather forecasting valuable. The more accurately scientists understand how solar eruptions develop, the greater the possibility of giving satellite operators and other users time to take protective measures.

The Advantage of Aditya-L1:

India's ability to contribute to this effort comes partly from where Aditya-L1 is positioned.

Launched on September 2, 2023, India's first dedicated space-based solar observatory entered its halo orbit around the Sun-Earth L1 point on January 6, 2024. Located about 1.5 million kilometres from Earth towards the Sun, L1 provides a vantage point for continuous observation of the Sun.

That uninterrupted view is important. Solar activity changes constantly, and continuous observation allows scientists to follow the development of an event rather than examine isolated snapshots. Aditya-L1 carries seven scientific payloads that observe different aspects of the Sun and the space environment around it.

The mission has already demonstrated the value of this approach. Its Solar Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope has provided detailed observations of the lower solar atmosphere during solar flares, while its Visible Emission

Line Coronagraph has been used to study coronal mass ejections — enormous expulsions of plasma and magnetic fields from the Sun that can influence the space environment around Earth.

The latest finding adds another dimension to the mission: looking not only at what happens when the Sun erupts, but also at what may be happening immediately before the eruption.

From Observation to Preparedness:

For India, that distinction is becoming increasingly important. The country is expanding its satellite infrastructure and pursuing larger programmes in communications, navigation, Earth observation and human spaceflight. The ability to place spacecraft in orbit is therefore only part of the challenge. India must also understand the environment in which those spacecraft operate.

Aditya-L1 could become the foundation of a stronger Indian capability in space-weather monitoring and forecasting. But a single spacecraft cannot do the job alone. Long-term observations will have to be combined with data from other missions, ground-based measurements, computer modelling and high-performance computing. Universities and research institutions should have a larger role in analysing the data and testing whether emerging patterns hold across a much wider range of solar events.

ISRO has already begun opening Aditya-L1 data to the wider scientific community. In July 2026, it said more than 30 terabytes of mission data were available in the public domain and announced the third observation cycle for the Indian solar-physics community.

That is important because the success of a scientific mission should not be measured merely by the number of images it produces or the headlines it generates. Its larger value lies in the knowledge it creates and the research ecosystem that grows around that knowledge.

Reliable prediction rarely emerges from a single discovery. It is built through years of observation, comparison and verification. A pattern identified in seven flares may weaken when tested against hundreds. Or it may prove to be a robust precursor and be-

come one component of a future warning system.

The next task, therefore, is clear: determine whether these small brightenings are a dependable signal, how much warning they can provide, and whether they can eventually be incorporated into operational space-weather forecasts.

The payoff could be significant. Even a limited increase in warning time could help satellite operators take protective measures, allow communication and navigation services to prepare for disruptions, and strengthen safety planning for future human missions.

The effort will also have to be international. Solar storms do not respect national boundaries, and satellites belonging to many countries share the same space environment. India's independent capability to observe the Sun is valuable, but international cooperation in data-sharing, modelling and forecasting will remain essential.

Aditya-L1 should therefore be seen as more than a mission to study the Sun. Its larger promise lies in turning continuous observation into understanding, understanding into prediction, and prediction into preparedness.

The Sun cannot be controlled. Its eruptions cannot be prevented. What can change is our ability to recognise their warning signs.

The August 28 finding from Aditya-L1 is only an early step. If those faint signals can eventually be turned into reliable warnings, India will have achieved something more consequential than another scientific discovery: it will have gained a new capability to anticipate and prepare for the effects of an increasingly space-dependent world.



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A NATION RACING AHEAD... ARE HUMAN VALUES FALLING BEHIND?

Human beings are taking steps towards the moon, giving new dimensions to ideas through Artificial Intelligence and connecting continents within seconds. The entire world now fits into the small screen held in our hands. New roads are being built, tall buildings are rising, and digital technology is transforming the way we live and work. Yet, in the middle of this remarkable journey, one important question continues to follow us: Are human beings truly moving forward, or is it only technology that is moving ahead?

The standards by which we measure development have changed with time. Earlier, agricultural growth, industrial expansion and the spread of educational institutions were considered major indicators of progress. Today, digital services, space achievements, Artificial Intelligence, modern transport systems and economic opportunities have become new measures of national development.

Such progress is certainly necessary. In a rapidly changing world, every society must move forward and embrace new opportunities. However, while increasing the speed of development, we must also ask whether we are leaving behind some of the values that make life meaningful.

Today, we live in an ocean of information. There was a time when people had to visit libraries to search for knowledge. Now, answers to countless questions can be found within seconds on a mobile phone. We can know about events happening anywhere in the world almost immediately.

But has the growth of information also increased wisdom? Has faster communication improved understanding among people? Though we have more ways than ever to connect with one another, have our hearts truly come closer?

This is one of the great contradictions of modern life.

Technology has reduced physical distances, but in many situations, it has increased emotional distances. It is no longer unusual to see four people in the same house living in four different digital worlds. We may not have enough time to speak to someone in the next

room, but we may spend hours following the lives of strangers on social media.

The world has come into our hands. Yet, we must still ask how close we are to the people living beside us.

Economic growth has also brought many new opportunities into our lives. Employment opportunities have expanded. Businesses can reach wider markets. Aspirations have grown, and modern comforts have become more accessible. But has greater income always brought greater satisfaction? Has the increase in material comforts also increased happiness?

Even after many needs are fulfilled, why does a certain sense of emptiness continue to trouble modern life?

The reason is simple. Human life cannot be fulfilled by income alone. Every person needs love, affection and trust. Everyone needs someone who can listen to their pain and share their happiness. No technology has yet fully replaced human warmth. No machine can become a complete substitute for a compassionate human heart.

Today, competition has moved beyond its healthy limits and has begun to influence human relationships as well. The desire to succeed is growing, but the willingness to walk together is sometimes becoming weaker. There is a strong desire to move ahead, but the broad-mindedness to encourage others to grow also needs greater importance.

Success is increasingly being seen as a purely individual achievement. The idea of moving forward together as a society should not be allowed to fade.

This is where the question of values becomes important.

Values are not merely lessons found in speeches or textbooks. Speaking the truth is a value. Keeping one's word is a value. Extending a helping hand to someone in need is a value. Respecting elders, caring for children and understanding another person's pain are simple but powerful principles that have strengthened human society for generations.

When these principles become weak, even a highly advanced society may begin to feel empty within.

Our education system too must recognise this responsibility. Children need knowledge. They need technological skills. They need the confidence and ability to compete in a changing world. But they also need to learn how to live as good human beings. Scoring high marks in an examination may be an achievement, but becoming a good human being is an even greater achievement. A degree may provide employment, but values provide direction to life.

In the age of Artificial Intelligence, this question has become even more significant. Machines are learning, processing information and completing many tasks with remarkable speed. But are human beings also learning to become more humane?

As machines become more intelligent, are human hearts becoming more sensitive?

There is no need to fear technological progress. There is no need to oppose development. Rejecting modernity is not the answer. The real question is not whether development should take place.

The real question is whether human values are travelling alongside development.

The greatness of a nation cannot be measured only by its tall buildings or modern infrastructure. It can also be seen in the way people treat one another. Fast trains may represent progress, but civilisation finds a deeper meaning when a passenger willingly offers a seat to an elderly person.

Large hospitals may represent development, but true progress also lies in the compassion shown towards a person who is suffering.

Today, India is moving forward with new confidence in many fields. Progress in science, technology, space research and other areas gives hope for the future. But this progress must also have a human face.

Development becomes truly meaningful when it improves the quality of human life and strengthens the spirit of mutual care. We need speed, but not a journey that forgets the people around us.

We need prosperity, but not at the cost of meaningful human relationships.

We need technology, but not a society that forgets the importance of human warmth. We need world-class development, but we must also preserve compassion, kindness and responsibility.

The nation is moving forward, and there is no need to stop that journey. But there is a need to pause and reflect.

Are our values moving with us?

Is humanity walking alongside our progress?

Or have we left some of our most precious human qualities behind in the race for speed and success?

It is time to search for honest answers to these questions.

Because roads may become faster, but society cannot truly move forward if human relationships become weak. Machines may become more intelligent, but civilisation cannot be considered complete if human hearts become less sensitive. A society may become materially prosperous, but prosperity loses much of its meaning when compassion disappears. Development is not merely about a nation moving faster. True development means moving forward while ensuring that no human being is forgotten along the way.

That is real progress.

That is the true measure of civilisation. And those are the values that must never be left behind by a nation racing towards the future.



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“Vote Chori Is Real”:
Pawan Khera Tar-
gets BJP Over Ma-
harashtra Electoral
Roll Deletions

NEW DELHI, AUG 31

Congress leader Pawan Khera on Monday launched a sharp attack on the Bhara-tiya Janata Party (BJP) over the alleged deletion of nearly two crore voters from Maharashtra's electoral roll during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise, claiming that “vote chori” was taking place in the state.

Khera also criticised the BJP and the Election Com-mission of India (ECI), al-leging that concerns raised by the Congress over chang-es in Maharashtra's voter list had earlier been dis-missed. He referred to the addition of nearly 40 lakh electors between the 2024 Lok Sabha and Mahara-shtra Assembly elections and alleged that the Congress had flagged the increase at the time.

According to Khera, the large-scale deletions reflect-ed in the latest SIR exercise had brought the issue back into focus. He alleged that the BJP and ECI had failed to adequately address ques-tions surrounding the elec-toral rolls.

“The BJP-ECI's lies are now hanging like an alba-tross around their neck. Nearly 2 crore voters have been excluded from Maha-rashtra's electoral roll under SIR,” Khera said.

He further alleged that the developments demon-strated that “vote chori is real, rigged elections are real and imposed govern-ments are real”.

Khera's remarks came after the publication of the draft electoral roll for Ma-harashtra under the SIR exercise, which showed significantly fewer electors compared with the previous roll.

According to data re-leased by the Maharashtra Chief Electoral Officer, the state had 9,78,54,049 reg-istered electors, of whom 7,71,65,562 had submitted their enumeration forms as of August 17, 2026.

The election authorities said 34.82 lakh electors, or 3.56 per cent, were iden-tified as deceased. Another 1.54 crore electors, account-ing for 15.78 per cent, were categorised as permanently shifted, absent or falling un-der other categories.

Quarterly GDP Figures
Present “Greatly
Distorted Picture”
of Economy: Jairam
Ramesh

New Delhi, AUG 31: Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Monday crit-icised the latest GDP fig-ures, describing them as a “Greatly Distorted Picture” of the Indian economy and claiming that the headline growth numbers do not reflect the economic chal-lenges faced by households and businesses.

Ramesh said consumer confidence remained “very sluggish”, while prices of essential household goods were rising rapidly. He also flagged alarming levels of educated unemployment, declining real wages and falling household savings.

His remarks came after government data released on Monday showed that India's GDP grew by 7.8 per cent in the first quarter of FY 2026-27. “The quarterly GDP numbers, such as they are reported, present a GDP — Greatly Distorted Picture — of the economy,” Ramesh said in a post on X.

He argued that the quarterly figures failed to reflect what he described as depressed private in-vestment sentiment, both domestic and foreign. Ac-cording to Ramesh, con-sumer confidence has fall-en to its lowest level since the COVID-19 pandemic and has been on a down-ward trajectory since No-vember 2025.

Shah, Nabin
Review Seva
Sankalp Abhiyan

NEW DELHI, AUG 31

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) held a key organisational meeting at its headquar-ters in New Delhi on Monday to review preparations for the upcoming Seva Sankalp Abhiyan and the Janmab-hoomi se Karmbhoomi Yatra. The three-hour meeting was chaired by BJP National President Nitin Nabin and at-tended by Union Home Min-ister Amit Shah. National office-bearers Vinod Tawde, Smriti Irani, VD Sharma, Rekha Sharma, OP Choud-hary and Harsh Sanghavi were also present.

The meeting reviewed the nationwide Seva Sankalp Abhiyan, sched-uled from September 17 to October 17. According to party sources, the BJP plans large outreach ral-lies using bikes and other modes of transport to con-nect with beneficiaries.

As part of the campaign, the Janmabhoomi se Karm-bhoomi Yatra will cover the route from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthplace, Vadnagar in Gujarat, to his

parliamentary constituency of Kashi (Varanasi). Groups of 30 people will undertake the journey through the states along the route, while broader rallies will be or-ganised across the country. The campaign seeks to highlight Modi's public ser-vice journey over 25 years and connect beneficiaries with government welfare schemes.

Party workers will visit more than 1.4 million An-ganwadi centres, organise ‘Matri Samvad’ programmes and launch Seva Mein Mera Yogdan, encouraging cit-izens to showcase service activities.

Under Seva Setu Abhiyan, 15-day block-level camps will help eligible people access schemes including Ayush-man Bharat and PM-Kisan. A National Innovation Chal-lenge will also encourage youth to develop solutions to local issues.

State-level workshops were scheduled to conclude by Au-gust 31, followed by district and block-level preparations ahead of the September 17 launch.

BJP, Shiv Sena Slam
Owaisi Over Remarks on
PM’s Uzbekistan Honour

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 31

The BJP on Monday crit-icised AIMIM chief and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi over his remarks on Prime Minister Naren-dra Modi being conferred Uzbekistan's highest state honour, with BJP spokes-person Shahnawaz Hussain saying that Owaisi was un-able to appreciate the sig-nificance of the award.

Owaisi had on Sunday reacted to Modi receiving the Order of ‘Oliy Darajali Dustlik’, Uzbekistan's high-est state honour, by linking the award to Mughal em-poror Babur's origins in the region. “I congratulate the BJP; the very country from which Babur came to India has conferred an award upon the Prime Minister,” Owaisi said. He noted that Babur belonged to the Fer-gana Valley in present-day Uzbekistan and remarked that Modi routinely returns from foreign visits with honours.

Hussain said the honour should be viewed as recog-

nition for India rather than an achievement belong-ing only to the Prime Minister. “If Prime Minister Naren-dra Modi got the highest honour of that country, then this is not PM Modi's honour, it is India's hon-our,” he said.

Union Minister of State Satish Chandra Dubey also criticised Owaisi, accusing him of frequently making “frivolous remarks” and saying neither the public nor the media took such comments seriously.

Shiv Sena spokesperson Shaina NC also attacked Owaisi, saying he “sees Babur in everything”. She alleged that his political perspective was shaped by references to Babur and questioned why he objected to Uzbekistan honouring the Prime Minister.

Meanwhile, Samajwa-di Party spokesperson Ashutosh Verma said Mus-lim invaders and Mughal rulers should not be treat-ed as the same. He said the Mughals were part of India's history, while also

acknowledging the de-struction caused by various invaders.

The exchange has trig-gered a fresh political de-bate over the significance of international honours received by Indian leaders and the manner in which historical figures are in-voked in contemporary political discourse. The BJP has maintained that recognition given to Modi by foreign governments represents appreciation for India's growing global standing.

The remarks and coun-ter-reactions also came amid continuing political disagreements over the interpretation of India's history and the legacy of the Mughal period. While Owaisi used Babur's Uz-bek origins to question the political significance of the honour, BJP and Shiv Sena leaders argued that such historical references should not overshadow the diplomatic importance of Uzbekistan recognising the Indian Prime Minister.

Assembly Should Be a
Forum for Debate: Saini

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 31

Haryana Chief Minis-ter, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini, on Monday, said that every member must uphold the dig-nity of the House and use the forum for constructive debate on Haryana's development and issues of public interest rather than sloganeering.

Responding to Leader of the Opposition Sh. Bhupinder Singh Hooda during the on-going Vidhan Sabha session, Chief Minister described him as a senior and respect-ed member of the House. He said there is much to learn from the experience of sen-ior leaders like Sh. Bhupinder Singh Hooda, while adding that their political journeys, perspectives and approaches are different.

The Chief Minister empha-sised that he holds Sh. Bhu-pinder Singh Hooda in high regard and had no intention of disrespecting him.

He said that the remarks in question should be seen in the context of the complete proceedings. Opposition members, he said, had re-peatedly raised slogans in the House when the focus should have been on issues concern-ing Haryana's development.

The sloganeering contin-



ued even after the Vidhan Sabha Speaker offered the members an opportunity to view the relevant video in his chamber, said Sh. Nayab Singh Saini,

Clarifying his remarks, the Chief Minister said that Congress members had re-peatedly accused the other side of “hooliganism”. His re-sponse, he said, was confined to stating that the “hooligan-ism” was not from his side but from theirs. Sh. Nayab Singh Saini maintained that he had said nothing beyond this and that his remarks contained nothing unparliamentary.

Memorable evening adorned with
MUKESH’S IMMORTAL SONGS
21st edition of ‘Thank you Mukesh-2026’



Noida, AUG 31: Navratna Foundations' 21st annual musical event 'Thank you Mukesh-2026' concluded in a very emotional atmosphere at NEA Bhawan Auditorium, Sector-6, Noida on Sun-day. Mukesh ji's evergreen songs connected the audience with the emotional world of love, separation, memories and life.

In the program, many eminent singers of Delhi-NCR paid musical tributes to Mukesh ji by performing his classic songs. SPECIAL PER-FORMANCES BY ZEE TV SA RE GAMA PA'S LITTLE CHAMP AND FAMOUS SINGER DIWAKAR SHARMA OF 'THE RISING STAR' GAVE SPECIAL HEIGHT TO THE CEREMONY. With them Dr. Many artists including Ashok Srivastava, Sanjay Pandey, Someshwar Sharma, Pankaj Mathur, Kapil Tiwari, Vinay Sethia mesmerised their per-

formances. In the program, many popular songs including Jane Kere Gane Woe Wo Din', 'Akad Far Jab Din Dhal Gaye', 'Ek Pyar Ka Nagma Hai', 'Main Na Bhoongi', 'My Shoe is Japanese', 'Fool You Sent You', brought to life Mukesh ji's golden musical legacy. The special attraction of the program was the literary stage management of Mrs. Anita Bhalwar after a long gap. With them Dr. Ashok Srivastava and RJ Kapil Tiwari also moderated the stage. Chairman of Navratna Foundations Dr. Ashok Srivastava said that there was simplicity and familiarity in Mukesh ji's voice, which even today reaches the heart directly. 'Thank you Mukesh' is a feeling of gratitude towards that immortal voice.

Gandharva Band and Jitu Bajaj's sound gave a great musical basis to the program. Sanjay Pandey, Pan-kaj Mathur and Anshumali Sinha

supported the digital presentation. At the end, all the artists and guests were honoured by giving gifts.

On this occasion, especially Lion Man Singh Chauhan, Mukul Va-jpayee, Baba Kanpuri, Jyoti Saxena, Mridula Saxena, Navneet Saxena, Anubha Upadhyay, Vinod Pandey, Avanindra Thakur, Mukesh Nigam, Arvind Srivastava, Varsha Srivasta-va, R. N. Srivastava, Ranjan Tomar, Rajeev Garg, R. Gupta, Ranjana Chitkara, Prem Sagar Prem, Colonel Amitabh Amit, Geeta Tiwari, Com-mander Alok Mathur, Dr. Kalpana Bhushan, Vijay Singh, etc. were present and enjoyed the program to the fullest.

The evening of 'Thank you Mukesh-2026' ended, but Mukesh's sounds continued to echo in the hearts for a long time - because some voices are never silent, they always go together as memories.

BLW Gives Heartwarming Farewell to Retiring Staff

General Manager Shri Ashutosh Pant stated, “Retirement is a farewell to the job, not to life, empha-sized the importance of health, financial management, and engagement with family and social causes.

Varanasi, August 31: A farewell and felicitation cere-mony was organized at the Hall of Fame in the Administrative Building of Banaras Locomo-tive Works (BLW) to honor two officers and ten employees who retired in August 2026. The ceremony was presided over by General Manager Shri Ashutosh Pant. On this occa-sion, he honored the retiring officers and employees by gar-landing them and presenting them with commemorative folders.

In his address, General Manager Shri Ashutosh Pant remarked, “Retirement is a farewell to the job, not to life; rather, it marks the beginning of a new and meaningful chapter of life.” Wishing the retiring employees a healthy, happy, and peaceful life, he empha-sized that after retirement, one should pay special attention to health, physical well-being, family, financial management, and social engagements. De-scribing life in a spiritual and cultural city like Varanasi as a privilege, he encouraged them to engage in introspection, positive thinking, spiritual



awareness, and good deeds; he also urged them to express gratitude to the Almighty for the achievements and oppor-tunities received in life and to embark on this new chapter with a positive mindset.

On this occasion, retired Senior Security Commission-er Shri Sanjay Pise, Assistant Financial Advisor Shri Rama Shankar Jaiswal, and other retirees shared their experi-ences, memories, and inspiring anecdotes from their service tenure, describing BLW (Ba-naras Locomotive Works) as an integral part of their lives.

Addressing the gathering, Principal Chief Mechanical

Engineer Shri Vivek Sheel em-phasized making life mean-ingful through meditation, self-study, and spiritual aware-ness. Principal Chief Electrical Engineer Shri Manish Kumar appreciated the long service tenure and experiences of the retiring employees. Principal Chief Personnel Officer Shri Lalji Chaudhary apprised them of the important information and facilities available in the retirement folder. Divisional Medical Officer Dr. Abdul Ma-bood advised prioritizing regu-lar health check-ups, exercise, a balanced diet, and physical care. Staff Council Joint Sec-retary Shri Pradeep Kumar Ya-

dav wished everyone a happy and healthy future.

Mrs. Richa Tripathi, Chief Branch Manager of State Bank of India, BLW, and Shri Dinesh Kumar, Chief Branch Manager of Bank of Baroda, BLW, provided important in-formation regarding financial management, investments, financial security, and cyber security, emphasizing the prudent management of re-tirement benefits.

Those retiring in the month of August included Shri San-jay Pise, Shri Rama Shankar Jaiswal, Shri Vinod Kumar Singh, Smt. Dharmshila Devi, Shri Rajaram, Shri Devanand

Dev Pandey, Smt. Sanju Sinha, Smt. Phula Devi, Shri Shashi Bhushan, Shri Nayyar Azam, Smt. Kiran Devi, and Shri Shivshankar Kumar.

The ceremony was attended by Principal Financial Adviser Shri Muktesh Mittal, Principal Chief Materials Manager Shri Alok Agrawal, Principal Chief Engineer Shri Ram Janam, Di-rector General-cum-Principal Chief Security Commissioner Shri Devraj Kumar Maurya, Principal Chief Medical Of-ficer Dr. Sunil Kumar, Chief Vigilance Officer Shri Ankur Chandra, Deputy General Manager Shri Sagar, Public Relations Officer Shri Rajesh Kumar, and Assistant Person-nel Officer, Headquarters Shri Ram Praveesh Yadav, members of the Staff Council Shri Shri-kant Yadav, Shri Naveen Ku-mar Sinha, Shri Amit Kumar, and Shri Manish Kumar were also present, along with a large number of family members and colleagues.

The program was gracef-ully conducted, and the vote of thanks was proposed, by Dep-uty Chief Personnel Officer, Headquarters Shri Samir Paul.

Sukesh Chandrasekhar
Gets 8 Years in Jail

NEW DELHI, AGU 31

A Delhi court has sen-tenced conman Sukesh Chan-drasekhar to eight years of rigorous imprisonment for impersonating a Supreme Court judge and attempting to influence a bail hearing in another criminal case. Tis Hazari Court Chief Judge Harshita Mishra issued the sentencing order on August 29. The court directed that the sentences imposed for the three offences be served con-secutively.

He was sentenced to two years of rigorous impris-onment and fined Rs. 5,000 under Section 170 of the IPC, along with four years of rigor-ous imprisonment under Sec-tion 507. The court also stated that a sentence was imposed under Section 189. Failure to pay the fine would result in additional imprisonment. The court directed that the period already spent in custody be set off against the total sentence.

The case centres on a series of alleged phone calls made by Chandrasekhar to ju-dicial officer Poonam Chaud-hary on April 28, 2017. The court said he introduced him-self as a Supreme Court judge

from South India and con-vincingly imitated a regional accent. It concluded that the purpose of the calls was to in-fluence the judicial process in order to secure bail in another criminal case.

The court rejected Chan-drasekhar's argument that the offence should be treated as less serious because his attempt had failed. It made it clear that the failure of an attempt does not reduce the seriousness of the offence. The court also took into con-sideration his failure to show genuine remorse during the proceedings.

The court warned that technological tools such as deepfakes, AI-generated au-dio-visual content, cloned voices and fake communi-cations could make such of-fences easier to commit in the future. It said the sentence needed to send a deterrent message in order to preserve public confidence in the judi-ciary. Although several crim-inal cases are already pending against Chandrasekhar, the court clarified that since those cases are still at the trial stage, they cannot be relied upon to determine the severity of the sentence in the present case.



NFR Boosts Freight
Operations with Customer-
Focused Initiatives

MALIGAON, 31 AUGUST

Northeast Frontier Rail-way (NFR) has undertaken several customer focused initiatives to facilitate freight operations and augment rail-way freight revenue across its network. These mea-sures are aimed at improving freight handling facilities, creating additional oppor-tunities for cargo movement and strengthening rail-based logistics.

As part of these initiatives, Kharahat Station under Tinsukia Division has been opened for handling inward PSC Sleeper traffic with ef-fect from 1st July 2026. Simi-larly, New Misamari Station under Rangiya Division has been opened for handling in-ward military traffic with ef-fect from 29th July 2026, fa-cilitating streamlined freight operations and supporting efficient cargo movement.

NFR has also registered freight revenue through loading of various commod-ities across its divisions. Un-der Alipurduar Division, one rake of maize loaded from Falakata to Ranibennur gen-erated freight revenue of Rs. 0.74 crore. Another rake of rice loaded from Tufanganj

to Jirania under Alipurduar Division generated freight revenue of Rs. 0.29 crore. Under Katihar Division, 43 rakes of maize consign-ments were loaded from Purnea, Ranipatra, Arari-ya, Jalalgarh, Rahamatpur, Bathnaha, Surja Kamal, Dalkhola and Katihargener-ating freight revenue of Rs. 29.72 crore.

Lumding Division also recorded significant freight loading. A total of 315 wa-gons of stone chips were booked, generating freight revenue of Rs. 1.37 crore. In addition, 1,921 wagons of cement were booked, con-tributing Rs. 9.06 crore in freight revenue. Further, 196 wagons of Petroleum, Oil and Lubricants (POL) were booked, generating Rs. 2.38 crore in freight revenue.

These initiatives reflect NFR's continued com-mitment to strengthening freight handling facilities and enhancing the custom-er experience. By promoting greater utilisation of rail for diverse commodities, NFR is facilitating efficient and reliable freight movement while supporting regional trade, logistics and economic growth.

Sikkim: 3.9-Magnitude Earthquake
STRIKES MANGAN DISTRICT

MANGAN, AUG 31

An earthquake of mag-nitude 3.9 on the Richter scale struck Sikkim's Man-gan district in the early hours of Tuesday, accord-ing to the National Centre for Seismology (NCS). The seismic monitoring agency said the tremor occurred at 1:48 AM IST at a depth of 7 kilometres. The earth-quake was recorded at lat-itude 27.638° N and longi-tude 88.766° E, with the epicentre located in Man-gan district.

The earthquake oc-curred amid the ongoing devastating flash floods in neighbouring Nepal, where authorities have been bat-tling a major humanitarian crisis. Nepal remained on flash-flood alert on August

29, with authorities warn-ing of rising water levels in rivers and streams across several districts. A high risk of flash floods was particu-larly flagged in Nuwakot and Rasuwa districts.

According to the latest figures released by Nepal's National Disaster Risk Re-duction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) on Monday, the death toll from the devastating floods has risen to 903, up from 788. Around 4,247 people re-main missing, while 10,451 people have been rescued so far. Chitwan has report-ed the highest number of casualties at 272, followed by Nawalparasi (East) with 207, Nawalparasi (West) 151, Nuwakot 95, Gorkha 62, Dhading 55, Tanahun 37 and Rasuwa 24.

Bangladesh measles outbreak claims six more lives, death toll nears 1000

DHAKA

At least six children died from the measles outbreak in Bangladesh on Monday, raising the total number of confirmed and suspected deaths to 973 this year, amid an escalating health crisis in the country, local media reported. According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), the deaths were reported in the 24 hours leading up to Monday morning.

The latest six fatalities from the disease were identified as suspected, Bangladesh media outlet UNB reported. Reports suggest that while the number of confirmed deaths remained at 99, the total number of suspected deaths climbed to 874. The DGHS recorded a total of 1,162 new suspected measles cases during the 24-hour period, bringing the overall tally of suspected cases to 157,991.

Additionally, 94 new confirmed cases were reported, increasing the total to 19,312 during the same period. As Bangladesh continues to witness a sharp increase in measles cases, a leading international advocacy group recently described the 2026 outbreak as one of the country's worst public health crises in recent history.

‘Global investment surge’ reshapes economy

ASHEVILLE

The global economy has moved beyond an era of weak investment and prolonged stagnation into a period of stronger growth and an international investment surge, Federal Reserve Chairman Kevin Warsh told G20 finance ministers and central bank governors.

Addressing the opening session of the G20 financial meeting in Asheville, North Carolina, Warsh said the world economy had reached what an old mentor of his called “a hinge point in history”. The moment required policymakers to draw on the traditions and knowledge of their institutions while recognising the need for change, he said.

Warsh, who was attending the G20 finance track for the first time in his new position, said the economic assumptions that dominated international policy discussions during and after the global financial crisis no longer appeared relevant. He pointed to two ideas that were once treated as conventional wisdom among academics and policymakers.

Bishkek: PM Modi and Putin discuss maritime trade, safety and security of Indian seafarers

BISHKEK

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday shared perspectives on key regional and global issues of mutual interest, including the conflicts in West Asia and the Black Sea region which have impacted maritime trade and the safety and security of Indian seafarers, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated after their meeting in Bishkek.

Both leaders held discussions on the margins of the 26th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Kyrgyzstan's capital. This was their first meeting this year, having earlier met in New Delhi for the 23rd Annual Summit in December last year.

According to the MEA, the two leaders reviewed progress in bilateral cooperation in a range of fields, including political, economic, defence, energy, space, mobility and people-to-people ties. They welcomed the outcome of the 27th India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic and Cultural matters, which was held on August 24 in Moscow.

"The leaders exchanged



views on India-Russia engagement in the multilateral arena, in particular in BRICS under India's Chairship for 2026. They also shared perspectives on key regional and global issues of mutual interest, including the conflicts in West Asia and the Black Sea region which have impacted maritime trade and the safety and security of Indian seafarers.

Prime Minister reiterated that dialogue and diplomacy was the way forward in resolving conflicts," read a statement

issued by the MEA.

"The two leaders agreed to remain engaged to further strengthen the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership between the two countries, which continues to register significant growth and has shown resilience in the backdrop of geopolitical uncertainties. Prime Minister stated that he looks forward to welcoming President Putin in India for the 18th BRICS Summit on 12-13 September 2026," it added.

During the meeting, PM

Modi reiterated that India continues to back all efforts towards achieving peace in Ukraine. He asserted that it is essential for the well-being of humanity to move from an endless war towards an end to the war and highlighted that both leaders have in the past discussed the situation in Ukraine with Putin having also briefed him in detail about all aspects of the conflict during their last meeting.

"As you know, India supports all efforts towards peace

and will continue to do so. Every day spent in war pushes humanity backwards, while every step taken towards peace fills humanity with a new hope and enthusiasm. We must move from an endless war towards an end to the war. This is essential for the well-being of humanity," said PM Modi in his opening remarks at the meeting.

Terming it as a "call of humanity", PM Modi mentioned that India's message has been that all issues should be resolved peacefully, and at the earliest. "The land of Gandhi and the land of Buddha has one message: to follow the path of peace. I look forward to discussing these matters with you today," said PM Modi.

Immediately after ending their bilateral discussions, Prime Minister Modi and Putin travelled in the same car to the opening ceremony of the World Nomad Games at Bishkek Arena, in yet another strong display of their warm camaraderie. Both leaders had showcased the same bonhomie during the SCO Leaders' Summit in China's Tianjin last September when they travelled in the same car to the venue of their bilateral meeting.



Deportation of over 21,000 Pakistanis exposes Islamabad's dependence on jobs in Gulf nations

ISLAMABAD

The recent deportations of 21,951 Pakistanis from Gulf nations have exposed Pakistan's dependence on jobs in other nations to absorb its workforce and the resulting remittances to support its external account, local media reported.

A job in the Gulf can change the financial situation of a family in Pakistan. However, the loss of that job results in workers returning to the same weak labour market that had pushed them to take up jobs abroad, showcasing the vulnerability that is increasingly seen, as over 21,000 Pakistanis have been deported from Gulf nations, leading Pakistani The Express Tribune reported.

According to the data presented in the Pakistan National Assembly, 21,951 Pakistanis were deported from Gulf nations between March 1-July 13. Saudi Arabia recorded the highest number, with 15,495 deportations, followed by the UAE with 3,803, while Oman deported 1,606 Pakistanis. The main reasons for the deportation of Pakistanis included "other" cases (6,662), absconding (4,628), overstay/illegal entry or stay (2,811), jail cases (1,294), lost passports (1,155), blacklist cases (968), drugs (728) and visa violations (689). The highest reported category of other for deportation has not been specified.

A recent report by Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) Professor of Economics Shujaat Farooq described Pakistan's heavy dependence on the Middle East for labour exports and remittances as a critical vulnerability.

In his Policy Viewpoint, 'The Middle East Conflict and Its Implications for Pakistani Migrant Workers', Farooq mentioned that around 0.7 million to 0.8 million Pakistanis travel to the Middle East each year, while around

six million Pakistanis currently work in the region, which generates 54 per cent of Pakistan's total remittances, The Express Tribune reported.

Farooq said that a prolonged conflict in West Asia could stop around half a million Pakistani workers from taking up jobs in the Middle East in 2026, while over half a million could be forced to travel back to Pakistan, putting immense pressure on the job market in the country, especially in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces.

According to the report, the remittances could drop by USD 3 billion to USD 4 billion, potentially placing pressure on the exchange rate and increasing the current-account deficit.

In February, Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif admitted that the Gulf countries had stopped issuing visas to Pakistanis as mafia groups continue to export "beggars" to these nations.

Sharing a video on social media that revealed how beggars in Pakistan earn enough money to purchase houses through organised networks, Asif highlighted that this has prompted the Gulf nations to stop issuing visas to Pakistanis now, UAE's leading daily Khaleej Times reported.

The video showed a Pakistani man speaking with a child beggar and revealing how entire families work together to earn money through begging. Reacting to the video, Asif said "begging has become a profession" that is quite organised.

"There are formal contractors who recruit children, women, and fake disabled people and earn billions. This same mafia exports these beggars to Gulf countries in the thousands." He further mentioned that, fed up with this, the Gulf nations have stopped issuing visas to Pakistani nationals.

US: Scott Bessent urges G20 to remove growth barriers

ASHEVILLE

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent has called for dismantling regulatory, tax and investment barriers holding back the global economy, while Federal Reserve Chairman Kevin Warsh said stronger growth was a policy choice and the US economy appeared to be gaining momentum.

Opening a G20 financial meeting in Asheville, North Carolina, on growth, Bessent said global growth had remained below its potential for too long, both within the grouping and beyond it. Governments, he said, must act on policy failures within their control. "Policy failures of our own making must no longer be one of them," Bessent told G20 finance ministers and central bank governors.

He listed excessive regulatory and administrative burdens, poorly designed financial incentives and tax systems, insufficient public and private investment, internal market fragmentation, and gaps in workforce skills and

mobility among the impediments identified by the G20 finance track.

Bessent said the United States was moving to address each of those constraints under President Donald Trump.

"We have launched a great regulatory reset to accelerate growth, stimulate investment, increase employment, and boost wages," he said.

"From day one, the president set the ambitious benchmark of slashing 10 existing regulations before issuing a single new one," Bessent said. "Last year, agencies shattered that goal with a ratio of 129 to one."

The Treasury Secretary said the administration was seeing record business investment. He also said the US had become the world's premier destination for capital and reclaimed its position as an energy superpower. "These achievements are shaping the next era of growth, and we are just getting started," he said.

Bessent identified tax, energy and regulatory certainty as key drivers of economic expansion.

DR Congo records over 6,000 confirmed Ebola cases

KINSHASA

Confirmed Ebola cases in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) have surpassed 6,000, with nearly 3,000 deaths, according to the latest figures released Monday. Local authorities reported that as of Saturday, the DRC had recorded 6,041 confirmed cases across six provinces, including 2,911 deaths, bringing the overall case fatality rate to 48.2 per cent. A total of 1,366 patients have recovered.

The outbreak has now affected 60 health zones in the provinces of Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu, Haut-Uele, Bas-Uele and Tshopo, Xinhua News Agency reported.

The current outbreak, declared in May, has since become the country's largest and deadliest Ebola epidemic on record and the second-largest globally, behind the 2014-2016 epidemic in West Africa. Last week, DRC launched Ebola vaccination with the Ervebo vaccine under a compassionate-use framework in the northeastern province of Tshopo, as the country steps up efforts to contain the ongoing Bundibugyo ebolavirus outbreak. DRC health



minister Roger Kamba officially launched the vaccination in Kisangani, capital of Tshopo Province, with health care and frontline workers among the first groups to receive the vaccine. "We have decided to use the Ervebo vaccine to protect first those who are on the front line, therefore our health care providers, but also people who have been in contact with patients," Kamba said. More than 50,000 doses of Ervebo have been received, Kamba said, quoted by the DRC official news agency ACP.

The health ministry said on the social media platform X that the launch was an important step in the Ebola response, saying

the vaccination would reinforce existing measures aimed at protecting communities, breaking chains of transmission and containing the spread of the disease.

The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) also confirmed at a press briefing Thursday that preventive vaccination had begun in Kisangani. Placide Mbala Kingebeni, Africa CDC's Director for Research, Clinical Trials and Innovation, told the briefing that the vaccine was being deployed among health care and frontline workers under a compassionate-use framework, which is expected to cover 14 selected health zones in Tshopo.

279 rescued from flood-hit hydropower projects, hundreds remain unaccounted for

KATHMANDU

The Nepali Army has rescued 279 people from various hydropower projects affected by last week's Bhotekoshi floods, while search and rescue operations continue at several project sites and inside tunnels, Nepali Prime Minister Balendra Shah said.

However, the Independent Power Producers' Association Nepal (IPPAN), an umbrella organisation of private-sector power developers, said Monday that the status of 894 people working at 11 hydropower projects affected by the floods along the Bhotekoshi and Trishuli river corridors remains unknown.

According to Prime Minister Shah, the Army rescued 254 people from the Upper Trishuli-1 Hydropower Project, while nine people have been rescued from the Mailung Khola Hydropower Project (5MW). "Search and rescue operations are continuing inside the Upper Trishuli-1 tunnel with the involvement of Nepali, South Korean and Chinese teams," he added. South Korean investors and the International Finance Corporation of the World



Bank Group, among others, are investors in this project.

IPPAN said on Monday evening that as many as 573 people working at the 216-MW Upper Trishuli-1 project remain out of contact.

Citing the Nepali Army, Prime Minister Shah said two people were rescued from the Rasuwagadhi Hydropower Project in Rasuwa. However, no one was found inside the tunnel of the under-construction project. A joint team

of the Nepali and Chinese armies searched the inner section of the project after it was suspected that people could be trapped at the far end of the tunnel following flooding in the Bhotekoshi River.

"The rescue team led by the Nepali Army has returned after searching the tunnel of the 111-MW flood-affected project in Rasuwa and finding no people inside," the Prime Minister's Secretariat said earlier on Monday.

Prime Minister Shah said Nepali Army personnel, an Indian rescue team, and Nepali personnel have been working since Monday morning at the Langtang Khola (20 MW) and Chilime (22 MW) hydropower projects in Rasuwa to open the tunnel entrances.

At the Upper Trishuli-3A Hydropower Project (60 MW) in Nuwakot, a 90-member team from the Nepali Army, Armed Police Force and Nepal Police has been conducting

search and rescue operations inside the tunnel, with support from a Nepal Electricity Authority team, according to the Prime Minister.

He said teams have rescued two people from the Upper Trishuli-3B Hydropower Project (37 MW) area. The Army has deployed nine additional personnel there, bringing the total involved in search and rescue operations to 31. The operation began after a Chinese rescue team conducted a reconnaissance of the site.

Similarly, rescuers rescued three people from the Trishuli Hydropower Project in Nuwakot. In comparison, four people have been rescued from a solar power project and another four from the Devghat Hydropower Project. At the Nepali government's request, Indian and Chinese tunnel technicians arrived in Nepal and have been engaged in rescue efforts to evacuate people trapped inside hydropower tunnels.

According to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA), the death toll from the deadly floods had reached 939, while 3,925 people remained out of contact as of Monday evening.

DISCOVER THE POWER OF NUTRITION

■ (On the occasion of "National Nutrition Week" from September 01 to 07)



The greatest wealth is health. You are what you eat. Good nutrition is a foundation for a healthy life. Your body is a temple, but only if you treat it as one. Every bit counts. Make it nutritious. Nutritional has a significant impact on the public health and economic development of the nation. Healthy citizens are backbone for the country. Despite India is progressing with rapid pace, malnutrition is still hunting the less privileged population, and affecting all socially and economically. In India, the land is agriculturally rich, but it is witnessing widespread nutritional deficiencies.

Theme of National Nutrition Week

To bring awareness on the importance of eating a balanced diet to everyone, "National Nutrition Week" is observed annually from 01 to 07 September. The National Nutrition Week started in 1975 by American Dietetic Association and India adopted it in 1982, led by the Ministry of

Women & Child Development. The main purpose of the week is to increase community awareness on health, nutrition education, better lifestyle choices, malnutrition, and nutrient-rich foods. The theme of National Nutrition Week-2026 is "Discover the Power of Nutrition" highlighting the importance of healthy eating by all. The Indian government initiated programs like POSHAN (PM's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment) Abhiyan, ICDS (Integrated Child Development Services), and Mid-Day Meal Schemes to provide nutritious food to poor and needy.

Tips for Healthy Eating

Healthy eating means taking good food full of all the nutrients, vitamins, and minerals on our plate. The balanced food consists of the right portion of fruits, veggies(fresh, dried or juiced forms), whole grains(rice, potatoes, cereals

etc), proteins, and healthy fats. The oily fish, eggs, meat are the rich source of proteins. We have to cut down butter, cakes, and salty snacks such as processed, packaged foods, junk foods to the extent possible. Drink enough water and start your day with a healthy meal. The most healthy natural foods for nutrition are turmeric, lentils (Dals), spinach, curd, almonds, amla, brown rice, methi, coconut, chana and many more green vegetables.

During National Nutrition Week celebrations, various events can be organised by conducting competitions in educational institutions, workshops by doctors, community level activities, awareness sessions in Anganwadis, health camps, and digital outreach strategies via social media. This week ought to move forward, integrating nutrition awareness events to all sections of society. At the end of the day, all we can do is eat on time, eat well, drink the requisite 2 litres of water per day or even more, and finally eat some physical exercise.

- Prof : Burra Madhusudan Reddy
Principal (Rtd), 9949700037.

Hyderabad Roadshow Highlights Urgent Clean Energy Push

*** Third in a nationwide series, the Hyderabad roadshow convenes clean energy stakeholders ahead of the Bharat Renewable Energy Summit & Expo (BRE Summit) 2026 from 2 to 5 November at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**

HYDERABAD, AUGUST 31

Building on the momentum generated in Jaipur and Mumbai, leading voices from Government, industry and the renewable energy sector gathered today in Hyderabad for the third in a series of regional roadshows for the Bharat Renewable Energy Summit & Expo (BRE Summit) 2026, India's largest renewable energy summit and expo. As India accelerates toward its target of achieving 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030, the Hyderabad edition brought Telangana's formidable clean energy ecosystem into the national spotlight. The Hyderabad edition brought the diverse clean energy strengths and investment opportunities of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu into the national spotlight.

The three southern States represent important and complementary strengths in India's clean energy transition, spanning renewable energy deployment, technology, manufacturing, industrial development, infrastructure, innovation and investment. With progressive policies and a growing pipeline of clean energy projects and opportunities, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu are well positioned to contribute to the next phase of India's renewable energy growth. Hosted by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), the roadshow brought together leaders from the Governments of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu, the Sustainable Projects Developers Association (SPDA) and the Indian Solar Manufacturers Association (ISMA).

Bharat Renewable Energy Summit & Expo 2026 will be held alongside the 9th Session of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Assembly and the 4th International Conference on Green Hydrogen (ICGH), bringing together global leaders, policymakers, industry, investors and innovators on a common platform.

Shri Ravi Verma, Member-Governing Council, Sustainable Projects Developers Association gave the welcome remarks and set the context for the Roadshow.

Strengthening Industry Collaboration,



The Hyderabad roadshow featured a comprehensive programme aimed at driving stakeholder engagement and showcasing the strategic blueprint of BRE Summit 2026. The proceedings included the screening of two curated films, India's Renewable Energy Journey and BRE Summit & Expo 2026, capturing the nation's clean energy transition and unveiling the scale of the upcoming summit in New Delhi.

A presentation by a senior representative from MNRE outlined the strategic objectives, core themes and proposed participation framework for global and domestic players. This was followed by a dedicated session on business opportunities and commercial engagement models for OEMs, project developers and investors, alongside a live walkthrough and demonstration of the official BRE Summit digital portal and mobile application.

Shri Kamalakar Babu Merupu, VC and MD, New & Renewable Energy Development Corporation of Andhra Pradesh Ltd. (NREDCAP), highlighted Andhra Pradesh's ambitious clean energy roadmap under the Andhra Pradesh Integrated Clean Energy Policy 2024, targeting 160 GW of renewable energy additions by 2029. He



outlined the State's strong investment proposition, with projects across renewable energy, storage, green hydrogen, biofuels and clean-energy manufacturing, and Renewable Energy Manufacturing Zone (REMZ), positioning Andhra Pradesh as a major destination for clean-energy investment. He also expressed the State's interest in actively participating in the Bharat Renewable Energy Summit & Expo 2026 to showcase its clean-energy opportunities and engage with investors and industry stakeholders.

Smt. B Rajeswari, Director (Finance), Tamil Nadu Green Energy Corporation Limited, highlighted Tamil Nadu's long-standing leadership in renewable energy, particularly in wind and solar, and outlined the State's plans to strengthen its integrated renewable-energy ecosystem. She emphasised the growing importance of energy storage and pumped-storage projects in integrating renewable generation and meeting peak power requirements, while also highlighting the State's efforts to create a more investor-friendly environment through streamlined and online approval processes.

Shri Musharraf Ali Faruqui, Vice Chair-

man and Managing Director, Telangana Renewable Energy Development Corporation Limited (TGREDCO), highlighted Telangana's growing renewable energy ambitions, supported by the Clean and Green Energy Policy 2025, which provides incentives for renewable energy generation and clean-energy manufacturing. He emphasised the State's vision of meeting its rapidly growing energy requirements through clean energy and reaffirmed Telangana's commitment to actively participate in the Bharat Renewable Energy Summit & Expo 2026, while inviting investors, manufacturers and industry to explore opportunities in the State.

Addressing the gathering at the Hyderabad Roadshow, Shri Anupam Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), said that India's renewable-energy story has entered a new phase, with installed non-fossil fuel capacity crossing 300 GW and the country moving towards its ambitious target of 500 GW by 2030. He emphasized that the next phase of the transition will go beyond adding renewable generation capacity and focus on building an integrated, reliable and flexible clean-energy ecosystem encompassing

transmission, energy storage, manufacturing, green hydrogen, digital technologies, flexible power and demand. He noted that renewable energy is no longer only an environmental imperative, but has become central to India's energy security, economic competitiveness, industrial growth, technology development, investment and job creation. Highlighting the strengths of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu in technology, engineering, manufacturing, research and entrepreneurship, he said the three States have the opportunity to emerge not merely as consumers of clean-energy technologies, but as producers, innovators, investors and technology partners in India's energy transition. He pointed to the growing opportunities across solar manufacturing, power electronics, battery and other storage technologies, electrolyzers, green hydrogen and its derivatives, grid technologies, digital energy-management systems, AI-based forecasting, electric mobility, bioenergy and advanced materials.

He invited the three States to use the Bharat Renewable Energy Summit & Expo 2026 as a platform to showcase their renewable-energy roadmaps, investment opportunities, green-hydrogen and storage plans, industrial capabilities and innovation ecosystems to a global audience. He emphasized that BRE Summit 2026 is envisioned as a platform where policy meets capital, capital meets projects, technology meets markets, and States meet investors, with a clear focus on moving from commitments to implementation and accelerating India's clean-energy transition in line with the vision of Viksit Bharat. Concluding the formal proceedings, Shri Amit Manohar, Secretary General, Indian Solar Manufacturers Association (ISMA), delivered the Vote of Thanks, reaffirming the solar manufacturing community's commitment to driving the summit's collaborative vision forward.

Roadshow Series and Nationwide Outreach: The Hyderabad edition marks the third successful stop in a nationwide out-

reach campaign designed to mobilise regional momentum ahead of November. Following the inaugural roadshow in Jaipur on 24th August and the Mumbai edition on 27th August, upcoming roadshows are scheduled to take place in Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Bengaluru and Kolkata in the coming weeks. The Ministry and organising partners invite all state governments, utilities and industry stakeholders to actively engage with these upcoming regional sessions.

About Bharat Renewable Energy Summit & Expo (BRE Summit) 2026:

The Bharat Renewable Energy Summit & Expo (BRE SUMMIT) 2026, one of the world's largest renewable energy expos, is the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy's flagship global platform for advancing clean energy collaboration and investment. Guided by the theme "Invest. Innovate. Inspire.", the summit will be held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, from 2-5 November 2026, bringing together Governments, policymakers, industry leaders, investors, innovators, researchers, multilateral organisations and international institutions to accelerate the global clean energy transition. Building on the legacy of RE-INVEST, BRE SUMMIT 2026 expands its scope beyond investments to encompass policy, technology, manufacturing, innovation, international cooperation and strategic partnerships. The event will be held alongside the 9th Session of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Assembly and the 4th International Conference on Green Hydrogen (ICGH), highlighting India's leadership in renewable energy, global solar cooperation and the emerging green hydrogen ecosystem. The summit is expected to attract participants from 75+ countries, including 20+ state governments and 250+ high-level delegates, and feature 80+ curated sessions and 500+ speakers, alongside green hydrogen networking, international solar cooperation, a mega expo with 400+ exhibitors, and 25+ knowledge partners.

STAR Hospitals Hosts 'STAR Synapse 2026'

HYDERABAD, AUG 31

STAR Hospitals, Hyderabad, hosted STAR Synapse 2026 – Practical AI for the Modern Clinician, a one-day immersive workshop designed to help doctors and healthcare professionals move beyond the hype around Artificial Intelligence (AI) and understand how it can be practically and responsibly integrated into everyday clinical practice.

Held at STAR Hospitals, Nanakramguda, the workshop brought together clinicians and healthcare professionals for a hands-on learning experience focused on the real-world applications of AI across clinical, academic and operational workflows.

Unlike conventional technology conferences that focus largely on presentations and demonstrations, STAR Synapse was designed around a simple objective: to ensure that clinicians do not merely hear about AI, but actually learn to use it. Participants worked hands-on with AI tools and workflows that can be applied immediately in their professional practice.

The workshop covered a wide range of applications, including AI-assisted clinical documentation and discharge summaries, literature review and evi-



dence discovery, clinical decision support, simulation-based medical education, creation of study aids, patient education and healthcare communication, as well as building customised AI chatbots, calculators and dashboards without coding.

A key focus of the programme was also on the responsible use of AI in healthcare. Clinicians were introduced to practical techniques for improving AI outputs, identifying hallucinations and factual inaccuracies, and understanding where AI can augment clinical thinking - and where human clinical judgement

must remain central.

Speaking about the initiative, Dr. Gopichand Mannam, Chairman & Founding Promoter, STAR Hospitals Hyderabad, said, "AI is rapidly becoming an important part of the healthcare ecosystem, but its true value will come from how effectively and responsibly clinicians can use it. At STAR Hospitals, we believe technology should strengthen clinical expertise rather than replace it. STAR Synapse is an effort to bridge that gap by giving clinicians the confidence and practical skills to use AI meaningfully in their everyday work."

"AI has the potential to fundamentally change how clinicians learn, research and manage information. But the real value lies in knowing how to use these tools effectively and critically. At STAR Synapse, we are focusing on practical applications that can save clinicians time, simplify complex information and enhance continuous learning. The aim is not to make doctors dependent on AI, but to empower them to use it as an intelligent assistant while keeping clinical judgement firmly at the centre," said Dr. Rahul Katta, Senior Consultant and Group Lead – Emergency Medicine, STAR Hospitals, Hyderabad.

Singareni Invited to Enter Critical Minerals Sector in Australia



Singareni Bhavan, August 31: Monash University, one of Australia's leading research institutions, has invited Singareni to explore opportunities for collaboration in Australia, a country endowed with abundant critical mineral resources.

A delegation from Monash University met Singareni Chairman and Managing Director Dr. Buddaprakash Jyoti at Singareni Bhavan in Hyderabad on Monday evening and briefed him on the opportunities available in Australia's critical minerals sector. The delegation stated that Australia is keen to encourage partnerships with international organisations in the critical minerals sector and invited Singareni, with its extensive experience in mining, to explore a mutually beneficial partnership.

The delegation observed that there is growing global demand for critical minerals and stated that Monash University is prepared to provide technical expertise in advanced technologies, environmentally sustainable mining practices and commercially viable strategic business initiatives in this sector.

The delegation also highlighted Monash University's expertise in research, education, industry collaboration and transforming research outcomes into commercially viable technological solutions. It stated that the university has been working with industries and research institutions across the world in various sectors.

The meeting primarily focused on the growing global importance of critical minerals and the opportunities available in their exploration, extraction, processing and refining, as well as the manufacture of value-added products. The Monash University delegation also explained the potential for creating additional value through

downstream processing and refining rather than limiting operations to the extraction of raw minerals.

The delegation suggested that Singareni could utilise Monash University's expertise in areas such as sustainable mining, environmentally friendly practices, mine closure planning, advanced technologies and the development of skilled human resources.

On the occasion, Singareni officials made a PowerPoint presentation to the Monash University delegation explaining the company's initiatives to enter the critical minerals sector. They also informed the delegation that Singareni had recently commenced exploration for gold and copper deposits in Karnataka.

Singareni CMD Dr. Buddaprakash Jyoti said that the company is examining opportunities across the world to establish mutually beneficial partnerships in the critical minerals sector. He said that possibilities for future cooperation between Singareni and Monash University would be explored in areas such as research, advanced technology, critical minerals and skill development. He further stated that a high-level team of Singareni officials would soon be sent to Australia to explore the opportunities available there.

The meeting was attended from Singareni Bhavan by Director (Personnel & Finance) Sri. Gowtham Potru and GM (Coordination & Marketing) Sri. T. Srinivas. From the Kothagudem Corporate Office, Director (Operations) Sri. L.V. Suryanarayana, Director (PP) Sri. K. Venkateshwarlu, GM (BD) Sri. Ramdas and GM (Exploration) Sri. Pankaj Kulshreshtha participated. Monash University Professor Yiannis Ventikos and other members of the delegation were also present.

Nayraa Brings Rare Gemstones to Hyderabad

HYDERABAD, August 31, 2026: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the world's fourth-largest jewellery retailer and 'The Responsible Jeweller', has unveiled Nayraa, a new natural gemstone jewellery collection featuring actor and model Srinidhi Shetty. The launch is part of the Gemstone Jewellery Festival, being celebrated across Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. Customers can avail of up to 25% off on making charges on gemstone and uncut jewellery until September 14, 2026.

M. P. Ahammad, Chairman, Malabar Group, said, "With Nayraa, we wanted to present natural gemstones through a renewed focus on design and craftsmanship while retaining the artistry and character that make gemstone jewellery distinctive."



LIC Celebrates 70 years of Trust

Mumbai, August 31: The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), the country's leading life insurer and a financial institution of national significance, is proudly celebrating its 70th Anniversary on 1st September 2026. From its establishment on 1st September, 1956, with the objective of spreading life insurance widely across the country and providing financial protection at a reasonable cost, LIC has completed seven decades of a remarkable journey built on trust, service, financial strength and an unwavering commitment to the people of India.

LIC continues to sustain its Leadership position in the market with 65.16% market share in policies and 56.66% market share in

First Year Premium Income in the financial year 2025-26. Total AUM increased by 5.08% to ₹ 57.29 Lakh Crore.

Despite the opening of the insurance sector to private participation, LIC has retained its position as India's largest life insurer, supported by its extensive network of branches, agents and digital platforms. It offers a wide range of life insurance, pension and market-linked products to meet the diverse financial needs of individuals and families. A major milestone in LIC's journey was its IPO in May 2022, followed by its listing on the NSE and BSE. Since then, the Corporation has continued to focus on corporate governance, transparency, digital transformation

and customer service, while consolidating its leadership in the Indian life insurance industry.

As LIC commemorates its 70th Anniversary, it acknowledges with gratitude the enduring confidence and support of its policyholders, shareholders, employees, agents and other stakeholders. Guided by the ethos of "Yogakshemam Vahamyaham – Your welfare is our responsibility," LIC remains steadfast in its commitment to protecting lives, strengthening financial security and serving the evolving needs of its customers. With this enduring legacy as its foundation, LIC looks ahead with renewed purpose to a future of continued service and growth.





The Sea of Sameness

Why Your Suitcase Color Could Ruin Your Travel Plans

For most travelers, choosing luggage is a relatively simple decision. Size, weight, durability, wheels, storage capacity and price usually dominate the shopping process. Color tends to be an afterthought, selected according to personal taste or fashion rather than practical considerations. Yet in the increasingly complex world of global air travel, that seemingly harmless choice can have consequences. At a busy airport baggage carousel, hundreds of suitcases can emerge within a matter of minutes. Many of them look remarkably similar, particularly when travelers overwhelmingly choose black, dark blue, grey or charcoal luggage. When bags are nearly identical, identifying the right suitcase becomes more difficult for passengers and, in certain circumstances, for airport baggage personnel as well. A delayed or misplaced suitcase can turn an otherwise enjoyable journey into a stressful experience. Business travelers may suddenly be without essential clothing or equipment, while families on holiday can find themselves searching for children's belongings, toiletries and other necessities. Although baggage problems can occur for many reasons, visual identification is one factor travelers can control. The simple act of choosing a distinctive suitcase—or adding unmistakable visual markers to an existing one—can therefore make baggage identification easier. Color is not a guarantee against loss, but it can provide an important first layer of protection in the crowded and highly automated airport environment.

The Ubiquitous Dominance of Black Luggage

Black has long been the default color of the global luggage market. Walk through almost any airport and the reason becomes immediately obvious: black suitcases are everywhere. From inexpensive soft-sided bags to premium hard-shell cases, the color dominates baggage carousels around the world. The appeal is understandable. Black luggage has a professional appearance, works with almost every style of clothing and tends to hide scratches, stains and marks acquired during travel. Frequent travelers may also prefer it because it looks understated and

remains visually appealing after years of use.

The very popularity that makes black luggage attractive, however, can also make it difficult to distinguish. When an airport carousel begins delivering dozens of similar black cases, travelers have to rely on small differences such as wheel design, handles, logos or luggage tags.

his becomes particularly challenging when several passengers own bags from the same major luggage brands. A suitcase that looks distinctive in a showroom can appear almost identical to dozens of others under the artificial lighting of a crowded baggage hall.

The problem is not necessarily that black luggage is more likely to be physically lost. Rather, its visual similarity to other bags can increase the possibility of accidental confusion or make a misplaced bag harder to identify.

When the Wrong Bag Becomes an Accidental Theft

One of the most frustrating baggage incidents is the accidental bag swap. Unlike conventional theft, this situation can occur without criminal intent.

After a long flight, passengers are often tired, distracted and eager to leave the airport. At a crowded baggage carousel, a traveler may see a black suitcase that appears identical to their own, lift it from the belt and leave without checking the luggage tag.

The mistake may not become obvious until the passenger reaches a hotel, home or connecting terminal. By then, the rightful owner may already be waiting at the airport for a suitcase that has disappeared from the carousel.

Resolving such incidents can be surprisingly complicated. Airlines may have to contact the passenger who mistakenly collected the bag, arrange its return and coordinate with the original owner. Meanwhile, the traveler without their luggage may have to wait without access to clothing, toiletries, work equipment or other essential belongings.

A highly distinctive suitcase can dramatically reduce the likelihood of this kind of confusion because its appearance is immediately recognizable.

The Dark Neutral Trap

Black is not the only color that can disappear into the visual background of a baggage carousel. Dark navy, charcoal, slate grey and deep brown can create similar identification

challenges.

These colors are often marketed as sophisticated alternatives to traditional black. They retain a conservative appearance while offering a slight variation in style. However, the difference may be difficult to see in airport conditions.

Baggage halls are not fashion showrooms. Lighting can be harsh, uneven or relatively dim, and bags may arrive covered in dust or surrounded by dozens of other suitcases. Under these circumstances, the subtle difference between black and dark navy can become almost impossible to notice. A traveler searching for a navy suitcase may instinctively reach for the first dark blue or black bag that appears to match. If several passengers have chosen similar luggage, the potential for confusion increases.

The lesson is not that dark luggage should never be purchased. Rather, travelers who prefer dark colors should consider adding a strong identifying feature that remains visible from a distance.

Why Bright Colors Have a Practical Advantage

Bright luggage colors offer an immediate visual advantage. Yellow, orange, turquoise, bright green, magenta and other high-contrast shades tend to stand out against the predominantly dark luggage found on many airport carousels.

A brightly colored suitcase can often be recognized before it reaches the traveler. Instead of scanning every black case as it passes, the passenger can watch for a distinctive color appearing among the crowd.

The benefit is particularly noticeable when travelers are collecting luggage from a busy carousel with limited visibility. A suitcase that stands out can reduce the amount of time

The Hidden Challenge Inside Airport Sorting Systems

The problem of visual similarity extends beyond the passenger baggage hall. Modern airports operate enormous baggage-handling systems designed to move luggage quickly from check-in counters to aircraft and eventually to the correct arrival carousel.

Automated systems rely heavily on barcode and tracking information to route bags. However, baggage operations can encounter exceptions. Tags can become damaged, scanning can fail or luggage can be separated from its intended route because of tight connections, flight disruptions or operational problems.

When baggage personnel need to locate a missing item manually, physical descriptions can become important. A description such as "medium black hard-shell suitcase" provides relatively little information when a storage area contains hundreds of similar bags.

By contrast, a description such as "bright orange hard-shell suitcase with a large blue strap" gives search teams a much stronger visual reference.

This is why distinctive visual identification can be useful even when sophisticated tracking systems are in place. Technology can identify where a bag was last scanned, while visual characteristics can help humans recognize the physical item.

spent searching and make it less likely that another passenger will accidentally pick it up.

Travelers who dislike extremely bright colors do not have to choose fluorescent luggage. Cobalt blue, terracotta, pastel pink, light olive, cream and other distinctive shades can provide a useful compromise between style and visibility.

The goal is simple: create enough visual difference that the suitcase can be recognized quickly.

Retrofitting a Black Suitcase

Replacing luggage is not necessary for travelers who already own expensive black or dark-colored suitcases. Existing luggage can be made much easier to identify with a few prominent visual modifications.

A brightly colored luggage strap is one of the simplest

remain important because they provide contact information, but they are primarily useful once someone has possession of the bag. A large visual marker serves a different purpose: it helps the owner identify the suitcase before picking it up and helps distinguish it from similar bags.

A combination of a distinctive color and a bold accessory can turn an otherwise generic suitcase into something immediately recognizable.

The Importance of the Baggage Tag

While visual personalization and tracking technology are increasingly useful, the conventional luggage tag remains essential.

A clearly written or printed identification tag should contain reliable contact information. Travelers may also consider placing their contact details inside the suitcase in

method.

The Psychology of Recognition

There is also a psychological reason distinctive luggage works so well. Human beings are exceptionally good at recognizing strong visual patterns. A bright orange suitcase with a contrasting strap creates a much stronger mental image than a standard black suitcase. When a traveler is tired after a long journey, that visual memory can make identification almost automatic. The same principle applies to airport staff. If a missing suitcase has a distinctive appearance, describing it becomes easier and searching for it can potentially become more efficient. This does not mean color alone determines whether luggage is lost or recovered. Airline systems, baggage tags, routing information and operational circumstances remain

Turning Luggage Into an Identifier

The humble suitcase is no longer merely a container for clothes and travel essentials. In an era of crowded airports, automated baggage systems and increasingly similar consumer products, its appearance can serve as a practical identifier.

For travelers buying new luggage, choosing a color that stands apart from the dominant black, navy and grey landscape may be one of the simplest decisions they can make. For those

who already own dark luggage, a bright strap, colorful handle cover or distinctive pattern can accomplish much the same thing.

Ultimately, the smartest luggage strategy is not about choosing the most fashionable color. It is about making your suitcase unmistakably yours. In a global travel system where thousands of bags can look almost identical, standing out may be more than an aesthetic choice. It can be a small but valuable piece of travel preparedness—one that could save time, reduce confusion and make a stressful baggage problem considerably easier to resolve.

solutions. A strap wrapped around the suitcase creates a strong visual signature that can be identified quickly from a distance. Patterned straps can be even more distinctive.

Other options include colorful handle covers, reflective tape, large stickers, ribbons or personalized luggage accessories. The key is to avoid relying entirely on a tiny identification tag. Traditional luggage tags

case the exterior tag becomes detached during handling.

However, personal information should be shared thoughtfully. There is generally little reason to display unnecessary sensitive information publicly on the outside of luggage.

The best approach is to combine conventional identification with distinctive visual features and technology rather than depending on any single

far more important factors in baggage handling. But visual distinctiveness can make the human side of the process easier.

A Smarter Travel Strategy

Modern air travel is built around speed and automation. Bags are scanned, sorted, transported and delivered through a complex network involving airlines, airports and ground-handling companies.

Yet despite all this technology, the final step often remains remarkably simple: a tired traveler standing beside a carousel and looking for one particular suitcase among dozens.

That is where the "sea of sameness" becomes a problem.

Choosing a distinctive luggage color, adding a highly visible strap or marker, photographing the suitcase before departure and using a compatible tracking device can create several layers of identification. None of these measures can guarantee that luggage will never be delayed or misplaced, but together they can make a traveler's belongings easier to recognize and potentially easier to recover.





FOOTBALL

Liverpool confirm signing of Barcola from PSG; Man City rope in Allan



NEW DELHI: As the transfer window nears its end, Liverpool have made a big-money signing of Bradley Barcola from Paris Saint-Germain, while Manchester City have signed Allan Elias from Palmeiras. Liverpool have bought the French international Barcola in a deal worth up to GBP 123mn, with GBP 106mn guaranteed and the remainder potential add-ons. "The French forward put pen to paper on a long-term contract with the Reds at the AXA Training Centre after passing a medical and finalising the transfer," Liverpool said in a statement. The winger has agreed to a five-year deal at Anfield and will wear the No.29 jersey for the Reds, aiming to add pace and versatility to the attack.

China Masters

Lakshya faces world champion Lanier as Indian challenge begins



SHENZHEN: Lakshya Sen will face newly-crowned world champion Alex Lanier in a blockbuster opening-round clash as a strong Indian contingent begins its campaign at the China Masters 2026, a BWF Super 750 tournament, at the Shenzhen Sports Centre Gymnasium from September 1 to 6. The world No. 13 Indian will have a demanding start against France's Lanier, who arrives in Shenzhen fresh from his historic triumph at the BWF World Championships in New Delhi, where he became the first Frenchman to claim the men's singles world title. The two players have met once previously, with Lanier emerging victorious in straight games in the quarter-finals of last year's Denmark Open.

FROM TELANGANA TO THE WORLD STAGE

SATG VC & MD Smt. Sonibala Devi and Chairman Sri Shiva Sena Reddy Sana Reddy Appreciate Pranav's International Performance

HYDERABAD

Telangana's promising short track speed skater and national gold medallist Pranav Madav Surapaneni met the Sports Authority of Telangana (SATG) Vice Chairman & Managing Director Smt. Sonibala Devi, IFS, and SATG Chairman Sri Shiva Sena Reddy at the SATG office in Hyderabad today. Pranav recently delivered an impressive performance at the Asian Short Track Championship 2026, securing one silver and two bronze medals, adding another major international achievement to his growing sporting career. He has also established himself as a leading Indian short track skater by winning gold medals in multiple categories at the National Championships.

During the meeting, the SATG leadership congratulated and appreciated Pranav for his podium finishes at the Asian Championship and his continued achievements at the national and international levels. They also appreciated his commitment to representing Telangana and India in the international arena.

Pranav informed the SATG leadership about his upcoming international competitions, training requirements and long-term sporting goals. Significantly, Pranav is among the Indian skaters who have achieved the qualifying standard for the Senior World Tour, which forms an important part of the international pathway towards the 2030 Winter Olympic qualification.

Smt. Sonibala Devi enquired in detail about Pranav's coaching programme, training schedule, international exposure,



practice facilities, upcoming competitions and overall requirements for continuing his international career. She also sought details regarding the support required for his high-level training and participation in international events.

The SATG VC & MD assured Pranav and his family that his case would be considered for financial assistance under the new Telangana Sports Policy, subject to the applicable policy provisions and procedures. SATG Chairman Sri Shiva Sena Reddy also appreciated Pranav's achievements and encouraged him to continue his hard work towards achieving higher international goals.

The Chairman further assured that the case would be taken forward for providing financial support under the new sports policy, with the objective of encouraging talented athletes from Telangana who are bringing recognition to the State and the country.

Pranav expressed his gratitude to the SATG leadership for their positive response and encouragement. He also thanked the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Telangana, Sri A. Revanth Reddy, for his vision and leadership in strengthening sports development in Telangana and for promoting a sports-friendly environment under the new Telangana Sports Policy.

Pranav's achievements and the support extended by the State sports authorities are expected to provide further encouragement to young athletes across Telangana to pursue excellence at national and international levels. With continued international training and competition exposure, Pranav Madav Surapaneni is aiming to establish himself among India's leading short track speed skaters and pursue the dream of representing India at the 2030 Winter Olympics.

'I remain committed to my team,' says Deepti after becoming leading wicket-taker

NEW DELHI



India all-rounder Deepti Sharma reflected on an emotional record-breaking outing in the Women's Asia Cup 2026 opener against Thailand, saying she remains determined to continue contributing to the team after becoming the leading wicket-taker in Women's T20I cricket.

Deepti entered the match in Dubai level with Thailand's Thipatcha Putthawong on 170 wickets and needed just one dismissal to claim the record outright. The milestone came in spectacular fashion as the off-spinner returned extraordinary figures of 3/0 in 1.1 overs, taking three wickets without conceding a run to move her career tally to 171. Sharing her thoughts after the historic achievement, Deepti wrote on X, "Yesterday was a day which filled me with emotion and gratitude. Some achievements make you feel how lucky you are to do what you love the most. I remain committed to my team and fans to play with the same ex-

citement and winning more matches and trophies for my country," Deepti wrote on X. The record came in Deepti's 150th T20I appearance, making the occasion even more memorable for the Indian all-rounder. She became only the third Indian woman to reach the 150-match milestone in the format after Harmanpreet Kaur and Smriti Mandhana. Deepti's landmark spell played a key role as India began their Asia Cup campaign with a commanding 94-run victory. India posted 159/9 after being asked to bat, with Shafali Verma top-scoring with 64.

Thailand were then bowled out for 65 in 16.1 overs, with Deepti and Nandani Sharma taking three wickets each. Nannapat Koncharoenkai provided the lone major resistance for Thailand with 41. For Deepti, the opening match delivered both a historic individual milestone and a winning start to India's title defence as she added another chapter to her already remarkable international career.

ALLOCATE LAND IN FUTURE CITY FOR STADIUM CONSTRUCTION TO TCA

Urges Former SAT Chairman Allipuram Venkateshwar Reddy

"The move will ensure justice for Telangana's rural cricketers"

HYDERABAD

Former Sports Authority of Telangana (SAT) Chairman Allipuram Venkateshwar Reddy has welcomed the Telangana government's proposal to construct an international cricket stadium spread across 100 acres in Future City. However, he urged the state government to allocate the proposed land to the Telangana Cricket Association (TCA) instead of the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA), stating that the decision should primarily serve the interests of cricketers from

rural Telangana. Venkateshwar Reddy said that HCA has historically remained focused on Hyderabad and pointed out that, despite its nearly 90-year history, not a single stadium has been constructed in the districts with the association's own funds. He said the lack of proper cricket infrastructure in rural areas has deprived several talented players of opportunities to develop their skills and represent Telangana at higher levels.

He expressed concern that allocating land to HCA once again, similar to the earlier allocation for the Uppal Stadium, could create scope for irregularities and misuse. He pointed out that several cases relating to alleged irregularities in



the construction of the Uppal Stadium during the period between 2004 and 2009 are still pending before the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB).

"In view of the pending ACB cases, the state government should refrain from making any fresh land allocations to HCA until the matters are resolved," he said.

Venkateshwar Reddy appealed to the government to keep the long-term future of rural cricketers in mind and allocate the land for the proposed international stadium to TCA. He said such a facility would provide a much-needed platform for talented young cricketers from across Telangana and help strengthen cricket infrastructure beyond Hyderabad.

He further stated that there

are orders of the Bombay High Court and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** concerning consultation with TCA for cricket-related activities in Telangana outside Hyderabad. In this context, he urged the state government to consult TCA secretary Gurava Reddy and his apex council while taking forward the proposed stadium project in Future City.

Venkateshwar Reddy also clarified that the issue concerning BCCI recognition for TCA is currently sub judice and expressed confidence that clarity on the matter would emerge soon.

He reiterated that the proposed stadium should become a centre for developing cricket talent across Telangana and provide equal opportunities and world-class infrastructure to players from rural and under-served regions of the state.

Mahamaya and Visva Bharati School won the 15th Inter School Cross Country Championship



NOIDA

On the occasion of National Sports Day, the 15th Inter School Cross Country Championship was organised at the Noida Stadium on Monday. Around 400 players from 32 schools in Delhi-NCR participated in the competition organised by the Society for Sports and Cultural Advancement (SSCA). Aryavrit Kashyap of Visva Bharati Public School was the champion for the third consecutive

year in the children's category of the competition. While in the girls category, Mohini of Mahamaya Girls Inter College became the champion. Additional DCP Manisha Singh honoured all the winning children and schools by giving prizes. The race of the boy category was 5 km, in which Aryavrit Kashyap of Vishwa Bharati School came first. Aditya Pal of Gautam Buddha Balak Inter College stood second and Tarbinder third. While in the two and a

half kilometre race of the girls category, Mahamaya Girls Inter College was one-sided. Mahamaya occupied the top-3 places. School player Mohini was awarded gold, Samridhi silver and Tannu bronze. Medals, track suits and sports shoes were awarded to the top-3 in both categories. Apart from this, Aryavarta Kashyap and Mohini were also awarded the Bhajanlal Shastri Memorial Trophy and a cash prize of Rs 1100-1100. The rest of the players in the

top-10 were honoured with medals and certificates. The team of Mahamaya Girls Inter College became the champions by scoring the lowest 21 points in the girls category of the competition. He was awarded the winner's trophy. The second-placed trophy in this category was won by Savitri Bai Phule Inter College with 83 points. While the team of Visva Bharati Public School Noida and Cambridge School Greater Noida jointly won the

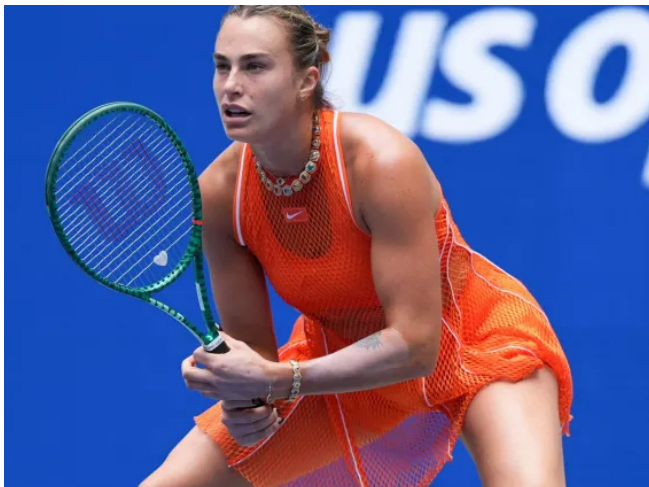
third place trophy with 157-157 marks.

In the boys category, the team of Visva Bharati Public School Noida managed to capture the title with 58 points. Panchsheel Balak Inter College won the runner-up trophy by scoring 60 points. While the team of Gautam Buddha Balak Inter College won the third trophy with 70 points. The judges in the competition were played by KK Rawat, Sudhir Rana and Purushottam.

The guests and players in the competition were welcomed by SSCA President Subhash Agarwal. At the same time, the convener Vimallesh Sharma thanked the guests. The entire competition was organised by Ashok Saini as Sports In-charge and Vice President. Society treasurer Narendra Kuchhal, members Professor Mirza Ali Baig, Rachna Yadav, Kanchan Srivastava, Doctor Shweta Tyagi, Dinesh Bhardwaj, Vijay Anand Bhatt, Devendra Kumar, Ram Avtar Shastri, Ankita Singh, coaches of various schools, parents, success for life and volunteers of Kanchan School were present in the ceremony.

US Open: Sabalenka begins title defence with straight-sets win

NEW YORK



Defending champion Aryna Sabalenka overcame an inconsistent start and some tense moments to launch her US Open title defence with a 6-2, 6-4 victory over Colombia's Camila Osorio in the opening round at Flushing Meadows.

The World No. 1 needed one hour and 27 minutes to extend her impressive record in New York, registering her 14th consecutive victory at the US Open and her 24th straight first-round win at a Grand Slam.

Sabalenka entered the tournament under considerable pressure following a difficult stretch on the WTA Tour. The Belarusian has not reached a final since completing the Sunshine Double in March, while a series of losses from winning positions had raised questions over her recent form. Her position at the top of the rankings is also at stake during the fortnight, with Sabalenka needing to defend her title to guarantee retaining the World No. 1 spot.

Against Osorio, however, the defending champion produced enough of her trademark power to negotiate a potentially awkward opening assignment. Sabalenka struck 32 winners, although her performance also included 23

unforced errors and four double faults. The contest began with three successive breaks of serve, with Osorio struggling particularly on her delivery. The Colombian committed five double faults across her opening two service games, allowing Sabalenka to establish control of the first set.

The second set proved considerably more competitive. Sabalenka secured an early break but immediately surrendered the advantage as Osorio grew increasingly confident. The World No. 59 mixed her game effectively, using approaches to the net, drop shots and a well-executed lob to trouble the top seed. Osorio had two break points at 3-2

that could have given her a significant advantage, but Sabalenka responded when it mattered most, saving both opportunities before holding serve. With the score locked at 4-4, Osorio's ninth double fault of the match proved costly.

Sabalenka capitalised to earn the decisive break and then served out the contest, sealing victory with a service winner on her second match point. Sabalenka will next face 22-year-old qualifier Polina Iatcenko, who claimed her first Grand Slam main-draw victory after a remarkable 4-6, 6-4, 7-6[7] win over Renata Zarazua that lasted three hours and 27 minutes.

Kaala Bhairava-Kavya Make It Official

Actress Kavya Kalyanram has officially confirmed her relationship with singer and composer Kaala Bhairava, elder son of veteran music director MM Keeravani and nephew of ace director SS Rajamouli. After months of speculation, Kavya took to social media today, August 31, to share a special relationship update. Sharing a picture, she wrote, "Life update: I found My Yellow Paper Daisy." In the post, Kavya expressed her happiness and gratitude towards Bhairava. She wrote that some people enter our lives and make us feel like "God's favourite child", adding that when the right person comes along, "rose-tinted glasses are not such a bad thing." She further thanked Bhairava for "lighting up my most mundane days" and making her feel like the "luckiest girl ever." Kavya also ended the post on a playful note, saying she wants many more years of him knowing that she wants Diet Coke even after she said no. Rumours about Kavya and Kaala Bhairava had been doing the rounds for some time. Speculation grew stronger earlier this year after the two were spotted together at public events, including a book launch in Hyderabad. With Kavya's latest post, the actress has now put an end to the speculation and made their relationship public. The announcement has also drawn attention from fans and the Telugu film industry, with many extending their wishes to the couple.



Janhvi Kapoor Takes NYC

Janhvi Kapoor, who is riding high on the success of Peddi in Tollywood, is currently soaking up quality time in New York City with sister Khushi Kapoor and friends. The actress shared a string of pictures from her Manhattan getaway, and each look is more stylish than the last. From a white crochet mini dress paired with a blue sling bag while crossing a busy Manhattan street, to a printed cami top and baggy denims at a pink-toned ice cream shop, Janhvi's off-duty wardrobe is effortlessly cool. She also shared a cosy mirror selfie in a pink button-down top paired with dark denims, and a candid museum moment in a lace-trimmed satin slip dress standing beside Van Gogh's Starry Night. The relaxed, laid-back styling throughout the trip shows Janhvi enjoying some downtime away from the cameras with her sister. Meanwhile, buzz continues around Janhvi's upcoming projects. Reports suggest she may be attached to Allu Arjun's upcoming film Raaka, which is said to be in the works. Fans are eagerly awaiting official confirmation.

Ruhani Sharma Takes Sultry Avatar To Next Level

Ruhani Sharma knows how to make a photoshoot stand out, and her latest pictures are a perfect example. Dressed in an elegant white outfit, she strikes a relaxed pose on a rustic wooden platform, creating an effortlessly sensual frame. Her slightly tilted head, soft expression and laid-back posture add to the appeal, while her flowing outfit brings movement and grace to the shot. The natural light streaming through the windows further enhances the intimate, dreamy mood of the pictures. While her photoshoots continue to grab attention, her work front currently appears relatively quiet. She does not have a major Telugu release creating much buzz at the moment, with her upcoming Telugu project Alcohol being one of the projects associated with her current lineup. For now, it is her striking fashion and glamour appearances that are keeping her in the spotlight.

KAAKA: KVN's Big Hope?



KVN Productions has made a rapid entry into the South Indian film industry with some of the biggest stars and ambitious projects. From Yash's Toxic to Vijay's Jana Nayagan, the production house managed to secure films that created massive expectations across multiple industries. However, the journey has not gone as planned. Dhruva Sarja's KD The Devil failed to make the expected impact at the box office, while Jana Nayagan faced a prolonged delay due to censor related issues. Despite Vijay's strong following helping the film, it reportedly ended up as a costly affair for the producer. Toxic was expected to change the fortunes of KVN Productions, especially after its huge pre release buzz. The film opened strongly on the first day riding on Yash's popularity, but the negative response affected its run badly. The film eventually became another setback for the production house. Though KVN Productions has several projects lined up across different industries, the recent results have put the spotlight on its upcoming ventures. The production house still has some major combinations in the pipeline, but expectations are now particularly high on the Chiranjeevi and Bobby collaboration. The Chiranjeevi starrer, popularly referred to as Kaaka, is expected to arrive during the Sankranti season. The combination of Chiranjeevi and Bobby carries considerable expectations, while the Sankranti release window could also work strongly in favour of the film. Despite having other big projects in the pipeline, Kaaka appears to have the potential to provide the biggest relief to KVN Productions at this stage. If the film clicks with the audience and delivers a strong theatrical run, it could give the production house the much needed boost after a series of setbacks.

Telugu Love Gives Me Strength: Dulquer

Actor Dulquer Salmaan, who enjoys a strong fan base among Telugu audiences, is gearing up for the release of his upcoming fantasy thriller 'I'm Game', directed by Nahaas Hidayath. The film features Antony Varghese, Mysskin and actress Kayadu Lohar in key roles. Having completed its shoot, the movie is scheduled to hit theatres on **September 3**. Ahead of the release, the film's team interacted with students at a promotional event held at a college in Hyderabad. During the interaction, Dulquer opened up about his journey with the Telugu language, his experience working on "Mahanati", and the valuable lessons he learned from his father, veteran actor Mammootty. Recalling his early days, Dulquer said, "During my school days, I didn't know Telugu at all. I knew Hindi, Tamil and Malayalam. After 'OK Kanmani', I started getting many offers from Telugu cinema. Since I didn't know the language, I turned them down. But when I got the offer for 'Mahanati', director Nag Ashwin told me that he would teach me Telugu." Dulquer revealed that he worked extremely hard to get his Telugu dialogues right for the film. "I practised my dialogues throughout the night without sleeping. That hard work gave me a blockbuster like

"Mahanati*", he recalled. Expressing his gratitude towards Telugu audiences, the actor added, "The love Telugu audiences show me is my strength and happiness. The Telugu film industry is a kind of magic. If someone works hard with honesty, they will definitely be recognised here." When asked about the best advice he has received from his father, superstar Mammootty, Dulquer gave an insightful answer. He said his father does not interfere much in his life and instead encourages him to make his own decisions. "My father doesn't interfere much in my life. He always tells me, 'Do whatever you want, make mistakes and learn from them.' But he is always there for me like a safety net. Having a father like him is my biggest blessing," Dulquer said. Speaking about "I'm Game", Dulquer assured audiences that the film would offer a memorable theatrical experience. He also revealed that he will be seen in a completely different and unlikeable character, unlike anything he has portrayed before. The event ended on a high note when students requested Dulquer to deliver some of his popular Telugu dialogues. His renditions of "Am-madi" and "Aye Sita" received an enthusiastic response from the students.



Samantha's Funny Take On 'Samraj'

Actress Samantha and Raj Nidimoru are set to embrace parenthood soon. Taking a break from films, Samantha is currently enjoying her pregnancy and staying connected with fans through social media. Recently, Samantha hosted a chat session with fans and asked them to help suggest names for her soon-to-be-born baby. Fans came up with several interesting options, but one sug-

gestion received a hilarious response from the actress that has now gone viral. A fan suggested names that combine Samantha and Raj's names--"Samaira" if they have a baby girl and 'Samraj' if it's a boy. Reacting to the name 'Samraj', Samantha jokingly replied, Don't you think we're imagining ourselves a little too much? accompanied by laughing emojis. Samantha announced her pregnancy in June this year. While sharing the happy news, she also revealed that she would be taking a break from films for some time. Recently, the actress shared that she has already gained 11 kg during her pregnancy and is wholeheartedly enjoying every moment of the experience.