

Folk dancer Madhuri Rathod attempts suicide over alleged betrayal

Hyderabad, Sept.6: The incident involving folk dancer Madhuri Rathod allegedly attempting suicide came to light late.

According to family members, they broke open the locked door of her room and rescued her while she was attempting to hang herself from a ceiling fan. She was immediately rushed to a nearby hospital,

where she is currently undergoing treatment. In her statement, Madhuri alleged that fellow folk artist Eshwar Sai cheated her after promising marriage. She further stated that despite lodging a formal police complaint against him, authorities failed to take action, leaving her distressed and driving her to take the extreme step.

Congress Protest Demands KCR's Exit as LoP



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He alleged that not a single ration card had been issued during the previous government's 10-year tenure, while the present government was issuing ration cards to all eligible beneficiaries.

Speaking at the protest, TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud challenged BRS leaders to a debate comparing the performance of the Congress government during its first 1,000 days with the 10-year rule of the previous BRS government.

J&K, LADAKH MUST BE SHOWN AS PER INDIA'S OFFICIAL MAP: MEA

NEW DELHI, SEP 6

India has clarified that its support for a United Nations resolution promoting more accurate representation of the world on maps does not alter its position on the depiction of the country's territory, including Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

The United Nations General Assembly on Friday adopted the resolution, titled "Correct the Map: Rebalancing Global Cartographic Representation and Promoting Equitable Representation of the World's Regions, Particularly Africa," by a vote of 164-1. The United States was the only country to vote against it.

India voted in favour of the resolution but stressed that its support was limited to the principle of using equal-area map projections, which aim to preserve the relative sizes of land-masses and reduce distortions associated with projections such as the Mercator map.

Addressing a press confer-



ence in New Delhi on Sunday, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the resolution neither endorsed any particular world map nor dealt with political cartography, including international boundaries, disputed territories or place names.

"We also highlighted that the resolution does not constitute endorsement of any specific map, projection or depiction of national boundaries," Jaiswal said.

He made it clear that India's sovereign territory must contin-

ue to be represented in accordance with the country's official map.

"India's sovereign territory, including the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, must be depicted in accordance with India's official map. Any inaccurate or misleading depiction is unacceptable," he said.

The MEA reiterated that India's position on its sovereignty and territorial integrity remains unchanged.

"Our position on India's sovereignty and territorial integrity is clear, consistent and non-negotiable," the ministry said.

The resolution, introduced by Togo, seeks to encourage wider consideration of equal-area map projections in order to address geographical distortions in conventional mapping systems. India maintained that the initiative should remain technologically and methodologically neutral and should not be interpreted as having any bearing on questions of sovereignty or territorial claims.

Modi Govt Sets 2029 Target for Drug-Free India: Shah

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destroy at least 75 clandestine drug laboratories during 2026, Shah said.

The Centre has strengthened coordination among agencies through the National Coordination Committee for Countering Drug Trafficking (NCORD), while Anti-Narcotics Task Forces have been established in all States and Union Territories.

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has also been strengthened through increased manpower, a wider zonal presence and enhanced operational capabilities, Shah said.

Focus on Rehabilitation

Shah said the government's anti-drug campaign goes beyond arrests and seizures, with awareness, treatment, counselling, rehabilitation and livelihood support being integrated into the strategy.

He also highlighted the MANAS helpline, introduced to assist people affected by drug addiction.

Crackdown on Fugitives

The Home Minister said the government has adopted a mission-mode approach to bring wanted criminals hiding abroad back to India. Between July 2019 and July 2026, 274 wanted or absconding criminals were brought back from 36 countries, he said. During the past three years, 401 Red Corner Notices were issued, including 182 up to July 2026.

More than 1,400 Central and State agencies have also been connected through Interpol to facilitate faster information sharing, Shah said.

Between 2019 and 2026, assets worth

₹17,874 crore belonging to fugitives were attached, while ₹18,762 crore was recovered or restored, according to the Home Minister.

Government Highlights Internal Security Gains

Shah also outlined the government's record on internal security, saying its strategy had addressed three longstanding challenges—terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, insurgency in the Northeast and Left-Wing Extremism. He said terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir was "gradually approaching zero" and claimed that separatist sentiment had declined following the abrogation of Article 370. Referring to the Northeast, Shah said 14 major peace agreements had been signed since 2019 and around 11,000 armed youths had surrendered and joined the mainstream.

He also said the government had ended the nearly six-decade-long challenge of Left-Wing Extremism on March 31, 2026, through a combination of security measures, development and confidence-building initiatives. "We have eradicated Naxalism and will deal with the menace of narcotics in the same manner," Shah said.

Cybercrime and Border Security

Shah said the government's cybercrime response had helped save more than ₹11,158 crore across 32.8 lakh complaints as of June 30, 2026. He also highlighted measures aimed at strengthening border and coastal security, implementing the three new criminal laws and developing border villages under the Vibrant Villages Programme.

READY FOR ANOTHER BATTLE FOR IRRIGATION WATER

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was achieved through sacrifices precisely for irrigation and drinking water. He said the misinformation spread about the Kaleshwaram projects, described as Telangana's lifeline, and the deliberate failure to lift water had now been exposed by the NDSA's statement.

He said the neglect of the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme, which was 90 percent complete during the previous BRS government, would not be tolerated. He said it was outrageous that water was not being released for crops despite water being available in projects such as Nagarjuna Sagar and Srisailem. BRS chief KCR called on party MLAs and MLCs to prepare for a 'water battle' against the Congress government over the injustice being done to Telangana in the matter of irrigation water.

He said that, after sitting down and discussing the matter with other senior leaders of the party, the party would soon finalize the modalities for direct action.

With the Assembly session scheduled to begin on Monday, KCR held a joint meeting of the BRS Legislature Party with the party's MLAs and MLCs on Sunday at Erravelli.

KCR expressed anguish that the Congress government was turning the state Assembly sessions into a platform for abusive language instead of a forum for discussing people's problems. He called on party MLAs and MLCs to strongly counter the undemocratic approach of the Congress government, which, he alleged, insults opposition members in the House by speaking irresponsibly.

Speaking on the occasion, KCR said that the Congress government was co-

operating in allowing the neighboring state to use the Nagarjuna Sagar and Srisailem project waters instead of making them available to Telangana farmers. He questioned why the government was unable to provide irrigation and drinking water to the people of Nalgonda and the erstwhile Palamuru-Rangareddy districts despite the Palamuru projects being nearly 90 percent complete.

KCR questioned the Congress government as to why it was not making efforts to undertake minor repairs at Medigadda and bring the Kaleshwaram projects back into use, which, he said, could enable farmers in nearly 13 districts to cultivate crops. He demanded that the government explain this to the people.

KCR called for another battle for irrigation water, saying that if the government continued to neglect Kaleshwaram in the same manner, he himself would announce an action programme with lakhs of people on behalf of the state's farming community, which he said was being subjected to injustice.

On this occasion, KCR held an extensive discussion and offered several suggestions and directions regarding the strategy party members should follow in both Houses during the Assembly session beginning Monday.

Key issues discussed:

KCR called on MLCs and MLAs to question the government during the Assembly sessions over its failure to implement the guarantees and promises it said would be fulfilled within 100 days, even after 1,000 days.

KCR expressed satisfaction over the successful protest programmes conducted by the BRS against the Congress government's 1,000-day failures in governance. On this occasion, par-

ty president KCR congratulated party Working President KTR, senior party leaders, district leadership and party workers.

KCR directed the MLCs and MLAs to question the government in both Houses over why it was neglecting the welfare of poor people.

He expressed anguish that poor and middle-class people were facing severe difficulties because patta lands in villages and towns were being included in the 22A prohibited list. He said people were suffering because they were unable to sell their own land even during emergencies such as children's marriages and medical expenses. KCR made it clear that the government must be strongly questioned on this issue.

He said the government should be pressed on why water available in the Nagarjuna Sagar and Srisailem projects was not being released to Telangana farmers.

Against the backdrop of drought-like conditions in the state, KCR criticized the Congress government, saying it should be ashamed of weakening drinking-water systems such as Mission Bhagiratha and failing to meet people's drinking-water needs. He directed party members to question the government on the issue in the House.

KCR expressed anger over the weakening of the fee reimbursement scheme introduced to enable children from extremely poor families to pursue higher education and build better futures. He called for a fight on behalf of students from the Assembly platform over payment of pending fee-reimbursement dues.

KCR directed party members to expose the Congress government's

approach in bringing GO 97, which, he alleged, would damage polytechnic education. He said students who pursue technical education acquire vocational skills and opportunities for future employment, and accused the Congress government of putting polytechnic institutions that provide technical and vocational education in various fields at risk for its own vested interests.

KCR questioned where the Congress's promises had gone after it allegedly encouraged unemployed youth before the elections and promised to provide lakhs of jobs. He said unemployed youth across the state were distressed and questioning the Congress party's 'deceptive promises,' and called on party members to raise their voices in both Houses in support of them. He also directed them to question the government over implementation of job calendars and issuance of recruitment notifications. KCR criticized the Congress government for cancelling the Pharma City established by the previous BRS government to develop a large-scale, world-class pharmaceutical industry, and alleged that it had instead launched a highly corrupt and exploitative project in the name of 'Future City' aimed at using poor people's lands for real-estate activities. He called for this issue to be raised in both Houses.

He called on party members to question the government's actions of conducting arbitrary and allegedly illegal sales of government lands without leaving sufficient land for the needs of future generations.

KCR said the state government had taken control of the smoothly functioning Metro Rail system through what he called ill-considered policies, thereby placing an enormous burden

on the state exchequer and pushing the system into a situation where it could not be properly managed. He directed party members to question the government's position on such decisions in both Houses.

He called on party members to question in both Houses the state government's approach to the Godavari-Cauvery river-linking project, which he alleged would cause serious loss to the state.

The party chief called for a 'water battle' against what he described as a deliberate conspiracy by the government to weaken the Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages.

He said the state's farmers and people were facing severe difficulties in meeting their irrigation and drinking-water needs because of the government's failures.

He questioned why the government was delaying the lifting of water under the Palamuru-Rangareddy projects even though the previous BRS government had completed 90 percent of the projects.

KCR made it clear that party members should disrupt the proceedings of both Houses over this issue. He reiterated that he would soon discuss the matter with senior party leaders and district leaders and launch an action programme involving lakhs of people.

KCR said the government was pursuing ill-considered decisions in the education sector and attempting to reduce government schools, thereby disrupting the state's education policy.

KCR expressed serious concern over the deaths of students, including girls, in such residential schools. He directed party members to question the state government through the Assembly and Legislative Council over

the deterioration of the state's education system.

He said law and order in the state had completely deteriorated and that crimes against women were increasing. He called on party members to question the state government over law-and-order issues during the Assembly sessions. KCR expressed anguish that the Congress government, which he alleged was immersed in nepotism and favoritism, was continuing state administration amid corruption involving public representatives and government institutions. He directed party members to expose the government's position on corruption-related matters in both the Assembly and Legislative Council.

KCR said decisions being taken in the state's power sector would have a serious impact on consumers and could undermine free electricity. He said poor and middle-class people were already suffering because they were unable to pay excessively high bills, while power supply in the state had become chaotic. He alleged that the creation of a separate farmer DISCOM contained a conspiracy to withdraw free electricity for the agricultural sector. Against this backdrop, he called on party members to question the state government's anti-people and anti-farmer power policies in both Houses.

Along with party chief KCR, party Working President KTR, Legislative Council Deputy Chairman Banda Prakash, BRS Council Floor Leader Madhusudhanachari, Assembly Deputy Leaders T. Harish Rao and Sabitha Indra Reddy, Council Deputy Leaders and MLCs L. Ramana and Pochampally Srinivas Reddy, as well as party MLCs and MLAs, participated in the meeting

Assembly set for high-voltage monsoon session

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The government, however, is preparing to respond to the challenge. It plans to point to loan waivers, Indiramma houses, recruitments, fine rice, and other welfare initiatives as evidence of its performance. The Ministers were also expected to respond to the Opposition's allegations regarding the 22A list and the merger of polytechnic colleges by providing detailed explanations.

The Congress government is also preparing to introduce the Core Urban Region Infrastructure and Development (CURE-2026) Bill, which seeks to establish integrated governance for Hyderabad and its metropolitan region. The proposed measures, including a property tax increase and regulations on unauthorized constructions, have already drawn opposition.

The Hate Speech and Hate Crimes Prevention Bill might also be tabled. The government is also likely to move a resolution calling on the Center to lower the minimum age for contesting legislative elections from 25 to 21.

Non-violence is a supreme strength; Union Minister Kishan Reddy

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that non-violence (Ahimsa) was not merely the absence of physical harm but involves practicing it in speech, behavior and thought. He emphasized that non-violence was not a sign of weakness but a supreme form of strength. He noted that the development under Prime Minister Modi's leadership was being driven by women, citing the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam' which provides for 33% reservation in the legislature as a testament to this.

He acknowledged the role of diverse communities in Hyderabad's development, praising groups such as the Jain, Brahmin and Maheshwari communities for playing a pivotal role in the metropolis's economic, social and cultural progress. He expressed the hope that, as part of achieving a 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India) by 2047, our cultural roots and values would be strengthened alongside economic and technological growth. He urged the 'Gen-Z' youth to conquer the world through technology while never forsaking Indian cultural values.

He advised parents to impart good values and cultural ethos to their children alongside material assets. He called upon everyone to unite and defeat

BJP VOWS TO RESIST VOTE DELETIONS UNDER SIR

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He asked what would be comment of CM Revanth Reddy on Kerala election results and questioned how the process could be linked exclusively to BJP's electoral success.

He criticized the CM for making false allegations out of fear of defeat, driven by growing public opposition to the Congress government and BJP's rising popularity in national surveys.

BJP state chief further alleged that the Congress government is misusing official machinery under the pretext of the SIR process to plot the removal of voters favorable to the BJP. He noted strong suspicions regarding the targeted deletion of lakhs of BJP supporters' votes, particularly in the Secunderabad Parliamentary Constituency. He also accused the government of intentionally trying to erase the votes of people who migrated from neighboring Telugu states, settled locally, and support the BJP. He expressed outrage that even the family members of key BJP leaders are being harassed with notices under technical pretexts.

Reminding that field-level Booth Level Officers (BLOs) are state government employees, he urged them to perform their constitutional duties impartially without yielding to illegal pressure from the ruling party. Citing past action taken against officials involved in irregularities in Khammam district, he warned that legal action would be pursued and formal complaints submitted to the Election Commission of India with proof if anyone acts against rules here.

Rao expressed deep distress over the total collapse of the state's education system under Congress rule. Pointing out that while the national average budget allocation for education stands at 14.5 per cent Telangana allocates a dismal 9 per cent, which he called shameful. Since the Chief Minister himself holds the Education portfolio, he asserted that CM Revanth Reddy must take full responsibility for the decline of the sector. He challenged the CM to personally visit Osmania University hostel where he had study and speak with students to understand their deplorable living conditions.

Faulting the CM's statement that teachers' issues would be resolved in two years, BJP state chief questioned what a government incapable of delivering in three out of its five years could possibly achieve in the remaining two. He highlighted that retired teachers are suffering without pensions, while serving teachers face delayed salaries and promotions. Due to unpaid fee reimbursement dues, private colleges are forced to pay faculty half-salaries. He voiced anger over unfilled professor posts in universities and vacant teacher positions in schools.

Demanding that the government refrain from damaging technical education in the name of integration, he assured full support to polytechnic students and promised that the BJP would safeguard their courses and certificates. He asked the Congress government which boasts of bringing thousands of crores in investments from Davos trips to release a comprehensive White Paper detailing the actual number of industries established and jobs created. He made it clear that the BJP

will not tolerate any attempt to impose a curriculum contrary to Indian culture and heritage.

Rao advised the government to respect teachers and safeguard their high position in society instead of humiliating them. He stated that the credit for driving employees, students, farmers, teachers, and electricity workers onto the streets goes solely to this government.

He affirmed that once the BJP assumes power, it will significantly increase the education budget, transparently fill all vacancies across universities and educational institutions, prioritize research, and comprehensively strengthen the education sector.

BJP chief said that youth are joining the BJP in large numbers today, drawn by the efficient leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his welfare-oriented governance. He described the joining of active OBC and Munnuru Kapu youth leaders from BRS along with their teams as a positive development, assuring that every new member would receive due respect within the party.

Telangana will fight for its rightful share of Krishna, Godavari waters: Uttam

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The Minister dismissed allegations being made against the Congress government on irrigation and water management as "false and bogus propaganda". He said attempts were being made to create an impression that irrigation and electricity management were more efficient

during the previous regime, while the facts presented an entirely different picture.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said the Congress government was managing irrigation systems and electricity requirements for agriculture efficiently and was committed to ensuring that every available drop of water was put to productive

use.

Launching a sharp attack on the previous BRS government's irrigation record, the Minister alleged that massive amounts of public money had been spent during its decade in office without completing several important projects or creating the promised irrigation potential.

Harish slams Congress govt over pending FEE REIMBURSEMENT DUES

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He said students were being forced to run from pillar to post to obtain their certificates. Without the certificates, many were unable to join their jobs, pursue higher education or travel abroad for further studies, he said.

The BRS leader said many of the affected students belonged to rural and economically weaker

families. Their parents had made considerable sacrifices to educate their children, hoping they would secure good jobs and build a better future.

"Today, these parents are living in fear, not knowing what will happen to their children's future. The government has no right to put such families through this distress," he said.

Harish Rao questioned

the government's priorities, asking why it was unable to clear the pending fee reimbursement dues of students while spending thousands of crores on various projects and contracts. He urged the government to immediately clear the outstanding fee reimbursement dues and ensure that colleges release the certificates of eligible students without causing further hardship.



Private Teachers Are the Backbone of Education, Say Speakers

■ **Grand felicitation ceremony held at Ravindra Bharathi in Hyderabad; leaders seek welfare measures, job security and government recognition for private educators**

HYDERABAD

A grand felicitation ceremony was organized at Ravindra Bharathi, Hyderabad, to honour private teachers for their valuable contribution to education and society. The programme was held on the occasion of the birth anniversary of former President and eminent educationist Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan.

The event was jointly organized by the Private Teachers Association, Private Employees Union and Rajani Voice Telugu Daily. Several private teachers who have rendered outstanding services in the field of education were presented with mementos and certificates of appreciation.

Speaking at the programme, Jatiya Telugu Saraswata Parishad President Kesiraju Ramprasad said that teachers have a crucial responsibility in protecting Telugu language, literature and culture. He urged teachers to develop a love for the mother tongue and create greater interest in Telugu literature among students.

Ramprasad said there should be no distinction between government



and private teachers, as all educators serve the same purpose of building the nation. He appealed to the government to introduce Best Teacher Awards for private-sector educators and extend health-card facilities available to government teachers to them as well. "Private teachers work with dedication to impart knowledge, values and discipline to students. Their contribution to shaping future generations must be properly recognized," he said.

TRASMA President Shivaratri Yadagiri stated that receiving a Best

Teacher Award was not merely an honour but also a responsibility. He called upon award-winning teachers to expand their services and become role models for students. He emphasized that education should include discipline, moral values and social responsibility along with academic learning.

Private Employees Union President Gandham Ramulu said that private educational institutions play a significant role alongside the government education system. However, he expressed concern over the

challenges faced by private teachers, including job insecurity, inadequate salaries, excessive workload and limited social security.

Ramulu urged the government to take concrete steps to improve the welfare of private teachers and formally recognize their contribution to the education sector.

Former Regional Joint Director of Model Schools Sarojini Devi described teaching as one of the most respected professions in society. She called upon teachers to follow Dr. Radhakrishnan's ideals and promote

value-based education. Preacher Yogesh Prabhu said that teachers must impart cultural traditions, ethical values and social responsibility in addition to textbook knowledge. He observed that value-based education was essential for building a responsible and harmonious society.

Private Teachers Association State President Badesab said the association would continue working to resolve the problems of private-school teachers and organize more programmes for their rights, welfare and recognition. State President Ajay Karthik urged teacher organizations to work together to address common concerns and ensure that the services of private teachers receive due respect.

The ceremony provided a platform to honour dedicated educators and highlight the need for stronger policies concerning the welfare, dignity and professional security of private teachers.

The event was attended by Private Teachers Association Honorary President Nomula Mallesh, Saraswati Upasakulu Daivajna Sharma, educationist Praneeth Acharya Venkataramaiah, Ravindrabharathi School representative Veeraiah, Abdul Samad, Abdul Sahith, Murthy, Sridevi, Madhavi, Venkatesh, Kiran, Ramarao, teachers from private schools, representatives of teachers' associations and others.

Ravi Kumar Mudhiraj Elected Unanimously as General Secretary of Telangana State OBC Employees Federation

HYDERABAD



Ravi Kumar Mudhiraj has assumed charge as the General Secretary of the Telangana State OBC Employees Federation after being unanimously elected to the top post.

Speaking after his selection, Mudhiraj said the federation will work on an ongoing basis to protect the rights, welfare, and interests of OBC employees while also supporting the broader community.

He outlined several key demands, urging the Union Government to provide a dedicated OBC column in the forthcoming nationwide caste census. Mudhiraj stressed that accurate demographic data is crucial for fair budget allocations and the effective delivery of welfare schemes.

Highlighting long-pending issues, he called for the immediate abolition of the creamy layer policy for OBCs. He also demanded the prompt appointment of full-fledged members to the National

Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) to address grievances without further delay.

Mudhiraj further requested the NCBC to conduct field visits across central government offices and public sector undertakings (PSUs) in Telangana to verify reservation compliance and assess workplace conditions. He added that he plans to collect field-level information on OBC employee grievances and prepare a detailed report for submission directly to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Concluding, Mudhiraj said the federation will launch statewide initiatives to expand its reach and continue its efforts to advance social justice for OBCs across Telangana.

Dr Peruka Raju Honoured with Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Literary Translation Award-2026

■ **Serving the Nation as a Soldier, Bridging Languages through Literature**

■ **Award Presented at a Grand Ceremony at Ravindra Bharathi**

HYDERABAD

Marking the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, former President of India, a grand awards ceremony and cultural programme was organised at Ravindra Bharathi, Hyderabad, on Sunday under the joint auspices of Kala Samskrutika Foundation, Mana Cinema Chamber Telangana and Navabharat.

On the occasion, noted national poet, writer, critic, translator and multilingual literary personality Dr Peruka Raju was conferred with the prestigious 'Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Literary Translation Award-2026' in recognition of his distinguished contribution to literary translation and his socially conscious writings. His efforts to connect literary thought and cultural expression across Indian languages were particularly acknowledged.

Hailing from a humble farmer-labourer family, Dr Raju currently serves the nation as a Junior Commissioned Officer in the Indian Army. Alongside his military responsibilities, he has carved a distinct place for himself as a poet, writer, critic



and translator. Having already published 13 literary volumes, he continues to bring the literature of Telugu, English and other Indian languages closer to one another, emerging as a literary bridge across linguistic boundaries. Patriotism, humanism, social responsibility, the realities of working-class life and cultural harmony remain recurring concerns in his writings. Beyond literature, Dr Raju is also actively engaged in social service. Guided by the belief that "Encouragement is the Greatest Gift," he founded the voluntary organisation 'My Gift', through which he encourages talent and undertakes various service-oriented initiatives.

Dr Raju has received several literary awards and honours during the current year. He was also recently accorded

Life Membership of the International Academy of Ethics. Through literary essays, book reviews and columns in English publications, he continues to take his literary thought to a wider readership.

Speaking after receiving the award, Dr Raju said, "This honour is not mine alone. I dedicate it to every writer who believes in humanity and builds bridges rather than walls between languages. Translation is not merely carrying words from one language to another; it is carrying one heart to another." The organisers felicitated Dr Peruka Raju with a bouquet, citation and shawl before formally presenting him with the 'Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Literary Translation Award-2026'.

Lions Ranjith, Rajender and film writer Ramesh, represen-

tatives of Mana Cinema, along with film directors, cine personalities, writers, litterateurs, academicians, artists, students and youth, attended the programme. The cultural performances held as part of the celebrations drew an enthusiastic response from the audience.

Literary friends, admirers, members of 'My Gift', people from his native village and his fellow soldiers congratulated Dr Raju and expressed happiness over the recognition.

Meanwhile, Dr Peruka Raju's forthcoming works, 'Jawan', a Telugu poetry collection, and 'All Is Well', an English poetry collection, are set to reach readers soon. Reflecting military life, society, humanity and lived experience, the two collections are expected to mark further milestones in his continuing literary journey.

Congress Demands Probe After Flexes Damaged in Kukatpally Campaign

MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI

Congress leaders have urged the PCC and AICC to take the flex damage incident in Kukatpally seriously and conduct a thorough inquiry. The issue reportedly occurred during a campaign organized as part of Congress' call for "KCR to come to the Assembly or resign," as per the party's instructions. Several flex boards related to the program were said to have

been damaged and torn, creating anger and concern among party workers in Kukatpally constituency.

Local information suggests that some names are being discussed regarding possible involvement, but Congress leaders say the level of responsibility of each person is still unclear. They have demanded that the relevant party leadership and concerned authorities examine the matter comprehensively and clarify the actual facts behind the incident. They specifically want to know what the real reasons were for the destruction of the flexes and whether the act was carried out by anyone directly or whether there were any prompts, encouragement, or instructions from others.

There are also reports that some Congress workers responded to the situation and handed over a related person

to the police. However, Congress insists that the full truth must be verified by officials and party leadership to ensure that nothing is left unclear and that the investigation is based on confirmed evidence rather than assumptions. Congress leaders also raised questions about what the reality is regarding the names being mentioned locally and whether proper steps will be taken to confirm who is truly responsible.

Kautilya School of Public Policy Announces

4th Edition of Kautilya Colloquy 2026

HYDERABAD

The Kautilya School of Public Policy at GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, is set to host the 4th Edition of the Kautilya Colloquy on 26 September 2026. This student-led flagship academic conference will bring together scholars, researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and students to engage with pressing questions in governance and public policy.

The 2026 edition, themed "Policy Pathways: From Roots to Routes," will explore how public policy evolves through historical legacies, contemporary choices, and emerging possibilities. The Colloquy will feature keynote addresses, panel discussions, research presentations, and interactive engagements. Over the years, the Colloquy has brought together 500+ participants, 50+ eminent speakers, 150+ research submissions, and 40+ peer-reviewed paper presentations.

Niti-in-Quest: Where Every day India Becomes the Puzzle



The Colloquy will feature Niti-in-Quest, an engaging two-member policy quiz that turns everyday India—from potholes and ration cards to memes, protests, cinema, and civic life—into clues. Combining current affairs, visual and audio clues, pop culture, policy puzzles, and real-world situations, the quiz tests observation, teamwork, judgement, and the ability to draw connections across different ideas and clues. The winning team will receive ₹20,000.

Policy Play: Bringing Policy to Life Through Storytelling

Another highlight, Policy Play invites participants to explore real-world policy experiences through 5-minute

short-form vlogs and creative storytelling. Participants can tell stories around leadership and governance, economy and development, sustainability and environmental futures, geopolitics and security, and technology and digital society. The competition features three prizes with a total prize pool of ₹15,000.

Research and Paper Presentations

Finally, at the heart of the Colloquy are its research paper presentations, offering participants an opportunity to present original work, engage with experts, and receive constructive academic feedback. Submissions are invited across diverse areas, including institutions and administration, social and ecological transformation, economic and financial governance, technological governance, and emerging policy challenges. Selected papers will be considered for national-level publication, with awards including a ₹25,000 first prize and ₹20,000 second prize.

The conference frames its

theme through three perspectives: "Inherited Futures", examining institutional and policy legacies; "Scrying Futures", exploring how present decisions shape long-term policy trajectories; and "Looking Glass", revisiting alternative pathways and imagining unexplored futures.

A Platform for Ideas, Engagement and Recognition

The Kautilya Colloquy 2026 offers opportunities for intellectual exchange, networking, and recognition. The conference is open to students, researchers, and professionals interested in governance and public policy, with all participants receiving Certificates of Participation.

With its blend of rigorous scholarship, creative engagement, and real-world conversations, the 4th KautilyaColloquy aims to explore how the lessons of the past can inform the choices of the present and shape more inclusive and innovative policy pathways for the future. For more details, visit: www.kssp.edu.in/colloquy.

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Shabbir Ali says education, reservation transforming Muslim youth in Telangana

HYDERABAD

Advisor to the Telangana Government Mohammed Ali Shabbir on Sunday said sustained access to education and the 4% reservation for socially and educationally backward Muslims had begun to produce a generational transformation, with Muslim youth increasingly entering medicine, engineering, teaching, law and other professional fields.

Addressing the Teachers' Day celebrations organised by the Iqra Group of Doctors-Hyderabad at MESCO Auditorium, Malakpet, Shabbir Ali said the community must build on these gains by prioritising quality education, recognising teachers and institution-builders, and ensuring greater discipline among students.

Participating as chief guest, he presented the Iqra Best Teacher Award 2026 and praised the contribution of Dr Mateen and the late Dr Fakhruddin. He said communities often failed to adequately acknowledge people who devoted themselves to education and public service and urged younger generations to carry forward their work.

Referring to the name "Iqra", Shabbir Ali said the first Quranic revelation it-



self emphasised reading and learning, but the community had fallen behind educationally. He recalled that, before entering government, he would visit hospitals and look for Muslim names on doctors' boards, often finding very few. That experience, he said, strengthened his conviction that Muslims needed greater access to professional education.

He said his campaign for reservation initially faced opposition even from within the community, with some arguing that classification for affirmative

action was inconsistent with equality. To establish the socio-economic backwardness of various occupational groups, he said he documented the lives of 22 Muslim communities engaged in occupations such as fishing, barbering, butchery, washing clothes and other traditional trades and presented the material before the then Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy government.

Recalling one such visit to a Muslim fishing village near Sriharikota in Nellore district, he described families living in severe poverty despite work-

ing long hours at sea. He said such conditions demonstrated why disadvantaged sections required targeted educational support rather than merely formal equality. Shabbir Ali claimed that around 22 lakh students in the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh and the two successor States had benefited over the years through access to higher and professional education under the reservation policy. He also referred to a report which, he said, showed the Telugu States performing strongly in higher professional education, while Kerala remained ahead at the foundational level.

Citing the recent recruitment of around 11,000 teachers in Telangana, he said nearly 1,100 Muslim candidates were selected, although the 4% reservation alone would have accounted for roughly 400 posts. He said the figure showed that Muslim candidates were increasingly succeeding on merit and in categories beyond their reserved quota.

Concluding, he assured the Iqra Group of his support in carrying forward the educational mission associated with the late Dr Fakhruddin and said the next priority should be expanding access to quality education and professional opportunities.

Lionism Special Recognition to Capt Dr. Burra Madhusudhan Reddy



KARIMNAGAR

Lion Captain Dr. Burra Madhusudhan Reddy, founder member, senior Lion, former region chairman and former global action committee member of Satavahana Lions Club, has been felicitated with several awards. He received special awards at the awards ceremony organized by Lions International District 320G at the NTPC conference hall, Ramagundam today. In recognition of his distinguished

services, Captain Dr. Burra Madhusudhan Reddy was presented with a special Melvin Jones Medal by the Chief Guest Area Leader Lion Deepak Bhat-tacharjee and former District Governor Lion Lingaraju Kodandaram.

Along with this, a special award was presented for his successful implementation of Leo Clubs and Lions Quest training. Similarly, for the first time in the history of Lionism, Lions Quest presented a special banner to

Satavahana Lions Club on the occasion of the successful completion of Lions Quest youth training in District 320G.

On this occasion, the awardee Lion Captain Dr. Burra Madhusudhan Reddy was congratulated by PDG Lion Anantula Sivaprasad, Lion Pothanu Praveen, Satavahana Lions Club members Lion K Rajender Reddy, Lion Inugurthi Ramesh, Lion V Jagadeeswara Chari, Lion Dasari Tirupati Reddy, Lion M Satyanarayana Rao and others.

CM Revanth Reddy's administration is incompetent: Dasoju Sravan

HYDERABAD

BRS party MLC Dasoju Shrawan on Sunday lashed out at the Revanth Reddy government in Telangana, stating that it has failed completely and added that unable to govern effectively, the administration was merely biding its time with petty politics.

Speaking to the media after arriving at former CM KCR's residence in Erravalli for the BRS legislative party meeting, he expressed severe anger at the Congress government and Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's conduct. He ridiculed the Congress party for staging protests at Indira Park, criticizing them for focusing on attacking the opposition instead of sitting in the Secretariat and implementing the 'six guarantees' and 420 promises made to the people. He slammed CM Revanth Reddy for using street-level language as he is incapable of governance or fulfilling promises.

He expressed outrage at the Congress party for engaging in the despicable politics of insulting KCR by putting up inappropriate posters. He clarified that KCR knows perfectly well when to visit and when not to. He questioned as to why Revanth Reddy could embrace people from Guntur as his in-laws while finding fault with KTR's education in Guntur. He challenged him to a debate with KTR at Indira Park if he has the guts. He stated that the internal crisis within CM Revanth Reddy's government had reached a peak, citing state Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy's absence from the Nakrekal meeting as evidence.



Kavitha demands legal action against constable over Facebook remarks

HYDERABAD

Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) president Kalvakuntla Kavitha on Sunday demanded that legal action be taken against a constable for allegedly making objectionable comments against her on Facebook.

Kavitha expressed anger that while derogatory remarks against women could attract imprisonment of up to three years, the constable concerned had only been suspended. She warned that if action was not taken against him in accordance with the law, she would bring "international-level embarrassment" to the government.

"If someone makes similar comments against the DGP's two daughters-in-law, will he remain silent? DGP, what is your responsibility? Where is your sensitivity? If you cannot protect a woman like me, how will you protect ordinary women?" she asked.

Speaking to the media at the party office in Banjara Hills, Kavitha said women had been subjected to highly abusive trolling on social media in re-

cent times. She alleged that the police had failed to act against those responsible despite such incidents.

Kavitha also alleged that the crime rate in the State had increased since C.V. Anand took charge as Director General of Police. Referring to the DGP's reported remarks during his visit to Khammam that ganja consumption had increased following the decline of Naxalism, she questioned whether it was appropriate for a senior police officer to make such a statement.

On the issue of Telangana activists, Kavitha alleged that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had sought their support before the elections and promised to do justice to them after coming to power.

The TRS president alleged that even after nearly three years, the Congress government had failed to fulfil its assurances to the families of Telangana activists. She demanded that the government immediately implement the assurances made to Telangana activists and provide them the promised benefits.

Congress Puts KCR on the Spot Ahead of Assembly Session

■ Bandi Ramesh challenges the BRS chief to attend the Assembly and debate public issues—or resign as MLA.

MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI

The political battle between the ruling Congress and the opposition BRS intensified on Friday, as Kukatpally Congress leaders publicly challenged former Chief Minister and BRS president K. Chandrashekar Rao to attend the upcoming Assembly session.

Led by TPCC Vice-President and Kukatpally Congress in-charge Bandi Ramesh, party leaders submitted a petition at the statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar at Y Junction. The programme was aimed at mounting pressure on KCR to participate in the Assembly and raise issues concern-



ing the people of Telangana.

Bandi Ramesh said an elected representative must be present in the Assembly and answer the concerns of the people.

"KCR must come to the Assembly and discuss public issues. If he does

not wish to attend, he should resign as an MLA and remain at his farmhouse," he said.

The Congress leader alleged that the BRS was criticising the Congress government because it could not politically challenge Chief Minister A.

Revanth Reddy. He said the BRS was attempting to divert public attention through protests and political statements.

Ramesh also targeted the previous BRS government, alleging that its ten-year rule pushed Telangana into heavy debt. He demanded that the BRS explain its past decisions, government failures and unfulfilled promises before making fresh allegations against the Congress government. The protest was part of the Congress strategy to place KCR's absence from the Assembly at the centre of the political debate. By invoking public issues, constitutional responsibility and accountability, the Congress leaders sought to portray the BRS chief as avoiding direct political scrutiny.

Ramesh said the people of Telangana were waiting for their elected rep-

resentatives to debate issues inside the Assembly.

"Will KCR attend the Assembly and speak for the people, or will he continue to remain away from public debate?" he asked.

He called on the BRS to perform its role as the Opposition responsibly and participate in constructive discussions on issues affecting the state.

Leaders and workers from across the Medchal-Malkajgiri district attended the program, including Congress block presidents, division presidents, AMC directors, senior party leaders Dinesh Kumar, Shiva Chowdhury, Saibaba Chowdhury, Aravind Reddy, Gotti Mukkula Venkateswara Rao, Mekala Michael, Krishna Raj Path, women leaders, and numerous Congress activists. representatives and supporters attended the programme in large numbers.

Ponnam Sattaiah Lifetime Achievement awards announced

HYDERABAD

Three individuals have been selected this year for the Ponnam Sattaiah Lifetime Achievement Awards presented annually by the Ponnam Sattaiah Charitable Trust in memory of Ponnam Sattaiah, who is the father of State Minister Ponnam Prabhakar.

The Trust Vice-President Ponnam Ashok Goud announced that M. Kodanda Reddy, the Chairman of the State Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Commission recognized for his significant contributions to agriculture, Velichala Kondala Rao (literature) and Gotte Kanakavva (arts) had been chosen for this year's awards. The selection was made by a jury committee led by Convener Dr. Ponnam Ravichandra. The committee, which included former Central Information Commissioner Madabhushi Sridhar, prominent journalist Deep Reddy, Civil Supplies Director G.V. Shyam Prasad Lal, BC Study Circle Director Mamidi Harikrishna and writer Ainampudi Sri Lakshmi, submitted the list of awardees today to the



Charitable Trust Chairman, Ponnam Prabhakar. Over the past four years, the Ponnam Sattayya Lifetime Achievement Awards have been presented to Naleswaram Sankaram, Nalimela Bhaskar, Chandrabose and Ampasayya Naveen in the field of literature, and to Oggu Dharmayya, Comrade Vimalakka, Balagum Komuramma, and Antadupula Ramadevi in the field of arts.

Ashok Goud, while starting this year, the agricultural sector has also been included in the scope of these awards and for the first time, an award was being presented to an individual, who has rendered distinguished service in this

field. Ponnam Ashok Goud announced that a special program would be held at Ravindra Bharati on the 13th of this month at 2:00 PM to mark the 16th death anniversary of Ponnam Sattayya.

He revealed that the three individuals selected for the awards would receive a cash prize of ₹50,000, along with a memento and a certificate of appreciation. He stated that the primary objective of these awards was to recognize and honor talented individuals, who are rendering distinguished service to society across various fields, thereby upholding the ideals of Ponnam Sattayya.

CM Revanth orders a Magisterial probe into the nurse murder case

HYDERABAD, SEP6

Serious on the recent incident of the rape and murder of a nurse at a private hospital in Thukkuguda, on the outskirts of Hyderabad, honourable Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy ordered a comprehensive magisterial enquiry into all aspects of the incident.

The Chief Minister instructed the authorities to investigate all aspects including the circumstances leading to the incident, security arrangements at the victim's accommodation, negligence on the part of the management, if any, and the implementation of mandatory safety protocols for female employees.

Police have already arrested the accused. The CM directed the officials that the investigation be completed in a highly meticulous manner.

The senior police officials were ordered to monitor the progress of the case continuously to ensure the speedy completion of the investigation, forensic reports and the collection of technical evidence, followed by the filing of

a comprehensive charge sheet. The Government will also initiate necessary measures to ensure the victim's family receives swift justice through a trial in a fast-track court.

The Chief Minister suggested the Law Department, Police Department, and Prosecution wing to work in coordination to prevent any delays in the trial process.

CM Revanth Reddy affirmed that the government would stand by the victim's family in every possible way. Ministers Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy and Seethakka have already visited the family. The state government provided financial assistance to the victim family and also sanctioned 'Indiramma' house. The Chief Minister stressed a thorough investigation and effective prosecution to punish the perpetrator in accordance with the law. The CM also directed officials to identify and rectify the systemic lapses that led to the incident. The authorities were instructed to take all necessary measures to ensure the trial is completed expeditiously through a fast-track court.

1,000 Days of Unfulfilled Promises: BRS Hits Congress

Medchal-Malkajgiri, September 06: The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) held a protest rally near the Babu Jagjivan Ram statue in Prakash Nagar, Hyderabad, opposing what it described as 1,000 days of failed governance under the Congress government. BRS leaders alleged that the administration had failed to provide basic public welfare and civic services, leaving people to suffer due to poor governance. The protest was led by BRS official's MLC Shambhipur Raju, and under the leadership of former corporators Madhavaram Roja Devi Madavaram Ranga Rao and Jupally Satyanarayana and local leaders, who gathered with a 420-foot flex banner demanding accountability from the Congress government. BRS MLA representatives and other senior leaders said the protest reflected public anger over unfulfilled promises and the government's failure to address people's problems.

Speaking at the event, BRS Kukatpally MLA, Madhavaram Krishna Rao alleged that drinking-water supply timings had been reduced in several areas and that residents in some localities were receiving contaminated water. He claimed that officials were failing to respond to public complaints. He also alleged that streetlights were not functioning in several areas, creating difficulties for residents, particularly women and senior citizens. Krishna Rao further accused the Congress government of weakening basti hospitals, which he said were essential for poor and disadvantaged families. He alleged that doctors and staff were not receiving salaries on time, medicines were not consistently available, and blood tests and other medical investigations were not being conducted properly. According to him, these shortcomings were forcing people from weaker sections to depend on expensive private hospitals.

Dedicated Freight Corridors: Transforming India's Freight Landscape

India's freight transportation ecosystem is undergoing a significant transformation with the operationalisation of the Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) network. Developed by the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL), the network is designed to provide high-capacity, efficient and reliable rail connectivity between some of the country's major industrial, manufacturing and logistics centres.

The DFC network comprises the 1,337-km Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC), connecting New Sahnewal in Punjab with New Son-nagar in Bihar, and the 1,506-km Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC), connecting New Dabri in Uttar Pradesh with New JNPT in Maharashtra. Together, the two corridors form a 2,843-km high-capacity freight railway network designed to facilitate faster and more efficient movement of goods across the country.

A landmark milestone was achieved on 31 March 2026, with the completion of the approximately 102-km Vaitarna-JNPT section, bringing the entire WDFC into operation. The completion has enabled seamless movement of freight trains, including double-stack container trains, up to Jawaharlal Nehru Port Terminal (JNPT), further strengthening India's connection with its major western maritime gateway.

A Network Operating at Scale
The growing scale of DFC operations demonstrates the increasing role of dedicated freight infrastructure in India's logistics ecosystem.

As of 31 August 2026, DFCCIL had handled approximately 5.21 lakh freight train trips across its network. With an average movement of around 435 trains per day, the network has emerged as a major freight artery supporting the movement of bulk commodities, containers and other cargo.

The freight performance of the network is equally significant. These train movements have generated approximately 658 billion Gross Tonne Kilometres (GTKM), representing an average daily freight performance of around 592 million GTKM.

In terms of actual freight movement, the network has accumulated approximately 360 billion Net Tonne Kilometres (NTKM), with average daily performance of around 323 million NTKM.



These figures underline the scale at which the DFC network is now operating. More importantly, they reflect the gradual shift of freight traffic towards a dedicated, high-capacity railway system capable of handling growing volumes while reducing dependence on conventional mixed-traffic railway routes.

Improving the Efficiency of Freight Movement

One of the principal objectives of the DFC project is to separate freight operations from passenger-dominated railway routes. This provides greater operational flexibility and creates additional capacity on the existing Indian Railways network.

The impact is particularly visible in transit times. The commissioning of the EDFC has substantially improved freight connectivity between eastern coal and industrial regions and the National Capital Region. Similarly, the WDFC has strengthened the connection between the industrial belt of northern and western India and major ports on the western coast.

The completion of WDFC up to JNPT is especially significant for the container logistics sector. It provides a dedicated rail route connecting the NCR and other major consumption and production centres with one of India's most important container gateways, enabling more predictable and efficient long-distance freight movement.

Gati Shakti Cargo Terminals: Turning locations into Logistics Hubs

The development of Gati Shakti Cargo Terminals (GCTs) is emerging as an important next phase in leveraging the DFC network.

DFCCIL is facilitating the development of GCTs under both Schedule-2, involving railway land, and Schedule-1, involving non-railway/private land. The objective is not merely to create additional loading and unloading points, but to develop DFC stations into integrated logistics hubs capable of connecting rail freight with road-based and other modes of transportation.

Under Schedule-2, Letters of Award have been issued for GCT development at 10 locations: New Rewari, New Bhaupur, New Daudkhan, New Gothangam, New Saradhana, New Sakhun, New Dabla, New Gulaothi, New Mirzapur and New Umbargaon Road.

During FY 2025-26, four additional LoAs were awarded for New Gulaothi, New Dabla, New Mirzapur and New Umbargaon Road. GCTs at New Saradhana and New Gulaothi were also commissioned during the year, taking the number of commissioned Schedule-2 terminals to six.

The Schedule-1 programme is similarly expanding the footprint of private-sector participation. Terminals are being developed at locations including New Malikpur, New Dabri, New Dabla, New Dharuhera, New Rewari, New Jeonathpur, New Timba, New Pardi and New Umbargaon Road, along with proposed locations at new stations and inter-station points.

Two notable terminals under this category—NICDC Nangal Choudhary at New Dabla and Sawariya Shakti Railway Carriage LLP at New Anleshwar—have been successfully commissioned.

The expansion of GCTs has the potential to strengthen first-mile and last-mile connectivity, attract private investment and create a wider customer base for the DFC network.

New Innovative Freight Products Expanding the Customer Base

With the core DFC infrastructure now operational, DFCCIL is increasingly focusing on traffic diversification and innovative customer-oriented freight products.

One such initiative is the Truck-on-Train (ToT) service operating between New Palanpur and New Rewari on the WDFC. The service provides a rail-based solution for transporting commercial vehicles over long distances, offering an alternative to conventional road transportation.

The ToT service combines the advantages of rail transport—including predictable transit, enhanced safety and reduced exposure to long-distance road travel—with the flexibility required by the road logistics sector.

During FY 2025-26, the service generated revenue of ₹49.10 crore, indicating growing market acceptance and demonstrating the potential for innovative rail freight products to create new revenue streams.

Bringing Parcel and E-Commerce Freight to the DFC

Another promising product is the Joint Parcel Product—Rapid Cargo Service (JPP-RCS), envisaged for DFCCIL to facilitate parcel and e-commerce traffic through aggregators.

DFCCIL has operationalised JPP-RCS at Bi-directional New Ancheli, New Motidau & New Dabri on the WDFC. The service uses the Online Virtual Aggregation Platform available through the Freight Business Development Portal of Indian Railways for electronic booking, cargo aggregation, digital freight management and tracking.

The service is designed around scheduled and time-bound transportation of parcels and consignments, making it particularly relevant for high-value, time-sensitive and e-commerce cargo. Freight charges are levied according to the prescribed JP Scale.

The introduction of such services marks an important shift in the DFC's business strategy—from primarily moving traditional bulk commodities towards serving a broader spectrum of logistics requirements.

Traffic Growth and the Road Ahead
The increasing utilisation of the

DFC network is reflected in its traffic growth. During FY 2025-26, traffic on the DFC network increased by 13.74% over the previous year.

With the WDFC now fully operational, the focus is shifting from construction and commissioning to capacity utilisation, customer acquisition, feeder connectivity and logistics integration.

The next phase of growth will depend on how effectively the DFC network is connected with industrial clusters, ports, logistics parks, GCTs and road networks. Greater integration with multimodal logistics infrastructure can enable freight customers to use rail not simply as a long-distance transport mode, but as part of an end-to-end supply-chain solution.

The development of GCTs, expansion of feeder routes and introduction of services such as ToT and JPP-RCS are therefore significant components of this transition.

A New Architecture for Indian Freight

The Dedicated Freight Corridor is more than a railway infrastructure project. It represents a fundamental change in the way freight can move across India.

The scale already achieved—more than 5.2 lakh freight train trips and hundreds of billions of GTKM and NTKM—demonstrates the growing importance of dedicated freight infrastructure. The completion of the WDFC up to JNPT further strengthens the connection between India's manufacturing and consumption centres and global trade gateways.

As DFCCIL moves into the next phase, the emphasis is increasingly on integrated logistics, higher asset utilisation, diversified freight products and stronger industry participation.

By combining dedicated rail capacity with Gati Shakti Cargo Terminals, multimodal logistics infrastructure, digital freight solutions and innovative services, the DFC network is positioned to play an important role in reducing logistics constraints, improving supply-chain reliability and supporting India's transition towards a more efficient and sustainable freight transportation system.

The completion of the DFC network therefore marks not an end point, but the beginning of a new phase—one in which dedicated freight rail becomes an integral part of India's multimodal logistics architecture and its long-term economic growth story.

Different Tracks... Yet the Journey Leads Back to Life

B. Muthukumaran's Tamil Play Thodarum Payanangal — A Study in Family, Addiction and Redemption

If life is a journey, every misstep becomes a turning point. Some turns lead us towards our destination others take us farther away from ourselves. Yet, however far one may stray, there remains the possibility of returning—in search of one's roots, one's loved ones, and the goodness that still survives within. Sometimes, that return becomes the truest journey of all.

Senior journalist and writer B. Muthukumaran's Tamil play Thodarum Payanangal (Continuing Journeys) brings such a journey to the stage, weaving social concern, family conflict and philosophical reflection into a moving narrative of loss, remorse and redemption.

Born on 15 August 1958 in Kiliapattu village, Tiruchirappalli district, Muthukumaran holds a Master's degree in History from Government Arts College, Salem. His 37-year journalistic career included five years as a reporter with Dinamalar and 32 years with Dinamani, from which he retired in 2022. His literary journey as a short-story writer began in 1985. Collections such as Pura Veedu, Kaathiruthchal Karumbu and Manju's Diary, together with the translation of several of his stories into Telugu, testify to the breadth of his creative engagement. Thodarum Payanangal has also reached listeners through a one-hour broadcast on Chennai Radio. His literary contribution has earned recognition including the Ilakkiya Chinthanai Award

in 2019 and the Devan Foundation Award in 2026.

My engagement with Muthukumaran's writing also has a personal literary dimension. Having translated four of his Tamil short stories into Telugu, I have had the opportunity to encounter at close quarters his narrative sensibility, social observation and deeply human approach to storytelling. That familiarity also provides a wider context in which to read the present play.

Muthukumaran brings to his creative writing two complementary gifts: the journalist's eye for observing society and the storyteller's sensitivity to the inner life of the individual. Their confluence is clearly visible in Thodarum Payanangal.

The central narrative appeared many years ago as a short story in Dinamalar Varamalar and has now been recreated by the author in dramatic form. Transforming a short story into a play is not merely a change of literary form. What a storyteller can describe must, on stage, be embodied by characters; events must unfold before the audience; and dialogue must carry not only the narrative but also the psychological weight of the characters. Muthukumaran's attempt to give an earlier story a new theatrical life is therefore commendable.



The play begins by touching upon the dark world of alcohol and narcotics, but gradually moves into the intimate terrain of family relationships.

Sebesan, battered by the consequences of life and his own choices, returns to his native village of Kiliapattu in search of redemption. His quest for his first wife and his physically challenged son gradually

collapses, and innocent people are often forced to pay for another person's mistakes. By locating this social reality within the emotional world of a family, Thodarum Payanangal moves beyond addiction as an individual problem and examines its wider human consequences.

The philosophical observations scattered throughout the play add another dimension to the narrative.

The idea that "each person must carry their own burden" reminds us of individual responsibility. Equally striking is the reflection on money: as long as wealth remains within the limits of our needs, we may remain its masters; when it begins to dominate our lives, it becomes our master.

This observation reaches far beyond money. Alcohol, narcotics, wealth, power or desire—anything may remain a tool while it is under human control; the moment it begins to control the human being, the tool becomes a chain.

The play's meditation on death is still more reflective. Death is presented not merely as a sudden event awaiting us at the end of life, but as the inevitable destination towards which the human journey moves from the moment of birth. The date is unknown; the destination is certain. Such an awareness need not lead to despair. On the contrary, it can remind us to live the life available to us with greater meaning, compassion and responsibility.

It is here that the title Thodarum Payanangal ac-

quires its larger significance. It is not Sebesan's journey alone that continues. Families travel through pain towards reconciliation; individuals move from wrongdoing to remorse and, sometimes, from remorse to transformation. One generation may pass, but life travels onward through another. The title thus grows beyond the fate of a single character and becomes a metaphor for the unfinished journey of human existence itself.

From a critical perspective, however, the play also presents an interesting structural question. Alcohol and narcotics constitute one thematic strand, while family life forms another. As playwright S. L. Nanu has observed, the two occasionally appear to move like parallel railway tracks. A stronger cause-and-effect relationship between these strands—especially through a deeper dramatic exploration of how addiction fractures trust, intimacy and responsibility within the family—could further strengthen the structural unity and theatrical intensity of the work.

This observation need not be read merely as fault-finding. The purpose of literary criticism is not simply to identify weaknesses, but also to recognise unrealised possibilities within a work. Here, the material already possesses considerable emotional and social strength a still tighter integration of its thematic strands could give that strength even greater dramatic force.

The true test of a social and family drama lies in whether the audience begins to recognise its characters as people from their own world. When spectators feel not merely that someone on stage is suffering, but that "this could happen in our own home," theatre crosses the distance between performance and life. The conflicts, remorse, responsibility and search for lost relationships in Thodarum Payanangal possess the capacity to create precisely such an emotional identification. As a journalist, Muthukumaran has observed society as a storyteller, he has read the human heart and as a playwright, he brings the two together on stage. Consequently, the play carries both the immediacy of social realism and the tenderness of human understanding.

Published by Kuvikam Publishing House in November 2024, the 68-page Tamil play is modest in physical size and priced at ₹60. Yet the questions it raises are anything but small.

Can a person who has lost his way truly return?

Even if remorse cannot rewrite the past, can it reshape the future?

How much must a family pay for the mistakes of one individual?

Can forgiveness offer a human being a second beginning?

Muthukumaran does not reduce these questions to ready-made judgments. Instead, he allows his characters, their wounds and their continuing journeys to lead the reader towards possible answers. Therein lies the enduring human value of the play. Ultimately, Thodarum Payanangal reminds us of a simple but profound truth

Some journeys are not meant merely to reach a destination

they are meant to reveal where we lost our way.

Some return journeys are not merely about reaching home

they are about finding the humanity we left behind.

That is why the journey in Muthukumaran's play does not end with the final page or the fall of the curtain. It continues in the reader's mind—as a question, a reflection, perhaps even as a quiet examination of one's own journey.

Different tracks may run side by side, but the most meaningful journey is ultimately the one that leads a human being back to humanity.

- DR PERUKA RAJU

POET, WRITER & LITERARY CRITIC

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PNGRB-EESL MoU to Drive Smart PNG Metering with Advanced Safety and Cybersecurity

NEW DELHI, 06 SEPTEMBER

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) and Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture PSU under the Ministry of Power, is set to give a major technology push to India's City Gas Distribution (CGD) sector through large-scale deployment of Smart Domestic Piped Natural Gas (PNG) Meters.

The initiative is expected to usher in a new generation of gas metering with advanced features including digital monitoring, tamper alerts, leak detection, remote operations and cybersecurity safeguards, making the PNG ecosystem not only more efficient and transparent but also safer and more secure for millions of consumers.

Energy efficiency expert and former Director General of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Dr Ajay Mathur, who also served as a Member of the Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change and has held leadership positions in the International Solar Alliance, welcomed the PNGRB-EESL partnership as a timely and significant step towards a consumer-centric, technology-enabled and future-ready CGD ecosystem.

He congratulated PNGRB Secretary Anjan Kumar Mishra and EESL CEO Akhilesh Kumar Dixit for the initiative, observing that smart PNG metering would contribute not only to energy efficiency and transparency but also to energy security and cybersecurity.

The partnership brings together PNGRB's regulatory expertise and

Experts hail PNGRB-EESL pact as a major step towards a smarter, safer and future-ready CGD ecosystem

Smart Domestic PNG Meters: Powering India's Gas-Based Economy

Unified gas ecosystem with cybersecurity at its core

Natural gas demand projected to touch 630 MMSCMD by 2030.

EESL's experience in demand aggregation and large-scale smart-metering programmes. PNGRB will facilitate regulatory guidance, standardisation, conformity assessment, certification and stakeholder coordination, while EESL will support demand aggregation, technology assessment, procurement strategies and implementation.

The need for smart gas metering has become increasingly important as India rapidly expands its natural gas infrastructure. PNGRB a Statutory body established under the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act 2006, has authorised 307 Geographical Areas, providing 100 per cent mainland coverage, while more than 33,500 km of natural gas pipeline networks have been authorised, of which around 25,000 km are already operational.

With PNG connections expanding rapidly across urban and semi-urban areas, traditional manual meter reading and periodic



billing systems could face growing challenges relating to accuracy, revenue assurance & safety monitoring and customer service. Smart meters can address many of these challenges through automated and digitally connected systems.

For consumers, the new-generation meters can provide accurate billing, real-time consumption information, digital access to usage data and better and control over energy expenditure. More importantly, advanced safety capabilities can enable remote monitoring, abnormal-condition detection, tamper alerts and automatic shut-off, helping minimise risks associated with gas leakage or unusual consumption patterns.

The cybersecurity component assumes particular importance as gas metering becomes increasingly connected and digital. Secure communication, protected data exchange



and safeguards against unauthorised access can help ensure that the digital infrastructure supporting household gas supplies remains resilient and trustworthy.

For CGD companies, smart metering can reduce manual intervention, improve collection efficiency, strengthen revenue assurance, minimise billing losses and provide valuable consumption data for demand forecasting and network planning. Regulators can benefit from greater transparency and data-driven monitoring of the expanding gas distribution network.

CEO Akhilesh Kumar Dixit while thanking the PNGRB for extending support in entering into Prestigious MOU said that

EESL's experience in smart utility infrastructure provides an important foundation for the programme. The company has already installed and manages more than 44.5 lakh

smart electricity meters across several States and UTs demonstrating its ability to execute technology-led utility transformation programmes at scale.

The PNGRB-EESL initiative therefore goes beyond replacing conventional gas meters. It represents a strategic step towards building a safer, smarter, cyber-secure and more efficient national gas ecosystem, supporting India's energy-security objectives while encouraging greater adoption of cleaner natural gas.

As India moves towards a more gas-based and digitally enabled energy economy, Smart Domestic PNG Metering could become a critical infrastructure layer—combining consumer convenience, safety, cybersecurity, transparency and energy efficiency while strengthening the resilience of the country's expanding CGD network.

Glaciers – EARTH'S Ice Rivers



NEW DELHI

Glaciers — Earth's Ice Rivers Dr Kandepi Rani Prasad Glaciers are large natural ice flows formed by the slow movement of ice, ice sheets, and ice particles accumulated on Earth over thousands of years under the influence of gravity. Although they appear stationary, they actually move slowly, from a few meters to a few kilometers per year. That is why glaciers are also called “rivers of ice”. Temperatures are very low in the highest mountain areas and polar regions. There, the snow that falls every year does not melt completely and accumulates in layers. The weight of the upper layers puts pressure on the snow below. The snow gradually turns into a dense mass of ice. When this mass starts moving slowly towards the slopes due to its own weight, a glacier is formed. Glaciers can be mainly divided into two types. 1. Mountain glaciers: Glaciers that form on mountain peaks and valleys are called mountain glaciers. They move down the slopes of mountains and carve out valleys. 2. Con-

Rivers of Ice That Shape Our Planet
Silent yet constantly moving, glaciers are among Earth's most powerful natural forces. These ancient rivers of ice store vast amounts of freshwater, carve mountains and valleys, preserve clues about Earth's climate history, and influence the flow of rivers and sea levels. As rising global temperatures accelerate glacier loss in many regions, these frozen giants have become important indicators of the changing health of our planet.

tinental glaciers: Large sheets of ice that cover vast areas of land are called continental glaciers. Such vast sheets of ice are found in Antarctica and Greenland. A glacier is not a single solid block of rock. The pressure, temperature, and water at its base cause the ice to flow slowly. Due to gravity, the glacier moves from high altitudes to low altitudes. This movement is so slow that it is usually not visible to our eyes. The movement of glaciers can also change the surface of the earth. The rocks, sand, and soil that travel with the ice rub against the surface of mountains, widening valleys. This process is called glacial erosion. This results in the formation of geological formations such as U-shaped valleys, ice valleys, and lakes. Moraine is the accumulation of rocks, soil, and sand carried by glaciers. The largest portion of the world's fresh water is stored in glaciers and ice sheets. Mountain glaciers melt in the summer to provide water for rivers. Glaciers therefore serve as an important source of natural water for rivers in many areas. As global temperatures rise, many glaciers are melting faster. Melting ice contributes to sea level rise. In addition, there may be long-term changes in the flow of rivers that depend on glaciers. However, glaciers do not respond uniformly. Many factors, such as local temperatures, snowfall, rainfall, and mountain topography, affect their growth or decline. Glaciers contain layers of ice that are thousands of years old. The air bubbles, dust, and chemicals trapped in them provide information about past climate conditions. Therefore, ice core studies are very useful for scientists to understand the Earth's past climate. Scientists are constantly monitoring the size, thickness, and movement of glaciers with modern methods such as satellite imagery, drones, GPS devices, radar technology, and analysis of ice patterns. Glaciers are not just icebergs; they are key natural components of the Earth's climate system. In addition to storing fresh water, they change the shape of mountains, provide water for rivers, and preserve past climate history. With many glaciers currently shrinking due to the effects of climate change, their preservation, scientific monitoring, and climate change control are of great importance. The health of glaciers can be considered an important indicator of the health of the Earth's environment.

FOUR KILLED AS PILGRIMS’BUS OVERTURNS IN UP’S BAGHPAT

BAGHPAT (UTTAR PRADESH),
SEPTEMBER 6

Four people were killed after a bus carrying pilgrims overturned after hitting a divider on the Eastern Peripheral Expressway near the Badagaon cut in Uttar Pradesh's Baghpat district in the early hours of Monday, officials said.

Baghpat Superintendent of Police Suraj Kumar Rai said four people had died in the accident and efforts were underway to inform their families.

“So far, four people have lost their lives, and efforts are underway to notify their families,” Rai said.

The bus was carrying around 32 people and was travelling from Rajasthan towards Badaun when the accident occurred. According to the SP, information about the accident was received through the 112 emergency service at around 12:30 am.

“Approximately 32 people were on board, and several sustained se-

rious injuries,” Rai said.

Following the alert, four Police Response Vehicle (PRV) units, ambulances and local police personnel immediately reached the accident site and launched rescue operations.

The injured passengers were pulled out of the overturned bus and taken to the Community Health Centre (CHC) and the district hospital for treatment. Some of the passengers who sustained critical injuries were referred to higher medical centres for advanced treatment, Rai said.

Baghpat District Magistrate Asmita Lal also confirmed that four people died in the serious road accident. She said the vehicle overturned after the accident, leaving several passengers seriously injured, and that all the victims had been rescued and shifted to nearby medical facilities.

“A serious accident occurred in which a vehicle overturned, resulting in serious injuries to some individuals and the deaths of four

people. All the victims have been rescued and brought to the nearby CHC and the district hospital for treatment,” Lal said.

The accident took place on the Eastern Peripheral Expressway near the Badagaon cut in Baghpat district. Officials said the bus was returning from Bangar in Rajasthan when the accident occurred.

Police and district administration officials reached the spot soon after receiving information about the incident and coordinated the rescue and relief operations. The injured passengers continue to receive medical treatment at nearby hospitals, while those in critical condition have been referred to higher medical centres.

Officials said efforts were also underway to establish the identities of the deceased and inform their families about the tragedy.

The incident occurred in the early hours of Monday when the bus, carrying a large group of pilgrims, was travelling from Rajasthan towards Badaun.

Opposition Cannot Bear to See India's Development: Nitin Nabin

New Delhi, September 6: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National President Nitin Nabin on Sunday launched a sharp attack on the opposition, saying Prime Minister Narendra Modi had “hit the nail right on the head” by describing opposition leaders as “Naraaz Fufa” while addressing the youth at Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC) on Saturday.

Nabin said Modi's remark aptly described those who remain dissatisfied within the family and society and are unable to move forward or think positively.

“Yesterday Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the youth at SRCC College, and the way he referred to the opposition leaders of this country as ‘Naraaz Fufa’, everyone has seen. There are some people who remain dissatisfied within family and society and can never move forward or think in any positive direction. It was precisely such people whom Prime Minister Narendra Modi referred to as ‘Naraaz Fufa,’” Nabin said.

The BJP president questioned the opposition's criticism of the govern-

ment, asking why it was unhappy with what he described as India's development and achievements under the Modi government.

“I want to ask the opposition, when India is developing today, why are they angry? When India abrogates Article 370 and hoists the tricolour at Lal Chowk in Kashmir, why do they get angry?” Nabin said.

He further claimed that the opposition was also unhappy with the government's efforts to eliminate Naxalism and with its poverty alleviation measures. “Today, when Naxalism is being completely eradicated from its roots, why do they get angry? With the slogan under which they remained in power for so many years, today when that slogan has been truly fulfilled and 25 crore poor families have been brought out of poverty by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, they are angry even at this,” he said. Nabin alleged that the opposition had come to be identified with resistance to India's progress in development, heritage and culture, claiming that its leaders were focused on personal interests and prestige.

LIQUOR MAFIA 'SELLING DEATH' IN SHRIKOT: Villagers Allege Excise In action After Six Deaths

Poisonous illicit liquor reportedly sold openly in Tehri's Idwalsyu region; residents warn of mass protest if authorities fail to act

NAINBAGH, TEHRI
GARHWAL UTTARAKHAND

Allegations of an illicit liquor network have resurfaced in Shrikot Market and several villages of Idwalsyu Patti in Tehri Garhwal district, with villagers accusing the Excise Department of negligence and alleged collusion in allowing the sale of both illicit country liquor and licensed liquor in the area.

Local residents, public representatives, and the Shri Nag Devta Committee claim that more than six people have died in the past due to suspected poisonous liquor, yet no concrete action has been taken against those involved. They allege that repeated written and verbal complaints to the Excise Department, local police, and the administration have failed to stop the liquor mafia.



The issue has gained further attention ahead of the Shri Nag Devta pilgrimage, scheduled from September 7 to September 23, when thousands of devotees visit the religious region. Villagers allege that illegal liquor sales and consumption increase during the pilgrimage period, hurting the sanctity of the area and posing a serious threat to public safety.

The Shri Nag Devta Committee, along with local representatives and residents, has

submitted a memorandum to the Officer-in-Charge of Kempty Police Station, demanding strict legal action against those selling poisonous liquor, suppliers, and the entire distribution network. They have also urged Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami and Tehri District Magistrate Nikita Khandelwal to order a high-level investigation into the alleged racket.

Responding to the complaints, District Magistrate Nikita Khandelwal said the administration is treating the matter seriously. She stated that because the villages are located in the district's remote border region, information sometimes reaches authorities late, but any complaint regarding illicit or poisonous liquor will be investigated immediately and appropriate legal action will follow.

GM NFR Inspects Infrastructure Development and Passenger Amenity Works at Siliguri

MALIGAON, 06
SEPTEMBER, 2026

Chetan Kumar Shrivastava, General Manager of Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR), carried out an inspection of the Diesel Loco Shed, Siliguri and Siliguri Station on 05th September 2026. During the visit, he reviewed major ongoing infrastructure development works, passenger amenity projects and other initiatives aimed at enhancing operational efficiency and improving the overall travel experience of passengers. Senior officials from N.F. Railway Headquarters and Katihar Division accompanied the General Manager during the inspection programme. At Diesel Loco Shed, Siliguri, the General Manager took stock of the existing infrastructure, locomotive maintenance facilities and various improvement works. He stressed upon the need to maintain high standards of safety, reliability and efficien-



cy in maintenance operations, while ensuring effective utilization of available facilities.

At Siliguri Railway Station, Shri Chetan Kumar Shrivastava reviewed the progress of various developmental and passenger amenity works and held discussions with the concerned officials on ongoing and future plans. Several important works are underway at Siliguri, including the redevelopment of the station under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. The redevelopment

works include construction of a new Foot Over Bridge, provision of a PP Shed at Platforms 2 & 3 and construction of a new station building.

The General Manager also reviewed the progress of doubling works on the Siliguri – Aluabari Road and Siliguri – New Jalpaiguri sections. He emphasized the need to complete all ongoing works within the stipulated timelines, while ensuring high standards of quality, safety and passenger convenience, with



a focus on creating modern and passenger-friendly railway infrastructure

As part of the inspection programme, the General Manager also conducted a window-trailing inspection from Kamakhya to New Bongaigaon. During the inspection, he reviewed the condition of tracks, railway infrastructure and newly commissioned works, besides taking stock of ongoing developmental activities along the section.

During the inspection and subsequent review meetings, the General Manager appreciated the dedicated efforts of railway officials and staff in strengthening railway infrastructure and improving operational performance. He emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts for the timely completion of projects, adherence to quality and safety standards and continued focus on providing safe, reliable and efficient railway services across NFR.



India, Saudi Arabia review ‘excellent’ state of bilateral relations

RIYADH

Minister of State (MoS) Kirti Vardhan Singh on Sunday met with Adel al-Jubeir, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Climate Envoy of Saudi Arabia in Riyadh and reviewed the ‘excellent’ state of bilateral relations.

"Had a warm and productive meeting with Adel al-Jubeir, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Climate Envoy of Saudi Arabia. Reviewed the excellent state of India-Saudi bilateral relations and discussed cooperation on climate action," MoS Singh said on social media platform X. Earlier on Sunday, MoS Singh met Saudi Arabia's Human Resources and Social Development Minister Ahmad bin Sulaiman Alrajhi and discussed cooperation in labour and manpower sectors.

"Pleased to meet Ahmad bin Sulaiman Alrajhi, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development of Saudi Arabia. Held wide-ranging discussions on further strengthening India-Saudi Arabia cooperation in the labour and manpower sector, reflecting the depth and growing momentum of our Strategic Partnership. Grateful to Ahmad bin Sulaiman Alrajhi for the invitation and warm hospitality," MoS Singh said on X. he MoS arrived in Saudi Arabia, on his first official visit, on Saturday and was received by the country's Deputy Minister for International Affairs under Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development, Tariq Al Hamad.

Modi hails BAPS temple consecration in Paris as milestone for India-France ties

NEW DELHI/PARIS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday extended his heartfelt congratulations on the consecration of the Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha BAPS Swaminarayan Hindu Mandir near Paris, describing it as a significant addition to India's cultural presence in Europe and a new chapter in India-France relations.

"Today, in the capital of France, Paris, A magnificent Swaminarayan temple is being inaugurated. This inauguration is a new era of cultural relations between India and France... the stage of this inauguration has become the stage of awakening of the feeling of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'. By the grace of Lord Swami Narayan, and the love of our saints, the blessings of the saints, it is my good fortune that I always get the opportunity to join such auspicious occasions. Even today, although I am not present among all of you in Paris, but with my mind and heart, I am experiencing myself among you," PM Modi said in a video message.

He recalled that in 2024, a 'magnificent' temple was inaugurated in Abu Dhabi, and thousands of people visit it now.

"Through BAPS, when temples are inaugurated in different countries, the ancient thoughts of India and human values also go hand in hand....when such a magnificent temple has been built in France, this will enhance the diversity of France. This will also give energy to the cultural relations between India and France," PM Modi highlighted.

Addressing the gathering virtually, the Prime Minister said



that although he was not physically present in Paris, he felt deeply connected to the auspicious occasion.

He recalled the vision of the late Pramukh Swami Maharaj, who had initiated a global campaign to revive India's cultural and spiritual heritage.

"Today its light is spreading across the world, including Europe," PM Modi said, noting that the grand temple inaugurated in Abu Dhabi in 2024 and the newly consecrated temple in France stand as testimony to the determination of the saints.

The BAPS Swaminarayan Hindu Mandir in Bussy-Saint-Georges, Seine-et-Marne, is France's first traditionally designed stone Hindu temple and is regarded as the largest of its kind in mainland Europe.

Built with intricately carved

stones from India and assembled with French engineering expertise, the temple was consecrated by BAPS spiritual leader Mahant Swami Maharaj as part of a 13-day Festival of Culture.

Prime Minister Modi congratulated BAPS, the Swaminarayan institutions and crores of devotees. He said the consecration of such temples abroad celebrates India's ancient thoughts and human values.

"This will also energise the cultural relations between India and France," he remarked.

Highlighting the strong bilateral partnership and crores of devotees, he said the consecration of such temples abroad celebrates India's ancient thoughts and human values.

He referred to shared history, including the sacrifices of Indian soldiers in France, the writings of Romain Rolland on Ramakrishna Paramhansa and Swami Vivekananda, the influence of the Mother at the Aurobindo Ashram, and the popularity of Yoga in France, exemplified by celebrations near the Eiffel Tower. The Prime Minister expressed confidence that the new temple, built in the spirit of devotion and service, would become a centre for community service projects and that the voice of Indian culture emanating from it would resonate across Europe.

He said that he looked forward to visiting the temple whenever time permitted.

PM Modi concluded by offering his respectful greetings to all guests, devotees and families present on the occasion.



Afghanistan Foreign Minister, UNHCR representative discuss Afghan refugees’ return

KABUL

Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi held a meeting with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) representative in Afghanistan, Arafat Jamal, discussing the return of Afghan refugees and measures taken to provide them support and assistance after they arrive in the Islamic nation, local media reported on Sunday. During the meeting, Muttaqi and Jamal discussed strengthening cooperation and coordination between the Taliban-led government and the UNHCR to improve conditions for Afghan returnees, according to the statement released by Afghanistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Afghanistan-based Ariana News reported.

Both sides also discussed the need to coordinate the efforts of relevant countries and international organisations involved in or interested in supporting the return and reintegration of Afghan refugees. The meeting between Afghanistan's Foreign Minister and UNHCR representative comes at a time when international agencies have been reporting a rise in the deportation of Afghan refugees from neighbouring nations while emphasising the need for their dignified and safe return.

Earlier in the day, Taliban Deputy Spokesman Hamdullah Fitrat shared a daily operational report from the High Commission for Addressing Returnees' Issues, where he mentioned that 201 Afghan families, comprising 1,002 individuals, returned

from Pakistan and Iran on Saturday. In a report shared on social media platform X, Fitrat detailed that 105 families, comprising 571 people, returned to Afghanistan through the Torkham crossing. As many as five families, comprising 30 individuals, returned to Afghanistan through the Spin Boldak crossing and a total of 81 families, comprising 353 individuals, returned to the country through the Silk Bridge crossing in Nimroz province.

According to the report, 10 families, comprising 48 individuals, returned to Afghanistan through the Islam Qala crossing. The report said that 121 families, comprising 692 individuals, were relocated to various provinces of Afghanistan. In the report, Fitrat said that assistance was provided to 132 families while 114 families were given SIM cards. On June 20, Amnesty International urged the international community to stop unlawful expulsion of Afghan refugees and called for protecting their needs as per international human rights law.

Afghan refugees face arbitrary arrests and family separations in host nations and face human rights violations when they return to Afghanistan, the rights group said. "Millions of Afghan refugees are being expelled across the globe, and that number keeps climbing day by day. In host countries, they are facing arbitrary arrests and family separations; upon return, they are facing human rights violations amidst one of the most severe humanitarian crisis in the world," Amnesty International said.



Nepal: India continues search and rescue operations in Chhime Tunnel

KATHMANDU

India's tunnel rescue team is continuing its operations despite challenging conditions and poor access, India's Ambassador to Nepal, Naveen Srivastava, said on Sunday.

"Search and Rescue Operations in Chhime Tunnel: Despite challenging conditions of limited and poor access, slush and heavy debris, the India-Nepal joint technical team continue to make progress in the tunnel with hard manual work. The teams also started establishing rope connectivity from Syafrubesi to the tunnel for induction of more men. Meanwhile, construction of a temporary road towards the tunnel is moving forward with about 950 m cleared," Ambassador Srivastava said on social media platform X.

On Saturday, the team removed heavy debris, water and mud, which in the interior has

reached close to the roof of the Chhime tunnel.

The Ambassador said that this would allow heavy machinery to be taken deep into the tunnel and noted that, in parallel, work is also underway to make an access road from nearby Syafrubesi to the tunnel portal.

Continuing with its humanitarian assistance to Nepal, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Friday that India has so far sent around 95 tonnes of relief material on seven aircraft, along with 54 personnel to support rescue and relief efforts following the devastating flash floods in the Himalayan nation.

Addressing a bi-weekly press briefing in New Delhi on Friday, MEA Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India would continue to extend assistance based on the requirements communicated by the Nepalese government, with plans to send

additional forensic kits, Bailey bridges and other requested materials in the coming days.

"We will continue to provide assistance as per the requirements of the Nepal government. In the coming days, we plan to send more forensic kits, Bailey bridges and other materials that are requested by the Nepal government. Yesterday, we had two Indian aircraft flying to Kathmandu along with 21 tonnes of relief material.

Till now, we have supplied around 95 tonnes of relief materials on seven aircraft. In addition to the relief material, we have also sent 54 personnel to support relief and rescue efforts in Nepal. This comprises 30 tunnel rescue experts, 19 forensic experts, and a five-member medical team. Our rescue and forensic teams are deployed on the ground, and they are working closely with the Nepalese authorities," Jaiswal added.

End of regime in Iran is near, it is fighting for existence: Netanyahu

JERUSALEM

Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday that the end of the regime in Iran is near and it is fighting for its life, noting that there is another mission to complete.

He made these remarks at a Rosh Hashanah Toast during the government meeting.

"We are on the threshold of Rosh Hashanah, and more than ever, the State of Israel comes first. Thanks to the wise and courageous decisions we made together around this table, thanks to the heroism of our fighters, thanks to the resilience of our people — we have achieved tremendous accomplishments. Israel is stronger than ever; our enemies are weaker than ever. Together with the United States, we have achieved tremendous successes in removing an existential threat hanging over our heads. We have pushed away atomic bombs and ballistic missiles, and we have struck the Iranian axis with immense power," the Israeli Prime Minister's Office quoted Netanyahu as saying.

"We are determined to defend ourselves; we are deter-



mined to strike our enemies. They are not attacking us. Iran is refraining from doing so, and it knows why. Of course, it could err and make the mistake of attacking us anyway. It will suffer a blow it cannot even imagine," the Israeli Prime Minister highlighted.

He said that Israel is the strongest superpower in the Middle East and warned the enemies, "Do not try us." I say to our enemies: Do not try us. This (Israeli) people knows how to unite in moments of testing, and right now it is the strongest superpower in the Middle East, and some say even beyond," Netanyahu added.

He noted that the Israeli Defense Forces is eliminating

terrorists in Lebanon, Gaza, Judea and Samaria around the clock.

"The achievements are immense, but there is still more to complete. I mean, first and foremost, the toppling of the (Iranian) regime. This regime in Iran — its end is near. It is weak, it is fighting for its life, it is faltering. And there is another mission to complete, which we are determined to bring about," Netanyahu highlighted.

"This will permanently change the face of the Middle East and the history of our people. We know that we are determined to do this, and we are determined and know that we are capable of doing this," he stressed.

IAF to display famous Dolphin Leap and Spot Stall Turn manoeuvres at airshow in Egypt

CAIRO

The Sarang Helicopter Display Team of the Indian Air Force (IAF) will display its famous "Dolphin Leap" manoeuvre and also present a new manoeuvre called the Spot Stall Turn at the 2nd edition of the El Alamein International Airshow at El Alamein International Airport in Egypt, the Ministry of Defence said on Sunday.

The team reached Egypt to participate in the airshow, which is scheduled to be held from September 8 to 10.

"The IAF Sarang team is the world's only five-helicopter display team. The team will showcase precision, professionalism and flying skills through a series of meticulously choreographed displays. This marks another significant milestone in international engagements by the Indian Air Force, reflecting growing defence and diplomatic ties between India and Egypt," the Ministry of Defence said.

"Flying the indigenously designed and manufactured Advanced Light Helicopter



(ALH) Dhruv, the Sarang team is renowned for its demanding formation manoeuvres, close-proximity flying and synchronised aerial sequences," it added. The Ministry also said that the display highlights not only the exceptional skill and discipline of its pilots but also the capabilities of India's indigenous aerospace industry. According to the Ministry, the team's participation will provide an opportunity for spectators and aviation enthusiasts from across the world to witness the versatility and agility of the ALH Dhruv while witnessing the bold spirit of the Indian Air Force.

"The El Alamein International Airshow brings together leading Air Forces as well as professionals in the aerospace, defence, and space sectors from around the world.

Iran war may last six months: Former US Defence Secretary

WASHINGTON

The United States' military conflict with Iran could continue for another six months without a resolution and risks becoming another prolonged Middle East war, former US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta has warned. Panetta said Washington and Tehran were locked in a stalemate, with neither side appearing willing to negotiate, surrender or risk an even broader confrontation.

"I think the likelihood is this war is going to continue for another six months without being resolved," Panetta told The Guardian in an interview published on Sunday.

Panetta, who also served as CIA director under former President Barack Obama, said



President Donald Trump had limited options for ending a conflict that began more than six months ago. The first would be for Trump to halt the campaign and acknowledge that it had failed, a course Panetta said he considered unlikely.

The second would involve continuing the current pattern of intermittent attacks, with Washington and Tehran exchanging strikes while attempting to avoid a larger war. Panetta

said that approach could prolong the confrontation without producing a decisive outcome.

The third option, according to Panetta, would be for the United States to take control of the Strait of Hormuz and remove Iran's ability to disrupt traffic through the strategically important waterway.

The former defence secretary argued that reopening the strait should be Washington's principal objective if the administration wants to claim a clear military outcome. Panetta also criticised Trump's repeated assertions that an agreement was approaching and that the Strait of Hormuz was open. He said such statements had damaged the President's credibility and reduced the impact of subsequent US warnings.

The election is reduced to a rubber-stamp exercise validating a political outcome already engineered on the streets, a report said, analysing the political shift in Bangladesh amid the 11-party alliance's Dhaka-Chattogram march. "There was something distinctly programmatic about the 11-party alliance's Dhaka-Chattogram march. The convoy was large, the crowds larger, and the political rhetoric larger still," a report from Bangladesh's 'Daily Sun' newspaper said.

"At Mahipal in Feni, Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer and Opposition Leader Shafiqur Rahman warned of hearing 'the footsteps of fascism'. Elsewhere, LDP Chairman Colonel (ret'd) Oli Ahmad offered a far more precise projection: the current government, he claimed, would fall by December, urging the alliance to maintain discipline in anticipation of assuming power," the report highlighted. It called the



remarks by Ahmad a 'remarkably specific timeline' to be forecasted by an opposition leader.

"Governments typically transition through electoral defeat, shifts in parliamentary majorities, or the exhaustion of constitutional mandates—they

rarely come with expiration dates announced from political rally stages. Yet, the language emanating from the alliance increasingly mirrors a coalition preparing for an unconstitutional rupture rather than a standard democratic contest,"

the report emphasised.

According to the report, implementation of a referendum verdict, accountability for the July killings, resolution of acute energy shortages, price stabilisation, improved law and order, and the insulation of the civil

administration from political partisanship are the six core demands of the alliance.

It said that these are urgent public grievances that no administration can afford to dismiss, but it also reminded that legitimate grievances do not inherently validate extra-constitutional methods of redress.

The report noted that Shafiqur's warnings demand careful parsing, particularly given the gravity of the rhetoric employed.

"Whether December brings the political shift predicted by the opposition or simply marks another unfulfilled projection, the broader institutional stakes extend far beyond any single alliance or electoral cycle. The central hazard is not that an opposition party wins an election, but that the election itself is reduced to a rubber-stamp exercise validating a political outcome already engineered on the streets," emphasised the report by Daily Sun.



BUILD, NOT BUY: AI CODING AGENTS RESHAPE SOFTWARE SPENDING

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 6:

AI-powered coding agents are beginning to reshape corporate technology spending as companies increasingly choose to develop software and features internally instead of purchasing them from technology vendors, according to a research report by McKinsey.

The growing adoption of agentic coding tools is allowing organisations to build software functionality in-house that they might previously have acquired from external vendors. The trend could have significant implications for the traditional software “buy” model, particularly as AI coding agents become more capable and easier for businesses to deploy.

According to the McKinsey report, nearly one-third, or 32 per cent, of respondents said their organisations had decided not to purchase at least one software product or feature because they believed they could build the required functionality internally using agentic coding tools.

The shift towards in-house development was particularly

evident in the technology and healthcare sectors, followed by professional services and energy and materials. The findings indicate that companies across a range of industries are beginning to reassess their approach to software procurement as AI-powered development tools lower the barriers to building customised applications.

The trend comes as enterprises are rapidly expanding their use of agentic artificial intelligence. Forty per cent of respondents from organisations with annual revenues of more than USD 1 billion said their companies were scaling AI agents in at least one business function. This marked a significant increase from 27 per cent reported a year earlier.

Adoption among smaller organisations, however, remained broadly unchanged at 22 per cent, highlighting a widening gap between large enterprises and smaller companies in the pace at which agentic AI is being deployed.

AI high-performing organisations are moving even faster. According to the report, these companies were twice as likely as other organisations to



report scaling software coding agents and 2.7 times more likely to scale other forms of agentic AI.

The difference was also reflected in software purchasing decisions. Nearly half of AI high performers said they had forgone software purchases in favour of developing solutions internally, compared with 31 per cent of other respondents.

At the same time, the economics of AI are emerging as an increasingly important

factor in corporate technology decisions. Around one in five organisations surveyed said AI-related operating costs, including expenses associated with tokens, had constrained their use of the technology.

Despite these cost pressures, businesses continue to show strong interest in expanding AI investments. About 60 per cent of respondents said they expected their organisations to increase spending on AI over the next year.

The growing preference for building software internally could force technology companies to reconsider the traditional software-as-a-product business model. As coding agents become capable of performing increasingly complex development tasks, organisations may find it more economical or strategically beneficial to build certain tools themselves rather than rely on off-the-shelf products.

McKinsey noted that leading organisations are becoming more deliberate in deciding where to buy software, where to build it internally and where to develop their own capabilities. Rather than treating software procurement as a straightforward purchasing decision, companies are increasingly evaluating the relative costs, flexibility and strategic value of developing solutions in-house.

The report also pointed to the changing cost structure associated with AI-driven software development. As agentic systems take on more complex tasks, companies will need to carefully balance the potential savings from replacing pur-

chased software with the costs involved in computing resources, AI tokens, infrastructure and internal development.

The findings suggest that the growing capabilities of AI coding agents could gradually alter how companies allocate technology budgets, with a greater share potentially moving towards internal software development and AI infrastructure.

For software vendors, the shift could create increasing pressure to demonstrate value beyond functionality that can be replicated relatively easily through AI-assisted development. At the same time, companies adopting the technology will need to determine which software is best purchased from specialised vendors and which applications can be developed more efficiently using internal AI-powered capabilities.

As businesses continue to scale agentic AI, the balance between “build” and “buy” is therefore expected to become a more important strategic consideration in corporate technology spending.

Flipkart Minutes vs Blinkit: Can Flipkart Become Blinkit Before Blinkit Becomes Flipkart?

Years ago, India's defining e-commerce question was whether Amazon could defeat Flipkart. The next one is far more delicious. Can Flipkart become Blinkit before Blinkit becomes Flipkart?

The smartphone is performing a useful trick inside Flipkart Minutes' shopping basket.

Remove mobile phones and the average net order value on Flipkart's quick-commerce platform reportedly stands at ₹500-530. Blinkit recorded ₹518 during the June quarter. The two baskets suddenly look almost identical.

Put the phones back and Flipkart moves ahead. It is an impressive number. It is also an imperfect comparison.

A ₹40,000 smartphone and a packet of milk can travel in the same delivery bag, but they belong to very different businesses. The phone lifts the average order value dramatically. It says little about how frequently customers return, how densely orders arrive around a dark store or whether each delivery produces a profit.

The larger story hiding inside the basket is delicious.

Flipkart Minutes is backed by India's largest e-commerce platform and Walmart, the world's largest retailer. Blinkit belongs to Eternal, the listed parent of India's largest food-delivery platform.

One company knows what India buys online. The other knows how often India gets hungry. They are now racing towards the same front door.

BLINKIT HAS THE LEAD. FLIPKART HAS THE SPEED
Blinkit remains comfortably ahead.

During the first quarter of FY27, it processed 331 million orders, equivalent to approximately 3.6 million every day. Net order value reached ₹17,132 crore, rising 86 per cent year-on-year. It served 31.8 million monthly transacting customers through 2,443 dark stores.

He is desperately courting the angry youth. That won't be enough to credibly challenge Modi

More significantly, Blinkit reported an adjusted EBITDA profit of ₹102 crore, against a loss of ₹162 crore a year earlier. Its contribution margin improved to 5.3 per cent.

That margin is hardly luxurious. Its arrival matters after years in which quick commerce was treated as a bonfire requiring increasingly larger bundles of capital.

Blinkit has begun demonstrating that groceries delivered almost immediately can eventually carry more than the delivery bag.

Flipkart Minutes lacks comparable public financial disclosure. Its operating progress is nevertheless difficult to ignore.

Launched in August 2024, Minutes is now estimated to handle between 1.1 million and 1.2 million orders a day, up from approximately 390,000-400,000 last November. Its network has expanded beyond 1,000 micro-fulfilment centres, with a target of 1,500 by the end of 2026. Recent estimates place it within striking distance of Swiggy Instamart, although Blinkit continues to process roughly three times as many daily orders.

A UBS assessment cited in media reports says the average Minutes store processes 800-1,000 orders daily. Stores operating for five or six months can reach 1,200-1,500.

The pace is the warning.
Blinkit spent years con-

verting Grofers, an online grocery company founded in 2013, into India's dominant instant-delivery network. Flipkart has built a serious challenger in two years.

The ₹500-530 basket matters precisely because mobile phones have been removed from it. It suggests that Flipkart is beginning to attract a conventional quick-commerce customer, rather than depending entirely on expensive electronics to flatter the average.

Yet the same assessment says Flipkart's gross margins remain below Blinkit's and its operating efficiency has not caught up. Mature stores may be approaching the estimated 1,400-1,500 daily orders required for break-even at a ₹500-600 basket. The average store remains some distance away.

Flipkart has built the shops. It must now fill them with sufficiently frequent, profitable orders.

TWO COMPANIES, TWO INHERITANCES

Flipkart enters this war carrying an enormous inheritance.

It already has the customers, sellers, payment relationships, consumer data, warehouses and delivery infrastructure accumulated during nearly two decades of Indian e-commerce. It understands electronics particularly well. It knows which neighbourhood buys premium smartphones and which small town responds to discounts on cooking oil.

Where Minutes is available, an estimated 40-45 per cent of customers visiting Flipkart also visit its quick-commerce section. This gives it an acquisition advantage a standalone entrant would spend years trying to manufacture.

Flipkart can also place quick commerce inside a larger commercial relationship.

A customer may buy groceries on Monday, cosmetics on Wednesday, a smartphone on Friday and a washing machine during the Big Billion Days sale. Minutes can increase the number of times that customer opens Flipkart between major purchases.

Traditional e-commerce taught Indians to wait several days for an enormous selection. Quick commerce has trained them to expect a smaller selection immediately.

Flipkart needs both behaviours. Blinkit inherited a different machine.

Eternal's food-delivery operation had already mapped restaurants, riders, neighbourhood demand, payment behaviour and the economics of delivering relatively small orders within narrow time windows. Zomato supplied the operational grammar. Blinkit changed the nouns from biryani and burgers to bananas and batteries.

It has since evolved well beyond emergency groceries. Beauty products, toys, small electronics, stationery and festive merchandise have expanded the basket. Its shift towards owning inventory has made it resemble a retailer as much as a technology intermediary.

This is where the two companies begin invading each other's identities.

Flipkart needs Blinkit's frequency. Blinkit wants Flipkart's assortment.

Flipkart is trying to make a high-consideration shopping platform habitual. Blinkit is trying to make an everyday habit valuable enough to carry larger categories.

One is moving down from the smartphone towards the tomato. The other is moving up from the tomato towards the smartphone.

‘SEMICON 2.0’ TAKES CENTRE STAGE AT SEMICON INDIA 2026

NEW DELHI, SEP 6

SEMICON India 2026, scheduled to be held in the national capital later this month, will feature a dedicated session on the “Semicon 2.0 Policy”, with discussions focusing on the next phase of India's semiconductor journey and the roadmap for building a robust and resilient semiconductor ecosystem in the country.

According to a post by the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM), the special session will focus on the progress achieved so far in India's semiconductor sector and the measures required to further strengthen the ecosystem.

“SEMICON India 2026 is set to host a dedicated session on ‘Semicon 2.0 Policy’, with discussions focusing on the next phase of India's semiconductor journey and the roadmap towards building a robust and resilient semiconductor ecosystem,” the India Semiconductor Mission said in its post.

The fifth edition of SEMICON India will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 17 at Yashobhooni, the India International Con-

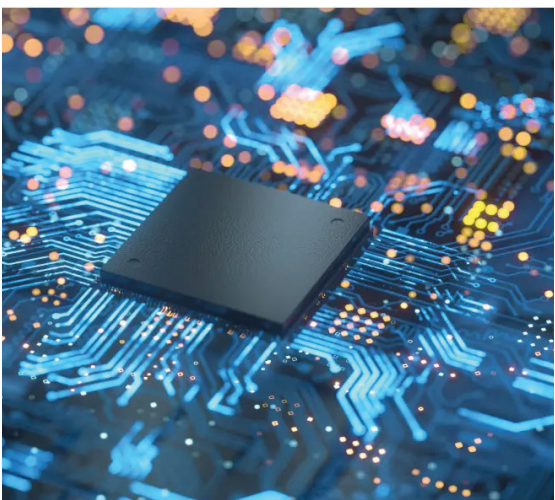
vention and Expo Centre in New Delhi.

The event is expected to bring together stakeholders from across the global semiconductor industry and will feature a range of activities, including keynote addresses, panel discussions, fireside chats and international country roundtables.

The sessions are aimed at creating a platform for dialogue, collaboration and exchange of ideas to further accelerate semiconductor innovation, investment and growth in India.

India's semiconductor journey has gained significant momentum in recent years under the India Semiconductor Mission through the Semicon India Programme. The government has been seeking to establish a strong domestic semiconductor ecosystem and reduce dependence on overseas supply chains for critical components.

Under the Semicon 1.0 programme, 12 projects have been approved with the objective of building a robust and resilient semiconductor ecosystem in the country. These projects form a key part of India's efforts to develop capabilities across different segments of the semiconductor value



chain.

The Union Cabinet has also approved the next phase of the programme, known as Semicon 2.0, with the objective of accelerating the development of a robust and resilient semiconductor ecosystem in India.

The upcoming dedicated session at SEMICON India 2026 is expected to provide an opportunity to discuss the priorities and roadmap under the new phase and examine how India can further strengthen its position in the global semiconductor landscape.

Recognising semiconductors as a foundational industry for modern technologies and the wider

digital economy, the government is also supporting research, innovation and semiconductor design in the country.

As part of these efforts, state-of-the-art design tools are being provided to more than 332 academic institutes and 105 start-ups. The initiative is aimed at strengthening India's research and design capabilities and enabling students, researchers and entrepreneurs to work on advanced semiconductor technologies.

In addition, 24 start-ups have been approved under the Design Linked Incentive (DLI) scheme. The scheme is intended to sup-

port Indian innovators in developing semiconductor and chip-design solutions for critical applications.

The government's semiconductor initiatives are aimed not only at expanding manufacturing capacity but also at creating a broader ecosystem covering research, innovation, design, start-ups and skilled talent.

The initiatives are expected to contribute to the development of a more robust and holistic semiconductor ecosystem in the country, in line with the government's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

With global demand for semiconductors continuing to rise and countries seeking to strengthen their domestic supply chains, India has been positioning itself as an emerging destination for semiconductor manufacturing, design and innovation.

SEMICON India 2026 is expected to provide a major platform for industry leaders, policymakers, investors, researchers and technology companies to discuss opportunities and challenges facing the sector, while the dedicated Semicon 2.0 session will focus on the next stage of India's semiconductor development.

Market Risks Cloud SIP Assumptions

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 6

Indian investors may need to temper expectations of smooth and linear returns from systematic investment plans (SIPs) and equity markets, as discipline, affordability and the ability to remain invested during market downturns emerge as critical factors determining long-term investment outcomes, according to a latest report by DSP Mutual Fund.

The report cautioned that investors often tend to extrapolate past market performance into the future while overlooking risks that remain less visible during periods of strong market performance.

“The hidden risk is that you can't choose the time you were born or the type of environment in which you will invest,” DSP said in the report, noting that while investors cannot control the broader market environment, they can make choices around diversification and the price they pay for investments.

DSP's analysis also challenges the conventional way in which SIP returns are often presented to investors. According to the report's calculations, a monthly SIP of Rs 10,000 made over the past 20 years would have grown to Rs 87.3 lakh if invested in the Nifty 50 TRI.

However, the report said that the outcome would have been significantly different if the SIP amount had been adjusted in line with the investor's income over the same period. Under such an approach, the terminal corpus would have been around Rs 31.9 lakh.

The comparison highlights the importance of affordability when assessing historical SIP returns. While fixed SIP illustrations can demonstrate the potential of long-term compounding, the report suggests that investors' actual ability to sustain contributions over several years can have a major impact on the final corpus.

The report also highlighted the risks associated with interruptions to long-term investing. SIP stoppages and withdrawals can significantly affect the eventual outcome, particularly when they occur during periods of market stress.

Market downturns often coincide with periods of greater financial uncertainty, including job insecurity and urgent cash requirements. Such circumstances can force investors to either reduce their investments, stop SIP contributions or withdraw capital at a time when markets are falling.

DSP said investors ultimately



need “luck, discipline and affordability” for SIP investing to work as expected over the long term.

The importance of staying invested during periods of volatility was further underlined by DSP's analysis of 10-year SIPs in the Sensex TRI over the past three decades.

According to the study, 99 per cent of the 10-year SIPs generated returns higher than debt, with a median return of 14.2 per cent. However, the journey was not necessarily smooth for most investors.

As many as 81 per cent of these SIPs experienced negative returns at some point during their investment journey, while 95 per cent encountered a period of difficult or weak performance within the first five years.

The findings indicate that even investments that ultimately generate strong long-term returns can go through prolonged periods of losses

or underperformance. Investors who are unable to tolerate such temporary declines may be more likely to stop investing or withdraw funds, potentially affecting the benefits of long-term compounding.

The report also cautioned investors against chasing assets that have recently delivered exceptionally high returns.

DSP highlighted the example of silver exchange-traded funds (ETFs), where investor returns were significantly lower than the return generated by silver itself.

According to the report, the average investor earned only 18 per cent over the past year, compared with a 98 per cent return delivered by silver. At the same time, 56 per cent of the money invested during the period was sitting at a loss as of July 31, 2026.

The difference highlights the potential impact of investor behaviour and timing on actual returns. Even when an underlying asset delivers strong gains, investors who enter after a sharp rally or make investment decisions based on recent performance may not achieve the same returns.

DSP's broader message is that successful long-term investing is

less about accurately predicting every market movement and more about developing the ability to withstand volatility, maintain investment discipline and avoid behavioural mistakes that can undermine the power of compounding.

The report suggests that investors should therefore focus on factors within their control, including maintaining adequate affordability for regular investments, diversifying their portfolios, assessing valuations and remaining committed to their investment strategy through different market cycles.

While historical data demonstrates the potential of SIPs and equities to create wealth over long periods, the report cautions that actual investor outcomes depend not only on market returns but also on the ability to remain invested throughout the journey.

For investors, the key lesson is that long-term wealth creation may require accepting periods of uncertainty and negative returns rather than expecting a consistently rising investment value. Maintaining discipline during difficult market conditions, while ensuring that investment commitments remain financially sustainable, could be crucial to achieving the benefits of long-term compounding.



Top Universities, Global Careers

The world’s leading institutions shaping the next generation of finance and business leaders

For students dreaming of a successful career in finance, economics, marketing, management or business leadership, choosing the right university can be one of the most important decisions they make. A strong academic institution can provide far more than a degree. It can offer access to world-class faculty, cutting-edge research, practical learning, global exposure, industry connections and an influential alumni network. Business-related careers have also become

increasingly competitive and specialised. Today's students are not only preparing for traditional roles in banking or corporate management. They are entering rapidly changing fields such as investment management, financial technology, data analytics, consulting, entrepreneurship, digital marketing, economic policy and business strategy. As a result, students looking to study abroad are increasingly relying on global university rankings to identify institutions

that offer strong academic programmes and international recognition. According to the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026, several of the world's most prestigious universities continue to dominate business-related disciplines. Harvard University stands out as the leading institution across multiple subjects, ranking first globally in Economics and Econometrics, Marketing, Business and Management Studies, and Accounting and Finance.

Meanwhile, Stanford University has secured the top position in Statistics and Operational Research, highlighting its strength in areas that are becoming increasingly important in the modern data-driven economy. The rankings offer useful guidance for students who are considering higher education opportunities abroad and want to understand which universities are recognised globally for excellence in different business and finance-related fields.

Harvard University Dominates Business Related Subjects

Harvard University has once again demonstrated its global academic influence by securing the top position in several major business-related disciplines in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026. The university ranks first in Economics and Econometrics, Marketing, Business and Management Studies, and Accounting and Finance. Its performance reflects Harvard's long-standing reputation as one of the world's most influential institutions for business education, economic research and leadership development. Located in the United States, Harvard attracts students from across the world and offers access to a wide range of academic and professional opportunities. Its strong connections with global businesses, financial institutions, governments, technology companies and research organisations make it an attractive destination for students seeking international careers. Harvard's programmes are also known for combining academic theory with practical learning. Students are encouraged to examine real-world business challenges, study global economic trends, analyse financial markets and develop leadership skills. For students interested in finance, economics or management, the university's reputation can also provide significant career advantages. Harvard graduates are represented

across global corporations, investment banks, consulting firms, governments, start-ups and international organisations. However, students should remember that gaining admission to Harvard is highly competitive. Academic excellence, strong extracurricular achievements, leadership potential and a well-rounded profile are important factors for applicants.

Economics and Econometrics: Harvard Leads the Global Rankings

Economics and Econometrics remain among the most popular academic disciplines for students interested in understanding how markets, governments and financial systems function.

The subject offers opportunities in areas ranging from banking and investment to public policy, economic research, consulting and international development. With the global economy becoming increasingly complex, economists and financial analysts are playing important roles in helping governments and businesses make informed decisions.

According to the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026, Harvard University is ranked as the world's leading institution for Economics and Econometrics.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology follows closely behind Harvard. MIT is internationally recognised for its strong focus on mathematics, technology, research and quantitative analysis, making it particu-

larly attractive for students interested in data-driven economics and financial modelling. Stanford University occupies another top position in the global rankings. Stanford's location near Silicon Valley gives students opportunities to explore the relationship between economics, technology and entrepreneurship. The University of Chicago also remains one of the world's most respected institutions for economics. It has historically been associated with influential economic thinkers and research that has shaped modern economic theory. Princeton University completes the group of leading institutions in Economics and Econometrics. Its academic programmes are known for strong research, analytical thinking and rigorous theoretical study. Together, these universities represent some of the world's most prestigious destinations for students seeking careers in economics, financial research, investment analysis, policy-making and related fields.

Business and Management Studies Remain a Popular Choice

Business and Management Studies continue to attract students from around the world because of the wide range of career opportunities available after graduation. A degree in business or management can open doors to careers in consulting, corporate leadership, entrepreneurship, human resources, operations, finance, market-

Marketing Education for a Changing Digital World

Marketing has changed dramatically over the past decade. Traditional advertising and brand promotion have been transformed by digital platforms, social media, artificial intelligence, consumer analytics and data-driven decision-making. Businesses today need professionals who understand consumer behaviour while also being able to analyse data and adapt to rapidly changing market conditions. For students interested in pursuing careers in brand management, advertising, digital marketing, consumer research or business strategy, studying at a globally recognised institution can provide valuable exposure. According to the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026, Harvard University leads the world in Marketing. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology is also ranked among the leading institutions for the subject. MIT's strengths in technology, innovation and data analysis can be particularly valuable in an era where marketing is increasingly influenced by artificial intelligence and digital platforms. The University of Pennsylvania also features among the world's top institutions for marketing education. The university's strong business and management

ecosystem provides students with opportunities to develop an understanding of markets, consumer behaviour and corporate strategy. The University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom is another highly ranked institution. Its global reputation for academic excellence makes it a popular destination for international students. Stanford University completes the group of leading universities in Marketing. Its location in California and close proximity to major technology companies gives students exposure to innovation, entrepreneurship and the evolving digital economy. For students planning a marketing career, the subject is no longer limited to advertising campaigns and promotional activities. Modern marketing increasingly requires knowledge of data analytics, technology, customer psychology and digital communication.

ing and strategy. According to the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026, Harvard University is ranked first globally for Business and Management Studies. Stanford University follows Harvard as one of the world's leading destinations for business education. Stanford has built a strong reputation for entrepreneurship and innovation, with many successful technology companies and start-ups having connections to its wider academic ecosystem. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology is also among the world's top institutions for Business and Management Studies. MIT is particularly known for combining business education with technology, innovation and engineering. INSEAD is another major name in global business education. With an international student community and campuses across different regions, the institution has developed a reputation for offering a global



Accounting and Finance

A Pathway to Global Career Opportunities

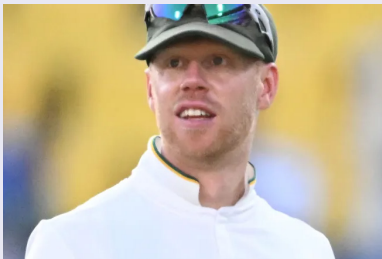
Accounting and Finance remain among the most sought-after subjects for students interested in building careers in the financial sector. Graduates in these fields can pursue opportunities in investment banking, corporate finance, financial consulting, accounting, auditing, asset management, financial planning and other areas. According to the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026, Harvard University is ranked first globally for Accounting and Finance. Stanford University follows closely, highlighting its growing influence across finance, technology and business education. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology is also among the world's leading institutions for Accounting and Finance. Its strength in mathematics, technology and quantitative analysis makes it particularly relevant in a financial sector that is becoming increasingly dependent on data and advanced technology. The University of Oxford occupies another leading position in the rankings. Oxford continues to attract students interested in finance, economics and management because of its strong academic tradition and global reputation. The University of Chicago completes the top group of institutions for Accounting and Finance. The university's strong reputation in economics and financial research makes it a popular choice for students interested in analytical and research-oriented careers. The global finance industry is undergoing rapid transformation. Financial technology, artificial intelligence, blockchain, digital payments and advanced analytics are changing the way financial institutions operate. Students entering the field today therefore need more than traditional knowledge of accounting principles or financial management. They increasingly need technical skills, analytical abilities and an understanding of how technology is reshaping global financial markets.

of Oxford completes the list of leading institutions for Statistics and Operational Research. For students considering careers in finance and business, knowledge of statistics is becoming increasingly valuable. Financial institutions, technology companies and consulting firms are relying heavily on data to make decisions. Professionals who can analyse large volumes of information and translate data into meaningful business insights are likely to remain in high demand.



CRICKET

SA recall
Verreynne ahead of
Tests against Australia



NOTTINGHAM: Nottinghamshire's push for winning the ongoing County Championship has suffered a setback after wicketkeeper Kyle Verreynne was recalled early by Cricket South Africa, thus ruling him out of the final three matches of the season. Verreynne, 29, currently in his third spell with the club, had originally signed to feature in all of Nottinghamshire's red-ball fixtures this summer. But central contract obligations take precedence ahead of South Africa's upcoming three-game home Test series against Australia. "I think I've said it so many times, the club's got a really special place. It's got a special place to me, so I'll be watching closely.

Diamond League

'Keep our flag flying high!': Angelo Mathews



NEW DELHI: Former Sri Lanka captain Angelo Mathews congratulated javelin thrower Rumesh Tharanga Pathirage after the 23-year-old created history by becoming the first Sri Lankan to win the Diamond League title. Mathews took to X to celebrate Pathirage's landmark achievement, posting, "Rumesh Tharanga, keep our flag flying high!" Pathirage delivered a winning throw of 89.04m on his third attempt at the King Baudouin Stadium to claim the Diamond League Final title. Poland's Dawid Wegner finished second with a personal-best 87.47m, while Trinidad and Tobago's former Olympic champion Keshorn Walcott took third with a season-best 83.99m.

SHOOTING

Rahi Sarnobat backs Bhopal as ideal Asian Games camp



BHOPAL: With Indian shooters set to begin their final training camp for the Asian Games in Bhopal from Monday, experienced pistol shooter Rahi Sarnobat believes the city was the ideal choice for the crucial phase of preparations, citing the similarity in weather conditions to those expected at the competition venue. "I think Bhopal was the best choice for this Asian Games. When we learned that a camp was being held here, we checked the temperature and humidity at the competition venue. They are very similar to those in Bhopal," Rahi told IANS. The Indian shooting contingent will use the Final Camp to fine tune their preparations ahead of the Asian Games, with athletes also focussing on maintaining their mental composure and adapting to the conditions they are likely to encounter during competition.

India beat Bangladesh 3-0 to boost qualification hopes for AFC U20 Asian Cup

TASHKENT

India on Sunday blanked Bangladesh 3-0 in their final Group B qualifier to boost their hopes for a place in the AFC U20 Asian Cup China 2027. Danny Meitei Laishram, Vishal Yadav and Md Arbash scored for the Indian side in a strong win at the Do'stlk Stadium in Tashkent, which has kept the Blue Colts very much alive in the race for their first entry into the AFC U20 Asian Cup after 20 years. India now have six points from their three games in Group B and are placed second. They can be displaced by Syria,



who have three points from two games but have a game against the group-toppers Uzbekistan. If Syria lose their game or play a draw, India would end second and be one of the seven best runners-up places across the eight groups. Danny opened the scoring for

Formula 1: Antonelli storms from 19th to win Italian Grand Prix

MONZA

Kimi Antonelli produced a sensational comeback drive at his home Italian Grand Prix on Sunday, storming from 19th on the grid to claim victory at Monza after overtaking Mercedes teammate and title rival George Russell in the closing stages. After receiving an engine penalty, Antonelli began the race towards the back, but he then moved quickly up through the field by means of excellent speed and bold moves to overtake other drivers. The Virtual Safety Car, which came into effect during the race, was important in his rise, since Antonelli used the caution period to stop and get a new set of medium tyres while Russell remained on the track with his used hards. Antonelli's different tyre strategy gradually gave him the upper hand, enabling him to close in on Russell in the last stages of the race. Although he briefly went through the gravel when attacking his teammate, he managed to recover and secure a remarkable win over 53 laps at the Autodromo Nazionale Monza. Russell came in second place, about four seconds behind Antonelli, while Max Verstappen of Red Bull took third position after a determined race which

involved a number of bold overtakes. Lando Norris won a closely fought race against his McLaren teammate Oscar Piastri to end in fourth place, while Lewis Hamilton was the top-scoring driver for Ferrari, coming in sixth after Charles Leclerc had a serious crash at the last corner on the second lap. The fact that Pierre Gasly had surprised the field by securing his first Formula 1 pole position during Saturday's Qualifying session meant that he was unable to keep up with the other drivers at the front and ended up in seventh place; Arvid Lindblad, Franco Colapinto and Yuki Tsunoda filled out the rest of the points-scoring positions. Gabriel Bortoletto and Nico Hulkenberg drove in the Audi cars, there being an incident in which Hulkenberg fought with Liam Lawson at Turn 4, and this was then looked into by the stewards. Carlos Sainz came in thirteenth for Williams, placing him ahead of Lawson, Ollie Bearman and Esteban Ocon, who are teammates at Haas, Alex Albon, and the Cadillac drivers Sergio Perez and Valtteri Bottas. Fernando Alonso and Lance Stroll were also among those who retired late, Alonso going back to the pits due to suspected damage to his car and Stroll pulling out



because of a problem with the hydraulics. The outcome marked a remarkable turnaround for Antonelli, who had been the championship leader at the start of the weekend but was obliged to start from 19th position due to his power unit penalty. The Italian's recovery was all the more remarkable because of

the strength of the opposition on the front row. During Qualifying, Gasly and Alpine had given one of the surprises of the season, the Frenchman taking advantage of the team's latest chassis improvements and the Mercedes power unit to get pole position. Russell was starting in the front row as he had secured pole position ahead of Gasly and had

in fact beaten the Frenchman at an online chess game earlier. At the beginning Piastri qualified in third position but was given a three-place grid penalty for having impeded Lawson in Q2, which promoted Leclerc and Hamilton to the second row and raised Verstappen to fifth place. As a result of receiving a penalty, Antonelli's position fell

from seventh to nineteenth, and both Albon and Lawson were also given engine penalties. Lawson was subsequently required to start from the pit lane due to modifications made to the rear wing of his Red Bull under parc ferme conditions, and Alonso too had to start from the pit lane after changes to the power unit following qualifying. Before the race, everyone was focused on whether Gasly would be able to turn his surprising pole position into a win, and Sebastian Vettel added to the excitement by driving Michael Schumacher's 2002 Ferrari during a special demonstration run. The tyre strategy was another issue that was widely discussed. Gasly and Russell chose the medium tyres, while Leclerc, Hamilton and Verstappen went with the soft ones. Antonelli started with the hard tyres together with Tsunoda and Alonso. With the lights turning off, Gasly managed a straightforward escape to keep the lead going into the first chicane; behind him, Leclerc and Hamilton were side by side, Hamilton seeming to be pushed onto the gravel and thus dropping in the standings. Verstappen and Piastri also nearly made contact, Verstappen managing to get ahead and end up in fourth place.

Duleep Trophy: Ishan's unbeaten century helps East Zone put up strong Day 1 show against South



CHENNAI

Captain Ishan Kishan scored an unbeaten hundred as he took East Zone to a strong position at the end of Day 1 of the Duleep Trophy final against South Zone at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai. Kishan went back unbeaten on 111, while the other wicketkeeper batter Kumar Kushagra also remained unscathed on 63 as the two took East to a strong score of 385/4 in 79 overs on stumps. South's bowlers were laboured at Chepauk, and several of them took the beating from the East batters, as Shikhar Mohan (85), Abhimanyu Easwaran (72) and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (44) also put up impressive performances with the willow. The fans turned out in numbers at Chepauk after East Zone skipper Ishan won the toss. There was an air of excitement to watch teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi in action as fans filled the stands opened for the match. The 15-year-old did not disappoint a bit and marched his way to a stroke-filled 44 from 37 balls after treading with caution at the start. He had a fascinating battle with fellow international and senior Mohammed Siraj, who beat him with hard lengths but was then taken to the cleaners by the rising sensation. Sooryavanshi lined the Test speedster for three fours and a six in the 12 balls he faced from him in an enthralling show for the fans. Sooryavanshi's stay was ended by Chama V Milind on a short ball, while Easwaran also im-

pressed well during his 72 as East were in ascendancy after the first session, having scored 133/2 in the 27 overs before lunch. South deployed spin from both ends in the second session, but Mohan negated the challenge and kept the scoreboard ticking. Milind came and got Mohan short of his century with a short-ball play; however, Kishan carried on and was joined by Kushagra later. The two batters went all cylinders behind the South's tiring attack in the final session as they put up an unbeaten stand of 144 from 160 balls and did not lose a single wicket in the final session. After being 246/4 at tea, it was this session which East Zone stole completely apart from a strong first session. East made runs at 5.56 an over as they collected 139 runs from 25 overs to end the day on a high note. The South bowlers struggled, and Siraj's return was not impressive either. The speedster failed to touch 135kph for the majority of his 14 overs as he stayed in the mid-120s and was hit for 96 runs at 6.90 an over and failed to pick a single wicket. Tripurana Vijay also took a beating, being hit for 114 runs in 22 overs at 5.20, but with a wicket to his name. Milind seemed to be the pick of the bowlers with his twin scalps for 56 runs in 13 overs, but South would feel they have a lot of work to do after East ended the day on a high note. Brief scores: East Zone 385/4 in 79 overs (Ishan Kishan 111*, Shikhar Mohan 85; Chama V Milind 2-56, Tripurana Vijay 1-114) against South Zone

National Karting C'ship: Dominating wins for Arshi Gupta, Zidaan Arshaan Anees

BENGALURU

Arshi Gupta, the nine-year-old from Faridabad, yet again showcased her undoubted talent and composure with a sizzling performance in the mini max class that saw her snatch maximum points in the fifth round of the FMSCI Indian National Karting Championship RMC India 2026 which concluded at the Meco Kartopia here on Sunday. In the fourth round a couple of days back at the same venue, Arshi (Leapfrog Racing) won both the championship points scoring races, the pre-final and final, comfortably. She also put in eight consecutive fastest laps in the final today. Meanwhile, two Bengaluru-based Peregrine Racing teammates, Zidaan Arshaan Anees (Micro Max) and Akshat Misra (Senior Max), triumphed in their respective classes, while Hridaan Sanadhya from Pune (Crest Motorsports) topped the Junior Max category. The trio earned maximum championship points by winning the pre-final and final races. Almost all the sessions today had their fair share of contacts and collisions, which sped up the proceedings. Amidst the chaos, Arshi Gupta was simply unstoppable as she won



the Mini Max races in a dominating fashion. One of the exciting races was the Mini Max Final, where Coimbatore's Shivneel Karthikeyan (MS-PORT), son of India's first Formula One driver Narain Karthikeyan, clinched a third spot after fighting his way through the field but could not pass Bengaluru's Ridhaan Anil Kumarr (Red Rabbit Racing), who finished second behind Arshi. Meanwhile, Zidaan, after jumping into the lead at the start, maintained a consistent pace, which saw him draw away from the chasing pack that included Round 4 topper Kolhapur's Ayanish Patil (MSPORT) and the hard-charging Rudrapratap Singh Shekhawat from Gurugram (Leapfrog Racing), both of

whom finished on the podium in two races on Sunday. One of the surprises today was that fancied Rivaan Dev Preetham from Chennai (MSPORT) went winless in the Junior Max class. He was fourth in the pre-final and second in the final, where he exhibited his racecraft and dared to move up from mid-grid to the podium. The senior class races, marked by 23-kart grids, also dished out nail-biting finishes where the track positions kept changing in both the pre-final and final. Akshat Misra, after holding off the challenge in the early laps, topped both outings. Bengaluru's Rohaan Madesh (Peregrine Racing) managed to finish ahead of Eshanth Vengatesan in the pre-final.

GCL: Ganges Grandmasters edge table toppers American Gambits 9-7 to jump to second spot

BENGALURU

Ganges Grandmasters stopped the winning juggernaut of American Gambits while defending champions Alpine APL Pipers registered their second consecutive win in the Global Chess League (GCL) in Bengaluru on Sunday. Ganges Grandmasters, playing two matches on day 2, put behind the disappointment of losing to Alpine APL Pipers in the first match of the day to convincingly beat the Gambits 9-7 and move to second spot in the standings. Pipers had earlier beaten the Gan-

ges Grandmasters 11-6 while PBG Alaskan Knights had defeated Mumbai Masters 11-6 for their first win of the tournament. The second day of action at the GCL Season 4 proved to be a treat for fans as they witnessed some clinical victories and great escapes. However, Nihal's victory wasn't enough for the Gambits to get the winning edge as player of the match Polina Shuvalova defeated Bibisara Assaubayeva to win her third game in three rounds. Ian Nepomniachtchi then turned the tables on 2026 Candidates winner Javokhir Sindarov in a rook-

pawn endgame to put his team ahead. Gambit's Daniil Dubov could not convert his advantage against Leinier Dominguez Perez into a win despite stretching the game 101 moves. Earlier, Vidit Gujrathi and Koneru Humpy registered their second straight win with black pieces to put the Pipers in the driver's seat despite women's World Cup winner Divya Deshmukh suffering another reversal. Vidit made the most of a slight error from Leinier Dominguez Perez to win in 38 moves and Humpy once again showed her class with a systematic dismantling of Stavroula Tsolakidou in 41 moves.

South Africa claim tri-series title after outclassing Zim by 48 runs

WINDHOEK

A clinical South Africa put up a dominant all-round display to outclass Zimbabwe by 48 runs in the final and claim the T20I tri-series title at the Namibia Cricket Ground here on Sunday. Riding on a rapid half-century from Jordan Hermann and a 23-ball 32 from Dewald Brevis, South Africa posted a formidable 205/5 in their 20 overs after electing to bat first. In reply, Zimbabwe's top order collapsed under pressure before being bowled out for 157 in 18 overs. Despite missing opener Lhuan-dre Pretorius due to a niggle, South Africa asserted their authority early. Hermann smashed a 24-ball fifty,



laced with eight fours and a six, while sharing an 84-run opening stand with Connor Esterhuizen (32). Brevis maintained the momentum in the middle overs by hitting two fours and as many sixes, while Rubin Hermann chipped in with 27 off 16 balls, including three fours and a six, to propel the Proteas past the

200-run mark via a 47-run stand for the fifth wicket. For Zimbabwe, right-arm pacer Brad Evans (2-36) and left-arm fast bowler Newman Nyamhuri (2-51) were standout bowlers. Chasing a daunting target of 206, Zimbabwe suffered a disastrous start when opener Ben Curran was dismissed for a first-ball

duck by Eathan Bosch. Duan Jansen and Bosch made swift inroads into the top order by reducing Zimbabwe to four wickets down inside the powerplay. Skipper Sikandar Raza survived an early reprieve when a caught-behind dismissal off Bosch was overturned due to a no-ball. But Proteas captain Bjorn Fortuin (3-24) quickly ended his resistance to leave the chase in tatters. Evans produced a spirited late fightback for Zimbabwe, striking his maiden T20I fifty in a 52-run ninth-wicket partnership with Kundai Matigimu. However, Kwena Maphaka broke the stand before Zimbabwe's innings eventually folded in the 18th over.

Jansen finished as the pick of the seamers with 3-38, while Bosch picked up 2-22, as South Africa defeated Zimbabwe for the third time in the last eight days. The tournament served as a crucial warm-up event for 2027 ICC Cricket World Cup co-hosts South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Namibia. South Africa will next feature in a three-match bilateral ODI series against hosts Namibia, with Fortuin continuing as captain. Brief Scores: South Africa 205/5 (Jordan Hermann 53, Connor Esterhuizen 32; Brad Evans 2-36, Newman Nyamhuri 2-51) beat Zimbabwe 157 (Brad Evans 56 not out, Bjorn Fortuin 3-24, Duan Jansen 3-38) by 48 runs



LEGACY Locks December 4 Release

Mass Ka Das Vishwak Sen is coming up with an intense political action drama, LEGACY, and the makers have now locked the film's theatrical release date. The Vishwak Sen-starrer will release worldwide on December 4, 2026. The announcement was made with a powerful new poster featuring Vishwak Sen and Ekta Rathod. Written and directed by Saikiran Reddy Daida, LEGACY is his second feature film after Pindam. The film also marks Kalaahi Media's second production venture. The intense political action drama is being produced by Yeshwanth Dag-

gumati and Saikiran Reddy Daida, with Sanjay Sambrani and V.V.N. Prasad as co-producers. The film is set against an intense political backdrop and brings together elements of power, family, love and betrayal. Vishwak Sen plays a character who enters a dangerous world connected to the legacy left behind by his father. One of the major attractions of the film is the presence of acclaimed Hindi actor Kay Kay Menon in a powerful antagonist role.



Title Sparks Interest: ANTHA RAMULORU CHOOSUKUNTARU

The much-awaited title glimpse of Sangeeth Shoban and Anaswara Rajan's upcoming film is out, and the movie has been titled Antha Ramuloru Choosukuntaru. Directed by Palnati Surya Pratap, the glimpse promises a youthful love story with a strong rural flavour and an intriguing emotional conflict. Sangeeth Shoban plays Maruthi, a lively Godavari guy, while Anaswara Rajan portrays Shirisha, a city girl. The glimpse establishes their contrasting personalities through simple and charming moments, with Maruthi trying to make Shirisha eat and attempting to win her over. The setup creates curiosity about how their romance actually begins. The glimpse, however, refuses to reveal too much. In the final portion, Shirisha is seen getting ready for marriage, while Maruthi is seen overseeing the wedding arrangements from the side. The unexpected sequence creates a strong hook and makes the audience wonder whether the wedding is actually connected to Maruthi and, more importantly, what went wrong between the two. Palnati Surya Pratap makes his presence felt with an impactful presentation. The rural backdrop, gorgeous visuals and engaging BGM give the glimpse a distinctive feel, while the performances of Sangeeth Shoban and Anaswara Rajan add to the intrigue. The film also stars Rao Ramesh, Rohini, Raghubabu, Ali, Jhansi, Vinodh Kumar, Shivanarayana, Sri Lakshmi and others in key roles. The film's music is composed by Mickey J Meyer. Produced by Dheeraj Mogilineni and Giribabu Vallabhaneni under Dheeraj Mogilineni Entertainments and VGB Entertainments.

Sree Vishnu's Comrade Kalyan Packs Fun



Sree Vishnu is back with yet another comedy caper, Comrade Kalyan. The teaser gives an idea of a quirky comedy built around a Naxalite character. Set in 1992, the film follows Thaatikonda Kalyan, a wanted Naxalite who seems far more interested in romance than revolution. The teaser showcases Sree Vishnu's attempts to woo the heroine while escaping the police as the main source of humour, and it looks interesting. What stands out is the decision to present a Naxalite character in such a light-hearted manner, which has not been done before. The character of Kalyan gives Sree Vishnu plenty of scope to showcase his comic timing and expressions, which appear to be among the film's biggest strengths. His chemistry with the female lead Mahima Nambiar also seems to be an important part of the narrative. At the same time, the teaser does not reveal much about the emotional or serious side of the story. That could either work in the film's favour or become a weakness if the comedy is not consistently strong. The police track, led by Shine Tom Chacko, provides the required conflict, while Radhika and Satya add further support to the entertainment quotient. Overall, Comrade Kalyan looks like an unusual attempt to mix the Naxalite backdrop and romantic comedy. Directed by Janikiram Marella, the concept is certainly different, but the real test will be whether the humour can sustain the film beyond the teaser. Slated for release on October 9, 2026, the film has music by Vijay Bulganin and is presented by Kona Venkat.

Bhagyashri Eyes A Fresh START

Bhagyashri Borse has finally tasted success with Akhil's Lenin after a string of films that failed to give her the expected commercial breakthrough. Now, riding high on the success, she has landed another exciting opportunity as she steps into Malayalam cinema with a big budget film. Bhagyashri has been officially announced as part of Operation Ganga, which stars Malayalam superstar Mohanlal in the lead. Directed by Vishnu Mohan, the film also features Arjun Rampal and has already created curiosity with its posters and impressive scale. More importantly, Operation Ganga marks Bhagyashri's entry into Malayalam cinema. Entering a new industry is always challenging, but getting an opportunity to share the screen with a star like Mohanlal gives her a strong platform to establish herself among Malayalam audiences. Her Hindi debut came with Chandu Champion. Though the film received critical acclaim, positive reviews and multiple awards, it failed commercially at the box office. She later made her Telugu debut with Mr Bachchan, followed by films Kaantha in Tamil, but none of them gave her the kind of success she was looking for.

This makes her Malayalam debut particularly interesting. Her journey across Hindi, Telugu and Tamil has not been a smooth one, with commercial success continuing to remain a challenge. Lenin has finally given her the much needed breakthrough, and now Operation Ganga could take things to another level. Everything will ultimately depend on the role she gets in Operation Ganga. If she is limited to a routine heroine role, the impact may be limited. But if she gets a strong and performance oriented character, this film could become a major turning point in her career.

Interestingly, Bhagyashri's journey in every industry she has entered so far has come with its own share of struggles before finding success. Now, the big question is whether Operation Ganga can finally break this so called debut curse and give her a strong start in Malayalam cinema.

Loki's Rolex For Suriya's LANDMARK 50TH FILM?

Suriya is riding high with back-to-back hit films now. With Viswanath and Sons becoming a big hit, curiosity is growing about what his next film could be. Interestingly, he has locked in the directors for his upcoming two films, which include his milestone 50th film. Reports indicate that Lokesh Kanagaraj will helm Suriya 50, and the project is Rolex. Suriya is making wise choices right now. After a commercial success like Karuppu, he en-



tertained families with Viswanath and Sons. He already has two films in the lineup while the 47th is with director Jithu Madhavan and the 48th could be under Gnanvel Raja's production. For his 49th film, he will be working with H Vinodh, who will strike a fine balance between storytelling and commercial elements. And for the 50th film, Suriya wants to go all out with violence, which is why Rolex is

being discussed. When Suriya presented himself as Rolex in Vikram, many demanded that a standalone film is the need of the hour. Although both Lokesh and Suriya were ready to immediately execute it, the combination did not get materialized instantly. So now, the project is likely to hit the floors, marking a special milestone. On the other hand, H Vinodh plans to bring Wamiqa Gabbi and Sai Abhyankar on board for Suriya49. Suriya's 50th may have Anirudh as a music director with Lokesh directing it. After this, Lokesh is expected to move to Khaithi 2 with Karthi. An official announcement on the same is expected to be out soon.

Mirzapur Fails To Click In Telugu?

The movie is proving that an OTT show can successfully make the jump to the big screen. Despite an A certificate, lengthy runtime, violence and nudity, it has attracted audiences in large numbers. Mixed reviews have not stopped the craze for characters like Kaleen Bhaiya, Guddu Pandit and Munna Bhaiya, helping the film eye a massive 100 crore opening weekend. However, the situation is completely different in the Telugu states. The film has failed to make an impact, with collections remaining extremely poor. This is surprising, considering the Mirzapur web series has a decent fan following among Telugu audiences. Trade observers believe poor promotional planning is a major reason for the weak response. Apart from a press meet, the team did little to promote the film in Telugu states. The lack of focus on Munna Bhaiya, one of the franchise's most popular characters, was another missed opportunity. While North India celebrates Mirzapur on the big screen, its Telugu run has turned into a major disappointment.

