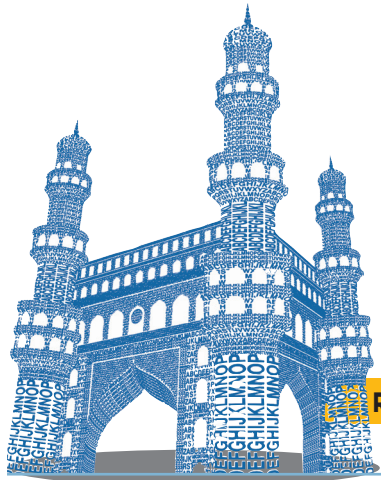




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A Name That Lives On in the House He Once Led

TELANGANA 04

US Open: Alcaraz storms into quarters

STADIUM 11



REVANTH SEEKS LEFT-CONGRESS ALLIANCE AGAINST MODI

Conspiracy to delete one crore votes in Telangana

CM questions BRS for its silence against the deletion of votes in the SIR

CM Revanth Reddy participated in the memorial meeting of Comrade Sarampalli Malla Reddy in Hyderabad today.

Hyderabad, sep 7: Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy called Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the most 'dangerous person' for the country. The Chief Minister exhorted Communist parties to join hands with the Congress in the fight against PM Modi and dethrone the BJP government at the Centre. Speaking at a memorial meeting of Comrade Sarampalli Malla Reddy here on Monday, the CM alleged that the BJP adopted new tactics to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >



CM Seeks Action Over ABUSIVE REMARKS

"An insult to the Speaker should be considered an insult to the Assembly itself. Such an insult has never happened before in independent India. The member who used such language should be dismissed. If such things are forgiven, legislative institutions will have no respect or decorum. KCR should make the member who used abusive language resign."

— Revanth Reddy, Chief Minister

HYDERABAD, SEP 7

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said that such an insult to the Speaker had never occurred in independent India before and that the member who used such language should be dismissed. The Assembly discussed a motion condemning the remarks made by BRS MLC Tata Madhu on the Assembly premises. Revanth Reddy said that he had witnessed proceedings in all kinds of legislatures, but had never seen such objectionable language being used. He said that if such behavior is forgiven, legislative institutions will lose their dignity and decorum. The Chief Minister demanded that KCR make the member who used abusive language resign.

It all happened according to a plan

After the Assembly reconvened following the adjournment, the government decided to discuss the issue of the insult to the Speaker. However, the BJP demanded that the discussion on

Rule 22A be taken up first. The Chief Minister criticized the conduct of the BJP members. Revanth Reddy questioned why BJP leaders were carrying the burden of the allegations made by BRS leaders. He declared that the day on which the Speaker was insulted was a dark day for Telangana and a day of humiliation for the four crore people of the state. He alleged that KCR had called his MLAs yesterday and provoked them against the Speaker. He said this was not an unintentional act, but something that had been done according to a plan.

We are ready for the discussion

The CM said that insulting the Speaker was like injuring the very doctor who provides treatment. He said that an insult to the Speaker should be considered an insult to the Assembly itself and appealed to BJP members to cooperate in the discussion on the matter. He said that after discussing the insult to the Speaker, they could discuss any other issue.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

BRS PROTEST SPARKS TENSION AT ASSEMBLY

Hyderabad, Sept.7: An unexpected and tense situation prevailed at the Telangana Legislative Assembly on Monday as police stopped BRS MLAs and MLCs from entering the Assembly premises wearing black T-shirts bearing protest slogans.

When police objected to their entry, stating that permission had not been granted for the protest, former minister T. Harish Rao and several other BRS legislators removed their T-shirts and staged a sit-in at the spot wearing only their vests. A heated argument broke out between the legis-

lators and police, following which Harish Rao and several other BRS leaders were taken into custody.

As the protest intensified, police began detaining the protesting legislators. Harish Rao, after removing his T-shirt, attempted to proceed towards the Public Gardens but was stopped by police and forcibly put into an Innova vehicle.

MLAs Malla Reddy, Prashanth Reddy, Sanjay Rao and Kaushik Reddy were also lifted and carried by groups of policemen before being shifted into buses.

High drama unfolded when

BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao was taken into custody. As police attempted to put him into a vehicle, KTR resisted and held his foot against the road.

Police eventually forced him into the vehicle.

All the protesting BRS legislators were detained and shifted from the Public Gardens to different police stations. The situation gradually returned to normal, even as the Assembly session commenced amid heightened tension.

The protest also witnessed dramatic scenes at the Assembly entrance. BRS MLA Su-

nitha Lakshma Reddy broke down in tears before the media, alleging that police had behaved in an extremely inhuman manner towards her.

Meanwhile, former minister G. Jagadish Reddy, who was caught up in a scuffle with police during the protest, suddenly collapsed and lost consciousness, causing concern among those present. As tensions escalated, the areas surrounding the Assembly reverberated with police sirens.

Khairatabad Zone DCP Shilpavalli later clarified the circumstances surrounding

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Tata Madhu's MLC membership must be cancelled: Minister Ponnam

Minister Ponnam

"I DID NOT INSULT SPEAKER OR COUNCIL CHAIRMAN":

MLC MADHU

SPECIAL 02



CEO REVIEWS SIR- WITH OFFICIALS

Hyderabad, sep 7: Telangana Chief Electoral Officer C. Sudharshan Reddy held a review meeting on Monday regarding the ongoing Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls (SIR-2026) in the state. He conducted a video conference along with Additional Chief Electoral Officer Dr. Vasam Venkateswar Reddy and Deputy CEO G.S. Chari. The GHMC Commissioner, Hyderabad District Election Officer, District Election Officers from all districts, and Electoral Registration Officers participated in the video conference. During the meeting, the CEO issued several instructions to officials regarding the issuance and distribution of notices and the conduct of inquiries under SIR-2026.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >



Dharmapuri Temple Set for Rs.200 Crore Revamp

Jagital, Sep 7: The future of the Dharmapuri Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple, renowned as the "Dakshina Kashi" and a prominent pilgrimage centre, is set to acquire a new splendour. Fulfilling the long-standing dream of devotees and local residents for the development of the temple, the Indiramma People's Government has taken a historic decision.

At the auspicious time of 2:58 a.m. on Monday, as fixed by Vedic scholars, State Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and Minister Adhuri Laxman Kumar performed

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

El Niño, KCR's failures responsible for Telangana's water crisis: Uttam

Hyderabad, Sept.7: Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Monday attributed Telangana's prevailing water scarcity to two factors — the impact of El Niño and what he described as the irrigation failures of the previous BRS government headed by former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao.

Speaking to journalists in the Assembly lobbies, Uttam Kumar Reddy said the adverse global climatic phenomenon

had affected rainfall and water availability, while the failure of the previous government to complete key irrigation projects despite spending around ₹1.81 lakh crore had left Telangana more vulnerable to water stress.

"Farmers in Telangana are facing difficulties because of two factors — El Niño and KCR," he said.

The Minister explained that El Niño was a global climatic phenomenon linked to chang-

es in conditions in the Pacific Ocean and was neither created by the Telangana government nor confined to the State. Anticipating possible water stress, the government had repeatedly advised farmers to opt for alternative crops in areas where adequate water availability was uncertain, he said.

"Before KCR, political leaders did not speak in this manner. What was then projected as heroism has

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

CWC Meeting on Resolving Water Disputes Between the Telugu States

New Delhi: A meeting was held under the aegis of the Central Water Commission (CWC) to resolve the ongoing water disputes between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The CWC advised both states to submit an agenda outlining the issues to be discussed to the CWC, as well as to the Krishna River Management

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

BYPOLLS IN FOUR STATES ON OCT-6: ECI

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 7:

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Tuesday announced the schedule for by-elections to vacant Assembly constituencies in Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and West Bengal, along with a Parliamentary constituency in Assam. Polling will be held on October 6, while counting of votes is scheduled for October 9.

According to the schedule issued by the Commission, the formal Gazette notification for the elections will be published on September 9. The last date for

filing nominations is September 16, followed by scrutiny of nomination papers on September 17. Candidates can withdraw their nominations until September 19.

Polling will be conducted on October 6, with the counting of votes taking place on October 9. The entire election process is expected to be completed by October 11, 2026.

The bypolls will cover the Madurantakam (SC) and Dharapuram (SC) Assembly constituencies in Tamil Nadu, Thattanchavady in Puducherry, and Rejinagar and Nandigram in West Bengal. In

Assam, the Nagaon Parliamentary constituency will also go to the polls.

The Election Commission had earlier completed the process for the final publication of electoral rolls in the constituencies concerned. The final electoral roll for Nagaon was published on February 10, followed by Thattanchavady on February 14. In Tamil Nadu, the rolls for Madurantakam and Dharapuram were published on February 23, while the final rolls for Rejinagar and Nandigram in West Bengal were published on February 28 after comprehensive revision

exercises.

The vacancies arose following the resignations of sitting lawmakers. In Tamil Nadu, the Madurantakam (SC) and Dharapuram (SC) seats fell vacant after the resignations of Maragatham Kumaravel and P Sathyabama, respectively.

The Thattanchavady seat in Puducherry was vacated following the resignation of N. Rangasamy. In West Bengal, the Rejinagar and Nandigram constituencies became vacant after the resignations of Humayun Kabir and Suwendu Adhikari, respectively.

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Building a Cleaner Future: TGPCB and Torrent Gas Drive Industry Action for Blue Skies

Medchal-Malkajgiri, September 07: The International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies was organised jointly by the Telangana Pollution Control Board (TGPCB) and Torrent Gas. More than 100 representatives from industries participated in the programme, which was attended by officials from TGPCB, the Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TSIIC) and other stakeholders.

Addressing the gathering, Sri Srinivas Reddy, Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, TGPCB, emphasised that clean air is not merely an environmental objective but a fundamental public health,



economic and development priority. He stated that industries should view investments in clean technology, public transport, energy efficiency and improved waste man-

agement as development investments rather than merely compliance-related expenditure. Dr D. Prasad, SES, TGPCB, called for stronger com-

mitment from individuals, institutions and industries to improve air quality. He highlighted the initiatives being undertaken by the government and urged industries

to shift towards cleaner fuels in support of India's net-zero goals. He also stressed that blue skies should not be an occasional sight after rainfall or during favourable meteorological conditions, but the result of sustained and scientific management of emissions.

Representing Torrent Gas, Sri Rambabu explained the company's PNG network and its benefits in reducing air pollution and improving air quality. He highlighted the role of cleaner fuels in supporting sustainable industrial operations, reducing emissions and promoting energy efficiency.

The programme created awareness about the impor-

ance of collective action among government departments, industries and communities. The discussions focused on clean technologies, cleaner fuels, efficient energy use, improved waste management and responsible industrial practices. These measures support the Sustainable Development Goals related to good health and well-being, clean energy, sustainable industries, responsible consumption, sustainable cities and climate action.

The event concluded with a renewed commitment from all stakeholders to work together towards cleaner air, healthier communities and sustainable development in Telangana.

Tata Madhu's MLC membership must be cancelled: Minister Ponnampallam

Hyderabad, Sept.7: Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnampallam Prabhakar on Monday demanded disciplinary action against BRS MLC Tata Madhu over his alleged inappropriate remarks against Telangana Legislative Assembly Speaker G. Prasad Kumar.

Prabhakar said the Speaker holds a constitutional position and that disparaging the office amounted to an insult to the dignity of the Legislative Assembly and democratic institutions. He demanded that Tata Madhu be suspended and that steps be taken to cancel his MLC membership.

The Minister also questioned



BRS chief and former Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan Rao's silence over the remarks and urged the BRS leadership to uphold the dignity of constitutional offices.

Prabhakar said political leaders have a responsibility to respect the Speaker's office and maintain the dignity of the Assembly.

“I DID NOT INSULT SPEAKER OR COUNCIL CHAIRMAN” : MADHU



Hyderabad, Sept.7: BRS MLC Tata Madhu on Monday denied allegations that he had insulted Telangana Legislative Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar or Legislative Council Chairman Gutta Sukhender Reddy.

Madhu accused the Con-

gress of spreading false propaganda and clarified that although he had used strong language, his remarks were directed at police personnel over their alleged behaviour towards BRS women MLAs.

He alleged that his comments were being distorted to create a false impression that he had made objectionable remarks against the presiding officers of the Assembly and Council. Madhu also criticised the opposition for raising the issue, alleging that they were unable to enter the Assembly and effectively raise public issues.

TUSS Media Cell Honours Chief Engineer Gopaiiah

Renewed Focus on Faster Power Problem Solving Through Strong Circle Coordination

Hyderabad, September 7: Electricity consumers across the Rangareddy zone have welcomed a fresh leadership move, as Gopayya assumed charge as the Chief Engineer of the Rangareddy Zone. In a meaningful gesture, B. Venkateshwarlu, President of the TUSS (Telangana Udyamakaarula Sankshema Samiti) State Media Cell President, felicitated the new Chief Engineer with a traditional shawl and extended his best wishes.

The honoring ceremony reflected the public expectations of timely solutions to long-pending power issues and a stronger focus on service quality. During the program, B. Venkateshwarlu congratulated Gopayya and said that the people hope the new administration will bring visible improvements in electricity supply reliability and grievance redressal.

Speaking after receiving the honor, Chief Engineer Gopayya assured that immediate attention would be given to electrical prob-



lems reported from across the zone. He stated that his action plan would be strengthened through effective coordination with senior officers, particularly the Superintending Engineers (SEs) working in key circles under the Rangareddy zone.

Gopayya specifically mentioned coordination efforts with the SEs of Saroor Nagar, Cyber City, Vikarabad, and Rajendranagar. He said that with this structured coordination, the department will be able to respond faster, reduce recurring issues, and ensure that corrective actions are taken promptly at the field level.

He also emphasized that the ultimate goal is to deliver better services to consumers—including improved response to complaints, smoother maintenance efforts, and stronger preventive measures to minimize disruptions. The Chief Engineer expressed confidence that the dedicated team under the Rangareddy zone would work with renewed commitment to serve the public efficiently.

With the felicitation program completed and the new leadership taking charge, expectations are high that electricity services in Rangareddy will witness faster problem-solving and enhanced consumer support in the days ahead.

Kukatpally Leaders Demand Apology Over MLC'S REMARKS

Medchal-Malkajgiri, September 07: Senior leaders

from Kukatpally strongly condemned MLC Thatha Madhusudan for making offensive remarks about Telangana Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar. The leaders, led by Balaji Nagar former president Krishna Rajput, said the comments were unacceptable and disrespectful to a constitutional position. They emphasized that making offensive or derogatory remarks about the Speaker amounts to a severe breach of legislative decorum and violates the privileges of the House.

Krishna Rajput stated that the Speaker's post must always be respected. He said that as a person holding a constitutional responsibility, an elected representative should speak carefully and responsibly. He added that the remarks against Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar go against democratic values and cannot be justified under any circumstances. The leaders demanded immediate action against Thatha Madhusudan. They urged the authorities to remove him from the MLC position. They also called on Thatha Madhusudan to issue a public apology to the Assembly Speaker.

Krishna Rajput further requested that the relevant officials, along with the Assembly and Legislative Council, take proper steps to protect the dignity of democratic institutions and constitutional offices.



CEO REVIEWS SIR-WITH OFFICIALS

➤FROM PAGE 1

Distribution of Notices: The CEO directed that every notice should be personally delivered to the concerned voter by the BLO. He particularly advised officials to seek the assistance of Booth Level Agents (BLAs) to identify voters' addresses, especially in urban areas. **Resolution of Pending Cases:** Officials were directed to make effective use of the additional logins provided to the districts and resolve pending cases within the stipulated time.

Unmapping and Anomalies Cases: The CEO instructed officials to provide lists of cases relating to unmapping and anomalies to political parties during meetings with them. He also asked officials to encourage BLAs to actively participate during the claims and objections stage.

Responsibility for Uploading Documents: The CEO made it clear that BLOs, BLO Supervisors, and AEROs must properly upload documents in accordance with Election

Commission guidelines. He cautioned computer operators to exercise utmost care to avoid errors and warned that EROs and AEROs would be held responsible for mistakes committed by computer operators working under their supervision.

Special Attention to Senior Citizens and Persons with Disabilities: Supervisors were directed to personally visit the homes of senior citizens and Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) who are unable to come within the jurisdiction of inquiry centres and take the necessary action.

Help Desks: The CEO instructed officials to establish and actively operate help desks at the ERO and DEO levels to provide necessary assistance to voters.

Later, the CEO reviewed the progress with the DEOs of all districts on various issues, including the delivery of notices, inquiry schedules, and the resolution of pending cases in ERO and DEO logins.

Dharmapuri Temple Set for Rs.200 Crore Revamp

➤FROM PAGE 1

Bhumi Puja and laid the foundation stone in a grand manner for the reconstruction of the Sri Ugra Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple, being taken up at a cost of ₹10 crore.

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka and Minister Adhuri Laxman Kumar offered prayers and performed special pujas at the Sri Ugra Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy and Sri Yogananda Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy shrines in the temple. On the occasion, the temple priests and Vedic scholars blessed them with Vedic chants and presented them with the Lord's sacred clothes and teertha prasadam.

Not a Government of Words... A Government of Action!

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka said: "Many people had spoken in the past about developing the Dhar-



mapuri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple, which is the favourite deity of all of us, but not even half a rupee was provided. However, with the divine blessings of the Lord and the blessings of the people, our People's Government had already sanctioned ₹117 crore.

"When the local MLA and Minister Adhuri Laxman Kumar sought additional funds for temple development and facilities for devotees, another ₹80 crore was sanctioned

as per the directions of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. Thus, with a total estimated expenditure of ₹200 crore, we have launched the sacred initiative to develop Dharmapuri as an international-standard pilgrimage centre."

He also explained that extensive arrangements were underway for the Godavari Pushkaralu from Basara to Bhadrachalam. He said that temples located along the course of the Godavari River

were also being developed as part of the preparations for the Godavari Pushkaralu.

Foundation Stone-Laying Works Taken Up at the Temple ₹10 crore for the reconstruction of the Sri Ugra Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple.

₹58.55 crore for foundation works covering a total of nine types of infrastructure and temple development projects.

₹22.16 crore for the construction of new Pushkar ghats for the sacred Godavari Pushkaralu.

₹2.48 crore for the construction of a new electricity substation at Thimmapur in Dharmapuri mandal.

Devotees and local residents have expressed immense happiness over the initiative of the People's Government to transform the renowned Dharmapuri pilgrimage centre into a major spiritual destination with an investment of ₹200 crore.

El Niño, KCR's failures responsible for Telangana's water crisis: Uttam

➤FROM PAGE 1

today become part of political discourse," Uttam Kumar Reddy said, taking a swipe at the former Chief Minister.

He said the deterioration in political discourse had not happened overnight and argued that responsibility lay with those who had set such a precedent.

The Minister, however, said his principal criticism of the BRS was not about the language used in politics but its record in the irrigation sector. He alleged that despite substantial expenditure, several key irrigation projects remained incomplete, contributing to the State's vulnerability to water shortages.

CWC Meeting on Resolving Water Disputes Between the Telugu States



➤FROM PAGE 1

Board (KRMB) and the Godavari River Management Board (GRMB). It was decided to hold another meeting in the next 10-15 days. Telangana attended the meeting without submitting an agenda. Andhra Pradesh, however, submitted an agenda covering several issues. The state raised matters such as assessing water availability in the Godavari basin and constructing projects based on the utilization of surplus and floodwaters. Andhra Pradesh objected to around 30-50 projects being constructed in Telangana. It also sought an immediate halt to Telangana's ongoing power generation at the Srisaikal project. Andhra Pradesh complained to the CWC that Telangana was continuing to release water and generate electricity despite di-

rections from the KRMB. Meanwhile, Telangana stated that the argument that no projects anywhere in the country have been constructed based on floodwaters was not valid. It said that projects in the erstwhile united Andhra Pradesh had been taken up based on approvals granted before 2014. Telangana clarified that only the names of the projects had been changed and that they were not new projects.

Andhra Pradesh called for a comprehensive assessment of water availability in the Godavari basin. It stated that around 1,000 TMC of water had flowed into the sea within just 65 days. Andhra Pradesh urged the CWC to allow the construction of projects based on surplus and floodwaters.

BRS PROTEST SPARKS...

➤FROM PAGE 1

the incident at the Assembly gate. She said wearing black T-shirts was not a crime, but the BRS leaders were denied entry because some of the slogans and words printed on the T-shirts were considered objectionable. The DCP also denied allegations that police had behaved indecently towards the MLAs, saying security measures were taken in accordance with the directions of the Assembly Speaker. In view of the allegations made by BRS leaders, she said the video footage recorded at the Assembly would be thoroughly examined.

CM Seeks Action Over ABUSIVE REMARKS

➤FROM PAGE 1

Member who used abusive language should be dismissed

BJP members responded to the Chief Minister's remarks. BJP Legislature Party leader Aleti Maheshwar Reddy said that his party condemned the language used by Tata Madhu against the Speaker. He said that the member who used abusive language against the Speaker should be dismissed. He demanded that KCR apologize for Tata Madhu's remarks and take responsibility for them.

"The BJP condemns the language used by Tata Madhu against the Speaker. The member who used abusive lan-

guage against the Speaker should be dismissed. KCR should apologize and take responsibility for Tata Madhu's remarks." — **Aleti Maheshwar Reddy, BJP Legislature Party Leader**

KCR should apologize

Minister Seethakka said that the conduct of BRS members was such that it would make civilized society hang its head in shame. She said extremely derogatory language had been used against the Speaker and demanded that SC/ST cases be filed against the members involved. She said KCR should apologize and take responsibility for Tata Madhu's remarks.

REVANTH SEEKS LEFT-CONGRESS ALLIANCE AGAINST MODI

➤FROM PAGE 1

win the election as the ruling national party failed to win the trust of the people in a democratic manner. The union government was deleting anti-BJP votes under the guise of 'SIR'. SCs, STs, and minorities were the main target in the deletion of the votes.

CM Revanth Reddy accused the BJP of replicating the West Bengal strategy in Telangana by systematically removing anti-BJP votes in every polling booth. The BJP was conspiring to delete one crore votes in Telangana. Private agencies were also engaged to conduct surveys and delete votes.

The Chief minister criticized the BJP for exploiting the Elections Commission to execute its

political agenda and questioned the BRS for maintaining silence on vote theft in the SIR. Appealing to the Communist parties to support the Congress fight against the vote theft, the Chief Minister asserted that PM Modi's defeat is the victory of the Communists who should also safeguard the voting rights of the poor. "We should be united and fight against Modi in the country. Elections and fundamental rights of the poor are different aspects", the CM said the communists have long been fighting for the rights of the poor and the 'Red Flag' gives the poor a sense of reassurance and confidence.

CM Revanth Reddy highlighted the enactment of various laws for

the welfare of the poor. The Congress party addressed every issue raised by the Communists. Communists fought for the rights of the landless poor to receive minimum wages. It was the Congress party that enacted the Minimum Wages Act. The left parties have fought for the principle of "land to the tiller" and the Congress government distributed 24.56 lakh acres of assigned land. 10 lakh acres are currently owned by Adivasis. This represents the Congress party's solution to the struggles waged by Communists. The Congress provided employment through the Employment Guarantee Act and enacted the Food Security Act.

The CM remembered the ser-

vices rendered by Sarampalli Malla Reddy who rose from a remote area to the national stage and dedicated his life to the cause of farmers. Malla Reddy's death is an irreparable loss to the farming community, the Chief Minister said the departed farmers leader was also unparalleled in his understanding of issues and his cultured, articulate manner of raising them.

"Our government will strive to address farmers' issues by keeping in mind the books Malla Reddy wrote and the points he raised", the CM said that the government would also take a decision on developing a memorial for Malla Reddy after consulting with cabinet colleagues.



CITY BEAT

Learning is a Continuous and Ever-Evolving Journey: Harpal Singh

HYDERABAD, SEP 07

“Seeing all of you who have come from different states across India gives a wonderful feeling of ‘Unity in Diversity’. Though our languages may be different, the spirit that India is one remains strong,” said Colonel Harpal Singh Grewal, Director, Engineering Staff College of India (ESCI).

Colonel H.S. Grewal inaugurated a series of engineering training programmes at ESCI on Monday, 7 September 2026, for 235 participants drawn from different parts of the country including the northern, southern, eastern, central, western and north-eastern states. The programmes have been organized by various ESCI divisions, including Civil & Transportation, Power & Energy, Management & Technology, Information Technology, Water Resources Development

and Faculty Development. Addressing the participants on the occasion, Director said that learning is a continuous and ever-evolving process. “No matter how much one learns during the course of service, there is always much more to learn,” he said. He expressed confidence that the lessons imparted by ESCI’s highly experienced faculty, many of whom have three to four decades of teaching and professional experience would greatly benefit the participants in their future careers. He said that ESCI, with a legacy of nearly 45 years as a professional training institution has earned recognition as a premier training institution in Asia.

Colonel Grewal also encouraged the trainees to make use of their free time to explore the rich heritage and vibrant culture of Hyderabad. He said the city, with a history spanning



several centuries, offers numerous attractions, including Golconda Fort and Charminar apart from the Hyderabad has large number of Global Capability Centers in sectors such as technology, banking, finance, healthcare and life sciences employing lakhs of professionals. The trainees could learn more about these organizations and wherever possible visit them to gain exposure to the city’s growing

professional ecosystem.

Describing Hyderabad as the ‘City of Pearls’ along with its excellent hotels, restaurants and sightseeing destinations. He said that participants who had come with their families could make the most of their stay and enjoy the city.

The training programmes, which commenced on Monday will continue until Friday. The Participants from the National Rural Infrastructure

Development Agency, New Delhi, are undergoing training on Construction of Long-Span Bridges – Planning and Designs. Participants from the hilly states of Mizoram and Nagaland are attending a programme on Construction of Bridges in Hill Areas and Challenges.

Officials from the Madhya Pradesh Public Works Department are being trained in Medical Gas Pipeline Systems and Quality of Power and Harmonics. Participants from the Power Finance Corporation are attending programmes on Advanced Metering Infrastructure and Power System Protection.

Officials from the Department of Science & Technology, New Delhi, are undergoing training on Quantum Computing Applications, while officials from the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) are being trained on the importance

of Preparation of Estimates and Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) in project execution. Participants from the IT sector are receiving training on Advanced Excel and Analytics for Report Generation.

Colonel Harpal Singh Grewal urged the participants to make the best use of the advanced knowledge and skills gained during the programme and apply them effectively in their respective fields.

The programme was attended by V.M.V. Navel Kishore, Principal Director of Commercial Audit, Indian Audit and Accounts Service, along with Heads of various ESCI Divisions, including Dr. Venkat Reddy, Dr. Jyothi, P. Sai Kishore, Dr. Bharat, G. Naresh, K. Srikanth, K. Saraswathi, M. Bhargavi, P. Jyothi, K. Soumya SA Kavitha, M. Suneetha and Dr. P. Rajarao, besides faculty members and several officials of ESCI.

BRS Condemns Illegal Arrests of MLAs on Way to Assembly, Calls It Anti-Democratic



MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI, SEPTEMBER 07

BRS leaders from Serilingampally constituency strongly condemned the Congress government for stopping BRS MLAs who were traveling to the Assembly and arresting them. They said such actions are against democracy and are aimed at preventing elected representatives from raising public issues in the House.

In protest, BRS leaders staged a sit-in on the main road near the Imperial hotel Marthanda nagar Kondapur division, demanding that the illegal arrests be stopped. They alleged that the BRS MLAs were detained unlawfully while heading to the Assembly, and insisted that the opposition should be allowed to participate freely.

Former corporators Madhavaram Ranga rao and Bobba Navatha Reddy said that when elected representatives question the government, the government must answer in the Assembly rather than suppress them through arrests. They also questioned whether Con-

gress leadership has forgotten past instances when Congress leaders—including Rahul Gandhi—wore black clothes and went to Parliament to protest, even multiple times.

The BRS leaders further claimed that the arrests were driven by the intention to stop BRS MLAs from coming to the Assembly, especially in response to public questions about unfulfilled election guarantees. They alleged that promises made as “420 guarantees” within 100 days were not delivered even after 1,000 days, and said the government is trying to silence the opposition instead of providing answers on issues affecting people.

They also strongly criticized the alleged humiliation of women BRS MLAs, including Sunitha Lakshma Reddy and Sabitha Indira Reddy, and condemned the manner in which police allegedly disrespected them—pulling their sarees and handling them in a degrading way. They said it is an extremely shameful action, particularly when the government claims to respect women.

TRSMA, NISA SEEK ‘TR’ PREFIX FOR TEACHERS IN TELANGANA

Karnataka’s decision to recognise ‘Tr’ as an honorific for teachers prompts similar demand in Telangana

HYDERABAD, SEP 7

The Telangana Recognised Schools Management Association (TRSMA) and the National Independent Schools Alliance (NISA) have appealed to the Union and Telangana governments to consider allowing teachers to use “Tr” as an honorific prefix before their names, following Karnataka’s recent decision to accord such recognition to members of the teaching profession.

The demand was made on the occasion of Teachers’ Day by Dr. Lion Komatireddy Gopal Reddy, TRSMA National Advisor, NISA Life Member and Chairman of Lotus Lap Group of Schools, who said that the proposed prefix would serve as a symbolic recognition of the contribution made by teachers to education and nation-building.

The Karnataka government recently permitted teachers in the State to use “Tr” before their names, describing it as a mark of respect for their contribution to society. The decision was announced on Teachers’ Day and the Government Order issued by the School Education and Literacy Department permits teachers to use the prefix as an honorific; it does not confer any additional academic qualification.

‘A symbol of professional identity’
Mr. Gopal Reddy said the



Karnataka initiative had opened a wider discussion on the social recognition of the teaching profession.

“The ‘Tr’ prefix is only two letters, but it can represent a lifetime of dedication, responsibility, knowledge and service. Teachers shape the doctors, engineers, scientists, administrators, entrepreneurs and leaders of tomorrow,” he said.

He appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and the Union and State Education Departments to examine the proposal and consider an appropriate mechanism for extending similar recognition to eligible teachers in Telangana.

‘Teachers deserve distinct recognition’
TRSMA and NISA said that



teachers perform responsibilities extending beyond classroom instruction. They guide students, inculcate values, encourage critical thinking, build confidence and contribute to the development of responsible citizens.

“While professional identities such as ‘Dr.’ and ‘Prof.’ are widely recognised, teaching too is a profession with a direct and lasting impact on society. A distinct honorific could help reinforce the dignity and professional identity of teachers,” the organisations said.

The associations also stressed that the proposal should cover eligible teachers working in government, private and recognised schools, subject to appropriate rules and qualifications.

‘Recognition should go beyond a title’

Mr. Gopal Reddy said the proposal was intended as a gesture of respect rather than a claim to professional status equivalent to other regulated qualifications.

“Respecting teachers means respecting education. The ‘Tr’ prefix should be viewed as a symbol of gratitude for the people who spend their lives shaping young minds. At the same time, the dignity of teachers must be strengthened through meaningful measures relating to their professional development, welfare and working conditions,” he said.

The organisations said Teachers’ Day should provide an opportunity not only to felicitate teachers but also to discuss measures that enhance their professional dignity, social recognition and welfare.

Appeal for a wider national initiative

TRSMA and NISA urged the Telangana Government to study the Karnataka model and consider introducing a similar recognition in the State. They also appealed to the Union Government to examine whether a broader framework could be developed for recognition of teachers across the country.

GEETHA MURTHY ATTENDED THE BANDI SANJAY FAMILY WEDDING RECEPTION



Hyderabad: BJP State Vice President Jaya Sri, National Council member Geetha Murthy, senior leader Manohar Reddy, Dasaratha Lakshmi, and others attended the wedding reception hosted on the occasion of the marriage of the daughter of the brother of Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar. The reception was held at GMR Arena Hall near Shamshabad Airport. State Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu, BRS leader Padi Kaushik Reddy, State President N. Ramachander Rao,

prominent actor Sai Kumar, TV actors, BJP MPs, MLAs, MLCs, YouTuber Ramulamma (Ramya Krishna), and others attended the reception. BJP leaders and party workers from almost all mandals across the state, along with thousands of party workers, attended the event. The grand wedding reception was attended by former Governors Indrasena Reddy and Bandaru Dattatreya, Rajya Sabha members, SIR Telangana in-charge Alka Gujar, and others, who blessed the newly married couple.

GITAM Congratulates Kalyani Mallidi on Ph.D. in Chemistry

Hyderabad, Sep 07:

GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, proudly congratulates Dr. Kalyani Mallidi on being awarded a Ph.D. in Chemistry for her pioneering research under the guidance of Prof. Rambabu Gundla, Department of Chemistry, GITAM School of Science.



Her doctoral thesis, titled “New Pyrimidine Based Carbocyclic Nucleoside and Fused Heterocyclic Derivatives: Synthesis, In-Silico, Anti-Diabetic and Anti-Microbial Evaluation,” explores the development of novel pyrimidine-based compounds with potential antidiabetic and antimicrobial applications. The study identified several promising α -glucosidase inhibitors, with selected compounds demonstrating strong inhibitory activity, favourable molecular-docking profiles, significant antibacterial activity, and promising drug-likeness, ADME and toxicity characteristics. The research contributes to the ongoing quest for safer and more effective therapeutic candidates for diabetes and microbial infections. Prof. D. S. Rao, Pro Vice-Chancellor; D.V.V.S.R. Varma, Resident Director; Dr. M. Reza, Director, GITAM School of Science; and Dr. Gousia Begum, Head, Department of Chemistry, congratulated Dr. Kalyani on her academic accomplishment and commended Prof. Rambabu Gundla for his dedicated mentorship and guidance throughout her doctoral journey.

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SHORT
TAKES

Minority welfare schemes get major budgetary push: Azharuddin

Hyderabad, Sept.7: Minister for Minority Welfare and Public Enterprises Mohammed Azharuddin said the Telangana government was implementing several welfare schemes for minority communities and had significantly enhanced budgetary allocations for their welfare.

Responding to questions from Members of the Legislative Council on the release and utilisation of funds for minority welfare schemes on Monday, Azharuddin said detailed information had already been furnished to the House in writing.

For 2024–25, the government allocated ₹2,256 crore for minority welfare schemes, of which ₹2,122.74 crore was released and ₹961.54 crore was spent, he said.

Similarly, for 2025–26, an allocation of ₹2,844 crore was made, with ₹2,317.65 crore released and ₹1,010.63 crore utilised, the Minister said. According to the 2011 Census, minorities account for 14.27% of Telangana's total population, the Minister said. Instead, allocations were made scheme-wise, taking into account the overall budget availability, requirements and the implementation of various welfare programmes for minority communities, he said.

Azharuddin said the Telangana government had substantially increased budgetary provisions for minority welfare schemes.

A NAME THAT LIVES ON
IN THE HOUSE HE ONCE LED

KARIMNAGAR, SEP 7

Some names remain in history, while a few names add dignity to history itself. The late Duddilla Sripada Rao was one such rare public leader. A passionate voice for the people and a firm believer in parliamentary democracy, he brought dignity and impartiality to the office of Speaker through his deep understanding of legislative rules and conventions.

Decades after he presided over the House, his name has returned to the very Legislature he once led. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday inaugurated the “Duddilla Sripada Rao Central Hall” in the Telangana Legislative Assembly in the presence of Legislative Council Chairman Gutha Sukender Reddy, Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar, Minister for IT, Industries and Legislative Affairs Duddilla Sridhar Babu and other Ministers.

The naming of the Central Hall is much more than a ceremonial gesture. It is a lasting tribute to a leader who raised his voice for ordinary people, upheld democratic values and strengthened the dignity of legislative institutions.

The man who once occupied the Speaker's chair and guided the proceedings of the House will now remain a permanent part of the Assembly's institutional memory.

A leadership born among the people

Born on November 6, 1937, to Duddilla Radhakrishnaiah and Kamalabhai, Sripada Rao pursued B.Sc. and LL.B. education. Beginning his public life from his native village of Dhanwada, he was elected unanimously as Sarpanch three consecutive times.



His journey from grassroots politics took him to positions including Chairman of the Manthani Bhuthanaka Cooperative Bank and Vice-President of Mahadevpur Samithi. His close association with rural communities and first-hand understanding of their problems became the foundation of his political career.

From Manthani to the Assembly

Sripada Rao was first elected MLA from Manthani Assembly constituency in 1983 and returned victorious in the 1984 and 1989 elections. During his legislative career, he served as Congress Legislative Party Whip, a member of the Regional Tobacco Board and on several important Assembly committees. His interventions in the Assembly went beyond the concerns of his constituency. He consistently raised issues affecting the people of North Telangana, particularly irrigation, drought, rural distress and the problems faced by weaker sections.

For Sripada Rao, legislative politics was not merely about holding

office. It was about giving voice to people who often had little access to power.

A Speaker who gave dignity to the chair

On August 19, 1991, Sripada Rao was unanimously elected Speaker of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly. He remained in office until January 11, 1995.

He regarded the Speaker's chair not as a symbol of authority but as a responsibility entrusted by democracy. He studied legislative rules closely and relied on the rule book while making decisions.

Whether it was the treasury benches or the Opposition, he placed the rules of the House above political considerations. His rulings on points of order and parliamentary procedures earned him respect across the political spectrum.

His tenure came to be remembered for impartiality, discipline and respect for the rights of legislators.

The voice of the people

When Sripada Rao rose to speak in the Assembly, the issue before

him was not merely political rivalry—it was the problem of the people. He spoke about irrigation issues in the Godavari basin, drought in North Telangana, the concerns of Dalits and weaker sections, unemployment and the complex challenges of the time, including the Naxalite issue.

His speeches carried emotion, but that emotion was backed by preparation. His questions were sharp, but they were rooted in public interest.

That combination made his interventions more than political speeches. They became a reflection of the social and economic realities faced by people during that period.

‘Sripada Vani’ in print

His Assembly speeches are now being compiled into a book titled ‘Prajapada Sripada Vani’ (Sripada's Voice for the People), to be published by Eemeskos.

The compilation seeks to preserve his legislative interventions, his understanding of public issues and his approach to parliamentary affairs for future generations.

His speeches offer an impor-

tant lesson for contemporary politics: it is not the volume of one's voice that matters, but the depth of knowledge and the public purpose behind those words.

A leader who remained accessible

Despite occupying high constitutional and political positions, Sripada Rao maintained a close connection with ordinary people. He was remembered as a leader who would respond even when approached at odd hours. His relationship with Manthani was not merely political—it was deeply personal and emotional.

He remained closely connected with the people of the constituency until the end of his life.

On April 13, 1999, Sripada Rao was killed by Naxalites at the age of 62. His life came to an abrupt end, but his bond with the people and his commitment to democratic values continued to endure.

A son carrying forward his father's legacy

The public life and political journey of Sripada Rao have also found continuity through his son, Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu.

Serving as the State Minister for IT, Industries and Legislative Affairs, Sridhar Babu has carried forward several values associated with his father—commitment to public service, a composed approach to politics and an emphasis on knowledge and substance.

Just as Sripada Rao used the Assembly as a platform to raise people's concerns, Sridhar Babu has continued to place public issues, development and effective governance at the centre of his political work. For Sridhar Babu, his father's legacy is not merely a matter of political inheritance. It

is a responsibility to carry forward the values with which Sripada Rao built his public life.

A name on the hall.

A legacy in the House.

The naming of the Telangana Legislative Assembly's Central Hall after Duddilla Sripada Rao is a rare and enduring honour. A man who once led the House as its Speaker now has his name attached to a key space within the same institution.

It is not merely a name. It is a tribute to the voice of the people. A tribute to impartiality. A tribute to parliamentary traditions. A tribute to democratic values.

He once presided over the House. Today, the House preserves his name.

A leader who earned a place in people's hearts through his words and public service has now earned a permanent place in the institution he once led.

A name that lived through his service—and now lives on in the House he once led.



GOTTIMUKKULA
BRAHMACHARY
Senior journalist
9441884389

CS Reviews Preparations for Invest Telangana –
Telangana Rising Global Summit

Send invitations to global investors, industrialists and prominent personalities: CS Sanjay Jaju

Hyderabad, Sep 7: Telangana Chief Secretary Shri Sanjay Jaju held a meeting with senior officials at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat on Monday to review preparations for the upcoming Invest Telangana – Telangana Rising Global Summit 2026.

The Chief Secretary directed officials to take steps to invite a large number of prominent personalities from India and abroad, international investors, industrialists, representatives from various sectors, CEOs, CXOs, diplomats, and other distinguished guests to the Global Summit.

He instructed officials to immediately begin the process of sending formal invitations through email to prominent personalities to attend the summit. He directed the concerned departments to work in coordination, prepare



a list of invitees, and expedite the process of sending invitations. The Chief Secretary said that through the global summit being organised under the banner of “Invest Telangana,” efforts should be made to showcase Telangana's investment opportunities extensively to the world and further establish the state as a world-class investment destination. He suggested

preparing an action plan to effectively showcase to global investors the opportunities available in Telangana in sectors such as Future City, IT, Artificial Intelligence (AI), pharmaceuticals, defence and aerospace, electronics, semiconductors, clean energy, advanced manufacturing, infrastructure, innovation, and other emerging sectors.

The Chief Secretary em-

phasized that all departments should work in close coordination and implement a time-bound action plan to ensure that the Global Summit is conducted in a prestigious and effective manner.

Senior officials Krishna Aditya, Ajit Reddy, Anudeep Durishetty, Nikhil Chakravarthy, and other senior officials participated in the meeting.

KCR Must Attend Assembly and Tender
Unconditional Apology to Speaker: Sridhar Babu
BRS Has No Moral Right to Lecture Congress on Assembly Decorum

HYDERABAD, SEPTEMBER 7

Legislative Affairs Minister D. Sridhar Babu strongly condemned the alleged unruly behaviour of BRS legislators in the Telangana Legislative Assembly premises and said that the dignity of the House and the constitutional authority of the Speaker cannot be compromised.

Speaking to the media at the CLP Media Hall on Monday, Sridhar Babu said the alleged use of filthy and abusive language against the Dalit Speaker by BRS MLCs was “unpardonable and completely unacceptable.”

“The Speaker occupies a constitutional position. Insulting the Speaker with abusive language is an insult to the dignity of the entire Legislative Assembly and the people of Telangana,” he said.

‘BRS Leaders Crossed All Limits’

The Minister said the alleged behaviour of BRS leaders to-

wards police personnel on duty was equally condemnable.

“BRS leaders caught hold of the collars of police personnel who were performing their duty and deliberately created a ruckus. Such behaviour has no place in a democratic legislature,” Sridhar Babu said.

He also objected to BRS legislators wearing T-shirts carrying slogans inside the Assembly.

“Writing slogans on T-shirts and displaying them inside the House is against the established norms, dignity and decorum of the Legislative Assembly,” he said.

‘KTR and Senior Leaders Know the Rules’

Sridhar Babu said senior BRS leaders, including K.T. Rama Rao, are fully aware of the rules, traditions and conventions of the Assembly.

“They are senior members. They know the rules and they know what is permissible inside the House. Therefore, they cannot claim ignorance,” he said.

‘KCR Must Apologise to

Speaker’

The Minister said the issue cannot be resolved merely through statements issued outside the Assembly.

“Our main demand is very clear. BRS president K. Chandrashekar Rao must attend the Assembly and tender an unconditional apology to the Hon'ble Speaker for the conduct of his party legislators.”

He said such an apology was necessary to uphold the dignity of the Speaker and the institution of the Legislative Assembly.

‘BRS Has Forgotten Its Own Record’

Sridhar Babu reminded the BRS leadership of its own conduct during its tenure in government.

“Deputy Chief Minister T. Rajaiah was removed from the Cabinet unceremoniously. Kadiyam Srihari was humiliated and insulted. Four crore people of Telangana were insulted and isolated by the previous government. The BRS leadership should first introspect on

its own record before preaching to others about dignity and democratic values,” he said.

Police Allegations Against Women MLAs Will Be Examined

The Minister, however, said the Congress government would not ignore allegations of misconduct by the police.

“Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has called for a report on the allegations of excesses by the police against BRS women legislators. The government will examine the report. If their allegations are found to be true, appropriate action will be taken accordingly.”

Sridhar Babu said the government would maintain a balance between enforcing the rules of the Assembly and ensuring that elected representatives were treated with due respect. “We will not compromise either on the dignity of the Assembly or on the rights and dignity of elected representatives. The rules must be followed by everyone,” he said.

Abusive remarks against Dalit Speaker
an attack on democracy: Rajender Rao

Congress leader demands immediate cancellation of Tatha Madhu's MLC membership

Calls for SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act case and criminal action

Seeks stringent measures to prevent him from contesting elections



addressing the Speaker in an insulting manner and using derogatory language against a person holding a constitutional position was highly objectionable. He described the remarks as a reflection of arrogance and an insult to the dignity of the Legislative Assembly.

“Insulting the Speaker is not merely an insult to an individual. It is an insult to the Dalit community, the Constitution and the democratic

institutions of the country,” Rajender Rao said.

He demanded that a case be registered against Tatha Madhu under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, if the remarks attract the provisions of the law, apart from initiating appropriate criminal proceedings.

Rajender Rao also demanded that the MLC membership of Tatha Madhu be cancelled immediately and urged the Legislative Council Chairman

to initiate necessary action in accordance with the rules and law.

Public representatives have every right to question the government and criticise policies, but resorting to personal abuse or making derogatory remarks against constitutional authorities cannot be accepted in a democracy, he said.

Rajender Rao said the incident should not be viewed merely as an insult to a Dalit leader, but as an affront to democratic values and the dignity of constitutional institutions. He called upon the government and the Legislature to take stringent action to ensure that such incidents are not repeated.

He further demanded strict legal and constitutional measures to prevent Tatha Madhu from contesting elections in future, stating that elected representatives must maintain dignity and respect for constitutional offices.

DGP C.V. ANAND CALLS FOR COMPREHENSIVE
SECURITY PLAN FOR GANESH FESTIVITIES

Hyderabad: August 07:

Telangana DGP C.V. Anand directed police officers to make comprehensive security arrangements for the peaceful conduct of Ganesh festivities across the State. On Monday, the DGP held a video conference in DGP office with SIs and senior police officers across the State and reviewed the preparedness for the festivities, which will commence on September 14 and culminate with Ganesh idol immersion on September 25.

Pandal details to be captured digitally*

The DGP said a dedicated online portal has been introduced to collect and monitor details of Ganesh pandals. Information relating to the location of pandals, organisers and committee members, as well as vehicles being used

for idol immersion, should be updated on the platform.

SHOs have been provided with dedicated logins to monitor arrangements and activities relating to the pandals. CPs, DCPs and SPs should visit the pandals and enter observations and remarks in point books.

Focus on electrical safety and traffic management*

Police should pay special attention to electrical safety and traffic management around Ganesh pandals and coordinate closely with the Electricity, fire and other Departments, the DGP said. Organisers should be encouraged to deploy volunteers and ensure CCTV cameras and queue-security arrangements at pandals.

Advance planning for immersion*

The police should collect advance information on immersion routes, roads, bridges and their load-bearing capacity and ensure appropriate traffic and security arrangements for September 25, the DGP said. He directed officers to use geo-tagging and the event application to record pandal locations and security precautions, relating to security purpose BD teams, dog squads should use. Use of geo-tagging and checking should also be uploaded on the TG-COP platform.

Coordination key to peaceful celebrations*

The DGP stressed the need for close coordination among police stations, CPs, DCPs and district SPs. Meetings should be held with Ganesh Utsav committees and peace committees, and also brief sessions should be conducted for

police personnel deployed on bandobust duty.

He also directed officers to keep a close watch on social media and promptly address any issues that could affect public order. With effective coordination among all departments and stakeholders, the Ganesh festivities from September 14 to September 25, 2026, including the immersion on September 25, should be conducted peacefully, DGP C.V. Anand said.

The meeting was attended along with the DGP C.V. Anand, DG Technical Services V.V. Srinivasa Rao, IG Intelligence Karthikeya, IG Multizone-1 Chandrasekar Reddy, T-SPARK SP Rupesh, AIG , Ramana Kumar, DCP, Hyderabad City Avinash Kumar, DCP Vikranth kumar singh and other senior police officials.



People are fed up with TDP and YSRCP.. that is why a new party

Key points from Mr V Vijayasai Reddy’s press conference

VIJAYASAI REDDY SAID:

As part of announcing the flag and agenda of the new political party I am going to establish, I want to put before you some issues concerning the people and explain why Andhra Pradesh needs an alternative political party—a third viable political alternative—through this press conference.

There are primarily two major political parties in the state: TDP and YSR Congress Party. Along with them, there are Jana Sena, Congress, CPI, CPM and several newly launched parties. Today, these parties are not in a position to effectively reach the people. They are neither bringing people’s problems to the government’s attention nor demonstrating the ability to fight for those issues. Therefore, I believe there is a need for a new political party.

Politics in Andhra Pradesh revolves only around these two parties—TDP and YSRCP. There is a perception that if TDP comes to power once, YSR Congress will come to power the next time.

These two political parties are now practicing factional politics. They have emerged as two faction-based political parties. One is the “Red Book party,” TDP, and the other is the “Rappa Rappa party,” YSR Congress. There is a continuing political war between these two parties.

In this conflict, the police should work on the side of justice. It is unfortunate that they instead work in favor of the party in power. We all need to condemn this.

The people are being crushed between these two parties. At the same time,

from agricultural fields, sand from streams, constructing a house, registering property, obtaining any permission or NOC, or running a business, people have to pay “rowdy mamools” (extortion/bribe payments). Work does not get completed unless such payments are made to politicians, police, revenue officials, municipal officials and everyone else involved in administration.

As soon as these leaders wake up, settlements and extortion activities have become routine. They say they spent ₹20 crore or ₹40 crore in the previous election and now have to recover that money and accumulate funds again for the next election. This is the objective with which these party leaders are functioning.

The kind of politics that existed in Tamil Nadu in the past has been brought to Andhra Pradesh by these parties. Whoever is in power makes filing cases against opponents, illegally arresting them and sending them to jail part of their political agenda.

Instead of moving forward with the objective of public welfare and completing irrigation projects, these two political parties are adopting an approach of spilling blood.

Even when women are stripped and beaten on the roads, murdered, or driven to such despair that they jump into the Godavari River, these leaders do not care. The political leaders of these two parties are constantly focused on making thousands of crores of rupees.

At a time when there is no political party speaking on behalf of the state’s 15 million families, people should ask themselves: Are these two parties really there for the six crore people, or do

I will not be the Chief Ministerial candidate of our party, nor will any of my family members be. The Chief Minister will come from communities that have so far remained away from political power. The people of Andhra Pradesh are my political godfathers. Our new party’s manifesto will focus on these five issues. The party will be launched after Dussehra. 66% of seats will be given to Gen-Z.. Free electricity for farmers and household needs. Forced religious conversions exist today and existed in the past as well. Those involved in religious conversions will receive treatment similar to that followed in Uttar Pradesh under our government. - Vijayasai Reddy



request you to provide your suggestions.

For 80% of the people, expenses are higher than income. How can expenses be reduced and income increased? Around 80% of people are caught in some kind of debt trap. We need to determine how they can get out of debt and how their sources of income can be increased.

Rising cost of essentials: Prices are increasing for everything from salt and pulses to electricity bills. We will discuss how to reduce the prices of essential commodities.

When Andhra Pradesh was bifurcated, its debt was ₹1.02 lakh crore. It is said to have increased to ₹10–12 lakh crore under TDP and YSRCP governments. What is the state government’s actual debt? How much are the guarantees? How much has been borrowed from the Centre? If the state government has ₹12 lakh crore in debt, what have they done for the state’s development? I am asking how much of this money went into whose

66% of seats for Gen-Z
Why are these governments afraid of Gen-Z? Young people are revolting across the state and the country. Governments are afraid because Gen-Z is questioning their wrongdoings.

In the new party, those who are 22 years old today and turn 25 by 2029 will be eligible to contest elections. Whether for the Assembly, Parliament or local bodies, I will allocate 66% of all positions to young people between 25 and 40 years of age. It will not depend on caste. We will encourage capable and intelligent young people from every community and allocate 66% of opportunities to them.

Free electricity for farmers and households

2 — Electricity: Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy provided free electricity to farmers. In reality, it is possible to provide free electricity to both farmers and households. Without burdening the government treasury, if the Centre and state provide

I am not the CM candidate

I will not be the Chief Ministerial candidate of the new political party I am going to establish. Should only two families rule this state? Should only two political parties govern it? Andhra Pradesh has not only Reddys and Kammas. There are many other communities, 140 BC communities, SCs, STs, Muslims and Christians—together constituting six crore people. Apart from the major Reddy and Kamma communities, there are Kapus and Velamas. Kapus, Velamas, BCs, Rajakas, SCs—why have they not become Chief Ministers? Why? Does that mean there are no capable people among them? There are. These communities have been suppressed while only these two groups continue to come to power and occupy positions.

My family members will also not be Chief Ministerial candidates. I solemnly say, in the presence of Lord Venkateswara, that in the new political party, anyone who has the ability and experience and can lead the state on the path of development will have the opportunity to

become Chief Minister, regardless of which community they belong to.

My role will be similar to that of Bal Thackeray in Maharashtra after elections. I will remain a mentor and provide advice and suggestions on how the government should be run.

I strongly emphasize that along with capability, the Chief Ministerial candidate must especially have patriotism.

People may call it political retirement and ask why I did not speak for two years. I was not silent for two years. We do not choose the community into which we are born.

I spent a year working on a book. It happened coincidentally. I wrote a 350-page book on how the Reddy community emerged, how it evolved from Kapu communities into village leadership, and how Reddy kings ruled. I have included only facts from historians and records from the British period. I have given the book for editing and will translate it later. Through this book, I will bring before the public the work of an entire year, for anyone who asks. I did not do this because of caste sentiment; I did it out of personal interest.

into a solar-powered state. I will create a situation where people themselves can sell electricity to the government. Everyone except industries will receive free electricity.

Reduce GST on petroleum products and lower prices

3 — Reduce prices: Petroleum product prices have a major impact on prices. As long as these prices remain high, we cannot reduce the cost of essential commodities. Andhra Pradesh and Telangana reportedly impose one of the highest tax rates in the country, around 31%, while Arunachal Pradesh collects around 15%. In our state, in addition to the 31% tax, another ₹4 is collected. That amounts to nearly 40% in taxes.

If we can reduce the tax from 35% to 15%, even if the state loses revenue, it should be done so that people’s incomes can rise. We should keep petrol below ₹100, reduce transportation costs for essential commodities, bring down their

prices and increase people’s incomes.

In response to questions from the media

Our new party’s objective is to take the state forward while maintaining a balance between welfare and development.

This state is part of the country. Every citizen of the state must have patriotism. Otherwise, the state will be fragmented.

Even though I was born into a Reddy family, it does not mean that the new party will give preference only to Reddys and Kammas. People from other communities will also have opportunities for political power—except me and my family.

The person who accused me of looting public money is now a minister in this government. If I have looted money, take action against me. File cases against me. Arrest me. Why make baseless allegations? I am issuing an open challenge.

Look at how much Vijay Joseph of Tamil Nadu spent on his party. You will see what my image is. In another

Increase water storage capacity to 3,000 TMC

Irrigation: The state currently has a water-storage capacity of 1,000 TMC. In reality, we need 1,500 TMC. Even if we have 1,200 TMC, we are unable to receive it because of Telangana’s share. In this situation, if you ask Chandrababu Naidu, he says El Niño will come and there will be problems with irrigation and drinking water. Telling farmers not to cultivate paddy is wrong. If you are truly visionary, you should have increased the 1,000-TMC capacity threefold. If it were increased, even if drought continued for two consecutive years, we would not face problems with irrigation or drinking water. You may ask whether tribunals would agree to this. Then whom did they ask before constructing projects in Telangana and Karnataka?

Around 4,000 TMC of water flows into the sea. When rainfall is heavy, as much as 5,500 TMC flows

into the sea. We need to think about how to divert this water into reservoirs and convert it into irrigation and drinking water. If our party comes to power, we will triple the existing 1,000-TMC capacity to 3,000 TMC. This will ensure that even if there is drought for two or three years, farmers will have irrigation water and people will have drinking water.

At the same time, we see in every government how Agricultural Marketing Committees, which are supposed to serve farmers, are exploiting them.

These two political parties will not change. As long as these two parties remain in power, there will not be enough water. El Niño events will continue. Agriculture will suffer and farmers will not survive. The parties will spend their time blaming each other. That is why an alternative political party is necessary.

er three years, you will see with your own eyes how our party progresses.

TDP and YSRCP are merely my political opponents. They are not my enemies. The faction within YSRCP is also a political opponent, not an enemy.

If someone refers to it as the K.A. Paul party, does that mean K.A. Paul is not a good person? Is that what the person making the comment intends to suggest? How many parties has that person switched? What is his history? What atrocities has he committed? How did he insult Vijayamma? What did he say about YSR? You can understand the facts yourselves.

I am not against any religion. I am not against Hindus, Muslims or Christians. I support everyone who has patriotism, respects the law, does not commit murders and does not commit rape. It is incorrect to call me anti-Christian or anti-Muslim. The fact that a Muslim youth was involved in the Love Jihad incident in Kakkinada was coincidental, but even though the SP said that the incident in Guntur was not Love Jihad, these matters should be discussed.

At present, I have no intention of contesting in alliance with anyone. We have to see how political equations change in the future. The future Chief Minister from our party could be a Muslim, Christian, SC, ST or BC candidate—anyone.

It is true that I worked for the Y.S. family for 40 years. I explained in an open letter why I left and the reasons for which I was pushed out. If the faction challenges

those matters and says it is very good and rejects my letter, I will explain more issues through another open letter. If I am called a traitor, I will tell the media how I will respond.

My political godfathers are the people of Andhra Pradesh.

Regarding forced religious conversions: religious conversions did not occur only during the past seven years; they happened before that as well. Those who engage in such illegal activities will face treatment similar to that in Uttar Pradesh. Ask Chandrababu Naidu to say that forced religious conversions are not happening today. Ask YSRCP to say they did not happen under the previous government. From 2014 to 2019, from 2019 to 2024, and from 2024 to 2026, how many conversions took place and how many aspiring candidates for party tickets changed religions—you are seeing all of this in the media yourselves. What I am saying is that religious conversions existed in the past and are still happening now.

I will not contest as an MLA. There are 140 BC communities, as well as SCs, STs, Muslims and other minorities. Anyone with the ability can become Chief Minister.

I will definitely undertake a padayatra. I will not merely walk on roads; I will travel to all 660 mandals in the state and undertake a padayatra among the people. I will not undertake the padayatra merely to set a Guinness Book record, Vijayasai Reddy clarified.

Regarding education, TDP has one objective

according to Chandrababu Naidu’s policy, government schools should be weakened while Narayana and Chaitanya institutions are strengthened. This has allegedly been happening during his years in power. Government schools have been closed. Why are question papers being leaked? Why do private institutions keep getting the top ranks? Why is there a perception that students from government schools cannot achieve top ranks? Who is responsible? If we come to power, we will give government schools complete freedom and develop them. Our party’s vi-

sion includes irrigation, solar power, reducing petrol and diesel prices, lowering the cost of essential commodities, free electricity for every household, free electricity for farmers for two crops, regulating loan apps and bringing them under the law, increasing people’s incomes, and allocating 66% of seats to young people between 25 and 40 years of age. The remaining 34% will be available to seniors and those with political experience. This is our party’s approach because 66% of India’s population is below 40. Within that, 33% of the opportunities will be pri-

oritized for young women.

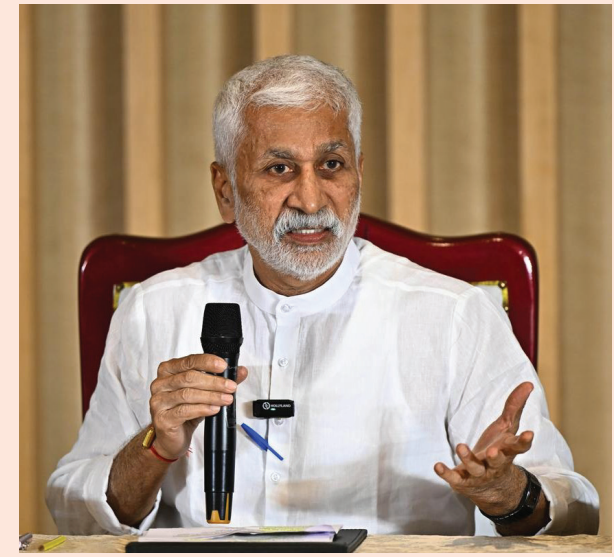
You may ask, “There is no leader behind you, so how will you achieve this?” Wait for just six months. You will see with your own eyes how many people join us. The youth are the lifeblood of our party. I will next hold a press conference in Anantapur, followed by Visakhapatnam and Tirupati. After that, I will hold a conclave and announce the party’s name and flag. The party will be established after Vijayadashami, possibly the very next day. Ours will be a regional party limited to Andhra Pradesh.

CBI probe into APPSC and DSC scams

Education: What the younger generation needs is education and employment. They need education that leads to jobs. Courses that do not lead to employment should be discontinued. The manufacturing sector should be developed. The excessive burden placed on teachers should also be reduced. Teachers should be restricted to teaching. That is what we will do if we come to power.

I acknowledge both the APPSC scam under the previous government and the DSC scam under the present government. The opposition is demanding a CBI inquiry into both. Both cases should be handed over to the CBI for an impartial investigation, and those responsible should be punished. To ensure transparency

in recruitment, why can’t we establish an Andhra Pradesh Teaching Services along the lines of UPSC and APPSC for teacher recruitment? I will ensure that candidates receive jobs only after passing a



written examination and interview. If we come to power, we will establish Andhra Pradesh Teaching Services.

In both 2014 and 2019, Chandrababu Naidu promised unemploy-

ment assistance. Today, he does not talk about it. The unemployed have been abandoned.

If we come to power, we will address this issue through a Graduate Bridge Allowance, as proposed by the Centre. Every unemployed graduate who completes university and enters the job market will receive an allowance for a fixed period—perhaps four or five years. For example, there is an employment-support scheme for workers under the Food-for-Work programme. There are no comparable schemes for unemployed youth. They have no jobs and often do not know what to do after leaving university. We will establish a Graduate Bridge Allowance for them.

Andhra Pradesh’s development is being held back, and people have been deprived of security. Therefore, I believe a new political party needs to emerge.

Why are these two parties fighting? Their politics is centered on who will loot the wealth belonging to the state’s 15 million families—around 60 million people. This is the misfortune of the people of the state.

The political agenda of these two family-based parties is the same: “A little for the people, a lot for ourselves.” That is the only principle they follow. Whether it is taking soil

the six crore people exist for these two family-based political parties?

That is why I am coming before the people with the objective of building this new political party. You should find out for yourselves what is true and what is false about the allegations made against me.

Those five issues will be our party manifesto

I will present five issues to you. These will form the manifesto of the party I am going to establish. I will hold three more press conferences in Anantapur, Visakhapatnam and Tirupati to discuss them. I also

pockets.

I am not opposed to Amaravati as the capital. I only expressed the view that the Shivaramakrishnan Committee report should be considered and followed. After spending around ₹70,000 crore on the capital, wanting to change Amaravati is foolish. Whether one likes it or not, Amaravati is the capital and it should not be opposed. Do not misuse public money in the name of capital development. The government should create infrastructure and bring in investments for development, but public money should not be misused.

subsidies and solar panels are installed, electricity can be supplied to people free of cost with a nominal investment.

We will provide free electricity to every household and every farmer. This is how our party will move forward. Why did previous governments not work this way? Because political parties, including ruling parties, receive commissions when they purchase electricity from power-generating companies. They increase prices and extract commissions through them. We will avoid all this and transform Andhra Pradesh



EDITORIAL.

Death Traps for Dreamers

How Delhi's Collapsing Buildings and Scapegoated Officials Fail the Capital's Students

Delhi has quietly morphed into a city of silent tombs for the very youth who arrive bearing dreams of a brighter future. Across student-dense neighborhoods like Satya Niketan, Mukherjee Nagar, and Old Rajinder Nagar, decades-old residential and commercial structures—bloomed with illegal floors, unreinforced basements, and severely compromised structural integrity—are collapsing like houses of cards. These buildings, operating as crowded paying guest accommodations, subterranean libraries, and packed coaching centers, are no longer mere safety hazards; they are active death traps. Yet, whenever the inevitable tragedy occurs and innocent students are pulled from the debris, the response from successive governments follows a cynical, predictable script: a flurry of hollow condolences, hurried site visits, and the immediate suspension of a handful of junior municipal officials. This ritualistic scapegoating of mid-to-low-level engineers is an institutional evasion of responsibility. By treating these systemic failures as isolated administrative lapses rather than symptoms of profound governance decay, the political class insulates itself from accountability. Suspending a junior engineer or a local housing inspector does not resurrect the dead students, nor does it fix the thousands of illegal, overburdened structures standing precariously across the capital. It is a convenient political smokescreen designed to deflect public outrage until the news cycle fades, leaving the underlying real estate mafia, greedy landlords, and corrupt regulatory nexus completely untouched. The anatomy of these urban disasters is well-documented and entirely preventable. Unchecked commercialization has illegally transformed residential zones into high-density educational hubs. Property owners, emboldened by political patronage and municipal apathy, routinely flout building bylaws, excavate waterlogged basements without clearances, and pile unauthorized vertical extensions onto aging foundations that lack basic pillar support. Fire safety exits are blocked, ventilation is non-existent, and student safety is bartered for exorbitant rental yields. Municipal authorities look the other way until catastrophe strikes, trading human lives for systemic corruption. When the dust finally settles, the state sacrifices a few low-ranking officials at the altar of bureaucratic accountability, pretending that cutting off a single claw will kill the beast. True accountability demands a complete structural overhaul, not cosmetic reprimands. Governments must transition from reactive damage control to proactive, mandatory structural audits of every building housing student hubs, hostels, and libraries in the capital. Unauthorized constructions must face unequivocal demolition rather than regularisation through political expedience. Furthermore, strict criminal liability must be extended to property owners and licensing authorities who knowingly compromise human safety for profit. Until the political executive stops hiding behind the suspension files of scapegoated bureaucrats and acknowledges its own systemic complicity, Delhi's educational spaces will remain vestibules of tragedy, and pursuing a dream in the national capital will continue to carry a mortal toll.

Article on International Literacy Day (8 September)

Where There Is Literacy, There Will Be the Light of Development - Atul Goyal

Literacy is far more than knowing letters and words; it awakens the courage to question, the wisdom to decide, the awareness to claim one's rights and the confidence to shape one's own destiny. Literacy is the first gateway to this ability. Therefore, limiting literacy merely to the ability to recognize letters and write words would be to narrow its broader meaning. In today's changing times, a literate person is one who can understand information, distinguish between right and wrong, use technology wisely, and make responsible decisions towards his or her family, society and nature. Keeping this broader perspective in mind, 'International Literacy Day' is observed across the world on 8 September. The year 2026 is particularly historic because it marks 60 years since the declaration establishing International Literacy Day. UNESCO declared 8 September as this day in 1966, and its global observance began in 1967. This year's theme is 'Literacy for People, the Planet and Prosperity'. The theme makes it clear that literacy is connected not only with education but also deeply with human dignity, environmental sustainability and economic opportunities.

The goal of achieving literacy has still not been fully accomplished despite six decades of global efforts. According to UNESCO, in 2024, at least 739 million young people and adults worldwide were deprived of basic literacy skills. The situation of children is also a matter of concern. Not nearly one in four, but approximately four out of ten children worldwide are unable to reach the minimum level of proficiency in reading, while in 2023 around 272 million children and adolescents were out of school. These figures show that merely increasing the number of schools is not enough; ensuring the quality of education, continuity of learning and access for every individual is equally essential. The first and foremost benefit of literacy goes to the individual. A person who can read and write can understand information about government schemes, use banking and digital services, read health-related instructions, search for employment opportunities and raise his or her voice for rights. A mother becoming literate is not merely one individual becoming educated; its impact extends to the entire next generation. A literate family is better equipped to make informed decisions regarding children's education, health, nutrition and future. Therefore, literacy should be regarded as a fundamental force of social transformation.



In the present era, the definition of literacy has become even broader. The digital age has made access to information easier, but at the same time it has created new threats in the form of misinformation, fake news, online fraud and misleading propaganda. Now merely reading a book is not enough; it is also necessary to understand whether the information available on the internet is reliable or not. The rapid expansion of artificial intelligence has made this challenge even more serious. The literacy of the future will also have to include digital literacy, media literacy, financial literacy, health literacy and AI literacy. Only then can knowledge become a light that shows the right direction amid the noise of information. This year's theme gives equal importance to the 'planet' along with 'people'. To confront environmental crises, society must also be aware, and knowledge is the foundation of awareness. Information related to climate change, water conservation, biodiversity, energy saving, waste management and the judicious use of natural resources will translate into behaviour only when people are capable of understanding it and making decisions based on it. Literacy gives individuals the power to understand that protecting the environment is not merely the responsibility of governments but an issue connected with the everyday behaviour of every citizen. UNESCO also links the 2026 theme with inclusion, a sustainable future, livelihoods and opportunities for economic

development.

The third important word in the theme is 'prosperity'. Without education and literacy, it is difficult to ensure that the benefits of economic development reach every section of society. A literate person is better equipped to learn new skills, seek employment, start an enterprise and adapt to a changing economy. Today, when the nature of employment is changing rapidly and the importance of technological competence is increasing, the ability to continue learning throughout life is becoming the real capital. Literacy is the first step towards this lifelong learning.

For India too, this day is an occasion for introspection. The country has made remarkable progress in the field of literacy. According to the Ministry of Education, the literacy rate among the population aged seven years and above was recorded at 80.9 percent in PLFS 2023-24, significantly higher than the 74.04 percent recorded

in 2011. Female literacy also increased from 57.93 percent in 2011 to 74.6 percent in 2023-24. However, the inequalities hidden behind the national average cannot be ignored. Differences still exist between rural and urban areas, between men and women, and among different states. Therefore, the next challenge before India is not merely the question of 'how many people are literate', but the question of 'how many people are able to learn and un-

derstand effectively'. The literacy campaign will succeed only when it moves beyond documents and government programmes and becomes a shared responsibility of society. A culture of reading must be developed in schools, libraries must be made vibrant, quality content must be made available in local languages, and digital resources must reach villages and disadvantaged communities. Flexible learning arrangements tailored to the needs of women, migrant workers, persons with disabilities, the elderly and socially disadvantaged groups are essential. Technology should be used to expand access, not to deepen digital inequality.

The most important thing is that literacy should not be regarded as a means of passing examinations, but as the power to understand life better and make it better. When a person reads and understands his or her rights, when a farmer uses weather and market information, when a woman becomes more financially independent through digital banking, when a young person learns a new skill through knowledge available online, or when a citizen changes his or her behaviour on the basis of environmental information, literacy is transformed into real change. A society in which the opportunity to read, understand and learn reaches the last person can become more just, more sensitive and more sustainable. This year's call on Literacy Day is, in fact, an appeal for a future world where knowledge empowers individuals, education connects society, understanding protects nature, and skills open new doors to prosperity. The need is simply to ensure that this light of knowledge does not remain confined to a few hands, but reaches every home, every village, every settlement and every individual. Only then can literacy truly become the light of human development.

(The author is a Software Development Engineer at a New York-based company)



Atul Goyal

‘Acharyas ‘ book of poems released

Bhubneshwar: Justice Pramath Patnaik , retd judge of Odisha High Court formally released the book of poems : Poems Across Time - One family , Three voices edited by retd IAS officer Bibhu Acharya and presented first copy to Prabhu Chawla , Editorial Director of New Indian Express, in the prsence of co author Ansuman Acharya and Lipika Bhushan, author who moderated the event today at the Odisha Literary Festival at Bhubaneswar yesterday The books contains poems of Late Dr DP Acharya , his son Ansuman and brother Bibhu Acharya cartoonist and retired IAS officer



Himalayas Losing Balance GREATER STRAIN ON ECONOMY

SHIVAJI SARKAR

Unfathomable! In a matter of seconds, an immense mass of ice, rock and frozen earth broke loose high in the Himalayas, unleashing a violent cascade from the Tibetan heights into Nepal. What began at nearly 5,000 metres high became a wall of water, mud, rock and ice racing through the Lhende Khola, Bhote Koshi and Trishuli valleys, tearing through settlements, roads and bridges and radically altering the landscape below. The sheer force was extraordinary. The collapse produced a seismic signal initially mistaken for an earthquake, while the debris travelled more than 20 km before the flood surged through the Himalayan valleys. Entire riverside settlements disappeared beneath what survivors described as a moving mass of mud and debris. The destruction extended across Tibet and Nepal, with the downstream consequences reaching into India. But the visible destruction is only the beginning. It is, the geological experts aver, is the beginning of a swifter Indian sub-continental warming as 74 percent of the northern hemisphere permafrost stored in Tibet being lost is likely to cause searing heat in Europe, the Atlantic Ocean region extending to Greenland. Would we see many larger icebergs? Likely, but no one knows. This was not merely another Himalayan flood; it was a geological warning. The Himalayas are a young, restless mountainsystem, increasingly stressed by warming glaciers, thawing frozen ground, unstable slopes and intense human intervention. Roads, tunnels, dams, hydropower projects and expanding settlements are penetrating terrain whose geology remains inherently fragile. What makes the disaster particularly disturbing is what cannot yet be seen. A major collapse can destabilise slopes, alter river channels and create or disturb lakes, setting off chain of landslides, debris flows and floods. One rupture can generate another, turning a single catastrophe into a chain of events unfolding over years or decades. And the loss is not merely economic majorly for the subcontinent and particularly a vast swathe of Nepal, Bangladesh and particularly the Indian landmass. A landscape shaped over millennia can be transformed in minutes.



Villages, forests, farmland, river courses and ecological systems carry not only material wealth but the accumulated memory of generations. Roads and bridges can be rebuilt; a vanished landscape, ecosystem or cultural inheritance cannot simply be reconstructed. Nor does the Himalayan disaster end where the mountains descend into the plains. The rivers carry its consequences across borders into Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and beyond, exposing agriculture, settlements, infrastructure and economies downstream. What happens at height of 5,000 metres can become a crisis thousands of kilometres away. The question, therefore, is no longer whether the Himalayas are changing. It is whether the subcontinent/South Asia is prepared for what that change could unleash—and what generations yet unborn may inherit from our choices today. It is yet to be assessed how much land would remain agriculturally productive from a limited perspective of Himachal, Uttarakhand, Nepal, northern Bengal, Sikkim, Arunachal and beyond. Perhaps large farmlands would degenerate into sand fields and dunes, many depositions of rubbles and further impoverish the people. The breadbasket may shrink, hunger could grow in the region and food prices the world over could spike. These are possibilities as indicated by bridge, dam and barrage collapses, including the mighty Farakka leading to a severe flood in Bangladesh. Damage and losses are incalculable as well as not limited to timeschedule. Such was the force of the event, it was initially reported as an earthquake of magnitude 4.4. The US Geological Survey later determined the tremor was caused by gla-

cial rock and ice collapsing, registering a magnitude of 5.2. The collapse triggered a huge release of water, mud, rock and ice that thundered down valleys and swept down the Lhende Khola, Bhote Koshi and Trishuli rivers—the Gandak system in India. The high-speed flash floods careered towards northern Nepalese towns, including areas popular with mountaineering tourists and pilgrims. Horrifying videos from the Gyirong border post, which connects Nepal and Tibet, showed people running for their lives as the wall of debris obliterated buildings and swept away lines of transport.

Third Pole Collapse - River Projects Useful?

The Third Pole, as the Himalayas are called, collapse may usher in a severe earth heating from eastern Asia to Europe and Greenland. Power lines under constructions and tunnels of the working of innumerable power projects are choked with engineers, workers and technical teams missing and cars blocking tunnels. Many projects may never be revived. Perhaps it would lead to probes to find whether such schemes are profitable, ecofriendly or at all useful. Massive downstream dam and hydropower ambitions in sensitive zones like Arunachal Pradesh face severe exposure to sudden upstream high-altitude flooding and mass-destructing events. It has washed away railway stations, roads, offices, markets, and what not for over a week in northern Bihar, and Bengal.

Magnitude Surpasses Kedarnath

Deaths are uncountable. Latest estimates say it has surpassed the 2013 Kedarnath-Uttarakhand tally of 8000. Perhaps right. It's in a far wider, higher

and more critical area that has shaken the foundation of the Himalayas—world's roof to floor shaken and now the race to the Nepal to the Bay of Bengal is on. Many ports and river routes may face disruption, potentially reshaping both the ecology and economics from Nepal to Northeast India. Restoring connectivity would be costly—and harder amid regional geopolitical tensions. The losses include rare Himalayan flora, expensive medicinal plants, herbs, aromatic, life-saving plants and extremely precious, forget about stones, minerals that are stored for millennia. Does the Ganga water get its speciality and unique qualities from these preserved soils? None knows and now it would not be easy to establish the link.

Permafrost to Global Warming Thawing Himalayan permafrost is more than a geological concern. Its release of carbon and methane can accelerate warming, while destabilising slopes and watersystems. The Nepal tragedy exposes India's vulnerability across its fragile Himalayan states. At around 17,000 feet, the scale and consequences of the detached ice-rock mass remain uncertain. The Qinghai-Tibet Plateau—the Earth's Third Pole—holds the world's largest expanse of alpine permafrost, covering roughly one million sq km and storing enormous quantities of carbon while regulating regional hydrology. As this frozen system thaws, risks of glacier loss, landslides, floods and further warming increase, with possible implications for Asia's desertification. A next rupture may be awaiting! India has a formidable task ahead. Extant institutions like the Planning Commission and entire agriculture and earth sciences system need reorientation requiring billions. Can a strained economy do it?—INFA



Shivaji Sarkar

Swarna Bharat Trust Dedicated to the Upliftment of the Underprivileged

- Thousands of lives illuminated during its 25-year journey of service
- With the blessings of Venkaiah Naidu and the determination, dedication, and resolve of Deepa, the Trust's services have created a lasting legacy
- Sarvepalli was blessed by the visit of UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath
- Sarvepalli MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy at the Swarna Bharat Trust's 25th anniversary celebrations held in Venkatachalam
- Sarvepalli MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy warmly welcomed chief guest Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath when his helicopter landed at the Akshara School campus



● Somireddy participated in the Silver Jubilee celebrations at the Swarna Bharat Trust premises along with UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, India's 13th Vice President Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu, Ministers Ponguru Narayana and Satyakumar Yadav, MP Beeda Masthan Rao, BJP State President PVN Madhav, Kamineni Srinivas, Deepa Venkat, and others

Somireddy's Comments
Somireddy extended a warm welcome to UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on behalf of the people of the Sarvepalli constituency. He said that it was a matter of great fortune for everyone that Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu, who served as the 13th Vice President of India, is a



Telugu person, a native of Nellore district, and the beloved son of Sarvepalli. "It gives us immense happiness that Swarna Bharat Trust is celebrating its Silver Jubilee with the blessings of our elder brother Venkaiah Naidu and through the determination, hard work, and dedication to service of Deepa Venkat," Somireddy said. He said Venkaiah Naidu

had demonstrated that politics is not merely about power, but also about public service and bringing smiles to the faces of the underprivileged. He said that Akshara Vidyalaya, being run under the leadership of Deepa Venkat, is not merely a school. "It is a temple of learning that instills in children not only education but also culture, moral values, a spirit of

service, and patriotism," he said. Somireddy said that Yogi Adityanath's visit to Akshara School provided tremendous inspiration to the students and teachers. He said the good governance being provided by Yogi Adityanath in Uttar Pradesh, his efforts to maintain peace and security, and the development initiatives undertaken under his leadership are an example for the entire country. He said Yogi Adityanath's selfless service, discipline, and leadership are an inspiration to every Indian. Somireddy described Yogi Adityanath's visit to Sarvepalli as a rare and special honour for the constituency. He concluded by expressing his wish that the blessings of Venkaiah Naidu would always remain with everyone.

Liquor Mafia 'Selling Death' in Shrikot: Villagers Allege Excise Inaction 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 Dhama 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.

Kishan Reddy Attacks Congress's 'Authoritarian' Rule

NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy criticized the Congress government in Telangana, saying that although it came to power promising democratic governance, it is responding to questions on public issues with arrests, protests with detentions, and peaceful demonstrations with police baton charges. He strongly condemned the manner in which police dealt with BJP leaders and workers who were peacefully proceeding to-

wards the Assembly, demanding the immediate release of ₹15,000 crore in fee reimbursement and scholarship arrears affecting the future of nearly 40 lakh poor students, and seeking a resolution to the problems concerning private lands included in the 22-A list. Kishan Reddy said it was outrageous that state BJP president N. Ramchander Rao, who had taken up the cause of students, was forcibly arrested near the Assembly. He said the detention of BJP leaders and BJYM workers at various locations was evidence of the

Congress government's intolerance and insecurity. "Why is the government so afraid? Is it afraid when questions are raised about students' problems? Is it afraid when it is questioned about the 22-A land issue? Why does it become so alarmed when opposition leaders approach the Assembly?" Kishan Reddy asked. He criticized the government for preventing BJP legislators from raising questions inside the Assembly and using the police to arrest BJP leaders who were raising their voices for the people outside the As-

sembly, saying that this was not democratic governance but evidence of an authoritarian attitude. He alleged that the government was preventing peaceful protests at Dharana Chowk and, when leaders approached the Assembly to bring public grievances to the government's attention, was putting up barricades, arresting leaders, and using batons against party workers. He said it was wrong to use the police to suppress the voices of opposition parties instead of implementing the promises made to students and unemployed

youth during the elections and responding to questions about those promises. Kishan Reddy said Chief Minister Revanth Reddy should remember one thing: questions about public issues cannot be stopped with the police, people's grievances cannot be blocked with barricades, movements cannot be suppressed through arrests, and students' problems cannot be solved with batons. He demanded the immediate release of ₹15,000 crore in fee reimbursement and scholarship arrears and called for a comprehensive investigation

into alleged irregularities and wrongdoing in the 22-A land issue, along with justice for those affected. Kishan Reddy made it clear that the BJP would not be intimidated by arrests, detentions, or baton charges. He said the BJP would continue its struggle on behalf of the people until justice is delivered to students and those affected by the 22-A land issue. "The more the Congress government tries to suppress us, the more strongly we will stand as the voice of the people," Kishan Reddy asserted.

PM to Visit Gujarat and Maharashtra on 8th September

- PM to Lay Foundation Stones, Inaugurate and Dedicate to the Nation Development Projects Worth More Than ₹35,000 Crore in Vadodara
- PM to Dedicate Three Key Sections of Western Dedicated Freight Corridor to the Nation, Marking Completion of the Project
- PM to Lay Foundation Stone for three Railway Projects and three Highway Projects
- PM to Inaugurate Global Fintech Fest 2026 in Mumbai
- Theme of GFF 2026: "Potential to Impact: Agentic AI, Tokenisation, Quantum - Trusted, Connected, Global Systems for Inclusive Finance"

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will visit Gujarat and Maharashtra on 8th September 2026. At around 12 noon, Prime Minister will lay the foundation stones, inaugurate and dedicate to the nation various development projects worth more than ₹35,000 crore in Vadodara. He will also address the gathering on the occasion. At around 5:45 PM, Prime Minister will inaugurate Global Fintech Fest (GFF) 2026 in Mumbai and address the gathering as well.

PM in Vadodara

Prime Minister will dedicate to the nation three important sections of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC), covering 326 route kilometres and developed at a cost of more than ₹20,700 crore. These include the New Sanand (N)- New Makarpura, New Umbergaon-New Saphale and New JNPT sections. The direct connectivity of Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) will facilitate faster movement of EXIM cargo, strengthen connectivity between industrial centres and ports, reduce logistics costs and help decongest Mumbai's railway network. With the commissioning of these sections, the Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) network will stand fully operational across its entire length. The dedicated freight infrastructure will further strengthen the country's logistics ecosystem by improving multimodal connectivity, reducing transit time and facilitating seamless movement of cargo across different regions. Prime Minister will also flag off freight train services from New Sanand (North), New Makarpura, New Umbergaon and New JNPT, Mumbai. In addition, he will flag off a new passenger train service between Tanda Road and Vadodara (Pratapnagar). Prime Minister will dedicate to the nation the Jobat-Tanda Road new rail

line, developed as part of the Chhota Udepur-Dhar project. The new rail line will connect remote and tribal areas of Alirajpur with the national rail network. Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone for three railway projects spanning 329 kilometres and costing more than ₹9,700 crore. These include the Vadodara-Ratlam third and fourth lines, Miyagam Karjan-Choranda-Malsar gauge conversion and the Vishwamitri-Dabhoi doubling project. The projects will enhance passenger and freight capacity, ease congestion and strengthen connectivity between Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone for three National Highway projects costing around ₹1,780 crore. These include six-laning of the Kamrej-Chalthan section of NH-48; construction of additional structures, including major bridges over the Tapi and Narmada, on the Vadodara-Surat section of NH-48; and grade-separated structures at Abhava, Mindhola and Khajod junctions on NH-53. Prime Minister will also lay the foundation stone for and inaugurate various Government of Gujarat projects worth around ₹2,600 crore. Major projects for which the foundation stone will be laid include Vadodara Urban Development Authority Ring Road Phase II and a 110 MW floating solar project at Kadana Dam, construction of new office of Vadodara Municipal Corporation, among others. Projects to be inaugurated include housing projects under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and a water-supply project for 11 villages in eastern Vadodara, among others.

PM in Mumbai
Prime Minister will inaugurate Global Fintech Fest (GFF) 2026, one of the world's largest and most influential annual fintech conferences. The seventh edition of the Global Fintech Fest is being held from 8th to 11th September 2026 in Mumbai. Since 2020, GFF has emerged as an international thought leadership platform bringing together policymakers, regulators, central banks, financial institutions, fintechs, technology companies, investors, academia and other global stakeholders to deliberate on shaping the future of finance. The theme of GFF 2026 is "Potential to Impact: Agentic AI, Tokenisation, Quantum - Trusted, Connected, Global Systems for Inclusive Finance." GFF 2026 has been designed as a convergence point for policy, regulation, technology, capital and industry on a common platform.

Delhi building collapse: Student volunteers step in with food, essentials for rescue teams

NEW DELHI

Students and volunteers of the National Service Scheme (NSS) at Maitreyi College stepped in to provide food and essential supplies to rescue personnel, evacuated students and others involved in relief operations following the building collapse in southwest Delhi's Satya Niketan. The volunteers distributed biscuits, snacks, juice and drinking water to personnel of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and other agencies working at the site, besides students who were evacuated from nearby buildings. They also appealed for donations of sanitary pads, clean clothes, medicines and other essential supplies, which they said would be distributed among students and others affected by the incident.

Dedicated Freight Corridors to Strengthen Freight Efficiency and Logistics Connectivity

MALIGAON

The operationalisation of India's Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) network marks a major transformation in the nation's freight transportation system. Developed by the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL), the 2,843 km network comprises the 1,337 km Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor from New Sahnewal in Punjab to New Sonnagar in Bihar and the 1,506 km Western Dedicated Freight Corridor from New Dadri in Uttar Pradesh to The New Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPT) in Maharashtra. Completion of the approximately 102 km Vaitarna to JNPT section on 31st March, 2026 made the entire Western DFC operational, providing seamless freight connectivity to the country's major western maritime gateway. The DFC network is already operating at a significant scale, carrying more than 14



% of Indian Railways' freight traffic over approximately 4% of the railway network. Up to 31st August, 2026, around 5.21 lakh freight train trips had been handled, with an average movement of nearly 435 trains per day. The network recorded approximately 658 billion Gross Tonne Kilometres and 360 billion Net Tonnes Kilometres, while its freight traffic registered a growth of 13.74% during 2025-26. By separating freight operations from passenger dominated routes, the corridors are creating additional capacity on the con-

ventional railway network and contributing towards faster freight movement, better punctuality and more reliable customer services. The Eastern DFC, including its 99 km stretch in Bihar, is particularly important for strengthening freight movement towards eastern and Northeastern India. Its integration with the broader Indian Railways network is expected to benefit the railway zones by facilitating more efficient transportation of foodgrains, fertilizers, petroleum products, coal, cement, automobiles, con-



tainerised cargo and other essential commodities. It will also provide industries, traders and agricultural producers across the Northeast with improved access to major production centres, consumption markets and ports. Faster and more predictable freight services can particularly support the movement of tea, horticultural produce, processed food and other time-sensitive commodities from the region. The DFC network, further supported by Gati Shakti Cargo Terminals, Multimodal Logistics Facilities, Digital Freight

Management Systems and innovative services such as Truck-on-Train and rapid parcel cargo, will help reduce logistics costs, road congestion, diesel consumption and carbon emissions. For NFR and the Northeastern region, the enhanced national freight backbone is expected to improve the supply-chain reliability, attract investment in logistics and warehousing not only within the nation but also Foreign Direct Investments, generate employment and strengthen the region's integration with domestic as well as global markets.

Congress Forms Forum for SC and ST MPs

NEW DELHI

Congress MPs Balaram Naik and Kadiyam Kavya said that a special forum has been formed for SC and ST MPs belonging to the Congress party. They said that 32 Congress SC and ST MPs from various states attended the meeting held in Delhi. They said the meeting lasted for about three hours, during which they discussed discrimination against SCs and STs across the country, the problems they face, protection of their rights, and other related issues. Balaram Naik and Kadiyam Kavya strongly condemned the BJP leaders for conducting a "purification" programme after the Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's event. They said it was inappropriate

for the BJP to act in a manner that insulted Kharge and stated that they strongly opposed such conduct. "We Condemn the Remarks Made by a BRS MLC Against Speaker Gaddam Prasad": Kadiyam Kavya Congress MP Kadiyam Kavya strongly condemned the remarks made by a BRS MLC against Telangana Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad. She questioned whether this was the respect being shown to SCs and STs. She recalled that K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) had earlier promised to make a Dalit the Chief Minister. Kadiyam Kavya said that the remarks made against Speaker Gaddam Prasad should not be viewed merely as an insult to an individual, but as an insult to the entire Dalit community.

Haryana to Soon Be Developed as a Major Artificial Intelligence Hub-Arti Singh Rao

State Government Committed to Ensuring Transparent, Swift and Accountable Governance

CHANDIGARH

Haryana Health Minister, Ms Arti Singh Rao, said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini, the State Government is continuously taking landmark steps to digitally empower Haryana and equip it with cutting-edge technology. Haryana will soon become a major Artificial Intelligence (AI) hub, she said. The Health Minister said that to strengthen e-governance and ensure that services reach the last person, 25,201 Atal Seva Kendras have been registered in the State so far, of which 17,085 are successfully operational in rural areas and 8,116

in urban areas. In addition, 946 online services and schemes of 75 departments, boards and corporations are being made available to citizens from the convenience of their homes through the Antyodaya SARAL Portal. She said that, taking another step towards digital empowerment, Haryana has emerged as a leading State in the country in adopting the Central Government's DigLocker service. At present, 228 types of documents and certificates are readily available for digital verification through the service. Ms Arti Singh Rao said the Lokayukta Portal is being operated to provide transparent services to the public, while dedicated of-

ficial websites have been developed for all districts of the State. To strengthen digital connectivity in rural areas, 8,468 Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed in Gram Panchayats. At the same time, to bring greater efficiency and speed to administrative functioning, work is being carried out through 'e-Office' in 44 departments and all districts of the State. Termining the prompt resolution of public grievances as a top priority of the government, the Health Minister said 'CM Window' has been introduced at every district headquarters. Through this mechanism, more than 15,32 lakh grievances had been successfully resolved up to August 31,

2026. The government has also developed a new in-house system, the 'Social Media Grievance Tracker', to monitor grievances received through social media and their redressal. She further said that besides these achievements, a mechanism has been put in place to safeguard citizens' rights under which, if an applicant does not receive a service within the prescribed timeframe, the application is automatically escalated to the Appellate Authority. Ms Arti Singh Rao reiterated that through these digital initiatives, the Haryana Government is committed to ensuring transparent, swift and accountable governance across the State.

India joins US, 24 nations in GLOBAL 6G INITIATIVE

WASHINGTON, SEPT 7

India has joined the United States and 24 other countries in a global initiative aimed at guiding the development and deployment of next-generation 6G telecommunications networks, the US Department of Commerce said.

The announcement followed a bilateral meeting between US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick and Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada on the sidelines of the G20 Innovation Ministers' Meeting in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

"India has joined the U.S. and 24 other countries in the effort to ensure that next-generation networks reflect our shared security interests, strengthen our competitiveness, and drive innovation in 6G,"



the US Department of Commerce said in a post on X.

Prasada led the Indian delegation at the G20 Innovation Ministers' Meeting held on September 1 and 2 and hosted by the US Department of Commerce and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

The G20 Innovation Ministers issued a statement recognising the potential of emerging technologies to boost prosperity, productivity and opportunities.

During his visit, Prasada held bilateral discussions with Lutnick on strengthening India-US cooperation in semiconductors, artificial intelligence and data centres. He also encouraged greater US investment under India Semiconductor Mission 2.0 and discussed strengthening the two countries' AI technology partnership, including safeguards for AI.

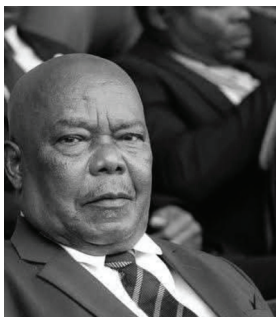
"Semiconductors, AI and data centres are critical building blocks of the emerging digital economy," Prasada said.

The Indian delegation included senior officials from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Department of Science and Technology and Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, along with officials from the Embassy of India in the US.

India's participation in the 6G initiative highlights its growing role in shaping global technology standards and strengthening strategic cooperation in emerging technologies, including AI, semiconductors, digital public infrastructure and robotics.

World Leaders Mourn Tanzania's First Gentleman

Dar es Salaam, Sept. 7: World leaders have expressed their condolences following the death of Hafidh Ameir Hassan, the husband of Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan, who died Monday while undergoing treatment for a heart ailment at a hospital in Zanzibar.



Vice President Deogratius Ndejembi announced Hafidh's death, saying he passed away at about 8 a.m. He was scheduled to be buried later the same day at Kizimkazi in Zanzibar.

Kenyan President William Ruto expressed his condolences to President Samia, describing Hafidh's death as a loss to the First Family and the people of Tanzania.

"I have received with deep sorrow the news of the passing of Hafidh Ameir Hassan, husband of Her Excellency Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania," Ruto said in a post on X.

Ruto extended condolences on behalf of the Kenyan government and people, saying Kenya stood in solidarity with Tanzania during the period of mourning.

Rwandan President Paul Kagame also conveyed his sympathies to President Samia, her family and the Tanzanian people.

"My sincere condolences to my sister, President Samia

Suluhu Hassan, her family, and the people of Tanzania on the passing of H.E. Hafidh Ameir Hassan," Kagame said.

He added that the government and people of Rwanda stood in solidarity with Tanzania as the country honoured Hafidh's life and legacy.

Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema also sent his condolences to the Tanzanian president and her family.

"We stand side by side with the first family, and all citizens of the United Republic of Tanzania during this difficult time," Hichilema said.

Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud expressed his deepest condolences to President Samia and the people of Tanzania, praying for Hafidh's eternal reward.

"Somalia stands with her family and the people of Tanzania in this time of grief. May Allah grant him Jannatul Firdaws," he said.

Separatists Enforce Weeklong Lockdown in Cameroon's Anglophone Regions



Yaoundé, Sept. 8: Armed separatists have imposed a weeklong lockdown across Cameroon's conflict-hit English-speaking Northwest and Southwest regions, disrupting the start of the new school year and triggering renewed tensions, residents and security sources said.

The separatist groups announced the lockdown on social media, saying it was intended to prevent the resumption of schools and restrict movement across the two regions.

In Bamenda, the capital of the Northwest Region, residents reported a tense situation, with schools closed, businesses shut and streets largely deserted.

"We heard gunshots. People are really afraid. The streets are deserted. Shops are closed, and almost all activities have stopped," a resident, who requested anonymity, told Xinhua by phone.

In a video circulated online on Sunday, armed separatist fighters threatened to kill anyone who ventured outside during the lockdown.

Security officials said additional troops had been deployed in the Northwest and Southwest regions to conduct day-and-night patrols and maintain security. Regional authorities had earlier urged residents to continue their normal activities, saying security measures had been strengthened. The two predominantly English-speaking

regions have been affected by an armed conflict since 2017, when separatists took up arms against government forces in a campaign to establish an independent state. The latest lockdown comes amid continuing incidents of kidnapping and violence in the Northwest.

In July, seven passengers were abducted after armed men intercepted their vehicle while they were travelling from Bafoussam, the capital of the West Region, to Bamenda. Family members said the abductors were demanding a ransom for their release. Ransom kidnappings have become a recurring security concern in the Northwest, where separatist fighters have been engaged in prolonged clashes with government forces.

Police and residents say travellers are frequently targeted by armed groups suspected of having links to the separatist movement.

In June, about 12 people, including 10 passengers travelling on a bus, were also abducted by suspected separatist fighters in the region.

The bus was travelling from Ndop to Bamenda when gunmen intercepted it, according to local residents and security sources. The continuing violence and lockdowns have disrupted daily life, education and transport in the two Anglophone regions, which have remained at the centre of Cameroon's separatist conflict for nearly a decade.

'Strategic confusion': Iran slams Canada over accusations of destabilising activities

TEHRAN, SEPT 8

Iran on Monday accused Canada of displaying "strategic confusion" after Ottawa condemned Tehran's alleged destabilising activities in the Middle East, with Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei criticising Canada's support for US-led measures against Iran.

Baghaei said Canada could not claim to support peace, freedom of navigation and international law while backing what he described as US military action and sanctions against Iran.

"Canada cannot credibly present itself as a champion of 'peace and security', 'freedom of navigation' and 'international law' while simultaneously backing U.S. military aggression," Baghaei said in a post on X.

His remarks followed a joint statement by Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand and Finance Minister François-Philippe Champagne, who called on Iran to end what they described as destabilising activities in the region.



"Iran's actions, including its continued threats to vessels seeking to transit the Strait of Hormuz, its pursuit of illicit nuclear activities, and its support for regional proxy groups, continue to undermine global peace and security," the Canadian ministers said.

Ottawa also said it was coordinating with G7 partners and supporting efforts by the United States, France and the United Kingdom to reopen the Strait of Hormuz. Canada said it would maintain sanctions and consider additional measures against Iran.

Baghaei questioned Canada's diplomatic stance and accused Ottawa of supporting US policies rather than pushing for de-escalation. He also rejected claims that Iran was responsible for disruptions to maritime traffic in the Persian Gulf.

"Canada knows full well that the Strait of Hormuz was open and secure before USrael launched a war of aggression against Iran on 28 February," he said.

The exchange comes amid heightened tensions surrounding

maritime navigation, sanctions and military activity in and around the Strait of Hormuz, a key global oil-shipping route.

The Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Navy has claimed that it targeted vessels travelling through what it called unauthorised routes in the strait. It also accused the United States of striking three Iranian oil tankers and warned vessels operating in the region to avoid unauthorised waterways.

Canada, meanwhile, said it has sanctioned hundreds of Iranian individuals and entities since 2010 under its domestic sanctions laws and would continue coordinating with international partners to maintain pressure on Tehran.

The latest diplomatic clash comes against the backdrop of broader tensions between Canada and the United States, including disputes over trade and tariffs. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney has said Ottawa remains open to negotiations while protecting Canadian workers and businesses.

TRUMP THREATENS BOMBARDIER SALES BAN AMID US-CANADA TRADE

Washington, Sept 8: US President Donald Trump on Monday threatened to block Canadian aircraft manufacturer Bombardier from selling its jets in the United States unless the company shifts its manufacturing operations to American soil, escalating an already strained trade relationship with Canada.

In a post on Truth Social, Trump criticised the Montreal-based business jet maker and accused Canada of restricting American companies while benefiting from access to the US market.

"NO MORE SELLING BOMBARDIER IN THE UNITED STATES!" Trump wrote, arguing that more than half of Bombardier's revenue comes

from the US market.

Trump also accused Canadian authorities of unfairly restricting Gulfstream Aerospace, a US-based business jet manufacturer, from operating in Canada.

"If they want our Market, they must build here," Trump said, urging Canadian companies to manufacture in the United States. He also repeated his "America First" message and called on consumers to buy American products.

Trump's remarks come amid growing trade tensions following Washington and Ottawa following the breakdown of bilateral negotiations and threats of additional tariffs on key goods. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney has said

Ottawa remains prepared to negotiate a long-term trade agreement with the US but would not compromise the interests of Canadian workers, families and businesses.

"We are always going to stand up for what's in the best interest of Canada, Canadian workers, and Canadian families," Carney said, stressing that any agreement should be durable and beneficial to both countries. Carney also said Canada was expanding trade discussions with other countries rather than waiting for Washington to make the next move.

The Canadian leader said Ottawa had suspended trade negotiations after rejecting US demands and accused Washington of imposing tariffs designed to hurt and divide Canada. Trump, meanwhile, has repeatedly criticised Canada's trade policies, calling the country "one of the worst abusers" and urging Canadian companies to move operations to the US to avoid tariffs. In recent posts, Trump also credited his tariff policies with boosting the US automobile industry and accused previous administrations of failing to take a tougher approach toward Canada.

The latest dispute adds to growing uncertainty for businesses operating across the US-Canada border, as both governments remain at odds over tariffs, market access and industrial policy.

Jaishankar stresses welfare of Indian diaspora amid WEST ASIA CONFLICT



NEW DELHI, SEPT 8

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Monday chaired a Consultative Committee meeting on India's relations with West Asia, highlighting the government's efforts to safeguard national interests and ensure the welfare of nearly 10 million Indians living in the region amid continuing conflict.

Jaishankar said the meeting reviewed India's close and longstanding ties with the Gulf and the wider West Asia and North Africa (WANA) region. Discussions covered cooperation in trade, investment, energy, maritime affairs and people-to-people ties.

"Highlighted India's close ties with the Gulf & WANA region, including our longstanding partnerships and cooperation in trade, investments, energy, maritime and people-to-people domains," Jaishankar said in a post on X.

The External Affairs Minister also underlined the government's focus on protecting the Indian diaspora and maintaining vital economic and supply-chain links during the ongoing regional instability.

He said India was working to ensure the welfare of around 10 million Indians in

the region, while also safeguarding energy and fertiliser supplies and advancing trade and connectivity.

The meeting comes as New Delhi closely monitors developments in West Asia, where rising security concerns and disruptions to maritime routes have implications for energy supplies, regional trade and Indian seafarers working in the Gulf.

Meanwhile, Iran has described India as an important diplomatic and economic partner ahead of President Masoud Pezeshkian's visit to New Delhi for the BRICS Summit scheduled for September 12-13.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said Tehran attaches considerable importance to its longstanding relations with India, particularly in trade and economic cooperation.

Baghaei said Iran would use the BRICS Summit to continue discussions with India on areas of mutual interest and further strengthen bilateral cooperation. He also highlighted India's role in major multilateral groupings, including BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, describing New Delhi as an important partner for Tehran.

Over 4,000-Year-Old Tomb Discovered at Saqqara

CAIRO, SEPT. 7

Egyptian archaeologists have discovered a more than 4,000-year-old tomb dating to the late Fifth Dynasty at the Mariette Cemetery north of Saqqara in Giza Province, west of Cairo, the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities said Monday.

The tomb, unearthed by a joint Egyptian-Spanish archaeological mission, dates to the reign of King Djedkare Isesi, who ruled during the late Fifth Dynasty between 2494 and 2345 BC.

The medium-sized mastaba contains two funerary chapels, one belonging to Yunmin, a senior official who served as a judge, court director and chief of scribes

responsible for handling petitions and complaints.

Archaeologists uncovered a distinctive facade in Yunmin's chapel featuring funerary texts and an offering formula, along with a depiction of the tomb owner in a formal pose.

The walls are decorated with finely executed raised reliefs showing agricultural activities and processions carrying offerings to the deceased.

The second chapel belonged to Yunmin's father, Ity, a scribe who was involved in administering agricultural lands and overseeing offerings. The chapel contains a false door and colourful wall paintings depicting offering scenes, although much of



the original paint has faded over time.

Hisham El-Leithy, secretary-general of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities, said the discovery provides new archaeological evidence about the Saqqara cemetery during the late Fifth Dynasty.

He said the tomb also offers further insight into the architectural and artistic traditions of funerary monuments from the period.

Earlier Discovery in Luxor

The latest find follows another significant archaeological discovery announced by Egypt in July, when a Dutch archaeological mission uncovered a Pharaonic tomb on the West Bank of Luxor.

The tomb was discovered during

excavations in the Theban Necropolis and is believed to date to the New Kingdom, which lasted from 1550 to 1069 BC.

According to the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, inscriptions identify the tomb's owner as "Paser". Wall reliefs and other features have helped archaeologists tentatively place the structure within the New Kingdom period.

El-Leithy said the archaeological team would carry out detailed documentation and analysis to determine who was buried at the site and reconstruct their histories.

The work is expected to help researchers place the tomb within the wider historical and cultural development of ancient Egypt.



udaan to buy Swiggy arm Lynks Logistics for Rs 500 crore

NEW DELHI

B2B platform udaan on Monday announced the acquisition of Lynks Logistics Ltd, a step-down wholly owned subsidiary of Swiggy, for Rs 500 crore in a deal that would see the food delivery and quick commerce major pick a cumulative 3.2 per cent stake in udaan. According to a statement, the transaction will be settled through the issuance of preference equity shares to Swiggy in Trustroot Internet (TIPL), which is the parent entity of udaan. As per the deal, Swiggy will acquire nearly 2.8 per cent stake in udaan and make a primary equity investment of Rs 75 crore in TIPL for an additional about 0.4 per cent stake in udaan.

KVK Staff Pay Overhaul, Infra Upgrade

NEW DELHI

The government has cleared a proposal to overhaul pay scales, allowances and promotion norms for staff at Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), the network of farm science centres that anchor agricultural extension work across the country. State governments will now be responsible for funding NPS contributions and retirement benefits for KVK personnel, according to an official statement issued on Monday. The Finance Ministry's approval of the Agriculture Ministry's proposal is part of a broader push to strengthen KVKs, with Agriculture Minister Shivrāj Singh Chouhan chairing a review of action plans on Monday.

SBM Bank India plans 26% stake sale, appoints consultant

NEW DELHI

SBM Bank (India), a wholly owned subsidiary of SBM Bank (Mauritius) Ltd, is exploring a 26 per cent stake sale, and the proceeds would be utilised for the expansion of its Indian operations, the bank's ED and CFO, Amit Jagdhari, said. "The bank has appointed a consultant for the process, and we are at the Expression of Interest stage. As you know, there are very regulatory processes involved, so it is very difficult to give a timeline," he said.

Her Body Changes. Her Care Should Too

The growing importance of women’s health physiotherapy

As a woman's body changes every stage of life — from adolescence and menstruation to pregnancy, childbirth and menopause. Yet, many women continue to accept pain, pelvic discomfort, urinary leakage, weakness or changes in physical function as something they simply have to live with. They shouldn't. Women's health physiotherapy is increasingly helping change this perception by addressing physical concerns that are often overlooked, normalised or discussed only in private. As a Women's Health Physiotherapist, I see women at very different stages of life, with very different concerns. What they often have in common is that they have lived with discomfort for longer than necessary, either because they assumed it was normal or because they were hesitant to seek help. Pregnancy, for example, plac-

es considerable physical demands on the body. As the body adapts to support the growing baby, women may experience back pain, pelvic girdle pain, changes in posture, reduced mobility and pelvic-floor concerns. Physiotherapy during pregnancy can help women manage these changes, maintain strength and mobility, develop pelvic-floor awareness, work on breathing and movement patterns, and prepare their bodies for childbirth. The need for care does not end after delivery. The postpartum period brings another set of physical changes. Pelvic-floor weakness, urinary leakage, abdominal separation or diastasis recti, pelvic pain, postural changes and difficulty returning to exercise are common concerns. With appropriate assessment and rehabilitation, women can gradually rebuild strength, improve physical function and return to

activity safely. Importantly, these concerns should not be dismissed simply because they are common. Urinary leakage, for instance, is often treated as an inevitable consequence of childbirth or ageing. Pelvic pain may be endured for years. Pain during intercourse may remain unspoken. Conditions such as vaginismus and other pelvic-floor dysfunctions can have a significant impact not only on physical health but also on confidence, relationships and emotional wellbeing. Menopause brings yet another transition. Hormonal changes can affect muscles, joints, bone health, pelvic-floor function and overall physical wellbeing. Physiotherapy can play a role in helping women remain active, maintain strength and mobility, manage certain musculoskeletal and pelvic-floor concerns, and adapt to the physical changes associated

with this stage of life. But women's health physiotherapy is not simply about treating a problem after it appears. It is also about education, prevention and helping women understand their bodies. Knowing what is normal, recognising what is not, understanding how the body changes through different stages of life, and seeking help early can make a significant difference to long-term health and quality of life. There is also a need to change the conversation around women's health. Pain should not be normalised simply because it is common. Embarrassment should not prevent a woman from seeking help. And symptoms that affect everyday life should not be dismissed as something she simply has to "adjust to". Every woman deserves access to care that recognises the unique physical changes her

body experiences throughout life. She deserves to understand her body. She deserves to ask questions. And she deserves to seek help without hesitation or embarrassment. Because being a woman should never mean learning to live with pain.



Sensex, Nifty end lower as IT stocks drag, West Asia tensions and crude oil weigh

Dalal Street began the week with investors hoping for some stability after four consecutive weekly declines. Instead, the pressure returned, with IT stocks leading the fall and the Sensex slipping nearly 500 points during the session.



Rising crude oil prices, tensions around the Strait of Hormuz and growing expectations of a US rate hike kept investors cautious, although buying in select sectors helped the indices recover from their day's lows. The BSE Sensex ended 382.62 points, or 0.50%, lower at 76,132.81. The index opened at 76,446.05 against Friday's close of 76,515.43 and moved between a high of 76,477.19 and a low of 75,970.52. The Nifty 50 declined 118.55 points, or 0.50%, to end at 23,779.15. It opened at 23,883.15, touched an intraday high of 23,890 and slipped to a low of 23,737.90. The decline came as escalating tensions in the Middle East kept investors worried about energy supplies. Brent crude was trading at \$96.71 a barrel, up 0.45%, while WTI crude stood at \$91.53, up 0.05%. The rupee, meanwhile, remained largely flat against the US dollar at 94.485. The

currency was caught between sustained intervention by the Reserve Bank of India and pressure from rising oil prices as strikes on vessels sailing through the Strait of Hormuz raised concerns over energy flows. IT STOCKS LEAD THE MARKET LOWER IT stocks were the biggest drag on the benchmarks. The Nifty IT index fell 2.28%, making it one of the worst-performing sectoral indices. Infosys was the biggest loser among the major stocks, falling 3.81%. Tech Mahindra declined 1.96%, TCS fell 1.28% and HCL Technologies dropped 0.93%. The IT sell-off was driven by renewed concerns over US interest rates after stronger-than-expected US jobs data increased expectations of a September rate

hike by the Federal Reserve. Higher US rates can affect corporate spending and technology budgets, particularly in the US, which is a key market for Indian IT companies. The broader IT and telecom segment also remained under pressure, with the Nifty MidSmall IT & Telecom index falling 0.49%. WEST ASIA TENSIONS KEEP CRUDE OIL ELEVATED The second major pressure point was crude oil. Brent remained above \$96 a barrel as concerns around the Strait of Hormuz increased following strikes on vessels sailing through the key energy route. For India, higher crude prices are a major concern because the country depends heavily on imports to meet its oil requirements. A sustained

rise in crude can increase the import bill, put pressure on inflation and affect corporate margins. The impact was reflected in the Nifty Oil & Gas index, which fell 0.61%. Nifty Auto was almost flat, declining 0.04%, while the broader market remained sensitive to the potential impact of higher fuel and input costs. Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said domestic benchmark indices and large-cap stocks remained particularly sensitive to developments around the Strait of Hormuz. "Domestic main benchmark indices and large-cap stocks remain influenced by developments in the Strait of Hormuz," Nair said. GLOBAL RATE WORRIES ADD TO PRESSURE Higher crude prices have also added to concerns about inflation, at a time when stronger US economic data has increased expectations of tighter monetary policy. For global investors, higher US interest rates can make dollar assets more attractive and put pressure on emerging-market equities. This has added to the cautious mood in Indian equities and particularly weighed on interest-rate-sensitive and globally exposed sectors. Nair said the broader market, however, was showing a different

trend, with select mid-caps and small-caps finding buyers on the back of stronger earnings. "The broader market shows a clear divergence, with small-caps and select mid-caps rally backed by stronger earnings," he said. SMALL-CAPS HOLD UP BETTER The broader market did not fall as sharply as the headline indices. Nifty 100 declined 0.48%, Nifty 200 fell 0.48% and Nifty 500 dropped 0.42%. Nifty Midcap 50 declined 0.42%, while Nifty Midcap 100 fell 0.46%. The Nifty Smallcap 100, however, gained 0.02%, showing relative resilience. The rise in India VIX was more notable. The volatility index climbed 5.61% to 11.28, indicating increased nervousness among investors. Nair said value buying has gained traction after the sell-off seen in late 2025 and early 2026, with investors finding valuations more attractive as the earnings outlook improves. "Value buying has gained traction following the late-2025 and early-2026 sell-off, making valuations attractive as corporate earnings shifts from downgrades to upgrades," he said. However, he cautioned that the broader-market rally may be becoming stretched.

NMACC: A Stage for India, A Window to the World

MUMBAI

Three years since its opening, Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre (NMACC) has expanded access to global cultural productions while creating a platform for Indian artists and stories to reach wider audiences. There was a time when experiencing a West End blockbuster or a Broadway musical or an international exhibition often meant travelling across continents. India, with its rich traditions and diverse cultural heritage, had long been home to audiences and artists with an appetite for such experiences. What was needed was a space that could bring these varied forms of expression together and present them on a scale. The launch of the NMACC in Mumbai in March 2023 marked an important step in that direction. Envisioned as a multidisciplinary destination for the performing and visual arts, NMACC has, over the past three years hosted over 3,500 shows, welcomed nearly 2.5 million guests and presented more than 10,500 artists across music, theatre, dance and visual art in more than 15 languages. The scale of this programming is reflected across its venues. At the Grand Theatre, audiences have experienced acclaimed international productions including The Sound of Music, West Side Story, MAMMA MIA!, The Phantom of the Opera and Wicked. On the same stage, Mughal-e-Azam: The Musical, Rajadhiraj: Love. Life. Leela and NMACC's original production The Great Indian Musical: Civilization to Nation have shown what Indian storytelling can achieve when supported by large-scale production and technical resources. The Studio

Theatre and The Cube have added another dimension to Mumbai's cultural calendar, presenting intimate and experimental performances throughout the year across genres including theatre, music, comedy and dance, in languages including Hindi, Gujarati, Marathi and Bengali. The Art House has further expanded this cultural dialogue through exhibitions that bring significant international work to Mumbai. Some significant exhibitions include Wildlife Photographer of the Year from London's Natural History Museum, Light into Space in collaboration with the Dia Art Foundation, Bhakti, and Bvlgari's Serpenti Infinito, among others. Its current exhibition Second Nature, on view until January 2027, features nine large-scale installations by artists and studios including teamLab, A.A. Murakami, Es Devlin, and Random International to India. NMACC's engagement with the global art community has also extended beyond Mumbai. Its partnership to present the India Pavilion at the 61st Venice Biennale marked India's return to one of the world's most influential international art events, and bringing the work of five contemporary artists to a global audience. As NMACC enters its fourth year, this exchange between Indian and international voices continues to evolve. The months ahead will see the much-anticipated return of The Great Indian Musical: Civilization to Nation, the arrival of Chicago, and the India debut of Oscar-nominated composer Max Richter — further adding to a programme that brings different artistic traditions, perspectives, and audiences into conversation.



GAIL (India) Limited and Petronet LNG Limited host 'MC2 Plus Hyderabad Connect'

HYDERABAD

GAIL (India) Limited, India's integrated energy major, Petronet LNG Limited, and MC2 Foundation, in association with IIT Hyderabad, organised 'MC2 Plus IGNITE Hyderabad Connect' at IIT Hyderabad. Dr. Anil K Khandelwal, former CMD, Bank of Baroda, delivered the keynote address. The event was graced by Shri Deepak Gupta, Chairman & Managing Director, GAIL (India) Limited, Shri Akshay Kumar Singh, MD & CEO, Petronet LNG Limited, Prof. B. S. Murty, Director, IIT Hyderabad and Shri Ayush Gupta, Director (HR), GAIL. Speaking on the occasion, keynote speaker Dr. Anil K. Khandelwal, former CMD, Bank of Baroda and Keynote Speaker, said that Innovation drives quietly in fearful organisations. True transformation is never driven by a single initiative; it is built through a culture of customer-centricity, technology, experimentation and continuous learning. Resources may be limited, but when honest intent meets collective intelligence and a relentless pursuit of excellence, breakthrough performance becomes possible. Addressing the gathering at MC2 IGNITE event, Shri Deepak Gupta, CMD, GAIL said that India is at a "remarkable inflection point", with rapidly growing energy requirements alongside its ambition to become a developed economy, ensure affordable and reliable energy, build globally competitive industries and meet its climate commitments. He highlighted the need for transformational thinking to address the emerging energy paradox of meeting rising demand while transitioning towards cleaner energy, enhancing energy security, building smarter and more resilient infrastructure, and reducing dependence on imported technologies and critical systems. Underscoring the significance of MC2 IGNITE,

he said that the initiative seeks to bring together startups, academia, research institutions and the Oil & Gas industry on a common platform, enabling ideas to move from the laboratory to prototype, pilot, deployment and scale. He emphasised that innovation must ultimately be measured by successful implementation and real-world impact. Speaking on the focus on Digital Asset Management, he highlighted the need to transform conventional infrastructure into "intelligent assets" through artificial intelligence, machine learning, advanced analytics, sensors, robotics, drones and digital twins. He said the industry must progress from preventive and predictive maintenance towards prescriptive maintenance, where technology can not only anticipate failures but also recommend appropriate interventions. CMD, GAIL further emphasised five key imperatives for the energy sector—efficiency, technology self-reliance, net-zero, self-sustaining energy systems and technological self-reliance. He called for "Make in India" and "Invent in India" and ultimately to "Innovate in India, deploy in India and Export from India", stressing that India's energy future must be efficient, resilient, sustainable and technologically sovereign. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Akshay Kumar Singh, MD & CEO, Petronet LNG Limited, said, "MC2+ Ignite in connecting India's energy industry with the startup and innovation ecosystem, with a focus on leveraging digital technologies such as AI, advanced sensors, robotics and digital twins to make LNG infrastructure smarter, safer, more reliable and efficient. It underscores the vast opportunities for innovation across the LNG value chain and called for industry-startup collaboration to translate promising ideas and technologies into practical, scalable solutions addressing real-world energy challenges."

Medhankur’s New Breathing Test Wins BMJ Digital Innovation Award

HYDERABAD

Hyderabad-based health technology company Medhankur has received the South Asia–2026 BMJ Digital Innovation Award. The award was presented for the company's 'COPD Control Score,' developed to make it easier to assess the control of chronic lung disease. The award was presented at the BMJ Awards–South Asia event held in New Delhi on September 5. The award is given to projects that improve healthcare services provided to patients through digital technology. COPD is a long-term lung disease. It can develop due to factors such as air pollution, smoking, cooking smoke, dust, and exposure to chemicals. Symptoms include difficulty breathing, chronic cough, phlegm, breathlessness, and chest tightness. Medhankur said that around 251 million people worldwide suffer from the disease and that approximately 3.17 million people die from it every year. It stated that more than

90% of these people are from low- and middle-income countries. At present, lung function in COPD patients is mainly assessed using a spirometry test. However, this test shows only the patient's condition on the day they visit the hospital. It is difficult to identify changes in the disease over the weeks or months between two tests. As a result, there is a risk that worsening disease may be detected later in some patients, while others may receive more treatment than necessary. To address this problem, Medhankur developed the 'COPD Control Score.' When a patient exhales once into this small handheld device, it records eight types of information related to lung function, disease symptoms, and various chemical indicators in the breath. Using a patented formula, it analyzes this information and provides a single score indicating how well the disease has been controlled over the previous six weeks. The result is displayed in three categories: 'well controlled,' 'moderately con-



trolled,' and 'not adequately controlled.' This enables doctors to more easily determine whether the patient's health is stable, whether the disease is worsening, and whether changes in treatment are required. The company explained that, just as an HbA1c test indicates the average blood sugar status of a person with diabetes over a period of time, this score indicates the level of control of lung disease. Medhankur said that comparable tests available internationally cost up to around ₹7,000 and have not yet received approval. It stated that the newly developed test can be performed for ap-

proximately ₹100. This would make it possible to monitor lung disease not only in large hospitals but also at district, rural, and community-level health centers. The performance of the test was studied over an extended period among patients visiting clinics in urban and semi-rural areas around Hyderabad. In this study, the company said it was able to prevent rapidly worsening disease in 26% of cases and reduce unnecessary excessive treatment by 12%. By reducing hospital admissions and unnecessary treatment costs, the program reportedly delivered nearly 38 times the return on investment.

The technology has received patents in the United States and India. In the next phase, Medhankur plans to conduct a randomized controlled trial involving 130 patients across various medical centers and publish the results in a medical research journal. The company said it developed the test over nine years, taking patients' needs and experiences into consideration. It was designed for use at all levels, from primary health centers to major hospitals. In addition to linking test results with patients' electronic health records, the company plans to expand the technology in the future to monitor asthma and other chronic respiratory diseases. Dr. AVS Suresh said, "Until now, we have been assessing chronic lung diseases mainly on the basis of test results obtained on a particular day. The field of respiratory medicine needs a test that can provide a single reliable number showing what the patient's health condition has actually been like over a period of time. We have designed this test to

be affordable enough to be available even at district-level clinics." Medhankur founder Varma PSK said, "Conditions that cause lung diseases, such as pollution, smoke, and dust, continue to persist. That is why we developed a low-cost method for continuously monitoring the disease. This award from BMJ, internationally recognized for accuracy in research, is independent recognition of our efforts. It has given us further encouragement to expand this test to rural and underserved areas." Dr. Anuradha Vutukuru led the 'COPD Control Gap' project, with Dr. Kirman and Chakrika as collaborators. Based in Hyderabad, Medhankur operates in the areas of hospital healthcare services, research and development, diagnostics, pharmacy, and artificial-intelligence-based healthcare platforms. The company's goal is to use modern technology to provide better healthcare at an affordable cost to people in rural areas and regions where medical services are not fully accessible.



7 International Trips Under Rs 50,000

An Affordable International Trip Is Possible With the Right Choices

The growing interest in budget travel has changed the way many Indians think about international holidays. Travelling abroad no longer necessarily means spending several lakhs of rupees. Destinations such as Almaty, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Bhutan, Oman, Cambodia and Thailand offer a range of experiences that could potentially fit within a budget of Rs 50,000, particularly for short trips lasting four to five days. Each destination has its own strengths. Almaty offers dramatic mountains and city life. Sri Lanka combines beaches, culture and scenic landscapes. Malaysia provides modern urban experiences alongside tropical attractions. Bhutan offers peace and Himalayan beauty. Oman presents a mix of deserts and coastal landscapes, while Cambodia is ideal for travellers interested in ancient history and architecture. Thailand continues to attract visitors with its combination of beaches, cities, food and affordable travel options. However, travellers should treat the

estimates as a starting point rather than a guaranteed final cost. Prices for flights, hotels, visas and tours can change depending on the season and other factors. The best approach is to research the destination carefully, compare prices across multiple platforms and build a realistic budget that includes some extra money for unexpected expenses. For those dreaming of their first international holiday, these destinations demonstrate that the world can sometimes be explored without spending an enormous amount. With early planning, smart bookings and sensible spending, a short international getaway could be more affordable than many travellers imagine. The key is not simply finding the cheapest destination. It is about choosing a place that matches your interests, travel style and budget. Whether it is walking through the streets of Kuala Lumpur, exploring ancient temples in Cambodia, enjoying the Himalayan landscapes of Bhutan or relaxing on a Thai beach, an international experience can be created without necessarily breaking the bank.



Travelling abroad was once seen as a luxury reserved for those willing to spend large sums on flights, hotels and sightseeing. However, changing travel trends, better access to budget airlines, affordable accommodation and increased awareness about economical destinations have made international travel more accessible than ever before. For Indi-

an travellers, several countries located relatively close to home can now be explored without spending a fortune. With careful planning, advance bookings and a flexible itinerary, it may be possible to enjoy an international holiday without stretching the budget too far. Travel content creator Palak Davdaa recently shared a video on Insta-

gram highlighting seven international destinations that, according to her estimates, can be explored on a budget of under Rs 50,000. Instead of simply naming affordable countries, she also shared an estimated breakdown of expenses, including flights, accommodation, food, visas and sightseeing. The destinations mentioned in her list

can generally be explored over a period of four to five days, making them suitable for travellers looking for a short international getaway. However, the actual cost of a trip can vary depending on the city of departure, travel season, hotel choices, flight availability and personal spending habits. From the scenic mountains of Kazakhstan to the

beaches of Thailand, the list offers a variety of experiences for travellers with different interests. Some destinations are ideal for nature lovers, while others are known for their food, culture, history or vibrant city life. Here is a closer look at the seven international destinations that could potentially fit within a budget of Rs 50,000.

Almaty Offers Mountains, City Life and Affordable Travel

Almaty, Kazakhstan's largest city, has become increasingly popular among Indian travellers in recent years. Surrounded by dramatic mountains and known for its scenic landscapes, modern streets and relaxed atmosphere, Almaty offers a very different travel experience from the more commonly visited South-east Asian destinations.

One of the major attractions for Indian travellers is the ease of travel, as Kazakhstan offers visa-free entry to eligible Indian passport holders under applicable rules and conditions. This can help travellers save both time and money while planning a short international holiday. According to the estimates shared by the content creator, accommodation in Almaty could cost around Rs 2,500 per night. Budget-conscious travellers can find affordable hotels, hostels and guesthouses, while those willing to spend slightly more may have access to better-located properties.

Food expenses could come to approximately Rs 1,500 per day, depending on where travellers choose to eat. Local restaurants and cafes can offer reasonably priced meals, while Indian restaurants and premium dining options may increase the daily budget. Round-trip flights were estimated at around Rs 20,000, although airfare can vary significantly depending on the departure city and how early the tickets are booked. An additional Rs 3,000 per day may be needed for local transport, sightseeing and other expenses. For travellers who enjoy nature, Almaty can offer memorable experiences. The surrounding mountains, lakes and scenic locations provide plenty of opportunities for sightseeing. Popular attractions around the city include mountain viewpoints, alpine landscapes and lakes that can be visited through local tours. With a carefully planned itinerary and early flight bookings, Almaty could be an attractive destination for travellers looking for an international experience that combines urban life with natural beauty.

Sri Lanka Remains a Convenient

International Getaway

Sri Lanka has long been a favourite destination for Indian travellers because of its geographical proximity, cultural connections and diverse travel experiences. From beaches and wildlife to historic temples and hill stations, the island nation offers something for almost every kind of traveller.

For those planning a short trip, Sri Lanka can be particularly convenient because travel time from India is relatively short. The destination is also popular among travellers looking for scenic experiences without the high costs often associated with long-haul international holidays. According to the cost estimates shared in the video, accommodation in Sri Lanka could cost around Rs 2,500 per night. Budget hotels, guesthouses and homestays can help travellers keep costs under control. Food expenses may amount to approximately Rs 1,500 per day. Sri Lankan cuisine offers a variety of affordable local dishes, while travellers can also find Indian food in many tourist areas. Round-trip flights were estimated at around Rs 18,000. Local sightseeing and tours could require an additional budget of around Rs 3,000 per day. A short trip to Sri Lanka could include destinations such as Colombo, Kandy, Bentota, Galle or Nuwara Eliya, depending on the traveller's interests. Beach lovers may prefer the coastal regions, while those interested in history and culture can explore ancient cities, temples and colonial-era landmarks. The country's scenic train journeys and hill-country landscapes are also among its major attractions. However, travellers should carefully plan their route because attempting to cover too many destinations within four or five days can increase both travel time and expenses. For Indians looking for a nearby international destination with a mix of nature, beaches and cultural experiences, Sri Lanka could remain one of the more practical choices.

Oman Offers Desert Adventures and Coastal Experiences

Oman may not always be the first country that comes to mind when Indians think of budget interna-

Malaysia Combines Modern Cities With Natural Beauty

Malaysia is another destination featured on the list. Known for its modern cities, tropical islands, rainforests and multicultural food scene, the country offers a wide range of travel experiences.

Kuala Lumpur is often the first destination for visitors because of its impressive skyline, shopping centres and famous landmarks. However, travellers can also explore places such as Langkawi, Penang and other regions if their budget and itinerary allow. The content creator estimated accommodation costs at approximately Rs 2,000 per night. Malaysia offers a range of budget hotels and hostels, particularly in popular tourist areas. Food could cost around Rs 1,200 per day, according to the estimates. The country's diverse culinary culture can work well for budget travellers, especially those willing to try local food. Round-trip flights could cost up to Rs 18,000, while daily expenses, including local travel and sightseeing, may require approximately Rs 2,000 per day. For travellers who plan carefully, Kuala Lumpur can be explored using public transport, which may help reduce local travel costs. Budget-conscious visitors can also focus on free attractions, public parks, markets and neighbourhoods while choosing only a few paid tourist experiences. Malaysia can appeal to travellers looking for a combination of modern city experiences and natural attractions. Whether it is enjoying Kuala Lumpur's skyline, exploring cultural neighbourhoods or visiting beaches and islands, the country offers flexibility for different kinds of itineraries. The key to staying within a Rs 50,000 budget would be planning the trip in advance and avoiding expensive hotels,

shopping-heavy itineraries and premium tourist activities. Bhutan Provides a Peaceful Escape Into the Himalayas

Bhutan offers a very different kind of international travel experience. Known for its Himalayan landscapes, peaceful environment, monasteries and strong cultural identity, the country is ideal for travellers who want to escape crowded cities and enjoy nature. One of the unique aspects of travelling to Bhutan is that visitors from India can also consider travelling by road. Instead of flying directly, travellers can reach Bagdogra Airport and then continue towards the Bhutan border by road. According to the cost estimate shared in the video, the visa-related or travel entry charges could work out to around Rs 1,200 per day, while accommodation may cost up to Rs 3,000 per day. Food expenses could be approximately Rs 1,200 per day. Day tours and sightseeing may require at least Rs 3,000 per day, depending on the places included in the itinerary and the mode of transportation. Bhutan's travel experience is centred around scenic valleys, mountains, monasteries and traditional architecture. Popular destinations include Paro and Thimphu, which can be suitable for a short trip. Travellers should remember that transportation and regulated tourism costs can affect the overall budget. Therefore, planning the route carefully is important. For those who prefer peaceful holidays over nightlife and shopping, Bhutan can offer a refreshing alternative. The destination is particularly appealing to travellers who enjoy mountains, photography, culture and slow travel. A four- or five-day itinerary may not be enough to explore the country in depth, but it can provide a memorable introduction to Bhutan's unique culture and landscapes.

tional travel. However, the content creator included it as one of the destinations that could potentially be explored within the Rs 50,000 range. Located in the Middle East, Oman offers a fascinating mix of deserts, mountains, beaches and traditional Arab culture. The capital city of Muscat is known for its scenic coastline, historic architecture and modern development. According to the estimates shared, an e-visa could cost around Rs 1,700. Accommodation may require approximately Rs 3,000 per night, while food expenses could come to around Rs 1,500 per day. Round-trip flights were estimated at approximately Rs 15,000, while daily tours and sightseeing could cost around Rs 3,000 per day. For travellers, Oman offers experiences that are very different from Southeast Asian destinations. Desert landscapes, wadis, mountain roads and coastal areas can all be part of the travel experience. However, transportation can be an important factor while travelling in Oman. Travellers who depend heavily on private taxis or expensive guided tours may find it difficult to stay within a limited budget. A carefully planned itinerary focused on Muscat and nearby attractions may be a more practical option for travellers with only four or five days available. Oman could appeal to those looking for a short international trip that offers culture, nature and adventure without requiring long travel distances from India.

Cambodia Brings History and Culture Within Reach

Cambodia is a popular destination for travellers interested in history, architecture and Southeast Asian culture. The country is perhaps best known for the ancient temple complex of Angkor Wat, which attracts visitors from around the world. According to the cost breakdown shared by the creator, Cambodia offers a visa-on-arrival option that could cost approximately Rs 2,700. Accommodation may cost around Rs 2,000 per night. Food expenses were estimated at approximately Rs 1,200 per day, while round-trip flights could cost around Rs 23,000. For sightseeing and day tours, travel-

lers may need to keep aside approximately Rs 2,500 per day. Cambodia's relatively affordable accommodation and food can help balance the higher cost of flights. However, travellers would need to plan their sightseeing carefully, especially if they want to visit multiple historical sites. Siem Reap is one of the most popular destinations because of its proximity to Angkor Wat and other ancient temples. Phnom Penh, the capital city, offers a different experience with museums, markets and historical attractions. For a short trip, focusing on one main destination could help reduce transportation costs and allow travellers to experience more without rushing. Cambodia can be an excellent choice for those who enjoy history and cultural exploration. The country offers an opportunity to experience some of Southeast Asia's most significant ancient monuments while still maintaining a relatively moderate travel budget.

Thailand Continues to Be a Favourite for Budget Travellers

Thailand has remained one of the most popular international destinations among Indian travellers for years. Its popularity comes from a combination of relatively affordable flights, a wide range of accommodation options, vibrant cities, beaches, islands and a lively food scene. The content creator estimated accommodation costs in Thailand at around Rs 2,000 per night. Food may cost approximately Rs 1,200 per day. Round-trip flights were estimated at around Rs 15,000, while day tours and sightseeing could cost approximately Rs 2,000 per day. These estimates suggest that Thailand could be one of the more flexible destinations for travellers trying to manage their expenses. However, the actual cost depends heavily on the destination chosen. Bangkok, Pattaya, Phuket and Krabi all offer different experiences and have different price ranges. Travellers looking to stay within a strict budget may find it easier to focus on Bangkok and nearby attractions rather than attempting to cover multiple islands or expensive resort destinations. Thailand's public transport, affordable local food and wide availability

of budget accommodation can help travellers reduce costs. At the same time, nightlife, shopping and premium tourist activities can quickly increase spending.

For first-time international travellers, Thailand often remains an attractive option because of its tourist-friendly infrastructure and the availability of different experiences within a relatively short distance.

A four- or five-day trip can include city sightseeing, local markets, temples and selected day tours without necessarily exceeding a moderate budget.

Careful Planning Is the Key to Staying Within Budget

While the idea of travelling internationally for under Rs 50,000 may sound exciting, travellers should remember that travel costs are never fixed. Flight prices can change rapidly, especially during holiday seasons and weekends. The city from which a traveller departs can also make a significant difference. Flights from Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai or Hyderabad may have different prices depending on airline routes and availability. Booking tickets well in advance is often one of the most effective ways to reduce the overall cost of an international holiday. Flexible travel dates can also help travellers find cheaper fares. Accommodation choices play an equally important role. Budget hotels, hostels and guesthouses can significantly reduce spending compared with luxury hotels and resorts. Food expenses can also vary widely. Eating at local restaurants and trying regional dishes may help travellers save money, while dining exclusively at premium restaurants can quickly increase the budget. Another important factor is sightseeing. It can be tempting to book multiple tours and activities, but this can add thousands of rupees to the total cost of a trip. Travellers may benefit from selecting only the experiences that are most important to them. Local transport, travel insurance, shopping, airport transfers, mobile connectivity and emergency expenses should also be considered while calculating the final budget.





CRICKET

Padikkal: Consistency key to retaining Test spot



New Delhi, Sep 7: India batter Devdutt Padikkal said consistent run-scoring and contributing to team victories will be crucial to maintaining his place in the Test side.

Padikkal impressed on India's Sri Lanka tour, scoring back-to-back centuries in the 1-0 series win and earning Player of the Series honours. Batting at No. 3 in Sai Sudharsan's absence, he said he is unfazed by comparisons with former India greats Rahul Dravid and Cheteshwar Pujara.

"I'm just going out there and playing my cricket," Padikkal said, adding that preparation and clarity of plans are vital in Test cricket.

He also credited Dravid for helping shape his approach to batting and spending long periods at the crease.

"With limited opportunities, nothing is taken for granted. I just want to keep scoring runs and contributing to wins for the Indian Test side," Padikkal said.

CRICKET

Miller, de Kock return for Australia ODIs

New Delhi, Sep 7: South Africa have named a near full-strength 16-member squad for their three-match ODI series against Australia, beginning September 24 in Durban. Captain Temba Bavuma returns, while senior batters David Miller and Quinton de Kock have also been included as the Proteas begin preparations for the 2027 ODI World Cup.

Fast bowler Gerald Coetzee returns to the ODI squad for the first time since the 2023 World Cup, replacing injured Kagiso Rabada. Anrich Nortje was not considered.

Aiden Markram will miss the first ODI but is available for the second and third matches. Dewald Brevis has been left out as he prepares for the Test season.

South Africa squad: Temba Bavuma (capt), Otneil Baartman, Corbin Bosch, Matthew Breetzke, Gerald Coetzee, Quinton de Kock, Tony de Zorzi, Bjorn Fortuin, Marco Jansen, Keshav Maharaj, Kwena Maphaka, Aiden Markram, David Miller, Lungi Ngidi, Ryan Rickelton, Tristan Stubbs.

US OPEN: ALCARAZ STORMS INTO QUARTERS

NEW YORK, SEPT 7

Defending champion Carlos Alcaraz continued his impressive run at the US Open, defeating local favourite Tommy Paul in straight sets on Sunday to book his place in the quarterfinals of the tournament.

The world No. 3 registered a 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 victory over the American in two hours and 20 minutes, maintaining his remarkable consistency on his return to Grand Slam tennis.

Alcaraz is competing in his first major tournament in four months after being sidelined with wrist injuries. Despite the extended layoff, the Spaniard has looked increasingly comfortable in New York and has dropped just one set across his four matches at the tournament.

The victory also strengthened Alcaraz's dominance in his head-to-head rivalry with Paul. The Spaniard now leads their ATP head-to-head record 7-2 and has defeated the American at all four Grand Slam tournaments.

With the latest victory, Alcaraz became only the 10th man in the Open Era to defeat the same opponent at all four Grand Slam events.

Speaking during his post-match interview, Alcaraz said he focused on maintaining his attacking style while remaining prepared for a difficult contest against the dangerous American.

"I played my game. I tried to play my style. Tommy is such a talented player. His shots are pretty dangerous, and sometimes it is really difficult to control the ball when it comes to you. I just tried to be ready for a battle and tried to be aggressive all the time," Alcaraz said, according to the ATP's official website.

"I tried not to let him stay [high up] on the court and I think I did pretty well to put so much pressure on return games, which for me helped a lot to play relaxed, to play calm and think clearly. I am really happy with the performance today," he added.

The opening set was closely con-



tested, with neither player managing to create a break point during the first nine games. Alcaraz eventually found the opening he needed late in the set, breaking Paul's serve before serving out to take the lead.

The Spaniard increased the pressure in the second set, breaking Paul twice to move within a set of victory. He continued to control the rallies with his powerful groundstrokes and aggressive court positioning.

Paul attempted to fight his way back into the contest in the third set, but Alcaraz remained composed. The defending champion secured another break of serve and maintained his advantage until the finish, completing the straight-sets victory.

Alcaraz struck 33 winners during the match and consistently applied pressure on Paul's service games, preventing the American from establishing a sustained rhythm.

The Spaniard was also asked whether he felt he had returned to his full physical condition following his injury layoff.

"I think so," Alcaraz replied.

Reflecting on his remarkable record at Flushing Meadows, Alcaraz said his consistent performances at the tournament demonstrated how much he enjoys playing in New York.

"I did not expect to reach at least the quarter-finals here every year since 2021, so that shows how special this place is to me. It shows how good I play every time I come here. It does not matter that I was out for four and a half months: Every time that I come here I play my best," he said.

The fourth-round victory extended Alcaraz's winning streak at Grand Slam tournaments to 18 matches, the longest such run of his career.

The streak includes his successful title defence at the 2025 US Open and his championship run at the Australian Open in January, where he became the youngest player to complete a career Grand Slam.



Asian Games 2026: India's Key Events and Schedule

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 7

The Asian Games 2026 will be held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, from September 19 to October 4, with India competing across multiple disciplines. India's campaign begins with teqball on September 17, followed by the women's cricket quarter-final against Japan on September 18. India will defend its cricket, kabaddi and men's hockey titles. PV Sindhu will lead the badminton challenge, while Olympic medallists Mirabai Chanu, Manu Bhaker, Aman Sehrawat and Lovlina Borgohain will be among India's key medal hopes.

Athletics will feature more than 70 Indian athletes from September 24 to 29. Boxing, shooting, wrestling, weightlifting and hockey will also be major events for the Indian contingent.

Key dates:

Sept 17-20: Teqball

Sept 18: Women's cricket quarter-final

Sept 20-29: Badminton

Sept 20-Oct 1: Shooting

Sept 21-26: Kabaddi

Sept 24-29: Athletics

Sept 23-29: Weightlifting

Sept 30-Oct 3: Wrestling

Sept 20-Oct 3: Hockey

India will look to build on its previous Asian Games performances and defend its titles in key team sports.

A GOOD YEAR TO WIN BALLON D'OR, SAYS MBAPPE

Madrid, Sept 7: Real Madrid forward Kylian Mbappe believes he is among the leading contenders for the 2026 Ballon d'Or after winning the Golden Boot at this summer's FIFA World Cup and becoming the tournament's all-time leading scorer.

Mbappe scored 10 goals at the World Cup in the United States, taking his overall tally in the competition to 22 and moving one ahead of Lionel Messi. Although France failed to win the tournament and Mbappe ended last season without a major title with Real Madrid, his individual achievements have put him firmly among the favourites for the prestigious award.

The 2026 Ballon d'Or, presented by France Football, is scheduled to be awarded at the end of October.

Speaking to reporters ahead of Real Madrid's Champions League opener against Inter Milan on Tuesday, Mbappe acknowledged the growing speculation surrounding his chances of winning the individual honour.

"A lot of people talk about me as a possible Ballon d'Or winner. Of course, I've made history this summer in the most important competition in sports, but we will have to wait and see," Mbappe said.

The French striker admitted that this could be a particularly good year for him to claim the award, while stopping short of making a prediction.

Asked whether he considers himself the best player in the world,



Mbappe responded with a smile: "I always do."

He then played down the debate over who deserves to be regarded as the world's best player, saying that people would naturally have different opinions.

"Everyone has their own opinion. There may be people here who think I'm the best in the world and others who don't. I don't think it's a debate you have to have," he said.

Mbappe also pointed out that the final decision would be made by journalists voting for the player they believe has been the best.

"It's the journalists who are going to vote, and they'll think about who they believe is the best," he said.

The Real Madrid forward also spoke positively about his continued participation in the Champions League, describing it as "always a pleasure" to play in Europe's premier club competition.

Mbappe was also asked about suggestions that he and Real Madrid teammate Vinicius Jr. do not complement each other effectively on the pitch. The Frenchman dismissed the idea but acknowledged that there is always room for improvement.

"It's a never-ending debate and we all need to improve," Mbappe said.

He also praised Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho, describing the Portuguese as a manager who understands how to win, motivate his players and inspire the entire club.

"He's a man who knows how to win, how to inspire those around him, and how to motivate the whole club, his team. And win matches," Mbappe said.

Mourinho's return to the Santiago Bernabeu was subsequently marked by a convincing 4-1 home victory over Real Sociedad on Wednesday night, with Mbappe playing a starring role.

GCL 4: ALPINE PIPERS CRUSH AMERICAN GAMBITS TO GO TOP OF STANDINGS

Bengaluru, Sept 7: Defending champions Alpine APL Pipers climbed to the top of the standings despite suffering their first defeat of the competition on Monday, while CheQ Mumbai Masters and PBG Alaskan Knights continued their strong revival on Day 3 of Season 4 of the Global Chess League in Bengaluru.

The Pipers began the day with a setback, going down 7-9 to PBG Alaskan Knights in their opening match. However, the defending champions responded emphatically in their second outing, demolishing FYERS American Gambits 15-3 to register the biggest winning margin of the season so far. The comprehensive victory lifted Alpine APL Pipers to the top of the leaderboard with three match wins from four encounters.

CheQ Mumbai Masters also produced an impressive performance, defeating Ganges Grandmasters 12-3 in the day's second match to move into second place in the standings.

However, the Pipers' stunning comeback against American Gambits was the highlight of the day. After suffering their first reversal in the morning, they returned to the board with an aggressive and clinical display that left their opponents with little opportunity to fight back.



Vidit Gujrathi and Koneru Humpy once again emerged as key performers for the defending champions as the team secured its third match victory in four outings.

Gujrathi produced a composed performance to dismantle Daniil Dubov despite facing considerable time pressure. Humpy was equally impressive, defeating Sara Khadem in just 29 moves.

On the prodigy board, Volodar Murzin completed a clean sweep for the Pipers by outplaying Marc'Andrea Maurizzi, helping the defending champions secure a commanding 15-3 victory.

Reflecting on his performance, Player of the Match Gujrathi said he was pleased to recover from the pressure of the earlier game.

"In the morning game it was equal, but I got time pressure. There was pressure in the second game, but I am happy that I could win," Gujrathi said after the match.

Earlier in the opening clash of the day, the biggest attraction was the icon board encounter between world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen and Indian chess legend Viswanathan Anand.

Carlsen emerged victorious in the much-anticipated battle after Anand lost on time in a tense bishop-and-pawn endgame.

However, Carlsen's individual victory was not enough to prevent the Pipers from suffering their first defeat of the tournament. Both Vidit Gujrathi and Koneru Humpy, who had won their previous two games, were beaten by the Alaskan Knights.

Player of the Match Nino Batsiashvili gave the Knights a crucial point by defeating Humpy in 44 moves. Vidit then lost on time against 15-year-old Yagiz Kaan Erdogmus, who maintained the pressure through solid positional play.

Duleep Trophy: Ishan Kishan's epic 270 power East Zone to 708

Chennai, Sept 7: East Zone strengthened their grip on the Duleep Trophy final as captain Ishan Kishan produced a monumental 270 and Kumar Kushagra struck a fine century to help the side post a mammoth 708 in their second innings against South Zone at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on Monday.

Kishan's marathon 334-ball innings was studied with 30 fours and seven sixes and became the eighth-highest individual score in Duleep Trophy history. Kushagra provided excellent support with a well-paced 101 off 132 deliveries, hitting eight fours and five sixes as East Zone crossed the 700-run mark.

The massive total was only the third occasion in first-class cricket history that a team had scored more than 700 runs at the Chepauk.

Resuming their innings at 385/4, East Zone continued to dominate from the outset. South Zone, desperate for wickets, took the new ball after delaying the move by just one over, but neither Mohammed Siraj nor MD Nidheesh could make an early breakthrough.

Kishan immediately resumed his aggressive approach, collecting successive boundaries off Siraj before turning his attention to Nidheesh. Kushagra soon joined the assault as the East Zone pair kept the scoreboard moving rapidly.

South Zone tried to change the course of the innings by introducing spinners Tripurana Vijay and Shreyas Gopal on either side of the drinks break. However, the change in bowling brought little relief as Kishan and Kushagra continued to find scoring opportunities.

Kushagra moved into the nine-

ties with a couple of boundaries off Gopal before completing his sixth first-class century. His innings eventually came to an end shortly before lunch when he found the fielder at fine leg while attempting to take on Vijay.

Kishan, however, remained in complete control at the other end. The left-hander continued to manipulate the field expertly and took full advantage of a tiring South Zone attack. He struck three boundaries in a single over from Gopal as East Zone steadily extended their lead.

South Zone then attempted to disrupt Kishan's rhythm by turning to part-time options Devdutt Padikkal and Shaikh Rasheed. The move failed to produce the desired result as Kishan continued to score freely and eventually brought up his double century from 270 balls.

Having crossed the 200-run mark, Kishan shifted gears and accelerated considerably. Boundaries began coming with increasing regularity as he moved beyond 250, with South Zone increasingly hoping that East Zone would declare.

Even after East Zone crossed the 600-run mark, however, Kishan showed no urgency to leave the field. The captain continued to pile on the runs and keep South Zone under pressure as the team moved steadily towards the 700 mark.

Fatigue eventually forced Kishan to retire temporarily, but East Zone's scoring momentum did not slow down. The innings continued to progress rapidly, with the total edging closer to a record-breaking 700.

Mohammed Shami then departed after scoring a quickfire

28, bringing Kishan back to the crease. With East Zone closing in on 700, the captain returned with the opportunity to complete a rare triple century.

Kishan, however, was denied the landmark as wickets began to fall at the other end. With his team's lower order exposed, he eventually attempted another big stroke but was caught near the long-on boundary for 270.

His dismissal ended a remarkable innings just 30 runs short of what would have been a historic triple century. Kishan's knock, nevertheless, had already placed East Zone firmly in control of the final.

East Zone were eventually bowled out for 708 in 163 overs, leaving South Zone with a daunting task against an opposition that had accumulated a huge total and put itself in a commanding posi-

tion in the summit clash.

Kishan's extraordinary innings, combined with Kushagra's century and valuable contributions from the lower order, ensured that East Zone finished the day in complete command. South Zone's bowlers, meanwhile, endured a long day in the field as the East Zone batters took advantage of a tiring attack and consistently kept the scoreboard moving.

The final now moves into a crucial phase, with South Zone needing a strong response to prevent East Zone from converting their massive first-innings advantage into a title-winning performance.

Brief scores:

East Zone: 708 in 163 overs (Ishan Kishan 270, Kumar Kushagra 101; Tripurana Vijay 4/180, Chama Milind 2/88, against South Zone.



Vijay's Ranabaali Teaser To Roar



The excitement surrounding Ranabaali has reached another level as the makers have locked the date for the film's teaser. The teaser will be released on September 9, marking an important promotional milestone for the Vijay Deverakonda led period action drama. Interestingly, the announcement was made through a special video that captured the growing demand among fans for an update. With supporters eagerly waiting for news about the film, the makers used their enthusiasm to build anticipation and officially reveal the teaser date. The team has also confirmed that Ranabaali will have its worldwide theatrical release on October 16. The film is targeting the Dusshera season and is expected to make a strong impact with its large scale period setting, patriotic elements and action driven narrative. Rahul Sankrityan is directing the film, which brings Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna together. Arnold Vosloo is also part of the cast in a crucial role. Backed by Mythri Movie Makers and presented by T Series, Ranabaali is now heading towards its September 9 teaser launch with considerable expectations.

Pranay Reddy Vanga Backs Young Talent

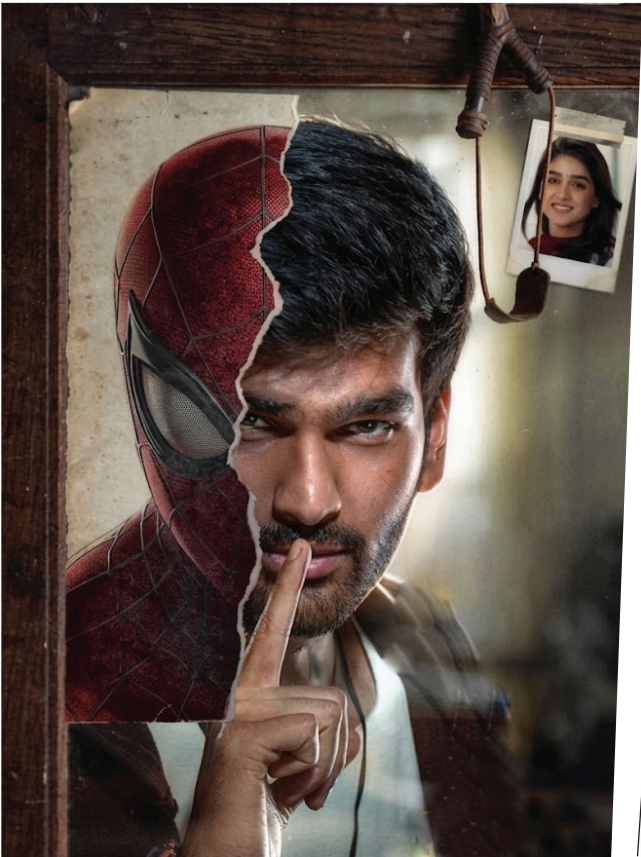
Romanchakam is receiving a good response from audiences, bringing happiness to the entire team. Presented by Sandeep Reddy Vanga and directed by Venugopal Reddy, the film stars Sumanth Prabhask and Ananthika Sanilkumar in the lead roles. At the success meet in Hyderabad, producer Pranay Reddy Vanga praised the director and the young actors for their performances. He said comedy may look easy on paper, but making the audience laugh in theatres

needs good execution. Pranay appreciated Venugopal for delivering the comedy effectively and praised all the actors for understanding their characters. He also said the chemistry between the young performers is one of the film's major strengths. He expressed happiness over the film's box office performance and said Romanchakam is an important milestone for Sumanth Prabhask and the entire team.



Spider-Man Adds Mystery To Aniesh's Itlu Arjuna

Venky Kudumula is introducing Aniesh as the lead actor with his maiden production venture Itlu Arjuna being directed by Mahesh Uppala under What Next Entertainments banner. After generating excitement through songs and glimpse, the makers came up with an update regarding the film's teaser. Itlu Arjuna's teaser will be released on September 9. The teaser poster itself plays an important role in setting up curiosity. Aniesh appears in a composed yet intense manner, with his finger placed against his lips as if asking everyone to wait for the right moment. The creative design then takes things a step further by splitting his face with a Spider-Man-like masked appearance. This indeed adds mystery to the poster. Another noticeable element is the photograph of Anaswara Rajan, positioned within the frame as though it is part of Arjuna's personal world. Itlu Arjuna is set for a theatrical release on October 9. The teaser arriving in 2 more days is expected to offer a glimpse into the film's story.



Param Sundari Hurts Kerala Sentiments?



Oftentimes, Bollywood fails to understand the South when they try to represent south culture on the big screen. Sometimes, they misrepresent culture, language and the way of life. In the recent past, there is one Hindi film that completely got Kerala's lifestyle wrong, and it is Param Sundari. Siddharth Malhotra and Jahnvi Kapoor played the lead roles in the film. Now, Kerala-based actress Ananthika Sanilkumar opened up in a recent interview that the film felt like an insult to Kerala culture. Ananthika shared her opinion that she thought the film would be a good watch but felt that many scenes did not come out well. Additionally, she claimed that in one particular scene, Jahnvi is seen serving food

from a small bowl, which is usually not the norm in Kerala, or anyone could easily understand that, but it failed. In the film, the makers went overboard in depicting the lives of Keralites, especially the girls. They tried to present Jahnvi glamorously, and her character in the film climbs the coconut trees, does insignificant things in the name of culture, and even gets certain things completely wrong. Earlier, Alia Bhatt was shown as a Tamil girl in 2 States but the presentation did not go overboard. But, Jahnvi's depiction is a complete misfire on the big screen. Ananthika Sanilkumar was seen in Telugu films Mad, 8 Vasanthalu and the most recent Romanchakam which became a hit at the box office.

Raashi Khanna Stuns Again



Raashi Khanna is having a busy year on the big screen, with her fans eagerly awaiting her upcoming Bollywood ventures, including the much-talked-about Farzi 2 series alongside Shahid Kapoor. Amid the buzz around her expanding slate, the actress took a moment to remind everyone why she remains one of the most photographed faces in the industry. The actress dropped a fresh set of pictures on social media, and they instantly caught attention. Dressed in a fitted black outfit with a plunging neckline, Raashi struck a series of relaxed, confident poses against a minimal studio backdrop. Her tousled curls and soft glam makeup added an effortless elegance to the look, while her expressions did the rest of the talking. With multiple film announcements lined up, Raashi Khanna continues to keep her audience hooked, both on screen and off it.

Toxic's OTT Value Crashes To 30Cr After BO Disaster?



Yash's ambitious pan-India film Toxic continues to face trouble even after its disappointing theatrical run. The latest reports suggest that the film's digital rights are still unsold, creating fresh concerns for the makers. Before the film's release, there was massive confidence surrounding Toxic. Reports claim that a leading OTT platform had offered around Rs. 150 crore for the streaming rights. However, the makers reportedly expected more than Rs. 200 crore, believing that the film would become a blockbuster and command a much bigger digital deal after its theatrical success. The film received poor word of mouth after release,

and its box office performance failed to meet the huge expectations. As a result, streaming platforms are now reportedly offering only around Rs. 30 crore for the digital rights, as per Bollywood media reports. Reports suggest that Zee5 has made the biggest offer so far, and the makers are now exploring ways to reduce their losses. Satellite rights are also expected to bring limited revenue because of the film's adult-oriented content. What was once expected to be one of the biggest successes of the year has now become a tension-filled project for the makers. Yash has gone into hiding and is nowhere to be seen of late.