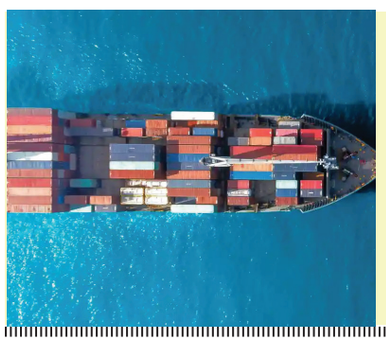
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The Blue Economy A New Engine of India's Growth

OPINION 06

Modi Launches ₹35,000 Crore Projects in Gujarat



NEXT DOOR 05

OBTUSE ANGLE



by BP ACHARYA

WAR OF WORDS ERUPTS IN ASSEMBLY FOR SECOND CONSECUTIVE DAY

Hyderabad, Sept.8: Heated arguments broke out in the Telangana Legislative Assembly on Tuesday for the second consecutive day over the incidents reported on the Assembly premises on Monday morning. The proceedings turned tense when Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar expressed strong displeasure at BRS MLA T. Harish Rao, telling him, "It is not you, but I who should be furious."

As the Assembly began its second day of proceedings, BRS members entered the House wearing black badges in protest. Senior BRS leader Harish Rao alleged that no action had been taken against police personnel who allegedly misbehaved with senior women legislators Sabitha Indra Reddy and Sunitha Laxma Reddy.

Harish Rao said that instead of acting against those allegedly involved in the incident, police had registered



cases against the legislators after they lodged a complaint. He described the incident as an insult to women across Telangana.

Intervening in the debate, Speaker Prasad Kumar took strong exception to Harish Rao's remarks.

He said the House and he personally held women members in high regard and questioned the need for Harish Rao to display such anger.

"It is not you, but I who should be furious. They did not insult your mother; they insulted mine," the Speaker said, becoming emotional. Prasad Kumar said he regarded Sabitha Indra Reddy, Sunitha Laxma Reddy and Kova Lakshmi as his sisters, along with his eight biological sisters. He assured the House that strict action would be taken once the report on the alleged high-handed behaviour towards the women members was received. Legislative Affairs Minister D. Sridhar Babu criticised the BRS members, alleging that their conduct amounted to intimidating the Chair. He said he had never witnessed such behaviour towards a presiding officer and stressed that the House could not function in an atmosphere of intimidation.

"It is the responsibility of BRS leaders to condemn comments that demean the Speaker," Sridhar Babu said. Welfare Minister Adluri Laxman Kumar also condemned the Opposition, alleging that BRS members were indulging in political posturing instead of apologising for the alleged inappropriate remarks against the Speaker.

SHORT TAKES

BRS MLCs ARRESTED OVER ALLEGED REMARKS AGAINST SPEAKER

Hyderabad, Sept.8: The ongoing controversy escalated further with the arrest of BRS MLCs Tata Madhu and Naveen Kumar Reddy following a complaint over allegedly abusive and casteist remarks against Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar.

The complaint was lodged by the Speaker's OSD Pollepalli Venkatesham. Police subsequently registered a case and took the two MLCs into custody for questioning. The issue has triggered demands from Congress members for cancellation of their memberships. The Speaker has indicated that a resolution concerning Tata Madhu's remarks would be passed in the Assembly and forwarded to the Legislative Council.

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE

Hyderabad, September 8: This House records its strongest condemnation and profound disapproval of the highly derogatory, insulting and unparliamentary utterances purported to have been made by Sri Tata Madhusudhan and Sri N Naveen Kumar Reddy, both the Members of the Telangana Legislative Council belonging to BRS Party, on 07.09.2026 within the Assembly precincts near Gate No 3 against the Hon'ble Speaker of the Telangana Legislative Assembly; This House also condemns in unequivocal words the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

BRS MLAs head to Erravalli from Assembly amid tension

Heavy police deployment as rival protests trigger tension near KCR's farmhouse

02

KTR Alleges 'Criminal Mindset' Behind Attack on Former Women Ministers

KTR detained, alleges police escort for Congress supporters towards KCR's residence; calls alleged manhandling of former ministers a "Dushasana episode"



Hyderabad, September 8: Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) on Tuesday launched a scathing attack on the Congress government in Telangana, alleging a "criminal mindset" behind the alleged manhandling of former ministers and BRS leaders Sabitha Indra Reddy and Sunitha Lakshma Reddy.

Addressing the media at Boinpally Police Station , KTR said it was the "misfortune of the people of Telangana" that a Chief Minister with a "criminal mindset" had come to power. He alleged that the two former ministers were subjected to an "extremely despicable attack" and accused the police of surrounding, dragging and manhandling the women leaders, including allegedly pulling their sarees. Calling it a "Dushasana episode," KTR demanded that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and the Congress government apologise for the alleged humiliation of the women leaders and take strict action against those responsible.

Earlier in the day, KTR was detained by Telangana Police along with other BRS leaders amid tensions over their attempt to proceed towards former

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

SP–Cong Alliance: Will the 2024 Formula Work Again?

Lucknow: The Samajwadi Party (SP)–Congress alliance, which delivered a major setback to the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, is preparing to contest the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections together as well. Recently, SP national general secretary Shivpal Singh Yadav announced that the alliance, under the leadership of Akhilesh Yadav, would form a government with a full majority.

In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the SP won 37 seats and Congress won 6, while the BJP was limited to 33 seats. Together, the alliance won a total of 43 Lok Sabha seats. However, political analysts believe that repeating this success in the 2027 Assembly elections will not be easy.

In the 2022 Assembly elections, the BJP won 255 seats, while the SP won 111 seats. Congress was

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

CONGRESS MLA SHANKAR'S REMARKS AGAINST KCR TRIGGER POLITICAL STORM

Hyderabad, Sept.8: Controversial remarks by Congress MLA Veerlapalli Shankar against former Telangana Chief Minister and BRS president K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) have triggered a political storm in the State.

Going beyond the limits of political criticism, Shankar reportedly said that they would not merely beat 1,000 drums but would even beat the "death drum" if necessary.

The MLA also allegedly said that they wanted KCR to die and were wishing for his death. He further described KCR as a "curse" on Telangana and launched a scathing attack on the former Chief Minister using objectionable and derogatory language.

The remarks have drawn strong criticism from BRS leaders and supporters, who questioned how a responsible public representative could make such

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

Uttam Pushes TG Rice Exports to Philippines

New Delhi, September 8: Telangana is working to increase rice exports to the Philippines and further expand trade ties between the two sides, State Irrigation, Food and Civil Supplies Minister Capt. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said.

The minister met Philippine Agriculture Secretary and Cabinet member Francisco P. Tiu Laurel Jr. in New Delhi on Tuesday. The two discussed opportunities to expand trade in rice and other agricultural products between Telangana and the Philippines.

Uttam said Telangana has emerged as one of India's major rice-producing states, with the capacity to supply large quanti-

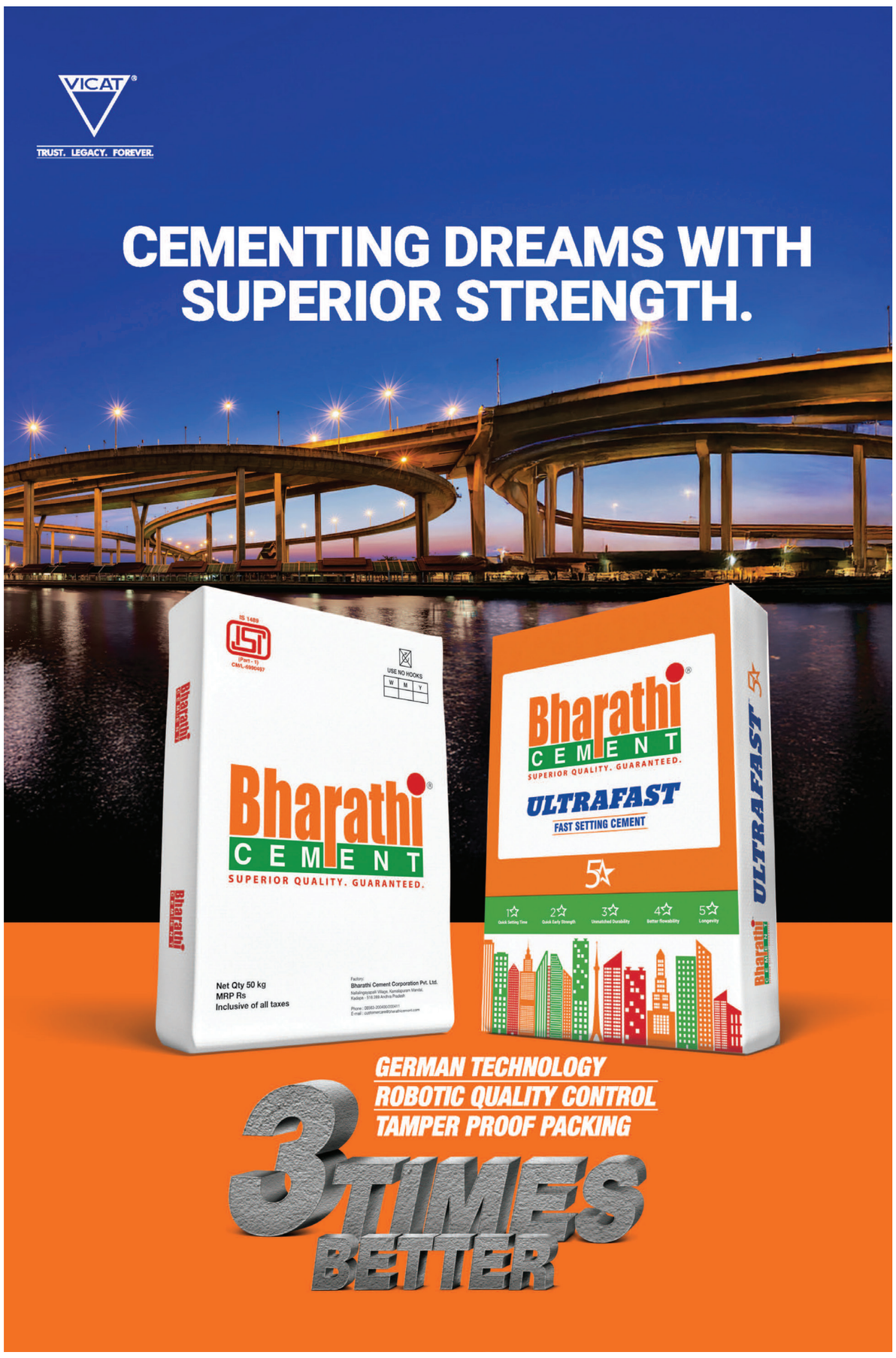


ties of quality rice, supported by a modern rice-milling infrastructure and extensive industry experience.

Laurel responded positively to the proposal to source rice from Telangana and said the Philippines would explore the possibility of procuring larger quantities from the state.

The discussions covered rice varieties, pricing, quality standards, procurement

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤



SC WEIGHS IN ON TET FOR TEACHERS

'Do not appoint teachers without TET': Supreme Court

NEW DELHI, SEP 8

The Supreme Court has made it clear that prescribed eligibility criteria must be strictly followed in the appointment of teachers. The court said that candidates who do not qualify in the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) cannot be permitted to be appointed as teachers. A bench observed that ensuring the required qualifications for those entering the teaching profession is essential to providing quality



education to students.

The observations were made during the hearing of a petition concerning teacher recruitment. The court stressed that there should be no compromise in teacher appointments, keeping students' educational standards and future in mind. Merely possessing academic qualifications does not make a candidate eligible for appointment as a teacher, it said, adding that candidates must also qualify in mandatory tests such as TET wherever the applicable rules require it.

TET continues to be a key eligibility criterion for teacher recruitment in government and government-aided schools across the country.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

BJP Seeks Governor's Intervention Over Fee Dues

Nearly 40 lakh students affected as colleges struggle with pending dues, says Rao

SPECIAL 02

A Star of Many Talents: Chandrahas Honoured in Hyderabad

V. N. Aditya, Jatiya Telugu Saaraswata Parishat leaders and Journalists praised Chandrahas for his contributions to cinema, music, literature, and social service.



Medchal-Malkajgiri, September 08: Actor, singer, poet, and President of the Jatiya Telugu Saaraswata Parishat (Telangana), Eppalapally Chandrahas, was warmly honoured at a private hotel in Kukatpally Housing Board, Hyderabad.

The felicitation was held after Chandrahas successfully completed his 45-day tour of the United States. He visited Maryland, Virginia, Houston, and Austin, where he participated in several Telugu cultural programs and won appreciation for his singing.

Prominent director, writer, and President of the Telugu Film Directors Association, V. N. Aditya, attended the event as the chief guest. He praised Chandrahas for his contributions to cinema, literature, music, and society.

V. N. Aditya said that Chandrahas had acted in several films and played important roles. He also acted in the television serial Shanti Nivasam, directed by S. S. Rajamouli, and played the role of a young hero in a film directed by R. Narayana Murthy. He praised Chandrahass as a talented actor, singer, and poet.

Jatiya Telugu Saaraswata Parishat, National Executive President Keshiraju Ramprasad said that Chandrahas was not only a good actor but also a dedicated social worker. He appreciated Chandrahas's active role in various service activities and Medchal Kabaddi Association programs.

Ramprasad also praised Chandrahass for conducting public events efficiently. During his U.S. tour, Chandrahas participated in the ATA Convention in Maryland and the Telugu Cultural Association's 50th anniversary celebrations in Houston.

Popular singer Dandepalli Srinivas also took part in the programs. Dr. K. Sudheer, senior journalists Vidya Venkat, and Samudrala Kiran congratulated Chandrahass and appreciated his artistic journey.

The event was a touching celebration of a talented artist whose acting, singing, poetry, and service continue to inspire people in India and abroad.

BRS Leaders Protest Alleged Attack on Women MLAs

Opposition leaders accuse the Revanth Reddy government of failing to fulfil its election promises and suppressing democratic protests in the Telangana Assembly.

MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI, SEPTEMBER 08



Former Vivekananda Nagar Devision corporator Madhavaram Roja Devi, along with former Kukatpally corporator Jupally Satyanarayana and senior leader and advocate Sindham Srikanth Yadav, submitted a petition at the statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in protest against the alleged attack on women MLAs inside the Telangana Assembly.

Speaking at the protest, the leaders accused the Congress government of failing to implement its election promises, including six guarantees within 100 days. They alleged that even after 1,000 days, several promises remained unfulfilled.

They condemned the alleged physical obstruction of elected representatives and women MLAs while entering the Assembly. The leaders said such actions were undemocratic and demanded an apology from Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar.

They also accused the Congress government of suppressing the voice of opposition parties in Telangana. Comparing the situation with protests by Congress leaders at the national level, they questioned why opposition protests were not being allowed inside the Telangana Assembly.

BRS MLAs head to Erravalli from Assembly amid tension

Heavy police deployment as rival protests trigger tension near KCR's farmhouse

Erravalli: Tension prevailed in Erravalli of Siddipet district on Tuesday as Congress workers gathered near former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao's farmhouse in response to a party call for a drum-beating protest, while BRS leaders and cadres also mobilised in the area.

Congress workers, led by Narsareddy, attempted to move towards KCR's farmhouse via Varadarajapur. Police stopped them at several points using barricades and rope parties, leading to scuffles between the protesters and police.

Some protesters managed to push past the barricades and reached a point around half a kilometre from the farmhouse, where they staged a drum-beating protest. Police subsequently pushed them back. Several police personnel reportedly sustained minor injuries while trying to control the protesters. At one point, DCC president Ankshareddy pushed through the barricades and ran towards the farmhouse before being stopped.

Meanwhile, BRS cadres gathered at Markook and launched a protest near the farmhouse in the name of a farmers' protest. Tension continued in and around Erravalli from the morning amid the competing demonstrations.

BRS MLAs leave Assembly for Erravalli

Following the developments near the farmhouse, BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao, former minister T. Harish Rao and other BRS MLAs left the Assembly for Erravalli.

Police stopped the BRS legislators at Bollaram and later intercepted KTR and Harish Rao near Hakimpet. The leaders reportedly engaged in an argument with the police after their vehicles were stopped.

KTR and Harish Rao subsequently left from Bollaram crossroads on foot towards Erravalli. They alleged that the government was encouraging Congress leaders with the help of the police.

The BRS leaders maintained that they were travelling to meet K. Chandrashekar Rao and were not going to participate in any protest. Despite the claim, police did not allow their vehicles to proceed.

KTR, Harish Rao, former minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav and other BRS leaders then got out of their vehicles and continued towards the farmhouse on foot. Meanwhile, police continued to restrict the movement of Congress workers in the area as a precautionary measure to prevent any untoward incidents.

BJP Seeks Governor's Intervention Over Fee Dues

Hyderabad, Sept.8 (NSS): Telangana BJP State President N Ramchander Rao has urged Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla to intervene in the long-pending fee reimbursement issue and ensure immediate release of nearly Rs.15,000 crore in arrears.

A BJP delegation led by Rao met the Governor at Lok Bhavan here on Tuesday and submitted a memorandum, claiming that the delay was affecting nearly 40 lakh students across Telangana.

Rao said the students graduating from private degree, engineering and pharmacy colleges were facing uncertainty as the institutions were unable to issue certificates because of pending reimbursement dues. He claimed that several colleges were struggling to pay teaching staff their full salaries due to the financial crisis. Criticising the Congress government, Rao alleged that the education system was being neglected despite Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy holding the Education portfolio. He



said the government should dedicate at least one full day of the ongoing Assembly session to discuss the fee reimbursement issue.

The BJP leader also alleged that Congress and BRS were diverting attention from the issue and demanded withdrawal of cases registered against BJP and BJYM activists who participated in recent protests.

Rao said the BJP would wait for the government's response following the Governor's intervention and warned of an intensified statewide agitation along with students if the issue remained unresolved.

Later, Rao and other BJP leaders visited Srihari Hospital at Lakdikapul and met Jangaon district BJP president Chowda Ramesh, who was undergoing treatment after sustaining injuries in the police lathi-charge during the Chalo Assembly rally.

GANESH MANDAPS TOLD TO PUT ELECTRICAL SAFETY FIRST

Vijayawada, Sept.8: APCPDCL CMD P. Pullareddy has urged organisers of Ganesh mandaps to strictly follow electrical safety precautions during Vinayaka Chavithi celebrations and avoid unauthorised power connections.

Underlining the message, "Celebrate with devotion, celebrate with safety", the CMD advised organisers to keep mandaps away from electrical poles and overhead power lines and ensure that no wires come into contact with the structures.

He stressed the use of quality wires, switches and plugs, proper-capacity wiring and protective devices. All electrical works should be undertaken only by qualified electricians, while organisers were advised to take additional precautions during rains and keep electrical equipment dry. The CMD also appealed to the public to stay away from snapped, hanging or fallen electrical wires and immediately report such incidents to electricity officials or through the 1912 toll-free number.

SP–Cong Alliance: Will the..

➢FROM PAGE 1

reduced to just two seats. Although the SP–Congress alliance led in 224 of the 403 Assembly segments in 2024, a key factor is that voting patterns differ between Lok Sabha and Assembly elections.

Candidate selection, seat-sharing arrangements, the transfer of votes between alliance partners, and local issues are likely to influence the 2027 results. Therefore, replicating the 2024 formula in 2027 is likely to be a major challenge for the SP–Congress alliance.

CONGRESS MLA SHANKAR'S..

➢FROM PAGE 1

objectionable and undignified comments against a senior political leader and former Chief Minister.

Opposition leaders and democratic activists also expressed concern over the alleged remarks, saying that public representatives should focus on people's issues rather than making statements that could be construed as threatening an individual's life. They accused Shankar of displaying a vindictive attitude.

The controversy has further intensified with the BRS demanding immediate legal action against Shankar over his alleged remarks, which the party said could disturb peace and law and order in the State. The party also demanded that the MLA tender an unconditional public apology.

CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE

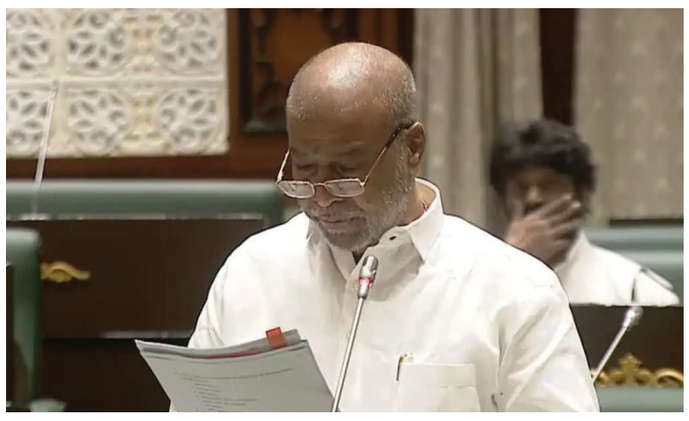
➢FROM PAGE 1

indecent behaviour of the above two members by removing the t-shirts in public before women which, besides being highly objectionable, amounts to outrage of the modesty of the women present at the place of the incident.

This House considers such conduct to be wholly unbecoming of a Member of the Legislative Council and seriously prejudicial to the dignity, authority and constitutional position of the Hon'ble Speaker and to the dignity, privileges and institutional integrity of the Telangana Legislative Assembly;

This House declares that no political disagreement, personal grievance or difference of opinion can justify conduct intended or having the effect of lowering the dignity and authority of the Presiding Officer or impairing the orderly functioning of the Legislative Assembly.

This House Resolves that the Leader of the Opposition, Sri K Chandrashekhar Rao should own responsibility for the said unbecoming conduct of the members of his party and tender unconditional apology to



the Hon'ble Speaker in the interest of institutional integrity, decency and decorum of this House.

This House further resolves that having regard to the fact that Sri Tata Madhusudhan and Sri N Naveen Kumar Reddy, both are sitting Members of the Telangana Legislative Council, a copy of this Resolution, together with the notice of breach of privilege issued by the members, the material placed before the House and the proceedings relating thereto, be forwarded to the Hon'ble Chairman of the Telangana Legislative Council for consideration and for taking such action as the Hon'ble Chairman and/or the Telangana Legislative Council may deem appropriate and permissible under the Constitution, the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, directions and the law relating to the privileges and discipline of the Legislative Council;

(DAMODARA RAJA NARASIMHA)
MININSTER FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WERLFARE

KTR Alleges 'Criminal Mindset' Behind Attack on Former Women Ministers

➢FROM PAGE 1

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao's (KCR) residence at Erravelli. KTR alleged that while BRS leaders were being stopped, Congress workers and leaders were being allowed to move towards KCR's residence under police escort. In a post on X, he questioned the Telangana police leadership over what he described as a "royal police escort" being provided to Congress supporters allegedly heading towards KCR's residence. He alleged that the government and police machinery were paving the way for an attack on KCR's residence and warned that they would be held responsible for any untoward incident.

KTR also expressed strong anger over alleged remarks by Congress MLAs wishing for KCR's death. KTR also turned his attack towards the Congress manifesto and its electoral promises, describing it as the "biggest fraud of this century." He questioned the government over what he described as its failure to implement its six guarantees and "420 promises." KTR said people from SCs, STs, BCs and minority communities, as well as economically weaker sections, were still waiting for the implementation of the Congress promises.



KTR questioned the government over seven pending DA instalments for government employees and criticised the delay in implementing the Pay Revision Commission, alleging that the government had promised PRC implementation within six months but had failed to do so even after more than three years. He also raised concerns over retired employees and pensioners and demanded that the government address their pending issues. KTR further demanded a discussion on ₹12,000 crore in pending fee-reimbursement dues for students and issues relating to around one crore acres of land on the prohibited list.

On Krishna and Godavari river waters, KTR accused the Congress government of failing to protect Telangana's interests. He alleged that the government's handling of the Godavari River Management Board (GRMB) and Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) was creating an opportunity for Telangana's water to be diverted to Andhra Pradesh. KTR demanded that the government immediately announce a water-release schedule for Nagarjuna Sagar ayacut farmers.

Recalling the previous government's handling of the reservoir, he said water had been supplied from Nagarjuna Sagar even when the water level was around 510 feet and questioned why water was not being released now despite the reservoir level being around 530 feet. He also demanded clarity on when the Kannepalli pumps would be switched on and when Kaleshwaram water would reach farmers, urging the government to set aside "petty politics" over Kaleshwaram and use the project in the interests of farmers.

KTR accused the Congress government of attempting to silence the Opposition by suspending and expelling BRS MLCs and objected to the arrest of two MLCs after SC/ST cases were registered against them. He said the BRS had "complete faith in democracy, the Constitution, the law and the judiciary," while accusing the government of showing disrespect towards democratic institutions and the rule of law. KTR also accused the government of indulging in "petty politics" by using the Speaker as a shield to divert attention from its alleged failures. He said the MLC concerned had clarified that his remarks were not directed at the Speaker, withdrawn them and expressed regret if the Speaker was hurt.

Describing Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's approach as "dictatorial", KTR alleged that the police were being used to prevent BRS leaders from raising issues concerning the government's performance. He warned that the BRS would continue to hold the Congress government accountable for the remaining 823 days of its tenure. KTR demanded that Revanth Reddy and the Congress government apologise for the alleged humiliation of Sabitha Indra Reddy and Sunitha Lakshma Reddy and called for strict action against those responsible.

SC WEIGHS IN ON TET FOR TEACHERS

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The test is intended to assess candidates' teaching ability, understanding of students and knowledge of teaching methods. The court noted that bypassing such eligibility standards in recruitment could adversely affect the quality of the education system.

The Supreme Court also pointed out that students would be the direct beneficiaries—or, in the case of unqualified appointments, the ones directly affected—by the enforcement of recruitment standards. Since teachers play a crucial role in children's educational progress, governments have a responsibility to strictly implement the applicable rules during recruitment, the court said. The court further indicated that the rules may also need to be examined in the case of teachers who have already been appointed. The applicability of TET requirements and the categories of candidates eligible for exemptions should be determined in accordance with the relevant recruitment rules and legal guidelines.

The observations are likely to have implications for teacher recruitment across the country. In states where disputes over TET eligibility are pending, governments and education departments may have to review the applicable recruitment rules. The developments could also lead to stricter enforcement of eligibility requirements in future teacher recruitment.

The Supreme Court reiterated that providing quality education is one of the primary responsibilities of governments and that appointing qualified teachers is central to achieving that objective. Its observations underline the need to view eligibility tests such as TET not merely as another stage in the recruitment process, but as an important standard for ensuring quality teaching.

Uttam Pushes TG Rice..

➢FROM PAGE 1

procedures, transportation and certification, as well as sanitary and phytosanitary requirements. The two sides agreed to work on an action plan involving government agencies, importers, exporters and rice millers. Laurel also expressed interest in procuring meat products and quality seeds from Telangana. Uttam highlighted the state's capabilities in seed production, food processing and allied agricultural sectors. The minister said expanding access to international markets for Telangana's agricultural products would benefit farmers, rice millers, seed companies and food-processing industries. "Our goal is to create stable and profitable international markets for Telangana's farmers and agri-businesses. Telangana has the capacity to supply rice, seeds and other agricultural products to the Philippines on a long-term and reliable basis," Uttam Kumar Reddy said. The two sides also discussed opportunities to strengthen India-Philippines cooperation in agriculture, food security and direct trade. Uttam invited Francisco Laurel to the Telangana Rising Summit, scheduled to be held in Hyderabad in December. Both sides agreed to work together to further strengthen cooperation in agriculture, rice, food products, seed development and allied sectors.

Komatireddy unveils Bathukamma short film challenge poster



HYDERABAD, SEPT.8:

Minister for Roads & Buildings and Cinematography Komatireddy Venkat Reddy unveiled the poster for the 'Bathukamma Young Filmmakers Challenge–2026' on Tuesday, calling on aspiring filmmakers to showcase Telangana's cultural heritage on a global platform. The initiative aims to encourage creative talent among the youth by highlighting Bathukamma the state's iconic flower festival—along with local folk arts, traditions, and ongoing public development and welfare programmes through short films, songs, and video content.

Speaking at the launch, the Minister urged students, young directors, and artists to participate in large numbers. "This challenge serves as a vital platform for the youth to display their creativity while promoting the state's vibrant cultural ethos and developmental progress worldwide," he said.

The launch event was attended by MLC Shankar Naik, Telangana State Film Development Corporation (FDC) Managing Director G. Mukunda Reddy, State Government Creative Director Raj Konda, and former Setwin Chairman Giridhar Reddy.

NIGHT BUSES GET HUGE RESPONSE IN HYD



Hyderabad, Sept.8: The newly introduced 'Third Shift' night bus services of the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) have received an overwhelming response from commuters in Greater Hyderabad, with 9,286 passengers using the services within a week of their launch.

State Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar said the special services, introduced on September 1, were launched in response to growing demand for safe and reliable public transport during late-night hours. The services currently operate on six major routes connecting key residential, commercial and IT corridors.

The routes include Koti-Patancheru (222A), Afzalgunj-Patancheru (218), Secunderabad-Patancheru (219), Hayathnagar-Secunderabad (290U), Bachupally-Waverock (195W) and Kondapur-Secunderabad (10H).

The Minister said the employees, students and other late-night commuters were particularly benefiting from the services. Several passengers have also requested the introduction of night buses on additional routes. Officials will assess passenger demand, traffic volumes and route requirements before expanding the third-shift services, he said.

Prabhakar said the government was committed to strengthening public transport and developing a system in Hyderabad that would progressively cater to commuters 24 hours a day.

ACB Catches Dy. Engineer Taking 10,000 Bribe: ACB officials caught S Sai Ram, Deputy Executive Engineer, Quality Control Cell, Musheerabad Division, red-handed while allegedly accepting a ₹10,000 bribe. The officer reportedly demanded the money to facilitate quality control certificates for two contract works. The bribe amount was recovered from his possession, and he was produced before the ACB court for judicial remand.

CONSTRUCTION WORKS AT TINSUKIA DIVISION

E-Tender Notice No. M-TSK-2026-37Dated: 03-09-2026. Works tenders through "E" Tendering system for and on behalf of the President of India are invited for the works as detailed below:- **Name of work:** Construction of 100 m3 capacity RCC inoculums generation facility plant and operation of inoculums generation plant, capacity of 100 m3 at Dibrugarh Coaching Depot of Tinsukia Division for two years on turnkey basis. **Tender Value:** ₹1,11,00,204.59/-. **Earnest Money:** ₹2,22,000/-. **Date & time of closing of tender:** At **13.00** hrs. on **28-09-2026.** The complete information with tender documents of above e-tender will be available in the website **www.ireps.gov.in**

DRM (M), Tinsukia Division

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

EASTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender No.: W2_623_12_10_ HWH_ 2026-27, dated 03.09.2026. e-Tender is invited by Dy. Chief Engineer (TR-I)/HQ, Eastern Railway, Fairlie Place, 17, N. S. Road, Kolkata-700001 from reputed & eligible contractors for the under mentioned work. **Name of the work :** Requirement of safety fencing in Khana-Bonidanga section under Sr. Divisional Engineer/4/Howrah for raising of sectional speed to 130 KMPH. **Approximate Cost of the work :** ₹ 96,25,13,524.08. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 1,92,50,300/-. **Period of completion :** 18 Months. **Date & Time of closing of tender:** 25.09.2026 upto 14.00 hrs. The details of tender documents are available at website **https://www.ireps.gov.in** Tenderers are requested to submit their offer online on the above website. No manual offer will be accepted. (MISC-176/2026-27)

Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at : @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

TG POLICE RECRUITMENT 2026: APPLY BY SEPT 16

Hyderabad, Sept.8: The Telangana State Level Police Recruitment Board (TSLPRB) has extended the deadline for submission of online applications for the Police Recruitment-2026 process till 5 pm on September 16 (Wednesday).

The recruitment drive covers 7,437 vacancies across the Police, Special Protection Force, Fire, Disaster Response, Emergency & Civil Defence and Prisons & Correctional Services departments.

The four notifications issued on July 29 include 275 SCT SI civil and equivalent posts, 23 SCT ASI posts in the Finger Print bureau, 7,112 SCT police constable civil and equivalent posts, and 27 SCT police constable mechanic / driver posts.

According to TSLPRB, 3,38,336 candidates have registered so far. Of them, 2,88,530 have paid the application fee, while 2,76,085 candidates have completed submission of their online applications, accounting for 3,80,762 different candidates. Aadhaar verification has been completed for more than 95 percent of the candidates.

The 2026 recruitment process has introduced several firsts, including 33.3 percent reservation for women in all notified posts in the Special Protection Force and Fire Services departments. The recruitment is also implementing Group-I, Group-II and Group-III reservations among SC candidates for the first time in police recruitment, along with offline Aadhaar verification.

TSLPRB Chairman V.V. Srinivasa Rao recently interacted with aspirants through live programmes on T-SAT on September 3 and All India Radio on September 7, addressing their queries and concerns.

The Board advised candidates who have registered or paid the fee but are yet to complete their applications to submit them at the earliest.

SEETHAKKA ALLEGES MISCONDUCT BY BRS

Hyderabad, Sept.8: Minister Seethakka expressed outrage in the Legislative Council over the incidents on the Assembly premises. She alleged that BRS leaders pushed female police personnel deployed on duty and demanded that footage of the incident be made public. She also accused BRS leaders of verbally abusing the Speaker while denying the allegations. Referring to the previous BRS regime, Seethakka alleged that opposition leaders had then not been allowed near the podium. On allegations concerning former ministers Sabitha Indra Reddy and Sunitha Laxma Reddy, Seethakka said the government would take action if police personnel had behaved inappropriately.

ANNUAL REPAIRING CONTRACT

E-Tender No.: SNT-16-LMG-2026-27; Dated: 28-08-2026; E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work; **Name of work :** Annual repairing contract of defective PDH/SDH equipment cards (make-Tejas, Webfil & Puncom) installed under the jurisdiction of Sr.DSTE/Lumding in Lumding division for a period of two years. **Tender Value:** ₹59,58,331.80/-, **Bid Security**: ₹1,19,200/-; Date & time of **closing** of tender at **15:00** hrs and **opening** at **15:30** hrs. on **22-09-2026**. Complete information alongwith the tender document of above e-tender are available in the website **www.ireps.gov.in**

DSTE, Lumding

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

IE(I)-ENGINEERING STAFF COLLEGE OF INDIA
Gachibowli, Hyderabad – 500 032

SHORT TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are invited from MSME registered agencies / Civil Contractors for the following work of ESCI in its campus:

1. Laying of Vinyl Flooring of 2mm thick of heterogeneous mixture of PVC at passages, workstations, IT Room and wooden flooring of 8mm thick at Director's Cabin in Administrative Building of ESCI, Gachibowli, Hyderabad

Last Date for Submission of Tenders: **15-09-2026 @ 03.00 PM**
For more details, visit our website: www.escihyd.org

Place : Hyderabad
Date : 08-09-2026

O/o. Chief Projects Coordinator, ESCI

CMR ENGINEERING COLLEGE
Private Unaided Non-Minority Institution, UGC Autonomous Institution
(Approved by AICTE, Affiliated to JNTUH, Accredited by NBA & NAAC)
Kandlakoya (V), Medchal Road, Hyderabad - 501 401
Ph. Nos: 9248727229
Website: www.cmrec.ac.in TGEAPCET Code: CMRN

WALK IN INTERVIEW ON 11.09.2026 AT 10 AM

PRINCIPAL

A young and dynamic person having Ph.D. in Engineering with 15 years experience in teaching / R&D and industry, of which 5 years at the level of Professor. Qualification, Experience & Salary as per AICTE Norms. Interested candidate may attend interview along with their all original certificates, Aadhar & PAN Card, JNTUH Faculty Registration Form, one set of Xerox copies and passport size photograph at the above address. Selected candidate have to join immediately.

Date: 09.09.2026 Sd/- Secretary

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Tender No.GTL-EM-32&33-2026-27 Date:02.09.2026

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/Maintenance/Guntakal, acting for and on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Tender No GTL-EM-41-26-27 **Name of work** Guntakal Division: Gooty- Re-flooring of ROH shed and allied works at BOXN ROH depot-Electrical Arrangements **Approximate Value** Rs. 10896450.05/

Closing date and time: 24-09-2026 at 15:00 hrs

Tender No GTL-EM-42-26-27 **Name of work** Guntakal Division: Provision of Earthing Arrangements to All the Electrical Assets, Duly Improving/Replacing the Existing Earth Pits Over Division. **Approximate Value** Rs.9332473.90/

Closing date and time: 24-09-2026 at 15:00 hrs

For bidding the tender and other details, log in to **http://www.ireps.gov.in.** Corrigendum of tender, if any, will be issued online only.

Note: To participate/Bid in this e-Tender, the tenderer should have a valid DSC(Digital Signature Certificate).

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, Maintenance, Guntakal

E-Tender Notice No. GSU-GTL-03-2026 dated 05/09/2026

Dy.Chief Engineer/Gati Shakti Unit/Guntakal acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tender for the following work. Closing Date & Time: 30/09/2026 at 11:00 hrs.

S.No. 1 **Tender No.** GSU-GTL-ROBS-03-2026 **Description of Work** Guntakal Division: SW-I-Guntakal Division-Gooty - Wadi Section: Proposal for Construction of Two-lane ROB in lieu of **L.C. No. 213** at km. 547/5-7 at Matmari Station yard. Bridge Proper: Span as 2X36.0m Composite Girder. Approaches: Span 6 X 30.0m PSC Girder +1 X18.46m PSC Girder (on Matmari Side) and 6 X 30.0m PSC Girder (on Putripli Side) and approach roads with Reinforced Earthen walls on both sides. SW-II:Guntakal Division - Gooty - Wadi Section: Proposal for Construction of Two lane ROB in lieu of **L.C. No. 215** at km. 552/8-9 Between Matmari and Marichethal stations. Bridge Proper: Span as 1X18.0m Composite Girder + 1X36.0m Composite Girder. Approaches: Span 5 X 30.0m PSC Girder +1 X18.46m PSC Girder (on Mallapur Side) and 8 X 30.0m PSC Girder (on Khanpur Side) and approach roads with Reinforced Earthen walls on both sides. SW-III-Guntakal Division- Renigunta-Gooty Section proposal for construction of two-lane ROB in lieu of **L.C. no. 160** at km. 363/19-23 as 1x18.0m + 1x36m + 1x18m composite girder (RHS: 5x30.0m, LHS: 5x30.0m PSC girder approach spans) over Tadipatri-Bakkapuram road between Challavaripalle-Tadipatri Stations **Advertised Value** Rs.128,11,29,363.86 **Bid Security in Rs.** Rs. 2,56,22,600.00

For Bid document and other details login to **http://ireps.gov.in** any corrigenda will be issued online only.

Dy.Chief Engineer, Gati Shakti Unit, Guntakal

Tender Notice No: CRS-E-04-26-27, Dated: 05.09.2026

Dy.CME/CRS/TPTY acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No: mentioned here under closing date as mentioned below up to11:00Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

Sl. No 1 **Description of work** CRS-E-04-26-27, Dated: 05.09.2026 Provision of Online Energy Management system for monitoring and control of substations at Carriage repair Shop Tirupati **Approx. Cost (In Rs.)** Rs. 1,15,28,600/- (Rupees One Crore Fifteen Lakhs Twenty-Eight Thousand Six Hundred only) **Bid Security (in Rs) Rs. 2,30,600/-** (Rupees Two Lakh Thirty Thousand and Six Hundred only) **Period of completion** 4 months **Date of Closing 28.09.2026 @ 11.00 Hrs.**

Website particulars www.ireps.gov.in

Notice Board Location where complete details of tender can be seen Office of the chief workshop manager, Carriage Repair Shop, Tirupati

For further Tender Conditions/details (available in the tender documents) and for downloading of Tender Documents, Corrigendum, please visit our website **https://www.ireps.gov.in.**

Chief Workshop Manager, Carriage Repair Shop, Tirupati

E-Tender No. ELS/BZA-eTN-07-2026-27 Dt.03.09.2026

For and on behalf of the President of India, the undersigned invites E-Tender for the following work up to **15:00 hours on 25.09.2026.**

Sl.No. 1. **Tender No.** B/E.221/TRS/RC/585 E-Tender No.ELS-BZA-eTN-07-2026-27 Dt:03.09.2026 **Details of work- Name of the work** ELS/BZA-Repair/ Rehabilitation of 5400 kVA Transformer for WAP4/\WAG7 locomotives for generating spares for IOH and TOH of electric Locomotives **Period of Completion** 12 Months **Tender value** Rs. 39,46,250.87 **E.M.D** Rs. 78,900.00/- **Cost of Tender document** 0 **Tender closing Date & Time** 25.09.2026 15.00 Hrs

1) Tender conditions/ other particulars such as the details of Name of work in full, the similar nature of the above work, eligibility criteria etc., are available in the Tender documents published in website at **www.ireps.gov.in.**

2) The prospective tenderers are advised to visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** before the date of tender closing to note any changes/corrigenda for any tender.

3) The Tender Notice is also displayed in the Notice Board located in the office of Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, Traction Rolling Stock, Electric Loco Shed, and Vijayawada which can be seen.

4) The Railway reserves the right to cancel the tender without assigning any reason thereto.

Visit our site at "www.ireps.gov.in"

Divisional Electrical Engineer/ TRS/ELS/Vijayawada

SCoR-A305

For further tender conditions/ details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at https://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scor.indianrailways.gov.in

QUADRIC IT OPENS DELIVERY & INNOVATION CENTRE IN HYD

Hyderabad, Sept.8: Quadric IT (QIT), a next-generation enterprise technology and digital transformation company, has inaugurated its new Delivery & Innovation Centre at Asian Suncity, Kondapur, Hyderabad.

The centre was inaugurated by Arekapudi Gandhi, MLA and Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), along with Malkajgiri ACP Thandra Karunakar, former T-Hub CEO Srinivas Mahankali, Tollywood directors Maruthi and Srinivas Avasarala, and actor Shafi.

Blood Donation Camp Held at GITAM



Hyderabad, September 8: The Directorate of Student Life (DoSL) at GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, organised a blood donation camp on September 8, 2026, in association NTR Trust Blood Bank, with the inspiring motto "One Drop, One Hope, One Life." The initiative aimed to promote awareness about voluntary blood donation and encourage the GITAM community to contribute to this vital humanitarian cause.

The camp was organised with a heartfelt appeal to the students and members of the university community that someone, somewhere, may be waiting for what you can give today. Through this initiative, GITAM encouraged students to come forward and turn a simple act of donating blood into a meaningful contribution towards saving lives and building a healthier and brighter tomorrow.

Around 170 units of blood were donated by students from various branches of GITAM Hyderabad. Faculty members and staff also actively participated in the camp, demonstrating their commitment to supporting community welfare and encouraging a culture of social responsibility among students.

The blood donation process was conducted in a safe and organised environment, enabling donors to contribute comfortably and responsibly. Refreshments were provided to the donors, and certificates of appreciation were distributed in recognition of their valuable contribution.

GITAM leadership appreciated the enthusiastic participation of students, faculty and staff and highlighted the importance of voluntary blood donation in supporting patients and healthcare services.

The successful conduct of the camp reflected GITAM's commitment to nurturing socially responsible citizens and creating opportunities for its students and staff to make a positive difference in society. The overwhelming participation reaffirmed the spirit of compassion and service within the GITAM community. Every drop counts. Every donor can make a difference.

Colonel P.S. Singh visits GITAM Hyderabad NCC Unit

Colonel P. S. Singh, Group Commander, Nizamabad Group NCC, visited the NCC Unit of GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad Campus, on 8 September 2026. During his visit, he interacted with the GITAM NCC cadets and encouraged them to actively participate in various NCC camps.

Addressing the cadets, Colonel Singh emphasized that participation in NCC camps provides valuable opportunities for personal development and enables cadets to showcase their talents, skills, and leadership abilities. Colonel Ramesh Sariyal, Commanding Officer, 33 (T) BN NCC, Sangareddy, and Lt. S. Ajay Kumar, Associate NCC Officer, GITAM, accompanied Colonel Singh during the visit, with the support and assistance of the NCC student under officers.



'WILL NOT TOLERATE INSULT TO SPEAKER'

Sack Tata Madhu immediately, demands Sriram Chakravarthy

Congress seeks SC/ST Atrocities case; KCR asked to apologise to Dalit community

KARIMNAGAR, SEP 8: Telangana State Munnuru Kapu Corporation Chairman Bomma Sriram Chakravarthy on Tuesday strongly condemned the alleged derogatory remarks made by BRS MLC Tata Madhu against Telangana Legislative Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar.

Chakravarthy demanded that Tata Madhu be immediately removed from the Legislative Council and that a case be registered against him under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. He also demanded that BRS president K. Chandrashekar Rao apologise to the Dalit community and society.

Addressing a press conference at the R&B Guest House here, in the presence of Karimnagar Corporation Congress president Vaidyula Anjan Kumar and City Congress SC Cell chairman Lingampalli Babu, Chakravarthy said insulting a Dalit leader occupying the constitutional post of Speaker was highly objectionable and amounted to an insult to democratic institutions.

'Insulting Dalit Speaker is unacceptable'

Chakravarthy said it was unfortunate that while Indians were earning global recognition through their achievements in technology and other sectors, leaders of the BRS were allegedly displaying what he described as outdated caste-based attitudes.

He said the alleged remarks against Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar were not merely a personal attack but an affront to the dignity of the constitutional office. He alleged that the BRS leadership was unable to accept its position as an Opposition party and was resorting to provocative politics out of frustration.

'BRS failed to fulfil Dalit promises'

Chakravarthy criticised the previous BRS government over its promises concerning Dalit welfare. He alleged that the assurances of providing three acres of land to Dalit families and making a Dalit the Chief Minister were not fulfilled.



He further alleged that the previous government had weakened the Opposition by splitting the Congress Legislature Party when a Dalit leader was serving as its leader.

'Congress upholds social justice'

Chakravarthy said the Congress party was committed to ensuring dignity and political representation for BCs, SCs, STs and minorities.

He cited the appointment of Dalit leaders to key positions, including Deputy Chief Minister and Speaker, as evidence of the Congress government's commitment to social justice. He also referred to the appointment of Adluri Laxman Kumar as a Minister as an example of representation for weaker sections.

BRS protest criticised

Chakravarthy also criticised the BRS protest outside the Assembly. He alleged that the behaviour of some BRS leaders during the protest, including an incident involving a woman police constable, was inappropriate and unacceptable.

He said political parties should respect the dignity and established norms of the Legislative Assembly. He alleged that the BRS was resorting to such controversies because it was unable to digest the public response to the welfare and development initiatives of the Congress government.

'Our fight will continue'

Chakravarthy reiterated his demand for Tata Madhu's immediate removal from the Legislative Council and legal action against him.

He also demanded an unconditional apology from KCR to the Dalit community and warned that their protest would continue until Tata Madhu resigned.

Anjan Kumar seeks stringent action

Karimnagar Corporation Congress president Vaidyula Anjan Kumar said the Congress strongly condemned the alleged behaviour of BRS leaders towards the Speaker.

He demanded the immediate removal of Tata Madhu and registration of a case under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

He said caste-based discrimination had no place in a democratic society, particularly at a time when India was competing with leading nations in development and technology. Insulting elected representatives on caste lines was unacceptable and undermined democratic values, he said. Corporator Varala Narasingam, City Congress Minority Cell president Ahmed Ali, and Congress leaders Jidi Ramesh, Chintala Kishan, Madasu Srinivas, Bommarathi Sai Krishna, Kudali Sridhar, Tirupati, Muddasani Kranthi and Penta Shekhar, among others, were present.

Installation of Leo Club at Alphores Women's Degree College



HYDERABAD, SEP 8

District Governor Lion Mora Bhadresham said that the expansion of Leo clubs, which are a part of the world-renowned Lions International service organization, will increase leadership qualities, personality development and self-confidence among the college youth. Speaking at the Alphores Women's Degree College meeting today, the Satavahana Lions Club organized the Alphores Leo Club oath-taking ceremony as the chief guest and said that the youth who seize the opportunities presented to us will acquire immense experience and leadership qualities. The members of the Alphores Women's Degree College Leo Club were sworn in after explaining their duties. Speaking at the event, the special guest Lion V Ravinder Reddy said that there are many types of youth sections in their college, through which the self-confidence of the young women will be strengthened. Lion Captain Dr. Burra Madhusudhan Reddy acted as the coordinator, while Speaker Lion Mahender and guests Lion E Ramesh, Lion B Sarala, Lion B Srinivas, and Lion CH Satyanarayana Rao extended their best wishes to the new executive. Lion leaders Lion N Venugopal, Lion V Srinivas, and Lion P Surender participated in this, while former president Leo Sahasri and college Leo youth participated.

Neeli Installed Leo Club Leaders:

Leo Akshita assumed the responsibilities as the president of the Leo Club, Leo Varshini as the secretary, and Leo Navyasri as the treasurer. Along with them, Shyamala Kiran Mayi, Spurri, Santoshini, Varshini, and Rishita assumed the responsibilities as vice presidents. Dhatri, Chandana, Baniya Riza, Shruti, Geetha Reddy, Satwik, Samanvita Priya, Asma, Sujala, Tabassum, Bhavani, Pranavi, Durga Bhavani, Arshin, Nazneen, and Manideep assumed the responsibilities as other executive members.

Padmavathi Reddy condemns remarks against Speaker, treatment of women police

◆ *Says protest cannot become a licence to humiliate women personnel on duty; seeks stringent action*

Hyderabad, September 8: Kodad MLA N. Padmavathi Reddy on Tuesday strongly condemned the derogatory remarks allegedly made against Telangana Legislative Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar and the treatment of women police personnel during Monday's protest by BRS members at the Legislature.

Speaking during a discussion on the incident in the Assembly, Padmavathi Reddy said political protest was a fundamental democratic right, but it could not be used as a licence to insult women in uniform, obstruct personnel performing their duties or undermine the dignity of constitutional institutions.

Her remarks turned emotional as she spoke about the young women constables deployed during the protest.

"Just imagine what those young women constables must have gone through when several men removed their shirts right in front of them," she said. "I feel deeply sorry that these women personnel had to face such a situation while merely doing their duty."

Saying she was speaking not only as an MLA but also as a woman citizen, Padmavathi Reddy expressed anguish over the treatment meted out to the women police personnel.

She said there was nothing objectionable about BRS members wearing black as a form of protest. However, T-shirts carrying slogans effectively amounted to placards, which were not permitted inside the Assembly Hall.

The police and marshals, she said, were only performing their assigned duties. It was the prerogative of the police department to decide whether male or female personnel should be deployed for a particular assignment, and no one had the right to question the presence of women police personnel.

"Inside the House or outside, we are responsible legislators and we have to behave like responsible legislators," she said.

Padmavathi Reddy also informed the House that women legislators had approached the Telangana State Commission for Women on Tuesday morning and lodged a complaint over the treatment of women police personnel. She said the complaint was filed with a "profound sense of outrage and distress" after the women MLAs saw media reports and video footage of the incident.

On the alleged remarks against the Speaker and the Chair, she said political differences should never erode respect for the Legislature.

"We are all one when it comes to protecting the dignity of the Chair. Whether inside the House or outside, it is our responsibility to protect the prestige of this institution," she said.

She called upon legislators, irrespective of party affiliation, to uphold the dignity of the Speaker's Chair and maintain the standards expected of elected representatives.

Padmavathi Reddy warned that offensive language and conduct were lowering the quality of political discourse. Democratic tolerance, she said, should not be mistaken for weakness.

"We have been patient and democratic in allowing everyone to express their views, but there has to be a limit. We cannot tolerate this any longer," she said.

She urged the Chair to take a firm view of derogatory and offensive remarks, including those made off-microphone, and sought stringent action against those responsible.

The Legislature, she said, should remain a forum where elected representatives debate the problems faced by ordinary people and work towards solutions, rather than a place where women performing their duties are humiliated or constitutional offices are demeaned.

'It was my mother, not yours'

Speaker Prasad Kumar hits back at Harish Rao

◆ *Speaker says he was deeply hurt by remarks; CM, Deputy CM call on him*

HYDERABAD, SEP 8



Telangana Legislative Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar on Tuesday expressed strong anger at former minister T. Harish Rao over remarks allegedly made against his mother, asking what explanation the BRS leader had for the comments.

"It was my mother, not your mother," the Speaker said, becoming emotional during the exchange. He told Harish Rao that the anger should be his, rather than that of the BRS leader.

The exchange followed Harish Rao's criticism of the government over the alleged attack on BRS MLAs Sabitha Indra Reddy and Sunitha Lakshma Reddy. Harish Rao said no action had yet been taken over the incident and alleged that cases had been filed against three BRS women MLAs. He accused the government of turning the "House of honour" into a "House of humiliation."

Responding to Harish Rao, Speaker Prasad Kumar said women members commanded his respect as well as that of the House. Questioning Harish Rao's repeated show of anger while he was speaking, the Speaker said, "You are not the one who should be angry. I should be angry. You did not refer to your mother; you referred to my mother."

Prasad Kumar said he had great respect for BRS MLAs Sabitha Indra Reddy, Sunitha Lakshma Reddy and Kova Lakshmi. He said he had sought a report on the alleged incident involving the women legislators and assured Harish Rao that appropriate action would be taken once the report was received.

The Speaker also said action would be taken after examining the report on the alleged attack involving Sabitha Indra Reddy and Sunitha Lakshma Reddy.

CM, Deputy CM call on Speaker

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka later called on Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar in his chamber.

The two leaders met the Speaker in the wake of Monday's developments outside the Assembly and expressed regret over the incident. The Chief Minister assured him that appropriate action would be taken against those responsible.

Management education should be a catalyst for social change: MGU VC

DR SRINIVAS VOORADI

Nalgonda, Sept 8: "Management education should be viewed as a tool for social transformation rather than merely a pathway to employment," said Vice Chancellor of Mahatma Gandhi University (MGU) Prof Khaja Althaf Hussain. Participating as the Chief Guest in an induction programme for newly enrolled students of MBA and Integrated MBA courses on Tuesday, Vice Chancellor Prof. Althaf highlighted that MBA provides ambitious individuals, including those from modest or underprivileged backgrounds, the opportunity to harness their potential through avenues like business, innovation, entrepreneurship, and ethical management. With a foundation rooted in ethics, inclusivity, and social responsibility, businesses can generate jobs, alleviate poverty, and foster a more compassionate and just society.

Prof. Althaf encouraged students to develop skills suitable for the fast-evolving global job market, including digital literacy, effective communication, problem-solving, leadership, teamwork, and an entrepreneurial mindset. He pointed out that being multilingual would enhance career possibilities across different regions and sectors and urged students to foster discipline, self-motivation, and "atomic habits" — the practice of engaging in small, consistent actions like reading, reflection, punctuality, and skill development. He also highlighted the importance of building healthy professional networks with peers, alumni, faculty, and industry connections, as well as maintaining an inclusive mindset that honours diversity, human dignity, and social justice. Reaffirming the university's strict policy against ragging, he labelled it as an inhumane act and encouraged upperclassmen to embrace new students with mentorship and support. He warned against substance abuse, describing its dire consequences on health, academics, family, and career prospects. The programme served to introduce students to the university's academic ethos, values, support systems, and anticipated responsibilities.



Prof. Althaf expressed his belief that MGU, bolstered by its academic culture and infrastructure, would emerge as a hub for learning, innovation, and leadership if students dedicated themselves to their studies with discipline, integrity, creativity, and social commitment. Registrar Prof. K Anji Reddy, Dean of the Faculties of Commerce and Business Management Prof. Aluvala Ravi, Principal of the University College of Commerce and Business Management (UCCBM) Dr. K Sridevi, faculty members, and students participated.

LAKKADI APPOINTED NEW TELANGANA POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD CHAIRMAN

Hyderabad, Sept.8: The Telangana government has appointed Raja Sekhar Reddy Lakkadi, IRS (retd), as the new Chairman of the Telangana Pollution Control Board (TGPCB), with immediate effect.

The Environment, Forests, Science & Technology department issued orders modifying the earlier notification that had constituted the TGPCB in March 2024 with the Chief Secretary as its Chairman.

The government said Lakkadi was selected in view of his special knowledge and practical experience in environmental protection. His tenure as Chairman will be for three years from the date of issuance of the appointment order.

The appointment was made under Sections 4(1) and 4(2), read with Section 5, of the Water (Prevention and control of Pollution) Act, 1974. The government clarified that all other terms and conditions of the earlier order constituting the TGPCB will remain unchanged.

"DON'T JUST SEEK JOBS, CREATE THEM": TG GOVERNOR

HYDERABAD, SEPT.8

Governor of Telangana and Chancellor of Osmania University Shiv Pratap Shukla on Tuesday urged the graduates to keep upgrading their skills, embrace artificial intelligence and emerge as innovators and entrepreneurs rather than merely job-seekers.

Addressing the 85th convocation of Osmania University at Tagore Auditorium, Shukla said technology must be used responsibly without compromising human values. "Artificial Intelligence (AI) can provide information, but the final decision must be taken by human beings based on understanding, ethical values, sensitivity and compassion", he said.

The convocation was attended by Bharat Biotech co-founder and Executive Chairman Dr. Krishna Ella as the chief guest, Osmania University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Kumar Molugaram, joint secretary to governor K Shahi Kiranachary faculty members, research scholars, graduates and parents.

Calling youth the driving force behind a developed India, the Governor urged students to link knowledge with purpose and success with social service, and contribute to the goal of a developed India by 2047.

He said Osmania University, established in 1917, had made significant contributions to education, research and nation-building over its 109-year legacy. While its NAAC A+ accreditation, national rankings, research expansion and collaborations reflected its progress, excellence was a continuous process, he added.

Shukla called for greater focus on AI, machine learning, research, innovation and sustainable development. He also stressed the need to expand digital learning for economically disadvantaged students and encourage research addressing social challenges.

Urging graduates to remain humble and connected to their roots, he said: "Dream big, but stay connected to your roots. Embrace technology, but never give up humanity".

Further, the Governor called upon students to stay away from drugs and turn the "No to Drugs – Yes to Life" pledge into a wider social movement. He said Lok Bhavan had extended Rs.40.25 lakh in financial assistance to 'Sahyam', a mental counselling and welfare centre.

On this occasion, chief guest Dr. Krishna Ella asked students to remember the sacrifices made by their parents to support their education. He urged graduates to continuously upgrade their skills, pursue their interests with passion and focus on innovation and entrepreneurship. Cautioning against excessive use of social media, Dr. Ella said it was increasingly diverting young people from their goals and should be used with discretion.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Kumar Molugaram presented the university's progress report. The Chancellor, chief guest and Vice-Chancellor later conferred Ph.D. degrees and presented gold medals to academic achievers.



Modi Launches ₹35,000 Crore Projects in Gujarat

We are strengthening India's infrastructure to move people and goods faster, create new opportunities and power economic growth: PM
The Dedicated Freight Corridor is the lifeline of a rapidly developing India: PM From chips to ships, India is now building a new manufacturing future: PM

DELHI

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi laid foundation stones, inaugurated and dedicated to the Nation development projects worth more than ₹35,000 Crore in Vadodara, Gujarat. Extending warm greetings to the esteemed dignitaries, the Prime Minister commenced his address. He welcomed the citizens joining the monumental occasion both physically and via online mediums. "I welcome my brothers and sisters of Gujarat," remarked Shri Modi. Highlighting the vibrant atmosphere at the Maharaja Sayajirao University ground, the Prime Minister celebrated the unique convergence of professionals from diverse fields gathering for a shared festival of progress. He expressed immense joy at witnessing such a unified celebration of development. "Everything is happening here simultaneously," noted Shri Modi. Dedicating infrastructure projects worth thousands of crores to accelerate national progress, the Prime Minister expressed deep appreciation for the exceptional cleanliness drive organized by the citizens of Vadodara to welcome him. He thanked the local population for their profound spirit of service during this festival of development. "Today I have come among you to give further momentum to the journey of a Viksit Bharat," asserted Shri Modi. Outlining the 'Saptadhara' (seven streams) resolution announced at the Red Fort, the Prime Minister emphasized the critical need for rapid connectivity through the Gati Shakti initiative, marking the historic completion of the 2800-kilometer Dedicated Freight Corridor. He praised Vadodara as the true city of Gati Shakti University where the final links of this massive project were connected. "This historic task for 21st-century India has been accomplished," affirmed Shri Modi. Showcasing the accelerated momentum post-2014, the Prime Minister celebrated the successful execution of the Eastern and Western Dedicated Freight Corridors which are now fundamentally transforming the commercial landscape. He noted that these networks are rapidly becoming the bedrock of the nation's commerce. "We gave it momentum and demonstrated it by completing the work of the 2800-kilometer corridor," asserted Shri Modi. Elaborating on the transformative impact of this new national lifeline, the Prime Minister detailed how separating passenger and freight traffic allows over 430 cargo trains to run daily, slashing a 30-hour truck journey to just 10-12 hours. He explained that covering 100 kilometers now takes less than half the previous time, saving fuel, reducing freight charges, and protecting the environment. "The investment was made on one track, but it yielded numerous benefits," noted Shri Modi. Highlighting the profound agricultural benefits of the expanded logistics network, the Prime Minister explained how farmers across Eastern and Western India can now swiftly transport perishable goods to larger markets. He emphasized that sensitive items like seasonal flowers, vegetables, and fruits are finally reaching consumers and mandis right on time. "This has immensely benefited the farmers," remarked Shri Modi. Sharing a remarkable operational milestone on the new corridor, the Prime Minister praised the successful deployment of a double-stack container freight train from JNPT Port to Vadodara. He pointed out that this single train journey efficiently transported cargo equivalent to more than 250 trucks straight from Mumbai. "Large quantities of goods will now be able to reach from one corner of the country to another rapidly," observed Shri Modi. The Prime Minister underscored his administration's continuous rollout of new rail services that are finally penetrating isolated



tribal regions across Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra. He celebrated a newly launched train that will immensely benefit commuters traveling to Chhota Udepur and Alirajpur. "Rail is now reaching those parts of India where it had not reached for decades," asserted Shri Modi. Detailing the massive macroeconomic ripple effects of infrastructure development spanning roads, metros, airports, and gas pipelines, the Prime Minister cited the historic railway budget of over 2.75 lakh crore rupees as a primary engine for generating millions of employment opportunities. He explained that building houses for the poor and expanding ports naturally incubates new industries and businesses in the surrounding areas. "The expenditure happening on the modernization of the railways is creating thousands upon thousands of new jobs," affirmed Shri Modi. Transitioning to the manufacturing pillar of his 'Saptadhara' vision, the Prime Minister lauded Vadodara's 150-year legacy of industrial evolution from textiles to petrochemicals, and its massive growth as an MSME hub over the last two decades. He proudly acknowledged the city's crowning achievement as the birthplace of India's first domestically manufactured military transport aircraft. "The first flight of the C295 aircraft has already seen the sky here," remarked Shri Modi. Illustrating the country's surging industrial capacity over the past decade, the Prime Minister presented robust statistics showcasing India's transformation into a major global manufacturer of modern railway coaches, wagons, and locomotive engines. He specified that since 2014, the nation has successfully produced 50,000 modern coaches and introduced nearly 2.5 lakh wagons to the railway network. "India has become a major manufacturer of rail coaches, metro coaches, and rail engines," noted Shri Modi. Championing the drive toward total self-reliance across critical supply chains, the Prime Minister highlighted the domestic production of solar PV modules which slashed previously exorbitant import costs and built a massive 200 GW capacity. He celebrated the success of the Kadana Dam floating solar project and the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, which has empowered 55 lakh families nationwide, including 11 lakh in Gujarat, to become electricity producers and generate immense local employment. "India is now writing a new saga of manufacturing from chip to ship," asserted Shri Modi. Dismissing the echoes of lies propagated by detractors, the Prime Minister expressed deep faith in the youth who witnessed the government's intense focus across solar, wind, hydro, and nuclear sectors. He praised the younger generation for recognizing the massive strides being made in national development. "The youth of India walks with the roar of truth," affirmed Shri Modi.' Emphasizing the strategic necessity of a robust electric ecosystem to power emerging technologies like data centers and artificial intelligence, the Prime Minister confirmed that international agreements for uranium, critical minerals, and rare earth elements are being actively secured. He stated that creating this essential infrastructure is critical if the nation is to become a global superpower in AI. "All this hard work is being done solely to secure the future of the country's youth," asserted Shri Modi. Addressing the shifting paradigms of the modern global economy, the Prime Minister stressed that traditional degrees are no longer sufficient, prompting a comprehensive restructuring of the National Education Policy to prioritize continuous skill enhancement. He noted that teaching and training institutions are being entirely remolded to meet the evolving demands of the world. "It has become a massive necessity for the youth to possess skills and for those skills to be upgraded," observed Shri Modi.' Fulfilling a crucial commitment made from the Red Fort, the Prime Minister announced a landmark initiative to provide free coaching for competitive exams, aiming to alleviate the immense financial strain on poor and middle-class households. He assured that the administration will take direct responsibility for supporting the aspirations of students preparing for their careers. "The government itself will take care of the coaching of our youth," affirmed Shri Modi.' Recognizing artificial intelligence as a foundational capability transcending the IT sector, the Prime Minister unveiled plans for a massive national campaign to cultivate AI-proficient youth capable of driving innovations in agriculture, healthcare, and robotics. He emphasized that mastering these cuttingedge tools will boost manufacturing productivity and spark innovative startups. "We want our younger generation to be ready for AI," asserted Shri Modi.Concluding with a powerful call to action, the Prime Minister urged the nation to capitalize on this unprecedented demographic dividend, maintaining an unwavering focus on transforming the country by 2047. He ended his address by offering his best wishes for the ongoing development works. "We must relentlessly ensure India becomes developed," affirmed Shri Modi.

NHRC Notice After Snakebite Death in UP Hospital

NEW DELHI

The NHRC has issued notices to all state governments and Union Territory administrations following a complaint alleging that a youth died after being bitten by a snake due to medical negligence and a lack of emergency life-saving infrastructure at a district hospital in Uttar Pradesh's Chitrakoot, officials said. According to the proceedings of the case dated September 1, the complainant alleged that despite being brought to the district health facility immediately after the snakebite, the victim was denied timely emergency care, including anti-snake venom (ASV) and ventilator or ICU support, and was instead referred to Prayagraj without adequate emergency transit support, resulting in his death en route. The complainant has alleged that the absence of basic life-saving medical supplies at a main district hospital violates the fundamental Right to Health and Life under Article 21 of the Constitution, officials said on Tuesday.

Noida student gets preventive notice for participating in Jantar Mantar agitation

NOIDA

A Gautam Buddha University (GBU) student was issued a notice asking him to furnish a personal bond of Rs 5 lakh as a preventive measure to ensure that he maintained peace, after police alleged that he encouraged other students to join the recent CJP-led protest at Delhi's Jantar Mantar, officials said on Tuesday. A "peace-bond notice" is not a punishment or a declaration that a person is guilty. It is a preventive step under which authorities can require a person to give a financial undertaking that they will maintain peace and avoid activities that could lead to a disturbance. The notice issued to the student was later revoked, police said.

The student, Akshat Tripathi, however, denied the allegations and said he had participated in the protest peacefully and was not attending university classes at the time.

Go-Around for Air India Flight Carrying Rahul Gandhi

Safely lands in Lucknow on second attempt

LUCKNOW

An Air India flight carrying Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi made a go-around shortly before landing at Lucknow airport. The aircraft subsequently landed safely on its second attempt. The incident took place on Tuesday. Rahul Gandhi was travelling on Air India flight AI-1717, which departed from Delhi for Lucknow. The flight took off from Delhi at around 2:20 p.m. and was scheduled to reach Lucknow at approximately 3:30 p.m. As the aircraft approached Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport in Lucknow for landing, the pilot aborted the first landing attempt. After coming close to the runway, the aircraft climbed back to a safe altitude and prepared for another approach. During the second attempt, the flight landed safely without any problems. In aviation, a "go-around" is a standard safety procedure. If, during the landing phase, the pilot determines that runway conditions, weather, air traffic, or other circumstances do not permit a safe landing, the initial landing attempt is discontinued and the aircraft is taken back to a safe altitude. The pilot then makes another landing attempt when conditions are favourable. In this case too, the pilot discontinued the first landing attempt and climbed the aircraft back to a safe altitude. The aircraft subsequently landed safely on the second approach. Rahul Gandhi and all other passengers on board disembarked safely. After arriving in Lucknow, Rahul Gandhi is scheduled to travel to Rae Bareli in Uttar Pradesh. During his two-day visit, he is expected to meet local traders and residents and attend a meeting of the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) on September 9.

Dedicated Freight Corridors

Moving India's Growth Story Forward

A high-capacity freight network connecting industries, ports and markets with speed and efficiency

NEW DELHI

The Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFC) have emerged as a transformative infrastructure initiative, creating a dedicated railway network designed exclusively for freight movement. Built to separate freight operations from conventional mixed-traffic routes, DFCs are enhancing capacity, improving efficiency and strengthening India's logistics ecosystem. Spread across 2,843 Route Kilometres, the DFC network comprises two major corridors, the 1,337 RKm Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) and the 1,506 RKm Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC). Together, these corridors form India's freight backbone, connecting industrial regions, production centres, logistics hubs and ports through a high-capacity railway network. While DFCs account for around 4% of the Indian Railways network, they handle nearly 14% of the total freight traffic, reflecting the scale, efficiency and impact of this dedicated freight infrastructure. The journey of Dedicated Freight Corridors has been built through progressive commissioning of sections over the years. The first operational sections marked a major milestone in 2018, with the opening of the 190 km Ateli–Phulera section on the WDFC and the 194 km New Khurja–New Bhadan section on the EDFC. This was followed by key milestones including the commissioning of the New Bhaupur–New Khurja section of EDFC and the Rewari–Madar section of WDFC in 2020–21. With successive sections becoming operational, the DFC network has evolved into a dedicated freight backbone connecting industries, ports and markets across India. The Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) covers key states including Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar. It plays a crucial role in supporting India's industrial growth by enabling the movement of essential bulk commodities such as coal, cement, steel, iron ore, fertilisers and foodgrains. Designed for heavy-haul freight operations, EDFC strengthens supply chains for key sectors including energy, manufacturing and infrastructure. The Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC) covers Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra and connects Dadri to JNPT. The corridor strengthens India's export and manufacturing ecosystem by improving port-to-hinterland connectivity and supporting movement of containers, automobiles, foodgrains, engineering goods and other industrial cargo. A major capability of DFC is its long-haul freight infrastructure. The Western Dedicated Freight Corridor is the world's only dedicated freight corridor with the capability to operate long-haul double-stack container trains on an electrified network, enabling higher freight volumes and improving efficiency in long-distance logistics movement. The scale and operational performance of DFCs are reflected in the completion of more than 5 lakh freight train trips since the beginning of operations. This includes around 2.88 lakh trips on EDFC and 2.32 lakh trips on WDFC, highlighting the consistent utilisation of both corridors. Today, the fully commissioned DFC network handles more than 430 freight trains every day, demonstrating its capability to support large-scale freight movement across the country. The corridors have been designed for longer trains, higher axle-load capability and improved freight productivity, enabling more efficient transportation of goods. Beyond freight movement, DFCs are strengthening India's logistics ecosystem by improving supply chain reliability, supporting smoother passenger operations through capacity release on conventional routes and enhancing connectivity between industries, markets and ports. By enabling more efficient freight movement and reducing logistics constraints, DFCs are also contributing towards improving India's global competitiveness by supporting more efficient export logistics. With modern infrastructure, advanced operations and stronger connectivity, the Dedicated Freight Corridors are playing a vital role in moving India towards a faster, smarter and future-ready freight network.

CEC Gyanesh Kumar to visit Gujarat on Sept 10-11, focus on electoral transparency

GANDHINAGAR

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar will undertake his first visit to Gujarat as the head of the Election Commission of India on September 10 and 11, with interactions with Booth Level Officers (BLOs), Electoral Literacy Club (ELC) members and citizens planned around the theme of "Transparency from Roll to Poll". Kumar, who took charge as the 26th Chief Election Commissioner in February last year, will begin his two-day visit by paying tribute to Mahatma Gandhi at Sabarmati Ashram. He will then visit the historic Adalaj Stepwell as part of a programme introducing him to Gujarat's cultural heritage. On the evening of September 10, CEC Kumar is scheduled to visit the Ahmedabad Management Association (AMA) premises, where he will interact with citizens on "Conducting Elections in India – The World's Largest Democracy". On September 11, the CEC will interact with more than 500 BLOs from across the state at Atal Kalam Hall at Gujarat University. The programme is intended to focus on the role of grassroots election officials in maintaining transparency in the electoral process. CEC Kumar will later interact with more than 1,000 members of Electoral Literacy Clubs at the AUDA Auditorium in Shela. The programme will include an introduction to the vision, mission and key features of the recently launched ELC 2.0. The Election Commission has been promoting ELCs as platforms for familiarising young citizens with electoral processes and democratic values.An information session on ECINET, the Election Commission's one-stop digital platform for election-related information and services, will also be held.

CEO Delhi clarifies electoral roll process amid AAP allegations on Raghav Chadha's inclusion

NEW DELHI

The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Delhi, on Monday issued a detailed press note clarifying the process of inclusion, deletion and modification of names in the electoral rolls, following allegations raised by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) regarding the name of Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha in the draft electoral roll of Assembly constituency-39 (Rajinder Nagar). In its press note, the CEO's office said that names of electors are added, deleted or modified in the electoral roll only on the basis of Form-6, Form-7 and Form-8 respectively. These forms are processed by the Electoral Registration Officers strictly in accordance with the Representation of the People



Act, 1950, the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, and instructions issued by the Election Commission of India. Any eligible citizen can submit these forms at any time during the year.

The CEO informed that the draft electoral roll for Delhi was published on August 31, 2026, on the basis of Enumeration Forms submitted by electors to Booth Level Officers during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) period from June 30 to August 17, 2026. The draft list is available for viewing and download on the CEO Delhi website. The claims and objections period is currently underway from August 31 to September 30, 2026. During this window, electors who could not submit their forms earlier or who wish to seek inclusion, deletion or correction can file the relevant forms. Form-6 is for enrolment of new electors, Form-7 for objecting to inclusion or seeking deletion, and Form-8 for shifting of residence, correction of particulars or other modifications. Applications can be submitted physically to the Electoral Registration Officer, Assistant Electoral Registration Officer, Booth Level Officers (BLO) or at designated polling stations, as well as online through the voters.eci.gov.in portal or the ECINET mobile app.

The press note further said that the electoral roll remained frozen from June 16 to August 31, 2026, for the preparation of the SIR. During this period, approximately 2.14 lakh Form-6 applications (apart from Forms 7 and 8) were received. In the first eight days of the claims and objections period alone (up to September 7), another 25,011 Form-6 applications were submitted. As on September 8, around 700 forms across various Assembly constituencies had already been approved by the Electoral Registration Officers for inclusion of names. The CEO clarified that all approved additions will be published in the supplementary electoral roll on November 4, 2026, while modifications and deletions will be reflected against the existing serial numbers in the updated roll. The Election Commission reiterated its commitment to a transparent, participative and inclusive revision process, ensuring that "no eligible citizen is left out while no ineligible person is included in the Electoral Roll."

Anganwadis across UP were in disarray under previous govt, says Yogi; hikes honorarium for workers

AYODHYA

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday claimed Anganwadi centres in the state were in dilapidated condition and utter disarray during the tenure of the previous government, as he announced a hike in honorarium for workers and helpers engaged at these facilities. "Nine years ago, Anganwadi centres were in dilapidated condition and in complete disarray. They were plagued by the dishonesty of the erstwhile government, while it was Anganwadi workers who had to face flak. The nutritious meals meant for children did not reach Anganwadi centres.

"The meal services were operated by a liquor mafia, who had such reach and influence, that nobody dared to check him," Adityanath said, without taking any names.

EDITORIAL

Degrees Are Rising, But Are Opportunities Keeping Pace?

Education has long been regarded as one of the strongest pathways to personal growth and economic progress. Across India, more young people are entering colleges, universities and professional institutions than ever before. This expansion is an encouraging sign of a society that increasingly values knowledge and skills. Yet, as the number of graduates grows, an important question deserves attention: are opportunities for meaningful employment expanding at the same pace?

A degree remains valuable. It can provide students with subject knowledge, analytical ability and a foundation for professional growth. However, the modern workplace increasingly expects more than academic qualifications. Employers across sectors are looking for communication skills, problem-solving abilities, digital competence, teamwork and adaptability. The gap between what students learn in classrooms and what workplaces require can therefore become a significant challenge.

This does not mean that higher education is failing. Rather, it highlights the need for education and employment ecosystems to evolve together. Universities can strengthen practical learning through internships, industry projects, apprenticeships, fieldwork and exposure to real-world problems. Such experiences can help students understand how their academic knowledge applies beyond examinations.

The changing nature of technology also makes continuous learning essential. Artificial intelligence, automation, digital platforms and new business models are reshaping many occupations. Students entering the workforce today may change roles several times during their careers. The ability to learn, unlearn and acquire new skills will therefore become increasingly important.

At the same time, opportunities should not be measured only by the number of conventional salaried jobs. Entrepreneurship, freelancing, emerging industries, research, creative professions and skilled services are creating new forms of work. A supportive environment can help young people explore these pathways while maintaining appropriate standards of training and professional development.

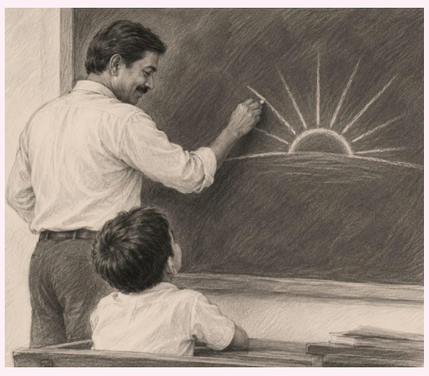
Industry also has an important role. Regular interaction between employers and educational institutions can help identify emerging skill requirements and update curricula accordingly. Businesses can contribute through apprenticeships, mentorship programmes, internships and practical training. Such partnerships can make the transition from campus to workplace smoother.

Students, too, can take greater ownership of their professional development. Academic performance is important, but building communication skills, digital literacy, practical experience and a willingness to keep learning can significantly strengthen employability.

India's growing educated population represents a major opportunity. The objective should not simply be to produce more graduates, but to ensure that education equips them to contribute confidently and productively to a changing economy.

Degrees open doors, but skills, adaptability and experience help people move through them. The challenge ahead is to bring education and opportunity closer together so that every qualification has the potential to become a meaningful starting point for a fulfilling career.

SUNRISE ON THE BLACKBOARD



A word first stirred in my mother's lap
my teacher gave it wings
and introduced me to the sky.
Across the dark forehead of a blackboard,
he drew the first white strokes of dawn
and taught my unwritten fate
a different alphabet.
With letters for a chisel,
he carved away the stone in me
until the human being emerged.
At the loom of time,
he gathered the loose threads of dreams
and wove them into wings for tomorrow.
Like a lamp,
he never spoke of what the flame consumed
he was content to leave a sunrise
in another pair of eyes.
He did not erase my failures
he turned their scars into the ink of victory.
He did not walk the road for me
he taught my footsteps to become a compass.
Beyond the arithmetic of marks,
he taught me the grammar of being human
beyond the margins of textbooks,
he opened the unwritten book of life.
And when I reached the summit,
he remained somewhere below
the invisible step beneath my ascent,
the unnamed presence within my triumph.
Teacher, what flowers could repay such a gift?
I have only the person you helped me become.
So I place that self before you
your lesson made flesh,
your faith given footsteps,
your quiet signature upon my destiny.
And while that handwriting remains,
my life will be the poem
I keep writing in your honour.

..: Dr. Peruka Raju :..
National Poet
7810032847

THE SANCTUARY OR THE RUINS: OUR FINAL CHOICE BEFORE NATURE CLOSES THE BOOK

A Call to Action for Environmental Stewardship, Systemic Reform, and Lifestyle Transformation



BY SAMUDRALA KIRAN

Mother Nature is not a decoration around human life; she is the condition that makes human life possible. The air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, the climate we depend on, and the stability we often take for granted all come from a living planet that has, for generations, quietly supported us. Yet that support is not limitless. Every choice we make today writes the climate our children will breathe tomorrow. We can hand them a living sanctuary, or a sanctuary in ruins. Mother Nature is not a luxury to preserve—she is our life-support system. Protect her today, or leave our children with no tomorrow. The next generation will inherit either our care or our neglect.

This reality becomes impossible to ignore when observing the humanitarian crises unfolding around us. The human cost of environmental instability is being written in floods, landslides, destroyed homes, displaced families, and shattered livelihoods. Assam faced a devastating flood season that affected hundreds of thousands of people, damaged vast stretches of farmland, disrupted infrastructure, and pushed countless families into relief camps. Reports described a disaster that was not just a natural event, but a severe social emergency, with swelling rivers and submerged villages drowning agricultural lands. In Nepal, deadly floods and mudslides along the Himalayan border brought even more tragedy, with large-scale loss of life, missing persons, and communities cut off in an instant. In times of such disasters, rather than waiting for someone to come and rescue us, the key to protecting ourselves lies simply in protecting our nature.

What makes these calamities deeply disturbing is that they reveal a pattern of structural collapse. Floods in Assam and Nepal are not caused merely by heavy rainfall; they are supercharged by global climate disruptions like the El Niño effect. El Niño alters ocean temperatures and global atmospheric circulation, triggering chaotic climate extremes—dumping catastrophic rainfall on vulnerable topographies in one season while inducing severe multi-year droughts in another. In Assam, scientists have linked the severity of flooding to extensive tree felling, river siltation, hill cutting, and floodplain encroachment. When forests are cleared, land loses its capacity to absorb rainfall; when wetlands disappear, natural water buffers are lost; and when rivers are choked, floodwaters gain destructive velocity.

While surface waters submerge rural regions, an equally terrifying, invisible crisis is unfolding beneath our cities: major urban centers across India are rapidly running out of groundwater. Day by day, water tables beneath metropolises like Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, and Delhi are collapsing to historic depths. Rapid urbanization has paved over vital recharge zones with concrete, turning torrential rain into destructive urban runoff instead of allowing subterranean aquifers to replenish. Millions of deep borewells extract groundwater far faster than natural hydrological cycles can restore it, hurtling major cities toward a catastrophic "Day Zero" where municipal taps run dry. We face a mind-bending ecological paradox: populations drowning under unmanaged floodwaters above ground while starving of safe drinking water below.

Beyond the immediate shock of floods and droughts lies a slower, deadlier degradation driven by our toxic habits: severe air and water pollution. Industrial smokestacks, the endless exhaust of millions of fuel-powered vehicles, and open waste burning spew harmful emissions that turn our skies into suffocating smog bowls, driving respiratory health crises and accelerating global climate shifts. Simultaneously, industrial runoff laced with heavy metals, untreated municipal sewage, and agricultural pesticides are dumped into our freshwater streams, rivers, and lakes. Water pollution systematically destroys aquatic ecosystems, contaminates the human food chain, and sharply limits our remaining reserves of clean drinking water.

This is why environmental responsibility must be recognized as a fundamental pillar of public safety and national security. Treating environmentalism as an abstract concept reserved for activists ignores the direct human consequences of ecological neglect. Pollution ruins public health, deforestation destabilizes local rainfall, poor waste management chokes municipal drainage, and carbon emissions exacerbate global weather volatility. Saving Mother Nature is not a side project; it is the absolute foundation of social survival.

Crucially, these recurring environmental calamities can be averted only if humans undergo a fundamental lifestyle transformation. Technology, regulation, and infrastructure projects are insufficient if personal habits remain wasteful and destructive. The climate emergency is directly fueled by hyper-consumerism, energy over-reliance, and a culture of disposable convenience. True ecological stability requires individuals to shift toward conscious living by minimizing personal carbon footprints, reducing single-use materials, conserving energy, adopting Earth-centric diets, avoiding food waste, and actively choosing public transit or walking over fuel-powered vehicles.

To avert total planetary breakdown, every citizen, institution, and government must align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the global community. Achieving SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 15 (Life on Land) is no longer an abstract policy exercise—it is a mandatory blueprint for human continuity.

At the household level, people must reduce plastic use, conserve water, and segregate waste. Schools should teach practical environmental skills, while communities protect lakes and forests. Businesses must adopt sustainable practices, and governments should enforce environmental laws and protect floodplains.

This message demands an irreversible shift in how we perceive our place on Earth. We often imagine environmental destruction as a slow, distant threat that future technology will easily resolve. But the convergence of supercharged El Niño events, dry city wells, toxic skies, polluted rivers, and devastating floods proves that nature's limits are snapping right now.

Future generations did not vote for the deforestation of our mountain ranges, the pollution of our air and water, the depletion of subterranean aquifers, or the warming of our oceans. Yet they are the ones who will inherit the fallout. Environmental stewardship is ultimately a matter of intergenerational justice. It challenges the present generation to act with enough wisdom and courage to stop passing environmental debt down to our children.

That duty cannot be fulfilled by speeches or temporary relief drives alone; it requires sustained structural and behavioral change. It means cleaning our air and protecting river basins before they overflow, recharging groundwater reserves before wells dry up, preserving ancient forests before they disappear, and curbing industrial emissions before climate feedback loops become irreversible. Environmental care must become an integral part of daily life—just like personal hygiene, health, and family care.

If we protect nature today, we protect generations we will never meet. If we restore ecosystems today, we reduce human suffering tomorrow. By choosing active stewardship over passive neglect, we deliver the only gift that truly matters—a living, thriving, and resilient world. That is the ultimate social responsibility, and the only path forward worthy of human dignity.

THE BLUE ECONOMY
A NEW ENGINE OF INDIA'S GROWTH

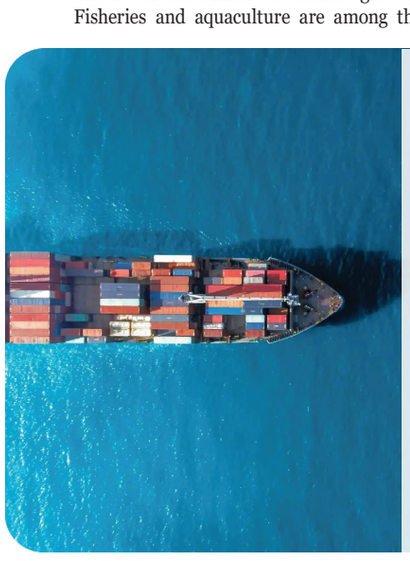
India's long coastline and rich marine resources offer immense potential for a strong Blue Economy. It covers fisheries and aquaculture, ports and shipping, coastal tourism, renewable energy, ocean research and marine technology. The ocean supports livelihoods, food security and trade while creating new opportunities for sustainable growth and innovation.

Oceans are no longer seen only as shipping routes and fishing grounds. They are increasingly recognised as important drivers of sustainable economic growth. Fisheries and aquaculture are among the key sectors of the Blue Economy, while scientific research and innovation are opening new opportunities in marine biotechnology, ocean observation, renewable energy and sustainable aquaculture.

Fisheries and aquaculture are vital to India's economy and the livelihoods of millions of people. Their growth and modernisation can strengthen food security, rural livelihoods, exports and the sustainable use of marine resources. These efforts also support India's long-term development goals.

India's fisheries and aquaculture sector sustains around 3 crore fishers and fish farmers and generates employment across its value chain. The country is the world's second-largest fish producer, with an 8% share of global production. It is also the second-largest aquaculture producer and a major producer and exporter of shrimp and fish.

India's fish production has grown significantly, reaching 197.75 lakh tonnes in 2024–25. The sector is becoming more modern through better hatcheries, fishing facilities, cold chains, processing units and improved market linkages. The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana supports modern aquaculture, fishing harbours, fish landing centres, processing and marketing infrastructure.



"Responsible development, supported by technology, skills, investment and environmental protection, can make the ocean a powerful engine of growth for future generations."

Modernising fisheries and aquaculture can contribute to food security, improve rural livelihoods, expand exports, encourage innovation and promote sustainable growth. Technology is also helping farmers improve productivity and use resources more efficiently.

Modern methods such as Recirculatory Aquaculture Systems and Biofloc technology are creating new opportunities in fish farming. They can improve productivity, reduce water use and support sustainable aquaculture. Biofloc technology also helps maintain water quality and recycle nutrients, making fish farming more efficient.

India's seafood industry is expanding its presence in international markets. Growing demand for Indian seafood is creating opportunities for fishers, fish farmers, processors and businesses. Better processing, packaging, value addition and market access can further strengthen the sector and increase benefits for coastal communities.

Ports, shipping and maritime trade are another important part of the Blue Economy. A large share of India's trade by volume moves through seaports. Modern ports, efficient logistics and better connectivity can reduce transport costs and strengthen India's position in global trade. The Sagarmala programme supports port modernisation, connectivity, coastal shipping and port-led development.

India's coastline and islands also have considerable potential for coastal and marine tourism. Beaches, islands, mangroves, coral reefs and coastal heritage attract visitors and create opportunities for local communities. Boating, diving, cruises and nature tourism can generate employment and income. At the same time, tourism must be developed responsibly to protect coastal areas and marine life.

Healthy coastal ecosystems are valuable natural assets. Mangroves, seagrasses and other coastal habitats support biodiversity, provide breeding grounds for marine life and protect shorelines from storms and erosion. They also store carbon, known as blue carbon. India's MISHTI initiative promotes the conservation and restoration of mangroves and supports coastal resilience.

The ocean also offers opportunities for clean energy and advanced technology. Offshore wind, wave and tidal energy are being explored as potential sources of renewable power. India has significant offshore wind potential along the coasts of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu. Ocean research is also supporting work in desalination, deep-sea exploration, marine technology and ocean observation.

Artificial intelligence is emerging as a useful tool in the Blue Economy. AI can help analyse ocean data, monitor marine ecosystems, improve weather and wave forecasting, assess fish stocks, optimise shipping routes and improve port operations. In fisheries and aquaculture, it can support monitoring of water quality, fish health and production, making activities safer and more efficient.

The Deep Ocean Mission is strengthening India's capabilities in deep-sea research and technology. The Samudrayaan project is developing technologies for human exploration of the deep ocean. These efforts can expand scientific knowledge, advance marine technology and help India understand and responsibly use its ocean resources.

The Blue Economy can create employment across a wide range of sectors. Fisherfolk, fish farmers, boat builders, port workers, shipping professionals, tourism operators, scientists and technology experts all depend directly or indirectly on marine activities. Investment in infrastructure, skills, technology and market access can create new opportunities, particularly for coastal communities.

The ocean is also important for food and nutrition. Fish provides valuable protein and essential nutrients to millions of people. Strengthening responsible fisheries and aquaculture can improve food security while supporting communities that depend on these activities. Economic development, however, must go hand in hand with environmental protection.

India's maritime future has both economic and strategic importance. With its long coastline and favourable location in the Indian Ocean, India has significant opportunities in the Blue Economy. Responsible development, supported by technology, skills, investment and environmental protection, can make the ocean a powerful engine of growth for future generations.



DR. KRISHNA KUMAR VEPAKOMMA
Professor & Principal (Retd.)
Columnist

Delhi: Two shooters injured in gunfight with Himanshu Bhau gang in Rohini

NEW DELHI:

Two alleged shooters linked to gangster Himanshu Bhau's gang were injured in a gunfight with Delhi Police in Rohini, while three suspects, including a juvenile, were apprehended on Tuesday night, police sources said.

The sources said that the accused were allegedly involved in the murder of a property dealer named Pramod in Narela when he was going to gym.

The encounter took place when a team of the Rohini district police's Special Staff intercepted the suspects in connection with the murder, they said.

Punjab govt to implement 'no work, no pay' as employees extend pen-down till Sep 11

CHANDIGARH:

Hours after Punjab ministerial employees announced extension of their pen-down till September 11, the state government on Tuesday decided to implement 'no work, no pay'. Punjab Sanjha Mulazam Manch leader Sukhchain Singh Khera said the pen-down strike has been extended till Friday. Employees working in various government offices including the civil secretariat, directorates, and district-level offices, are participating in the strike, he said, adding that the government has not yet invited protesting employees to discuss their issues.

U'khand HC Orders Clean Water in Nainital

NAINITAL:

The Uttarakhand High Court on Tuesday directed local authorities to ensure clean drinking water and sound medical facilities for the residents while hearing a case involving the deaths caused by contaminated drinking water in Jyolikot and surrounding villages. Describing the situation as an "epidemic," a division bench comprising Justice Manoj Kumar Tiwari and Justice Siddharth Sah directed the Nainital district magistrate to personally oversee relief operations. The bench also directed the secretary to take an early decision on the proposal to set up a water testing laboratory in the Kumaon region.

Haryana Government transfers 16 IAS, 10 HCS officers with immediate effect

CHANDIGARH



The Haryana Government has ordered the transfer and posting of 16 IAS and 10 HCS officers with immediate effect. An order in this regard was issued by Chief Secretary Sh. Anurag Rastogi.

Sh. Rajeev Ranjan, Principal Secretary, Labour Department, has been posted as Principal Secretary, Fisheries Department, in addition to his present duties.

Amneet P. Kumar has been posted as Principal Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department, Principal Secretary, Department of Future, and Principal Secretary, Sports Department.

Sh. Shekhar Vidyarthi, Commissioner & Secretary, Women & Child Development Department and Director General, Fire Services, has been posted as Chairman, Haryana State Pollution Control Board, in addition to his present duties.

Sh. J. Ganesan has been posted as Commissioner & Secretary, Citizen Resources Information Department, Chief Executive Officer for the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for Haryana AI Development Project (HAIDP) and Haryana Clean Air Project for Sustainable Development (HCAPSD), Director General and Secretary of Town & Country Planning and Director General, Urban Estates, Haryana.

Sh. Ashok Kumar Meena has been posted as Commissioner & Secretary, Urban Local Bodies Department and Commissioner & Secretary, Foreign Cooperation Department.

Sh. Chander Shekhar Khare has been posted as Managing Director of HAFED and Director General and Secretary of Housing for All Department.

Sharandeep Kaur Brar has been posted as Director General and Secretary, Urban Local Bodies Department and Mission Director, State Urban Livelihood Mission and State Urban Development Authority, Haryana.

Sh. Mani Ram Sharma has been posted as Secretary, Revenue & Disaster Management Department and Chief Settlement Commissioner.

Sh. Rajnarayan Kaushik has been posted as Managing Director of HARTRON and the Haryana State Warehousing Corporation Limited.

Sh. Amit Khatri has been posted as Director, Agriculture, Managing Director of Haryana Seeds Development Corporation, Director and Special Secretary of Archaeology & Museums, and Chief Executive Officer of Haryana Kaushal Rozgar Nigam Ltd.

Sh. Vinay Pratap Singh has been posted as Administrator of the Trade Fair Authority of Haryana, Managing Director of the Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation, and Managing Director of the Haryana Financial Corporation.

Sh. Mukul Kumar has been posted as Chief Administrator of Haryana Shaheri Vikas Pradhikaran, Managing Director of Gurugram Metro Rail Ltd. and Haryana Mass Rapid Transport Corporation Ltd., and Director and Special Secretary of Hospitality Department.

Sh. Sushil Sarwan has been posted as Director and Special Secretary of Development & Panchayats and Managing Director of the Haryana State Co-operative Apex Bank Limited.

Sh. Parth Gupta, Director, Sports, Haryana & Special Secretary, Sports Department., Director, Tourism, & Special Secretary, Tourism Department and Managing Director, Haryana Tourism Corporation Limited, has been posted as Director and Special Secretary of Skill Development & Industrial Training, in addition to his present duties.

Sh. Anish Yadav has been posted as Excise & Taxation Commissioner, Special Secretary to the Finance Department, and Managing Director of Haryana International Horticultural Marketing Corporation.

Sh. Vivek Padam Singh has been posted as Administrator of HSVP, Rohtak, and Additional Director of Urban Estate, Rohtak.

Among HCS officers, Yogesh Kumar Mehta has been posted as Secretary of the Haryana Traders Welfare Board and the Haryana State Food Commission.

Nishu Nee Namrata Singal has been posted as Additional Director (Admn.) of Elementary Education and Additional State Project Director of Haryana School Shiksha Pariyojna Parishad.

Virat, OSD to Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Haryana, has been posted as Controller of Printing & Stationery and Additional Secretary, Printing & Stationery Department, in addition to his present duties.

Jagdeep Singh has been posted as Estate Officer, HSVP, Hisar and Land Acquisition Officer, Hisar.

Sandeep Aggarwal has been posted as Additional Director (Admin.) for the Welfare of SC's & BC's.

Rakesh Saini has been posted as Estate Officer-II, HSVP, Gurugram and Land Acquisition Officer, Gurugram.

Anupma Malik has been posted as Estate Officer-I of HSVP, Gurugram.

Suresh Ravesh has been posted as Joint Transport Commissioner.

Neeraj Sharma has been posted as Secretary of the State Police Complaint Authority and Secretary (Legal) for the Haryana Staff Selection Commission.

Myank Verma has been posted as Joint Director (Admn.) for Food & Drugs Administration and Joint Chief Executive Officer for Ayushman Bharat, Haryana Health Protection Authority.

India flags anomalies in new UN map depicting Arunachal, Aksai Chin

The MEA said New Delhi has raised the issue after a new United Nations world map depicted Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin as separate regions between the India-China claim lines.



A newly released United Nations world map has depicted Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin as separate regions positioned between the respective "claim lines" of India and China. New Delhi considers Arunachal Pradesh an integral part of its territory and maintains that Aksai Chin is part of Ladakh.

The Ministry of External Affairs has taken up the "anomalies" with the concerned persons. The move comes days after India voted for a UN General Assembly resolution aimed at promoting equal-area maps, with New Delhi stressing that its support for the resolution should not be interpreted as approval of any specific map.

WHY INDIA SUPPORTED THE UN RESOLUTION

The UN General Assembly adopted the African Union-backed "Correct the Map" resolution on September 4. The initiative calls for greater use of equal-area projections, which are designed to show the relative size of countries and continents more accurately. India supported the resolution because of its emphasis on this cartographic principle. At the same time, New Delhi recorded an explanation of its vote, making clear that the resolution did not validate individual maps or determine how territorial disputes should be portrayed. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal reiterated that position during a press briefing on Tuesday. "We favoured the resolution and voted in favour of the resolution. When the resolution was adopted in the UN General Assembly, we also made a statement where we clarified our position...The resolution is focused on the principle of equal-area maps. It does not endorse any map of any private party or any particular entity," he said. Jaiswal said the objective was to give greater importance to maps that preserve the proportional size of major land masses. "The resolution is focused on the principle of having, giving weightage or giving credence to equal-area maps, so that, as we have said, the equal-area maps project or preserve the relative sizes of continental landmarks." The map was initially released on July 1, as the UN discussions on the resolution were under way. In the map, Arunachal Pradesh is shown without its boundary with Nagaland and appears as a separate region, with Assam and China shown on either side. Aksai Chin is similarly displayed as a separate region. India regards the territory as part of Ladakh.

The UN has not offered an explanation for these specific depictions. The map also uses a dotted line to mark the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir between India and Pakistan. A note alongside the map says the "dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan" and adds that the final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not been agreed upon by the parties.

MEA SAYS VOTE DID NOT APPROVE ANY MAP

India had sought to draw a firm distinction between the UN resolution and the political depiction of borders. "The resolution neither adopts nor authenticates any particular world map, nor does it address political cartography, including international boundaries, disputed territories or place names," Jaiswal said. The ministry had also described India's support as being based on "the underlying principle of promoting equal-area cartographic representation". That clarification is significant in the context of the latest UN map. A resolution encouraging a particular type of map projection does not, in India's view, give that map authority to alter or reinterpret the country's territorial boundaries. Jaiswal said India would not accept representations that it considers inconsistent with its territorial position.

"India's sovereign territory, including the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, must be depicted in accordance with India's official map. Any inaccurate or misleading depiction is unacceptable. Our position on India's sovereignty and territorial integrity is clear, consistent and non-negotiable," he said.

THE MAP DEBATE BEHIND THE RESOLUTION

The push for equal-area maps stems from concerns over distortions created by traditional world-map projections. The Mercator projection, first developed in 1569, was created mainly for navigation because it preserves directions and angles. One of its drawbacks is that areas farther from the equator can appear substantially larger than their actual relative size.

Telangana's Grassroots Campaign Gains Global Spotlight

NEW DELHI

UN Declares International Day Against Child Marriage

India's fight against child marriage has received a major global endorsement, with the United Nations (UN) declaring November 27 the International Day for the Elimination of Child, Early and Forced Marriage. The date carries special significance for India as it marks the day the Government of India launched the 'Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat' campaign in 2024.

Bhuwan Ribhu, founder of Just Rights for Children (JRC), initiated the international call for a dedicated global day to end child marriage. In March 2026, during his address at the United Nations, Bhuwan Ribhu reiterated the call for a UN resolution in the presence of international leaders, including Dr Fatima Maada Bio, First Lady of African nation Sierra Leone, who also supported the initiative. Subsequently, Sierra Leone, backed by 67 nations, including India, led the effort by presenting a resolution to the United Nations General Assembly seeking to designate November 27 as a global day dedicated to ending child marriage. On September 4, the United Nations passed the resolution. During the presentation of the resolution at the United Nations, First Lady of Sierra Leone Dr Fatima Maada Bio made a special mention of JRC in the UN Hall. JRC is one of the world's largest child protection networks and is leading the Child Marriage Free World campaign to end child marriage through law, accountability and collective action. JRC works on bringing together all stakeholders responsible for protecting children. In India, its partners work alongside governments and law-enforcement agencies across 782 districts, mobilising communities, schools, panchayats, women, faith leaders, police, political representatives and vulnerable populations. Working with nine partner organisations across 30 districts in Telangana, JRC has played a key role in preventing 21,472 child marriages in the state over the past three years, as part of a wider effort that has stopped and prevented more than 5,50,000 child marriages in India.

Just Rights for Children founder Bhuwan Ribhu was present with the UN delegation during the adoption of the resolution and was the only civil society representative present. Welcoming the UN declaration, he said in his immediate reaction, "India is the Vishwaguru of child protection today. The Child Marriage Free India campaign, which started first by the children and communities and was subsequently supported and scaled by the Government, with over 25 crore people coming together and taking a pledge on 27th November 2024, has today become an International Day accepted by the world. It is a moment of great pride for all Indians, and I would like to congratulate and thank the children, the community leaders, the faith leaders, and especially my NGO partners whose hard work and dedication made today possible. I would specifically like to mention and thank the Government of India under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Smt Annapurna Devi, for its decisive leadership and commitment. The world is looking at us, and our work has only just begun."

He further added, "Today marks the tipping point, showing that the end of the crime of child marriage is inevitable and imminent. Now is the time for governments globally to provide decisive leadership to end child marriage by 2030 and ensure education, protection and development of every child to realise their full potential. I am grateful to the First Lady of Sierra Leone for her leadership in championing this cause and would also like to thank 67 countries that cosponsored our resolution."

The decline in child marriage is also reflected in Telangana's data. According to the 2019-21 National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5), 23.5% of women aged 20-24 in the state were married before the age of 18. This figure declined to 17.9% in the state according to NFHS-6 (2023-24), compared to 20.1% at the national level. The Government of India has set a target of reducing the prevalence of child marriage in the country by 10% by 2026. With continued efforts at the national and state levels, the prevalence of child marriage in India is expected to fall below 15% by the end of 2026. This progress contributes to the global commitment to eliminate child marriage by 2030, in line with Target 5.3 of the Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender Equality), which calls for the elimination of all harmful practices, including child, early and forced marriage.

India has increasingly taken its efforts beyond its borders. Inspired by the 'Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat' campaign, the 'Child Marriage Free Nepal' campaign was launched in December 2024 through the efforts of JRC. The movement has since expanded to more than 99 countries, with over 250 million people taking pledges to work towards ending child marriage in their respective communities and countries. Between December 2025 and March 2026, JRC also undertook the 100-day 'Child Marriage Free World' campaign, aimed at engaging governments across 100 countries and reaching one lakh schools. The campaign's experiences and recommendations were subsequently taken to international platforms, including the United Nations, as part of efforts to build stronger and more coordinated global action.

CM Khemchand Singh seeks high-level probe into Manipur musician's murder in Delhi

NEW DELHI/IMPHAL



Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh on Tuesday requested his Delhi counterpart Rekha Gupta to expedite a high-level probe into the murder of a musician from the state in the national capital and ensure stringent prosecution of the accused.

The Manipur Chief Minister urged Rekha Gupta to ensure that the investigation is conducted expeditiously and that the culprits responsible for the murder are brought to justice through stringent prosecution. "Should circumstances warrant, the feasibility of transferring the case to an independent, specialised agency such as the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) be proactively explored to reinforce complete public confidence," Manipur Chief Minister's letter to his Delhi counterpart said.

Khemchand Singh's letter to Delhi CM comes a day after Manipuri musician Chongtham Vikram Singh died after allegedly being assaulted by a group of delivery workers and dhaba staff outside his apartment in Delhi after he objected to them making noise.

The Manipur Chief Minister in his letter to Delhi CM said that the tragic and deeply disturbing incident involving the brutal assault and subsequent demise of Vikram Singh, a 54-year-old Manipuri musician residing in New Delhi's Kilokari village during the early hours of Monday.

He said that Vikram Singh is a respected artist belonging to the Meitei community was violently assaulted after he objected to disorderly conduct, shouting, and public alcohol consumption outside his residence.

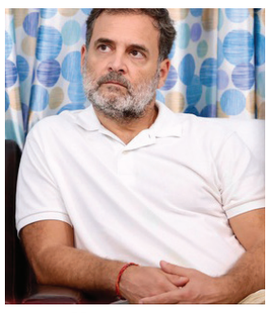
He later succumbed to severe injuries sustained during the attack, Khemchand Singh noted, and said that local police have initiated an investigation and detained certain suspects, the gravity of this crime calls for prompt, stringent, and visible action.

"This heinous incident has triggered widespread grief, anger, and anxiety among the people of Manipur and the wider Northeastern diaspora. Given the prevailing socio-political sensitivities and past concerns surrounding the safety of people from the Northeast residing in metropolitan centres, any perception of laxity, bias, or delay in delivering justice risks exacerbating public unrest," the Manipur Chief Minister said. He added that visible confidence-building and security measures are reinforced across localities with significant populations of students and working professionals from Manipur and the Northeastern states.

"I trust that under your leadership, the Government of NCT of Delhi will act with utmost urgency to ensure that justice is rendered swiftly and decisively to the bereaved family. I shall be deeply grateful for your immediate attention and intervention in this matter," CM Khemchand Singh said in his letter.

Rahul Gandhi speaks to family of Manipur guitarist killed in Delhi

NEW DELHI



Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday spoke to the brother of C Vikram Singh, a guitarist from Manipur who was brutally beaten to death outside his home in Delhi on Monday, and conveyed his deepest condolences to the bereaved family. According to information shared by his office, Gandhi expressed solidarity with the family in their moment of grief. He assured them that their demand for justice would not go unheard. Senior Congress leader Pawan Khera wrote on his X handle, "This afternoon, Leader of the Opposition, Shri Rahul Gandhi, spoke to the brother of C Vikram Singh, a guitarist from Manipur who was brutally beaten to death outside his home in Delhi yesterday, to convey his deepest condolences to the bereaved family. Shri Rahul Gandhi expressed his solidarity with the family and assured them that their demand for justice will not go unheard." C Vikram Singh, who hailed from Manipur and was known as a guitarist, was attacked and killed outside his residence in the national capital. He was allegedly assaulted late on Sunday night after he objected to a group of men making noise and drinking outside his residence. He sustained serious injuries and was rushed to a hospital by his son, where he succumbed to his injuries on Monday morning. Delhi Police have arrested seven men and apprehended a juvenile in connection with the case. The incident has left his family devastated.

Gandhi's conversation with the victim's brother came a day after the killing. During the interaction, the Leader of the Opposition is understood to have listened to the family's concerns and reiterated his support for their pursuit of justice.

The killing of the young musician from Manipur has drawn attention, with the family seeking a thorough investigation and accountability. Gandhi's outreach is seen as an expression of political solidarity with the aggrieved family at a difficult time. Further details about the circumstances of the attack and the progress of the police investigation are awaited.

M3M emerges as highest bidder for prime Noida land parcels at Rs 1850 crore

NOIDA: Realty firm M3M emerged as the highest bidder for a mixed-use land parcel auctioned by the Noida authority, quoting around Rs 1,850 crore for a 12.5-acre plot in Sector 108, sources said on Tuesday. The Sector 108 parcel had a reserve price of Rs 835 crore and attracted a strong interest, with DLF Ltd also participating in the bidding, the sources said. M3M's bid was approximately Rs 1850 crore, they said.

The land parcel is designated for mixed-use development, comprising residential and commercial components, according to the sources.

Malaysian PM says ASEAN haze mechanism in need of review

KUALA LUMPUR

ASEAN needs to review and strengthen its mechanism for tackling transboundary haze, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said on Tuesday as poor air quality persists in the region. The grouping must take the recurring haze problem seriously because it directly affects public health and people's lives and ensure that its existing mechanisms are translated into more effective action against the sources of transboundary haze, Anwar told a press briefing.

"There is room for improvement. I think the ASEAN ministers must seriously look at it, because this is affecting lives, particularly of children and babies, and if we have seen in Serian, it is really concerning," he said, referring to a district in the northern Borneo state of Sarawak where an emergency had been declared after air quality hit hazardous levels.

Following the end of the emergency declaration on Monday, Serian's air quality returned to the hazardous level, with the district recording an Air Pollutant Index (API) reading of 302 early on Tuesday.

India's energy imports from Russia at record high: Kremlin

MOSCOW



Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said on Tuesday that there is no slowdown in India's Russian energy imports which continue to set records.

"I don't want to give you any figures for understandable reasons, but every month we have a new record," Peskov said in a virtual briefing with Indian journalists, ahead of the BRICS Summit to be held in the national capital this week.

He also said the issue of accumulated rupee payments in the India-Russia bilateral trade was gradually being resolved.

Peskov further stated that Russia and India are holding discussions for closer cooperation in the exploration of rare earths, while the issue of Russia selling its Sukhoi Su-57 stealth fighter jet to India is on the bilateral agenda.

Peskov said that the BRICS currency shift was driven by Western pressure, not desire to abandon the dollar.

He pointed out that the use of national currencies is not a de-dollarisation policy. "We do not want to claim any de-dollarisation policy. We're simply doing what better corresponds with our national interests," Peskov told the media.

He further stated that certain countries are using some national currencies as a tool for political pressure. "If they don't let us use their money, we use our own money," Peskov said.

Russia turned to national currencies after being denied right to use the dollar and euro. Russia does not seek "de-dollarisation" and is open to every acceptable method of payment, he added.

Russian President Vladimir Putin will participate in the BRICS summit in New Delhi on September 12-13, where he will promote security, the economy, finance and culture. Putin will also hold bilateral talks with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday, with trade and economy forming a large part of the agenda, he added.

India's BRICS Presidency in 2026, under the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability," comes at a pivotal moment. With an expanded membership comprising Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), along with 10 partner countries, BRICS@21 now has a significantly broader geographic and economic footprint.

For India, this expansion presents a major opportunity to strengthen exports, attract investment, diversify supply chains, promote technology partnerships and contribute to a more inclusive and multipolar global economic order.

The partner countries, including Belarus, Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Cuba, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda, Uzbekistan and Vietnam, further broaden the outreach.



Why India, Australia need to bolster AI ties

NEW DELHI

Australia is building data centre capacity at a pace that exceeds its demand, while India's AI expansion is progressing at a rapid pace that cannot be matched by domestic capacity which creates a natural complementarity that the two countries can tap, according to an article published by the Lowy Institute.

The Australian National AI Plan, released in December 2025, presents Australia as the Indo-Pacific's home for trusted digital infrastructure, citing more than A$100 billion in forecast data centre investment alongside an abundant renewable resource.

Australia is looking at being a regional AI hub with an over A$100 billion in forecast data centre investment along with abundant renewable energy. India offers a suitable opportunity with its fast-growing demand for AI, states the article.

It highlights that a week before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Melbourne in July, India and Japan issued a joint statement on AI, which covers data centres, compute and semiconductors. This approach can be adopted in the case of an Australia-India agreement as well.

"Australia still provides a better case – with surplus land, renewable energy, and a data centre sector still drawing about 2 per cent of national electricity. Energy ministers agreed this year that new data centres must fund additional renewable generation to cover what they consume. Underwriting new generation is financeable only against long-term contracted demand, which could be supplied through a substantial Indian commitment," the article observes.

Indian traders in Kandahar to buy dried-fruit, seek alternate trade routes amid border closures



NEW DELHI

Closure of land routes, costly air freight, limited alternative routes are all adding to the woes of Afghan exporters struggling to send out their wares to the global markets, say reports from Kabul.

Therefore, to ensure smooth import, a group of Indian traders who have travelled to Kandahar to purchase dried fruit now intend to export Afghan dried fruit to New Delhi through alternative routes, Tolo News reported.

Kandahar's growers said that the province's well-known golden raisins were previously exported to India, but that route now remain closed, the report added on Sunday. The "golden" variety, locally known as Abjosh raisins, are made from a grape called Aita.

Farmers dip the grapes in a special solution before spreading them out on prepared grounds for seven days to produce golden raisins.

Much of Kandahar's fresh and dried fruit is exported to neighboring, Arab and European countries, but the recent increase in air freight costs has raised concerns among dried-fruit traders.

One of the traders from India, identified as Anand, told the Afghan news website, "We have been here for three or four days buying dried fruit, and then we send it to New Delhi through other Asian countries. This is our trade with Afghanistan." Official figures earlier suggested that the closure of the Pakistan border on one side and the geopolitical conflicts in West Asia on the other, are affecting Afghanistan's global trade.

Separate reports quoted data showing that Afghan traders began relying on Iran's Chabahar Port, expanded rail corridors through Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, and air freight links to India, as alternative routes. These alternatives provide resilience but at higher costs and with geopolitical risks.

India remains one of Afghanistan's largest trading partners, with bilateral trade reaching $907.85 million in 2025–26 despite Pakistan's route closures.

India mainly imports dry fruits, saffron, and spices, while exporting pharmaceuticals, machinery, and food products. But now, with the war in West Asia and climbing costs in air freight have further affected traders.

Even before the Pakistan-Afghanistan conflict turned deadly last year, leading to the closure of trade routes at the Durand Line, Islamabad created blockages for goods coming from India, meant for Afghanistan. Thus, it was through the Chabahar Port and air corridors that kept commerce alive despite Pakistan's blockades.

Despite Islamabad's strained relation with earlier governments in Kabul, container traffic increased from about 60,500 containers in 2016-2017 to nearly 89,000 containers in 2020-2021, just before the Taliban returned to power, reports said quoting Pakistan Customs data. Following the Taliban's return to power, transit cargo via Pakistan initially recovered, with container traffic reaching 102,886 and cargo valued at $6.7 billion in 2022-2023.

52 Pakistani personnel killed across Balochistan province, claims BLA

QUETTA



The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) has claimed responsibility for 28 operations across different regions in Balochistan over the last seven days targeting Pakistani forces, which has resulted in the deaths of 52 personnel and injuries to several others.In a statement, the BLA said the operations were carried out across the province between September 1 and 7, causing massive casualties among Pakistani forces and damage to infrastructure.

The group also claimed that its fighters had taken control of several checkpoints, vehicles belonging to Pakistani security forces and seized a large quantity of weapons and military equipment. According to the statement, the BLA fighters shot dead Rehmat Saeed, in the Hazar Ganji area of Quetta on September 7, whom the group described as an "agent" of Pakistani Military Intelligence (MI). It said that he was under constant surveillance by its intelligence wing, 'ZIRAB.' "Collaborator Rehmat carried out espionage for the occupying army and accompanied them during regional aggressions," the BLA stated.

On the same day, the group claimed that one security personnel was killed in a sniper attack at the main camp of the Pakistani army at Albat in Kharan. It also said the camp was subsequently targeted with mortar shells, resulting in severe casualties and material damage to the security forces. Furthermore, on the Quetta-Karachi highway at Garari and Mahalbi in Kalat, the BLA said its fighters targeted vehicles of the Saindak "exploitative project" as well as a Pakistani army convoy, causing heavy losses.

As the operation continued, the group said that it blew up and destroyed a rest house used by the Pakistani army with explosives on September 6 in the Kotro area of Jhal Magsi. It said that on the same day, the fighters attacked an airport site used by the Pakistani army at Ghazaband, adjacent to Killa Abdullah, destroying computers, other equipment, and the rest of the building by setting it on fire.

Indian envoy Trivedi, Bangladesh President Alamgir emphasise importance of strengthening ties

DHAKA

India's High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Dinesh Trivedi, made a courtesy call on Bangladesh President Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir at Bangabhaban on Tuesday and discussed ties. During the meeting, Trivedi and Alamgir emphasised the importance of strengthening bilateral ties for the mutual benefit of the people of both countries.

]"High Commissioner Shri Dinesh Trivedi paid a courtesy call on Hon'ble President of Bangladesh H.E. Mr Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir at the Bangabhaban on 08 September 2026. High Commissioner conveyed warm greetings to the President and wished him success for his continued service to the people of Bangladesh", the Indian High Commission in Dhaka said on X. "The discussion underscored the deep-rooted bonds between India and Bangladesh, built on shared history, close cultural ties and people-to-people relations. They emphasised the importance of strengthening the bilateral partnership for the mutual benefit of the peoples of the two sovereign countries," it added.

Last month, President Droupadi Murmu sent a congratulatory message to Alamgir on assuming office as Bangladesh's President.

"I am confident that your long experience of public life and political leadership heralds a successful tenure in service of the people of Bangladesh," President Murmu noted in the message, shared on X by the Indian High Commission.

"India and Bangladesh share a unique relationship, rooted in a shared history of sacrifices, close cultural ties and warm bonds of friendship. In recent times, our bilateral ties have steadily expanded to several areas such as energy, technology, connectivity, youth affairs, health and education. I look forward to working with you further to strengthen the partnership between our two neighbouring countries," the President said in the message.

Alamgir took the oath as the 23rd President of Bangladesh at Bangabhaban on August 21.

Meanwhile, the Indian envoy on Monday expressed optimism that Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman would visit India at the right time, United News of Bangladesh (UNB) reported.

BRICS playing bigger role in new world economic order

NEW DELHI

India's 2026 BRICS Presidency offers strategic opportunities to expand exports, attract investments, strengthen manufacturing and technology partnerships, diversify supply chains, and enhance BRICS influence in the global economy, according to an article. The global economic landscape is undergoing a significant transformation, with emerging economies playing an increasingly influential role in shaping trade, investment, development finance, and international economic governance. At the centre of this transformation is BRICS, which has evolved from a grouping of five major emerging economies into a much broader platform representing the aspirations and economic interests of the Global South,

Russia fulfilling obligations: Kremlin on remaining S-400 deliveries

NEW DELHI

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov on Tuesday confirmed that the delivery of Russia's S-400 Triumf air defence systems to India in 2026 remains on the agenda of discussions between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Narendra Modi during their upcoming meeting in New Delhi on Friday, on the sidelines of the 18th BRICS Summit.

"Russia is capable of fulfilling its obligations, and they will be fulfilled. This issue is being mentioned during the conversations of our two leaders," said Peskov while speaking to Indian media during a virtual briefing hosted by Sputnik India.

In 2018, New Delhi signed a $5.43 billion agreement with Russia to purchase five S-400 air defence systems. The delivery of the two systems remaining under the contract is expected to be completed this year. On March 27, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved the acquisition of additional Russian S-400 air defence missile systems, further underscoring the growing defence cooperation between New Delhi and Moscow.



The Ministry of Defence stated that, for the Indian Air Force, proposals were cleared for the procurement of Medium Transport Aircraft, S-400 Long Range Surface-to-Air Missile System, Remotely Piloted Strike Aircraft and overhaul of Su-30 Aero engine Aggregates. The induction of Medium Transport Aircraft by replacing the transport fleet of AN32 and IL76 will meet the strategic, tactical and operational airlift requirements of the Services, it said.

"The S-400 system will counter enemy long-range air vectors targeting vital areas, while the Remotely Piloted Strike Aircraft will enable undertaking Offensive Counter and Coordinated Air Operations, also providing stealth Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance activities. The overhaul of Su-30 aero engine and its aggregates will increase the service life of the aircraft and fulfil the operational requirement of the Air Force," the Ministry of Defence had stated on March 27.

Meanwhile, on Tuesday, Peskov further stressed the need to advance the long-standing defence cooperation between the two countries and expressed Russia's readiness to share its advanced military equipment with India.

Referring to the BrahMos missile programme, he said the two countries should now explore ways to upgrade the system by adding new capabilities and improving its effectiveness and competitiveness.

Rajnath Singh arrives in Sri Lanka, set to hold talks on defence and maritime cooperation

COLOMBO

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh arrived in Sri Lanka on Tuesday for a three-day official visit to the island nation, aimed at deepening bilateral defence and maritime cooperation.

He was warmly welcomed at Bandaranaike International Airport in Colombo by Sri Lankan Deputy Minister of Defence Aruna Jayasekara and Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Santosh Jha.

"Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath arrived in Colombo on an official visit to Sri Lanka from 08–10 September 2026. He was received at Bandaranaike International Airport by Deputy Minister of Defence Maj Gen Aruna Jayasekara (Retd.) and Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Shri Santosh Jha. Raksha Mantri received a warm and traditional welcome from the Sri Lankan side, reflecting the close and enduring ties between India and Sri Lanka," the Ministry of Defence posted on X.



During his visit, Singh will hold talks with the Lankan leadership on various issues to further strengthen bilateral ties in mutually beneficial areas, including a strong maritime and defence partnership. He will lead a high-level delegation comprising senior officials from the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of External Affairs.

"Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh today left for Sri Lanka on a 3-day visit to the island nation. Leading a high-level delegation, Raksha Mantri will hold talks with the leadership of Sri Lanka on a range of issues to further strengthen traditionally strong and friendly bilateral relations in mutually beneficial areas, including a strong maritime and defence partnership. He will also interact with the Indian diaspora in Colombo during the visit," the Ministry of Defence wrote on X.

Singh said that he looked forward to a "productive engagement" with Sri Lankan leadership during his visit to the island nation. He described Sri Lanka as one of the important partners of India under the Neighbourhood First and MAHASAGAR vision.

Singareni Assures Reliable Power Supply to Telangana

90% of Coal Supply to Meet Telangana's Power Requirements.. Requests Pour In from Across the Country for Singareni Coal...
Yet Telangana's Needs Remain the Top Priority.. 40.51 Lakh Tonnes Supplied to the Power Sector in August – 36.26 Lakh Tonnes to Telangana Alone

SINGARENI BHAVAN

At a time when electricity consumption is increasing across the country and coal requirements of thermal power stations are rising, Singareni is standing firmly by its home state, Telangana. Against the backdrop of increased power demand due to El Niño conditions, several power utilities across the country are looking towards Singareni and requesting coal supplies. Despite such strong demand for Singareni coal, the company continues to accord first priority to Telangana's power requirements.

In accordance with the directions of Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri A. Revanth Reddy and Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister and Energy Minister Shri Bhatti Vikramarka to ensure uninterrupted power supply in the State, Singareni has been continuously supplying coal to thermal power stations in Telangana. By supporting the power sector at crucial times, the company is also contributing significantly to the State's industrial and economic growth.

Although supplying coal to other states offers commercial opportunities, Singareni is following the policy of "the interests of the home state take precedence over the company's commercial interests." Accordingly, the lion's share of its coal production is being allocated to Telangana's requirements, thereby strengthening the State's power sector.

Nine Tonnes Out of Every Ten Tonnes Go to Telangana!

Singareni supplies the coal it produces to public-sector power utilities with which it has long-term Fuel Supply Agreements (FSAs). As part of these arrangements, the company has been supplying coal for several decades to various power utilities in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, thereby helping meet their energy requirements. However, due to the prevailing El Niño conditions in the country, electricity demand has increased significantly even during the monsoon season. Under these circumstances and in accordance with the State Government's directions, Singareni is according the highest priority to Telangana's electricity requirements. Significantly, nearly nine out of every ten tonnes of coal supplied by Singareni to the power sector







are reaching thermal power stations located in Telangana. During August, Singareni supplied 40,51,312 tonnes of coal to power utilities across the country. Of this, as much as 36,25,937 tonnes was transported to power utilities located in Telangana. This means that nearly 90% of the coal supplied to power utilities went to generating stations located in Telangana. On average, Singareni supplied 1,30,687 tonnes of coal per day to thermal power stations, of which 1,16,966 tonnes per day was supplied to thermal power stations in Telangana, thereby meeting the State's energy requirements.

TGGENCO Receives the Highest Share — 50% of Coal Supply

During the previous month, 6,99,661 tonnes of coal was supplied to the Kothagudem Thermal Power Station through 179 railway rakes. This translates into an average supply of 22,570 tonnes per day, transported through an average of about six rakes per day. Similarly, 7,99,017 tonnes of coal was supplied to the Yadadri Thermal Power Station through 203 railway rakes. This works out to an average supply of 25,775 tonnes per day, transported through an average of about seven rakes per day. Singareni also transported 1,02,959 tonnes of coal to the Kakatiya Thermal Power Plant at Bhupalpally. The Bhadradri Thermal Power Plant received 4,14,719 tonnes of coal, at an average of 13,378 tonnes per day. Overall, Singareni transported 20,16,356 tonnes of coal to Telangana GENCO (TGGENCO) during the previous month through 382 railway rakes. Significantly, this constituted 50% of the total coal supplied to power stations in the State.

In addition, Singareni supplied 7,28,164 tonnes of coal to the Ramagundam NTPC plants, which contribute to Telangana's energy requirements, and another 4,15,839 tonnes to the NTPC Telangana plant. The Singareni Thermal Power Plant at Jaipur was supplied with 4,65,579 tonnes of coal.

Other States Seek Singareni Coal

With electricity consumption rising across the country, uninterrupted coal supply to coal-based thermal power stations has become increasingly critical. Under these circumstances, demand for Singareni coal from other states is also increasing.

Several power utilities have approached Singareni seeking coal supplies. These include:

- Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC), West Bengal — 1 million tonnes
- NTECL, Durgapur — 1.2 million tonnes
- NSPCL–Jhajjar (Aravali) — 1 million tonnes
- NTECL, Tamil Nadu — 2 million tonnes

Other power utilities have also requested Singareni to supply coal to their generating stations.

Despite such intense demand, which presents significant commercial opportunities for Singareni, the company is keeping the State's electricity requirements foremost in mind. Accordingly, it is prioritising coal supplies to thermal power stations in Telangana over additional demand from other states.

Naini Coal in Odisha Also Being Utilised for Telangana's Requirements

Coal from Singareni's Naini coal mine in Odisha, where production has commenced, is also being transported to the home state. Singareni has already supplied one railway rake each from Naini to the Singareni Thermal Power Plant and the Yadadri Thermal Power Station.

Despite transportation-related constraints in Odisha, the company is prepared to supply more coal in the coming days. At present, around 15 lakh tonnes of coal at Naini is ready for extraction. However, transportation of coal from the mine to the railway siding is permitted only during night hours, making it difficult to increase coal dispatches substantially.

Nevertheless, it is noteworthy that coal being produced at Naini is also being utilised in the interests of Telangana.

Special Officers Appointed to Ensure Uninterrupted Coal Transportation

Keeping Telangana's electricity requirements in view, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister and Energy Minister Shri Bhatti Vikramarka has been holding high-level coordination meetings with Singareni and other energy organisations over the past few months and has issued necessary directions to ensure adequate coal supplies. Against this backdrop, the Singareni management has been steadily increasing coal production and transportation across all its areas. To ensure that quality coal reaches thermal power stations on time, Singareni Chairman and Managing Director Dr. Buddha Prakash Jyothi has appointed five Special Officers to oversee coal production and transportation. As a result, adequate coal production is being achieved and coal is being dispatched on time to thermal power stations through Coal Handling Plants (CHPs). The company is also coordinating the availability of sufficient railway rakes to facilitate timely transportation. With electricity demand in Telangana increasing compared to previous levels due to the impact of El Niño, Singareni has reduced supplies to other states in order to safeguard the interests and power requirements of Telangana.

Hyderabad to Host IREC 2026

Seventh edition of IREC to bring together 1,500+ delegates and real estate leaders from over 35 countries; Collabathon to connect Indian projects with global markets

HYDERABAD

India is set to host the International Real Estate Conference (IREC) for the first time, with Hyderabad welcoming the seventh edition of the global real estate platform from September 25 to 27, 2026, at the HITEX Exhibition Centre. Organized as a global business and knowledge platform for the real estate industry, IREC India 2026 will bring together more than 1,500 delegates and industry leaders from over 35 countries, including real estate professionals, developers, investors, policymakers, financial institutions, technology companies and industry organisations. Themed "The Door to What Happens Next," IREC 2026 will examine the forces reshaping global real estate, including changing economic priorities, international investment flows, artificial intelligence, PropTech and DeepTech, sustainable development, evolving workplaces, future cities and new models of real estate ownership and investment. The conference will provide Indian real estate stakeholders with direct access to global markets, investors, professional networks, emerging technologies and international best practices, while creating opportunities to showcase India's growing capabilities to an international audience. Mr. Sumanth Reddy Arani, Chairman, National Association of Realtors-India, said, "IREC





2026 marks an important milestone for Indian real estate. India has reached a stage where our developers, professionals and projects are increasingly operating at global standards. The next step is to build stronger international connections and create platforms that allow India to engage directly with global markets. Bringing IREC to Hyderabad is an opportunity to open those doors and position Indian real estate within a much larger global ecosystem." Hyderabad has been chosen to host the landmark edition given its world-class infrastructure, strong technology and services ecosystem, cosmopolitan talent base and dynamic real estate sector. The city reflects many of the trends that will shape the future of real estate, including technology-led growth, urbanisation, global investment and the evolution of workplaces. Mr. Shailender Singh, Chair, IREC 2026, said, "The idea behind IREC 2026 is simple, to create a platform that connects India with what is happening next in global real estate. The industry is undergoing significant change, driven by technology, capital, sustainability, changing consumer preferences and new approaches to urban development. IREC will bring these conversations together while creating meaningful opportunities for business and collaboration." IREC 2026 will go beyond a conventional real estate conference by bringing together three complementary platforms, the International Real Estate Conference, PropTech and Real Estate Innovation Showcase, and Luxury Property Expo. Together, they will create an integrated ecosystem connecting knowledge, investment, technology, projects, professional networks and consumers. Dr. MSN Reddy, Chairman & Managing Director, MSN Group, said, "India's journey towards Viksit Bharat 2047 will be shaped by world-class cities and developments that match its growing aspirations. Hyderabad is well positioned to emerge as a leading global real estate destination. Our association with IREC India 2026 as Title Sponsor reflects this confidence. With over 4 million sq. ft. under construction and a roadmap to 20 million sq. ft., MSN Realty is committed to creating landmark developments that set new benchmarks for quality and experience."

Over two conference days, discussions will focus on 12 key themes shaping the future of real estate. These include the impact of global economic shifts on real estate; the next era of urbanism; cross-border real estate marketplaces; professional excellence; sustainable development and city planning; the global growth of branded residences; PropTech and DeepTech disruption; India's emerging greenfield cities; affordable housing at scale; real estate tokenization; lessons from successful global real estate markets; and the impact of artificial intelligence and hybrid work on global workspaces. A key feature of IREC 2026 will be Collabathon, a dedicated B2B platform designed to help Indian real estate projects connect with professional networks and access markets across the world. The platform will facilitate interactions between developers, real estate professionals, investors and international business networks, with the objective of creating long-term commercial relationships and market opportunities. Mr. Venkat Ramana Bandi, Head of Sales and Marketing, MSN Realty, said, "Real estate consultants are no longer just a sales channel. They are a vital part of the developer ecosystem. At MSN Realty, we value their market expertise, customer relationships and role in helping us grow through long-term, transparent partnerships." International participation at IREC 2026 will include leaders from Realtor associations, developers, institutional investors, market specialists, PropTech companies and business delegations representing established and emerging real estate markets. Mr. Kevin Brown, President, National Association of Realtors (NAR), the world's largest real estate trade organisation representing 1.4 million members, will visit India for IREC 2026. He will be joined by leaders from NAR's partner associations and other prominent industry representatives from across the world.

IREC 2026 comes at a time when Indian real estate is becoming increasingly sophisticated in design, development, technology and customer experience. As the industry expands, there is a growing need to strengthen international market access, branding, market intelligence and professional distribution networks.







Kalakriti Art Gallery Showcases 'Standing on Sacred Ground'

Kalakriti Art Gallery will present Standing on Sacred Ground, a group exhibition at Bikaner House in New Delhi from 14 to 22 September.
The exhibition brings together works by Bolgum Nagesh Goud, Bratin Khan, Dhruti Mahajan, Keerti Pooja, Mayadhara Sahu, R. Giridhara Gowd and Sachin Jaltare.
A group exhibition curated around memory, mythology, ritual, and the enduring presence of the sacred

NEW DELHI

Kalakriti Art Gallery delighted to present their upcoming group exhibition Standing on Sacred Ground opening with a preview on 14 September at Bikaner House. The exhibition brings together the works of artists who explore the many ways in which the sacred inhabits our inner and outer worlds. This careful curation of works by emerging contemporary artists include Bolgum Nagesh Goud, Bratin Khan, Dhruti Mahajan, Keerti Pooja, Mayadhara Sahu, R. Giridhara Gowd and Sachin Jaltare. Standing on Sacred Ground brings together artists who draw from the rich visual vocabulary of indigenous practices, traditional motifs and cultural memory, reinterpreting these references through distinctly contemporary practices. The resulting works occupy a space between the familiar and unfamiliar, evoking the myths, legends, fables and stories that have travelled across generations while offering new ways of looking at their underlying meanings. Ancient frescoes, temple art, traditional mask-making, murals and puppetry traditions are featured across the exhibition. Earth pigments, gold leaf, bronze and other materials connect the works to longstanding artistic traditions, even as the artists employ contemporary forms, abstraction and visual languages. At the heart of the exhibition are questions of time, ritual and memory, and how these continue to shape artistic practice today.

Bratin Khan's monochromatic tempera paintings include memories of rural Bengal, classical music and the rhythms of childhood. Memories of his mother, returning home from school, rain, lush landscapes and lotus fronds intermingle with his years at Visva-Bharati University, where he developed his distinctive approach to tempera. For R. Giridhara Gowd, the figures of Shiva and Shakti become meditations on creation and destruction, as well as the balance between masculine and feminine energies. His engagement with the mural traditions of Lepakshi, Badami and Hampi, alongside his experience with tempera and fresco techniques, is reimagined through a contemporary sensibility. Sachin Jaltare approaches Shiva and Shakti and explores ideas of form and formlessness, presence and absence. The gradual modulation of jewel-like colours in his paintings reflects an inward process of transformation, where thought, colour and emotion evolve together. Bolgum Nagesh Goud draws on Telangana's Cheriyal and leather puppetry traditions in his fibreglass and bronze sculptures of Rama, Sita, Hanuman, Krishna and Rukmini.

Keerti Pooja observes fleeting pauses within everyday routines, using recurring images of garlands and unfinished threads to evoke gestures and memories that gradually fade with time. Dhruti Mahajan approaches time through repetition and contemplation in her minimalist white-on-white works, where subtle shifts of mark, light, shadow and texture create a meditative experience. The architectural heritage of Odisha provides a different point of departure for Mayadhar Sahu, whose memories of the temples in Puri and Konark lead him beyond their visible splendour. His work reflects on the remarkable relationship between individual stones in temple architecture; a relationship of trust and interdependence that allows structures to endure without cement binding them together. Standing on Sacred Ground proposes a contemporary understanding of the sacred and is not an exhibition about religious art in a conventional sense. The artists' practices become bridges between ancient philosophies and contemporary life, between collective memory and individual experience, and between inherited traditions and new forms of artistic expression. Gallerist Rekha Lahoti says, "Kalakriti has curated various kinds of exhibitions, and we have always recognised that we have very different kinds of audiences. Some people are drawn to eclectic contemporary works, while others are interested in emerging artists which is why we have programmes such as Origin Story, which is especially relevant for young collectors. Our basic palette has always included established and seasoned artists. Standing on Sacred Ground brings together seven such artists, but explores their practices through a very different kind of material intelligence. There is a wide range of materials in the exhibition, and each artist approaches and processes their material very differently. Their narratives are also distinct, however what connects them is the idea of spirituality, but spirituality takes a very different form for each artist. Standing on Sacred Ground is about an invitation to pause and think. These works are not merely objects to be looked at; they can become part of our everyday lives and our way of seeing the world. It is about allowing these small moments of reflection, beauty and spirituality to become part of how we live."

In addition to this exhibition, Kalakriti Art Gallery's calendar also includes the following exhibitions in

Hyderabad:

- Nothing Arrives Unchanged, a group exhibition curated by Satyajit Dave, 27 August - 4 October
- The Ganesha Edition, a group exhibition, 9 - 20 September

For more information on the gallery, please visit kalakritiartgallery.com

Address: Bikaner House, Pandara Road, New Delhi – 110003

Hours: Monday - Saturday, 10 AM - 6 PM

AMPL Group - Mahindra's Largest Dealer in India

Inaugurates India's first Mahindra EV Exclusive Workshop in Hyderabad

Milestone marks AMPL Group's 150th Mahindra touchpoint across 6 states - Telangana, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Maharashtra

HYDERABAD (TELANGANA)

Automotive Manufacturers (AMPL Group), part of one of India's largest automobile retail conglomerates, today announced the inauguration of India's first EV-exclusive workshop for Mahindra vehicles in Hyderabad. The facility also marks the Group's 150th Mahindra touchpoint, strengthening its extensive sales and after-sales network across the six states where AMPL operates Mahindra retail and after-sales facilities. The new facility was inaugurated by senior officials from Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. and AMPL Group, including Pavan Kumar, SVP & Head – Sales, Customer Care & CX; Sachin Gupta, VP & Head – Customer Care Field Operations; Deepak Sinha, National Sales Head – Electric SUVs; and Rajiv Sanghvi,



Executive Director, Automotive Group, in the presence of other senior officials from both organisations. The inauguration marks a significant milestone in AMPL Group's journey with Mahindra, while reinforcing its commitment to strengthening the EV ownership ecosystem and providing customers with specialised service infrastructure as electric vehicle adoption continues to grow.

The newly inaugurated 14,000 sq. ft. facility, India's first dedicated BEV workshop for Mahindra vehicles, is strategically located on Miyapur Road, Bowrampet, Hyderabad, offering enhanced accessibility and increased EV service capacity to the region's growing customer base, with significant potential for future EV adoption. The workshop features 14 fully equipped service bays, supported by a 180kW (ultra-fast charger) and 11kW chargers, enabling efficient and uninterrupted servicing of electric vehicles. The facility is equipped with advanced diagnostic systems, modern tools and genuine spare parts, ensuring efficient turnaround times and reliable maintenance support. It also features a comfortable customer lounge and digital service updates, enabling greater transparency and a seamless service experience for customers. The facility will also offer an automobile spa service, providing professional vehicle grooming and detailing solutions to enhance vehicle care and maintain a superior appearance. The dedicated EV workshop has an annual servicing capacity of up to 12,000 vehicles and is supported by a team of 50 trained staff members, equipped to cater to the evolving service requirements of Mahindra's electric vehicle customers.

Commenting on the inauguration, Rajiv Sanghvi, Executive Director, AMPL Group, said, "This is indeed a proud milestone for us as we mark our 150th Mahindra touchpoint by inaugurating India's first dedicated EV-exclusive Mahindra workshop. This reinforces our commitment to strengthening Mahindra's EV presence and enhancing customer reach in the region. It also reflects our nearly seven-decade-long association with Mahindra, built on a strong foundation of trust, shared growth and an unwavering focus on customer satisfaction. As we continue to expand our footprint, we remain committed to leveraging our deep understanding of customer needs to deliver a best-in-class ownership experience for Mahindra's future-ready and feature-rich product portfolio."



Avocado Boom

From Farms to Tables

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent remarks on avocados have brought renewed attention to a fruit that was once considered an exotic ingredient found mainly in premium restaurants and fashionable cafés. Today, however, the avocado is steadily becoming part of everyday food habits in India. From avocado toast and smoothies to salads, chutneys and traditional-style preparations, the fruit is finding its way onto more Indian dining tables. The growing popularity of avocados is not just a story about changing diets. It is also becoming a story about Indian agriculture, innovation and farmers looking beyond conventional crops. In a recent social media reel and his Mann Ki Baat address, Prime Minister Modi highlighted how changing consumer preferences can create new opportunities for farmers. One such story comes from Kadapa in Andhra Pradesh, where a young farmer turned to avocado cultivation after facing crop losses and poor market prices. His journey from uncertainty to a new source of income has now attracted national attention after being mentioned by the Prime Minister.

From Premium Cafés to Indian Breakfast Tables

Until a few years ago, avocados were largely associated with expensive cafés, international cuisine and social media food trends. For many Indians, the first introduction to avocado came through dishes such as avocado toast, guacamole or smoothie bowls. The fruit was often seen as something fashionable rather than something that could become part of an ordinary household diet. That perception is gradually changing. Today, avocados are available in more supermarkets, fruit markets and online grocery platforms. They are being used in a wide variety of dishes, including breakfast preparations, salads, sandwiches, smoothies and even desserts. Young consumers, especially Gen Z and millennials, have played an important role in popularising avocado-based foods. Social media platforms have also helped make the fruit more visible, with food influencers and health enthusiasts regularly sharing recipes and nutritional information. However, avocado consumption is no longer restricted to urban cafés or young people following international food trends. Families are increasingly experimenting with the fruit in their own kitchens and adapting it to Indian flavours. This growing interest has created a larger market for avocados and, in turn, opened up opportunities for Indian farmers.

PM Modi Highlights the Changing Food Landscape

Prime Minister Modi's recent comments on avocados have brought national attention to the growing demand for the fruit. During the 137th episode of Mann Ki Baat, broadcast on August 30, the Prime Minister highlighted the increasing popularity of avocados and pointed to the opportunities being created for farmers. The message was significant because it connected changing food habits with agricultural innovation. As Indian consumers become more open to trying new fruits and healthier food options, farmers are also beginning to explore crops that were previously considered niche or unfamiliar. Avocado cultivation is one example of this changing agricultural landscape. For farmers dealing with uncertain weather conditions, fluctuating prices and repeated losses from conventional crops, diversification can sometimes provide an alternative source of income. While avocado cultivation is not suitable for every region or every farmer, its growing demand has encouraged some cultivators to explore the crop. The Prime Minister's mention of avocado farming also highlighted a broader idea: agricultural opportunities can emerge when farmers understand changing consumer demand and connect directly with new markets. For one farmer in Andhra Pradesh, this idea has already become a reality.

Taking a Risk Despite Family Doubts

When Varadaraj decided to plant avocado saplings, his family was initially unsure about the idea. For generations, farmers have often depended on crops they understand well. Moving to an unfamiliar crop can be financially risky, especially for small and medium farmers. Varadaraj's family encouraged him to continue with regular crop cultivation rather than experiment with something new. But he was convinced that he needed to try a different approach. Around four years ago, he planted avocado saplings on his farmland. The decision required patience. Fruit crops often take time before they begin producing commercially. Farmers must invest in the plants, manage irrigation, protect the crop and wait for the orchard to mature. For Varadaraj, the waiting period was a test of his decision. But the results finally began to appear. Since March this year, his avocado orchard has started producing fruit. The crop has not only brought avocados to his farm but has also brought back a sense of financial hope. According to Varadaraj, the orchard has produced nearly four tonnes of avocados, which are now being supplied to local shops and consumers. For a farmer who had earlier faced difficulties with traditional crops and market prices, the shift has opened up a new source of income.

Direct Marketing Helps Create Better Opportunities

One of the important aspects of Varadaraj's success has been his ability to connect more directly with the market. Instead of relying entirely on traditional agricultural marketing channels, he has used direct marketing to sell his produce. Direct marketing can help farmers understand consumer demand and potentially receive better returns, particularly when they grow crops that are still relatively new in local markets. Avocados are increasingly being seen as a premium and health-focused product. This growing demand has allowed farmers like Varadaraj to explore markets beyond traditional wholesale systems. His story demonstrates how information, experimentation and market awareness can work together in agriculture. The journey from watching online videos to visiting farms and eventually producing avocados commercially shows how access to information is changing farming. Digital platforms have become an important source of knowledge for many farmers. While expert guidance and scientific advice remain essential, the internet is helping farmers discover new crops, cultivation methods and market opportunities. For Varadaraj, technology helped him take the first step towards a new agricultural experiment.

A Mention From the Prime Minister Brings National Attention

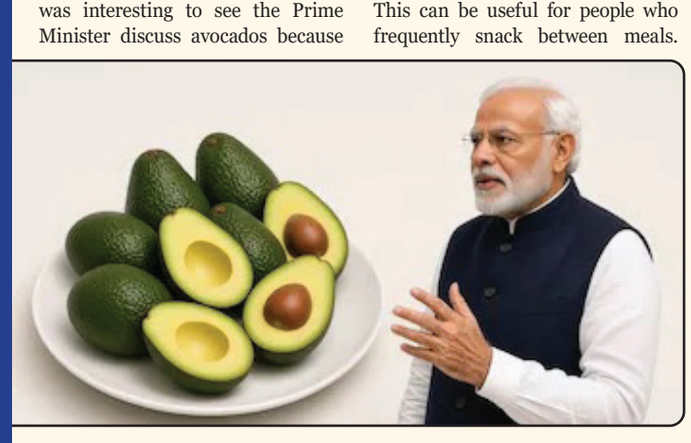
The biggest moment in Varadaraj's journey came when Prime Minister Modi mentioned his story. The recognition brought enormous happiness to the farmer and his family. For a farmer working in a relatively small agricultural community, national recognition can bring more than personal pride. It can also increase awareness about the crop and encourage other farmers to learn about new agricultural possibilities. Varadaraj said the Prime Minister's mention brought him great happiness and attention from family, friends and villagers. His story quickly became a talking point in the local community. The recognition also reflects a larger trend in Indian agriculture. Farmers across the country are increasingly experimenting with new crops, value-added products and direct-to-consumer marketing. Some are growing exotic fruits, while others are exploring organic farming, protected cultivation and specialised crops. However, experts also caution that farmers should not blindly shift to a crop simply because it becomes popular. Every crop requires proper planning, understanding of local climate, soil conditions, water availability and market demand. Avocado farming can offer opportunities, but successful cultivation depends on choosing suitable varieties and following scientific agricultural practices.

A Kadapa Farmer's Journey From Crop Crisis to Avocado Farming

Around 450 kilometres from Hyderabad, in Pulivendula in Andhra Pradesh's Kadapa district, 30-year-old farmer Karpa Varadaraj has built a new chapter in his agricultural journey. Pulivendula is known for its dry climate, where farmers often face challenges related to water availability and limited crop options. Before turning to avocado cultivation, Varadaraj and his family mainly depended on conventional crops such as tomatoes and bananas. Like many farmers, he relied on crops that were familiar and widely grown in the region. However, the year 2022 brought major difficulties. Crop-related problems and low market prices affected his earnings. The experience forced him to think about alternatives. Instead of continuing with the same crops, Varadaraj began searching for new possibilities. His search eventually led him to avocados. What makes his journey particularly interesting is the way he began learning about the crop. He used YouTube to understand the basics of avocado cultivation and explored information available online. But he did not stop there. Recognising that internet videos alone were not enough to understand the practical challenges of growing a new crop, Varadaraj travelled to Karnataka to learn more and seek scientific guidance. He visited farms, observed cultivation practices and gained a better understanding of how avocados could potentially be grown successfully. The decision to move towards avocado cultivation was not an easy one.

Luke Coutinho on the Growing Popularity of Avocados

While the Prime Minister's comments focused attention on the agricultural opportunity surrounding avocados, nutrition expert Luke Coutinho spoke about another important aspect: how Indians should look at the fruit from a health perspective. Speaking to NDTV anchor Rahesha Sehgal, Coutinho said it was interesting to see the Prime Minister discuss avocados because



diversity in diet has been an important topic in conversations around nutrition and preventive health. For Coutinho, one word stands out when discussing healthy eating: diversity. A healthy diet, he suggests, should not depend on one fashionable food or one so-called miracle ingredient. Instead, people should aim to include a variety of nutritious foods in their meals. This is particularly important in India, where traditional diets already offer a wide range of fruits, vegetables, grains, pulses, nuts and seeds. Avocado can be part of that diversity. But Coutinho strongly warned against treating it as a magical "superfood." According to him, avocado is simply another nutritious food that can add variety to the diet. That approach is important because social media often turns individual foods into health trends. One week, a particular fruit is described as essential for health. The next week, another food becomes popular. Healthy eating, however, is not about chasing every new trend. It is about balance.

Why Avocados Are Considered Nutritious

Avocados contain several nutrients that can make them a useful addition to a balanced diet. Coutinho highlighted their role in supporting heart health because they contain potassium, plant sterols and monounsaturated fats. Avocados are also a source of dietary fibre. Fibre plays an important role in digestive health and can help people feel fuller after meals. For many Indians who consume highly refined foods or do not eat enough fruits and vegetables, increasing fibre intake can be beneficial as part of an overall balanced diet. Another important characteristic of avocado is its ability to promote satiety. In simple terms, it can help a person feel full for a longer period. This can be useful for people who frequently snack between meals. India has a strong snacking culture, and many people consume packaged foods or high-calorie snacks between meals. Including filling and nutritious foods as part of a balanced breakfast may help reduce unnecessary snacking. Coutinho suggested pairing avocado with a healthy breakfast that includes protein and other important nutrients. The idea is not to eat avocado alone or consider it a complete meal. Instead, it can be combined with eggs, vegetables, whole grains or other protein-rich foods, depending on an individual's dietary preferences.

Avocado Toast and the Gen Z Food Trend

For many young people, avocado toast has become one of the most recognisable modern breakfast dishes. The combination of creamy avocado spread over toast has become popular in cafés, homes and social media food content. But Coutinho believes the avocado trend is now moving beyond Gen Z. More Indians are becoming aware of the fruit and experimenting with different ways of eating it. One reason for its popularity may be the changing approach towards breakfast. Traditional Indian breakfasts are often rich in carbohydrates. Dishes such as idli, dosa, poha, upma and parathas remain popular across different regions. There is nothing wrong with traditional foods, but people are increasingly looking for ways to create more balanced meals by adding protein, healthy fats and fibre. Avocado provides another option. Many people now eat it with eggs, while others add it to salads or smoothies. Some prefer avocado without toast altogether. Its creamy texture, mild flavour and versatility make it easy to combine with different ingredients.

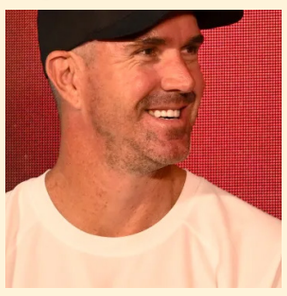
India's Own 'Butter Fruit'

One of the most interesting points raised by Coutinho was that avocado is not completely new to India. In several parts of the country, avocado has long been known as "butter fruit." The name comes from its rich and creamy texture. For years, however, avocado remained a relatively unfamiliar fruit for many Indian consumers. Imported varieties were often associated with luxury food markets and premium restaurants. Today, that is beginning to change. Indian-grown avocados are increasingly available, particularly from southern parts of the country where climatic conditions are suitable for cultivation. States such as Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and parts of Andhra Pradesh have seen growing interest in avocado farming. The challenge, however, is consumer perception. Many people have become accustomed to imported avocado varieties, particularly those that are known for their creamy texture and appearance. Coutinho believes Indian consumers may need to make a small adjustment in their expectations and become more open to locally grown avocados. Supporting Indian-grown produce could help create more demand for farmers who are experimenting with the crop. As production increases and supply chains improve, avocados may also become more accessible to consumers.

SHORT NEWS

CRICKET

Vaughan flags ego issue in Pietersen's England mentor role



NEW DELHI: Chelsea forward Cole Palmer is determined to make his mark in the 2026-27 Premier League season after an injury-hit campaign last year, with the England international saying he has regained both his fitness and confidence and is ready to express himself under new manager Xabi Alonso. Palmer scored 10 goals and registered one assist in 26 league appearances last season, but injuries repeatedly disrupted his campaign. The 24-year-old believes the physical setbacks also affected him mentally, making it difficult to regain his natural rhythm on the pitch."Last season was frustrating because injuries kept interrupting my rhythm. When you go out injured, doubts start to creep in. You second-guess every movement; you hesitate because you remember how it felt when it hurt. That kind of mental block can be harder to overcome than the injury itself. But I've moved past that now. I'm fully fit, and my head is clear.

'Benchmark I set for myself was high': Akash Madhwal on life after his IPL 5/5



NEW DELHI

Uttarakahand pacer Akash Madhwal believes tournaments such as the ongoing Dehradun T20 League are providing local cricketers with valuable opportunities to showcase their abilities as they prepare for the demanding domestic season ahead.

Madhwal, who is leading Mussoorie Thunders in the competition, said players from the state are approaching the tournament with the same intensity they would bring to an IPL or an India game.

"First of all, as players, we have to prove ourselves in every game. We do not approach the game lightly. Whenever we go to play, we enter the ground. For us, every game is like an Indian game, like an IPL game, whatever cricket we are playing," Madhwal told IANS in an exclusive interaction on Tuesday.

The Uttarakhand pacer also underlined the growth of cricket infrastructure and opportunities in the state, pointing to the increasing number of tournaments being organised for players.

"And secondly, the cricket happening here in Uttarakhand used to be very limited before. Now, there are very good platforms. For example, this is our third district tournament, and it is being held at such a high level. And thanks to CAU, our association, which is giving us so much cricket," he said.

Madhwal believes the increased exposure is particularly important for young cricketers looking to make their way into professional cricket.

"After this, our major tournament is coming up, the UPL, the Uttarakhand Premier League. So, all these platforms are very important for us as senior players and for all the youngsters who want to play. Because all this is happening live and someone is watching us from somewhere," he said.

"Whatever is happening, thanks to CAU and thanks to Uttarakhand Cricket, we are getting very good cricket. And we are trying to encourage more players like me to come forward, make Uttarakhand proud, and do well in their cricket journey," Madhwal added.

The 32-year-old said the Dehradun T20 League is also helping players carry the work done during the off-season into competitive matches. "As I told you earlier, as cricketers, we approach every game in the same way as the big games. So, the off-season practice we have done, we apply it in our games," he said.

Madhwal also pointed to the difficult weather conditions in Uttarakhand, particularly during the monsoon, which can restrict the amount of competitive cricket available to players.

"As you know, for all the tournaments we have, the conditions are not that good here in Uttarakhand. The monsoon arrives very early and lasts a long time. So, in all the cricket we play, we have the same mindset: we want to stick to our game plan and play for our state in the IPL or the Syed Mushtaq Ali. So, we have the same approach here," he said.

With Uttarakhand set to enter the Ranji Trophy season, Madhwal feels the current competition can also serve as useful preparation for the domestic campaign, particularly with home matches scheduled to be played in familiar conditions.

"Yes, definitely. We have the Ranji Trophy season next. We have a home-and-away season. So, all the home matches will be play ed here," he said. "The conditions here, including the pitch and the weather, will help us in the tournament we are playing here. It will help us in our season. We will get to know the overall condition of the pitch. It will help us in some way," Madhwal added.



Duleep Trophy: Shami, Mukesh shine as East Zone take control of final against South

CHENNAI

India internationals Mohammed Shami and Mukesh Kumar starred with the ball as East Zone ended Day 3 of the Duleep Trophy final against South Zone here at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in ascendancy.

Both Shami and Mukesh took two wickets each as the Tilak Varma-led South were restricted to 242/6 in the first innings and ended the day trailing by 466. Devdutt Padikkal (62) and Tilak Varma (56*) scored half-centuries, but the South Zone batters would regret their dismissals, even though Tilak remains unbeaten and the sole hope for an improbable comeback.

The South batters had poor shot selection, and the East bowlers found some spice with even the older ball, using reverse swing to trouble the South batters, who got starts but not as much as the East batters, especially Ishan Kishan, who scored 270.

Ricky Bhui was the first one to be dismissed when he edged one behind for stand-in wicketkeeper Kumar Kushagra to palm it. East Zone vice-captain Vaibhav Sooryavanshi insisted on a review to overturn the umpire's not-out call for Bhui's caught-behind appeal, which was later given out on DRS. Narayan Jagadeesan fell victim to poor shot selection, slicing Shikhar Mohan to point as South went to lunch at 115/2. The East bowlers continued to do a good job in the second session too, and the seamers found reverse swing.

They kept the lid on the batters as Shami dismissed Shaik Rasheed for his first. The Indian veteran pacer bowled short spells and was seen to be troubled by a neck issue soon after lunch.

Padikkal made a strong fifty but holed Mukesh Kumar out to deep square leg. Sooryavanshi took the captain's armband for a brief period in the later part of the second session as Ishan Kishan was off the field. He brought in Shami for a brief spell, and the pacer got the highest Ranji Trophy scorer from the previous season, Smaran Ravichandran. This time Kushagra insisted for the review to Sooryavanshi after the umpire did not pick the edge.

East wrested further control in the third session too and let South add only 62 in the final session while Md Kounain Quraishi also got Shreyas Gopal caught and bowled.

'It feels good to be one of the six girls going': Antim Panghal eyes Asian Games gold

NEW DELHI

As Antim Panghal prepares to return to the Asian Games, the wrestler is approaching the competition with the experience of Hangzhou 2022 behind her and a clear focus on what lies ahead. With the Indian wrestling team currently training together, Antim says the atmosphere in camp has been driven by a common ambition - to bring home a medal for the country.

"Our camp is going well. We are all training together with the same mindset of getting a medal for our country. It feels good to be one of the six girls going. The Asian Games are a big deal because they happen only once every four years. Once they are gone, you have to wait another four years," said Antim.

For now, her attention is firmly on the Asian Games, with technique forming a major part of her preparation. The presence of Japanese coach Kosei Akaishi at the camp, who also is the discipline's head coach at Inspire Institute of Sport, has also given the wrestlers an opportunity to learn and add to their game, while the team environment has helped push everyone to improve together.

"We are mainly working on technique right now. We also have coach (Kosei) Akaishi from Japan who has been helping and teaching us a lot. The Indian team camps are very useful because we all learn a lot from each other. When we work together, it brings out the best in all of us," she added.

The significance of representing India is not lost on Antim, who has already experienced the pressure and pride that comes with competing at the highest level. Her journey in wrestling began because of her elder sister, a kabaddi player who introduced her to the sport. Years later, one of her biggest early milestones came when she won the Junior World Championship - without even knowing at the time that she had become the first Indian to win the title.

"My elder sister was a kabaddi player and she got me into wrestling. When I won the Junior World Championship, I didn't even know that no Indian had won it before. I only found out when I was leaving and my coach told me at the airport that no Indian had ever come first. That was when I realised how special it was," Antim recalled.

That same journey has been supported by IIS since the 2022 Commonwealth trials, when the institute first sponsored her.

Passion of fans drew me to here: Barcola on his Liverpool move

NEW DELHI

Liverpool's new forward Bradley Barcola hailed the passion of the fans at Anfield behind his move to the Reds during the summer transfer window. After spending three seasons with Paris Saint-Germain, the French forward made a move to Liverpool for an initial deal of GBP 106mn, which can rise to GBP 123mn. He made his debut in a 2-0 win at Ipswich Town, coming in as a 64th-minute substitute and impressing with his speed. The French international called his move to Anfield an honour and emphasised the passion of fans behind what drew him to the club. "It's a huge honour to play for a club like Liverpool. I'm really happy to be here. The move took time, but today I can finally say I'm a Liverpool player.

Kouame, 17, stuns Cilic on major debut

NEW DELHI



Paris Saint-Germain, Arsenal, Bayern Munich, Norwegian club Bodo/Glimt and Brazilian giants Flamengo have been nominated for the Men's Club of the Year award at the 2026 Ballon d'Or.

PSG enter the race as defending holders of the award after a remarkable season in which the French club claimed their second Champions League title. They also enjoyed a highly successful domestic and international campaign, adding the Ligue 1, French Super Cup, European Super Cup and Intercontinental Cup to their trophy cabinet.

The Parisian side will be hoping to retain the honour after establishing themselves as one of Europe's leading clubs.

Arsenal are also among the five nominees after ending their long wait for the Premier League title. The Gunners secured the English championship after 22 years and capped a strong campaign with further progress in Europe.

Bayer Munich make the shortlist after another trophy-laden season in Germany. The Bavarian giants won the Bundesliga, German Cup and German Super Cup, underscoring their continued dominance at home. Bodo/Glimt is the surprise name on the list. The Norwegian club earned recognition for an impressive campaign and also lifted the Norwegian Cup. Their nomination highlights the growing presence of clubs beyond Europe's traditional powerhouses.

Flamengo completes the shortlist aft=er an outstanding season in Brazil and across South America. The Rio de Janeiro club won the Copa Libertadores, the Brazilian Championship and the Rio de Janeiro State Championship.

The five clubs will now compete for the prestigious Club of the Year award, with the winner to be announced at the 2026 Ballon d'Or ceremony on October 26 in London. PSG's impressive haul of major international and domestic trophies makes them one of the leading contenders, but Arsenal and Bayern Munich also arrive with strong cases following successful seasons.

Mumbai City FC sign defender Lazar Cirkovic on one-year deal

MUMBAI

Mumbai City FC have announced the signing of Serbian star Lazar Cirkovic on one-year deal ahead of the upcoming season of the Indian Super League (ISL), which will commence on October 10.

Born in Nis, Lazar began his football journey with the Serbian SuperLiga club Rad in 2010. During his time there, he also gained valuable experience on loan at the Serbian League club Palic. In 2014, Lazar joined Serbian giants Partizan, making his official debut for the club in a UEFA Europa League fixture against Tottenham Hotspur. During his four-year spell with Partizan, he won two Serbian SuperLiga titles and one Serbian Cup before going on to represent Luzern in Switzerland, Maccabi Netanya in Israel, and Kasarda and Honved in Hungary. Lazar then moved to India, where he joined fellow Indian Super League side Chennaiyin FC. In his debut season, he played a crucial role in helping the club secure a place in the playoffs, earning a move to Jamshedpur FC the following season. He continued to deliver consistent performances for the Men of Steel, helping them reach the semi-finals. At the international level, Lazar made his competitive debut for the Serbia Under-21s in 2013, featuring in a home victory.

'Benchmark I set for myself was high': Akash Madhwal on life after his IPL 5/5

NEW DELHI



Akash Madhwal has acknowledged that his sensational 5/5 for Mumbai Indians against Lucknow Super Giants in the 2023 IPL brought both a career boost and heightened expectations, with the pacer admitting that the benchmark he set for himself became a demanding one to maintain. Madhwal's five-wicket haul in the IPL playoff remains the defining performance of his career, but he insists he has never viewed it as the end point of his journey.

"We cannot spend our entire cricket journey on just one performance. The best milestones come so we can set new records, break our own milestones, and raise our own benchmarks.

"I never took my 5/5 lightly. Even after that, I have prepared a lot so that I can do better, set a better record, and do something better. It is not that we take what has already happened. Our hard work is for our own betterment," Madhwal told IANS in an exclusive interaction on Tuesday. Looking back at the impact of that performance, Madhwal admitted that both the attention and the expectations that followed were significant. "Both of these things happened to me, literally. The benchmark I set for myself was high, so people had very high expectations from me. "Additionally, since I was playing in the IPL, I knew I had to perform better and improve. Both these factors were present with me, and I believe they both influenced me," Madhwal added.

His route to the IPL was itself unconventional. Unlike many fast bowlers who enter the professional system at a young age, Madhwal first studied engineering and took up a job before pursuing cricket seriously.

"Sometimes I feel I should have started earlier, and then I feel it's God's plan. Whatever God has given is what you will get. But it is what it is. "First, I studied engineering, then I took a job. After that, I started playing cricket. It was also because our state got an affiliation in 2019.

"Before that, we didn't have an affiliation. So, when I got an affiliation, I got a chance to play after a year. After that, I started playing professionally," he stated.

Despite wondering at times about what his career could have looked like had he started earlier, Madhwal believes his journey unfolded according to a larger plan. "But yeah, it's God's plan. Whatever God wants happens," he said.

'We are going to win gold': BCCI Prez Manhas ahead of India's Asian Games

NEW DELHI



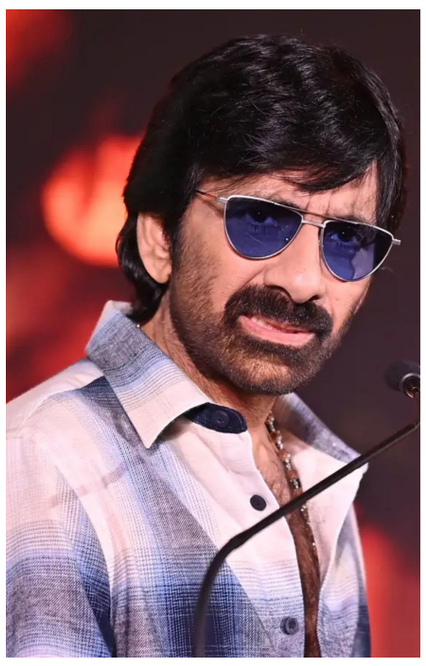
The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) will send a full-fledged Indian cricket team to the upcoming Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, with president Mithun Manhas saying the side will be targeting the gold medal.

"We will send a full-fledged cricket team to the Asian Games. We are going there with the aim of winning the gold medal for India. It will be a great event, and hopefully, I will be there as well to cheer for our team," Manhas told IANS. India will enter the Asian Games as the defending champions in both men's and women's cricket after winning gold at the 2022 Hangzhou Games. The Asian Games cricket schedule has also been announced, with the Indian women's team to play the quarter-finals directly on September 18. Semi-finals are on September 20; medal matches are on September 22.

In the men's event, India will get direct entry in the quarter-final stage on September 28. The semi-finals are set for October 1, with the medal matches scheduled for October 3 in Aichi-Nagoya. VVS Laxman, the Head of the Centre of Excellence (CoE), will be the head coach of the Indian men's team for the continental event. Gautam Gambhir, the regular head coach, is taking a break before India's upcoming white-ball series against the West Indies, which begins on September 27, and Laxman will be in charge of the men's team. Laxman will be assisted by former India spinner Sunil Joshi, Hrishikesh Kanitkar and Subhadeep Ghosh. Meanwhile, Amol Muzumdar will be in charge of the women's team.

Laxman recently took charge of India's T20I series against Zimbabwe in July after Gambhir was rested after the white-ball series against England. Ruturaj Gaikwad led a largely second-string men's side to the title, while Harmanpreet Kaur guided the Indian women's team to gold.

How Much Will Ravi Teja Make From Irumudi?



Ravi Teja has taken 8 Crore plus Nizam rights of Irumudi as his remuneration. Before the release, the Nizam rights were valued at around 7 crore, but then the movie became a sensational blockbuster. The movie has collected around 53.76 Crore Share (including GST) until yesterday, and in the full run, it is estimated to touch 60 Crore Share. If at all the movie touches those numbers, without GST, the movie share will end up around 50.95 Crore. The movie will have around 1.1 Crore expenses, and there will be 5% commission (2.55 Crore) to the distributor. If we subtract that, the actor will take home around 47.5 Crore from Nizam. Let us take it as 45 Crore as a conservative number.

Will Epic Pass 'A' ertificate Test?



Anand Deverakonda has had his share of setbacks, but Baby changed the game for him. The film gave him the much-needed breakthrough, while Vaishnavi Chaitanya emerged as a bankable heroine. Now, the successful Baby pair is back together with Epic. But this time, things are quite different. Unlike Baby, the intense and emotionally charged love story, Epic seems to be a matured romantic entertainer, set against a London backdrop.

The film is directed by Aditya Hasan, who impressed audiences with the 90s series. But picking the Baby pair again and attempting a bold, mature love story comes with its own set of challenges. And now, there is the tougher challenge, Epic got an A certificate from the Censor Board. Since the film features a mid-range hero and heroine attempting a full on entertainer and targeting the youth audience. could find the A certificate a tougher challenge at the box office. An A certificate might be common for films for star heroes and they may pull it off with ease despite having scenes of violence or bold scenes. Star heroes and star directors have managed to overcome the certification and deliver strong box-office results. Interestingly, Baby also featured intimate and bold moments but received a U/A certificate and went on to become a sensational success, giving both Anand and Vaishnavi a major career boost. This time, however, the same youth combination faces the A-certificate test. That puts the spotlight on director Aditya Hasan. Sandeep Reddy Vanga had made the magic with Arjun Reddy which was a A certificate film. That turned the game changer for Vijay Deverakonda and Sandeep Reddy. The film made Vijay Deverakonda a star. Can Epic overcome the A certificate tag, connect with its target audience and recreate the magic of Baby? With the film arriving on September 11, the big question is simple, Will Epic pass the test at the box office with its A-certificate?

Madhuri's Secret Theatre Visit



Did you know that Bollywood's 'Dhak Dhak' girl once went to the cinema hall wearing a burqa to watch her own movie, 'Teezab'. She had gone to the theatre to witness the craze for her song 'Ek Do Teen' from the movie. During her appearance on 'The Kapil Sharma' show, host Kapil Sharma asked her if she had ever gone to watch her own movie. To this, Madhuri shared the fun incident saying, "Yes, I went to watch my own movie. Actually, everyone said that the song 'Ek Do Teen', has become very popular. 'You don't know, it is so much fun in the theatre.' So I went to watch it in the Chandan Cinema; it is a single theatre. So I wanted to see it there." "I went inside wearing a burqa and sat down. Sometimes they used to switch off the AC there, so I started sweating in the burqa. I was waiting for the song 'Ek Do Teen', and as soon as it started, we were sitting in the front row; the coins started coming from the back and fell on our heads. We ran away from there." Madhuri added that while they thought that since she was in disguise, no one would come to know that she had come to watch the movie. However, to her surprise, as soon as they stepped out of the theatre and went to the lobby, people recognized her and started saying, 'Madhuri has come'." Talking about 'Tezaab', the 1988 romantic actioner was directed by N. Chandra. With Madhuri and Anil Kapoor as the lead pair, the project also saw Anupam Kher, Chunky Panday, Kiran Kumar, and Suresh Oberoi as the supporting cast. Released on 11 November 1988, 'Tezaab' turned out to be the highest-grossing Hindi film of the year, enjoying a golden jubilee run in the cinema halls.

Hebah Patel Casts A Spell In Black

Hebah Patel is proving once again that she can effortlessly switch between western and traditional styles, nailing every look she tries. In her latest pictures, the actress opted for a graceful black saree with delicate floral embroidery scattered across the fabric, paired with a sleeveless blouse for a clean, minimal look. Standing against a scenic evening backdrop with greenery around her, Hebah exuded quiet elegance and sophistication. She kept her hair pulled back into a neat bun and accessorized with statement earrings and a stack of black bangles, letting the saree's subtle embroidery take center stage. Her poised expression and relaxed stance added to the overall charm of the pictures. From colorful outfits to monochrome tones, and western wear to traditional drapes, Hebah Patel continues to impress with her versatile style choices, proving she can carry off any look with equal ease.

Shruti's Mermaid Magic



Shruti Haasan is turning heads once again with her latest photoshoot, picking a stunning mermaid-style ensemble for the cameras. The actress wore a richly embroidered corset top in vibrant pink, blue, and gold hues, featuring an eye-catching front zip detail. The structured bustier hugged her figure before flowing into a deep purple satin skirt with elegant draping, giving the look a true mermaid silhouette. Shruti completed the outfit with statement jewelry, including a chunky ring and a classic watch, along with loose waves for a glamorous finish. The purple backdrop beautifully complemented the outfit's rich color palette. On the work front, Shruti has an interesting project on her radar with Aakasamlo Oka Tara, directed by Pavan Sadineni. Backed by Lightbox Media and presented by Swapna Cinema and Geetha Arts, the multilingual film will release in Telugu, Malayalam, Tamil, Kannada and Hindi, with fans eager to know more about her role in it.

Sesh Calls Sardar 2 A Fun Spy Ride

Karthi's Sardar 2 is gearing up to take the franchise forward with a bigger scale, more action, and a fresh social message. At the film's Hyderabad pre-release event, the team spoke extensively about what audiences can expect from the sequel. SJ Suryah believes the sequel will surpass the entertainment quotient of its predecessor. "Sardar was already a massive blockbuster in Telugu, and it received an excellent response on OTT as well. Sardar 2 will surely give double the excitement. The sequel indeed combines all the ingredients of a commercial entertainer with meaningful content. Compared to Sardar, Sardar 2 has extraordinary entertainment, fights, and strong content." He was particularly appreciative of director PS Mithran's approach to storytelling. "Mithran is a fantastic director. The stories he thinks about, the short divisions he gives, the look, and the content he shoots—it is very entertaining, and it also carries a message. Global warming is one of the central concerns addressed in Sardar 2." Adivi Sesh stated that he likes Karthi a lot. He described Sardar as one of the most fun spy masala entertainers and recalled how enthusiastically he reacted while watching it in theatres. Sesh is particularly excited about the sequel's emotional component. "I love seeing the whole father angle; I think it is going to be extraordinary," he said, adding, "I know this movie is going to rock." Karthi echoed the importance of the franchise while describing Sardar 2 as a significant milestone in his career. "Sardar has got a big fan base here. Sardar 2 is definitely a very important movie in my career. Getting a spy character like this is my good fortune. Such characters are rarely recognised despite performing highly specialised and precise work." The actor also acknowledged the exceptional reception the first film received in the Telugu market. "Whenever I come to Hyderabad, Telugu people have a huge following for that movie because it's on Aha, and people have rewatched it so many times," he said. Karthi believes the sequel has achieved the scale he and his team wanted to see in Indian cinema. "When we watch so many English movies, we get a feeling: 'Can't we make such action, such stylish movies?' All of that is fulfilled in this film," he said. He credited Mithran, George Williams, and Sam CS for elevating the project and also thanked the producers for making such an ambitious film possible. The pre-release event was also graced by Boyapati Sreenu, Sailesh Kolanu, and Kalyan Shankar.





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Editor: Pisati Janga Reddy, Ph : 040 24123467, Email : hyderabadheadlines@gmail.com