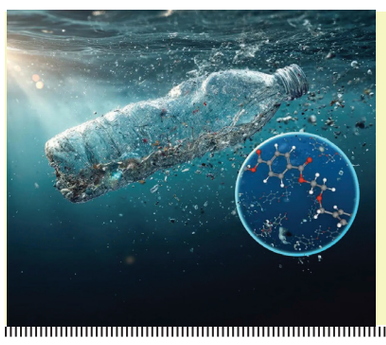
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Nano Pollution
The Next Environmental Battle Is Already Underway

OPINION 06

Special Parliament Session During Navratri?

SPECIAL 02





BRICS Leaders Showcase Unity

New Delhi, sep 11: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Vladimir Putin, Masoud Pezeshkian and other BRICS leaders walked side by side at the BRICS Business Forum in New Delhi, showcasing unity within the expanded bloc. Modi and Pezeshkian were seen holding hands as leaders discussed trade, investment, technology and economic cooperation. The leaders walked along a red-carpet corridor at the summit venue, with "BRICS INDIA 2026" branding prominently displayed.

Addressing the forum, Modi said BRICS nations account for 50 per cent of the world's population, 40 per cent of global GDP and more than 25 per cent of global trade. India is hosting the 18th

SHORT TAKES

5 Baby Orangutans Spark Smuggling Probe

Bhubaneswar: Five baby orangutans rescued from a forest in Odisha's Balasore district may have been brought to India through an international wildlife smuggling network, the Indonesian government has said.

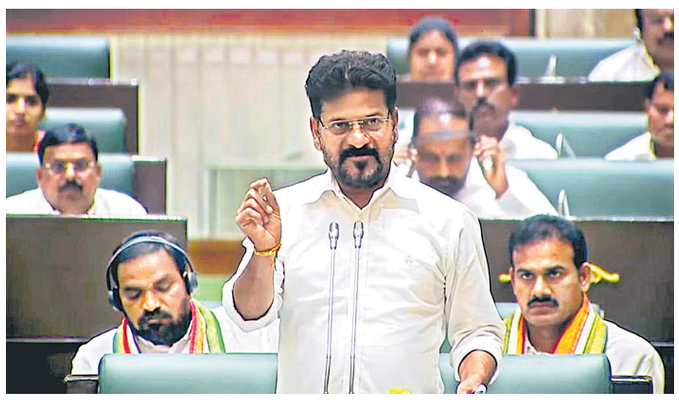
The orangutans were rescued by the Odisha Forest Department from Bichitrapur forest on September 8. As the species is not native to India, authorities suspect illegal trafficking.

Indonesia said preliminary observations indicate that the animals may belong to the Sumatran orangutan population. DNA tests will be conducted to confirm their species and genetic origin, following which efforts will be made to repatriate them to Indonesia. The animals have been shifted to Nandankanan Zoological Park and placed under quarantine.

NO PRIVATISATION OF POLYTECHNICS: REVANTH

Govt focuses on education, skills and jobs; fee reimbursement dues to be cleared in phases

HYDERABAD, SEP 11



Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has assured the Telangana Legislative Assembly that government polytechnic colleges will not be privatised, while explaining the reforms being undertaken to modernise technical education and improve employment opportunities for students.

Replying to a short-duration discussion on the State's education policy, the Chief Minister said the government was committed to strengthening education, skill development and employment opportunities. He also sought to dispel concerns among students over the recent changes involving polytechnic colleges and assured that suggestions from legislators and experts would be considered wherever necessary.

Polytechnics to remain under government control

Rejecting reports that polytechnic colleges would be handed over to private entities, Revanth Reddy said there was "no question of privatisation" of government polytechnics. The colleges would continue under government control, while their technical education system was being linked with the Skills University.

He said the objective was to align technical education with industry requirements and provide students with better exposure to emerging technologies, internships, apprenticeships and practical training.

The government, he said, was modernising 59 polytechnic colleges with the support of Tata Technologies at an estimated cost of Rs 4,000 crore. Courses and training would increasingly focus on areas such as artificial intelligence, robotics, semiconductors, electric vehicles and advanced manufacturing.

The Chief Minister said the government would strengthen infrastructure, laboratories and faculty skills in government polytechnics. If amendments were required to the relevant government order, they would be considered. He also assured that the government would work towards securing AICTE approval for the Skills University.

No threat to jobs or college assets

Revanth Reddy said students should not be misled by claims that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

MODI, PUTIN SEEK STRONGER TIES

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 11



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday agreed to further strengthen the longstanding strategic partnership between India and Russia, with Moscow calling for a stronger BRICS platform to promote global economic growth outside Western-dominated frameworks.

The talks took place in New Delhi ahead of the BRICS summit, which is expected to bring together leaders including Chinese President Xi Jinping and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian.

Putin, addressing a BRICS business forum, said the grouping could create a "new, sustainable platform for global growth" as Western countries seek to retain their economic influence through sanctions, tariffs and restrictions on trade and transport.

Russian presidential envoy Kirill Dmitriev said BRICS was evolving from a primarily geopolitical grouping into a more practical economic partnership. He said the bloc was focusing on cooperation among businesses, technology companies and investors, along with improved payment systems and joint infrastructure projects.

Putin criticised what he described as attempts by Western countries to use sanctions, restrictions and attacks on industrial and logistical facilities to maintain their dominance. He also alleged efforts to disrupt international transport corridors and seize ships.

The Russian President's remarks came as BRICS finance ministers and central bank governors called for reforms in global financial institutions and raised concerns over unilateral trade and financial measures, including tariffs and non-tariff barriers.

India balances global partnerships

India is seeking to maintain its strategic relationships with Russia while simultaneously strengthening ties with the United States, Gulf countries, Iran and Israel. Modi and Putin also discussed conflicts in West Asia and the Black Sea region, which have affected maritime trade and the safety of Indian

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

'BRS Has No Future"



Hyderabad, Sept.11: Minister for IT and Industries Duddilla Sridhar Babu launched a sharp attack on the opposition Bharatha Rashtra Samithi (BRS) in the Legislative Assembly on Friday, stating it was "amusing" to see a party with no political future commenting on the state's proposed Future City project.

Responding to supplementary questions on state investments, the Minister accused the BRS of attempting to create fear among industrialists, discouraging prospective investment, and hindering employment opportunities for local youth. Contrasting the current administration's industrial roadmap with the

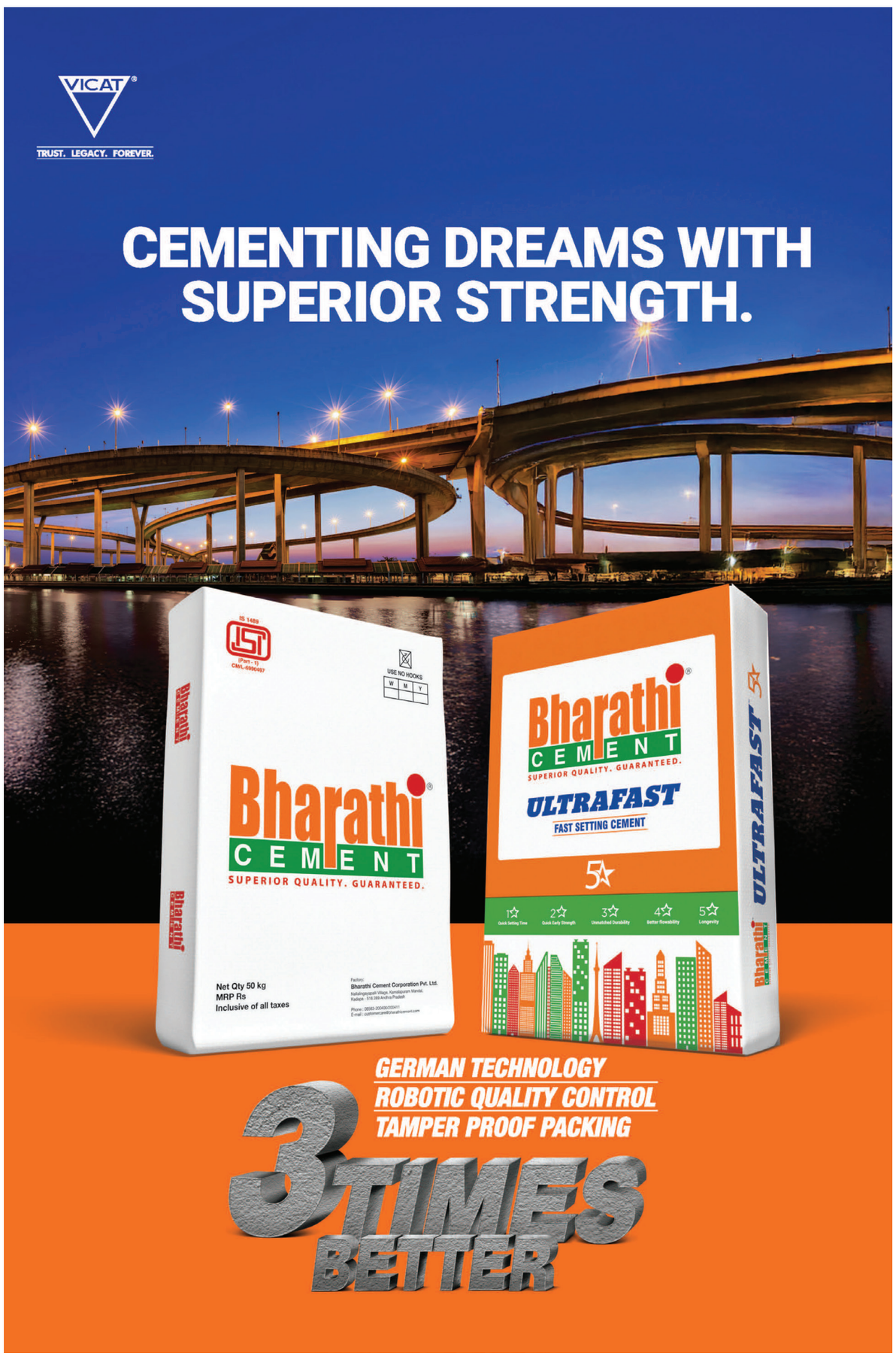
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Govt committed to protecting tanks, FTL boundaries: Uttam



Hyderabad, Sept.11: Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Friday asserted that the State government was committed to protecting tanks, ponds and other water bodies, safeguarding their Full Tank Level (FTL) boundaries and protecting the livelihoods of fishing communities dependent on them. Responding to issues raised during a discussion in the Legislative Council, Uttam Kumar Reddy said any damage to a tank's FTL boundary, encroachment of water bodies or hardship caused to fishing communities would be taken seriously. He directed Irrigation officials to personally inspect the specific issue brought to the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤



Govt to expedite digital health cards for employees: Bhatti

Hyderabad, Sept.11: Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka said the government was according priority to the welfare and health security of employees and was committed to expediting the issuance of digital health cards to employees.

He said steps were being taken to immediately forward issues brought to the notice of ministers and officials to the concerned Heads of Departments (HoDs) and Secretaries for prompt resolution.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

BJP Plans Month-Long Seva Sankalp Drive

HYDERABAD, SEPT.11



The Telangana BJP will launch a month-long 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan' from September 17 to October 17 to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 25 years of public service, state BJP president N. Ramchander Rao said here on Thursday.

Addressing a press conference, Rao said Modi completed 25 years in public service - 12.5 years as Gujarat Chief Minister and another 12.5 years as Prime Minister - since assuming office as Gujarat CM on October 7, 2001.

The campaign, being held nationwide at the direction of the BJP central leadership, will begin in Hyderabad on September 17 with 'Aashirwad Ka Diya', coinciding with Telangana Liberation Day. Rao appealed to beneficiaries of Central government schemes to light lamps at their homes as a mark of gratitude.

The month-long programme will feature blood donation camps, Swachh Bharat drives, essay

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

REVANTH, PONGULETI JOINTLY INDULGING IN LAND GRABBING: KTR

HYDERABAD, SEPT.11



BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao on Friday alleged that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy were jointly involved in land grabbing and claimed that tribal and assigned lands were "disappearing" across the State. He alleged that former minister Konda Surekha was removed from the Cabinet over a land-related controversy.

KT Rama Rao further alleged that a "30 per cent commission government" was functioning in Telangana and claimed that tribals had been attacked over land in the Chief Minister's own constituency.

Addressing a PowerPoint presentation organised at BRS Bhavan here for victims affected by the 22-A prohibited land list, Rama Rao said land values had increased substantially during the BRS regime. He alleged that people were facing severe hardships under the Congress government due to the 22-A issue.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

Bollarum Arms Theft: Retd Havildar Held

HYDERABAD, SEPT.11

Telangana Police on Thursday arrested a retired Army Havildar for allegedly stealing firearms and ammunition from the Kote and Magazine rooms of the 20 Battalion, Madras Regiment, here at Bollarum.

The accused was identified as Upputholla Mallesh (37 years), a retired Havildar of the 20 Bn, Madras Regiment, and a resident of Jangam Reddy Pally in Amrabad, Nagarkurnool district.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

SCR EMPLOYEE EARNS DOCTORATE FROM OU

Hyderabad, Sept.11: South Central Railway (SCR) General Manager Sanjay Kumar Srivastava congratulated T.D. Satyavani, chief office superintendent, Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer's Office, on being conferred a Doctorate in Sociology by Osmania University at its 85th Convocation. Satyavani, who holds an MSW and M.Sc in Applied Psychology, completed her doctoral research on "Working Women: Life World, Life Style and Life Satisfaction - A Study of working Women in South Central Railway", under the guidance of Prof. Dr. N. V. Madhuri, Professor of Anthropology, University of Hyderabad.

The study covered 369 women employees across various categories of SCR and examined their experiences, work environment, lifestyles, aspirations and life satisfaction. A key finding was that 86.94 percent of respondents expressed pride and satisfaction in working for the Railways and appreciated its policies. Congratulating Satyavani at Rail Nilayam, Secunderabad, on September 11, Srivastava said her achievement would inspire other railway employees to pursue higher education and enhance their knowledge and skills. He also expressed confidence that her research would contribute to the effective functioning of the Railways.

SSC JE 2026: Applications Open Till Sept 22

Hyderabad, Sept. 11: The Staff Selection Commission (SSC) has invited applications for the Junior Engineer Examination 2026 for recruitment to various posts in Central Government departments and organisations. The notification was issued on September 2, and candidates can apply online through the SSC website or the 'mySSC' Android app till September 22, 11 pm. The online fee payment facility will remain open till September 23, 11 pm. Women, SC, ST, ESM and PwBD candidates are exempt from the application fee. The notification details vacancies, age limit, educational qualifications and examination pattern. The Computer Based Examination schedule will be announced later.

Special Parliament Session During Navratri?

NEW DELHI, SEP 11



The central government is reportedly considering holding a special session of Parliament during Navratri to pass the Women's Reservation and Delimitation Bills. Official sources say the government may take a final decision on the special session after the BRICS Summit concludes. However, no official announcement has been made by the Centre so far.

There is growing speculation in political circles that the upcoming special session could take up key issues related to women's reservation and delimitation. It is understood that discussions may be held on providing reservations for women in state legislative assemblies and the Lok Sabha, as well as on the process of redrawing constituencies.

Speculation Over Special Session

Even though 29 days have passed since the Monsoon Session of Parliament ended, the fact that the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha have not been adjourned sine die has also fueled speculation about a special session. Normally, after a session concludes, the Houses are adjourned sine die and are subsequently prorogued by the President. However, the situation is different this time, leading to discussions about the possibility of a special session.

Congress MP and senior party leader Jairam Ramesh has also raised questions on the issue. He is understood to have expressed doubts about whether the Houses were deliberately not formally concluded with the intention of reconvening Parliament.

Limited Time During Monsoon Session

Meanwhile, parliamentary proceedings were limited during the recently concluded Monsoon Session. The Lok Sabha functioned for only 15 hours and 36 minutes, while the Rajya Sabha met for 24 hours and 21 minutes. Proceedings were disrupted several times due to opposition protests and demonstrations over various issues.

Amid reports that the Centre may take a decision on a special session after the BRICS Summit, there is considerable interest in political circles over whether Parliament will reconvene during Navratri. However, until the government makes an official announcement, the possibility should be regarded as mere speculation.

CII Energy Efficiency Summit 2026

CII's Flagship Event on Energy Efficiency to be Organized in Hyderabad



HYDERABAD, SEPT 11

– The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) will host India's largest conference on energy efficiency, the 25th Energy Efficiency Summit, from 16–18 September 2026 at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre (HICC), Hyderabad.

As a flagship event of CII-Sohrabji Godrej Green Business Centre (CII – GBC), Hyderabad, the Energy Efficiency Summit is a major gathering of industry professionals, leaders, government, academia, alongside major industry associations and leading organizations from India and abroad for advancing energy efficiency practices.

This year's Energy Efficiency Summit, themed "Accelerating the transition to a Net Zero economy through energy efficiency, clean technologies, and sustainable practices," will bring together 3,500+ delegates and feature 150+ distinguished speakers, covering discussions spanning 20+ industry sectors.

The Summit will also feature three sector-focused conferences- the 22nd edition of CII Power Plant Summit, 20th edition of CII PaperTech and the 1st edition of CII - GEC Cleantech Nexus, which will explore critical innovations, technologies, and strategies across the thermal power, pulp and paper, and cleantech startup sectors, respectively, to accelerate environmental sustainability and climate transition.

A key highlight will be the 27th CII National Award for Excellence in Energy Management, recognizing the achievements of over 300+ companies and individuals that have demonstrated outstanding commitment to sustainable energy practices.

The event will also feature over 110+ exhibitors showcasing cutting-edge technologies and solutions, including a dedicated pavilion for low carbon technology innovations.

25 Years Since 9/11 Terror Attacks: A Tribute to the Victims – PM Modi

NEW DELHI, SEP 11

On the completion of 25 years since the 9/11 terror attacks, we remember those who lost their lives in that horrific tragedy and pay our deepest respects to them. We express our solidarity with the families of the victims whose lives were permanently changed by the tragedy. Terrorism has claimed the lives of countless innocent people across the world. As a country that has been a victim of cross-border terrorism, India has been at the forefront of the fight against terrorism for decades and unequivocally opposes terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Although the threat of terrorism continues to take new forms over time, our resolve to confront it will not diminish in the slightest. India will continue to extend its full support to all international efforts aimed at eliminating terrorism. These are some memories from my visit to the 9/11 Memorial & Museum in New York in 2014.

Appeal Filed Before Chennai National Green Tribunal Over Musi River

Chennai, Sept. 11: Retired engineers have challenged the environmental clearances granted by the Telangana government for the Musi River project before the National Green Tribunal (NGT), raising objections to proposed commercial and large-scale construction activities along the river. The Chennai bench of the NGT has issued notices to the Telangana government in connection with the petition. The hearing has been adjourned to October 16.

The retired engineers, Venkatesham and Indrasena Reddy, questioned the decision to permit commercial complexes and other major construction projects along the Musi riverfront. They argued that the environmental impact assessment did not adequately cover the entire river basin. According to the petitioners, the Musi river basin extends for nearly 55 km through Hyderabad, but environmental studies were carried out only over about 20 km. They sought a comprehensive assessment of the potential environmental impact before allowing further development.

CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

REVANTH, PONGULETI JOINTLY INDULGING IN LAND GRABBING: KTR

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Alleging that land grabbing had become rampant in the State, the BRS working president accused Ministers of having turned into a "Dandupalya gang".

KT Rama Rao alleged that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had set his sights on lands surrounding Hyderabad and had acquired thousands of acres in the name of the Musi project.

He also alleged that five acres of land in the Future City had been allotted to the Chief Minister's brother. Targeting the Congress government, he alleged that there was a scam behind every scheme implemented during its tenure.

During the presentation, one of the affected persons said the inclusion of their property in the 22-A prohibited list had prevented them from obtaining loans against it. The person said they had even approached the Collector, but their problem remained unresolved.

Bollarum Arms Theft: RETD HAVILDAR HELD

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According to police, Mallesh had joined the Indian Army in 2010 and served for 16 years before retiring on June 30, 2026. Police suspect that his alleged motive was resentment over his early retirement. In the intervening night of August 30 and 31, Mallesh allegedly entered the Bollarum military premises around 11 pm and stole several firearms, magazines, ammunition and a passive night-vision binocular from the Kote and Magazine rooms.

The stolen items included four AK-203 rifles with magazines, one INSAS rifle, six 9 mm pistols, one 6.35 bore pistol, a passive night-vision binocular and a large quantity of ammunition, police said. Following a complaint, Bollarum Police registered the case under Sections 331(4) and 305 of the BNS. The investigation was subsequently taken up by an ACP-rank officer.

Acting on credible information, G. Ramesh, ACP Trimulgherry Division, Bollarum Police, along with Hyderabad city Task Force, and SOT Malkajgiri Commissionerate, conducted a joint operation and apprehended Mallesh at his residence on Friday. Police said the stolen arms and ammunition had been kept at different locations, including Kowkoor, Yapral and Achampet in Nagarkurnool district. The accused was arrested and remanded in judicial custody. Police said the case was treated as a major challenge and credited the successful detection to coordinated efforts by the Malkajgiri police zone, Hyderabad city police task force and Telangana state intelligence department.

BJP Plans Month-Long Seva Sankalp Drive

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competitions, 'Mere Sapno Ka Bharat', 'Seva Jyoti Klash Yatra' and 'Sushasan Seva Samvad'. The birth anniversaries of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya and Mahatma Gandhi will also be observed as part of the campaign.

Rao highlighted the Modi government's initiatives, including Jan Dhan, UPI, PM Vishwakarma and PM SVANidhi, and said the achievements of the past 25 years would be taken to people across Telangana under the slogan 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas'.

The press conference was attended by party state general secretaries Vemula Ashok and Veerender Goud, ex-MLA Guvvala Balraj , state vice president Madhavi, Mahila Morcha state president Shilpa Reddy, state panellist Palnati Venkat Reddy and others.

MODI, PUTIN SEEK..

➢FROM PAGE 1

seafarers, according to India's External Affairs Ministry.

The two leaders agreed to remain engaged in efforts to further strengthen the "special and privileged strategic partnership" between India and Russia. Energy cooperation remains a key component of bilateral ties. India and China are among the largest buyers of Russian oil, despite pressure from Western countries to reduce purchases of Russian energy following the Ukraine conflict.

India has maintained that its large population and growing economy require secure, affordable and reliable energy supplies. Washington has threatened additional tariffs on countries continuing to purchase Russian oil and gas. The issue has added to the diplomatic and economic challenges facing New Delhi as it seeks to balance relations with major global powers.

Trade target of $100 billion

India and Russia have set a target of increasing bilateral trade to $100 billion by 2030, from nearly $70 billion in 2024-25. The Modi-Putin meeting comes at a time when disruptions caused by conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East are affecting global shipping, energy markets and supply chains. Against this backdrop, both countries are seeking to deepen economic, energy and strategic cooperation while BRICS members push for a greater role in shaping the global economic order.

'BRS Has No Future"

➢FROM PAGE 1

previous regime, Sridhar Babu pointed out that while the BRS government planned high-pollution "Red Category" units under the Pharma City initiative, the Congress government remains firmly committed to establishing eco-friendly Green Pharma hubs instead. Highlighting key administrative reforms, the IT Minister stated that the state will introduce enhanced Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) policies and examine special incentives for enterprises investing in rare and niche sectors.

He emphasised the groundbreaking launch of Telangana's dedicated MSME Policy—the first of its kind in the country—designed to provide comprehensive financial concessions and growth support to smaller enterprises.

To ensure balanced regional growth, the government is executing a targeted action plan to push industrial corridors into Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities across the state, prioritising export-oriented sectors, he said. Unlike previous proposals that remained on paper, the Minister asserted that a dedicated mechanism is now tracking every signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to guarantee actual implementation on the ground.

NO PRIVATISATION OF POLYTECHNICS: REVANTH

➢FROM PAGE 1

government land would be sold or that jobs would be lost because of the reforms.

He said the government had instead transferred an additional 282 acres of government land for Advanced Technology Centres (ATCs), with around Rs 46 crore being spent on each centre.

The government is also converting ITIs into Advanced Technology Centres with the support of Tata Technologies. This, he said, should not be interpreted as privatisation. Students enrolled in ATCs would also be provided a monthly scholarship of Rs 2,000. The Chief Minister appealed to students not to become "pawns" in political campaigns and urged them to focus on building their future through education and skills.

Education budget raised by Rs 7,554 crore

Revanth Reddy said education was being given the highest priority by the government and cited the increase in budgetary allocations as evidence.

The education budget, which stood at Rs 19,093 crore in 2023-24 under the previous government, was increased to Rs 21,292 crore in 2024-25, Rs 23,108 crore in 2025-26 and Rs 26,647 crore in 2026-27.

"THIS AMOUNTS TO AN INCREASE OF RS 7,554 CRORE IN JUST THREE YEARS," HE SAID.

He said the government had also filled 10,006 teacher posts within 55 days during its first year in office, without leaving room for allegations of irregularities. In comparison, only 7,857 teachers were recruited by the previous government over a decade, he claimed.

Focus on future generations

The Chief Minister said the government was preparing a new education policy keeping not only Generation Z but also future generations such as Generation Alpha and Generation Beta in mind.

He said an Education Commission had been constituted to formulate a new education policy for Telangana and a committee headed by K Keshava Rao had been appointed to examine its report. Suggestions from legislators, educationists and experts would be considered, he added.

Revanth Reddy said he had retained the Education portfolio because of his belief that education was the key to changing the lives of people and building the State's future.

"Education alone can bring light into our lives," he said, adding that the government wanted to bring the best global education practices to Telangana and develop the State as a model for the country.

Government schools see rise in enrolment

The Chief Minister said enrolment in government schools had increased by around 86,000 students since he took charge of the Education Department.

He said parents were increasingly opting for private schools because they offered nursery, LKG and English-medium education at an early age. To address this gap, the government had introduced pre-primary education in government schools for the first time.

Around 64,000 students were receiving pre-primary education this year, he said.

The government was also providing breakfast and mid-day meals to students from nursery to Class XII, along with meals for teachers. Centralised kitchens were being used to provide hygienic and nutritious food, with special emphasis on improving students' nutrition.

Fee reimbursement dues to be cleared

Revanth Reddy also gave details of fee reimbursement payments, saying the previous government had left behind dues of Rs 5,435 crore when it demitted office. Of this, the present government had already cleared Rs 1,410 crore from the earlier pending dues. Another Rs 1,465 crore had been paid after the new government assumed office.

Including payments made during the current academic year, the government had spent a total of Rs 3,488 crore on fee reimbursement over 32 months, he said.

The Chief Minister said the government was implementing direct transfers to students in accordance with Central guidelines. From the current academic year, funds were also being released in advance through the green channel for students.

He said pending claims would be examined on the basis of vigilance reports and genuine dues would be cleared in phases.

Reforms aimed at jobs and livelihoods

Revanth Reddy said the government viewed education not merely as another administrative department but as an instrument to shape Telangana's future.

The reforms, he said, were aimed at creating a direct link between education, skills, employment and livelihoods. The government would continue to review its decisions and make corrections wherever necessary based on expert advice and the interests of students.

He appealed to all sections not to create unnecessary apprehensions among students and assured that the interests of poor and disadvantaged students would not be compromised.

Govt to expedite digital health cards for employees: Bhatti

➢FROM PAGE 1

Bhatti Vikramarka said a dedicated trust had been constituted for the effective management of the Employees Health Scheme (EHS), with representatives of employee and teachers' associations also made members. The representatives and trustees had been entrusted with directly monitoring the implementation of the scheme, he said.

Bhatti Vikramarka informed the Legislative Council that the Finance Department had deposited a corpus fund of ₹264 crore into the EHS Trust account.

The Deputy Chief Minister said a formal mechanism had been put in place to enable employee association leaders and trustees to discuss and resolve minor issues arising during the implementation of the scheme.

He emphasised the need to strengthen coordination between the government and employee associations and ensure effective implementation of the EHS at the grassroots level. Bhatti Vikramarka also appealed to Legislative Council members to create awareness among beneficiaries about the scheme and its implementation.

GOVT COMMITTED TO PROTECTING...

➢FROM PAGE 1

notice of the House within a week and identify measures required to protect the water body and address the concerns of local communities. "I am completely committed to the protection of our tanks and their FTL boundaries. If there are specific instances where FTLs have been damaged or fishermen have been affected, bring them to my notice and we will act," the Minister assured the House.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said the government had initiated the process of constituting committees for all tanks. Such committees existed in the erstwhile undivided Andhra Pradesh but the system was subsequently discontinued. The decision to revive the mechanism followed recommendations for better management and protection of water bodies, he said. The Minister said around 44,000 tanks had been geo-tagged, providing an important database for their monitoring and conservation. He stressed that the government would not hesitate to allocate additional resources wherever necessary to protect tanks.

GOVT SHOULD KEEP AN EYE ON CORPORATE COMPANIES: MLA DANAM

Hyderabad, Sept.11 : Khaoratabad MLA Danam Nagender has urged the Telangana government to closely monitor the use of land allotted to corporate companies in Hyderabad and prevent its diversion for real estate activities.

Speaking in the Assembly on Friday, Nagender said land allotted to companies should primarily be used for industries, IT operations and employment generation rather than commercial real estate.

FRIENDLY BANTER TAKES PLACE BETWEEN OWAISI & PANEL SPEAKER

Hyderabad, Sept.11: A light-hearted exchange between MIM Floor Leader Akbaruddin Owaisi and Panel Speaker Kadiyam Srihari created an interesting moment in the Telangana Assembly during Question Hour on Friday.

Kadiyam Srihari expressed displeasure over Owaisi raising more than 20 questions consecutively and questioned which minister would be able to respond to such a large number of queries.

Responding in his characteristic style, Owaisi said the ministers were highly educated and capable of answering all the questions. Taking a dig at himself, he remarked, "I only passed the 12th grade; can't they even answer the questions I ask?"

Entire Nation Watching TG: Sabita



Hyderabad, Sept.11: Former Minister and BRS MLA P Sabita Indra Reddy on Friday said the entire country was watching the developments in Telangana over the past four days and alleged that the women legislators were subjected to severe harassment during an incident on the Assembly premises.

Speaking to the media in Delhi after BRS women MLAs met the Chairperson of the National Commission for Women, she said they had also brought the matter to the notice of the Human Rights Commission and Women's Commission.

Sabita alleged that the police prevented BRS legislators from entering the Assembly while they were wearing black badges and T-shirts. She claimed that male police personnel manhandled women MLAs, pulled their sarees and hair, and behaved in an unacceptable manner.

Describing the incident as "reminiscent of Dushyasana Parvam", the BRS leader said it was deeply painful that such an incident occurred within the Assembly premises. She alleged that nearly 500 police personnel were deployed to prevent around 40 elected representatives from entering the House.

The former minister alleged that several MLAs were injured in the incident and said Jagadish Reddy suffered health complications after his blood pressure rose. She questioned who had ordered the police to prevent the legislators from entering the Assembly and alleged that no action had been taken despite complaints to the DGP.

Road Safety Awareness Programme Organized by GCET

CHERIYAL, 11 SEP



The National Service Scheme (NSS) Unit of Geethanjali College of Engineering and Technology (GCET), in collaboration with the Traffic Engineering Cell of the Malkajgiri Commissionerate, organized a "Road Safety Awareness Programme" to create awareness about road safety among students and the public.

The programme was held at the GCET Block–5 Auditorium from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Deputy Commissioner of Police, Road Safety Wing, Malkajgiri Commissionerate, Smt. A. Lakshmi; Inspector of Police, Traffic Engineering Cell – Road Safety Wing, Sri S. Pradeep Babu; Inspector of Police, LB Nagar Traffic Training Institute, Sri Arjun Rachapudi; and officers and staff of the Traffic Engineering Cell participated in the programme.

On the occasion, the police officials created awareness among the students on various aspects, including following traffic rules, wearing helmets, using seat belts, controlling speed, understanding road signs, avoiding mobile phone use while driving, and not driving under the influence of alcohol. They explained the responsibility of every citizen in preventing road accidents. The officials advised the students not only to follow road safety rules themselves but also to create awareness among their family members and others in society. They called upon everyone to spread the message, "Safe Roads – Responsible Citizens – Strong India."

The programme was organized under the coordination of the GCET NSS Unit. Faculty Coordinators Sri J. Kishore Babu, Assistant Professor, EEE, and Smt. J. Bhargavi Lakshmi, Senior Assistant Professor, FE, contributed to the successful conduct of the programme. Road safety is everyone's responsibility – let us follow traffic rules and save lives.

Grand Celebration of Praja Palana Day at Public Gardens on 17th

Hyderabad, September 11: State Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju stated that elaborate arrangements should be made for Telangana Praja Palana Day, which will be held on the 17th of this month at Public Gardens in Nampally. A review meeting on the arrangements for Praja Palana Day was held on Thursday at Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat. Special Chief Secretaries Jayaesh Ranjan, Vikas Raj and Ahmed Nadeem; Principal Secretaries Naveen Mittal, Christina Chongthu and Shikha Goyal; Hyderabad Police Commissioner Sajjanar; RTC MD Nagi Reddy; Information Department Special Commissioner Mukund Reddy; and other senior officials attended the review meeting.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Secretary said that Praja Palana Day would be held at Public Gardens. He said that on the morning of the 17th, the Chief Minister would first pay tributes at the Martyrs' Stupa opposite the Assembly and then proceed to Public Gardens. He directed the concerned officials to make all necessary arrangements at the Martyrs' Stupa and at Public Gardens.

He also instructed that electric illumination be arranged at several major buildings and historical structures across the city. He directed officials to complete the full dress rehearsal for the programme on the 15th of this month. He stated that around 1,000 women from self-help groups, along with 2,000 other people, are expected to attend the Praja Palana Day celebrations.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Chennai Division (Commercial Branch)

For and on behalf of the President of India, Divisional Railway Manager/Commercial Branch, Chennai Division, Southern Railway, Chennai 600 003, invites On-Line tender from the experienced contractors for the following work as per tender notice uploaded in GeM portal **www.gem.gov.in.**

S. No.	GeM Bid No.	Description of work
1.	GEM/2026/B/7977572	Comprehensive Cleaning contract for maintenance of 12 stations in BBQ PTMS section across Chennai Division
2.	GEM/2026/B/7977839	Comprehensive Cleaning contract for maintenance of 12 stations in MSF TBMS section across Chennai Division
3.	GEM/2026/B/7977366	Comprehensive Cleaning contract for maintenance of 13 stations in PAB-PLMG section across Chennai Division for a period of four years
4.	GEM/2026/B/7977925	Comprehensive Cleaning contract for maintenance of 6 stations in PRGL CGL section across Chennai Division
5.	GEM/2026/B/7978080	Comprehensive Cleaning contract for maintenance of 17 stations in RPM-GPD section across Chennai Division

S. No.	Approximate cost of work	EMD	Closing date of E-Tender	Period of Completion
1.	30481182.19	302500	22.09.2026	4 Years
2.	40093217.5	350500	22.09.2026	4 Years
3.	30694742.49	303500	22.09.2026	4 Years
4.	22495676.03	262500	22.09.2026	4 Years
5.	30267288.26	301400	22.09.2026	4 Years

The bidders shall make payments towards Earnest Money Deposit against tenders through on-line payment modes like net banking, debit/ Credit Card etc. available on GeM portal. The details of terms and conditions are available in the website. GeM portal **www.gem.gov.in.**

Divisional Railway Manager/Commercial Branch, Chennai Division, Chennai 600 003.

EASTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender No. 216_2026-27, dated 10.09.2026. Following e-Tender is invited online by Divisional Railway Manager, Howrah, Eastern Railway, New DRM Building, near Rail Museum, Howrah-711101 from Tenderers having experience of Similar Nature of work and required Financial capabilities including those Registered with Irrigation/CPWD/SEB/MES or any public sector undertaking for the following work : **Sr. DEN/C/Howrah. Description of work :** (i) Construction of Limited Height Subway in lieu of Level Crossing No. 36B at Km 99/16-100/1 in Sheoraphuli-Bishnupur section under AEN/Liluah. (ii) Construction of Limited Height Subway in lieu of Level Crossing No. 34C at Km 97/121 in Sheoraphuli-Bishnupur section under AEN/Liluah. (iii) Construction of Limited Height Subway in lieu of Level Crossing No. 35C at Km 99/484 in Sheoraphuli-Bishnupur section under AEN/Liluah. (iv) Construction of Limited Height Subway in lieu of Level Crossing No. 38C at Km 115/438 in Sheoraphuli-Bishnupur section under AEN/Liluah. **Approx. Cost :** ₹ 26,71,75,443.20. **Earnest Money :** ₹ 53,43,500/-. **Cost of Tender Form :** Nil. **Completion Period:** 12 months. **Closing date and time of tender:** 05.10.2026 at 14.00 hrs. The details of tenders are available at website **www.ireps.gov.in** Tenderers are requested to submit their offer online on the above website. In case the date of closing mentioned in the Notice Inviting Tender is declared a holiday/bandh/ strike on any account, the date of closing tender online will not be changed as the application in the website of IREPS does not permit submission of any offer after closing date and time of the tender. However, opening of tenders online will be done next working day. No manual offer will be accepted. (HWH-330/2026-27)

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

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Alleged Abuse of Women Cops: TGHRC SEEKS DGP REPORT

Hyderabad, Sept.11: The Telangana Human Rights Commission (TGHRC), headed by Chairperson Justice Shameem Akther, has directed the Director General of Police (DGP), Telangana, to submit detailed reports on two complaints concerning alleged caste-based abuse and misconduct towards women police personnel. The two complaints relating to alleged incidents took place on September 7. In the first complaint, Pilli Sudhakar and others of Jathiya Mala Mahanadu alleged that BRS MLC Tata Madhusudhan publicly abused Telangana Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad, who belongs to the Dalit community, in vulgar language. They further alleged that during a Dalit protest outside former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao's farmhouse at Erravelli in Siddipet district, BRS leader Pavani Goud and others sprinkled turmeric water and milk to allegedly "purify" the area and used derogatory expressions against the protesters.

In another complaint, Indira Shoban alleged that during a protest at the Telangana Legislative Assembly, some BRS MLAs removed their black T-shirts and stood half-naked in the presence of women police personnel deployed on duty. She alleged that the incident caused embarrassment, mental distress and humiliation to the personnel. After examining the material before it, the Commission called for reports from the Telangana DGP in both the cases and posted the matters to October 9, 2026 for further consideration.

AI MEETS ANALOG: ASTERQUANTA CEO INSPIRES GITAM ENGG STUDENTS

Hyderabad, Sept.11 (NSS): Asterquanta founder and CEO Pradeep V. Pydah delivered a guest lecture on "AI, Analog, and the Future of Engineering" at GITAM, deemed to be University, Hyderabad.

Organised by the Department of Electrical, Electronics and Communication Engineering (EECE), the session explored the convergence of AI and analog technologies, their impact on VLSI design and emerging opportunities in engineering.

Pydah stressed the need to democratise semiconductor design by making it faster, affordable and accessible, while developing AI-ready semiconductor design environments. He urged students to conceptualise and solve problems on paper before moving to circuit simulation.

He also highlighted the potential of AI to transform specification sheets into intelligent circuit designs and encouraged students to continuously learn and master emerging technologies. Pydah expressed interest in exploring an MoU with GITAM to extend Asterquanta's services and industry opportunities to students. EECE HoD Prof. Prasanta R.M., faculty members and students attended the session.

Eco-Ecadantaya Celebrates Responsible Chaturthi at GITAM





Hyderabad, September 11: Students of GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, organized an engaging and creative 'Eco-Ecadantaya'programme to promote an environmentally responsible celebration of Ganesh Chaturthi.

The programme brought together students from various departments, who showcased their creativity by crafting Ganesh idols using natural clay as an eco-friendly alternative. The initiative highlighted the importance of choosing biodegradable materials, avoiding toxic colours and plastic decorations, minimizing waste, and following safe and designated immersion practices.

Ganesh Chaturthi beautifully brings together faith, art, community and celebration. However, the use of materials such as Plaster of Paris (PoP), non-biodegradable decorations and harmful paints can adversely affect water bodies during immersion.

The programme concluded with a message encouraging everyone to choose natural clay idols as the first and most important step towards a greener and more responsible Ganesh Chaturthi.

Asterquanta CEO Delivers Guest Lecture on 'AI, Analog, and the Future of Engineering' at GITAM

Pradeep V. Pydah, Founder and CEO of Asterquanta, delivered an insightful guest lecture on 'AI, Analog, and the Future of Engineering' at GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad. The programme was organized by the Department of Electrical, Electronics and Communication Engineering (EECE), School of Core Engineering.

The lecture explored the convergence of AI and analogtechnologies, their impact on VLSI design and system innovation, and emerging trends and opportunities in engineering. The interactive session encouraged students to engage critically, ask questions and explore practical approaches to solving engineering challenges.

Pydah emphasized the need to democratize semiconductor design by making it faster, more affordable and accessible, while developing AI-ready semiconductor design environments. He advised students to first conceptualize and solve problems on paper before moving to circuit simulation and highlighted the potential of AI to transform specification sheets into intelligent circuit designs.

Encouraging students to think deeply, continuously learn and develop mastery in emerging technologies, Pydah also expressed interest in explworing an MoU with GITAM to extend Asterquanta's services and industry opportunities to GITAM students.

EECE HoD Prof. Prasanta. R. M., faculty members and students attended the enriching session.



No question of smart meters on farm pumps: Bhatti

HYDERABAD

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka on Friday categorically ruled out the installation of smart meters on agricultural motors and pump sets, saying there was no question of imposing such meters on farmers under any circumstances. Replying to members in the Legislative Council, he gave a 100 per cent assurance to farmers and their families that the government would not install meters on agricultural pump sets. "Even if the heavens and earth were to come together, or anyone exerts pressure, there will be no meters on agricultural pump sets," he said. Bhatti Vikramarka appealed to political parties and others not to create unnecessary fears and misconceptions among farmers by claiming that meters would be installed on agricultural motors.

Promotion Brings Greater Responsibility

Veterinary doctors promoted as Assistant Directors felicitated
Department reorganisation needed to ensure timely promotions: TGO district secretary

KARIMNAGAR



Three veterinary doctors who were recently promoted as Assistant Directors after rendering nearly 25 years of service were felicitated by the Karimnagar District Veterinary Doctors Association. The doctors — Dr. Randheer Reddy, who served at Saidapur, Dr. Shashikanth Reddy of Kothapalli and Dr. Ramakrishna of Ramadugu — were honoured for their dedicated services to the Animal Husbandry Department. Speaking on the occasion, District Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Officer (DVAHO) Dr. Linga Reddy congratulated the three doctors for discharging their duties with dedication and effectively handling the responsibilities entrusted to them. He expressed confidence that they would continue to serve with the same commitment in their new roles and contribute further to the development of the department.

District Assistant Director Dr. Vinod Kumar congratulated the newly promoted officers and appreciated their long-standing services as veterinary doctors.

Call for timely promotions

TGO district secretary Dr. Aravind Reddy congratulated the three doctors and said it was unfortunate that veterinary doctors had to wait nearly 25 years of service for promotions. He urged the government to undertake departmental reorganisation and increase the required number of posts so that employees in the department could get promotions at the appropriate time. Timely promotions would boost the morale of employees and motivate them to discharge their responsibilities with greater commitment, he said. Karimnagar Veterinary Doctors Association president Dr. Surender Reddy also congratulated the promoted doctors. He said that despite the formation of Telangana and the subsequent creation of new districts, the number of Assistant Director posts in the Animal Husbandry Department had not increased adequately, making promotions difficult. He appealed to the government to take up departmental reorganisation and create additional posts to ensure timely promotions for veterinary doctors and other employees.

Deputy Director Dr. Ravikumar, Assistant Directors Dr. Venkat Reddy and Dr. Naresh, retired Assistant Directors Dr. Ramaswamy and Dr. Jayaramulu, Office Superintendent Prabhakar Reddy, veterinary doctors from the district, and family members and friends of the promoted doctors attended the programme and congratulated them.



One Lakh Bangles Pooja held at Sri Nagaraja Rajeshwara Swamy Temple

DR SRINIVAS VOORADI

Hanumakonda, Sept 11: A one lakh bangles pooja was held at the Sri Nagaraja Rajeshwara Swamy Temple at Waddepally in Hanamkonda on Friday, marking the last day of the auspicious Shravana maasa. The special ritual was conducted by the temple's head priest, Brahmasri Godavarti Jeevan Sharma, and led by temple President Kunduru Anil Reddy. Hundreds of women devotees took part in the pooja and offered prayers at the temple. The temple premises witnessed a devotional atmosphere as the bangles were arranged and worshipped as part of the ceremony. Women devotees participated with enthusiasm, seeking the blessings of the deity for the well-being and prosperity of their families. Speaking on the occasion, Temple President Kunduru Anil Reddy, Secretary Eturi Kondal Rao, Treasurer Vidyasagar and Manager M Ashok said the event was organised to mark the spiritual significance of Shravana maasa and to provide devotees an opportunity to participate in the special worship.

BJP WALKOUT OVER BC RESOLUTION SPARKS WAR OF WORDS IN ASSEMBLY

HYDERABAD

BJP MLAs staged a walkout from the Telangana Legislative Assembly on Friday in protest against a resolution moved by BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar seeking the inclusion of a BC caste enumeration in the Census. The BJP legislators demanded implementation of the Kamareddy BC Declaration, prompting sharp criticism from Ministers Ponnam Prabhakar and Seethakka. Ponnam accused the BJP of failing to support the interests of BC communities and alleged that the party followed "Manuvadi" ideology. He called upon the Centre to cooperate with the Telangana government in ensuring justice for BCs and urged BC organisations to question the BJP leadership over its stand on reservations and caste enumeration. The Minister said a caste census would provide an opportunity to address caste-based inequalities and alleged that the Centre had adopted contradictory positions on the issue. He urged the Union government to acknowledge the demands of BC communities and undertake a caste census.

Minister Seethakka termed the BJP walkout "appalling" and questioned the Centre's reluctance to include caste enumeration in the general Census despite Prime Minister Narendra Modi identifying himself as a BC. She said BC communities were not merely "backward classes" but productive communities that form the backbone of the country and contribute significantly to the economy through traditional occupations. She expressed concern over the declining economic conditions of communities dependent on such occupations despite technological advancement. Seethakka also recalled Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's Kanyakumari-to-Kashmir Bharat Jodo Yatra, saying it highlighted the cause of social justice. She criticised BJP MLA Payal Shankar for allegedly diverting the Assembly debate on the BC resolution. Questioning the absence of a BC leader as BJP Floor Leader, Seethakka said Congress governments had historically created employment and livelihood opportunities for BC communities. She also recalled the Congress party's support to H.D. Deve Gowda, who became the country's first OBC Prime Minister.

Meanwhile, Ponnam Prabhakar formally moved the resolution urging the inclusion of BC caste enumeration in the Census, calling for the House to support the demand.

Launch of Green and Recyclable Toilets Developed by the Gates Foundation...

HYDERABAD



The city of Hyderabad, which has emerged as a hub for innovation, is set to become a platform for another world-class, cutting-edge technology. The city has been selected for the production of Net Zero Green Toilets developed by the Bill Gates Foundation, which treat and recycle water for reuse. Reflow, an environmentally friendly technology company, will collaborate with T-Works, an initiative of the Telangana Government, and the Gates Foundation to manufacture advanced green toilets here and supply them to various states across the country as well as to other countries.

The country's first green toilets have been installed at Lumbini Park. The Net Zero toilet complex, which recycles and reuses water, was inaugurated by IT, Industries and Legislative Affairs Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu and Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar. The toilets, established at a cost of Rs. 1 crore, can be relocated and installed at different locations. Sridhar Babu appreciated Reflow's decision to manufacture the toilets locally in collaboration with T-Works. He said that these solar-powered toilets do not require an electricity connection. Once the tank is filled, the same water can be treated multiple times and reused, he explained. He also specially appreciated the representatives of the Gates Foundation for providing the technology free of cost. He revealed that orders have already been received from private and government organizations for 50 units of the recyclable toilets. He said that since the technology developed by the Gates Foundation's research organizations is being made available free of cost, the toilets can be offered at an affordable price. Sridhar Babu explained that they can be used anywhere because they consume very little water and do not require an external electricity supply. Gates Foundation representative Archana Vyas, Reflow representative Abhishek, T-Works CEO Joginder Tanikella, and others participated in the programme.

Harish Alleges Private Lands Added to 22-A List

HYDERABAD

Former minister and BRS legislature party deputy floor leader T. Harish Rao said the 22-A prohibited land list had become a major source of distress for lakhs of people across Telangana. He alleged that the Congress government had added large numbers of private properties, houses and agricultural lands to the prohibited list without proper verification. Harish Rao made a PowerPoint presentation on the alleged "22-A prohibited lands scam" at Telangana Bhavan on Friday and said people across all districts were suffering due to the restrictions. "Everyone we meet is speaking about the 22-A problem. Lands given as dowry are now not being accepted by sons-in-law. Families are unable to sell their properties, arrange marriages or fund their children's education," he said. Harish Rao said Section 22-A was originally introduced to protect government, assigned, endowment, Waqf and other protected lands. "The purpose was to protect government and public lands. But today, ordinary people's properties are being added to the prohibited list," he alleged. He accused the Congress government of trying to blame the previous BRS regime for a problem that, he claimed, had emerged after the Congress came to power. "During the KCR government, people were at the centre of governance. Under Revanth Reddy, land has become the centre of governance. Every decision seems to revolve around land," he said. Harish Rao alleged that thousands of families were seeing the value of their properties reduced to almost zero overnight. "Land is not just a piece of property for ordinary people. For a farmer, it is his livelihood. For a poor family, it is a lifetime's savings. For a middle-class family, it is security for their children's future. For a father, it may be the property saved for his daughter's marriage. For parents, it may be the only support for their children's education. For a family, it can be the last financial support during a medical emergency," he said. The BRS leader alleged that the government was creating uncertainty over such properties and causing serious hardship to people. "The government must protect the life and property of people. It cannot itself become a threat to their property," Harish Rao said. He further alleged that large tracts of land and properties had been added to the 22-A list without proper verification. Harish Rao demanded that the government immediately remove all wrongly included private properties from the 22-A prohibited list.

CS directs officials to ensure meticulous planning for Global Summit

HYDERABAD

Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju reviewed the arrangements being made for the Telangana Global Summit 2026, scheduled to be held from December 7 to 9, 2026, at the Secretariat on Friday. He directed all the departments and committees concerned to ensure meticulous planning and advance coordination for the successful conduct of the prestigious global event. During the review meeting, the Chief Secretary emphasised the need for early and comprehensive engagement with all delegates and invitees. He instructed the officials to send invitations well in advance and establish contact with the delegates sufficiently ahead of the summit so that their travel, accommodation, transportation, security and other requirements could be planned and arranged smoothly. The Chief Secretary also directed the officials to prepare a holistic action plan for the Advisory Board and Sectoral Executive Board of the Global Summit. He further directed the officials to organise a curtain-raiser event in New Delhi by the end of this month to create wider national and international visibility for the Telangana Global Summit 2026. The event should highlight Telangana's investment opportunities, growth story, key sectors and the vision of the State for the summit, he said. The Chief Secretary reviewed in detail the preparations being undertaken by the Venue Committee, Media Committee and Hospitality Committee. He took stock of the progress made by each committee and sought timelines for completing the various preparatory activities. Reviewing the arrangements of the Venue Committee, Chief Secretary directed the officials to ensure that all infrastructure and logistical requirements at the summit venue are planned comprehensively, keeping in view the participation of national and international delegates. The Media Committee was directed to prepare a comprehensive communication and publicity strategy for the summit. He emphasised the importance of extensive media outreach and effective dissemination of information about the summit and its outcomes.

Governor urges people to opt for eco-friendly Ganesha idols

HYDERABAD

Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla on Friday appealed to people to celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi with devotion while giving equal importance to environmental protection, and urged them to opt for eco-friendly clay Ganesha idols to help prevent water pollution. Extending his greetings to the people of Telangana and across the country on the occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi, the Governor emphasised the need for environmentally responsible celebrations during the festival. As part of an initiative to promote eco-friendly celebrations, Shiv Pratap Shukla, along with his wife Janaki Shukla, distributed eco-friendly clay Ganesha idols to officials and employees of Lok Bhavan and members of the media at the Lok Bhavan premises here on Friday. The Governor said that idol installation and puja ceremonies would commence from September 14 and stressed the need to protect the environment throughout the festival celebrations.

Caste Census Must Be Conducted, Say BC Groups

BCs Stage 'Dharma Porata Deeksha' in Karimnagar, Demand OBC Caste Census

KARIMNAGAR



How can a community claim its rightful share when its population is not accurately counted? How can social justice be ensured without knowing the actual strength of different communities? Raising these questions, BC organisations once again took up the cause of a caste-based census in Karimnagar. Demanding that the upcoming Census include a separate caste enumeration of Other Backward Classes (OBCs), BC Welfare and affiliated organisations staged a 'Dharma Porata Deeksha' in front of the Collectorate here on Friday. The protest was organised following the call given by BC Welfare Association national president Jajula Srinivas Goud. Speaking on the occasion, BC Welfare Association district president Nagula Kanakaiah Goud demanded that the Centre fulfil its assurance of conducting an OBC caste census along with the upcoming national Census.

Separate Code for Every Caste

Kanakaiah Goud demanded that every OBC caste be recorded separately in the Census and that a unique code be assigned to each caste. He said a caste census would provide clear data on the actual population as well as the social and economic conditions of BC communities. Such data, he added, would help governments formulate more effective policies relating to welfare schemes, reservations and development programmes. "It is unfortunate that detailed population figures are available even for animals, while there is still no comprehensive caste-wise data on a significant section of the country's population," he said. He stressed that only an accurate count of BCs would provide clarity on their population share, rights and representation.

Fulfil the Assurance

BC leaders demanded that the Central government immediately implement its assurance on conducting an OBC caste census. They warned that the agitation would be intensified if the demand was not addressed. The leaders also said their protest would continue against both the Central government and the BJP until the demand was fulfilled. Corporators Guggilla Jayashree, former corporators Nampally Srinivas, Gande Madhavi and Thota Ramulu extended their support to the protest. State general secretary Rangu Sampath, district working president Rachamalla Raju, BC Students' Association district president Naroju Rakesh Chary, BC Youth Association district president Madasu Sanjeev, state secretary G.S. Anand, former women's association president Aila Prasanna, district general secretary Devarakonda Santoshi, district vice-president Veeragoni Varalakshmi, district vice-presidents Manthena Kiran, Edla Surender and Penta Srinivas, BC Students' Association district general secretary Gaje Prajyoth, along with Biyyani Tirupathi, Dumpatapalli Murali, Rajkumar, Bandari Mallaiah, Dileep, Tipparapu Srinivas, Sudhakar, Akula Suresh and Ashish Goud, among others, participated in the programme.

BANK EMPLOYEES HOLD STATEWIDE STRIKE

HYDERABAD

Bank employees across the country observed a strike on Friday in response to a call given by the United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU), protesting the delay in implementing the five-day banking system.

K. Anjaneya Prasad, UFBU Telangana State Convener, said around 3,500 bank employees across Telangana participated in the strike. Addressing a programme held at the State Bank of India's main office at Koti, he urged the state government and bank managements to address the long-pending demands of employees.

The demands include implementation of a five-day banking system, filling vacancies in the banking sector and resolving employees' grievances. Anjaneya Prasad said the increasing workload and shortage of staff were putting considerable pressure on employees and affecting the efficient delivery of banking services to customers.

He also called for strengthening public sector banks and opposed moves towards their privatisation. Employee unions expressed their objections to the proposed Performance-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, stating that policies that could create divisions among employees should not be introduced.

The unions urged the authorities to take steps to resolve the legitimate demands of both bank employees and officers.

The UFBU also announced that meetings would be held nationwide on September 28, 29 and 30 to discuss various issues concerning the banking sector. The unions warned that further agitation programmes would be undertaken if their demands were not addressed.

All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBEA) member Rambabu, National Confederation of Bank Employees (NCBE) member Chandra Sekhar and others participated in the programme and expressed solidarity with the employees' demands.

CM directs district Collectors to accord highest priority to tackle El Niño situation

Foundation stone for Global Horticulture Hub to be laid this month:CM.. Ministerial committee on price control should function continuously:CM

AMARAVATI

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu directed district Collectors to accord the highest priority to tackle the situation arising from El Niño and stressed the need to protect both farmers and consumers.The Chief Minister warned that El Niño could affect farmers through reduced crop yields and could also impact consumers through rising prices of essential commodities. He called for coordinated action by all departments and directed officials to adopt the best practices to meet the challenge.

The Chief Minister reviewed the impact of El Niño, the Jaladhara programme, drinking water availability, agriculture and irrigation projects during collectors conference today. He said he would review the El Niño situation every week and personally undertake field visits. Ministers, Collectors and public representatives should also regularly visit the field and create awareness among farmers, he directed. The Chief Minister said water shortages caused by El Niño could also lead to inflation. If crop production declines, prices of essential commodities could rise, he noted, calling for advance measures to prevent such a situation.He directed Ministers and officials to work in coordination to protect consumers from the burden of rising prices and said the ministerial committee on price control should function continuously. Farmers should be guided in advance on crops that are likely to have greater demand in the future. Where necessary, seeds of such crops should be supplied to farmers at subsidised rates, he said. The government should also examine the possibility of announcing Minimum Support Prices for crops expected to have high demand.The Chief Minister called for promotion of crops such as onions, pulses and millets, along with wider adoption of multi-cropping. Promoting demand-based crops within the State would reduce dependence on imports from other regions, he said.

The Chief Minister directed Collectors to prepare lists of crops covered under insurance and create awareness among farmers to opt for crop insurance."Take immediate steps to ensure that farmers receive insurance compensation even if their crops are damaged due to El Niño," he said, stressing that officials have the responsibility of making farmers fully aware of insurance provisions.He also directed officials to fully activate Rythu Bazars, study the crops being procured by the Central Government and advise farmers accordingly on their cultivation plans. The government should provide farmers with market assurance while ensuring that consumers get essential commodities at reasonable prices, he said.

The Chief Minister called for promotion of natural farming and the PMDS system in El Niño conditions. Special measures should be taken to maintain greenery, he said.He directed officials to encourage rain-fed crops and fodder cultivation and use seeds for mulching wherever necessary to preserve greenery. Drone-based seed broadcasting should also be promoted on a large scale, he said.Advance measures must be taken to ensure that El Niño does not cause shortages of drinking water or fodder. Comprehensive plans should be prepared to ensure that no drinking water shortage arises in either urban or rural areas.Wherever possible, tanks should be filled to meet drinking water requirements, and planning should begin immediately to ensure uninterrupted water supply until the next summer. Water should be transported from nearby sources to areas facing shortages, he said. Recalling the drinking water crisis faced by Tirumala in the past, the Chief Minister said the government had overcome the situation by laying a pipeline within 100 days. "With advance planning, any water crisis can be tackled effectively," he said.

The Chief Minister said irrigation in lakhs of acres in the Krishna Delta could be protected with Pattiseema water even under severe El Niño conditions.At present, 8,100 cusecs of water is being released from Pattiseema, with 6,700 cusecs reaching Prakasam Barrage. So far this season, 39.5 TMC of Godavari water has been diverted to the Krishna Delta through Pattiseema.Irrigation projects are crucial to protecting the State from drought, he said, directing officials to complete 36 priority irrigation projects within three years.The Chief Minister congratulated Water Resources Minister and officials for accelerating works on the Veligonda project, Polavaram Left Canal and Handri-Neeva Canal. He directed them to complete the remaining 36 priority projects with the same determination. Targets should be set to complete works at least one month ahead of the stipulated deadlines, he said, adding that incentives would be provided to contractors and officials who complete projects on time.

The Chief Minister said the proposed Godavari-Cauvery river linkage, along with the Jal Jeevan Mission, could help provide piped water to every household.Water resources plans should be prepared keeping future water requirements in mind. Works under the Jaladhara programme should continue without interruption, including excavation of trenches and construction of required structures.He directed officials to increase groundwater levels by interlinking internal basins on the lines of the initiative undertaken in Annamayya district. A special blueprint should also be prepared for filling tanks, he said.

As part of drought mitigation measures, the Chief Minister directed officials to ensure adequate cattle sheds and prevent any shortage of cattle feed.The Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Water Resources and Rural Development departments should work in close coordination, he said.As part of measures to give greater impetus to the horticulture sector, the foundation stone for the Global Horticulture Hub will be laid this month, the Chief Minister announced.



Andhra Pradesh CM directs officials to encourage joint families in welfare schemes

AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Friday directed district Collectors to encourage joint families by extending welfare benefits to all. Expressing concern over the splitting of joint families into micro families to receive welfare benefits, the Chief Minister advised the officials to distribute ration to all the members by changing policies and by treating the family as the basic unit.

He instructed officials to complete family-unit mapping before issuing new social security pensions, while continuing the existing beneficiaries without any changes. Addressing the Collectors' Conference on the second and concluding day, the Chief Minister directed officials to prepare a welfare calendar to remind people of welfare benefits receiving dates and to bring awareness among them on better use of welfare benefits. The Chief Minister said the government had so far spent around Rs 1.50 lakh crore on welfare programmes, including Rs 75,000 crore on pensions alone. Welfare policies should focus on reducing economic inequalities and improving people's quality of life, he said and called for focussing more on empowering families.

CM Naidu directed SERP and MEPMA to extensively implement the "One Family–One Entrepreneur" programme. He said steps were being taken to transform five lakh women into entrepreneurs. He stressed the need to provide quality education to students staying in hostels. Chandrababu Naidu directed Collectors to take the P4 programme forward as a people's movement rather than implementing it as a routine exercise.

The Chief Minister said the first day of every month had been dedicated to welfare through the "Pedala Sevalo" programme. Similarly, the "Mee Bhoomi–Mee Hakku" programme should be conducted on the 9th of every month to undertake comprehensive cleansing of land records, he said.

He directed officials to give priority to sanitation through the "Swachh Andhra–Swarna Andhra" programme on the third Saturday of every month and implement the "Sanjeevani" digital health records initiative on the fourth Saturday for better citizen health management. Along with these initiatives, the message of positive thinking and building a society based on values should be taken to the people, he said. While reviewing the status of file clearances by ministers, secretaries, collectors and other officials, the Chief Minister pulled up officials for failing to dispose of files within the prescribed time. He said total file clearance should be made online within one month. He congratulated all officials who cleared files within two days or less.

Field visits by secretaries and collectors are mandatory and must be undertaken regularly.

Karnataka Challenges Cauvery Water Release to TN

Karnataka's appeal challenging the direction to release Cauvery river water to Tamil Nadu will come up for hearing before the Supreme Court on September 14, Water Resources Minister N Chaluvarayaswamy said on Friday. Karnataka has approached the Supreme Court against the Cauvery Water Management Authority's direction to the state to release 6,000 cusecs of Cauvery water daily to Tamil Nadu. The CWMA on Tuesday upheld the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee's recommendation directing Karnataka to ensure a flow of 6,000 cusecs to Tamil Nadu for 15 days. "The petition will come up for hearing on Monday. The state government was compelled to continue releasing water to Tamil Nadu until then based on the advice of legal experts, as directly approaching the court in violation of the CWRC order could have jeopardised the petition," Chaluvarayaswamy said, according to a statement issued by his office. The minister said the government was in a difficult position amid an acute water shortage in Karnataka, but had to comply with court orders within the framework of the federal system. "Over the last 20 years, this is the year when the least amount of water has been released to Tamil Nadu. Even during similarly difficult situations in the past, there have been instances where 35 TMC of water was released," he said. Chaluvarayaswamy said the government remained committed to protecting the interests of farmers and that Karnataka's officials and legal team were putting forward strong arguments before the Supreme Court. Water is currently being supplied to farmers for irrigation on a rotational basis, while the government is also working to fill lakes and tanks, he said.

The minister said sufficient water would be reserved in the four major reservoirs in the Cauvery basin to ensure drinking water availability between December and June. He said the government did not want to engage in a political blame game with the Opposition over the Cauvery dispute. "If BJP MPs from Karnataka and Union ministers take steps to secure the Centre's approval for the Mahadayi and Mekedatu projects, it would provide a permanent solution to the state's water-related concerns," he said.

Chaluvarayaswamy said discussions had already been held with Union Jal Shakti Minister C R Patil on the Mekedatu project and expressed confidence that approval would be secured soon.

South-South Cooperation

A New Path for Global Economic and Social Growth

In the history of human civilization, international relations have always revolved around power, colonial dominance, and self-interest. If we look at the history of past centuries, global wealth, technology, and political influence were largely concentrated in the industrialized countries of the Global North. After gaining independence from colonial rule, developing countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean traditionally had to rely on the help of Northern countries for their development. However, after decades of experience, Global South countries realized that this one-way dependency model failed to fully fulfill their aspirations. This realization led to the birth of "South-South Cooperation." It symbolizes a shared determination where developing nations pool their own strengths, share resources, exchange technology, and achieve sustainable development through equal partnership. To keep this historical awareness alive worldwide, the United Nations officially declared September 12 as the "United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation." This special day is not just a celebration; it is a powerful symbol of self-respect and unity for the countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America as they move toward self-reliance beyond the remnants of colonialism.

Looking back through history, the idea of South-South cooperation did not emerge overnight. It is backed by long freedom struggles, anti-colonial movements, and the desire of developing nations to protect their independent foreign policies amidst Cold War politics. The first spark of this came in April 1955 at the historic Asian-African Conference held in Bandung, Indonesia. Prominent leaders of that time—such as Indonesian President Sukarno, Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, and Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser—called for an end to one-sided dominant politics. They aspired that countries divided by colonialism, racial discrimination, and Cold War politics should support one another and walk together economically and culturally. This Bandung spirit gradually transformed into the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), which was launched in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, in 1961. Additionally, the creation of the "Group of 77" (G-77) bloc at the UN General Assembly in 1964 gave an organized shape to South-South cooperation. Developing nations united on a common platform to voice their economic rights through the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Continuing these historical developments, the United Nations specifically created a framework to strengthen economic, social, and technical cooperation among developing countries. In 1978, at a historic UN conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina, the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA) for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) was adopted. Over time, as the scope of this cooperation expanded beyond technology to include comprehensive economic and social development, the UN General Assembly officially declared September 12 as the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation.

In today's globalized world, the importance of South-South cooperation has grown even more. Traditionally, foreign aid provided by Northern nations (Official Development Assistance or ODA) comes with many conditions. Often, Western countries heavily influenced the internal policies of the recipient countries. However, the core principles of South-South cooperation are completely different. They are based on "mutual benefit," "non-interference," "equality," and "condition-free friendship." Here, one country does not act merely as a "donor" or "recipient" to another, but as an equal "development partner." The problems faced by Global South countries are mostly similar—poverty, unemployment, lagging health sectors, lack of infrastructure, and the adverse effects of climate change. Expensive models imported from Western countries to tackle these issues may not always fit the local conditions of developing nations. In contrast, low-cost and adaptable solutions developed by one developing country can work wonderfully for another. For instance, successes achieved by certain Global South countries in areas such as Digital Public Infrastructure, low-cost healthcare models, local agricultural practices, micro-credit schemes, and renewable energy are serving as role models for the world.

India has always been at the forefront of sharing technology and human resources among Asian, African, and Latin American nations. Staying true to the ancient Indian philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the world is one family) ever since its independence, India has continued to offer its support to the progress of other developing countries. Through the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) program—part of India's foreign assistance policy—thousands of young professionals, civil servants, engineers, and doctors from Africa and Asia have received higher education in India. Sharing its achievements in both IT and space science, India is partnering not just with its neighbors, but also with remote African nations. For example, India's e-VidyaBharati and e-ArogyaBharati (e-VBAB) network projects provide top-tier tele-education and telemedicine services free or at nominal costs to students across the African continent. Similarly, the Indian government has extended billions of rupees in Lines of Credit to establish agricultural research centers, irrigation projects, and infrastructure in various African nations. During the severe crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic, India put aside its own needs through the "Vaccine Maitri" initiative and supplied millions of COVID-19 vaccines free of charge to dozens of developing countries, standing as a brilliant example of South-South cooperation. Furthermore, India plays a crucial role in strongly voicing the concerns of Global South nations on international platforms like the United Nations and the G-20. By including the African Union as a permanent member during the recent G-20 summit hosted by India, historic representation was given to the aspirations of the Global South.

Another great example of South-South cooperation is China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and its growing trade relations with African and Latin American countries. Using its massive financial resources, China is building large infrastructure projects such as roads, railways, ports, and power plants in developing nations. This has made trade routes easier and accelerated economic activities in those regions. However, this economic partnership is not without certain challenges and concerns. Some analysts warn that China's "Debt Trap Diplomacy" approach could cause smaller countries to lose their sovereignty. Even so, China's proactive role in developing infrastructure in African countries—which multinational Western corporations often ignored—has undoubtedly provided an alternative path to their economic growth. Alongside China, countries like Brazil, South Africa, and Indonesia are also carrying out numerous regional development programs through mutual cooperation. In Latin America, Brazil uses its agricultural research corporation (EMBRAPA) to transfer tropical farming methods to other developing countries, playing a key role in boosting food security. Similarly, Cuba has sent medical teams to remote corners of the world to provide emergency health services, standing for decades as a symbol of humanitarian South-South cooperation.

BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, and newly joined member states) is one of the fastest-growing and most powerful platforms in the modern international economy. Representing over 40 percent of the world's population and more than a quarter of global GDP, this bloc is turning into a strong fortress for the economic self-reliance of the Global South. As an alternative to the rules of Western-dominated international financial institutions like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), BRICS nations established the New Development Bank (NDB). Through this bank, developing countries can secure loans for infrastructure development without facing harsh conditions. This demonstrates how South-South cooperation translates into a practical force. Moves by the BRICS bloc to promote trade in local currencies to counter the dominance of the dollar and reduce reliance on Western nations in the global supply chain are steering the international economy toward a multipolar world order.

Despite these positive developments, South-South cooperation faces some serious challenges. First, not all Global South nations possess the same level of economic and political power. Clear inequalities exist between large economies like China or India and poorer, developing nations in Africa or Caribbean islands. Due to these disparities, there is a risk that larger countries might project economic dominance over smaller ones. Second, internal political instability, civil wars, border disputes, and corruption plague many developing nations. Foreign investments and development projects are difficult to implement smoothly in countries experiencing political instability. Third, Global South countries are suffering the most from climate change. Because Western nations emitted massive carbon emissions in the name of industrialization, countries in Asia and Africa are bearing the brunt of rising sea levels, droughts, and severe storms. To fight this issue, adequate financial funds and eco-friendly technologies need to flow from Global North countries to developing nations. However, as Western countries back away from their promises, a historical need has arisen for Global South nations to cooperate mutually in environmental protection and green energy production.

To overcome these challenges and make South-South cooperation more productive and inclusive in the future, clear strategies are needed. Partnerships must expand beyond government agreements to include universities, research organizations, civil societies, and the private sector. Global South nations should establish a "Common Knowledge Pool" in advanced fields like digital technology, artificial intelligence, and biotechnology. This would allow people in developing countries to easily access low-cost innovations without getting trapped by Western patent rights. Appropriate policies should also be formulated to reduce tariffs among developing nations and further strengthen regional trade agreements in international commerce. The functioning of organizations like the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSO) can be further improved by providing them with more financial resources.

In conclusion, the "International Day for South-South Cooperation" observed on September 12 is not just a calendar date; it is a symbol of the hopes, aspirations, and self-respect of the people of Asia, Africa, and Latin America. After enduring centuries of colonial rule and losing their resources, these nations are now rising as a powerful center in the global economy through mutual cooperation after gaining independence. The old days of complete reliance on Northern aid are gone, and an era of self-reliance has arrived where these nations stand tall on their own feet. Only when unity, inclusive growth, and peaceful coexistence flourish among Global South countries can global inequalities disappear and true sustainable development become possible. This September 12, let us review the role South-South cooperation must play in building a brand-new global order and step forward together toward a stronger, more equal future.



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EDITORIAL

Quarter-Century of Shadow and Resilience: Reflecting on 9/11

A quarter of a century has passed since a crisp, bright Tuesday morning was violently shattered, altering the course of modern history. Twenty-five years ago, nineteen hijackers weaponized commercial airliners, turning symbols of civilian mobility into instruments of mass destruction. When the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center collapsed into Lower Manhattan, nearly 3,000 innocent lives were extinguished. Today, as a new generation comes of age with no living memory of September 11, 2001, the silver jubilee of that tragedy demands more than solemn ritual—it calls for a rigorous reckoning with what was lost, what was learned, and who we have become in its long shadow.

The immediate toll of 9/11 was defined by raw grief and staggering scale: office workers, airline crews, commuters, and the 343 firefighters and dozens of law enforcement officers who ran up the stairs while others ran down. Yet the death toll did not freeze on that autumn afternoon. In the twenty-five years since, thousands more first responders, recovery workers, and local residents have succumbed to cancers and chronic illnesses caused by the toxic dust that hung over Ground Zero. The tragedy was not a single moment in time, but a slow-motion catastrophe that continued to claim lives across decades. In the immediate wake of the strikes, the world witnessed an extraordinary surge of unity. Neighbors helped strangers clear debris; volunteers flooded into New York City; and global allies stood in resolute solidarity. The "Survivor Tree"—a Callery pear tree pulled broken from the rubble and nurtured back to health—became a living metaphor for an unshakable human spirit.

However, the quarter-century legacy of 9/11 is complex and deeply double-edged. The geopolitical and domestic shifts that followed redefined global security, governance, and daily life. Domestically, the urge for protection birthed expansive surveillance programs, heightened airport security, and sweeping counterterrorism apparatuses that fundamentally reshaped the boundary between liberty and safety. Globally, the "War on Terror" led to prolonged, costly conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, leaving deep scars, geopolitical instability, and a staggering toll of military and civilian casualties long after the original perpetrators were brought to justice. Furthermore, the immediate post-9/11 era ushered in a troubling rise in Islamophobia and xenophobia, testing the foundational values of democratic pluralism. Twenty-five years on, the physical landscape of Lower Manhattan has been rebuilt. One World Trade Center stands tall against the skyline, and the twin reflecting pools mark the exact footprints where the towers once stood, carved with the names of those lost. But the true test of this landmark anniversary is intellectual and moral, rather than architectural. As time marches forward, memories risk becoming abstract historical footnotes. To honor the nearly 3,000 lives taken on 9/11—and the thousands lost to its toxic aftermath—we must resist both amnesia and cynical political exploitation. True remembrance requires upholding the ideals of compassion, unity, and courage that emerged from the ashes of Ground Zero. At twenty-five years, our tribute to the fallen must be a renewed commitment to build a world defined not by fear and division, but by vigilance, justice, and humanity.

THE HUMAN BEHIND THE SCREEN

A book
a dream time dreamed,
given wings of words.

Before it is opened
"Great!"
Before a page is turned
"Congrats!"

Applause arrives
from eyes that have not read,
while the words wait silently
in the cradle of pages
for one attentive gaze.

Once,
we opened a book
and discovered the world
now,
with the world in our palms,
we are losing sight
of the human within.

The universe at our fingertips,
the sky in our hands
yet why
this eclipse
within?

A carnival of light on the screen,
a procession of shadows in the heart
five bars for the signal
not a single bridge
between souls.

We scroll
and let time slip through our fingers
we count our likes
and lose our lives.

We sail an ocean of information,
yet wander thirsty
for a drop of wisdom.

Technology
a child of human intelligence
but when the creator
becomes captive to the creation,
who commands whom?

Give the machine your speed
not your conscience
use the screen
do not surrender your vision.

Do not forget your purpose
and lose yourself along the way
do not trade your values
for the glitter of the moment.

Technology is your right
to turn it towards the good
is your responsibility.

Rise
until you touch the sky
remain humble
until the earth
still recognises you as her child.

Let rights be your wings,
responsibility your compass
speed may shape the journey,
but values must choose the destination.

Open a book

a page
is a window into thought;
a sentence
is dawn entering darkness;
a poem
is a mirror held to the heart
a good book
awakens the human within.

Literature
is not a voice born for applause.

It is a word
laid upon the wounds of time,
a seed of grace
sown in the soil of the heart,
a chisel of language
shaping the human
within the human.

Look at the screen

but do not surrender to it;
move with the times
but do not leave yourself behind.

Use technology
do not let technology
use you

Open a book
a world opens.

Read a word
life speaks.

Read another heart
humanity appears.

Read yourself
**the screen may illuminate
your face;
a word can illuminate
your being.
And in that light,
the human lost behind the screen
finds the way back
to the human within.

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INDIA'S BRICS VISION : FROM GLOBAL DOMINANCE TO GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

The 18th BRICS Summit, to be held in New Delhi on September 12–13, comes at a time when the global order is undergoing profound transformation. The Russia-Ukraine war, tensions in West Asia, terrorism, trade conflicts, concerns over energy and food security, the rapidly emerging challenges of artificial intelligence, and growing questions over the credibility of global institutions have created a host of unresolved issues before the world. At the same time, the pressure generated by the United States' trade and strategic policies is also affecting the global economy. Against this backdrop, the summit under India's chairmanship is not merely a diplomatic gathering; it is an important opportunity to shape the direction of the evolving world order.

India has placed resilience, innovation, cooperation and sustainability at the heart of its BRICS presidency, with the objective of building a better future on these foundations. BRICS has travelled a long way from its original conception in 2006, when Brazil, Russia, India and China emerged as major growing economies and South Africa later joined the grouping. Following its expansion, BRICS has become an 11-member grouping whose influence in the politics and economics of the Global South continues to grow. The year 2026 is also significant because it marks two decades since the establishment of BRICS. For India, the chairmanship is particularly important because it does not want BRICS to be projected as an anti-Western or anti-American platform. Instead, India seeks to establish it as a constructive, balanced and genuinely multilateral voice of developing and emerging economies.

At the 2025 BRICS Summit in Brazil, important understandings were reached on strengthening the voice of the Global South, reforming the multilateral system, responsible global governance of artificial intelligence, climate finance, healthcare, trade and financial cooperation. The Rio Declaration emphasised the need to make the United Nations system more representative and to reform global institutions. It also called for greater progress in financial transactions in local currencies, cross-border payment mechanisms and stronger supply chains.

While handing over the BRICS chairmanship to India for 2026, Brazil expressed the expectation that New Delhi would carry this process forward. Therefore, the first major test of the Delhi Summit will be whether BRICS can narrow the gap between its declarations and tangible achievements. During its presidency, India has organised more than 350 meetings and high-level programmes across over 25 cities. The emphasis has been on practical outcomes in three broad areas: political and security cooperation, economic and financial cooperation, and cultural and people-to-people exchanges. The world will therefore be watching closely to see whether the summit concludes merely with another lengthy joint declaration or produces concrete decisions whose impact can be felt in the years ahead.

Artificial intelligence is among the most important challenges before this summit. AI has opened unprecedented opportunities in medicine, education, agriculture, industry, finance and governance. Yet it has also intensified concerns over employ-



ment, data protection, misinformation, cybersecurity and technological inequality. The 2025 BRICS Summit in Brazil had also expressed significant concern over the global governance of AI. India is now pushing for greater cooperation among BRICS countries in areas such as artificial intelligence, advanced computing, quantum technology and semiconductors. If BRICS can create an effective framework through which advanced technologies are made accessible to developing countries rather than remaining concentrated in the hands of a few powerful nations and corporations, it would represent a major achievement.

The second major challenge is economic. The weight of BRICS in the global economy is increasing, but intra-BRICS trade still falls considerably short of its potential. India is seeking to strengthen and diversify supply chains, expand access to finance for small and medium-sized enterprises, and promote trade in local currencies. The BRICS Trade Ministers' Meeting in Jaipur made progress on issues including the BRICS Economic Partnership 2030, financial facilities for MSMEs and more balanced trade. The question of de-dollarisation is also significant, but India's approach remains pragmatic. India is not in favour of rushing towards the creation of a common BRICS currency. Instead, it is emphasising the development of cross-border digital payment mechanisms that can enable member countries to conduct trade more smoothly in their respective national currencies. This approach is less about creating a political front against the US dollar and more about enhancing financial autonomy and facilitating international transactions.

However, the greatest weakness of BRICS lies in its internal diversity and differences. The legacy of border disputes and strategic distrust between India and China has not completely disappeared. The conflict between Russia and the West, tensions surrounding Iran, and the complex situation in West Asia also make it difficult for BRICS to formulate a common political position. In particular, the current crisis in West Asia presents a difficult challenge. Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have different interests and strategic priorities. If BRICS fails to reach a common position on major international issues, its limitations will become increasingly evident. This is precisely why India faces its most difficult diplomatic balancing act at the summit. It has to deepen cooperation with China and Russia while simultaneously maintaining its economic and strategic relationships with the United States, Europe and other Western countries. India's interest does not lie in aligning itself with any single power bloc. Its objective is to strengthen strategic autonomy in a multipolar world. If BRICS is presented merely as an "alternative to the West", its global acceptability could remain limited. But if it emerges as a platform for the development of the Global South, peace, technological equality and fair representation, its relevance and influence will increase substantially.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has repeatedly stressed the need to reform global institutions. His argument is that institutions created in the 20th century must be transformed to reflect the realities of the 21st century. The contribution of several countries to the global economy has increased dramatically, yet if they do not receive adequate representation in decision-making processes, the credibility and effectiveness of international institutions will inevitably suffer. The demand for reforms in the United Nations Security Council, International Monetary Fund and World Bank is part of this broader concern. BRICS can become an effective collective voice for these reforms.

Yet the real measure of the Delhi Summit's success will not be criticism of America or a challenge to the Western system. BRICS will succeed only when it offers the world a better and more constructive alternative—one based on economic cooperation, technological partnerships, energy and food security, a shared commitment against terrorism, secure supply chains, environmental sustainability and genuine participation of developing nations. India's philosophy of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" — the world is one family — will acquire real meaning only when BRICS becomes a new bridge of cooperation rather than another arena of geopolitical rivalry. Ultimately, the Delhi Summit is both a test of India's diplomatic capabilities and a test of BRICS' continuing relevance. The world today needs peace more than war, cooperation more than confrontation, and partnership more than domination. The future of humanity cannot be secured merely through weapons, space missions or the power of artificial intelligence. It depends equally, if not more, on trust, coexistence and shared development among the people who inhabit this planet.

If the New Delhi Summit succeeds in moving beyond declarations and takes concrete steps towards institutionalising this spirit of trust, cooperation and shared progress, it will be a major achievement for India's BRICS presidency. Otherwise, BRICS risks becoming yet another global forum that raises great expectations but falls short of fulfilling them. The choice before BRICS is clear: it can either become another battleground in the struggle for global power, or it can emerge as a bridge connecting nations through cooperation, equality and shared prosperity. The world is waiting to see which path New Delhi chooses



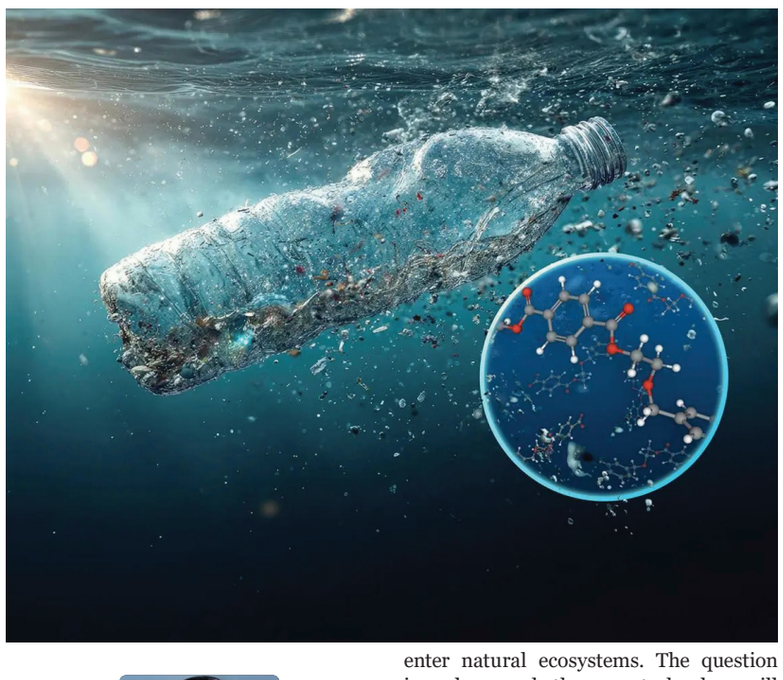
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NANO POLLUTION

THE NEXT ENVIRONMENTAL BATTLE IS ALREADY UNDERWAY

"The next pollution crisis may not be visible to the naked eye. Yet science is beginning to uncover traces of an environmental challenge that could change how humanity thinks about pollution."

For generations, pollution was defined by what people could see. Smoke darkened horizons, untreated sewage discoloured rivers, and plastic waste choked coastlines. Environmental regulation followed the same logic: identify the contaminant, trace its source, set limits and enforce them. The next environmental challenge may not be so straightforward. As science and industry increasingly work at the nanoscale, materials smaller than a human cell are being used in products and industrial processes, while some nanoscale particles can also enter natural ecosystems. The question is no longer whether nanotechnology will shape industrial progress. It is whether environmental regulation can keep pace with its footprint.





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A crucial distinction is necessary. Nano pollution is not a single contaminant. It can include engineered nanomaterials, deliberately produced at the nanoscale for applications in medicine, electronics, energy and water treatment, as well as nanoplastics formed as larger plastic materials break down. Treating the two as identical would be scientifically misleading.

What they share is a problem of scale. At the nanoscale, materials can behave differently from their larger counterparts because of their high surface-area-to-mass ratio. Engineered nanomaterials can enter biological systems through inhalation, ingestion and skin exposure, although the consequences of long-term exposure remain an area of active research.

Plastic offers a warning of how the problem can evolve. A discarded bottle does not remain intact forever. Sunlight, heat and mechanical abrasion gradually break larger plastic into smaller particles. Microplastics can eventually reach the nanoscale, allowing particles to move through water, soil and air far beyond their original source. The implications for human health are becoming harder to ignore. A 2024 review of human studies found microplastics in eight of 12 organ systems examined, including the cardiovascular, digestive, respiratory and reproductive systems. But the authors also stressed that the routes by which particles enter the body and their health effects remain uncertain, while differences in detection methods complicate comparisons between studies.

More recent evidence strengthens the case for investigation without justifying alarm. A systematic review of in-vivo human studies published in 2026 identified 25 studies from more than 5,500 records. It found micro- and nanoplastics in multiple human systems and reported associations with inflammation and functional changes, but also found substantial methodological differences and risks of bias that limit conclusions about cause and effect.

The World Health Organization has taken a similarly cautious position. Its assessments found no clear evidence that microplastics in drinking water posed a health risk at the levels then detected, but identified significant gaps in knowledge, particularly around the smallest particles, their fate in the body and long-term exposure. WHO has called for further research rather than complacency.

Engineered nanomaterials present a different regulatory question. Nanotechnology is already being explored for water treatment, pollution remediation, medicine and energy. A 2024 review in Nature Reviews Earth & Environment found that detected or predicted environmental concentrations of engineered nanomaterials are generally well below predicted no-effect concentrations. At the same time, it noted that long-term, low-level exposure remains poorly understood and that some point sources could create localised risks. This creates a difficult policy balance. Waiting for definitive evidence of harm before acting could repeat the mistakes of earlier environmental crises. But treating every nanomaterial as dangerous would also risk restricting technologies that may deliver genuine environmental and medical benefits.

India needs to approach this emerging challenge with the same balance. Rapid urbanisation, expanding manufacturing and growing plastic consumption make better environmental surveillance increasingly important. Yet monitoring systems designed primarily around conventional pollutants are not necessarily equipped to identify, measure and track particles at the nanoscale.

What cannot be reliably measured is difficult to regulate. India therefore needs to move beyond isolated research projects towards a stronger national system for detecting and tracking micro- and nanomaterials in water, soil, air and industrial environments. Standardised testing methods, better laboratory capacity and long-term exposure studies are essential. For engineered nanomaterials, lifecycle assessment should become part of responsible product development—from production and use to disposal.

The issue ultimately extends beyond any single industry. A particle released during manufacturing can enter wastewater. A fragment produced as plastic degrades can move through rivers or food chains. The environmental pathway may be long, diffuse and difficult to trace. That is why the answer should not be to slow nanotechnology itself. It should be to make its development environmentally accountable.

The great achievement of modern engineering has been the ability to manipulate matter at scales invisible to the human eye. The next test of technological maturity is whether environmental science and regulation can operate at the same scale. The future of pollution may be invisible. The policy response cannot be.

The services of Forest Department martyrs are unforgettable: DGP C. V. Anand

23 Forest Department personnel sacrificed their lives in the protection of forests and wildlife.. he government will stand by the families of the martyrs: Minister Jupally..
Collectors and SPs should work in coordination to prevent encroachment of forest lands.. Forest personnel should be provided with weapons

HYDERABAD

DGP C. V. Anand stated that the services of Forest Department personnel who sacrificed their lives while protecting natural resources, forest wealth and wildlife will always be remembered. He participated in a programme held at Nehru Zoological Park on Friday to mark Forest Department Police Martyrs' Day (September 11) and paid tribute to the martyrs.

Risk to lives while preventing illegal timber transportation and wildlife hunting: Minister Jupally Krishna Rao

Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao said that the government would stand by the families of Forest Department personnel who lost their lives in the line of duty and would extend all possible support to them. The minister said that forest personnel should be provided with weapons.

Jupally said that the government, through the Excise Department, was taking strict measures to control drugs. He said cases were being registered under the law against those involved in the illegal transportation and use of narcotic substances and that, where necessary, action was being taken under the PD Act.

The minister said that deforestation and the shrinking



forest cover are among the major causes of global warming. He said the government had developed the Kawal and Amrabad Tiger Reserve forests as tourist destinations.

Performing duties at the risk of their lives: Vinay Kumar, Chief Conservator of Forests

Forest Chief Vinay Kumar said that the duties of Forest Department personnel are extremely dangerous. He said that personnel face threats from illegal timber smugglers, wildlife hunters and other miscreants while on patrol. He said that staff also face numerous difficulties while attempting to apprehend hunters during late-night operations.

23 Forest Department personnel sacrificed their lives: DGP

Speaking on the occasion, the DGP said that Forest Martyrs' Day is observed every year on September 11 in memory of the incident in which 363 people belonging to the Bishnoi community sacrificed their lives in 1730 in the Khejarli region of Rajasthan to protect trees and the environment. He said that, just as Police Commemoration Day is observed on October 21 to remember police personnel who sacrificed their lives, this day is special for remembering the sacrifices of Forest Department personnel and is an emotionally significant day.

The DGP said that 23 Forest Department personnel had lost their lives while protecting wildlife and forests. He expressed his deepest condolences to the family of FBO Banothu Naveen, who, on August 11 this year at Palvancha, became trapped in a snare set for wildlife and sacrificed his life in the protection of forests and wildlife.

Association with the Forest Department since childhood

The DGP recalled his association with the Forest Department. He said his father joined the Forest Department as a Range Officer in 1953, served for 35 years and retired as a DFO in 1988. He said that his father worked in the Forest Department during the days when Naxalism was prevalent, and as a result, he developed a close association with Forest Department personnel.

He later recalled an incident from 1996, when he was serving as Additional SP in Bellampalli and visited the Chennur check-post along with his parents. He said his parents were moved to tears when they saw that the dense forests had completely disappeared.

Protect environmental balance

The DGP said that protecting forests is everyone's responsibility and expressed concern that environmental balance is being disturbed due to human errors. He said that natural disasters occurring in the Himalayas and forest fires in Europe indicate the severity of environmental changes. He advised Collectors, SPs and Forest Department officials to work in coordination to prevent encroachment of forest lands in the state and protect forests. He said there is a need to protect even the small remaining patches of forest for future generations.

Weapons for Forest personnel

The DGP said that in the past, Forest Department personnel did not have weapons with them while carrying out combing operations in areas affected by Naxalism. He said that under the present circumstances, if Forest Department personnel are provided with the necessary weapons, they will be able to perform their duties more effectively. He assured that the Police Department would provide the necessary assistance and cooperation to the Forest Department.

Prohibition and Excise and Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, Wyra MLA Ramdas Naik, Chief Secretary of the Government Sanjay Jaju, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Vinay Kumar, TG FDC Vice Chairman and MD Sunita M. Bhagwat, Hyderabad District Collector Priyanka Ala, Secretary Priyanka Varghese, police and Forest Department officials, families of the martyrs and others participated in the programme.



NFR OBSERVES "WORLD SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY" AT CENTRAL HOSPITAL, MALIGAON

MALIGAON

Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) observed World Suicide Prevention Day at its Central Hospital, Maligaon, by organising an awareness programme on 10th September, 2026. Doctors, nursing and paramedical staff, teachers, parents, nursing students, patients and other hospital personnel participated in the programme, which focused on suicide prevention and the importance of timely psychological support. Inaugurating the programme, Dr. B.P. Deka, Medical Director, emphasised that suicide prevention is a shared social responsibility. Drawing upon everyday situations and references from the popular film 3 Idiots, he highlighted the importance of being attentive, understanding and supportive towards individuals experiencing emotional distress.

During the academic sessions, Dr. Anamika Phukan, Psychiatrist, spoke on the theme "Changing the Narrative on Suicide" and discussed common myths, prevalence, risk factors, and national and global suicide trends. She also highlighted government initiatives such as Tele-MANAS and Manodarpan. Ms. Shatakshi Mishra, Clinical Psychologist, explained how psychological distress and early warning signs may remain unnoticed until reaching a critical stage. She stressed early recognition, timely intervention, empathetic responses and effective communication at home, school and the workplace. Nursing students from Mirza Institute of Nursing also presented an awareness skit on emotional distress, warning signs and the importance of offering appropriate support.

The programme concluded with remarks by Dr. MadhaviGarlosa Boro, Chief Staff Surgeon, who reiterated the importance of recognising distress early, listening without judgement, extending support and connecting affected individuals with appropriate professional help. The initiative reflected NFR's commitment to promoting mental-health awareness and fostering a compassionate and responsive environment across its establishments.

High Alert in Delhi

Tight Security for BRICS Summit

New Delhi: Security has been significantly strengthened in the national capital, Delhi, in view of the 18th BRICS Summit. With several heads of state and high-level representatives, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping, scheduled to attend the summit on the 12th and 13th of this month, a high alert has been declared across the city. More than 30,000 security personnel have been deployed for the protection of the VVIPs.

VVIP Arrivals Prompt Tight Security

Special security arrangements have been made along routes that will be used by VVIP convoys. Security has been further tightened at Bharat Mandapam, the main venue, areas where VVIPs will stay, airports, key government offices, hotels and other important locations. Officials said a multi-layered security system has been put in place in these areas.

Special Teams from Russia

In view of Russian President Putin's visit, reports indicate that three Russian military aircraft have landed at Noida Airport. Russia's advance team and military officials have already arrived in Delhi and are coordinating with Indian officials regarding security, travel routes and programmes. Security forces have taken complete control of the routes that will be used by VVIP convoys.

Traffic Restrictions to Cause Public Inconvenience

Traffic restrictions will be imposed on several major roads in Delhi while the convoys of heads of state are moving through the city. Vehicles will be diverted to alternative routes as required. Large numbers of traffic police personnel are being deployed at important locations, with advance arrangements being made to minimize inconvenience to the public. Officials have advised motorists to choose alternative routes.

Special Surveillance on Drones

Officials are also paying special attention to aerial security during the summit. Along with a ban on flying drones without permission, a special surveillance system has been established to detect the movement of suspicious drones. Anti-drone systems have been kept ready in areas where necessary. With heads of state from around the world set to come together on a single platform, central and state security agencies are working in coordination to ensure that there are no security lapses. Security forces will remain on high alert across Delhi until the summit concludes.

Sabitha Reddy Complains to NCW Over Attack on Women MLAs

NEW DELHI

BRS MLA and former minister Sabitha Indra Reddy said that she had lodged a complaint with the National Commission for Women (NCW) over the alleged attack on women MLAs near the Telangana Assembly. She said that in Delhi, she met the Chairperson of the National Commission for Women as well as a member of the National Human Rights Commission and explained the details of the incident. She said they had sought justice over the alleged attack on the women MLAs. Sabitha Indra Reddy alleged that police stopped them while they were returning after paying tributes at the Martyrs' Stupa during the Assembly session. She alleged that the police behaved rudely with the women MLAs, pulled them by their hair, and subjected them to severe mental and physical distress. "It is painful even to say that this happened to us. It is very heavy on our hearts," she said.

Stopped by 500 Police Personnel

Sabitha alleged that although they were a group of around 40 people, nearly 500 police personnel were deployed to prevent them from entering the Assembly. When they questioned the police about why they were being stopped, she said they were told it was because they were wearing black shirts. She said that despite requesting the police to leave the women MLAs alone, they continued to harass them. Sabitha Indra Reddy described the incident that took place in front of the Assembly as being "like the Kaurava assembly." She alleged that male MLAs were also pushed to the ground and trampled upon. She said former minister Jagadish Reddy fell down during the scuffle with the police. She said it was humiliating for them, having been in politics for 30 years, to be stopped in front of the Assembly.

Allegation That Government Failed to Respond

Sabitha said they had expected Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, the Minister for Legislative Affairs and the DGP to respond to the incident involving the women MLAs, but alleged that no one had responded. She demanded that the DGP clarify who had ordered the alleged attack on them. She also asked the state government to explain why women police personnel were deployed in front of male MLAs. Sabitha alleged that a police constable who had assaulted them was subsequently felicitated and said that the incident needed to be investigated. She remarked that it would have been better if the Speaker himself had inquired about the alleged attack on the MLAs.

Allegation of Harassment Through Cases

Sabitha alleged that various cases were filed against them after they were allegedly manhandled. She said it was painful that cases had been registered accusing them of sexually harassing the MLAs. She alleged that remarks made by their MLC referring to the Speaker had been interpreted differently. She said BRS chief K. Chandrashekar Rao had demanded an immediate clarification regarding the Speaker. Sabitha questioned why no action had been taken against MLAs who allegedly made remarks against K. Chandrashekar Rao and expressed a wish for his death. At the same time, she alleged that people had been sent to his residence to beat death drums. She demanded that the government respond to these issues as well.

Letters to Rahul and Sonia

Sabitha said they would bring the issue of the alleged attack on women MLAs to the attention of Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi. She said they were also writing letters to them. She said it was the Chief Minister's responsibility to protect the dignity of women and demanded that he immediately apologize for the incident and order a comprehensive inquiry. "We were not even given an opportunity to raise the humiliation we suffered in the Assembly. We came to Delhi because we feel that justice is not being done in the state. What could be more humiliating than this?" Sabitha Indra Reddy remarked.

Three-Day Drama in the Assembly: Sabitha

Sabitha said that a "drama" had been going on in the Assembly for the past three days and that the people were watching everything. She alleged that during the first Assembly sessions they were subjected to mental harassment and that they were now being subjected to physical harassment as well. She criticized Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, alleging that he was not acting responsibly. She alleged that Congress had come to power promising to fulfill all its guarantees within 100 days, but had not even registered an FIR over the alleged attack on women MLAs. Sabitha Indra Reddy said she believed that the entire incident had taken place under the Chief Minister's directions. She made it clear that they had filed a complaint with the National Commission for Women regarding the incident involving the women MLAs and that they would continue to raise the issue at the national level until justice was delivered.

80s AI Photo Trend Sparks BJP-Congress Meme War

NEW DELHI

A viral 1980s-style AI photo trend on social media has now triggered a political meme war between the BJP and Congress. What initially began as a fun trend has also drawn political leaders into it. As a result, the social media teams of both parties are trading criticism by referring to photographs from the 1980s and the political circumstances of that era. Recently, social media platforms such as Instagram and X have been flooded with AI-generated photos featuring big hairstyles, aviator sunglasses, denim jackets, vintage suits and film grain. The trend, which transforms present-day photographs into 1980s-style images, has received an enthusiastic response from young people, celebrities and political leaders. BJP leaders were among the first to embrace the trend. Union Minister Piyush Goyal shared an AI-generated photo of himself on social media wearing a grey suit and aviator sunglasses. Another Union Minister, Kiren Rijiju, also posted a photo of himself in an 80s-style look, reminiscing about that era. The Congress later joined the trend. The Congress Seva Dal shared AI-generated photographs of Opposition Leader Rahul Gandhi in an 80s-style appearance on social media. The light-hearted trend gradually turned into a platform for political criticism between the two major parties. The Congress posted an AI-generated image depicting a street in Gujarat in the 1980s. The image featured a Maruti Suzuki Omni van and referred to the circumstances of that period. In response, BJP social media teams, including Telangana BJP, posted alternative memes referring to the 1984 anti-Sikh riots in Delhi and the Congress government of that time. The BJP, meanwhile, also shared genuine photographs of Prime Minister Narendra Modi from the 1980s on social media. It also made political remarks targeting the Congress by referring to old photographs associated with Lusiana in Italy, identified in the post as the birthplace of Congress leader Sonia Gandhi.

What exactly is the 80s AI trend?

The trend involves using artificial intelligence to transform current selfies and photographs into images that look as though they were taken in the 1980s. While keeping facial features as close to the original as possible, the images are created by adding hairstyles and clothing typical of that era, studio lighting, film grain and vintage colour tones. The trend has gone widely viral across several social media platforms, including Instagram and X.

However, as political parties have begun using the trend to target and criticize their rivals, what started as a social media trend built around memories of the 1980s has now turned into another digital political battle between the BJP and Congress.

No Eligible Voter Should Be Left Out: Collector

KARIMNAGAR

District Collector Chitra Mishra directed officials to exercise utmost caution while verifying electoral rolls under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), stressing that no eligible voter should be excluded due to errors or oversight. During a review at the Thimmapur Tahsildar's office on Friday, Mishra focused on the verification of 'No Mapping' voters. She instructed officials to collect documents from voters who received notices and thoroughly verify them before taking any further action. She also ordered Booth Level Officers (BLOs) to properly upload documents through the BLO application and asked revenue officials to monitor field-level verification closely. Mishra stressed extreme caution while deleting voter names and directed officials to maintain systematic records of notices, reasons and documents submitted.

Not a Single Eligible Voter Should Be Left Out

KARIMNAGAR

'Officials told to exercise utmost caution while verifying 'No Mapping' voters
'Collect and thoroughly verify documents from those served notices
Special attention to deletions, Forms 6, 7 and 8: Collector Chitra Mishra

District Collector Chitra Mishra has directed officials to exercise utmost caution while undertaking the verification of the electoral rolls as part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process. She stressed that no eligible voter should lose the right to vote due to an error or oversight during the verification process. The Collector particularly instructed officials to deal carefully with 'No Mapping' voters and not to take any decision without proper supporting evidence. She directed them to collect the required documents from voters who have been served notices and verify the documents thoroughly before taking further action. Collector Chitra Mishra visited the Tahsildar's office at Thimmapur mandal headquarters on Friday evening to review the progress of the 'No Mapping' voter verification under the SIR process. She sought details from Tahsildar Karra



Srinivas Reddy regarding the status of the exercise and the steps being taken at the field level.

Verify documents thoroughly

The Collector directed officials to collect the required documents from all those who have been served notices in connection with 'No Mapping' and correction-related cases. The documents collected by Booth Level Officers (BLOs) should be uploaded/downloaded through the BLO application and verified carefully, she said. She also instructed revenue officials to closely monitor the process being undertaken by BLOs in villages. The Collector enquired about the difficulties being faced by BLOs while carrying out the verification at the field level.

Exercise caution in deletions

Mishra directed officials to exercise extreme caution while dealing with deletion of names from the electoral rolls. She said every effort must be made to ensure that the name of any eligible voter is not deleted inadvertently.

The officials should collect valid supporting documents from those who have received notices and take further action only after proper verification, she said. She also instructed officials to maintain all records related to the 'No Mapping' exercise systematically. The register should contain details such as the names of voters, dates, reasons for issuing notices and documents submitted by them, maintained in chronological order, she added.

Focus on Forms 6, 7 and 8

The Collector also directed officials to strictly follow the prescribed procedure while dealing with Form 6, relating to registration of new voters, and Form 7, relating to deletion of names, including those of deceased voters. Similarly, necessary action should be taken as per Form 8 in cases involving corrections, changes and shifting of entries in the electoral rolls. Every application should be carefully scrutinised before further action is initiated, she said. Mishra directed revenue officials to complete the verification of the 'No Mapping' list comprehensively as part of the SIR exercise and maintain special focus on the process to ensure that eligible voters are not left out. Tahsildar Karra Srinivas Reddy, Deputy Tahsildar Vemula Srinivas and other revenue officials and staff were present.

MP BJP plans mega events to mark completion of 25 years of public life of PM Modi

BHOPAL

To commemorate the completion of 25 years of public life of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Madhya Pradesh has set a target of reaching beneficiaries of every central and state government scheme at over 71,000 booths under the month-long 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan' from September 17 to October 17. Addressing reporters here, state BJP president Hemant Khandelwal said that thanks to these schemes, India has emerged as the world's fastest-growing economy under the leadership of Modi. He said receiving the blessings of the people for 25 consecutive years in the world's largest democratic country like India is a golden chapter in democratic history.

Bangladesh police detain 63 foreigners over online fraud

DHAKA:

Bangladesh police have detained 63 foreigners, mostly from Laos, Pakistan and China, on charges of involvement in online fraud in the south-eastern port city of Chattogram, officials said on Friday. "Acting on secret information, a joint team of our detectives, counter-terrorism unit and RAB (Rapid Action Battalion) conducted a predawn raid at an eight-storey building in Chattogram and detained them on charges of online scamming," a police spokesperson said. The detainees included 35 nationals of Laos, 21 Pakistanis, five Chinese, one Nepali and one Vietnamese national while the identification of the remaining detainees was still underway, the spokesperson said.

Trump Rejected Saudi Crown Prince's Request To Attack Houthis: Report

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman called US President Donald Trump twice on Thursday and urged him to launch strikes against the Houthis, Axios reported, citing two US officials.

Trump rejected the request, and US officials said the administration does not intend to take direct military action against the Houthis at this time, the report said. Reuters could not immediately verify the report. The White House and Saudi embassy in Washington did not immediately respond to requests for comment outside regular business hours. According to Axios, the US is increasingly concerned about the rapidly escalating conflict in Yemen and is stepping up support for Saudi Arabia while seeking to avoid direct military involvement.Admiral Brad Cooper, commander of the US Central Command, travelled to Saudi Arabia on Thursday for urgent coordination talks, according to the report. US military and civilian officials have also told their Saudi counterparts in recent weeks that Trump's directive is to keep American forces focused on Iran and safeguarding the Strait of Hormuz, while avoiding the opening of another military front, Axios added. Reuters reported earlier in July that Saudi Arabia is seeking to build an international coalition to protect shipping in the Red Sea from Houthi attacks, as tensions in and around Yemen continue to escalate. The escalation dates back to early July, when the Houthis said their forces confronted Saudi "warplanes" that were attempting to prevent an Iranian civilian aircraft from landing at Sanaa International Airport.

Russia death toll in Ukraine war crosses 500,000, says UK defence chief

Britain says more than 500,000 Russian troops have been killed in Ukraine since 2022. The estimate came as both sides widened drone attacks, underscoring the war's costly escalation.



More than half a million Russian troops have been killed in Ukraine since Moscow launched its full-scale invasion in February 2022, a senior British defence official said on Friday, as fighting and drone attacks continued on both sides. The dead are part of 1.5 million Russian casualties in the war, Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Knighton, Chief of the UK's Defence Staff, said.

The estimate broadly matches figures published by the Ukrainian military. There was no immediate comment from Russian officials. At the same time, Russian drone attacks hit civilian targets in Ukraine, while Kyiv pressed ahead with long-range strikes inside Russia. Knighton told reporters that Russia's bigger army is struggling to make headway on the battlefield, with Western officials and analysts saying its rate of advance has slowed significantly this year. He said Russia's armed forces have also lost an "enormous" amount of military equipment, including more than 10,000 armoured and protected vehicles, close to 3,000 air defence and artillery systems, and more than 370 aircraft and helicopters. He did not give any figures for Ukraine's losses. Neither Moscow nor Kyiv gives regular updates on battlefield losses. In Kyiv, Russian drones targeted roadside gas stations for a second straight day on Friday, in what Ukrainian officials said was part of a wider effort to unsettle civilians. The attacks hit two Ukrnafta stations, killing two people and wounding six at one of them, according to the prosecutor's office. Ukrainian officials said strikes on urban gas stations have intensified in recent months, mostly in regions near the front line in the east and south. They said the campaign has also included attacks on food distribution hubs, at times leaving some supermarket shelves bare in the capital. Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha wrote on X late on Thursday, "Russia is systematically attacking places where it knows people will be spending their time going about their daily lives, seeking to maximize casualties, spread fear, and put pressure on Ukrainian society." Authorities have urged residents not to stay near gas stations and other exposed infrastructure during air raid alerts. Ukraine is also trying to urgently strengthen its air defences, and on Thursday it received pledges of more support from Canada.

In central Ukraine, Pavlohrad observed an official day of mourning on Friday for five residents killed near shopping malls in broad daylight by Russian drones the previous day. Sybiha said 67 people were wounded in that attack. In the southern city of Zaporizhzhia, a 32-year-old woman and her 10-year-old son were wounded in an overnight Russian drone strike, Ukraine's State Emergency Service said. The drones hit a nine-storey apartment block and a shopping mall. The agency said efforts to put out the fires were slowed by the threat of repeat strikes, forcing firefighters to stop work and take shelter.

Ukraine, meanwhile, has expanded its own long-range drone campaign deep inside Russia, putting pressure on air defences across the country. On Thursday, Ukraine's military said it had hit a refinery more than 3,000 kilometres away in Siberia as Kyiv tries to damage Russia's oil sector. Ukrainian strikes have also caused fuel shortages in Russia, one of the world's biggest energy producers.

A report by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air said Russia's oil product exports fell to record lows in August and that Moscow was importing fuel from South Korea and India. The Finland-registered nonprofit said on Thursday, "Ukrainian strikes on Russia's refining capacity have turned tables on the world's once largest oil product exporter to see them start importing fuels, with imports surging to a record 172,000 metric tonnes in August - more than seven times the previous monthly high." Russia's Defence Ministry said air defences intercepted 777 Ukrainian drones overnight from Thursday to Friday over 16 Russian regions, as well as occupied Crimea and the waters of the Azov and Caspian seas.

Local officials in Russia said two people were killed and three others were wounded overnight in a Ukrainian drone attack on the Tula region, south of Moscow. Russian independent outlet Astra reported that a Ukrainian drone strike also started a fire at the Saratov oil refinery in southwestern Russia, a facility Kyiv has targeted repeatedly and last hit in early August. Online retailer Ozon said its logistics facility in the same city was struck and set on fire by a Ukrainian drone, though no casualties were reported. Ozon said it is a competitor to Wildberries, whose facilities have also been targeted by Ukraine. Overall, the latest developments showed heavy Russian losses in the war and a continuing escalation of drone attacks on civilian and industrial targets on both sides.



EU-India FTA proposal sent to European Council for final signature

NEW DELHI

The European Commission on Friday put forward its proposals to the Council for the signature and conclusion of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the European Union and India, and, if authorised by it, this will be the largest trade agreement ever concluded by both the EU and India, according to an EU statement. "Once adopted and entered into force, the agreement will improve market access, reduce tariffs, tackle unnecessary barriers to trade, as well as provide predictable rules for trade and investment between the EU and India," the European Commission statement said. It highlighted that the EU and India already trade over 180 billion euros worth of goods and services per year, supporting close to 800,000 EU jobs. This deal will eliminate or reduce tariffs on 96 per cent of EU goods exports to India. Overall, the tariff reductions will save around 4 billion euros per year in duties on European products. It will make it easier for European companies to access the Indian market and compete on a more level playing field, while it will ensure consumers can benefit from increased choices and more competitive prices. The proposal put forward today represents a key step towards ensuring that consumers and businesses can start reaping the benefits of this deal as soon as possible. This is in line with the fast-track procedure laid out by Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security, Maros Sefcovic, said, earlier this year. The procedure aims at speeding up the implementation of FTAs, which is crucial at a time of geopolitical uncertainty and growing pressure on the global trading system, the statement said.

The EU-India FTA reflects the EU's commitment to strengthen economic ties with key partners in the Indo-Pacific region.

92 Pakistani Sikhs Stopped at Faisalabad Airport

Ninety-two Pakistani Sikh pilgrims were stopped at Faisalabad airport while travelling to Sri Hemkund Sahib in Uttarakhand. The stand-off exposed documentation gaps and raised the possibility of a Wagah Border route.



More than 90 Pakistani Sikhs on their way to Sri Hemkund Sahib in Uttarakhand were stopped by immigration authorities from boarding an indirect flight to India on Friday, officials said. The group had visas for the pilgrimage but was not allowed to travel from Faisalabad International Airport. Officials said the pilgrims were stopped because they did not have return tickets and a no-objection certificate from the federal government. They were told they could proceed to their destination after producing both documents. An official of the Federal Investigation Agency told PTI that 92 Pakistani Sikhs, including women and children, had arrived at the airport, around 150 km from Lahore, to catch an indirect flight to India. However, the authorities stopped them from boarding a Gulf-bound airline as they did not possess a return ticket and the required no-objection certificate. "The immigration officials told them to produce an NOC from the federal government and the return ticket, after which they would be allowed to proceed to their destination," the official said. At present, there is no direct air, rail or road link between Pakistan and India.

Another federal government official told PTI that the Sikh pilgrims had arranged their Indian visas on their own through the Delhi Mandar Management Committee. "They should have coordinated with the Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Parbhandhak Committee for their travel and preferred Wagah Border for crossing into India," he said, adding that they may be allowed to go on the pilgrimage through the Wagah Border. In a video being widely shared online, a Pakistani Sikh at Faisalabad airport said the immigration authorities had stopped them from travelling to India. "For the last four hours we are languishing at the Faisalabad airport...someone should take notice of this and help the pilgrims proceed to their destination," he said. Other Sikh families were also seen waiting at the airport premises as the group sought clearance to continue its journey. The incident left 92 Pakistani Sikh pilgrims stranded at Faisalabad airport despite holding visas for Sri Hemkund Sahib, with officials saying they would need a return ticket and a no-objection certificate before being allowed to travel, while a possible journey through the Wagah Border was also indicated.

Ahead of Xi's Delhi visit, China urges India to manage differences wisely

China has urged India to manage differences properly ahead of Xi Jinping's visit to New Delhi for the BRICS summit and talks with Narendra Modi. The meeting is being watched for clues on whether both sides can steady ties after the Eastern Ladakh standoff.



China on Friday said India and China should handle their differences properly and view bilateral ties from a strategic and long-term perspective, ahead of President Xi Jinping's visit to New Delhi for the BRICS summit and talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Xi will arrive on Saturday to attend the BRICS summit, his first visit to India in nearly seven years, and is scheduled to hold a bilateral meeting with Modi on the sidelines. Beijing said the meeting will mark the third straight year in which the two leaders meet, following their meetings in Kazan and Tianjin. Asked how China viewed the Modi-Xi meeting, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said Beijing would work with India to act on the strategic guidance of the two leaders, handle bilateral relations from a strategic height and long-term perspective, step up communication and enhance cooperation, and properly handle differences. She said the two countries should be 'friends enjoying good neighbourliness and partners helping each other'. On the BRICS summit, Mao said the grouping had become a key platform for emerging markets and developing countries to uphold solidarity and cooperation. Since its founding, she said, BRICS countries have upheld the spirit of openness, inclusiveness and win-win cooperation. She added that BRICS has stayed committed to multilateralism, fairness and justice, and common development, and has grown into 'a real force standing at the forefront of the Global South'. Mao also said China attaches great importance to BRICS and actively participates in its cooperation. Asked about the significance of the New Delhi summit amid the Iran-US conflict and the Ukraine-Russia war, Mao said China was ready to work with BRICS countries to settle disputes through dialogue and negotiation and contribute to peace and stability. As the current chair of the grouping, India will host the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi on September 12 and 13. Xi last visited India in 2019 for an informal summit with Modi in Mamallapuram near Chennai. He had earlier travelled to Goa in 2016 for the BRICS summit and made his first visit to India in September 2014, when he held extensive talks with Modi during the first terms of both leaders. The visit comes amid efforts by India and China to normalise relations after the prolonged freeze that followed the 2020 Eastern Ladakh standoff. Ahead of Xi's visit, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held extensive talks in Beijing last month on the boundary issue, peace and tranquillity along the border, and steps to improve bilateral relations. During the 25th round of Special Representatives' talks in Beijing on August 25, the two sides reached an eight-point consensus and agreed to advance discussions on an 'Early and Substantial Harvest' of boundary delimitation and border management. Against this backdrop, the Modi-Xi meeting is expected to be closely watched for indications of the future course of India-China ties. BRICS originally comprised Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, and expanded in 2024 to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, the UAE and Saudi Arabia, with Indonesia joining in 2025. Belarus, Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Cuba, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda, Uzbekistan and Vietnam became BRICS partner countries last year. India is a founding member of BRICS and has previously held the chairship in 2012, 2016 and 2021.

Houthis Seize Key Red Sea Island

Hundreds of people have died since the Iran-backed Houthis launched last week an offensive against Riyadh-backed Yemeni government forces around Bab al-Mandab. Yemen's Houthis took over on Friday a Red Sea island in the middle of the Bab al-Mandeb shipping lane, completing their push to control the area, a local government official and eyewitnesses told AFP. "Boats carrying armed Houthi fighters reached Mayyun Island after government forces withdrew from it yesterday," the official said, referring to an island also known as Perim that divides the strait into lanes. "The Houthis have completed their takeover of the Bab al-Mandab area and Mayyun Island, which is located in the middle of the strait," he added, speaking to AFP on condition of anonymity.

Nepal PM to raise Bhotekoshi flood losses at UNGA climate debate

Prime Minister Balendra Shah will use his UN General Assembly address to spotlight Nepal's climate disasters after the Bhotekoshi flash floods. He will seek climate justice, compensation and subsidised finance for a country hit hard despite low emissions.

Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah will use his address at the 81st session of the UN General Assembly in New York later this month to highlight the impact of climate change on his country, including heavy loss of life and damage to property caused by recent disasters, a top official said on Friday.

Shah will visit the US from September 22 to 26 for the UNGA session, in what will be his first foreign visit since taking office in March. Foreign Secretary Amrit Bahadur Rai said, "Prime Minister Shah is scheduled to address the General Debate on September 24, 2026." Rai said Shah would raise the issue of climate change in the wake of the devastating Bhotekoshi flash floods of August 26. He said the losses suffered by Nepal in the disaster had once again shown that the country is on "the forefront of the crisis emerging from climate change". He added that countries such as Nepal face the harmful effects of carbon emissions despite contributing very little to greenhouse gas emissions. "In this context, the Prime Minister will draw the attention of the global community towards climate change and the huge loss of life and property facing Nepal from time to time as its consequences," Rai said. He said Shah would also call on the international community for immediate and appropriate compensation from the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage and other organisations for climate justice. The flash floods, triggered by an ice-rock avalanche near the Nepal-Tibet border, devastated towns and villages in northern and central Nepal, killing more than 1,300 people, while more than 5,000 remain missing. The disaster also caused extensive damage to property and infrastructure. Rai said Nepal would urge the international community, especially rich and developed countries, to provide climate finance in a subsidised manner, along with necessary assistance and technical support for climate-resilient infrastructure, promotion of climate-smart agriculture and capacity building of concerned stakeholders. The theme of this year's UNGA session is 'Restoring Trust, Managing Transformation: A United Nations that Delivers for All'. Shah will lead a high-level Nepali delegation during the visit, which was endorsed by the Council of Ministers on Thursday.

According to Rai, the UNGA will also offer Nepal an "important opportunity" to present last year's Gen-Z movement, the conduct of the general election, the present government, its priorities and other issues before the international community. It will also allow Nepal to seek continuity of international assistance and goodwill from a high-level forum. The 81st session of the UN General Assembly began on September 8, and world leaders are scheduled to address the 193-member body at the General Debate from September 22 to 28.

In sum, Shah's visit to New York will centre on Nepal's climate concerns after the Bhotekoshi flash floods, while also giving the country a platform to press for compensation, climate finance and continued international support.

South Korea's FM tells Iran no decision made on possible Hormuz deployment during ministerial talks

SEOUL

Foreign Minister Cho Hyun told his Iranian counterpart Friday that Seoul has made no decision on a possible deployment of military assets to the Strait of Hormuz, officials said, amid speculation over Seoul's possible military role in securing the strategic waterway. Cho made the remarks during phone talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi as Seoul is weighing options for contributing to efforts to secure the strait amid US pressure. Iran has strongly opposed any foreign military involvement. During the talks, Cho expressed deep concern over the recent situation in the Middle East and voiced hope that sustainable peace and stability would be restored in the region, according to the ministry. On the Strait of Hormuz, Cho underscored Seoul's consistent position that the free and safe passage of all vessels must be guaranteed and reiterated South Korea's continued participation in international efforts to restore freedom of navigation through the strategic waterway, Yonhap News Agency reported. "Cho conveyed our position that no decision has been made regarding a possible deployment and stressed the importance of restoring freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz as soon as possible," a ministry official said. "The ministers explained their respective positions on issues related to the situation in the Middle East," he added.

Cho also asked Iran to pay close attention to the safety of South Korean nationals in the region, according to the ministry. Araghchi explained Iran's position on the current situation in the Middle East, while the two ministers agreed to maintain communication on regional developments and bilateral issues, the ministry said.

Sensex, Nifty fall nearly 1%: 3 reasons why stock market is down today

Global markets turned risk-off and India's booming IPO market continued to divert money away from the secondary market. The sell-off was broad-based, with investors also worried that higher oil prices and rising bond yields could keep inflation elevated and make monetary policy tighter globally.

At 10:35 am, the BSE Sensex was down 553.50 points, or 0.74%, at 74,349.09. The index had opened at 74,309.16. The Nifty 50 declined 192.50 points, or 0.82%, to 23,285.30 after opening at 23,270.30.

CRUDE OIL SURGES AS MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT ESCALATES

The biggest concern for Indian equities is the sharp rise in crude oil prices. Brent crude was trading at $107.40 a barrel, while WTI crude stood at $102.12.

The escalation in the Middle East has raised concerns about disruptions to global oil supplies and shipping routes. Iran-aligned Houthis seized control of Yemen's port city of Mocha and advanced along the Red Sea coast, while tanker attacks have intensified around the Strait of Hormuz. For India, which is heavily dependent on imported crude, sustained oil prices above $100 can increase the import bill, add to inflationary pressures and weigh on economic growth and corporate earnings. "Headwinds for the market are getting stronger with the escalation in the Middle East conflict. Brent crude has shot up to around $108. If this high price sustains, or worse, spikes further, the impact on India's GDP growth and consequently on corporate earnings will not be insignificant," said Dr V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited. The impact was visible across energy-sensitive sectors. Nifty Realty was the worst-performing sectoral index, falling 4.02%, while Metal declined 2.29%, Financial Services Ex-Bank fell 1.26% and Consumer Durables dropped 1.21%.

GLOBAL MARKETS FALL, BOND YIELDS RISE

The sell-off is not limited to India. Global equities have come under pressure as higher oil prices have fuelled concerns over inflation and interest rates.

Don't Stop Vaccination After Childhood

Doctors Stress Need for Immunization Across Age Groups
Medicover Hospitals launches dedicated Adult Vaccination Clinic at Hi-tech City

HYDERABAD



Vaccination is not just for children and adults too need timely immunization based on their age, health conditions and risk factors, doctors said at the launch of a dedicated Adult Vaccination Clinic at Medicover Hospitals, Hi-tech City. The dedicated clinic has been launched with an aim to strengthen preventive healthcare and address the growing gap in adult immunization. Doctors said that while childhood vaccination is routinely followed, many adults often overlook vaccines that can protect them against serious infections and related complications. The clinic will provide expert consultation and vaccination services for adults based on their individual health profile. The vaccination services include Influenza, Pneumococcal, Tdap, HPV, Herpes Zoster (Shingles) and Hepatitis B vaccines, wherever medically recommended. Speaking at the launch, Dr. A.R. Raghukanth, Pulmonologist, Medicover Hospitals, said that respiratory infections can pose a serious health threat to elderly people and those with existing medical conditions. "Influenza and pneumococcal infections may appear routine initially, but in elderly people and those with chronic lung disease, diabetes, heart disease or other health conditions, they can progress rapidly and lead to serious complications. Vaccination provides an important layer of protection. Adults should not wait until they develop a health problem to think about preventive care," he said.

Highlighting the role of vaccination in cancer prevention, Dr. Venugopal, Medical Oncologist, Medicover Hospitals, said that certain infections can have a long-term association with cancer.

"Cancer prevention begins much before the disease develops. Along with healthy lifestyle, screening and early detection, preventing infection-related cancers is also important. HPV vaccination is one such preventive measure that can help reduce the risk of HPV-related cancers. Adults should discuss their vaccination requirements with their doctors, particularly when age, medical conditions or immunity status changes," he said.

Doctors said vaccination requirements are not the same for every adult and should be decided after considering factors such as age, previous vaccination history, underlying diseases, occupation, immune status and individual risk profile.

The Adult Vaccination Clinic is expected to benefit senior citizens, individuals with chronic illnesses, healthcare professionals, corporate employees and other adults who may be at increased risk of vaccine-preventable infections.

Medical experts emphasized that with increasing life expectancy and the growing burden of lifestyle and chronic diseases, preventive healthcare needs to extend beyond routine health check-ups.

The launch of the dedicated clinic is part of Medicover Hospitals' efforts to promote a preventive approach to healthcare and encourage adults to take timely measures to protect themselves against vaccine-preventable diseases.



BharathCloud, Ibentos Join Hands on AI-Powered Marketing

HYDERABAD

BharathCloud, India's sovereign AI cloud service provider, has teamed up with Ibentos, an AI-driven technology company operating across North America and India, for future brand marketing initiatives and event technology. The partnership was formalised following discussions between the two business entities at the recent India-Canada Business Summit held on the sidelines of the 7th India-Canada Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and Investment chaired by Union Minister Piyush Goyal. The partnership reflects BharathCloud's commitment to strengthening its brand marketing, event tech capabilities, and customer engagement by leveraging Ibentos' AI-powered platform. It is specifically significant during this time when MSMEs contribute 31.1% to India's GDP. Hon'ble Commerce & Industry Minister Shri Piyush Goyal added, "The ministers noted robust growth in bilateral trade in goods and services, which reached $23.66 billion in 2024, with merchandise trade valued at nearly $8.98 billion, a substantial 10% increase over the previous year. The ministers reaffirmed the strength and resilience of the India-Canada economic partnership and emphasised the importance of continued engagement with the private sector to unlock new opportunities for trade and investment." BharathCloud will also leverage ibentos HYPE, an AI-powered marketing platform, to create and manage its own on-brand marketing campaigns efficiently at scale, while exploring opportunities to empower its customers with the same AI-powered brand marketing capabilities. The coordination will also bring abundant opportunities for collaborative implementation of AI-led event experiences to enrich audience engagement and amplify event management. "Technology partnerships often begin with meaningful conversations, and this is also how this one started. Our interactions with the Ibentos team at India-Canada business missions brought out a common Vision towards innovation and customer satisfaction." Rahul Takkallapally, Co-Founder, BharathCloud, shared, "As BharathCloud will keep growing its footprint in different markets, we require a technology partner that can bring smarter and more interactive experiences to our marketing campaigns, events and digital engagements. We see this partnership as a means to offer richer digital experiences to our customers and partners." "Meeting the founder and CEO of BharathCloud during his visit to Canada as part of an Indian business delegation revealed a strong alignment between our vision, customer base and approach to innovation. With the ibentos founders' decade-plus experience in digital marketing and branding for Indian businesses, combined with the capabilities of our new AI-powered marketing platform, ibentos HYPE, we see an exciting opportunity to strengthen the BharathCloud brand and empower its customers with intelligent, scalable and on-brand marketing solutions," shared Jaspinder Bhatia, Co-founder & CMO of ibentos Inc. ibentos has powered more than 3,000 events across over 30 countries through its event technology solutions. Building on this experience, the company has launched ibentos HYPE, an AI-powered marketing platform that enables brands to create and manage on-brand marketing campaigns efficiently at scale. Through this partnership, both companies aim to further enhance these capabilities using secure, enterprise-grade cloud infrastructure. Beyond technology integration, the mutual connection also reflects the growing momentum around cross-border innovation and digital collaboration. Both organisations intend to explore initiatives focused on enterprise event technology, AI-powered brand marketing, AI adoption, virtual experiences and future-focused technology programmes that connect businesses and innovation ecosystems across India and Canada.

About BharathCloud

BharathCloud is a Hyderabad-based sovereign AI cloud services provider delivering secure, scalable, and AI-driven solutions to businesses and startups globally. BharathCloud offers end-to-end cloud and digital transformation solutions, including IaaS, PaaS, SaaS, AI/ML, HPC, and innovative platforms offering AI-powered smart storage and Bharat Big Bucket(B3), KaaS (Kubernetes-as-a-Service). Its enterprise-grade infrastructure ensures high performance, multi-location backups, disaster recovery, and compliance with global standards such as ISO 27001, TPN and HIPAA.

For more information, visit www.bharathcloud.com

About ibentos

ibentos is an AI-powered campaign operating system that helps businesses create, manage, and publish brand promotions and events across multiple channels. Built for industries ranging from events and hospitality to healthcare, education, and retail, ibentos enables organisations to save time, stay on-brand, and reach wider audiences with AI-assisted campaign creation.

Rupee falls 5 paise to close at 95.57 against US dollar

MUMBAI:

The rupee pared most of its initial losses and settled at 95.57 (provisional) against the US dollar, down by 5 paise, on Friday, helped by a correction in crude oil prices and suspected RBI intervention. Forex traders said risk aversion in global markets and elevated crude oil prices are weighing on the rupee, which closed lower for the fifth consecutive session on Friday. The rupee opened on a negative note but pared some losses on suspected RBI intervention, a slight recovery in domestic stock markets from the day's lows and profit booking at higher levels, traders said.

Vylor to Sustain $1B Seeds R&D, Eye Hyderabad Hub

BY LAXMI DEVI AERE

NEW DELHI: As US-based Corteva Agriscience's seed business prepares to list separately as Vylor Inc on October 1, the company's top executive said on Friday the new entity will continue to invest about USD 1 billion a year in seed R&D globally, with India's Hyderabad research centre to emerge as a future gene-editing hub for Asia.

Globally, Corteva currently spends around USD 1.4 billion a year on R&D across seeds and crop protection. Of this, roughly USD 1 billion is allocated to the seed business and about USD 400 million to crop protection, said Robert Kaan, Head of APAC and Strategic Growth Initiatives at Corteva's seed business.

"After the separation, Vylor intends to maintain the USD 1 billion annual R&D outlay for seeds, while crop protection will decide its own spending independently," he told reporters here.

STATEMENT FROM VANTARA ON MADHURI (MAHADEVI), THE ELEPHANT

Madhuri, known and loved in Kolhapur as Mahadevi, came to Vantara in Jamnagar on 30 July 2025 in compliance with the directions of the High-Powered Committee (HPC), which were upheld by the Hon'ble Bombay High Court and the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Vantara did not seek her custody. It received her and cared for her because it was directed to do so. We fully understand the deep sentiments surrounding Madhuri in Kolhapur. Following discussions with the Government of Maharashtra, its officers, stakeholders and members of the community, Vantara stated on 06 August 2025 that it respected those sentiments and would abide by the directions of the competent authorities.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court subsequently directed the parties to place their claims before the HPC. After hearing the parties, calling for reports and inspecting the facility at Nandani, the HPC, on 09 September 2026, passed a reasoned order permitting Madhuri to return to Kolhapur, subject to strict conditions. These include that she shall not be used for processions or any other purpose, that she receive round-the-clock care and that she undergo a medical examination every fortnight. Vantara respects the authority of the HPC and will comply fully with its directions. Our position on Madhuri has always been guided by veterinary science and her welfare. Her condition has been stabilised through sustained veterinary care, but her chronic conditions have not disappeared. She continues to require appropriate care, supportive management and regular veterinary monitoring.

Our responsibility does not end with her return to Kolhapur. Vantara has worked to support her transition by helping ensure that appropriate living conditions, veterinary infrastructure, medical equipment, medicines and other necessities are in place. Vantara's veterinarians will visit Madhuri in Kolhapur every fortnight to conduct her medical examination and submit their reports to the competent authorities, as directed by the HPC. This is about continuity of care and safeguarding her welfare, wherever she is housed. Vantara has also worked on the enclosure and facility at Nandani to which Madhuri is now returning. Within the infrastructure available, the best possible arrangements have been put in place for her. Further improvements to the infrastructure could not be made at this stage owing to town planning constraints, as a road passing through the land of the Trust has limited the land available for development. Once Madhuri has settled in, Vantara will remain available to the Math for the upgradation of the facility. Vantara will equally assist in such upgradation if directed to do so by the courts or the competent authorities. Vantara believes that genuine animal welfare requires facts, veterinary science, responsible care, respect for due process and an unwavering commitment to safeguarding life forever.

Vantara is grateful to the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Hon'ble Bombay High Court and the HPC for their directions. We thank the Governments of Maharashtra and Gujarat and their officers for their support. We are equally thankful to the Math and the people of Kolhapur for their concern for Madhuri. We also acknowledge PETA India's role in bringing Madhuri's condition before the HPC and value our long association in the cause of animal welfare.

Madhuri's wellbeing remains Vantara's first concern. Our commitment to her health, welfare and dignity does not depend on where she lives. We wish her good health and a long, safe and happy life.

Record 20 Lakh+ Tickets Booked in a Day

NEW DELHI

There are a number of significant steps continued to be undertaken to upgrade the rail ticket booking system including introduction of new UI beta version w.e.f. 15/07/26. At present about 89% of total reserved tickets are being booked through online mode. Leading to these constant upgrades, on 07/09/2026, IRCTC recorded its highest-ever historic single-day booking of 20,06,353 tickets owing to festive season ARP booking. Due to these persistent efforts, the system continues to sustain high load of booking and again achieved booking of 19,50,699 tickets on 08/09/26, which further indicates the successful and voluminous handling of the NGet robust booking system. During the festive season last year on 19/08/26 highest 18,40,203 tickets were booked in a single day. As per the present trend only 8.43%–14.14% of the day's bookings are completed during the first hour (8:00–9:00 AM) and over 85% of bookings are completed successfully later in the day. The first 15 minutes (8:00–8:15 AM) consistently record the highest booking volume, reflecting peak concurrent demand.

The above has been achieved due to certain important measures:

- **NGet Refresh :** A comparative assessment of server capacity has been carried out with respect to pre-refresh and post-refresh infrastructure. The capacity of the entire ecosystem has been enhanced to approximately double through induction of new servers in place of old servers. In addition to hardware augmentation, substantial capacity enhancement, manifold increase over the earlier system, has also been achieved through software optimization and architectural improvements.
- **New User Interface:** The IRCTC new User Interface beta version was introduced w.e.f. 15/07/26. The redesigned interface features a sleek, contemporary look inspired by global design trends such as Glassmorphism, offering a visually appealing and engaging journey from login to ticket confirmation. With this upgrade, passengers now enjoy a more structured and easily digestible presentation of information, guiding them effortlessly through their booking process. The revamped interface consolidates availability information for multiple travel classes—such as Sleeper, AC 3 Tier, and AC 2 Tier—onto a single screen. This feature enables passengers to compare options at a glance, reducing navigation effort and empowering them to make informed decisions swiftly.
- **Systemic Measures (CDN and Anti BOT):** IRCTC has engaged a leading technology player for implementing Anti-BOT and CDNcapabilities. Anti-BOT technology has resulted in mitigation of malicious BOT traffic to the extent of 55% to 65% in the recent months. While implementation of CDN (Content Delivery Network) for providing static content has reduced load on NGeT(Next Generation e-Ticketing) system thus enhancing the experience for genuine/verified users. The Network Security Team is actively taking down fake websites and mobile apps impersonating IRCTC.
- All categories of authorised ticketing agents (YTSKs, RTSAs, IRCTC Agents, etc.) are prohibited from booking ARP tickets during the first 10 minutes of the booking window, i.e., 08:00 AM to 08:10 AM.
- Only Aadhaar-authenticated users are permitted to book tickets during the opening ARP window (effective from 12.10.2025).

NGeT successfully handled 1.33–1.74 crore logins and processed 17–20 lakh bookings on each ARP opening day, demonstrating enhanced system capacity under heavy demand.

- Due to continuous action against misuse - 3.04 Cr User IDs were deactivated and 6.33 Cr IDs put under revalidation, 16,041 suspicious email domains were blocked, and 592 complaints lodged on Cyber Crime Portal covering 4.21 lakh suspicious PNRs.

Despite exceptionally high concurrent demand there has been no failure or outage of the IRCTC NGeT platform. Booking statistics demonstrate that the platform remained up and running while processing a very high volume of simultaneous requests in a secure and equitable manner.

IRCTC is fully committed to serve its users by bringing in constant upgrades to the Indian Railway online ticket booking system.

Electric 2-wheelers dominate charging sessions; 4-wheelers lead in energy consumed: Report

MUMBAI:

Electric two-wheelers dominate charging activity while four-wheelers account for most of the energy consumed, reflecting the need for infrastructure designed for both scale and energy intensity, according to a report. The data across six major metros shows that two-wheelers accounted for 78.1 per cent of charging sessions in the current fiscal so far, up from 71.6 per cent in FY24-25, electric vehicle charging network operator Bolt.Earth said in its 'State of Charge' report. In contrast, four-wheelers accounted for just 16 per cent of sessions but contributed 67.3 per cent of energy consumed, up from 58.1 per cent. This contrast highlights the need for infrastructure designed for both scale and energy intensity.



Telangana Realty Moves Beyond the Boom

Telangana's real-estate market is entering a new phase, marked not merely by rising property prices or the launch of more residential projects, but by a fundamental change in the way buyers, developers and investors look at property. Hyderabad, which has emerged as one of India's strongest urban growth centres, is witnessing a transition from rapid expansion to a more mature and selective market where location, connectivity, quality, amenities and long-term value are increasingly determining purchase decisions.

For several years, Hyderabad's real-estate story was driven largely by the expansion of the information technology sector, the growth of the western corridor and the development of large residential communities. Areas around Gachibowli, Kondapur, Nanakramguda and the Financial District became major residential and commercial destinations as thousands of professionals moved closer to employment hubs.

The next phase is expected to be broader and more sophisticated. While the western corridor continues to dominate the premium housing market, development is gradually spreading towards Kokapet, Narsingi, Tellapur, Neopolis and other emerging locations. Infrastructure projects, improved road connectivity and the expansion of employment centres are creating new residential demand. At the same time, buyers are becoming more cautious.

The days when any property in a developing locality could attract strong investor interest are gradually giving way to a market where buyers examine construction quality, developer credibility, connectivity, maintenance costs, social infrastructure and potential resale value before committing their money.

Hyderabad's Western Corridor Remains the Growth Engine

The western part of Hyderabad continues to occupy a central position in the city's real-estate landscape. Gachibowli and the Financial District have developed into major corporate destinations, creating a large and relatively stable pool of housing demand. The presence of technology companies, financial institutions, global capability centres and other commercial establishments has transformed the region from a peripheral part of the city into a major urban centre. Residential development has followed employment, with high-rise apartments, gated communities and luxury developments reshaping the skyline. Kokapet has emerged as one of the most prominent examples of this transformation. Once regarded as an outskirts location, it is increasingly being viewed as an extension of Hyderabad's premium western corridor. Large residential projects, commercial developments and planned infrastructure have increased its attractiveness to both end-users and investors. Narsingi and Tellapur are also benefiting from the westward expansion of the city. Their relative availability of land compared with established locations has allowed developers to undertake larger projects. For homebuyers, these areas offer an opportunity to purchase larger homes and access community-style living while remaining connected to major employment hubs. The growing preference for integrated developments is another important feature of the market. Buyers are increasingly looking for projects that combine housing with recreational facilities, landscaped open spaces, security, fitness centres, children's areas and other amenities. This has made gated communities particularly attractive to families seeking convenience and a more organised urban lifestyle.

Premiumisation Changes the Buyer Profile

One of the most visible changes in Hyderabad's housing market is the rise of premiumisation. A section of buyers is increasingly willing to spend more for larger homes, better locations and higher-quality amenities. The premium housing segment is no longer restricted to a small group of wealthy investors. Professionals working in technology, finance, pharmaceuticals and other high-paying sectors are becoming an important part of the demand base. For such buyers, the home is increasingly seen not only as a place to live but also as a long-term lifestyle asset. Large apartments with better views, spacious layouts, clubhouses and high-quality construction are attracting attention. The demand for three-bedroom and larger homes has also gained importance as families look for additional space for work-from-home requirements, children and extended family members. This shift is changing the nature of project launches. Developers are focusing increasingly on larger projects with extensive amenities rather than simply maximising the number of units. The emphasis is moving towards creating a complete residential environment. However, premiumisation does not mean that every expensive project will automatically succeed. Buyers are becoming more discerning about whether the price being quoted is supported by location, construction quality, infrastructure and future development potential.

Infrastructure Becomes a Major Property Driver

Infrastructure has always played a crucial role in real estate, but its influence is becoming even more important as Hyderabad expands. Road connectivity, flyovers, the Outer Ring Road and proposed transport improvements have altered the geography of the city. Locations that once appeared distant from the established urban core can now become viable residential destinations when travel times improve. The Outer Ring Road, in particular, has strengthened connectivity between several parts of Hyderabad and major employment and commercial centres. It has also encouraged development beyond the traditional city limits. Future transport infrastructure is expected to influence property demand further. As public transport networks expand and new corridors become better connected, developers are likely to increasingly focus on locations where residents can access workplaces, educational institutions, shopping districts and healthcare facilities conveniently. For buyers, infrastructure is therefore becoming a more important consideration than simply the distance from the city centre. A property in a developing location with strong connectivity may offer better long-term potential than a property in an established area with limited scope for expansion.

Office Growth and Housing Demand Move Together

Hyderabad's residential market cannot be separated from its commercial real-estate story. The growth of office space, particularly in the western corridor, has created employment opportunities that directly support housing demand. The expansion of global companies and corporate campuses has brought a steady flow of professionals into the city. This has supported demand for both owned and rented housing. The relationship between offices and homes is particularly visible around Gachibowli, the Financial District and the surrounding areas. Professionals often prefer to live within reasonable commuting distance of their workplaces, reducing travel time and improving quality of life. As more employment centres emerge, new residential clusters are likely to develop around them. This could gradually reduce Hyderabad's dependence on a single dominant residential corridor and create multiple growth centres across the metropolitan region. Such decentralisation could become one of the defining features of Hyderabad's next real-estate cycle.

Developers Face a More Demanding Market

The changing market is also forcing developers to rethink their strategies. During periods of strong demand, projects could attract buyers primarily because of location and price. Today, buyers are paying closer attention to delivery records, project approvals, construction standards, maintenance arrangements and the reputation of the developer. Transparency has become increasingly important. Homebuyers are more informed than before and have access to a wide range of information before making a decision. They compare projects, study layouts, examine amenities and assess the surrounding infrastructure. This has increased competition among developers. The successful projects of the next phase are likely to be those that combine credible execution with strong locations and products that match actual consumer demand. Developers also need to balance premiumisation with affordability. While luxury housing is attracting attention, Hyderabad remains a city with a large middle-class population. Demand for reasonably priced homes in well-connected locations will continue to form an important part of the market.

Technology Changes the Property Buying Experience

Technology is transforming how people search for and evaluate property. Digital listings, virtual tours, online documentation and data-driven comparisons are making the buying process more accessible. Potential buyers can now examine multiple projects without physically visiting every location. Social media and online property platforms have also made it easier to compare prices, amenities and neighbourhood characteristics. Developers are increasingly using digital tools to market projects and communicate with customers. Virtual presentations and digital walkthroughs can provide buyers with an initial understanding of a project before they make a site visit. However, technology cannot replace physical verification. Buyers still need to examine construction quality, access roads, neighbourhood development and actual project progress before making a major financial commitment.

The Importance of End-User Demand

One of the healthiest signs of a real-estate market is the strength of end-user demand. Properties purchased by people who intend to live in them tend to provide a more stable foundation than a market driven primarily by speculative investment. Hyderabad continues to benefit from a significant end-user base. Families relocating for employment, professionals seeking larger homes and existing residents upgrading their properties are all contributing to demand. This has also changed the importance of amenities. Buyers increasingly consider schools, hospitals, shopping centres, recreational spaces and transport links before purchasing a home. A project may offer an attractive apartment, but if residents have to travel long distances for basic services, its appeal can be limited. Consequently, the next generation of residential projects is likely to be judged increasingly by the quality of the surrounding ecosystem.

Investors Need to Look Beyond Price Appreciation

Real estate remains an important investment avenue, but the changing market requires greater selectivity. Investors need to consider entry price, rental potential, infrastructure development, supply in the surrounding area and the credibility of the developer. Buying solely because a locality is described as the "next big destination" can carry significant risk. Locations with strong employment drivers and established infrastructure generally have a different risk profile from areas where future development depends entirely on proposed projects. The same principle applies to luxury housing. A premium property may offer strong lifestyle benefits, but investors should carefully assess whether the price reflects genuine scarcity and demand or simply marketing. The emerging market therefore rewards research rather than speculation.

A More Mature Real-Estate Cycle

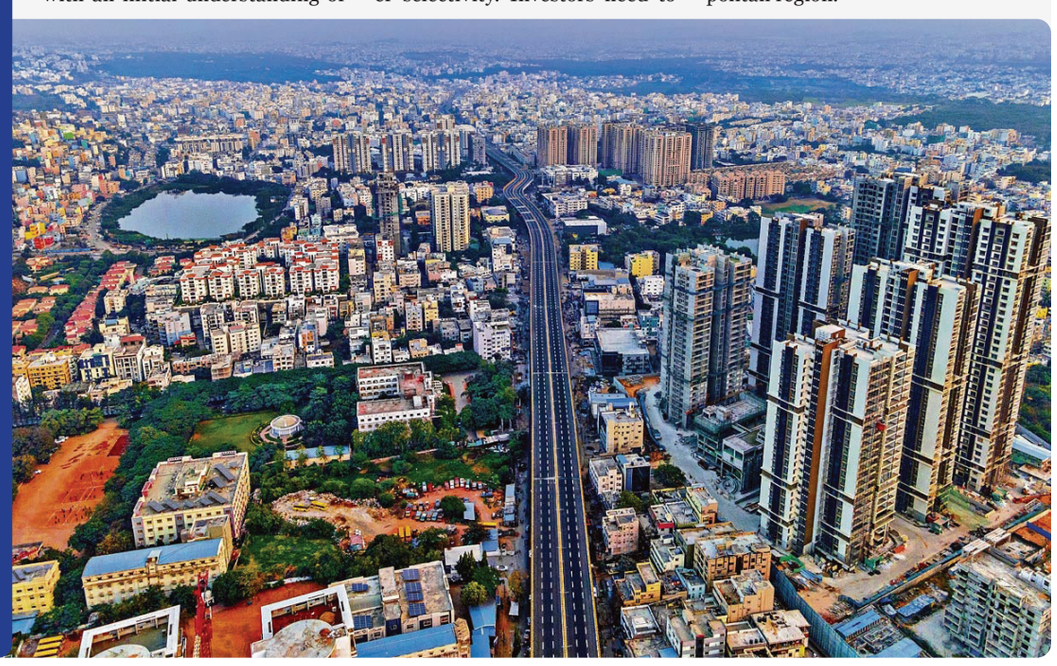
Telangana's real-estate sector is unlikely to be defined by one dramatic boom. Instead, the coming years could see a more measured expansion supported by employment growth, infrastructure development, urbanisation and rising household incomes. Hyderabad has already established itself as a major technology and business destination. Its next challenge is to accommodate continued population growth while maintaining connectivity, liveability and infrastructure. For real estate, this means the opportunity will increasingly depend on identifying the right locations rather than simply buying property anywhere within the metropolitan region.

Rental Housing Adds Another Layer of Demand

While property ownership remains a major aspiration, Hyderabad's expanding workforce is also creating strong demand for rental housing. Young professionals relocating to the city often prefer rental accommodation initially. Students, newly married couples and employees on temporary assignments also contribute to the rental market. Areas close to major technology and commercial hubs benefit from this demand. Apartments with good connectivity, security, parking and access to everyday facilities tend to remain attractive to tenants. For property investors, rental income has therefore become an important consideration alongside capital appreciation. However, rental yields can vary considerably depending on the location, property type and purchase price. Investors are increasingly examining whether a property can generate sufficient rental income rather than relying entirely on expectations of future price appreciation. This represents a more mature approach to real-estate investment.

Beyond Hyderabad: Telangana's Wider Opportunity

Although Hyderabad dominates Telangana's property market, opportunities are gradually emerging beyond the capital. Urbanisation, industrial development, improved highways and the expansion of educational and healthcare facilities are supporting real-estate activity in other parts of the State. As economic activity spreads, demand for housing, commercial buildings, warehouses and supporting infrastructure is likely to increase. The development of industrial corridors and logistics networks can create new property markets around employment clusters. Warehousing and logistics, in particular, are gaining importance as e-commerce, organised retail and manufacturing expand. This could eventually lead to a broader Telangana real-estate ecosystem in which Hyderabad remains the principal market while secondary cities and emerging industrial locations develop specialised property segments.



SHORT NEWS

Ranji Trophy

Senior Selection Committee Announces Captain and Vice-Captain for Ranji Trophy 2026-27



HYDERABAD, SEPTEMBER 11, 2026: The Senior Selection Committee of the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) convened a meeting today, 11th September 2026, at Uppal Stadium, to select the Captain and Vice-Captain for the upcoming Ranji Trophy 2026–27 season.
Following the meeting, the Senior Selection Committee unanimously decided on the following leadership arrangement for the Hyderabad Senior Men's team:

Captain: Mohammed Siraj
Vice-Captain: C.V. Milind
In the absence or unavailability of Mohammed Siraj, C.V. Milind will assume the role of Captain and lead the Hyderabad team for the concerned match/matches.
The decision was unanimously agreed upon by the members of the Senior Selection Committee.

Harshita, Dilhari power Sri Lanka into
WOMEN'S ASIA CUP FINAL



Dubai, Sep 11: Harshita Samarawickrama and Kavisha Dilhari rose to the occasion with a crucial 67-run partnership to rescue Sri Lanka from a difficult position and steer the defending champions to a four-wicket victory over Pakistan in the Women's Asia Cup 2026 semi-final here on Friday.

The victory booked Sri Lanka's place in the final, where they will face India on Sunday at the Dubai International Stadium in Dubai.

Chasing a modest target of 131, Sri Lanka were in serious trouble early in their innings after Pakistan's bowlers struck in the Power-play. Fatima Sana provided Pakistan with a dream start, dismissing Chamari Athapaththu for five and Sanjana Kavindi for a duck inside the second over.

Sadia Iqbal then added to Sri Lanka's problems by removing Hasini Perera for three, leaving the defending champions struggling at 31 for three at the end of the Power-play.

With Pakistan sensing an opportunity to put further pressure on the Sri Lankan batting line-up, Imesha Dulani attempted to steady the innings and contributed a valuable 22 in the seventh over.

However, it was Harshita and Dilhari who ultimately changed the course of the chase.

The pair settled into a composed partnership, rotating the strike effectively and keeping the scoreboard moving while refusing to allow Pakistan's bowlers to build sustained pressure. Their 67-run stand brought Sri Lanka firmly back into the contest and put the defending champions within touching distance of victory.

Harshita played an important knock of 36, while Dilhari contributed a well-made 33. The partnership finally came to an end in the 17th over when both batters were dismissed by Fatima Sana.

Sri Lanka still required runs, but Nilakshi de Silva and Kaushani Nuthyangana held their nerve during a tense finish. Pakistan, meanwhile, struggled to maintain their composure as the pressure mounted.

The Sri Lankan pair ensured there was no late collapse, guiding their side across the finishing line with four wickets in hand. Sri Lanka reached the target in 18.4 overs, with Nilak



RYBAKINA RALLIES PAST GAUFF TO REACH MAIDEN US OPEN FINAL

New York, September 11: Elena Rybakina staged a superb comeback from a set down to defeat Coco Gauff 3-6, 6-4, 6-4 and reach her maiden US Open final at Arthur Ashe Stadium on Thursday, setting up a blockbuster championship clash against world No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka.

The 27-year-old Kazakh, who had never previously reached the title match at Flushing Meadows, overcame a difficult start to produce a composed and determined performance and complete the victory in two hours and eight minutes, according to the WTA website.

Playing in front of a packed Arthur Ashe Stadium crowd, which included former US First Lady Michelle Obama, Gauff made the more confident start and immediately put Rybakina under pressure.

The American secured the only break of serve in the opening set to move 4-2 ahead and maintained her advantage through the remainder of the set. Gauff held her serve when it mattered to close out the opener 6-3 and take an early advantage in the semi-final.

Rybakina, however, responded emphatically at the beginning of the second set. The Kazakh broke Gauff early and established a 4-1 lead, appearing to have seized control of the contest. But Gauff refused to let the match slip away and produced a strong response, winning three consecutive games to draw level at 4-4.

With the set reaching its most important stage, Rybakina regained her composure and raised the intensity of her game.

She earned the crucial break in the 10th game before holding her serve to close out the second set 6-4, sending the semi-final into a deciding third set. The final set was closely fought, with neither player able to establish a decisive advantage as the two traded games and kept the packed stadium on edge.

Rybakina had opportunities to seize control when she earned two break points in the sixth game, but Gauff managed to hold firm and escape the threat.

The Kazakh made the most of her next opportunity in the eighth game, however. She broke Gauff to move 5-3 ahead, leaving herself just one game away from securing a place in the US Open final.

Gauff again showed her fighting spirit and refused to surrender.

A brilliant backhand passing shot helped the American earn her first break point of the deciding set. She converted the opportunity to break back, level the set and put the match back on serve.

'FOCUS ON WINNING GOLD FOR INDIA'

New Delhi, September 11: Indian Greco-Roman wrestler Sunil Kumar has set his sights on a gold medal at the upcoming Asian Games, determined to improve on the bronze he won in Hangzhou in 2022. Competing in the 87kg category, Kumar has risen through the ranks after taking up wrestling in his village. The 2022 Asian Games medallist now hopes to establish himself as one of India's leading wrestlers on the continental stage.

"I started wrestling in my village, and in the beginning, it was just something I enjoyed doing. But as I grew and started competing, I began to think that I wanted to do something for my country, not just for myself. That thought has stayed with me ever since, and it is what pushes me even today," Kumar said.

The wrestler believes his recent training stint in Uzbekistan has helped him prepare for the challenges ahead. With the Asian Games as his immediate priority, Kumar is focused on converting his experience into a gold-medal performance.

"My full focus right now is on winning a gold medal for the country at the Asian Games. Everything I am doing is working towards that one goal. We recently had a training camp in Uzbekistan, and it went very well," he said.

Kumar said training alongside some of Uzbekistan's leading wrestlers, including 2022 Asian Games gold medallists, provided valuable exposure and helped raise the intensity of his preparations.

"The Uzbek wrestlers are very good, and there were a few gold medallists from 2022 training there as well. Training alongside wrestlers of that level pushed all of us to get better," he added.

The 87kg wrestler has also had to overcome injury setbacks during his career. He underwent knee surgery last year and admitted that the possibility of injury remains a constant concern in a physically demanding sport such as wrestling. "I had knee surgery last year, so I know what it feels like to go through an injury. The fear of injury is always there at the back of your mind; no wrestler can say that they don't feel it," Kumar said.

"But if injuries were not a part of this sport, then anyone would have been able to do what we do. Everyone carries a little bit of that fear; it is just part of playing this sport at this level," he added.

While the Asian Games remains his immediate target, Kumar has already begun looking beyond the continental event. He plans to turn his attention to the Olympic qualification cycle in 2027.

GCLS4: G.masters thrash Mumba Masters, Pipers edge Gambits

Bengaluru, September 11: Ganges Grandmasters and defending champions Alpine APL Pipers strengthened their claims for a place in the Global Chess League Season 4 final with convincing victories in the penultimate round here on Friday.

The Grandmasters produced the biggest win of the tournament, crushing CheQ Mumba Masters 16-1, while the Pipers edged FYERS American Gambits 9-7. In the other match of the day, Triveni Continental Kings defeated PBG Alaskan Knights 13-7.

The results left Ganges Grandmasters and Alpine Pipers level on 18 match points. However, the Grandmasters moved to the top of the standings on game score following their emphatic victory.

American Gambits remained third with 15 match points and now face a difficult path to the final. They need one of the top two teams to lose in the final round and must also beat CheQ Mumba Masters by a substantial margin.

The Gambits' hopes suffered a major setback against the defending champions in the opening match of the day. World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen ended Candidates 2026 winner Javokhir Sindarov's three-match winning streak, while Vidit Gujrathi defeated Daniil Dubov in a tense rook-and-knight endgame as the Pipers secured a crucial 9-7 victory.

The two teams had entered the ninth round level on both match points and game points, making victory particularly important in the race for the final.

Carlsen, who was named Player of the Match, controlled his game against Sindarov and forced the Uzbek grandmaster to resign after 36 moves. "It was a great match with a very good team performance. We are thrilled to get the win. In my game, I was doing pretty well early on, but he put up a big fight, and I was able to find the win," Carlsen said. Vidit's victory proved decisive for the Pipers. His game against Dubov on the Superstar men's board went into a time scramble, but the Indian kept his composure and converted an extra knight and pawn against his opponent's rook to win after 96 moves.

"It was a very close match. When I saw the board, we were not in a clear position to win. I felt that I played a good game, and it was very good to win for the team," Vidit said. The Pipers' only defeat came on the women's board, where Women's World Cup winner Divya Deshmukh ran out of time on the 34th move against Bibisara Assaubayeva.

Ganges Grandmasters, meanwhile, produced a near-perfect performance against CheQ Mumba Masters.

Icon player Ian Nepomniachtchi, Superstar men Levon Aronian and Leinier Dominguez Perez, Superstar woman Stavroula Tsolakidou and prodigy Leon Luke Mendonca all secured convincing victories with the white pieces.

ENG vs PAK, 3rd Test: Razaullah, Abbas blitz lifts Pakistan to 129-run lead ENG

Edgbaston, September 11: Pakistan produced a spirited fightback on the third day of the third and final Test against England, with half-centuries from Shan Masood and Babar Azam followed by a stunning lower-order assault from debutant Razaullah and Mohammed Abbas helping the visitors set England a target of 130 runs.

Pakistan, who resumed the day at 52/2 after being reduced to 0/2 in their first innings, were eventually bowled out for 449. England had earlier made 453 in their first innings after Pakistan were dismissed for just 133.

The total was Pakistan's highest in England since their 542 in the second innings at The Oval in 2016.

Resuming alongside Azan Awais, Shan Masood brought up his half-century from 81 balls, while Awais reached his fifty off 78 deliveries. The pair took Pakistan past the 100-run mark before Dan Lawrence ended their 125-run partnership by dismissing Awais for 59 off 84 balls.

Masood then combined with captain Babar Azam to steady the innings and take Pakistan beyond 200. Their partnership, however, was broken by Gus Atkinson, who removed Masood for a well-made 95 off 148 balls, including 12 fours.

Babar continued his patient innings and brought up his first fifty of the series from 76 balls, striking eight fours. He added 64 runs with Saud Shakeel before Josh Tongue dismissed the Pakistan captain for 76 off 103 balls, including 11 fours and a six.

Pakistan subsequently slipped to 318/8 as England's pace attack began to make inroads. But just when the visitors appeared to be losing control, debutant Razaullah launched a counterattack.

The debutant reached his maiden Test fifty in just 43 balls, with three fours and five sixes, as Pakistan crossed the 400-run mark.

Abbas provided able support at the other end, and the pair tore into England's pace attack to add 121 runs for the ninth wicket in only 95 balls.

SABALENKA STORMS INTO FOURTH STRAIGHT US OPEN FINAL



New York, September 11: Aryna Sabalenka continued her remarkable dominance at the US Open, defeating home favourite Jessica Pegula in straight sets to reach her fourth consecutive final in New York and keep alive her hopes of securing a third successive title.

The top-seeded Belarusian produced a commanding performance to beat Pegula 7-5, 6-2 in one hour and 20 minutes at Arthur Ashe Stadium on Thursday, according to the WTA website. The victory also extended Sabalenka's head-to-head advantage over Pegula to 10-4 on the WTA Tour.

It was Sabalenka's third consecutive victory over Pegula at the US Open, as the Belarusian once again demonstrated her ability to raise her level on the biggest stage. She will now face Elena Rybakina in Sunday's championship match.

Sabalenka entered the semi-final determined to make amends after suffering a difficult defeat to Pegula on grass earlier in the season. She also acknowledged that her performances during the middle part of the season had not been at the level she expected.

"I was super desperate. I lost a tough match on grass against Jess, and I wasn't really performing well in the middle part of the season," Sabalenka said during her post-match press conference, as quoted by the WTA website.

She added that the Grand Slam season felt like it was reaching its decisive stage and that she was determined to make the most of her opportunity in New York.

"It kind of feels like for me, talking about Grand Slams, like a last push for the season. I wanted badly to go to the final, and of course I want to go all the way. The mentality was just, 'I'm ready. I'm ready for whatever it's going to take to get the win,'" Sabalenka said.

The opening set was tightly contested, with both players holding serve through the first 10 games. Neither was able to establish a clear advantage, while both Sabalenka and Pegula created only one break-point opportunity each during that period. The contest finally opened up at 5-5.

Sabalenka held her serve to move ahead before unleashing a powerful backhand to break Pegula and claim the opening set 7-5. The crucial late surge gave the top seed the momentum she needed heading into the second set.

Sabalenka then took complete control of the contest.

She converted her fourth break-point opportunity with a forehand return winner off Pegula's second serve to move 3-1 ahead. The American struggled to generate enough consistency behind her second delivery, winning only five of 19 points on her second serve.

Sabalenka, by contrast, remained largely comfortable on serve. She faced just one break point throughout the match and continued to dictate play with her powerful groundstrokes.

Mourinho backs Vinicius Jr, says Real Madrid star's best is yet to come

Madrid, September 11: Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho has thrown his support behind Vinicius Jr amid growing criticism from fans, insisting that the Brazilian forward's best is still to come.

Vinicius was booed by sections of the Santiago Bernabeu crowd during Real Madrid's 2-1 win over Inter Milan in the UEFA Champions League after failing to score or provide an assist. The 25-year-old has scored once in five appearances for the club this season.

Speaking ahead of Real Madrid's home clash against Rayo Vallecano on Sunday, Mourinho defended Vinicius and pointed to the forward's achievements in recent seasons. "There is a Portuguese proverb that you only throw stones at trees that have fruit. What Vini has done here in recent years, the Champions League he's won and the many goals he has scored — his achievements speak for themselves," Mourinho said, as quoted by ESPN.

"He is a tree bearing plenty of fruit. People are throwing stones because they want fruit. And the best Vinicius is yet to come," he added.

Mourinho also recalled Vinicius' decisive performances against Benfica in last season's Champions League playoff, when the Brazilian scored twice across the two legs to help Real Madrid seal the tie.

"The Vini we saw last year, when the Bernabeu was on edge against Benfica, and he sealed the tie — that Vinicius is yet to come," Mourinho said.

The Portuguese manager also highlighted Vinicius' physical statistics, saying the forward is approaching his peak despite his relatively slow start to the campaign. "In an age of data and statistics, he is very close to his top speed. He has broken his own records for high-intensity runs, balls won back and balls won back in the final third. He is going to get there," Mourinho said. Mourinho also urged Real Madrid supporters to maintain their backing for the players, stressing that a strong connection between the team and the Santiago Bernabeu can make the club almost unbeatable.

"It makes me sad when they whistle to any player, but I do not want to judge or criticise. From my experience — and not just at Real Madrid — when there is a bond between the team and the stadium, it is, I do not want to say unbeatable, but almost unbeatable," he said.

The Real Madrid boss also backed Kylian Mbappe, agreeing with the French forward's earlier comments that a player capable of scoring 40 goals a season cannot be considered a problem for the team.

"Kylian is right: a player who scores 40 goals every season isn't a problem for the team," Mourinho said.

Mbappe finished as La Liga's top scorer last season and has continued his impressive form, scoring five goals in five appearances for Real Madrid this campaign.

Nani's Paradise Takes a Bold Route



Nani's The Paradise is one of the most awaited movies. The film garnered significant buzz, thanks to Nani's never-seen-before portrayal in ultra mass character combined with Anirudh's mass compositions like Aaya Sher and Yesha Nagula Kattameedha, the film has been trending. While the film's extensive scale and huge canvas caused the film delay owing to a couple of postponements, the makers this time are in no mood to postpone the film any longer. As The Paradise is all set to hit the screens on September 24, the makers are leaving no stone unturned to make it big. Inside sources reveal that the film may release in theatres directly without any trailer. Releasing a film without trailer launch isn't new. A few films in the past have tried this strategy and they also worked in some of them's favour. While the Paradise teaser has been slightly disappointing, releasing the film without a trailer is certainly a very risky bet. However, it is too early to come to any conclusion as the makers are yet to decide on the film's trailer release. As of now, they are only considering to skip the trailer launch. It needs to be seen how The Paradise would deal with its massive expectations. Not just Nani's fans, the whole trade is eagerly looking forward to the film's release.

Summer Chic With IRUMUDI BEAUTY



Priya Bhavani Shankar, who impressed audiences as the female lead in Ravi Teja's Irumudi, has been carving a strong space for herself in Tollywood after years of dominating Tamil cinema. The actress, celebrated for her acting chops, is currently riding high on excitement with fans eagerly awaiting her upcoming projects "Demonte Colony 3" and "Maragadha Naanayam 2", among several other exciting titles in her kitty. Amid her packed schedule, Priya took a break to treat her fans with a stunning new photoshoot that has taken social media by storm. Dressed in a breezy yellow floral halter-neck dress with cold-shoulder detailing, she exuded effortless summer charm.

MS Biopic: Grand Launch Plans On September 16

The much awaited biopic on legendary singer MS Subbulakshmi, starring Rashmika Mandanna, is reportedly gearing up for a grand formal launch on September 16. The team is said to be considering Hyderabad, Chennai or Bengaluru as the venue for the prestigious event, with more clarity expected soon.



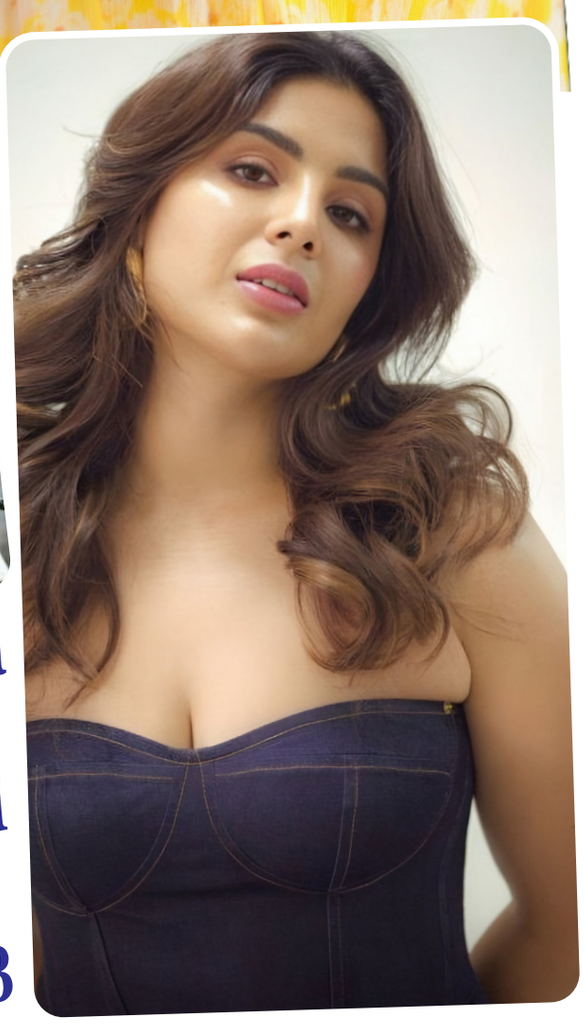
Dulquer Eyes Another Telugu Hit

Malayalam Star Dulquer Salmaan has built a strong fan base in Telugu cinema, but his box-office journey has been quite interesting. The actor has gone through a cycle of successes and setbacks, and his upcoming Telugu film Sri Sri will once again put the spotlight on his box-office standing. If you observe closely, Dulquer struggled with a few flops and average outings in recent times until Sita Ramam changed everything. The film became a massive success and established him as a bankable name among Telugu audiences. His performance as Ram also earned him considerable appreciation and helped him connect strongly with the youth. However, after that film, the success did not continue consistently. Dulquer later delivered a few films that failed to create a major impact. He bounced back in a big way with Lucky Baskhar, which emerged as a blockbuster and once again proved his ability to pull off a Telugu success. Now, the actor appears to be facing another challenging phase. His recent films Kaantha and I'm Game have received a bad response, and neither managed to repeat the impact of his previous blockbusters.His next Telugu release, Sri Sri, is reportedly scheduled to arrive in December. Naturally, there is curiosity around whether Dulquer can once again break the pattern and deliver a solid success in Tollywood. The film has Pooja Hegde as the female lead, and her chemistry with Dulquer looks top-notch. For an actor who has already tasted two major Telugu successes, Sri Sri could be another important opportunity. All eyes will be on Dulquer to see if he can make another successful comeback in Telugu cinema.



Samyuktha Enters The World Of Ram's #RAPO23

Samyuktha has officially entered the world of #RAPO23. On the occasion of her birthday, the makers of Energetic Star Ram Pothineni's most ambitious film revealed a special poster featuring birthday wishes for the actress, while also confirming her presence in the project. The announcement instantly adds more interest to the film, which promises to be a different cinematic experience. #RAPO23 is being developed as a neo-noir psychological action thriller, and Samyuktha's inclusion further strengthens the film's promising cast. The project is particularly special for Ram Pothineni as he is making his directorial debut with the movie. Besides wielding the megaphone, Ram is also headlining the film and is personally involved in shaping its creative world.Produced by Krishna Pothineni through Rapo Cinematics, #RAPO23 is being mounted with ambitious production values. The team is currently shooting in Hyderabad at a brisk pace.



25 Cr Remuneration For Comedian Turned Hero?

Soori is a Tamil cinema actor who started his career as a junior artist and later grew into comedy and character roles. He later became the lead in Vetrimaran's Viduthalai. Currently, his new lead film, Mandaadi, is out in theatres, and he is getting a good response for his performance. The success has now elevated him into a bankable actor, and he is reportedly going to take 25 Cr rupees as remuneration for his next film. If the latest reports from the film nagar are true, Soori is planning to take 25 Cr in remuneration for his next film under Mythri Movie Makers' banner. The production house is actively making films in Tamil, and it will be directed by Ravi Kumar. The film is reportedly based on the Chennai floods of 2015. The production cost is reportedly exceeding 50 Cr rupees, and the team is pumped about the film's output. Anyone who is following Soori's work closely will admit the fact that Soori has grown by leaps and bounds over the years. His growth is surely going to inspire many budding actors who enter the film industry to become successful actors. The perseverance that Soori displayed is undeniable and he has a lot of growth in the coming days, if he focus on good stories. On the flip side, there is growing criticism that Telugu producers are offering huge amounts to actors from other languages, and those industries claim that this is disrupting their actors' payment system and putting an additional financial burden on them. R Ravikumar earlier made some entertaining films like Indru Netru Naalai and Ayalaan. The current film is expected to be an emotional drama.The filming is expected to commence next month.



Shiva Nirvana Gets Credit for Irumudi Success

Mass Maharaja Ravi Teja's sensational blockbuster Irumudi is still going strong and the movie already broke many box office records. The team celebrated another success event. Along with the team, the generational blockbuster event was also graced by Anil Ravipudi, Gopichand Malineni, Buchi Babu Sana, Sahu Garapati, and others. Anil Ravipudi offered one of the most striking descriptions of the film's impact, saying that Irumudi had broken the usual beliefs surrounding release seasons. "If a movie comes during a festival season, people say movies only work during specific seasons. But a movie like Irumudi arrived, breaking all the sentiments of the Telugu film industry where different seasons combined to bring a festive victory to just one film."



For Anil, the first person who deserved credit was Shiva Nirvana. Having followed the director's career closely, he said he understood the uncertainty and pressure that filmmakers face between successes and failures. "Life for all directors is sensitive; we are constantly tossed between success and failure. I know the efforts Shiva put into this film. He will cherish this movie for a lifetime."

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