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MODI, XI HOLD BILATERAL TALKS ON BRICS SIDELINES

New Delhi, sep 12: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping held bilateral talks on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit, marking Xi's first visit to India in seven years amid a gradual thaw in ties following tensions after the Galwan standoff. The meeting comes as both countries seek to stabilise relations and expand dialogue on bilateral issues.

Earlier, BRICS nations unanimously adopted the New Delhi Declaration 2026, expressing deep concern over the escalating tensions in West Asia. The grouping called for maximum restraint, protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure, and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states. The declaration also urged greater efforts through dialogue and diplomacy to achieve lasting peace and stability in the region, while stressing the need to maintain the smooth flow of global trade, supply chains and energy in accordance with international law.

BRICS UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTS DECLARATION

A Remarkable Diplomatic Victory for India

India has achieved another remarkable diplomatic victory. The New Delhi Declaration was unanimously adopted at the 18th BRICS Summit being held under India's chairmanship.



NEW DELHI, SEP 12

At the conclusion of the first day's discussions at the BRICS Summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the New Delhi Declaration had been adopted. "No member country raised any objection. The New Delhi Declaration 2026 has been unanimously adopted," Prime Minister Modi said.

BRICS member countries Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE have serious differences over the West Asia conflict. Despite these differences, the BRICS grouping unanimously adopted the declaration on Saturday.

India demonstrated its diplomatic skills in securing unanimous approval for the New Delhi Declaration. Not a single member country raised any objection to the declaration. According to government sources, discussions on the declaration continued until 4 a.m., after which consensus was reached among all parties. Getting a declaration adopted within BRICS is not an easy task because BRICS is a consensus-based grouping, meaning that even a single member country can block a final joint declaration.

In fact, BRICS countries expressed differing views on several sensitive and contentious issues related to

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CM Revanth releases 'Varadhi' on freedom fighter P.N. Murthy

Hyderabad, Sept.12: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Saturday released "Varadhi," a book chronicling the life and contributions of noted freedom fighter P.N. Murthy, at the Telangana Assembly Committee Hall here. Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar and Minority Welfare Minister Mohammed Azharuddin were present at the book release programme.

The book contains several interesting accounts of the freedom struggle in the Telangana region, the armed struggle, the revolt against the Razakars and the nature of administration in the post-Independence period. Authored by Purna Bodha

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CM PROMISES FREE POWER FOR GANESH MANDAPS

SPECIAL 02

WHO SHOULD RESIGN?

Should I, who take a salary of just one rupee and work for the poor, resign?

Should KCR, who has received Rs. 21 crore and stayed at his farmhouse without attending the Assembly, resign?

Is it corruption when you are in power and blackmail politics when you are in the opposition?

Why are you afraid, saying, 'Ponguleti.. Pongu'?

Minister Ponguleti questions former minister Harish Rao

HYDERABAD SEP 12

Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy strongly lashed out at the political allegations being made by the opposition over the issue of 22-A lands. He questioned why the government and he himself were being targeted through false propaganda when the government was ready to resolve the land-related problems faced by the people.

"They are asking me to resign, saying that if I have any conscience, blood, shame and self-respect, I should resign. Then shouldn't those who enjoyed power for so many years using public money and failed to resolve people's problems be the ones to resign?" the minister asked.



He said that he takes a salary of only one rupee every month and has been continuously working for the poor and to resolve public issues, including the construction of Indiramma Houses and Indiramma Towers. "Are you asking me, who am working for the people, to resign?" he questioned. He asked Harish Rao whether KCR, who has so far

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Harish Rawat Quits Congress Posts After ED Raid

NEW DELHI, SEPT 12: Former Uttarakhand CM Harish Rawat resigned from two Congress posts after the ED seized ₹32 lakh cash, 200.5 grams of gold and 12 luxury watches from the residence of his aide, Chandan Singh Jeena. The ED probe relates to alleged irregularities in the 2016 UKSSSC recruitment examination. Rawat said he does not believe the allegations against Jeena but stepped down to prevent the controversy from affecting the Congress's anti-corruption stand.

BJP SEEKS TIME-BOUND PLAN TO CLEAR REIMBURSEMENT DUES

Hyderabad, Sept.12: Telangana BJP president N. Ramchander Rao on Saturday demanded that the Congress government announce a time-bound programme to clear pending fee reimbursement dues, alleging that its delay was jeopardising the future of students.

Addressing a press conference here at the BJP state headquarters, Rao accused Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy of adopting an evasive stand on the issue. He rejected the Chief Minister's remarks in the Assembly questioning why the BJP had not raised the issue during the previous BRS regime, saying he had raised the matter in the Legislative Council in 2017. Rao claimed that fee reimbursement dues, which accumulated under successive

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Adilabad Airport Set to Boost Regional CONNECTIVITY



Hyderabad, Sept.12: Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy said the proposed Adilabad Airport would pave the way for improved regional connectivity and strengthen civil aviation infrastructure in North Telangana.

In a statement, Reddy said a review meeting on the project was held with Union Minister for Civil Aviation K. Rammohan Naidu in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. It was decided to appoint nodal officers from the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Telangana government within a week to take forward the project in "mission mode".

He said the preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) and Master Plan for the proposed Joint-User Airfield (JUA) would be expedited.

Reddy said the project represented a crucial step towards fulfilling the long-standing aspiration of people in the erstwhile

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EVERY LANGUAGE HAS ITS OWN SIGNIFICANCE

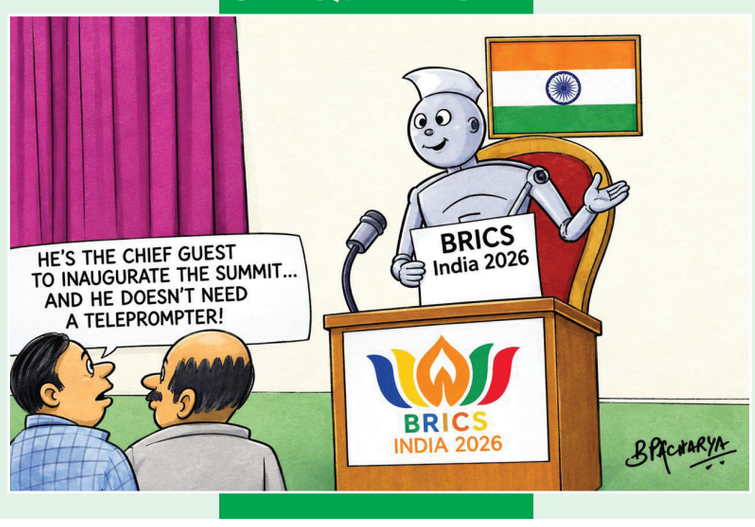


Hyderabad, Sept.12: TPCC President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud on Saturday stressed the need to respect and promote all Indian languages, saying the country's linguistic diversity was one of its greatest strengths. Addressing a Hindi Diwas programme at the Hyderabad Press Club, Mahesh Kumar Goud said India was a unique confluence of diverse languages, cultures and traditions. Quoting the popular saying, "Desha bhashalandu Telugu lessa", he said every language had its own historical and cultural significance and deserved equal respect.

He said Hindi Diwas, observed on September 14, had been a long-standing tradition, while stressing that the development of Hindi should go hand in hand with the promotion and preservation of regional languages.

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OBTUSE ANGLE



CENTRE BACKS AMARAVATI QUANTUM BIO VALLEY

NADDA ASSURES SUPPORT

Vijayawada, Sept.12: Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda on Saturday assured Andhra Pradesh of the Centre's support for the proposed Quantum Bio Valley in Amaravati and said a technical team would visit the State to discuss the initiative.

Nadda was responding positively to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's proposal to accord national recognition to the proposed project. Describing the Chief Minister's vision for the Quantum Bio Valley as excellent, the Union Minister said the Centre would examine the suggestions and extend necessary support. Nadda was speaking at an event in Vijayawada where he, along with the Chief Minister, launched 10 critical care blocks and 12 integrated public health laboratories across Andhra Pradesh.

The Union Minister also praised the State government's Sanjeevani programme



and said the Centre would examine the possibility of implementing it nationwide. He assured support for initiatives focused on early disease detection and prevention, improved treatment and affordable healthcare.

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SRIDHAR BABU TABLES CURE BILL FOR HYD'S 30-YEAR GROWTH PLAN

Hyderabad, Sept.12: IT and Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu introduced the Core Urban Region (Integrated Governance) Bill-2026 in the Assembly on Saturday, outlining a vision to transform Hyderabad into a sustainable "Blue and Green City" capable of competing globally. Speaking on the bill, the Minister said the legislation creates a statutory framework to streamline civic administration and anticipate the capital's infrastructure requirements over the next 30 years. As part of this overhaul, the government plans to condense sections within the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Act, divide GHMC into three municipal corporations, and establish a CURE apex governing council chaired by the Chief Minister.



"We must preserve Hyderabad's glorious

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CM PROMISES FREE POWER FOR GANESH MANDAPS



HYDERABAD, SEPT.12

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Saturday assured Ganesh mandap organisers of full government support, announcing free electricity for pandals across Telangana—a facility he highlighted as unique to the state.

Chairing a high-level review meeting at the Assembly Committee Hall regarding arrangements for Vinayaka Chavithi celebrations and idol immersion, the Chief Minister urged organisers to formally apply with local authorities to avail of the free power supply.

To ensure seamless security, Revanth Reddy requested mandap organisers to share details of invited VIP guests and prospective pandal locations with their local police commissionerates. Advance information, he noted, would allow law enforcement to plan traffic management and security protocols effectively, mitigating risks during unforeseen incidents. The Chief Minister also directed municipal and urban development authorities to permanently integrate idol immersion infrastructure into ongoing lake development projects, similar to provisions made for Bathukamma festivities. He instructed that structural requirements—such as reinforced crane bays around lake perimeters—be incorporated directly into initial construction designs.

Highlighting administrative coordination, Revanth Reddy ordered the Municipal and Police departments to maintain round-the-clock monitoring throughout the festival. A dedicated control room will operate out of the Command Control Centre, overseen by designated special officers. Emphasising the broader economic context, the Chief Minister stressed that maintaining law and order remains vital to sustaining Hyderabad's growth. "Investments will flow into Hyderabad only when the city remains peaceful," Revanth Reddy said, seeking full cooperation from festival committees to maintain harmony.

Dharani was misused for personal GAIN UNDER BRS RULE: PONGULETI

Hyderabad, Sept.12: Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy on Saturday asserted in the Legislative Assembly that the state government's ongoing revenue reforms aim to protect citizens; properties and land rights, alleging that the previous BRS regime misused the Dharani portal to grab lakhs of acres.

Participating in a short-duration discussion on Section 22-A prohibited lands, the Minister accused the previous BRS government of exploiting the state's resources for personal gain.

"For a decade, benefits were confined to the family and relatives of former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao. After retaining the Revenue portfolio in his second term, KCR presided over widespread land irregularities, treating the state's 2.49 crore acres as private property," Ponguleti alleged, adding that BRS leaders were evading assembly debates as their actions came to light.

The Minister further criticised the previous administration for handing over the management of the Dharani portal to a bankrupt foreign firm. He claimed that control over the portal enabled midnight registrations, while systemic errors forced thousands of farmers to run pillar to post, leading to hundreds of suicides.

Highlighting administrative gaps, Ponguleti revealed that revenue records lacked maps for 387 villages. To rectify historical errors, the government has launched a comprehensive land survey—the first of its kind in nearly 125 years. "We have cleared over five lakh applications combined from the former Dharani portal and the new Bhu Bharati system. In unresolved cases, applicants have been formally notified of the underlying reasons," he said.

A pilot land survey has already been completed across 70 revenue villages per district, with pattadar passbooks being issued to landowners. The Minister confirmed that the full state-wide survey will be completed within the next 18 months.



Clay Ganesh Drive Promotes Cleaner Celebrations

RGVV Foundation Distributes Natural Idols in Kukatpally, Urging Pollution Control Ahead of Vinayaka Chavithi



Medchal-Malkajgiri , September 12: witnessed a meaningful step toward pollution control and environmental protection as the RGVV Foundation organized a special clay Ganesh distribution event in Kukatpally, Phase 6. The program was held at the Senior Citizens Park, aiming to encourage people to celebrate festivals in a more eco-friendly way. Senior BJP leader Vaddepalli Rajeswar Rao attended the event as the chief guest. He distributed clay Ganesh idols to devotees, highlighting the importance of using natural materials instead of harmful substances.

Speaking on the occasion, Rajeswar Rao said that worshippers should contribute to protecting the environment by choosing clay idols. He urged people to observe Vinayaka Chavithi with devotion while also ensuring the celebration does not damage nature. He praised the use of natural clay idols, which helps reduce water and air pollution and supports cleaner surroundings.

RGVV Foundation Chairman N. Ratna Guru Prasad was also recognized for leading the initiative. He expressed the hope that such service programs will expand further for the welfare of society.

People from the foundation, senior citizens, local residents, and devotees took part in the event, making it a strong community effort toward a greener and cleaner future—aligned with global warming awareness and pollution reduction.

1 Kilo Marijuana Seized in Kukatpally

Medchal-Malkajgiri, September 12: In a major action aimed at stopping drugs that harm public health and fuel crime, police seized 1 kilogram of marijuana in Kukatpally.

Officials said they received a tip that marijuana was being sold in Anjyyanagar, under the limits of the Kukatpally Excise Station. Acting on the information, an STF team with CI Ramesh and staff conducted surprise checks in the area.

During the inspection, police found marijuana with a woman identified as Kudinet Soni. The officials seized the contraband and said a case was registered against her.

Police reported that the accused and the seized marijuana were handed over at the



Kukatpally Excise Station for further legal action.

This crackdown comes as drug trafficking remains a serious public health concern, linked to addiction, mental health risks, and increased criminal activities in local communities. Police personnel involved in the operation included CI Ramesh, SI Madhu, Head Constable Santhosh Prasad, and constables Ravi, Rahul, Rajeswari, and Khalid.

CM Revanth releases 'Varadhi' on freedom fighter P.N. Murthy

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Srikanth, son of P.N. Murthy, the book was released to mark the freedom fighter's 100th birth anniversary. Writer Sripada Srinivas of Rajahmundry handled the editorial work. P.N. Murthy rendered 44 years of dedicated service to the Congress party, beginning in 1952-53 in the erstwhile Hyderabad State and continuing from 1953 to 1956 in the erstwhile Andhra State. He subsequently served the party in Andhra Pradesh from 1956 to 1996.

Srikanth has been serving as Secretary of the Congress Legislature Party office in the Assembly for the past three decades. Beginning with the tenure of P. Janardhan Reddy and continuing through the present Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, he played a key role in the functioning of the CLP office. He is currently serving as an Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Telangana Assembly.

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WHO SHOULD RESIGN?

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received Rs. 21 crore from the government and stayed away from the Assembly and the people, should resign.

Corruption in power... blackmail in opposition?

"If you are in power, it is corruption; if you are in the opposition, it is blackmail. That is exactly what you are doing now as well. This is not a government that will be afraid of your blackmail or empty threats," he said.

Why are you afraid, saying 'Ponguleti.. Pongu'?

The minister strongly responded to the repeated remarks by opposition leaders referring to his name and saying, "Ponguleti.. Pongu."

"Why do you keep saying 'Ponguleti.. Pongu' repeatedly? Why are you so afraid? If milk boils over during an auspicious ceremony, it is considered a good omen. But if the Godavari and Krishna rivers swell violently, it won't just be you—your party too will be wiped out without a trace in those floods," he remarked.

He said that KCR would never become Chief Minister again, just as he had stated at the Khammam meeting at the time, and made it clear that, in the next elections too, it would be the Indiramma government that would occupy the seats in this Assembly.

BRICS UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTS DECLARATION

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the joint declaration. Discussions continued for a long time because of the strategic and geopolitical interests of the various countries. As part of its efforts to achieve consensus, India maintained continuous consultations with all sides. Given the current situation in West Asia, Saudi Arabia and the UAE have differences with Iran. These countries have sharply differing positions on several regional and geopolitical issues concerning West Asia. Persuading these countries to agree to the joint declaration therefore became a major diplomatic challenge for India. Despite their differing positions on various issues, India sought to find a middle ground through dialogue. In this context, India's diplomatic progress in securing the adoption of the New Delhi Declaration is being regarded as highly significant.

Meanwhile, the discussions held today at the BRICS meeting made it clear that a changing world cannot be governed by outdated institutions. In his concluding remarks on the first day, Prime Minister Modi said that reforms in representation, responsiveness, and rule-making are urgently needed. He expressed the hope that the Global South would have an equal role both in the development of future technologies and in the rules governing them. He said that the gap between decisions and their outcomes should be bridged through partnership and collective action. "The New Delhi Declaration adopted today provides clear direction for our shared resolve. It is now our responsibility to turn these resolutions into concrete outcomes," Prime Minister Modi said.

Delhi-Guangzhou Direct Flights to Resume After 6 Years as Modi-Xi Meet

NEW DELHI, SEP 12

China Southern Airlines is set to resume direct passenger services between Guangzhou and New Delhi from September 21, marking a significant step towards restoring air connectivity and further normalising bilateral relations between India and China after a six-year suspension.

The airline announced on Saturday that regular passenger services on the Guangzhou-New Delhi route would resume from September 21. With the restart of the service, China Southern Airlines will operate more than 100 weekly flights across eight round-trip routes in South Asia, the carrier said.

Key Points

China Southern Airlines will resume regular passenger services on the Guangzhou-New Delhi route from September 21, after a six-year suspension.

The resumption will take China Southern Airlines' operations in South Asia to more than 100 weekly flights across eight round-trip routes.

The development comes amid efforts by India and



China to gradually normalise bilateral relations following years of disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and military tensions.

Other airlines, including IndiGo, have also recently resumed or launched services between India and China, further strengthening air connectivity between the two countries.

Significance for India-China Relations

China Southern Airlines, headquartered in Guangzhou in China's southern Guangdong province, is one of the country's major airlines. The resumption of the Guangzhou-New Delhi service comes at a significant time, coinciding with Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to India on Saturday to attend the BRICS summit and hold talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on further improving bilateral ties.

Direct flight services between India and China were suspended following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. However, services were not restored for several years amid the more than four-year military standoff between the two countries in eastern Ladakh.

The military standoff ended in October last year, paving the way for gradual efforts to improve bilateral relations and restore normal exchanges between the two countries. The resumption of direct flights is being seen as another step towards restoring people-to-people and commercial connectivity.

The improvement in ties has followed meetings between Modi and Xi in recent years. The two leaders met on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in Kazan, Russia, in October 2024. They subsequently held another meeting on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Tianjin in 2025.

Following the gradual improvement in bilateral relations, several Chinese and Indian airlines have resumed or introduced services connecting major cities in the two countries, including the Beijing-New Delhi route.

In March this year, IndiGo launched a daily service between Shanghai and Kolkata, providing another direct air link between India and China and further expanding connectivity between the two countries.

The return of the Guangzhou-New Delhi service is therefore expected to provide an additional direct option for passengers travelling between the two countries while supporting the broader process of restoring air links and normal exchanges between India and China.

EXCISE SHOP RENEWAL PPLICATIONS OPEN TILL SEPT 21

Amaravati, Sept. 12: The Andhra Pradesh Excise Department has invited renewal applications for 3,736 retail liquor shops from existing licensees till September 21.The Gazette notification for fresh applications will be issued on September 22, with applications accepted till September 29. A draw of lots for shops not renewed will be held on September 30.

Sridhar Babu tables CURE Bill for Hyd's 30-year growth plan

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past while preparing the city for future demands," he said. Sridhar Babu stated, highlighting key infrastructure approvals including ₹7,345.12 crore for Phase 1 of the Musi River rejuvenation and projects to draw 20 TMC of Godavari water to the city. "The government intends to treat sewage and use the recycled water for afforestation and pollution control," he said. The Minister reiterated the state's Telangana Rising 2047 policy, aiming to expand the state's economy to $1 trillion by 2034 through large-scale investment and a Comprehensive Mobility Plan.

Adilabad Airport Set to Boost Regional Connectivity

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Adilabad district and North Telangana. He recalled that he had raised the need for an airport and an Air Force station in Adilabad with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, stressing the region's strategic importance and the need to improve connectivity.

According to Reddy, the Defence Ministry had agreed to develop a Joint-User Airfield in Adilabad and assured full cooperation. Several meetings were subsequently held involving the Defence and Civil Aviation ministries and Telangana government officials.

Officials from the Defence and Civil Aviation sectors inspected the proposed airport site on April 17, 2026. The inspection concluded that a 2.75 kilometer runway would be required.

The Telangana government has also been asked to acquire an additional 1,500 acres of land, in addition to the 369.45 acres already held by the Indian Air Force.

The proposed facilities include infrastructure for trainer aircraft, parking for visiting aircraft, weather shelters, aircraft hangars, an operational complex, training facilities and maintenance infrastructure.

Reddy said the project would be of immense benefit to the people of Telangana, particularly those living in the northern districts, and expressed satisfaction that years of meetings, correspondence and coordination had brought the Adilabad airport proposal to a decisive stage.

EVERY LANGUAGE HAS ITS OWN SIGNIFICANCE

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"In Telangana, equal importance is being given to Urdu along with Telugu", he said, assuring that he would make efforts to further strengthen the Linguistic department to protect and promote the State's linguistic heritage. Mahesh Kumar Goud also noted the centuries-old social, commercial and cultural ties of people from Gujarat and Rajasthan with Telangana. Diverse languages and cultures, he said, were not a source of division but a reflection of India's unity in diversity.

State Government Advisor Hanumantha Rao, SAICIRASI Secretary Sachin Sawant and Farmers' Commission Chairman M. Kodanda Reddy were among those present.

BJP SEEKS TIME-BOUND PLAN TO CLEAR REIMBURSEMENT DUES

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governments, had now reached around Rs.15,000 crore. He said the Congress government itself had admitted to inheriting Rs.5,430 crore in dues from the BRS regime and later disclosed that another Rs.6,037 crore had accumulated under its tenure up to 2024-25. The BJP leader said his party supported the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system but wanted the government to clearly state when funds would be credited to students. He alleged that several colleges were withholding students' original certificates over unpaid dues.

Rao demanded a comprehensive probe into irregularities, if any, under both the BRS and Congress governments, while opposing harassment of colleges through vigilance raids. He also criticised the government over GO 97 concerning polytechnic education and sought clarity on whether affected students would continue to be eligible for ECET. He condemned the alleged lathi-charge on protesting polytechnic students.

Rao said BJP workers had collected signatures from around eight lakh students and alleged that the Chief Minister had refused to grant them an appointment to submit the petitions. He recalled the party's protests and hunger strike over fee reimbursement and accused both the Congress and BRS of shielding each other.

He warned that if the government was unable to clear the dues, it should admit its failure. Rao assured that a BJP government would clear all pending fee reimbursement dues.

Several prominent persons, including a recently retired DCP, doctors, businessmen and youth from Hyderabad and Suryapet, also joined the BJP in the presence of Rao. BJP State General Secretary Goutham Rao, Senior Leader Manohar Reddy, State Spokesperson Solanki Srinivas, Suryapet District President Sreelatha Reddy, Bhagyanagar District President Niranjan Yadav, Former Hyderabad Deputy Mayor Subhash Chander, among others present at the press conference.

CENTRE BACKS AMARAVATI QUANTUM BIO VALLEY

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Praising Chandrababu Naidu's leadership, Nadda said Andhra Pradesh was in safe hands and described the Chief Minister as a visionary and committed leader. He also lauded the State government's efforts to strengthen healthcare infrastructure.

Nadda repeatedly highlighted Naidu's emphasis on "the kitchen as the pharmacy and food as medicine", saying the principle was fundamental to maintaining good health. He stressed the importance of promoting healthy dietary habits and lifestyles to prevent diseases rather than depending solely on treatment after illness.

The Union Minister also welcomed the progress of irrigation projects, including the Polavaram Left Main Canal, Veligonda and Handri-Neeva, and said efficient utilisation of water resources would play a key role in Andhra Pradesh's development.

Empathy must remain at the heart of INSURANCE BUSINESS: AJAY SETH

Hyderabad, Sept.12: Empathy must remain a central theme of the insurance sector as India works towards achieving the goal of "Insurance for All", IRDAI chairman Ajay Seth said here on Saturday. Seth was speaking at the convocation ceremony of the PGDM Batch 2024-26 of the Institute of Insurance and Risk Management (IIRM), a joint initiative of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) and the Government of Telangana.

Congratulating the graduating students, Seth highlighted the growing career opportunities in India's insurance and risk management sector. He said integrity, technology, innovation and continuous learning would be crucial for professionals navigating a rapidly changing industry. Stressing the human dimension of insurance, he said empathy would be essential to building a more inclusive insurance ecosystem and advancing the vision of "Insurance for All" and "Viksit Bharat.

Prof Sandeep Kumar Shukla, Director of IIIT Hyderabad and guest of honour, urged the graduates to embrace interdisciplinary learning, technological advancement and lifelong upskilling.

Emphasising the importance of human judgement alongside technology, Shukla advised the graduates to "leverage technology, but do not surrender human judgment."

Nagpur–Warangal greenfield highway SET FOR DEC 2027 COMPLETION

HYDERABAD, SEPT.12



The Nagpur–Warangal Greenfield Highway in Telangana will be completed by December 31, 2027, and opened to the public immediately after, Roads & Buildings and Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy announced in the Legislative Council on Saturday.

Replying to questions raised by MLCs Pochampally Srinivas Reddy and Prof. Kodandaram, the Minister underscored the critical role of the Nagpur–Mancherial–Warangal–Khammam–Vijayawada corridor in boosting regional connectivity. Of the total 310-km stretch, 280 km passes through Telangana, spanning four to five key districts and significantly shortening travel times toward Nagpur and Vijayawada.

Addressing the timeline, the Minister explained that while tenders for the Mancherial–Warangal segment were awarded in March 2023 with agreements signed in May 2023 under a two-year completion window, the project faced delays due to land acquisition disputes and litigation.

"Nearly all land acquisition bottlenecks have now been cleared," Komatireddy Venkat Reddy assured, noting that handover is pending for only two brief stretches totaling around 7 km, which will be resolved shortly. He emphasised that affected farmers will receive fair compensation at prevailing market rates to ensure no financial hardship.

Following the delays, the government granted the contractor an extension to finalise construction by the end of 2027. Additionally, the Minister confirmed that instructions will be issued to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to construct an exit point near Parkal for commuter convenience.

NIMS Pediatric Cardiac Camp Achieves Landmark Surgeries for 19 Children



Hyderabad, September 12: Nineteen children successfully underwent complex heart surgeries during the fifth Pediatric Cardiac Surgery Camp organised by the Department of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery at Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS).

The camp saw more than 1,000 children benefit from outpatient services provided by a specialised medical team from the UK, led by paediatric cardiac surgeon Dr Ramana Dhannapuneni, along with senior cardiologists from NIMS. Children assessed during the OP phase and identified as requiring surgery were planned for admission to NIMS in subsequent phases for treatment.

Held in partnership with the 'Healing Little Hearts Organization,' the camp also marked a significant expansion in advanced care by introducing ECMO services at NIMS for the first time under the Aarogyasri scheme. During the camp, UK specialists provided clinical guidance by visiting patients directly at their bedsides, offering consultations and medical advice.

All medical services delivered during the camp were provided free of charge under Aarogyasri. Commenting on the initiative, Dr Rahul Devraj, Director, NIMS, said the camp represents another important milestone in NIMS' progress in advanced pediatric cardiac healthcare.

The participating experts, including Head of Department of CT surgery, Dr M Amaresh Rao, and other specialists, were felicitated for their contribution to the camp.

Suddala Ashok Teja selected for Telangana Telugu Tejam Award-2026

Hyderabad, Sept.12: The Telangana Telugu Bhasha Samrakshana Sangham and Telangana Sahithi Sanstha have jointly selected renowned poet and national award-winning lyricist Suddala Ashok Teja for the State-level Burra Narsamma-Lingareddy Memorial "Telangana Telugu Tejam" Literary Award-2026.

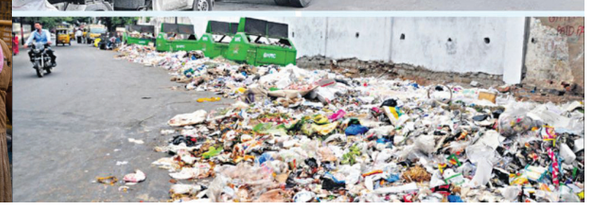
Award committee chairman and founder Captain Dr. Burra Madhusudan Reddy and the organisation's State president Dasyam Senadhipathi announced the award in a statement on Saturday. They said the award presentation ceremony would be held in Karimnagar town on September 22.

GHMC Garbage Workers Take Protest to the Streets, Demand Their Voice Be Heard

March stopped near Basheerbagh as police tighten security; workers demand protection of jobs and the existing garbage collection system







Hyderabad, September 12: Hyderabad witnessed another flashpoint of civic unrest on Saturday as GHMC door-to-door garbage collection workers marched through the city to press their demands. The rally, which began as a protest march toward the Telangana Legislative Assembly, was halted by police near Basheerbagh after security was tightened amid multiple demonstrations in the area.

Undeterred, the workers changed course and moved toward Tank Bund, raising slogans and turning their protest into a visible show of defiance. The agitation has centered on fears over proposed changes to the existing door-to-door garbage collection system, with workers opposing any move to hand over the work to private agencies and insisting that their jobs and long-standing system be protected.

The protest has added fresh urgency to an already sensitive civic issue in Hyderabad, where sanitation workers say their livelihoods are being pushed into uncertainty. For the workers, this was more than a rally — it was a warning that any attempt to alter the system without consent could trigger wider resistance.

If you want, this can also be rewritten in a more hard-hitting editorial tone or a more newspaper-feature style.

SECUNDERABAD POLICE HOLD PEACE MEET AHEAD OF GANESH FESTIVAL

Hyderabad, Sept.12: Secunderabad Zone police held a Peace Committee meeting at Maharana Pratap Function Hall, Amberpet, ahead of the Ganesh Festival-2026, urging organisers and citizens to ensure peaceful and harmonious celebrations.

The meeting was chaired by DCP Secunderabad Zone Rakshitha K. Murthy, and attended by Additional DCP Narsaiah, ACPs, SHOs and Peace Committee members.

Police stressed the need to maintain communal harmony, ensure smooth traffic movement and avoid unnecessary road blockages during processions and immersion. Organisers were asked to strictly follow prescribed routes, timings and safety guidelines.

The police also urged organisers to make adequate arrangements for the safety of devotees, particularly women, children and senior citizens, and warned against spreading rumours or provocative messages.

Appealing to citizens to celebrate with devotion and discipline, the police said, "Celebrate Safely - Celebrate Peacefully - Maintain Communal Harmony."

GITAM Organizes Hands-on Workshop on Machine Learning on ADVANCED MICROCONTROLLERS



Hyderabad, September 12: The Department of Electrical, Electronics, and Communication Engineering (EECE), GITAM School of Core Engineering, Hyderabad, successfully organized a two-day Professional Development Hands-on Workshop on "Machine Learning on Advanced Microcontrollers" in collaboration with SANSI RF and Communication Systems.

The workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation from 80 students, offering them an immersive and practical learning experience in the emerging field of Tiny Machine Learning (TinyML). Designed with a strong emphasis on experiential learning, the programme covered key concepts including machine learning fundamentals, TinyML, sensor interfacing, data acquisition, dataset creation, model training, model deployment on microcontrollers, real-time inference, and hardware integration.

As part of the hands-on sessions, participants successfully developed and implemented five practical projects, gaining valuable experience in designing and deploying machine-learning-based applications on microcontroller platforms. The project-oriented approach enabled students to understand the complete machine learning workflow—from sensor data acquisition and dataset preparation to model training, deployment, hardware integration, and real-time inference.

The workshop provided students with an opportunity to bridge theoretical concepts with real-world applications and develop practical skills relevant to the rapidly evolving domains of embedded systems, artificial intelligence, and edge computing.

Prof. Ramesh Vaddi, Director, School of Core Engineering, and Prof. Prasantha R. Mudimela, HoD–EECE, appreciated the initiative and highlighted the significance of practical, industry-oriented learning in preparing engineering students to meet the demands of emerging technologies.

M. Naresh Kumar, Assistant Professor and Convenor, and Dr. S.K. Jhani Basha, Co-Convenor, coordinated the workshop and facilitated the programme in association with the resource partner.

The successful completion of the workshop reflects GITAM's continued commitment to experiential learning, industry-academia collaboration, and the development of future-ready technical skills among students. The initiative also provided participants with valuable exposure to the practical applications of machine learning on resource-constrained embedded platforms, preparing them for emerging opportunities in intelligent and connected systems.

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
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Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE NO: 24/2026. Dt.11.09.2026. SUPPLY OF STORES ITEMS e-Procurement Tender Notice PUB641

The Following Tenders Have Been Floated Online. Tenders Are Requested To Visit The Website **www.ireps.gov.in** And Submit Their Offers Online. The Tender Description, Qty, EMD, SD May Be Seen In Website. Offers Manually Will Not Be Accepted. Offers By Post Will Not Be Entertained. Tender Closing Time is 14.30 Hrs Of The Due Date Of The Tender. "For All Indigenous Offers, EMD Will Be Accepted Only Via Online System As Available On **www.ireps.gov.in**."

Tender No.	Brief Description
LH257455B	Supply and installation of FRP modular toilet
LU256192A	Track measuring system for surveying railroad geometry model track scan 2.01 for broad gauge 1676 mm
LT265989	Digital rail clip force computing equipment as per attached Specification
LH265746B	Eddy current array equipment
LH265747A	Supply and commissioning of portable LIBS spectrometer
33261588	Silent block
LH266472	Traction alternator complete
LT265305	Track measuring system for surveying railroad geometry model track scan 2.01 for broad gauge 1676 mm. as per RDSO specification attached

Note:-Due dates of Tender Opening:SL.No.01 on dt.15.09.2026. SL.No.02 on dt. 22.09.2026 SL.No.03 on dt.23.09.2026 SL.No. 04 & 05 on dt. 24.09.2026 SL.No.06 on dt 28.09.2026. SL.No. 07 & 08 on dt.05.10.2026,

Beside Above Mentioned Tenders There Are Other Tenders Having Value Above **Rs.50 Lakhs.**

For Details, Please Visit Railway Website

Principal Chief Materials Manager/Secunderabad

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (through https://ireps.gov.in) PUB642

CE/C-II/SC, CE/C-III/SC & CE/C/CPC/SC Construction Organization, S.C.Railway, Secunderabad, respectively, invites e-tender on behalf of the President of India for the following works:

1. NIT No.: EPC-12-CAO- C-SC- 2026 Date: 31/08/2026 **Name of work:** Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Contract for Quadrupling (Laying of New 3rd & 4th Lines) of tracks between Sulehali west and Kurugunta (KQT) stations including Electricfication and Signalling &Telecommunication works in connection with Wadi-Secunderabad Quadrupling project in the state of Karnataka. **Estimated Cost (₹):** 11227773386.83 **EMD (₹):** 224555500.00 **Completion Period:** 36 (Thirty Six) Months.**Date of Opening :** 12.11.2026 15:00hrs

2. NIT No.: EPC-13-CAO- C-SC- 2026 Date: 08/09/2026 **Name of work:** South Central Railway (Construction Organization): Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Contract Agreement for "Construction of new BG railway line between Chainage 114.400 Km and Chainage 146.180 Km (i.e., 31.78 Km) between Pro. Sircilla (Excl.) - Pro. Vemulawada (Incl.) - Pro. Kothapalli (Excl.) Stations of Manoharabad - Kothapalli Section of Hyderabad Division, in the State of Telangana" **Estimated Cost (₹):** 7492938012.60 **EMD: (₹)** 149858800.00 **Completion Period:** 36 (Thirty Six) Months.**Date of Opening :** 18/11/2026 15:00hrs.

3. NIT No.: 46-CAO-C-SC-2026 Date: 07/09/2026 **Name of work:** SCR Construction Organization: Hyderabad Division - Secunderabad - Dhone section - Provision of new Additional Loop line (as common loop line) at Divitipalli station in Telangana State **Estimated Cost (₹):** 131582821.01 **EMD: (₹)** 2631700.00 **Completion Period:** 12 (Twelve) Months. **Date of Opening :** 29/09/2026 15:00hrs

i) For bid document and other details, please login to website **https://ireps.gov.in**.

ii) Tenderers can submit their offers online during tender submission period which is the Fifteen days period prior to closing of tender.

iii) Tenderers should watch for any corrigenda (issued online only) up to the date of commencement of the tender submission period.

Chief Administrative officer/Const/ Secunderabad

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (through http://ireps.gov.in PUB643

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, Traction Distribution, Secunderabad invites e-tender on behalf of the President of India for the following works in Single packet system of tendering.

1. NIT No.: C/E.29 /TRD/SC/24/2026-27 **Name of the work: Tender No. C/E.29/TRD/SC/24/2026-27 Dt. 10.09.2026** SC div: Conversion of tramway type OHE to conventional type OHE in view of reliability improvements in KZJ-WD Section **Tender Value: (₹):** 3,23,70,865.30/- **Completion period:** Twelve (12) months **Date of closing**: 05.10.2026 at 15:00 hrs

2. NIT No.: C/E.29 /TRD/SC/25/2026-27 **Name of the work: Tender No. C/E.29/TRD/SC/25/2026-27 Dt. 10.09.2026** SC div: Conversion of tramway type OHE to conventional type OHE in view of reliability improvements in KI-BPQ Section. **Tender Value: (₹):** 3,66,94,677.20/- **Completion period:** Twelve (12) months **Date of closing**: 05.10.2026 at 15:00 hrs

1) For bid document and other details, please login to website **http://ireps.gov.in**

2)Tenderers should participate through e-tendering only and no manual offers may be considered.

3) Tender conditions/other particulars are available in the Tender documents on IREPS website at **ireps.gov.in** which can be downloaded, can be participated and can view any modifications if any.

4)Tenderer should watch for any Corrigenda (issued online only) upto the date of commencement of the Tender submission period

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/ TRD/Secunderabad

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (through http://ireps.gov.in PUB645

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, Traction Distribution, Secunderabad invites e-tender on behalf of the President of India for the following works in Single packet system of tendering.

1. NIT No.: C/E.29/TRD/SC/ 26/2026-27 **Name of the work: Tender No. C/E.29/TRD/SC/26/2026-27 Dt. 11.09.2026** SC Division: Relocation of PTFE Neutral Section between BGSF-JMKT including TTCs in connection with provision of Automatic Block Signaling **Estimate Cost: (₹):** 1,42,03,836/-**Completion period:** 4 Months **Date of closing**: 05.10.2026 at 17:00 hrs

1) For bid document and other details, please login to website **http://ireps.gov.in**

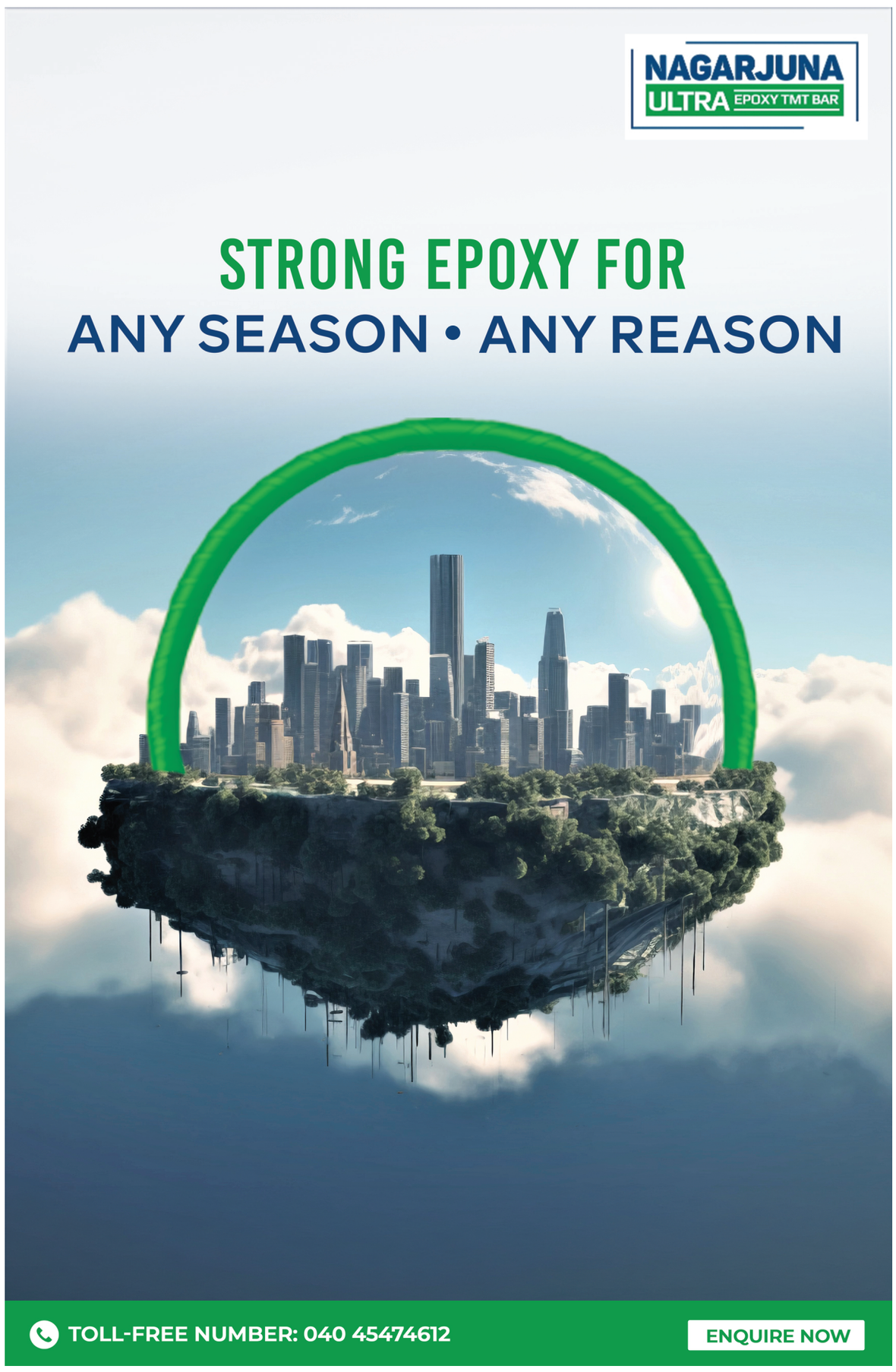
2)Tenderers should participate through e-tendering only and no manual offers may be considered.

3) Tender conditions/other particulars are available in the Tender documents on IREPS website at **ireps.gov.in** which can be downloaded, can be participated and can view any modifications if any.

4)Tenderer should watch for any Corrigenda (issued online only) upto the date of commencement of the Tender submission period

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/ TRD/ Secunderabad A746

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



Telangana aims to become sports powerhouse through YIPESU

HYDERABAD

Minister Srihari



Telangana is taking steps to emerge as a sports powerhouse by integrating sports education, scientific training and research through the proposed Young India Physical Education and Sports University (YIPESU), Minister for Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development, Fisheries and Youth Services & Sports Vakiti Srihari said on Saturday. The Minister was responding to questions raised by Legislative Council members Balmoor Venkata Narsing Rao, Mahesh Kumar and Sripal Reddy. Srihari said the primary objective of YIPESU was to identify sporting talent at the grassroots level and provide athletes with scientific training, advanced coaching and access to sports science, medicine, physical education and research under one roof. He said the State was forging partnerships with leading national and international sports institutions to develop the university on global standards. Steps had also been taken to collaborate with the Korea National Sport University (KNSU), particularly in areas related to sports science and employment opportunities. The Minister said YIPESU courses would go beyond conventional coaching and equip athletes with modern sports science, technology and research-based training. High-Performance Centres would also be established to prepare Telangana athletes for global competitions, including the Olympics, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games. He said the government's objective was to ensure that sporting talent was not restricted to urban centres and that promising athletes from every village had access to opportunities. Plans include upgrading rural sports grounds, modernising existing facilities, providing equipment, identifying talent from the school level and conducting talent-scouting programmes at mandal and district levels. Training and support would also be extended to local coaches and physical education teachers, with focus on disciplines including athletics, hockey, football, volleyball, kabaddi and kho-kho. Highlighting the success of the CM Cup, Srihari said the 2024 edition recorded 2.9 lakh registrations across 36 disciplines, with an expenditure of Rs.12 crore. In 2025, registrations rose to 5.42 lakh across 46 disciplines, with an expenditure of Rs.38.50 crore. He said rural sports competitions would be organised to identify promising athletes and connect them with district and State-level academies.

30 LAKH DEVOTEES EXPECTED TO VISIT KHAIRATABAD GANESH

HYDERABAD

Minister Srihari



With more than 30 lakh devotees expected to visit the Khairatabad Bada Ganesh during the 10-day Vinayaka Chavithi festival, Hyderabad Traffic Police have announced an extensive traffic management plan and urged devotees to rely on public transport. Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) D. Joel Davis, along with senior traffic officials, inspected the primary routes and access roads on Saturday and issued guidelines for devotees and motorists. Devotees can reach the pandal through four designated entry routes - Khairatabad Metro Station, Dwarka Hotel / Telephone Bhavan, Mint Compound / IMAX Prasad's side and the colony / basti route behind the idol. Officials advised devotees to prefer Metro, MMTS and RTC buses. Metro services will operate from 6 am to 11 pm, while special RTC buses will supplement the nearly 2,200 regular buses that operate on the Khairatabad route daily. As the heaviest rush is expected during afternoons, weekends and public holidays, devotees have been advised to visit during mornings and early afternoons, preferably on weekdays. Those using private vehicles have been urged to carpool. Parking facilities have been identified at IMAX Ground, HMDA Lake View Parking, E-Racing Ground behind NTR Park and Maktha Parking on Necklace Road. Visweswarayya Bhavan will also be available from the Metro/VV Statue side, while parking at Telephone Bhavan will be limited. Autos and app-based cabs will not be permitted to stop on the main carriageway between VV Statue, Khairatabad and Nirankari. Pick-up and drop-off will have to be made at the open ground near the MMTS station. Traffic diversions will also be enforced around Rajdoot Lane, Dwarka Hotel, Mint Lane, IMAX and Rajiv Gandhi Statue. Pedestrians will be allowed to cross roads only at designated points, including Khairatabad Junction, Shadan U-turn and Nirankari. Around 500 police personnel, supported by pushing teams, will be deployed at major traffic choke points to regulate vehicle and pedestrian movement. The Traffic Police clarified that darshan of the Khairatabad Bada Ganesh will conclude on September 23, with no darshan permitted on September 24. Devotees have been urged to plan their visits accordingly and cooperate with personnel on duty.

"TELANGANA HAS NO LAW & ORDER": BRS MLA SABITA SLAMS REVANTH GOVT

HYDERABAD

Former Minister and BRS MLA Sabita Indra Reddy on Saturday alleged that law and order had completely deteriorated in Telangana under the Congress government, accusing the administration of creating an atmosphere of fear. Speaking at a "mock Assembly" organised at Telangana Bhavan following the suspension of BRS MLAs from the Assembly, Sabita said law and order was effectively maintained during the tenure of former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao. Alleging that crimes against women and Dalits had increased, she questioned the government's handling of the growing availability of ganja. She claimed that Telangana had witnessed a sharp rise in crime and criticised Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy for retaining the Home portfolio. Sabita further alleged that thousands of police vacancies remained unfilled and questioned the government's handling of recent incidents involving women, Dalits and political leaders. She also criticised the police for allegedly obstructing opposition MLAs and demanded that the Chief Minister apologise.

TALASANI PLAYS 'REVANTH' IN SATIRICAL REPLY

During the mock Assembly proceedings, BRS MLA Talasani Srinivas Yadav, portraying Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, responded to Sabita's allegations in a sarcastic tone. Referring to the cases registered against BRS leaders, the gold controversy and the recent political disputes, Talasani made a series of satirical remarks while mimicking the Chief Minister's alleged style of functioning. He also sarcastically referred to "Hitler" as his role model and said he would govern in a similar manner, while claiming that permission for a protest at KCR's residence had been granted in a democratic manner. The mock Assembly was organised by the BRS as a protest against the suspension of its MLAs from the ongoing Assembly session.



21 KG GANJA SEIZED, FOUR INTER-STATE PEDDLERS HELD IN HYD

HYDERABAD

Habeeb Nagar Police arrested four persons and seized 21 kg of dry ganja, allegedly part of an inter-state drug supply network, during a raid at Mangerbasti on Friday. Acting on credible information that ganja suppliers were arriving in the area to sell the contraband, police alerted senior officers and conducted a raid. Four accused were apprehended before they could distribute the ganja to local peddlers. Police also seized Rs.25,000 in cash, four mobile phones, a blue briefcase and a jute bag from the accused. The arrested persons were identified as Sandeep Nandha Kishore Bhongade (38 years) of Maharashtra, allegedly the supplier; Rahul Rajesh Patil (24), an X-ray technician from Maharashtra, allegedly the transporter; and Hyderabad residents Kamble Umesh (29) and Kamble Suraj (24), who allegedly acted as local transporters and peddlers. According to police, Bhongade and Patil allegedly procured the 21 kg ganja in Maharashtra at around Rs.20,000 per kg and brought it to Hyderabad on September 11, concealing it in a briefcase and jute bag. They allegedly planned to sell it to local peddlers at around Rs.40,000 per kg.

Police said Umesh and Suraj allegedly concealed the ganja at a house in Mangerbasti and were waiting to hand it over to other local drug peddlers when they were arrested.

A case has been registered under various sections of the NDPS Act at Habeeb Nagar Police Station. The investigation is underway to trace the source, intended recipients and other members of the alleged supply network.

Senior officers appreciated SHO M. Ashok Kumar, SI T. Purshotham Rao and their team for the seizure and detection of the alleged inter-state network.

Police appealed to the public to share credible information about the sale, transportation, storage or procurement of narcotic substances, assuring that the identity of informants would be kept confidential wherever permissible.

TELANGANA LANGUAGE DAY RINGS LOUD IN BAY AREA

BAY AREA, USA,

Telangana Language Day was celebrated with enthusiasm in the Bay Area under the aegis of the Telangana Cultural Association (TCA), bringing together Telugu and several other Indian-language communities. Renowned commentator and OSD, Telangana Official Language Commission, Madipalli Dakshinamurthy, who travelled from Hyderabad, was the chief guest at the programme held in Dublin, California. Representatives of Telugu, Kannada, Hindi, Punjabi, Tamil, Malayalam and other Indian associations attended. Speaking on the occasion, Dakshinamurthy said Telangana language is more than a means of communication - it embodies the region's history, culture, emotions and way of life. He stressed the need to introduce Telangana's language and traditions to younger generations in the diaspora and preserve the heritage for the future. He also shared experiences from his long association with All India Radio, recalling his journey since joining AIR Kadapa in 1987 and his work in commentary and anchoring of major state, national and international programmes. The event was conceived under the guidance of Vijay Chava and organised by TCA President Mahipal Reddy, Treasurer Sagar Kotha and other members. Speakers paid rich tributes to Praja Kavi Kaloji Narayana Rao, whose birth anniversary is observed as Telangana Language Day on September 9. At a later community gathering organised by the American Indian Association (AIA), Dakshinamurthy and his wife Radhika were felicitated. Dakshinamurthy said effective anchoring calls for timing, sensitivity, creativity, responsibility and command of the spoken word, encouraging young people to explore the field. He also called for greater representation of Telangana art forms at Bay Area community festivals, including Vinayaka Chavithi celebrations involving representatives of nearly 50 Indian associations.

The gathering also featured the Telugu version of the Prime Minister's "Mann Ki Baat", titled "Manasulo Maata", presented as part of Dakshinamurthy's continuing voice service through All India Radio.

The celebrations underscored the strong cultural bond between Telangana and its diaspora, with organisers noting that thousands of miles may separate the community from Telangana, but language and culture continue to keep its roots and identity alive.

TINDER ROMANCE TURNS INTO Rs.3.35 CR INVESTMENT FRAUD

HYDERABAD

The Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) has warned citizens against online investment fraudsters who use dating and social media platforms to establish emotional relationships before cheating victims of large sums of money.

In a recent case, a fraudster contacted a victim through Tinder, claiming to be a foreign national, and gradually built a relationship through WhatsApp conversations. After gaining the victim's trust, the fraudster introduced him to a purported Facebook / Meta-linked advertising investment programme and persuaded him to download an application. The victim was initially shown fake profits and, believing the platform to be genuine, continued investing larger amounts. Over nearly 55 days, he transferred Rs.3.35 crore into the purported investment platform.

When he attempted to withdraw the money, the fraudsters demanded additional payments, claiming that his "credit points" had fallen. The demand raised the victim's suspicion and exposed the fraud. TGCSB registered a case and launched an investigation to identify the accused and trace the money trail. The Bureau cautioned the people against trusting strangers met through dating apps, matrimonial platforms or social media who quickly introduce investment opportunities. Fraudsters often use fake identities, emotional manipulation, fabricated success stories and fake trading applications displaying artificial profits. TGCSB advised citizens never to invest based solely on recommendations from online acquaintances or download investment apps through links shared by strangers. Anyone suspecting cyber financial fraud should immediately contact the 1930 Cyber crime helpline and report the incident through the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal. Early reporting can improve the chances of blocking transactions and recovering funds. "A relationship built online should never become a gateway to your finances", TGCSB Director Shikha Goel cautioned.

DIET PLUS EXERCISE OFFERS BEST SUSTAINED WEIGHT LOSS: ICMR - NIN STUDY

HYDERABAD

Combining dietary intervention with physical activity provides the most sustained reduction in body weight, while different lifestyle interventions can also improve blood glucose, insulin resistance and blood pressure, according to a major evidence synthesis by the Indian Council of Medical Research - National Institute of Nutrition (ICMR-NIN), Hyderabad.

Published in the international journal Obesity Pillars, the umbrella review analysed evidence from 112 systematic reviews and meta-analyses, covering 2,332 unique randomised controlled trials and 5,07,460 participant-observations from more than 50 countries. Led by Dr Mahesh Kumar Mummadi and Dr Samarasimha Reddy, the review compared dietary, physical activity, lifestyle and combined interventions among adults with overweight or obesity. The researchers found that all major non-pharmacological approaches produced statistically significant, though generally modest, reductions in body weight and BMI. Beyond 12 months, the combination of diet and physical activity produced the largest weight reduction, at about 3.68 kg compared with comparator groups. Low-calorie diets produced the greatest short-term weight loss, averaging 2.64 kg during the first three months, while the benefits of physical activity increased with longer follow-up. Behavioural interventions such as counselling, self-monitoring, goal-setting and health education also showed greater benefits over time.

The combination of diet and exercise was also associated with improvements in fasting blood glucose and insulin resistance beyond 12 months. Physical activity alone produced the largest reduction in systolic blood pressure, at about 6.10 mmHg over 6 to 12 months.

Dr Bharati Kulkarni, Director, ICMR-NIN, said the findings reinforced the importance of an integrated approach combining healthy dietary practices, regular physical activity and behavioural support.

Dr Mahesh Kumar Mummadi noted that although the review covered evidence from more than 50 countries, most studies came from high-income and upper-middle-income settings, with India and other lower-middle-income countries under-represented.

The researchers concluded that the benefits of lifestyle interventions extend beyond weight loss, with improvements in cardiometabolic health being at least partly independent of the amount of weight lost.

Quality education for police children key to staff welfare: DGP C.V. Anand

Focus on academics, sports and discipline; school to promote drug-free, holistic development

HYDERABAD



Providing quality education to the children of police personnel is a key component of police welfare and would enable personnel to discharge their duties more effectively, Director-General of Police C.V. Anand said . Mr. Anand laid the foundation stone for the academic block -I of the Young India Police School (YIPS) at the OCTOPUS–Greyhounds campus at Manchirevula. Speaking on the occasion, the DGP said the initiative was taken following the Chief Minister's direction in December 2024 to establish a dedicated school for the children of police personnel. The YIPS was envisioned on the lines of Army and Sainik schools, with national and international standards in education, he said. The school was initially started from a temporary campus in April last year and had 120 students. The strength has now increased to around 360 students and will be around 700-720 next year,if the new building is completed.

Focus on discipline and holistic education

The DGP said the school was being developed with an emphasis on academics, discipline, sports and co-curricular activities. Students would be encouraged to stay away from drugs, substance abuse and other unhealthy influences, he said. "Education should go beyond academics and prepare children to become responsible citizens," Mr. Anand said, adding that the school would provide training in sports and adventure activities such as cricket, rock climbing and horse riding. The school would also provide quality education at an affordable fee to children from other sections, besides police personnel. Children of Home Guards would also be given an opportunity to study at the institution, he said 50 % of the seats will be reserved for general students.

Plus-Two education in a single campus

Mr. Anand said several sub-committees, including academic committees, had been constituted to oversee different aspects of the school's development. The government was extending support to develop the institution into a full-fledged school providing education up to Plus-Two in a single campus. The DGP said the objective was to develop YIPS into an institution of high standards over the next two to three years and called for coordinated efforts to complete the construction and development works at the earliest. He said the welfare and health of police personnel were closely linked to effective policing. Ensuring that personnel did not have to worry about their children's education would help them remain focused on their duties, he added. DG (Law and Order) Mahesh Bhagwat, DG (OCTOPUS) Anil Kumar, Cyberabad CP Ramesh, IG (P&L) Gajarao Bhupal, AIG Ramana Kumar, Legal and Financial Adviser Sharath Kumar, DCP Srinivas, Additional SP Uday Reddy, ACPs, representatives of various organisations, YIPS Principal Dr. Anita Reddy, GM Rajesh, police officials, school staff, students and parents attended the programme.

WOMEN-FRIENDLY URBAN PLANNING MUST BE PRIORITY

HYDERABAD

MLA PADMAVATHI REDDY



Kodad MLA N. Padmavathi Reddy has called for women-friendly infrastructure to be made a key component of Hyderabad's future urban planning, with mandatory public toilets for women in commercial establishments and strict enforcement of sanitation and solid-waste management norms. Participating in the Telangana Legislative Assembly debate on the Core Urban Region (Integrated Governance) Bill, 2026, Padmavathi extended her support to the legislation and said it could help transform Hyderabad into a cleaner, safer, sustainable and globally competitive metropolis. She said the Bill's focus on environmental sustainability, climate action, gender inclusion, universal accessibility, inclusive design, traffic management and solid-waste management offered an opportunity for more people-centric urban development. Highlighting the difficulties faced by women in accessing toilets in public places, she proposed making it mandatory for every new shopping complex and commercial building, including private establishments, to provide a toilet for women accessible to the public. She suggested that even a small space of about six feet by six feet could be earmarked for the facility, with the establishment responsible for its maintenance.

The MLA urged the government to adopt a zero-tolerance approach to poor sanitation, lack of women's toilets and improper waste management, incorporating these requirements into building permissions, master plans and future urban development projects.

She also called for greater involvement of professional architects and urban planners in preparing development and redevelopment plans, particularly in newly incorporated villages and developing areas, to prevent unplanned growth.

The MLA said Hyderabad's transformation into a global metropolis should go beyond infrastructure expansion and focus equally on sustainability, cleanliness, accessibility, inclusiveness and the specific needs of women.

Jagan Targets Naidu Over DSC Verification

AMARAVATI

Former Andhra Pradesh chief minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has stepped up his attack on Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu over alleged irregularities in the state's District Selection Committee (DSC) teacher recruitment, questioning the transparency of the process and holding the government morally responsible for what he described as a "DSC scam".

In two posts on X on Friday and Saturday, Jagan questioned the decisions taken by the Naidu government regarding the recruitment process and raised doubts over the verification of candidates claiming sports-related credentials. In his latest post on Saturday, Jagan directly tagged Naidu and questioned the verification process followed in cases involving teacher aspirants. "Teacher aspirants' careers have become a joke for you, @ncbn Garu?" Jagan said, before listing what he described as three instances that raised questions over the authenticity of candidates' claims.

He referred to one case where the names of candidates were allegedly missing from a winners' list. In



another, he claimed that verification with Kho-Kho authorities had indicated that a sports certificate was fake. Jagan also alleged that a sports event cited by a candidate had never taken place, based on verification with Acharya Nagarjuna University. The former Andhra Pradesh CM presented these cases as evidence of shortcomings in the scrutiny process and questioned whether the recruitment could still be described as fair and transparent. "Can this, by any means, be called fair and transparent? Has this not enabled the DSC scam? Will you not assume moral responsibility for this?" he asked. In his Friday post, Jagan focused on the government orders and policy changes governing teacher recruitment. He questioned why the government had issued orders removing the requirement of a qualifying examination if its objective was to ensure a transparent recruitment process.

"If your intention was to conduct a fair and transparent recruitment, why were GOs issued dispensing with the requirement of a qualifying examination?" Jagan asked.

He further questioned the subsequent policy changes after the DSC recruitment process had been completed.

According to Jagan, the government later amended the rules in a way that brought back the earlier examination-based recruitment system. Jagan argued that the sequence of decisions raised questions about the fairness of the recruitment exercise and whether the changes had created scope for irregularities.

The former chief minister's remarks came amid allegations surrounding the selection of teachers and the verification of credentials submitted by aspirants. His latest posts seek to put the Naidu government on the defensive over both the recruitment policy and the scrutiny of candidates' claims.

Jagan reiterated that Naidu should accept "moral responsibility" if the alleged irregularities were found to have compromised the recruitment process.

Special train between Hubballi, Thiruvananthapuram

CHENNAI

Southern Railway will operate a special train between Hubballi and Thiruvananthapuram North to clear the extra rush of passengers.

Train No. 07325 Hubballi–Thiruvananthapuram North Special departed Hubballi at 8.30 am on Saturday (Sept. 12) and will reach Thiruvananthapuram North at 10 am on Sunday (Sept. 13). In the return direction, Train No. 07326 Thiruvananthapuram North–Hubballi Special will depart Thiruvananthapuram North at 2 pm on Monday (Sept. 14) and reach Hubballi at 3.45 pm on Tuesday (Sept. 15). The special train will comprise nine Sleeper Class coaches, nine General Second Class coaches and two Second Class coaches with Divyangjan-friendly facilities. The train will stop at Haveri, Harihar, Davangere, Arsikere, Tumakuru, SMVT Bengaluru, Krishnarajapuram, Bangarapet, Salem, Erode, Tiruppur, Podanur, Palakkad, Thrissur, Aluva, Ernakulam Town, Kottayam, Changanasseri, Tiruvalla, Chengannur, Mavelikkara, Kayankulam, Karunagapalli, Kollam and Varkala. Advance reservation for the special train will open at 8 am on September 13 through the Southern Railway system.

Kerala CM seeks legal changes to protect film industry from piracy, AI threats

Kerala CM VD Satheesan on Friday called for changes to existing laws to strengthen copyright protection and deal with new challenges arising from artificial intelligence. He said piracy was badly affecting the film industry and that stronger legal safeguards were needed for the sector. Speaking after inaugurating a seminar on Music, Cinema and Law: Exploring the Intersections of Art, Culture and Law, Satheesan said films involved huge investments and the creative efforts of several people. He said the law should be amended to protect the industry from piracy. He also said the growing use of AI to create music, images and videos had brought new problems, including deepfakes and security threats. The creation of fake visuals of prominent personalities using AI and their spread through social media showed the need for a legal



framework that could respond to new technological challenges, he said. Satheesan also stressed the importance of art and artists. He said art gives people an opportunity to rise above, even if only for a while, various difficulties in life and experience moments of joy. The seminar is being jointly organised by the Kerala Judicial Academy and the National University of Advanced Legal Studies till September 13. It is discussing current legal issues related to music, cinema, copyright, AI, digital platforms and creative rights. Supreme Court judge Justice V Mohan was the chief guest, while Higher Education Minister R Bindu was present. Kerala High Court Chief Justice Soumen Sen said law, music and cinema might appear to be separate fields, but were closely linked to human behaviour and emotions. While art expresses human experiences, law seeks to regulate and protect them, he said. Sen also spoke about music as a cultural expression that carries a society's memories, protests, language and identity, while also offering solace in a world marked by conflict and tension. The seminar brought together discussions on how law can respond to piracy, AI and changing digital platforms, while speakers also underlined the role of art, music and cinema in reflecting and protecting human experience.

YSRCP seeks transparency in Andhra SIR at booth level

AMARAVATI

YSR Congress Party General Secretary and MLC Lella Appi Reddy on Friday urged the Chief Electoral Officer of Andhra Pradesh to ensure complete transparency in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) and make all voter-roll changes verifiable at the booth level. He sought constituency-wise and booth-wise official data on voters newly added, deleted, shifted, recorded as deceased and otherwise corrected during SIR, instead of merely providing download links. He also demanded complete figures relating to unmapped and discrepancy notices, including the number of notices issued, cases resolved, voters deleted and cases still pending, so that BLAs can cross-check every affected voter. Appi Reddy said YSRCP had already submitted



details of suspected duplicate registrations within Andhra Pradesh as well as cross-State duplicates, but many such entries continue in the rolls. He sought verification and removal of confirmed duplicate entries, stressing that one person should have only one valid vote. He also raised serious concerns over polling-station rationalisation. Members of the same family, including newly enrolled voters, are being split across different booths and even different wards. The party demanded that voters from the same household be kept t ogether as far as possible and that rationalisation be reviewed using the latest post-SIR voter data. YSRCP also sought clarity on the criteria used to shift voters from one booth to another—whether by geography, house number or serial number—and asked that electoral rolls be arranged systematically by house number and locality. The party further demanded that details of newly created and rationalised polling stations, revised booth mapping, voter transfers and names and contact details of BLOs be placed in the public domain and supplied officially to recognised political parties. Appi Reddy stressed that not a single eligible voter should be removed, while verified duplicate and ineligible entries must not be allowed to continue.



Sanjay Kumar Srivastava Inspects Engineering Workshop

HYDERABAD

Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, General Manager, SCR, undertook a comprehensive inspection of the Engineering Workshop at Lallaguda and the Signal & Telecommunication (S&T) Workshop at Mettuguda today, i.e., on 12th September, 2026. He was accompanied by Shri D. Anjaneyulu Reddy, Principal Chief Engineer; Shri P.V. Murali Krishna, Principal Chief Signal and Telecommunication Engineer; Shri V.N.M. Rao, Chief Workshop Manager/ S&T Workshop and other senior officials.

At Engineering Workshop, Lallaguda, the General Manager reviewed fabrication standards at the Welding Shop, inspected Glued Joint manufacturing processes, and witnessed the pull out test to assess product reliability. He also examined plant safety measures, emphasizing strict adherence to safety norms, staff amenities, hygiene, and welfare.

At Signal & Telecommunication (S&T) Workshop, Mettuguda, Shri Srivastava inspected the point machine and electrical shop. He inaugurated the newly installed Computer Numerical Control (CNC) Bending Machine, a facility designed to enhance precision manufacturing, technological modernization and capacity building which improves efficiency in workshop operations.

During his visit, the General Manager interacted with trade union members, discussing staff welfare measures and the importance of employee engagement. He also participated in a tree plantation programme, promoting green initiatives dedicated to sustainability and environmental responsibility.

Padmavathi Backs Women-Friendly Cities

Seeks mandatory public toilets for women in commercial establishments.. Calls for zero tolerance on sanitation and waste

HYDERABAD

Kodad MLA N. Padmavathi Reddy on Saturday called for women-friendly infrastructure to be made an integral part of Hyderabad's future urban planning, with mandatory public toilets for women in commercial buildings and strict enforcement of sanitation and solid-waste management standards.

Participating in the discussion in the Telangana Legislative Assembly on the Core Urban Region (Integrated Governance) Bill, 2026, Padmavathi Reddy extended her full support to the legislation and said the new framework should be used to shape Hyderabad into a cleaner, safer, sustainable and globally competitive metropolis.

She said the Bill's emphasis on environmental sustainability, climate action, gender inclusion, universal accessibility, inclusive design, traffic management and solid-waste management provided an opportunity to adopt a broader and more people-centric approach to urban development.

Drawing particular attention to the difficulties faced by women in accessing toilets in public places, the MLA proposed that every new shopping complex and commercial building, including those on private property, should mandatorily provide a toilet for women that could also be accessed by the public.

Even a small space of six feet by six feet can be earmarked for the purpose. The management can maintain the facility and display a board stating that it is available for public use," she suggested.

Padmavathi Reddy said the absence of adequate and clean toilet facilities caused serious inconvenience to women while travelling, shopping or working outside their homes. Providing such facilities across commercial establishments would significantly improve women's dignity, safety and freedom of movement in urban spaces, she said.

She urged the government to treat public sanitation, women's toilets and solid-waste management as 'zero-tolerance' civic requirements, incorporating them into building permissions, master plans and all future urban-development proposals. Referring to the inclusion of several villages and newly developing areas under the proposed urban framework, Padmavathi Reddy said the government now had an opportunity to plan these areas systematically before haphazard development took place.

She also advocated greater involvement of professional architects and urban planners in preparing development and redevelopment plans. Their expertise, she said, could help find practical solutions even in already developed areas without causing undue inconvenience to existing residents.

Padmavathi Reddy said the CURE Bill should ultimately translate the vision of urban transformation into improvements that citizens could experience in their everyday lives.

She said Hyderabad's growth as a global metropolis should be guided not merely by infrastructure expansion, but by sustainability, inclusiveness, cleanliness, accessibility and sensitivity to the specific needs of women.

The Human Being in a Word, Society in a Proverb

Dr. Nalimela Bhaskar's Telugu–Malayalam Proverbs: A Portrait of Family Life

BY DR PERUKA RAJU

Time carries people away, but not all their words. Grandparents depart their experiences remain as proverbs. Villages change; their accumulated wisdom survives in speech. A proverb, therefore, is not merely a saying—it is a small verbal vessel in which time preserves experience. Open that vessel and the life of a people unfolds. Place beside it the proverbial wisdom of another language, and invisible kinships between two cultures begin to emerge. Dr. Nalimela Bhaskar's Telugu–Malayalam Proverbs: A Portrait of Family Life is precisely such a comparative exploration. Originally completed as a Ph.D. thesis at Osmania University in 1990 and published in book form thirty-six years later, in 2026, the work has travelled an unusual distance through time. Yet its relevance has hardly diminished, because its subject is not a passing moment but one of humanity's oldest institutions

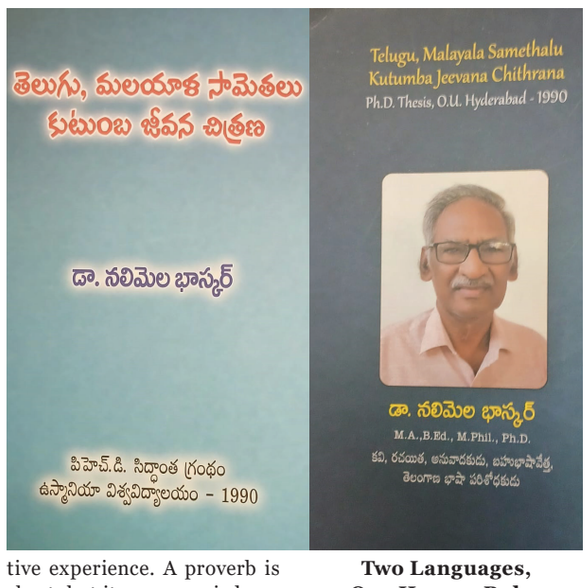
the family: The First Book We Read

The first book a human being reads is the family. The mother is the first alphabet the father, an early lesson in experience. Brothers and sisters introduce us to the grammar of coexistence. Marriage opens another chapter, and grandparents, in-laws, children, grandchildren and relatives enlarge the living text.

Bhaskar examines this intricate world through proverbs relating to parents and children, husband and wife, marriage, in-laws, brothers and sisters, grandparents, grandchildren, extended kinship and other familial relationships. Here, proverbs are not decorative quotations. They function as social evidence. Who held authority within the traditional family? Whose voice carried weight? How was womanhood perceived? What expectations surrounded marriage? How did affection coexist with hierarchy, humour with hostility, intimacy with conflict? Bhaskar searches for answers within the social memory embedded in proverbial speech.

A Few Words, Generations of Experience

Bhaskar does not approach the proverb merely as a linguistic construction. For him, it is a "mini-poem," condensed folk wisdom and the distilled product of collective experience. A proverb is short, but its memory is long. Its words are few, but the life behind them is immense. Formal education may not have shaped every folk voice, but life itself has been its enduring school. Observation, humour, irony, pain, wisdom, social judgement and even prejudice entered oral circulation and gradually acquired the compact authority of proverbs. A proverb is therefore more than the language of ordinary people it is an unofficial archive of their lives.



Two Languages, One Human Pulse

The comparative dimension gives the book its distinctive strength. Telugu and Malayalam have their own linguistic textures, landscapes and cultural histories. Yet the human beings who love, quarrel, marry, raise children, negotiate kinship and grow old within families share recognisable emotional patterns. When Telugu and Malayalam proverbs are brought into conversation, words and images may differ while underlying human experiences often converge. Equally revealing are the differences shaped by regional customs, social structures and cultural memory. Bhaskar's achievement, therefore, lies not simply in placing proverb beside proverb, but in placing one lived world beside another. That movement from linguistic comparison to cultural interpretation gives the study significance beyond conventional proverb collection.

Behind Every Reference, a Journey

The circumstances in which this research was undertaken deserve attention. Much of the work belongs to the 1980s—before internet searches, digital libraries and instantly accessible academic databases. Bhaskar learnt Malayalam, obtained books from Kerala, corresponded with scholars and universities, travelled in pursuit of sources, consulted specialists and traced earlier research in both languages. Behind every reference lies a search; behind every comparison, a journey. The study also situates itself within a larger scholarly tradition. In Telugu, Bhaskar discusses the contribution beginning with Captain M. W. Carr's Andhra Lokokthi Chandrika and records the work of scholars including Chilukuri Narayana Rao, Nedunuri Gangadharam, Veturi Prabhakara Sastry, Bondugulapati Damodara Rao and P. Narasimha Reddy. On the Malayalam side, he moves from Paulinus Padiri's Adagia Malabarica to P. C. Kartha's Pazhamchol Prapancham and the collections of Velayudhan Panikkassery. His admiration for the systematic lexicographical treatment of Malayalam proverbs also leads him to recognise the need for a similarly comprehensive dictionary of Telugu proverbs. That observation reveals scholarly foresight.

A Mirror Must Reveal the Blemish Too

Perhaps the most important critical virtue of the book is that it does not romanticise everything inherited from the past. Not every old saying is an eternal truth not every inherited attitude deserves inheritance. Bhaskar acknowledges that certain proverbs carry unjust attitudes towards women and some social communities. This recognition is essential. If folklore is a mirror of society, it must reveal not only its wisdom but its prejudices. To preserve a proverb is one responsibility to interrogate it through a humane contemporary consciousness is another. In this sense, the book does not merely preserve the past—it places the past before the conscience of the present.

Memory Against Oblivion

The book's dedication lends an intimate dimension to its scholarship. We remember our father's name, perhaps our grandfather's move another generation backwards, and memory often begins to falter. Bhaskar turns that hesitation into a search for ancestral roots. The idea becomes a metaphor for the entire work. If we forget not only our ancestors' names but also their words, where will their experiences survive?

A proverb is memory standing against oblivion

Bhaskar's study is therefore also an act of cultural preservation—a recovery of collective memory through language. His sustained literary and scholarly journey continues to receive recognition. On 24 August 2026, at Telangana Saraswata Parishat in Hyderabad, he received the Devulapalli Ramanuja Rao Sahiti Puraskaram and was also honoured with the My Gift Aatmeeya Puraskaram (Award of Affection). Honours seem to arrive in an unbidden stream, acknowledging a life devoted to language, literature, translation and research.

In the End, the Human Being

Telugu–Malayalam Proverbs: A Portrait of Family Life reaches beyond linguistics and folklore. It is relevant to comparative literature, sociology, cultural studies, translation and anyone interested in the relationship between language and lived experience. A proverb contains only a few words but generations stand behind them. Its sentence may be brief yet an entire society lives within its shadow. By bringing the proverbial worlds of Telugu and Malayalam face to face, Dr. Nalimela Bhaskar ultimately discovers something larger than either language—the human being. That is why this is not merely a book about proverbs. It is a cultural archive of lived experience and a journey towards our roots through the words our ancestors left behind.

EDITORIAL

When Every Drop Begins to Matter

Water has always been taken for granted until it begins to disappear. A dry tap, a shrinking lake or an uncertain monsoon quickly reminds us that water is not an unlimited resource. As cities expand, populations grow and weather patterns become less predictable, securing water is no longer only an environmental concern. It is a basic development priority.

For decades, the focus on water has largely been on increasing supply. Dams, reservoirs, pipelines and treatment plants have helped cities and communities meet growing demand. But supply alone cannot solve the problem. Water security also depends on how efficiently water is used, stored, recycled and shared.

The challenge is particularly visible in rapidly growing cities. More homes, industries, offices and commercial spaces mean greater demand. At the same time, lakes and natural drainage channels are under pressure from construction and pollution. When rain arrives, large volumes of water may run off quickly instead of being absorbed into the ground. The result can be a paradox: waterlogging during heavy rain and shortages during dry periods.

Rainwater harvesting offers one practical part of the answer. Rooftops, public buildings, institutions and residential communities can capture rainfall and help recharge groundwater. Such measures need not be complicated, but they require regular maintenance and local participation. A harvesting structure that is built but neglected cannot deliver its intended benefit.

Agriculture, which remains one of the largest users of freshwater, also has an important role. Better irrigation practices, efficient water delivery systems, crop planning and soil-moisture management can reduce unnecessary consumption while protecting farm productivity. Technology can help farmers make better decisions about when and how much to irrigate.

Cities too must move towards treating wastewater as a resource rather than simply as waste. Properly treated water can be reused for landscaping, construction, industrial purposes and other non-potable needs. This can reduce pressure on freshwater sources and make urban water systems more resilient.

Individual action matters as well. Fixing leaking taps, avoiding unnecessary wastage, using water-efficient appliances and being mindful of consumption may seem like small steps. Collectively, however, millions of such choices can make a substantial difference. The larger lesson is that water security cannot be created by one department, one project or one season. It requires cooperation among governments, communities, farmers, industries, institutions and households.

Every drop saved today strengthens tomorrow's security. As climate uncertainty grows and demand continues to rise, the most valuable water may not be the water we find tomorrow, but the water we learn not to waste today.

BETWEEN TWO GENERATIONS

My father knows the language
of letters written by hand,
of waiting for the postman,
of promises made to stand.

My mother knows the rhythm
of mornings without a screen,
where conversations filled the room
and silence could still mean.

I know the world of messages
that travel in a second,
where faces live inside a phone
and time is rarely reckoned.

They tell me, "Slow down, listen,
the world will wait for you."
I smile and say, "You must move fast,
there's so much left to do."

They saved things for tomorrow,
I want them here today;
they trusted years to shape their dreams,
I search for a quicker way.

They grew up learning patience,
I grew up chasing speed.
They taught me what is valuable,
I taught them what I need.

Sometimes our words grow distant,
though love is never far.
We stand beneath the same old sky,
but see a different star.

Yet when my mother calls my name,
I still become that child.
And when my father tells his tales,
my restless heart grows mild.

Perhaps the gap between us
was never meant to stay.
It is simply a bridge we build
with every passing day.

Their yesterday lives in me,
my tomorrow lives in them;
between the roots and rising leaves,
we meet again and again.

For generations may change,
and times may rearrange—
but love keeps finding common words
even when the words have changed.

K AMARAVATI
MEMBER
PLUS NGO

AWARENESS THAT SAVES A LIFE IN AN EMERGENCY

First Aid Awareness – The First Step Towards Saving a Life

No one can predict when or where an accident may occur. It could be a minor injury at home, a road accident, a fire accident, a fall, a burn, a cut, a fracture or heavy bleeding. In such situations, the response of the people around the victim can become very important. The immediate help given before reaching a hospital can sometimes prevent the condition from becoming more serious. Therefore, first aid is not a subject meant only for doctors and medical professionals. It is a basic life skill that every citizen should know.

When an accident occurs, people around may naturally become confused and frightened. If everyone simply stands around without knowing what to do, valuable time may be lost. At such a moment, even one person who responds calmly and responsibly can become a great support to the victim. The first step should be to see whether the place of the accident is safe or whether there is any further danger. If necessary, steps should be taken to keep the victim away from additional danger. If there is severe bleeding, appropriate basic measures should be taken to control it. It is also important to observe whether the injured person is conscious and breathing normally. If the situation is serious, emergency medical assistance should be sought without delay. Instead of simply surrounding the victim, people should concentrate on providing the help that is actually required. The habit of taking photographs or videos at an accident scene should never become more important than saving a life. Some people immediately try home remedies based on what they have heard or seen earlier. But the same method cannot be applied to every type of injury. Applying unknown substances to wounds, unnecessarily touching an injury, or carelessly moving a person with a possible fracture may cause further harm. Therefore, knowing what to do in first aid is important, but knowing what not to do is equally important. If children are taught from an early age how to respond during emergencies, they can grow into more responsible citizens. Colleges, offices, industries and other public places should also conduct basic first aid awareness programmes. Every family should have a first aid kit at home and family members should know how to use the basic items in it. People who witness road accidents should understand that helping an injured person is both a humanitarian act and a social responsibility. At the same time, help should be given carefully without creating any further danger. Calling emergency services, informing the concerned authorities, monitoring the victim's condition and giving appropriate basic assistance until medical help arrives can make a real difference. Learning first aid is not only about protecting oneself; it also gives a person the ability to support family members and others during an emergency.

"The few minutes before professional medical help arrives may be the most precious moments in a person's life."

First aid is not a substitute for proper medical treatment. It is only the immediate assistance given before professional medical care becomes available, with the aim of preventing the victim's condition from becoming worse. This distinction should be clearly understood. When the right help is given at the right time, it can act as a temporary protective support until the victim reaches a doctor or hospital. Therefore, first aid training should not be treated merely as an awareness activity. It should become an important part of public safety.

Basic first aid knowledge can be useful for families with children, elderly people and also for students, teachers, drivers and industrial workers. Those who travel frequently should particularly know how to respond during emergencies. When people witness an accident, they should not simply move away out of fear. At the same time, they should not act in a hurry without knowing what they are doing. Moving an injured person unnecessarily, applying unknown substances to an injury or giving medicines without proper knowledge may create additional problems.

For first aid awareness to become stronger, there must also be a change in our attitude. The thought that 'it is not my responsibility' can sometimes cause serious consequences for a person in danger. At the same time, trying to do something without proper knowledge can also worsen the situation. Therefore, the willingness to help should go hand in hand with the knowledge of how to help correctly. Only when humanity and awareness come together can first aid become meaningful life-saving assistance.

The progress of a society cannot be measured only by its roads, buildings, technology and economic development. The way people respond when another human being is in danger is also a measure of its humanity. A responsible person who comes forward to help an injured victim is far more valuable than a crowd that simply gathers around the accident scene. Calling emergency services, managing the crowd, helping to keep the surroundings safe, giving confidence to the victim and waiting for professional medical assistance are all expressions of human responsibility. Everyone may not be a doctor, but anyone can become a responsible first responder. This does not require a high level of education. A little training, basic awareness and the willingness to help a person in distress are enough to make a difference. Such awareness should begin at home, move into schools and colleges, and gradually reach the wider society. Only then can we create a society that does not simply stand helplessly during an emergency, but comes forward with responsibility to protect life.

Recognising the value of life only after an accident is not enough. Being prepared to protect it when an emergency occurs is far more important. A small first aid kit in one person's hands, a timely phone call by another person and the presence of mind of someone else can together help save a life and give a family their loved one back. Therefore, first aid should not be viewed merely as a lesson in a textbook. It should become part of a culture that respects and protects human life. Every home should have basic first aid awareness. Every educational institution should provide basic training. Every workplace should have emergency preparedness. Every traveller should understand their responsibility. Every citizen should have a sense of humanity. Instead of thinking, 'Someone else will take care of it,' people should develop the attitude, 'I will do whatever help I can.' Because in some emergencies, the few minutes before professional medical help arrives may be the most precious moments in a person's life. When every citizen gains the awareness to use those moments wisely, first aid will truly fulfil its purpose. A helping hand in an emergency is not merely assistance; it is the visible form of humanity.



CHITIKENA KIRAN KUMAR
Eminent Poet, Writer & Editorial Columnist
Member: International Benevolent Research Forum

CLOSING THE OZONE HOLE IS A LESSON IN COLLECTIVE ACTION

"When science informs policy and nations act together, even a global environmental crisis can be turned around."

The ozone layer is one of the planet's least visible but most important lines of defence. Located in the stratosphere, it absorbs much of the Sun's harmful ultraviolet radiation and helps protect life on Earth. Its depletion was therefore more than an environmental concern. It was evidence that industrial activity could alter the chemistry of the atmosphere on a global scale.

The ozone story, however, is also an unusual environmental success. It shows that when scientific evidence informs policy, governments cooperate and industry innovates, a global environmental crisis can be contained.



September 16, observed as the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, marks the adoption of the Montreal Protocol in 1987. The agreement brought countries together to phase out substances that were destroying stratospheric ozone. Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), halons, carbon tetrachloride and other ozone-depleting substances release chlorine and bromine in the stratosphere. These chemicals trigger reactions that break down ozone, particularly under the unusual atmospheric conditions over Antarctica.

The response was decisive because the science was clear. The Montreal Protocol established a framework for the phased reduction and elimination of ozone-depleting substances. Governments introduced regulations, industries developed alternatives and scientists continued to monitor atmospheric changes. The agreement was also designed to accommodate differences in the technological and economic capacities of countries.

Its record is significant. The ozone layer is now expected to recover gradually as concentrations of ozone-depleting substances decline. The achievement demonstrates that environmental regulation need not be a choice between protecting nature and sustaining economic activity. In this case, regulation created the conditions for technological innovation and a transition to safer alternatives.

The ozone experience also underlines the importance of scientific precision. Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), unlike CFCs, do not significantly deplete the ozone layer. But many HFCs are powerful greenhouse gases. Their increasing use could therefore contribute to global warming. The Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, which provides for their phasedown, has consequently extended the agreement's relevance to climate action. This has particular importance for India.

India's demand for cooling is rising rapidly, driven by higher temperatures, urbanisation, expanding cold chains, rising incomes and wider access to air-conditioning and refrigeration. Cooling is increasingly linked to public health, food security, productivity and economic activity. The challenge is to meet this demand without creating a new environmental burden.

India has made substantial progress under the Montreal Protocol. It has phased out several ozone-depleting substances, including CFCs, carbon tetrachloride, halons, methyl bromide and methyl chloroform, in accordance with its international commitments. The next challenge is to manage the transition to refrigerants with lower climate impacts while improving energy efficiency.

This requires more than replacing one refrigerant with another. India needs a broader cooling strategy that promotes efficient appliances, climate-friendly refrigerants, better servicing practices and the safe recovery and disposal of refrigerants from old equipment. Regulation of the informal refrigerant market also needs attention, since poor handling can result in emissions that undermine environmental gains.

Policy will determine the success of this transition. Environmental standards must be enforced, not merely notified. Industry needs predictable regulations and incentives to invest in cleaner technologies. Scientific institutions require sustained support for atmospheric monitoring. Consumers can influence demand through their choices, but the larger responsibility rests with governments, manufacturers and the systems governing production, servicing and disposal.

The ozone experience offers a wider lesson for climate policy. Climate change is more complex, involving energy, transport, agriculture, land use and consumption patterns. Yet the Montreal Protocol demonstrates that scientific warnings need not end in political paralysis. Binding commitments, international cooperation and technological alternatives can change the trajectory of a global environmental problem.

That lesson is especially relevant now. Environmental recovery rarely follows the timetable of political cycles. Many atmospheric chemicals remain for decades, and the benefits of regulatory action become visible only gradually. Continued compliance, monitoring and technological transition are therefore essential. A reduction in vigilance could slow the progress already made.

September 16 should consequently be viewed less as a ceremonial observance and more as a reminder of what sustained international action can achieve. The world did not solve the ozone problem through awareness alone. It combined science with regulation, diplomacy with industry innovation, and international commitments with domestic implementation. The ozone crisis was created by human activity. Its gradual recovery is becoming evidence of what collective action can achieve. For India, the task is now to ensure that the rapidly expanding demand for cooling does not create another atmospheric burden.

Protecting the ozone layer is no longer simply about repairing yesterday's damage. It is about ensuring that today's development choices do not create tomorrow's environmental crisis.



K AMARAVATI
MEMBER
PLUS NGO



Around a dozen students fall ill after eating mid-day meal in Bihar's Saharsa

PATNA

Around a dozen students fell ill after consuming the mid-day meal at Upgraded Middle School, Vasudeva, in Bihar's Saharsa district on Saturday. The affected children were taken to the Bariyahi Primary Health Centre, where they are undergoing treatment. The incident triggered concern at the school, with health officials and the local administration initiating an inquiry into the cause of the students' illness. According to an education department official, the mid-day meal at the school was supplied by an NGO. Some students reportedly began feeling unwell after consuming the food. As soon as the students complained of health issues after consuming the mid-day meal, a large number of villagers and parents reached the school to inquire about their condition. School authorities and local residents subsequently took the affected children to the Bariyahi Primary Health Centre for medical attention. Approximately 12 students are reported to have fallen ill. Amid the incident, an allegation also emerged that a chameleon was found in the mid-day meal. However, there is no official confirmation so far that a chameleon was present in the food. Officials are investigating whether the meal was contaminated or whether any other issue with the food may have caused the students to fall ill. The Education Department has collected samples of the mid-day meal and sent them to the lab for testing.

The official said that the allegation will be established only after the food samples and other evidence are examined. Following the information about the incident, the Health Department deployed a team to monitor the situation.

The affected students are receiving treatment under medical supervision. The health of other students at the school is also being monitored so that medical assistance can be provided promptly if anyone else develops symptoms. The administration and concerned departments are investigating the incident. Officials said the exact cause of the students falling ill will become clear after the investigation and testing process is completed.

DMK holds statewide agitation condemning CM Vijay's remarks against party stalwarts

CHENNAI

The main opposition DMK on Saturday staged protest across the state condemning Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay for his alleged "scurrilous remarks" targeting late party patriarch M Karunanidhi and party president M K Stalin.

Launching an acerbic attack on Vijay and TVK, senior leader PK Sekar Babu, leading the protest here, praised Stalin for his "sacrifices, personality, and for being humane," and also lauded him as "Mr Clean," who followed ethics and values.

Such an unblemished leader was targeted in the Assembly by the TVK-led government and DMK objected to Law Minister R Nirmal Kumar's claims vis-a-vis Stalin's incarceration during the infamous Emergency (1975-77), he said.

Maharashtra FDA seizes 75 tonnes butter, paneer, khoya in festive crackdown



The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) seized more than 95 tonnes of food products and 172 litres of milk, collectively worth around Rs 4.45 crore, during inspections across the state over the past two days, officials said on Saturday. The inspections were carried out in Ahilyanagar, Pune, Nashik and Buldhana as part of a special drive to ensure the availability of safe and hygienic food ahead of the festive season, the FDA said. In Ahilyanagar, officials raided a cold storage facility and seized 75,368.8 kg of pasteurised unsalted cooking butter, labelled "Madurama Creamy Delight", worth Rs 3.95 crore. The stock was suspected to be substandard and had labelling deficiencies. Samples were sent for laboratory testing and the stock was sealed. In Pune, FDA officials intercepted two vehicles allegedly transporting adulterated paneer, khoya and curd for sale during the festive season, which begins with Ganesh Chaturthi on September 14.

The agency found that the milk products were being transported in vehicles without temperature-control facilities. Paneer sourced from Karnataka was also being transported without purchase or sale invoices, while some products were stored in unsealed polythene bags and had incomplete labels.

Officials collected 24 samples from the first vehicle and seized 7,362.5 kg of paneer and other food products worth Rs 17.15 lakh. From the second vehicle, they collected 12 samples and seized 6,081 kg of paneer worth Rs 14.55 lakh. In another inspection at K B Agarwal in Pune's Budhwar Peth, officials found 33 lots of khoya being stored for sale without details about their source. After collecting samples, the FDA seized 4,627 kg of khoya worth Rs 11.56 lakh. The entire stock was later destroyed at Hadapsar with the consent of the food business operator. The three Pune operations resulted in the seizure of 18,070.5 kg of food products worth Rs 43.27 lakh and the collection of 69 samples. The samples have been sent for laboratory analysis, following which further action will be taken, the FDA said. In Nashik, officials intercepted a vehicle carrying barfi from Gujarat and seized 1,955 kg of the sweet worth Rs 5.58 lakh after collecting 10 samples. In Buldhana, FDA officials inspected a milk collection centre operated by the Marathwada Milk Producers' Association at Yerli in Nandura taluka and found several violations.

These included lack of registration, inadequate facilities for milk collection, incomplete stainless-steel equipment, failure to maintain the required temperature and absence of records related to milk suppliers, pest control, medical fitness and water testing. Officials collected samples of cow and buffalo milk and seized 139 litres of cow milk and 33 litres of buffalo milk worth Rs 7,863. The milk was destroyed as it was perishable and the operator had failed to maintain the required records. FDA Commissioner Tukaram Mundhe said the department was closely monitoring the quality of food products across Maharashtra and warned that strict action would be taken against those compromising public health.

MLA Durgeshwar Lal Inspects Sarigaad–Kandari Road

SUNIL THAPLIYAL

Orders Permanent Measures for Landslide Zone



Barkot (Uttarkashi), Uttarakhand | Purola MLA Durgeshwar Lal conducted a field inspection of the landslide-hit Sarigaad–Kandari motor road on Saturday to review the recurring road blockages and discuss a permanent solution for the road, which serves as the lifeline for 27 villages in the Godar region. He was accompanied by departmental officials and local public representatives.

During a review meeting held after the inspection, the MLA directed officials to take immediate steps to restore safe and uninterrupted connectivity. He said the landslide-prone zone had emerged due to hill cutting carried out by the National Highway contractor during road widening works. He instructed NH officials to undertake scientific treatment of the danger zone, speed up the construction of an alternative route from Sarigaad, and ensure that the road remains open for traffic under all circumstances.

Zila Panchayat members Anita Negi and Manmohan Singh Negi highlighted the hardships faced by residents and farmers. They said the prolonged closure of the road had caused heavy financial losses as cash crops could not reach the market in time. They demanded crop compensation for affected farmers and raised the issue of agricultural land in Fuwan village becoming barren after NH widening and the absence of an irrigation canal. They urged the government to provide compensation and construct the canal at the earliest.

Public representatives also demanded the restoration of the damaged footpath connecting Sarigaad to the Yamuna River and immediate improvement in the region's disrupted electricity supply. The MLA instructed the concerned departments to address these issues without delay.

Durgeshwar Lal directed Sub-Divisional Magistrate Brijesh Kumar Tiwari to expedite the crop compensation process. He also asked NH officials to install high-mast lights in the landslide-prone danger zone, deploy safety personnel on both sides of the stretch, and keep the Kandari road open round the clock. The Public Works Department was instructed to begin work on the alternative motor road, while PMGSY officials were told to prioritise road repairs and blacktopping.

The inspection and meeting were attended by SDM Brijesh Kumar Tiwari, Executive Engineer Navin Dhayani, NH Assistant Engineer K.K. Uniyal, PMGSY Assistant Engineer Pankaj Kumar, Project Manager Pratap Singh, Zila Panchayat members Anita Negi and Manmohan Singh Negi, former BJP Mandal President Dinesh Nautiyal, Sardar Singh Rana, Mukesh Panwar, Balbir Singh, Mahendra Gaud, Surveer Singh, Dinesh Panwar, Sumari Gaud, Rakesh Nautiyal, and several local residents.



Three-Day National CRE Workshop on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Concludes Successfully

CHANDIGARH

The Indian Association of Health, Research and Welfare (IAHRW), led by Dr. Sunil Saini, in collaboration with the Department of Psychology, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla, and Postgraduate Government College for Girls (PGGCG), Sector-11, Chandigarh, organized a Three-Day National CRE Workshop on contemporary challenges in child and adolescent mental health. Dr. Munish Nagpal, IAS, Special Secretary to the Government of Haryana, Office of the Chief Secretary, Chandigarh, graced the second day of the workshop as Chief Guest. More than 220 participants from colleges, universities and health institutions across eight states attended the workshop, including mental health professionals, healthcare professionals, faculty members and students. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Nagpal highlighted the profound transition from traditional family structures to the present digital age. He emphasized that while technology has expanded opportunities for learning and communication, excessive screen time, social media addiction and emerging behavioural and psychological concerns pose significant challenges for children and adolescents. The workshop featured 11 academic sessions conducted by 12 eminent resource persons from institutions including PGIMER Chandigarh, GMCH Sector-32, Fortis Hospital, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital and Amity University. The sessions provided participants with contemporary knowledge and practical insights, emphasizing awareness, early identification, professional intervention and collaborative efforts to address emerging mental-health challenges among children and adolescents.

13 suspected drug peddlers detained in J&K's Anantnag

SRINAGAR

Intensifying its crackdown on the drug trade, police in J&K's Anantnag have detained 13 suspected drug peddlers, officials said on Saturday. Police said that, in a significant move to curb the growing menace of drug trafficking, Anantnag police on Saturday launched a major anti-narcotics cordon and search operation (CASO) at multiple locations in Waghama, an area identified by authorities as a hotspot for illicit drug activities. The coordinated operation was carried out simultaneously at 20 locations across Waghama, with police teams conducting searches aimed at tracing individuals suspected of involvement in the illegal narcotics trade. During the operation, 13 suspected drug peddlers were detained for questioning, officials said. Their questioning is expected to help investigators gather further information about the local network involved in the distribution and supply of narcotic substances.

The operation forms part of the police's intensified campaign against drug trafficking and substance abuse, with a particular focus on dismantling the supply chain and identifying those facilitating the movement of narcotics at the grassroots level. Police said the action underscores their zero-tolerance policy towards drug peddling, as security agencies continue to step up intelligence-based operations against individuals and networks involved in the illegal trade.

Chief Minister Sugam Transport Service to have auspicious launch in the state from September 25: CM Dr. Yadav

DR. BHUPENDRA VIKAL



Bhopal: Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has said that the Chief Minister Sugam Transport Bus Service will have its auspicious launch in Madhya Pradesh on September 25 this month. He said that our goal is to provide citizens of Madhya Pradesh with an easy, simple, safe, modern and reliable bus service and we are going to take a new step towards fulfilling this goal from September 25. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that Madhya Pradesh has a road network of 5 lakh kilometers. There is scope to run more than 15,000 buses here. Apart from our citizens, crores of tourists and pilgrims coming to the state every year also use buses for travel. This is a challenge as well as a big opportunity for us. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav appealed to private bus operators, bus manufacturing companies, industry partners and stakeholders to recognize the growing opportunities in MP in changing times and join hands with the government to become partners in the state's development journey. Create such a finest public transport model in the interest of passengers in the state, which becomes an example for the whole country. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav was addressing the inaugural session of the 'Passenger Transport Vision Summit-2026' organized under the Chief Minister Sugam Transport Service at the Brilliant Convention Center in Indore on Friday.

Chief Minister Dr. Yadav released the Passenger Transport Vision Summit-2026 souvenir and the Chief Minister Sugam Transport Service booklet. In the presence of Chief Minister Dr. Yadav, an MoU was signed and exchanged between MPYPIL and Rapido to make public transport more accessible to the common citizens of the state and for first and last-mile connectivity. Also, Chief Minister Dr. Yadav felicitated the winners of MPYPIL's 'Let's Create a Logo' competition. Mr. Sudhakar Kumar from Sasaram (Bihar) was awarded the first prize of Rs. 5 lakh, Mr. Chayan Vohra from Delhi was awarded the second consolation prize of Rs. 2 lakh, and Ms. Gaurangi Sharma from Bhopal was awarded the third consolation prize of Rs. 1 lakh and a citation.

To ensure the participation of citizens, researchers, academic institutions and innovators of the state in building a smart, safe, inclusive and future-ready mobility ecosystem in the state, Chief Minister Dr. Yadav pressed a remote button to launch the 'MP Mobility Innovation Challenge 2026'.

Earlier, Chief Minister Dr. Yadav also inaugurated and visited a special exhibition focused on innovations and modern technologies in the public transport sector. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav was given a warm welcome by the public representatives of Indore and bus transport operators.

Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that Lord Ganesha, the remover of obstacles, is going to arrive in the country on September 14. Freedom fighter Bal Gangadhar Tilak had united the countrymen through the establishment of Ganesha. This month, on September 17, is the birthday of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Under his leadership, first Gujarat and now India have set new records of development. The whole of India is proud of his visionary thinking. Shri Modi is the only leader of the country to have ruled for the longest time. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Modi, the problem of Naxalism has ended across the country. Madhya Pradesh is the first state in the country to say the final goodbye to Lal Salam.

Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that metro is running in two cities of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal and Indore. Our airports have become world-class. Public transport has special importance in public life. 250 years ago, Devi Ahilyabai, with her farsighted thinking, made all kinds of arrangements for the convenience of travelers from Malwa to Kashi and the four dhams of Sanatan culture. She carried forward her resolve from the land of Indore. With the start of the state government's Chief Minister Sugam Transport Bus Service, opportunities in the market will increase, which will give us a chance to move forward. Our government has prepared the Sugam Transport Bus Service scheme keeping in mind all sections. Modern technology has been included in it and priority has been given to the convenience and safety of passengers. At the same time, the interests of people associated with the transport business have also been taken care of.

Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that with the guidance of Prime Minister Shri Modi, the operation of e-vehicles is starting in the state. Now electric vehicle engines made on our land are being supplied to the country and the world. Today a special MoU has also been done, through which passengers will get the facility to reach the Sugam Transport bus from two-wheelers. During the 12-year tenure of Prime Minister Shri Modi, 74 thousand kilometers long highways have been constructed in Madhya Pradesh at the fastest pace. The Delhi-Mumbai Super Expressway Corridor passes through Madhya Pradesh as 8 lanes. Madhya Pradesh is in the middle of India. From here you can reach Delhi and Mumbai in about 6 hours. Public transport has special importance in public services for the common people. A network of more than 15,000 buses and 5 lakh kilometers of roads is ready across the state. Our Sugam Transport Service will fulfill everyone's needs.

Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Modi, religious tourism is also growing rapidly in the state. Earlier, 60 to 70 lakh devotees used to come to Ujjain every year. Now their number has reached more than 8 crore. This year, an estimated 14 crore devotees are expected to come to Ujjain. The data of the Tourism Department shows that now more than 20 crore tourists are coming to the state every year. At such a time, the arrangement of easy transport is the responsibility of all of us. With One State One Bus Service, movement will be easy for passengers and many youth of the state will get employment opportunities. The state transport bus service, which was closed for decades in Madhya Pradesh, has got a new lease of life today. T his is an opportunity for a 360-degree change in 20 years. Sugam Transport Bus Service will benefit passengers, operators, the government and those adopting new technology. Across the country, a network of high-speed trains, logistics corridors, dedicated industrial corridors, high-speed highways is being laid. At present, the Madhya Pradesh government is moving forward rapidly keeping in mind the future possibilities.

Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that on the occasion of Prime Minister Shri Modi's birthday, Seva Sankalp Abhiyan is going to start from September 17. This public service campaign will continue till October 17 and on September 25 this month, the people of the state will get the unique gift of 'the state's own bus service' through the 'Chief Minister Sugam Transport Service'.

This summit will become a milestone in making it eco-friendly - Minister Uday Singh

Transport and School Education Minister Uday Pratap Singh reiterated the state government's commitment to provide safe, accessible and technology-enabled travel to the citizens of the state. He said that this summit will prove to be a historic milestone in the direction of making public passenger transport in the state modern, accessible and eco-friendly. Mentioning the gradual development of transport, he said that moving ahead from the traditional system of the 17th century and the subsequent petrol-diesel era, today we have entered the era of e-buses. The primary objective of the government is to connect remote rural areas with cities through excellent and safe services along with pollution-free transport.

Zelenskyy willing to meet Putin if Russian President shows up at G20 summit

Zelenskyy said he would go to the Miami G20 summit if Putin attends and wants any meeting to produce results. He also pitched energy and grain ceasefire steps while pressing allies for more air defence before winter.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has said he is ready to travel to Miami for the Group of 20 (G20) leaders' summit in December if Russian President Vladimir Putin attends, potentially setting the stage for the first face-to-face meeting between the two leaders since Moscow launched its full-scale invasion of Kyiv in February 2022. Zelenskyy made the remarks during an interview with Deutsche Welle (DW) on Friday. Asked whether he would go to Miami if Putin was there, the Ukrainian leader gave an unequivocal response. "Yes, of course. We have to come. We have to meet, to speak and make decisions," he said. According to him, the substance of such a meeting would matter far more than the rhetoric surrounding it. He said the priority would be securing tangible progress towards ending the war rather than trading statements. "It's not about words. What I will tell him or what he wants to tell me, it doesn't matter. It doesn't matter. (...) Results matter. That's it."

The Kremlin has so far stopped short of confirming whether Putin plans to attend the Miami summit. The Russian president has not personally attended a G20 leaders' summit since 2019, leaving uncertainty over whether the two leaders could actually find themselves at the same table. However, A Russian official will attend a G20 energy meeting in Houston next week, a White House official said on Friday.

PATH TO ZELENSKYY-PUTIN MEETING

Any direct encounter between Zelenskyy and Putin would carry major diplomatic significance. The two leaders have not met in person since the war entered its full-scale phase more than four years ago, while repeated efforts involving Kyiv, Moscow, Washington and European capitals have failed to produce a lasting peace agreement. Earlier this month, US Special Envoy Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, US President Donald Trump's son-in-law, travelled to Moscow before meeting Zelenskyy in Kyiv. Despite the high-level contacts, no major



breakthrough towards a peace deal was announced. Zelenskyy nevertheless described the US envoys' visit to Kyiv as a positive sign, particularly because they had also travelled to Moscow. He said he had told them that Ukraine was in a stronger position for negotiations than it had been a year earlier. According to Zelenskyy, Russia is suffering heavy battlefield losses while making only limited territorial gains. He argued that the costs being borne by Moscow could create greater room for negotiations.

"So that's why we think that we have now good position for negotiations," he said.

KYIV SEEKS CEASEFIRE

Energy and grain could offer two areas for limited agreements, potentially creating an opening for broader peace talks, according to Zelenskyy. The Black Sea has remained a major flashpoint, with Russia and Ukraine targeting each other's vessels and disrupting commercial shipments. Ukraine's grain exports have suffered as fighting and restrictions around its Black Sea ports continue to affect trade. Zelenskyy said he had discussed the possibility of an energy and grain ceasefire with the US envoys, describing the idea as a potential first step towards negotiations. "What can bring us to any kind of negotiations? So energy and grain. This is step number one. What we can achieve," he said. There has been no confirmation from Putin or the Russian government that Moscow has agreed to such an arrangement.

ZELENSKYY WANTS MORE PATRIOT MISSILES

While diplomatic efforts continue, Ukraine is also preparing for another difficult winter and is seeking additional air defence systems from its Western allies. Zelenskyy admitted that Ukrainian forces have struggled to counter the growing use of jet-propelled drones by Russia. He said the United States had the political willingness to provide assistance but faced limitations because of weapons production. "They (US) have political will to sell and to help, but the production is not too big. So it means that stocks is a variant," he said. He was also uncertain about whether Washington would be prepared to provide more Patriot missile systems. "Will Americans be ready to give us (Patriots)? I don't know. We will see." Patriot systems are among Ukraine's most important defences against Russian ballistic missile attacks, making access to additional interceptors a key concern for Kyiv as winter approaches. Zelenskyy said Russia is currently producing about 140 ballistic missiles a month and argued that Ukraine would need a much larger supply of interceptors to counter that threat. "Russia (currently) produces 140 ballistic missiles per month. So, according to the rules of NATO, if you want to destroy 140, you need a 1-to-2 [ratio], 280 missiles," Zelenskyy told DW.

"You will never have 280 missiles per month, and between us, it's a huge challenge to have [even] 100 missiles per month. This is what I want. I want to have 100-120 for these difficult months, especially the cold months."

Germany has said it would send Patriot missiles from its national stockpile, although it has not specified how many missiles would be supplied. Zelenskyy has also urged other European countries to increase military assistance, stressing that the immediate priority was protecting civilian lives. Alongside requests for Western weapons, Ukraine is trying to expand its domestic defence capabilities. Zelenskyy said Kyiv had reached agreements with several European companies to develop a Ukrainian-led anti-missile system known as Freya. He said Ukraine hoped to begin the first testing phase by the end of December. The effort reflects Kyiv's attempt to reduce its dependence on foreign weapons supplies at a time when demand for air defence systems is rising across Europe and other conflict zones.

Trump says Canada keen for US trade deal, agreement could come 'fairly soon'

Donald Trump said Canada was keen to strike a trade deal with the United States and suggested an agreement could come fairly soon. He paired that message with fresh complaints over Canadian tariffs on US farmers, keeping agriculture central to the talks. President Donald Trump said on Saturday that Canada was keen to reach a trade deal with the United States and that an agreement could come "fairly soon", while repeating complaints that Canada had treated U.S. farmers unfairly and should remove tariffs.

"Canada wants to make a deal very badly," Trump said while answering questions from media after a meeting with Irish Prime Minister Micheal Martin in Dublin.

"Canada has to treat our farmers better. They can't charge our farmers tariffs," Trump said, adding: "You'll probably see a deal with Canada fairly soon."

Lebanon detains Assad relative and Zeiter son near Baalbek over weapons, drugs

Lebanese authorities have detained a relative of ousted Syrian President Bashar Assad and the son of a suspected drug trafficker in northeast Lebanon on charges linked to weapons and drugs, according to judicial officials and the army. Suleiman Assad, a relative of the former Syrian president, and Ali Zeiter were held on Friday near Baalbek. The arrests come as several Syrian officials and members of the Assad family have left Syria after the Assad family's five-decade rule ended in December 2024, when Islamist rebels seized power. Two judicial officials said Suleiman Assad and Ali Zeiter, the son of Noah Zeiter, were detained near the northeastern city of Baalbek. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorised to speak to the media. Suleiman Assad is the son of Hilal Assad, a cousin of Bashar Assad. The Lebanese army said in a statement that it had detained three people, including a Syrian citizen who did not have documents proving he was staying legally in Lebanon.

US Sets Steep Duties on Indian, Asian Solar Imports

The US Department of Commerce has finalised heavy anti-dumping and countervailing duties on solar imports from India, Indonesia and Laos. The case now turns on the USITC's injury ruling, which will decide whether the penalties take effect.



The United States has finalised high anti-dumping and countervailing duties on imports of solar cells and panels from India, Indonesia and Laos, saying producers and exporters from these countries benefited from unfair government subsidies and hurt American industry.

In its final affirmative findings announced on Friday, the US Department of Commerce said the investigations covered crystalline silicon photovoltaic cells from the three countries. The case will now move to the US International Trade Commission, which will decide within the next 45 days whether the subsidised imports caused injury to the US industry. The Department of Commerce fixed anti-dumping margins at 123.04 per cent for Indian producers, 94.36 per cent for Indonesian producers and 65.43 per cent for producers from Laos. It also set countervailing duty rates at 126.09 per cent for Indian producers, between 73.2 per cent and 173.7 per cent for Indonesian producers, and between 82.03 per cent and 153.67 per cent for Laos producers. The action followed a petition by The Alliance for American Solar Manufacturing and Trade, which sought investigations into alleged illegal trade practices by largely Chinese-owned manufacturers operating in Laos and Indonesia, as well as companies headquartered in India. The USITC will now examine whether the subsidised imports harmed the US industry, with its final injury vote expected on October 14. If the commission gives an affirmative final determination, the Department of Commerce will issue anti-dumping and countervailing duty orders by November 2 based on the rates announced on Friday. If the USITC gives a negative determination, the investigation will be terminated. In a statement, The Alliance for American Solar Manufacturing and Trade said, "These determinations confirm that producers and exporters from these countries have been dumping solar products into the US market at unfairly low prices and have benefited from countervailable subsidies, causing material injury to the domestic solar manufacturing industry." The findings mark the latest step in the US process on the solar imports, with the final outcome now resting on the USITC's injury decision.

Trump Blames Iran for Saudi Pipeline Attack

US President Donald Trump on Saturday said Iran was "probably" responsible for an aerial attack on Saudi Arabia that shut down the kingdom's East-West oil pipeline, a key route for exporting crude while bypassing the Strait of Hormuz.





"I think they are, probably they are," Trump told reporters in Dublin when asked whether Iran was behind the attack on the vital oil conduit, adding that he also spoke to Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, whom he described as a "good friend".

The US president said Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi rebels had contacted his administration and indicated that they did not want Washington to become directly involved in the conflict.

"They would much prefer not having us involved, and they're letting most ships go through," Trump said. "There's just one country that they're not too happy with, and we'll get that straightened out." Trump's statement came after Saudi authorities said on Friday that drones launched from Iraq had targeted the East-West pipeline, leading to its temporary shutdown. The pipeline links Abqaiq, near Saudi Arabia's Gulf coast, to Yanbu on the Red Sea. Riyadh has increased its use since the start of the Middle East conflict as an alternative route to export crude amid the disruption around the Strait of Hormuz. The Saudi Foreign Ministry condemned what it called the targeting of the East-West pipeline in the Riyadh and Medina regions by several drones originating from Iraq. The attack caused injuries and damage, it said. An Energy Ministry official told the Saudi Press Agency that the pipeline was shut down as a precaution and that several people were injured in the attacks. According to The Guardian report, satellite images taken on Thursday by Copernicus Sentinel showed black smoke rising near Medina, close to the general route of the East-West pipeline that transports Saudi crude to the Red Sea coast. The Iraqi government confirmed that the attack originated from its territory and said the commander responsible for the southern province of Maysan had been dismissed. Iraq also condemned the attacks on Saudi Arabia and said they had originated from a location within the governorate. Saudi Arabia said it had decided not to respond to the attack at this stage, following a request from Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi, and would support Baghdad's efforts to prevent attacks launched from Iraqi territory against the kingdom and neighbouring countries. Riyadh has previously accused Iran-backed Iraqi militias of targeting its oil infrastructure. However, it said it reserved the right to take all necessary measures to protect its sovereignty, security, facilities and people. Bahrain, Jordan and Qatar also condemned the attack, while the Gulf Cooperation Council described it as a "dangerous escalation" and an unacceptable threat to Saudi Arabia's security. The attack comes as oil prices have risen above $100 a barrel this week, while average US diesel prices crossed $6 a gallon for the first time on Friday, adding to economic pressures facing the Trump administration ahead of the midterm elections. Meanwhile, Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels announced a maritime blockade against Saudi Arabia in July and have targeted Saudi oil tankers in the Red Sea.

Nepal Seeks China Cooperation on Climate Disasters

BY SHIRISH B PRADHAN

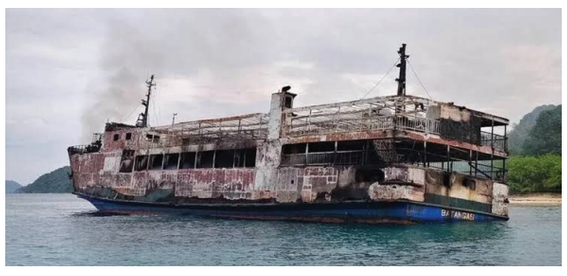
KATHMANDU: Sept 12 Nepal's Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal on Saturday underscored the need to take Nepal-China relations beyond the confines of traditional border management to a new level of ecological collaboration, climate security and strategic partnership based on technology, trade and infrastructure development.

Delivering a keynote speech at a programme on the theme "Nepal-China relations- expanded dimension of collaborations," under the third 'Kasthamandap Dialogue', Khanal said the recent flood in the Bhotekoshi river had proved that the Nepal-China border was not just a political boundary but a region that combines the ecological destiny of the two countries.

Flash floods, triggered by an ice-rock avalanche near the Nepal-Tibet border on August 26, devastated towns and villages in northern and central Nepal, killing around 1,400 people, while more than 5,000 remain missing. The Bhotekoshi River, which flows south from the Himalayan border region, carried the floodwaters downstream, sweeping away homes, vehicles, roads and bridges and damaging hydropower projects.

Philippines ferry fire toll rises to 76, with 13 still missing

A passenger ferry caught fire near Coron in the Philippines, killing 76 people and leaving 13 missing. Investigators are probing the captain, crew and onboard safety measures as survivors describe a rapidly spreading blaze.



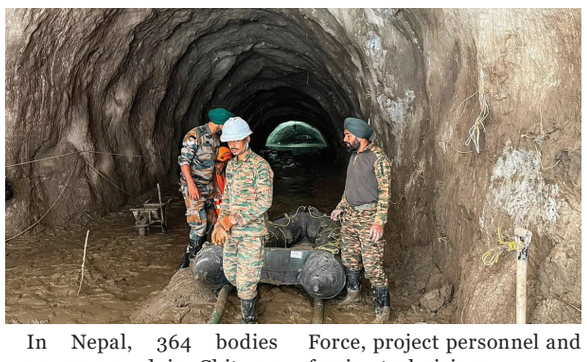
The death toll in the Philippine passenger ferry fire rose to 76 on Saturday after rescuers recovered more remains, while 13 people were still missing. Forty-three people survived the blaze, which broke out on Wednesday night among the 132 people on board.

The ferry had sailed from Manila and was about 39 kilometres from its destination in Coron, in the southwestern Palawan province, when the fire erupted. The cause has not been determined, but coast guard spokesperson Commodore Noemie Cayabyab said a survivor told authorities it may have started in the cargo hold. The survivor recounted hearing a blast before smoke and fire spread quickly, fanned by the winds, officials said. Tents were put up at the Port of Borac in Coron, where body bags were unloaded from a ship that transported them from the ferry. Cayabyab said authorities were looking for the ship's captain, who reportedly survived but is not listed among the survivors.

She said a multi-agency maritime safety and criminal investigation would look into all angles, including the possible liability of the captain and crew. Cayabyab said survivors recounted that the fire spread quickly, leaving no time to get life jackets. A tarpaulin that shielded the open areas of the ship from the rain "may be a possible contributing factor but we can't determine now if they were trapped inside," she said. Investigators will also check whether fire emergency procedures were followed, including whether the captain sounded an alarm or gave a warning and instructions, and whether the crew assisted passengers. Ferries are frequently used for transport across the Philippine archipelago, where sea accidents are not uncommon because of storms, badly maintained vessels, overcrowding and weak enforcement of safety regulations, especially in remote provinces. In 1987, the ferry Dona Paz sank after colliding with a fuel tanker in the central Philippines, killing more than 4,300 people in what remains the world's deadliest peacetime maritime disaster.

Nepal flood search enters tunnels as 5,130 remain missing

Search operations continued in Nepal on Saturday, more than two weeks after devastating flash floods hit the country, with teams still trying to trace over 5,000 missing people. Authorities said nearly 1,400 people have died, while 13,676 people have been rescued so far.



The floods, triggered by an ice-rock avalanche near the Nepal-Tibet border on August 26, devastated towns and villages in northern and central Nepal. Officials said 5,130 people, including 589 foreign nationals from around 30 countries, remain missing. The Bhotekoshi River, which flows south from the Himalayan border region, carried floodwaters downstream, sweeping away homes, vehicles, roads and bridges and damaging hydropower projects. The floods also killed 43 people on the Chinese side, where more than 500 people remain missing, according to Chinese media.

In Nepal, 364 bodies were recovered in Chitwan district alone, the highest among all districts, followed by Nawalparasi East and Nawalparasi West. The remaining bodies were recovered from Nuwakot, Rasuwa, Gorkha, Dhading and Tanahun districts, according to Nepal's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority. Search teams have been deployed at several hydropower projects in the flood-hit Rasuwa and Nuwakot districts, where large numbers of workers are still unaccounted for. The operations involve the Nepal Army, the Armed Police Force, project personnel and foreign technicians.

At the Chilime Hydropower Project, teams have entered the tunnel and advanced about 115 metres while clearing mud, rocks and other debris. At the Upper Trishuli-1 project, a joint team including foreign technicians has entered about 400 metres into the main access tunnel to search for missing workers, according to the Nepal Army.

Search operations are also continuing at the Rasuwagadhi, Rasuwa Bhotekoshi, Langtang, Trishuli-3A and Upper Trishuli-3B hydropower projects. Officials said the work has been complicated by buried structures, mud and debris inside tunnels, and difficult terrain.

Identifying the dead has emerged as a major challenge. Authorities said only around 100 of the bodies recovered so far have been handed over to families. Officials said many bodies swept downstream were severely damaged, decomposed or recovered only in parts, making identification through faces, clothing or personal belongings difficult.

Forensic experts said prolonged immersion in water and exposure to mud and debris can destroy identifiable features, while some remains may be fragmented or mixed with others. They said DNA testing has become crucial, though the process takes time as it requires samples from the remains and biological relatives for comparison. With thousands still missing, rescue and recovery efforts remain focused on hydropower sites and other flood-hit areas across Nepal.

4 militants killed by security forces in Pak's KPK

PESHAWAR:

Pakistan security forces killed four militants, including a key commander, during an intelligence-based operation in northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Saturday, police said.

The operation was conducted in the Akakhel area of Bara in Khyber district, after intelligence reports indicated the presence of militants there, a police official said. An exchange of fire took place between the security forces and militants, resulting in the deaths of four militants identified as commander Khalid Umar Ghazi, Malik Arab Gul, Ariana and Hanzala, the official said.

Food regulator directs Nilgiri Oil and Allied Industries, Aquagri to recall 2 products

NEW DELHI: Food regulator FSSAI has asked two companies, Nilgiri Oil and Allied Industries and Aquagri Processing, to immediately recall two products from the market due to high pesticide residues and safety concerns. In a social media post on Saturday, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) said it has issued "recall orders to two Food Business Operators (FBOs) under the FSS Act, 2006, following lab testing and evaluations. The regulator has asked Nilgiri Oil and Allied Industries to recall its coriander powder, Shalimar's Chef - Coriander Powder, due to high pesticide residues. In the case of Aquagri Processing, the FSSAI has directed immediate recall of "Carrageenan' product from market due to safety concern.

Bank FD or post office deposit? The higher interest comes with a catch

Higher interest or easier access; which matters more? A look at the latest rates across different institutions shows why the highest rate may not always be the best choice.



When it comes to fixed deposits, most people tend to go with the bank they already use. But a recent comparison shared by entrepreneur Prafull Billore has brought a simple question into focus: is it worth looking beyond a bank FD for a slightly higher interest rate? In an X post, Billore, CEO of MBA Chai Wala Group, compared the Post Office's 1-year Time Deposit with SBI's 1-year fixed deposit and also highlighted the higher return offered by the Senior Citizens Savings Scheme (SCSS). His larger point was that investors often overlook small-savings schemes even when they offer better interest rates. However, the trade-off is important: higher interest may come with lower liquidity or a longer lock-in.

POST OFFICE OFFERS 6.90% FOR ONE YEAR

For the quarter ending September 30, 2026, the Post Office 1-year Time Deposit offers 6.90% per annum. The rate is higher than what SBI currently offers on a comparable one-year retail domestic fixed deposit for the general public. SBI offers 6.25% per annum on deposits below 3 crore for a tenure of one year to less than two years. For senior citizens, the rate is 6.75% per annum. This means the Post Office offers a 0.65 percentage point higher rate than SBI for regular customers. For senior citizens, the difference is much smaller at 0.15 percentage point.

SCSS OFFERS 8.2%, BUT LIQUIDITY IS DIFFERENT

The bigger rate difference comes in the case of the Senior Citizens Savings Scheme (SCSS). SCSS currently offers an attractive 8.2% per annum. But there is an important catch: it is not a one-year investment product. The official lock-in period for SCSS is five years. This makes it unsuitable for someone who may need the money within a short period. For a senior citizen, therefore, the choice is not simply about whether 8.2% is better than an FD rate. The real question is whether the investor is comfortable keeping the money invested for the longer period and giving up some liquidity.

HIGHER RETURNS VS EASY ACCESS

This is where investors need to look beyond the interest rate.A Post Office Time Deposit can offer a higher rate than a comparable SBI FD, but investors should still consider when they may need the money. A bank FD may be more convenient for someone who values easy access and already manages most of their finances through a bank. SCSS, meanwhile, may suit senior citizens looking for a relatively high interest rate on money they can set aside for the longer term. Billore also advised keeping only money that may be required immediately in liquid investments and considering Post Office schemes for the rest. For investors, the best option is therefore not necessarily the one with the highest headline rate. The tenure, liquidity needs and withdrawal rules should be considered alongside the return before making a decision.



NMDC STRENGTHENS VIGILANCE AWARENESS THROUGH CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME

HYDERABAD

As a precursor to Vigilance Awareness campaign, NMDC Vigilance Department, organised a two-day Capacity Building Programme on 10th and 11th September 2026 at Hyderabad, covering key focus areas identified under the guidance of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC). Around 55 executives from NMDC's various Projects and Head Office participated in the programme. The programme featured eminent experts who delivered insightful and interactive sessions on important areas of public procurement, contract management and cyber security. The inaugural programme was graced by the presence of Shri Joydeep Das Gupta, Director (Production), NMDC, and Shri C. Neelakanta Reddy, CVO, NMDC. On 10th September 2026, Shri Kanwalpreet, IRSS, Additional CEO, Government e-Marketplace (GeM), conducted a session on "GeM – New Features & Functionalities", providing valuable insights into the latest developments and functionalities of the GeM platform. This was followed by a session on Public Procurement by Shri M K Singh, Former CMD, IRCON and Professor at AJNIFM, who shared his extensive experience and practical perspectives on contemporary public procurement practices.

The programme continued on its second day with two insightful and interactive sessions. Shri M. K. Singh continued the sessions with valuable practical insights on Public Procurement & Post-Award Contract Management, enriched by relevant case studies and his extensive professional experience. Shri Harish R., Scientist-C, C-DAC, conducted an informative session on Cyber Security & Cyber Hygiene, highlighting the importance of cyber awareness and the adoption of secure practices in the digital workplace. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from executives nominated from various NMDC Projects and Head Office. The interactive discussions, practical case studies and experience-sharing sessions provided valuable learning opportunities and strengthened participants' understanding of contemporary procurement practices, effective contract management and cyber security. The two-day Capacity Building Programme formed part of NMDC Vigilance Department's continued efforts to enhance awareness, strengthen capacity and promote transparency, integrity and accountability across the organisation. The campaign will continue with various awareness and capacity-building initiatives leading up to Vigilance Awareness Week 2026 and throughout the campaign period.



Today World Sepsis Day

HYDERABAD

The Infection That Can Turn Critical Every year, September is observed as World Sepsis Awareness Month, with September 13 dedicated as World Sepsis Day. This global observance aims to raise public awareness about sepsis—a life-threatening medical emergency responsible for millions of deaths worldwide each year. It can start with a fever, a cough, a urinary infection, or an infected wound. The danger begins when the body's response to infection starts harming its own organs. Imagine this: Your family member has had a fever for two days. Your father has been coughing and feeling unusually weak. A child has been vomiting and seems more sleepy than usual. Someone in the family has a urinary infection but is suddenly becoming confused. Would you recognise when an infection has crossed the line from "we should see a doctor" to "this is an emergency"? That line can be sepsis . Sepsis is not just a severe infection Our immune system is supposed to fight infection. But sometimes, the body's response becomes uncontrolled. Instead of protecting us, it begins causing damage to the body's own tissues and organs. That is sepsis .And it can progress to organ failure, septic shock, and death if it is not recognised and treated promptly. Globally, an estimated 48.9 million people develop sepsis and around 11 million people die from sepsis-related causes each year, according to WHO estimates. That represents approximately one in five deaths worldwide. But sepsis is not just a global statistic. It is something doctors encounter daily in Indian hospitals—including intensive care units in Hyderabad. What does sepsis look like in Hyderabad? Studies conducted in Hyderabad hospitals show that sepsis is very much a real and serious critical-care problem. A 2024 prospective study examined ICU patients for markers that could help identify sepsis and predict complications such as organ failure, need for ventilators, blood-pressure-support medicines, and kidney replacement therapy. Hyderabad hospitals have also contributed



Dr. Shweta Ram Chandankhede Senior Consultant & HOD – Critical Care Medicine STAR Hospitals, Nanakramguda, Hyderabad

patients to the SEPSIS INDIA multicentre registry, one of the larger prospective studies of sepsis in Indian ICUs. Across 19 Indian ICUs, including centres in Hyderabad, 1,172 patients with sepsis were studied: 36.3% died in hospital Rising to 50.8% among patients with septic shock.These numbers are not meant to frighten us. They tell us something much more useful: Sepsis can begin with infections that many of us have experienced before: A lung infection (pneumonia/cough) A urinary tract infection (UTI) An abdominal or gastrointestinal infection An infected wound or skin infection The important question, therefore, isn't only: "Does this person have an infection?" Ask: "Is this person getting significantly worse?" That change can be the clue that something much more serious is happening. Five changes you should never simply "wait and watch" A person with an infection needs urgent medical assessment if they develop warning signs such as: 1. They suddenly become confused: They may seem disoriented, unusually sleepy, unable to answer simple questions, or behave very differently from normal. 2. They are struggling to breathe: Fast breathing, breathlessness, or a feeling that they cannot get enough air. 3. They become extremely weak or look seriously unwell: Family members often describe it simply as: "Something is very wrong. They don't look like themselves." That instinct matters. 4. They are passing very little urine: A significant reduction in urine can be a warning that the kidneys and circulation are being affected. 5. Their skin becomes cold, clammy, or unusually pale: This can be a sign that circulation is becoming compromised. Other warning signs: Fever or unusually low body temperature, a very fast heart rate, severe pain or discomfort, and low blood pressure. Here's the part many families don't know: Sepsis doesn't always mean a high fever This is an important misconception. People often associate a serious infection with a very high temperature. But a person with sepsis may have a low body temperature instead. So don't use "the fever isn't very high" as reassurance when someone with an infection is becoming confused, breathless, weak, or otherwise dramatically worse. Who needs extra vigilance? Sepsis can affect anyone. But the risk is particularly important in: Older adults Babies and young children Pregnant and recently pregnant women People with weakened immunity People with cancer People living with chronic kidney, lung, or liver disease People with other serious underlying illnesses People who have recently been hospitalised or undergone major medical treatment Antibiotic resistance: A growing challenge in India Antibiotic resistance can make serious infections harder to treat. In the SEPSIS INDIA registry, 50% of gram-negative blood-culture isolates were resistant to carbapenems , a class of reserve antibiotics often used for severe bacterial infections. This is one reason antibiotics .should never be started, stopped, or changed casually. The right antibiotic, at the right time, guided by medical assessment and blood cultures, can be critical to saving lives. So, what should a family actually do? You don't need to diagnose sepsis at home. You simply need to recognise when an infection is behaving differently. This World Sepsis Day, let us commit to staying informed. If someone has an infection and is rapidly deteriorating, becoming confused, struggling to breathe, becoming extremely weak, producing very little urine, developing cold or clammy skin, or otherwise looking seriously unwell—seek urgent emergency medical attention immediately, Prompt action saves lives.

Coal Production Push with Revised Overburden Targets

Daily Target of 12.1 Lakh Cubic Metres of OB Removal Through Offloading
CMD Dr. Buddhaprakash Jyoti Directs General Managers of All Areas to Ensure Target Achievement

HYDERABAD



Singareni Chairman and Managing Director Dr. Buddhaprakash Jyoti directed the General Managers of all areas to ensure that the revised overburden (OB) removal targets are achieved on a daily basis, in view of the need to supply adequate coal to meet Telangana State's power requirements.

On Saturday, he conducted a review meeting on the performance of 19 offloading companies engaged in overburden removal operations across 15 open cast mines of Singareni. Addressing the meeting, Dr. Buddhaprakash Jyoti said that power consumption in the State is increasing significantly and that Singareni is implementing plans to supply adequate coal to thermal power stations accordingly. He stressed the need to achieve the revised OB removal targets in all open cast mines to support the increased coal supply requirements. He stated that a target of 1,205 lakh cubic metres of overburden removal had been set for the period from April to August of the current financial year. Against this target, 1,221 lakh cubic metres of overburden was removed, registering an achievement of 101 per cent. However, out of the 19 offloading companies, only eight had achieved 100 per cent of their OB removal targets up to the end of August. He directed the General Managers of the respective areas to ensure that the remaining companies improve their performance and extend full cooperation in achieving the assigned targets. He further stated that although the prescribed daily OB removal target for September was 7.28 lakh cubic metres, the target has now been enhanced to 12.1 lakh cubic metres per day in view of the increasing demand for coal. He directed all concerned to work towards achieving the revised daily target. The CMD instructed that the OB removal targets in all open cast mines must be achieved without fail. He noted that some offloading companies engaged in OB removal at JVR OC, Manuguru OC, GDK OC, RG OC-3, RG OC-2, KTK OC-2 and Srirampur OCs were lagging behind their targets. He directed them to clear the backlog while simultaneously achieving the newly assigned targets. During the meeting, the CMD also reviewed in detail the number of shovels and dumpers being deployed by each offloading company and the number required to achieve the assigned targets. He further directed the officials to expedite the tendering process for OB removal through offloading companies for the new open cast mines. Director (Operations) Sri L.V. Surya Narayana, Director (Projects & Planning) Sri K. Venkateshwarlu, Director (E&M) Sri M. Tirumala Rao, Executive Director (Coal Movement) Sri B. Venkanna, General Manager (Coordination & Marketing) Sri T. Srinivas, General Managers of all areas and Corporate General Managers participated in the meeting.

What happens to your money between Saturday and Sunday? Weekend economy has the answer

A new report on India's urban economy finds that 61.5% of weekly spending is concentrated in just two days, Saturday and Sunday. The average urban consumer spends Rs 6,724 on weekdays, compared with Rs 10,732 over the weekend.



Weekends are different from a weekday. You wake up later than you do on a weekday. There is no rush to get ready for work, no traffic to beat and, for once, breakfast is not something to be eaten while checking emails. Maybe there is a plan to step out with the family. A quick trip to the mall. Lunch outside. A movie. Some shopping that kept getting postponed all week. Perhaps groceries on the way back, and dinner ordered because nobody really wants to cook. Somewhere between Saturday morning and Sunday night, money that stayed relatively guarded through the week seems to find plenty of reasons to leave the bank account. It turns out this is not just a familiar urban routine. There is a larger consumption pattern behind it. A new report on India's urban economy finds that 61.5% of weekly spending is concentrated in just two days, Saturday and Sunday. The average urban consumer spends Rs 6,724 on weekdays, compared with Rs 10,732 over the weekend. That means the weekend is not merely a break from work anymore. It is becoming a significant consumption window — one in which shopping, entertainment, dining and even electronics see a sharp jump in spending. So, where exactly does all that money go?

WEEKEND HAS A DIFFERENT SHOPPING LIST

The first clue lies in what people choose to spend on. If weekdays are largely about routine, commuting, groceries, household expenses and getting through the working week. The weekend opens up room for spending on things that can wait. The report finds that spending on fashion and apparel more than doubles, rising from an average of Rs 529 on weekdays to Rs 1,075 on weekends. Entertainment sees almost the same jump, from Rs 328 to Rs 662. Electronics moves from Rs 330 to Rs 695. Dining and food delivery rises from Rs 525 to Rs 959. In other words, the categories that tend to accompany a day out, what you wear, where you eat, what you watch and what you buy — are precisely the ones seeing the strongest weekend surge. And this is what makes the weekend economy interesting. It isn't simply that people have two days in which they have more time to spend. The nature of spending itself changes. The weekend creates an opportunity for consumption that the weekday often doesn't.

THE MALL, RESTAURANT AND MOVIE THEATRE HAVE SOMETHING IN COMMON

Think of a typical Saturday afternoon. A family may go to a mall intending to buy one shirt. Lunch happens to be there. A child spots a toy. Someone needs a pair of shoes. There is a movie playing in the evening. Coffee follows. None of these expenses necessarily looked urgent on Monday. Together, they can make Saturday considerably more expensive. The report's numbers capture precisely this shift. Fashion and apparel spending is 2.03 times the weekday level on weekends. Entertainment is 2.02 times, while electronics is 1.99 times. Dining and food delivery is 1.83 times higher. Even categories that are less obviously associated with leisure rise over the weekend. Groceries are at 1.64 times weekday spending, while healthcare and beauty are at 1.54 times. So the weekend economy is not built around one big purchase. It is built around a collection of small decisions — many of them made because there is finally time.

WEEKEND SPENDING IS NOT JUST A METRO STORY

There is another reason these findings stand out. It would be easy to think that this is essentially a Mumbai-Bengaluru-Delhi phenomenon: people with higher incomes, large malls, restaurants, multiplexes and a highly developed retail ecosystem.The data doesn't quite tell that story. The six biggest cities — Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Kolkata and Hyderabad, have a weekend-to-weekday spending ratio of 1.65 times. The other 94 cities in the report have a ratio of 1.55 times. The gap exists, but it is not enormous. And some of the strongest weekend spending patterns are found outside the biggest metros. Jaipur has the highest weekend-to-weekday multiplier at 2.76 times. Surat follows at 2.44 times, Pune at 2.19 times and Kochi at 2.04 times. Indore is at 1.96 times, while Ahmedabad and Mumbai are both at 1.73 times. That is important because India's consumption story is no longer only about its biggest cities. As incomes rise and consumption options spread, smaller and mid-sized urban centres are developing their own versions of the weekend economy. The Saturday mall trip, Sunday restaurant meal or family outing is no longer an exclusively metropolitan ritual.

THE MORE YOU EARN, THE BIGGER YOUR WEEKEND SPLURGE

But there is a very clear dividing line in the data: income. The higher a person's income, the more dramatically spending shifts towards the weekend. For those earning below Rs 25,000 a month, weekend spending is 1.37 times weekday spending. For people earning Rs 25,000-50,000, the ratio rises to 1.56 times. For those earning Rs 50,000-1 lakh, it reaches 1.78 times. And for people earning more than Rs 1 lakh a month, weekend spending is 2.53 times weekday spending. The actual amounts make the contrast even clearer. Those in the highest income bracket spend an average Rs 21,779 over the weekend against Rs 8,622 on weekdays. That tells us something important about the weekend economy.

Beyond Menopause

Persistent fatigue, recurrent infections and unexplained blood-count changes can sometimes signal an underlying blood cancer

Persistent tiredness is one of the most common health complaints and is often linked to stress, lack of sleep, ageing or hormonal changes. For women approaching or going through menopause, fatigue can easily be attributed to changing hormone levels. But when exhaustion becomes unusual, severe or persistent, it may sometimes point to an underlying medical condition that needs closer attention. The experience of Sarah Chapman, a former NHS audiologist and keen hockey player, highlights why unexplained changes in health should not always be dismissed as a normal part of ageing. Chapman had been active and regularly donated blood, but in 2011 she began experiencing a level of exhaustion that was very different from ordinary tiredness. She also began falling ill more frequently, developed chest infections and noticed that wounds were taking longer than usual to heal. Despite consulting several specialists, Chapman said her symptoms were initially attributed to ageing and menopause. However, she continued to feel that something was wrong. Her haemoglobin levels eventually dropped so significantly that she was no longer able to donate blood. Night sweats and worsening skin problems also developed. During a walking holiday, her condition became even more apparent when she struggled to walk more than a few steps. Further medical investigations eventually revealed an abnormality in her blood. In 2013, she was diagnosed with myelodysplastic syndrome, or MDS, a group of disorders affecting the bone marrow and the production of healthy blood cells. Chapman was told that her condition could progress to acute leukaemia within three to five years. She underwent regular blood tests and bone marrow biopsies to monitor the disease. In June 2016, she was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia, or AML. Her story underlines an important medical message: persistent or unexplained symptoms should not automatically be dismissed as ageing, menopause or lifestyle-related fatigue. While such symptoms can have many harmless causes, changes in blood counts, recurrent infections, unexplained bleeding or severe weakness may require medical evaluation.



What Is Leukaemia?

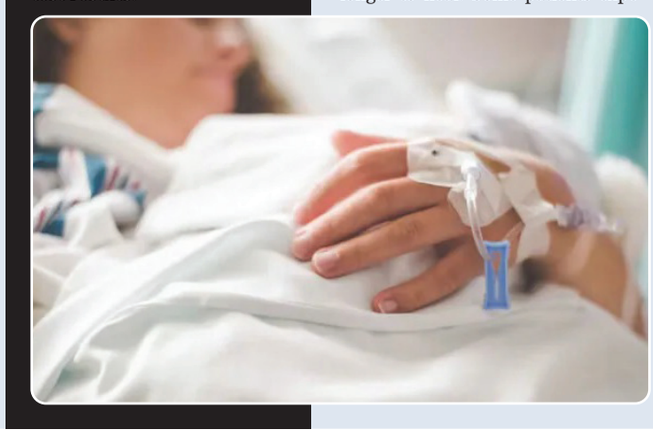
Leukaemia is a form of cancer that affects blood-forming tissues, particularly the bone marrow. The bone marrow is the soft tissue inside many bones where the body produces blood cells, including red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets. In a healthy person, these cells are produced in a carefully controlled process. Red blood cells carry oxygen throughout the body, white blood cells help fight infections and platelets play a major role in blood clotting. Leukaemia develops when abnormal blood-forming cells begin growing and multiplying uncontrollably. These abnormal cells can interfere with the production of healthy blood cells. As the number of healthy cells falls, the body may struggle to carry oxygen efficiently, fight infections or control bleeding. The symptoms of leukaemia can therefore vary considerably. Some people may experience gradual changes over months, while others may become seriously ill within a relatively short period. The speed at which the disease develops depends largely on the type of leukaemia.

Understanding the Major Types

Leukaemia is broadly classified according to the speed at which it develops and the type of blood cell involved. Acute leukaemia progresses rapidly and generally requires prompt medical treatment. The two major forms are acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, commonly known as ALL, and acute myeloid leukaemia, or AML. ALL affects immature lymphocytes, a type of white blood cell involved in the body's immune system. It is more common in children, although adults can also develop the disease. AML affects cells that normally develop into several types of blood cells, including certain white blood cells, red blood cells and platelets. It is one of the most common forms of acute leukaemia in adults. Chronic leukaemia generally develops more slowly. Its symptoms may initially be mild or may not be noticed at all. The two major types are chronic lymphocytic leukaemia, or CLL, and chronic myeloid leukaemia, or CML. Because these diseases behave differently, their diagnosis and treatment also vary. A person experiencing symptoms cannot determine the type of leukaemia based on symptoms alone. Blood tests, specialist evaluation and, in some cases, bone marrow testing are required.

Why Extreme Tiredness Can Matter

Fatigue is extremely common and does not automatically indicate cancer. People can feel tired because of poor sleep, stress, infections, nutritional deficiencies, hormonal changes, medication or a wide range of other conditions. However, fatigue associated with leukaemia can be unusually persistent and may gradually interfere with normal activities. One reason is anaemia, which occurs when the body does not have enough healthy red blood cells to transport oxygen effectively. As a result, a person may feel weak, exhausted or short of breath even after relatively minor physical activity. Someone who previously had no difficulty walking, exercising or completing household activities may suddenly find ordinary tasks unusually demanding. This type of fatigue may become particularly concerning when it occurs alongside other unexplained changes, such as recurrent infections, fever, night sweats, bruising or abnormal blood test results.



Symptoms That Should Not Be Ignored

Leukaemia does not always produce a distinctive set of symptoms. In its early stages, the signs can overlap with many common illnesses, making diagnosis difficult. Persistent weakness or unexplained fatigue can occur when healthy red blood cell production is reduced. Repeated infections may develop because abnormal blood cells interfere with the body's normal immune defences. Some people may experience fever or night sweats without an obvious infection. Pale skin can also occur because of anaemia. Unexplained weight loss or a reduced appetite may be another warning sign. A shortage of platelets can result in easy bruising or unusual bleeding. A person may notice frequent nosebleeds, bleeding gums or bruises appearing without a clear injury. Wounds may also take longer to heal. Some patients experience swollen lymph nodes, bone or joint pain, headaches, dizziness or breathlessness. These symptoms can have numerous causes, so they do not mean that a person has leukaemia. However, when several symptoms persist or occur together, medical assessment becomes important.

What Causes Leukaemia?

In most cases, there is no single identifiable cause of leukaemia. The disease generally develops after genetic changes occur in blood-forming cells, causing them to grow or divide abnormally. Researchers have identified several factors that may increase the risk of developing certain forms of leukaemia. Age is one factor, with some types becoming more common as people grow older. Previous exposure to certain cancer treatments, including chemotherapy or radiation therapy, can increase the risk of developing particular forms of leukaemia. Exposure to very high levels of radiation is also associated with increased risk. Certain chemical exposures, including benzene, have been linked with leukaemia. Smoking is also associated with an increased risk of AML. Some inherited genetic conditions can increase susceptibility to particular types of leukaemia. However, having a risk factor does not mean that someone will definitely develop the disease. Importantly, many people diagnosed with leukaemia have no obvious risk factors. The disease can therefore occur even in people who have otherwise been healthy and active.

The Link Between MDS and AML

Sarah Chapman's experience also highlights the relationship between myelodysplastic syndromes and acute myeloid leukaemia. MDS refers to a group of disorders in which the bone marrow does not produce healthy blood cells normally. The bone marrow may produce abnormal or poorly functioning cells, while the number of healthy blood cells can fall. Some people with MDS eventually develop AML. However, progression is not inevitable and the risk varies according to the specific type and characteristics of MDS. Because of this potential risk, people diagnosed with MDS may require regular monitoring. Doctors may use blood tests and bone marrow examinations to assess how the disease is behaving and whether there are signs of progression. Persistent abnormalities in blood counts should therefore be investigated rather than ignored. A routine blood test can sometimes provide an important clue that further examination is needed.

Treatment Can Also Be Challenging

Treatment for leukaemia depends on several factors, including the specific type of disease, its progression, the patient's age and overall health and certain characteristics of the cancer cells. Depending on the type of leukaemia, treatment may include chemotherapy, targeted medicines, immunotherapy, radiation in selected circumstances or stem-cell transplantation. Some patients may require a combination of treatments. Treatment can itself place considerable strain on the body. Chemotherapy, for example, can cause weakness, nausea, hair loss and reductions in healthy blood-cell counts. Lower blood counts can increase the risk of infections and bleeding. Advances in diagnosis and treatment have improved outcomes for many people with leukaemia. However, treatment remains highly individualised, and patients require close medical monitoring throughout the process.

When Should Fatigue Be Checked?

Feeling tired occasionally is normal. Busy schedules, inadequate sleep, stress and hormonal changes can all contribute to fatigue. The concern arises when tiredness is persistent, unexplained or significantly different from a person's usual energy levels. It is particularly important to seek medical advice when fatigue occurs alongside repeated infections, unexplained fever, night sweats, unusual bruising or bleeding, unexplained weight loss, breathlessness or other persistent changes. Women experiencing menopause may understandably attribute fatigue, sleep problems or changes in energy levels to hormonal changes. Menopause can indeed cause significant symptoms. But the presence of menopause does not rule out other medical conditions. The key is to look at the overall picture rather than assuming that every symptom has one explanation.

Why Blood Counts Are Important

Blood tests are among the important tools doctors use when investigating unexplained fatigue, recurrent infections or unusual bleeding. A complete blood count can provide information about the levels of red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets. Abnormal results do not necessarily mean cancer. Infections, nutritional deficiencies, medications and many other medical conditions can also alter blood counts. However, persistent or unexplained abnormalities may prompt doctors to conduct additional investigations. In some cases, a bone marrow biopsy may be required. During this procedure, doctors examine a sample of bone marrow to understand how blood cells are being produced and whether abnormal cells are present. For people with conditions such as MDS, repeated testing can help doctors monitor changes over time and identify progression as early as possible.

Complications Caused by Leukaemia

Many complications of leukaemia occur because abnormal cells interfere with the production of healthy blood cells. A shortage of red blood cells can result in severe anaemia. This may cause extreme tiredness, weakness, dizziness and breathlessness. Even routine physical activity can become difficult when the body's tissues are not receiving enough oxygen. A shortage of healthy white blood cells can make it harder for the immune system to fight infections. Patients may become more vulnerable to infections or may find that infections recur.

Early Attention Can Make a Difference

Sarah Chapman's journey illustrates how easily symptoms such as tiredness can be interpreted through the lens of ageing or menopause. Her eventual diagnosis shows why persistent changes in health deserve attention, particularly when they are accompanied by abnormal blood-test results or multiple unexplained symptoms. Leukaemia is a complex group of cancers, and its symptoms can resemble those of many less serious conditions. There is no single symptom that proves a person has the disease. At the same time, persistent fatigue, recurrent infections, unexplained bleeding, night sweats or unusual blood counts should not simply be ignored. Medical evaluation does not necessarily mean that cancer will be found. In many cases, symptoms have another explanation. But appropriate testing can help identify the underlying cause and, where necessary, allow treatment to begin sooner. The broader lesson is simple: unusual changes in the body should be taken seriously. Whether fatigue is related to menopause, anaemia, an infection or another condition, finding the reason behind persistent symptoms is better than simply accepting them as an inevitable part of getting older.

'I DEFINITELY KNOW HOW HIS MIND WORKS'

Shreyas Iyer on Gautam Gambhir

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 12



India captain Shreyas Iyer believes his strong understanding with head coach Gautam Gambhir will help the team maintain clear communication, confidence and an attacking mindset as India begin their T20 campaign against Afghanistan.

India will face Afghanistan in the first T20I at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi on Sunday. Iyer and Gambhir share a successful association from their time at Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), where they played key roles in the franchise's IPL title triumph in 2024. Iyer was the captain, while Gambhir served as the mentor.

Iyer said Gambhir's aggressive approach to the game and his ability to understand individual players would be important in helping the Indian team remain clear about its objectives and roles.

"I feel that he has got a very aggressive mindset. He is someone who is always looking to win when he steps onto the field. He wants every individual to perform, which is pretty much given as a coach. So, he builds a lot of trust and confidence amongst the team, and every player knows what their role and clarity is," Iyer said.

He also praised Gambhir's player-management skills, saying the coach understands that every player is different and needs to be handled accordingly.

"I think all these alignments are very much important when it comes to coaching skills, and he has got an amazing one-on-one player management approach. That is essential going forward in the tournament when you have that kind of relationship with every player because all of us are different in our own ways and you need to understand a certain player," he added.

Iyer understands Gambhir's approach

Iyer and Gambhir's tenure with the Indian team did not get off to the ideal start, with India suffering series defeats in Ireland and England. Iyer subsequently led India to a 3-0 series victory over Zimbabwe in July, with VVS Laxman serving as the stand-in head coach during that series.

However, Iyer's previous experience of working with Gambhir at KKR has given him a clear understanding of the coach's methods and expectations.

The India captain said their understanding would continue to develop as they spend more time together and play more matches.

"Both of us, Gauti bhai and I, have been in this scenario where we need to know the players and how they can deliver for the team. The more matches we win, the more we would be getting to know each other closely," Iyer said during the pre-match press conference on Saturday.

"I have worked with him in the past in KKR. So, I definitely know how his mind works and how his approach is going to be," he added.

India focused on Afghanistan challenge

With Afghanistan possessing several players who are familiar with Indian conditions through their experience in the IPL, Iyer acknowledged the quality of the opposition. However, he insisted that India would not look too far ahead and would concentrate entirely on the opening game.

"See, we will go game by game. We don't have to think too much about the future. We are thinking about the first game. We know that Afghanistan is a nice team, and our preparation has also been promising for the last couple of days. Players are in great shape and mindset," Iyer said.

He stressed the importance of staying focused on the present and executing their plans when the opportunity arrives.

"So, we have to stay in the present and see to it that we deliver when the time comes. Leading up to the Asian Games, we have got a great opportunity to play against a very quality side. So, looking for a great competition and yes, fingers crossed. We will deliver to the best of our abilities," he said.

Iyer excited about first Asian Games

Iyer is also looking forward to his first appearance at the Asian Games, where he will lead India as they attempt to defend the gold medal.

The India captain said he was particularly excited about interacting with athletes from different sporting disciplines and learning about their approach and mindset.

"It is definitely an exciting time for me and also for the team because it is going to be my first time, and there are a couple of players who have already been in the last Asian Games," Iyer said.

India's first match at the Asian Games will be against Japan, a fixture Iyer described as historic.

"The first match we are going to play is against Japan. So, that is going to be a historic one, and I will be sharing a relationship with the hockey players and other Olympic players and athletes who will be there along with us," he said.

Iyer said the opportunity to interact with athletes from other sports would be a memorable experience and that he hoped to attend some of their events and cheer for them.

"Definitely would be a great interaction, and I would be eagerly waiting to go there and interact with them and know what their mindset is. Probably go to one of the games and cheer for them as well," he said.

The India captain said the team would be representing the country as a whole and expressed confidence that they would return from the Asian Games with another gold medal.

"So, yes, we are going as a whole nation and then definitely we want to see to it that we come back triumphant," he concluded.



GCL Season 4: Defending champs

Alpine Pipers to face Ganges Grandmasters in title clash

BENGALURU, SEP 12

Defending champions Alpine APL Pipers and Ganges Grandmasters will face each other in the Season 4 finale of the Global Chess League (GCL) in Bengaluru despite both the teams losing their final league clash but advancing to the title clash as the result of the third match went their way.

Time & Calendars

Both Alpine APL Pipers and Ganges Grandmasters went into the final round-robin matches with 18 match points, and a win against teams who were at the bottom of the standings would have been enough for them to ensure a final berth.

However, two-time champions Triveni Continental Kings threw the race to the final wide open as they became the first team in Season 4 to win both the matches against the Pipers, winning 11-6 in the first match of the day. Their loss meant that Ganges Grandmasters needed to score just one game point against PBG Alaskan Knights with black pieces to advance to the final on better game point score.

That target was achieved with Ian Nepomniachtchi drawing against Viswanathan Anand on the icon board and Stavroula Tsolakidou defeating Nino Batsiashvili to put the Grandmasters ahead.

But Player of the Match Abhimanyu Mishra got the better of Luke Leon Mendonca in 32 moves on the prodigy board, and Grandmasters' Leinier Dominguez Perez lost on time in a time scramble when he knocked off a few pieces while trying to play fast. FYERS American Gambits then had to beat CheQ Mumba Masters and also score a minimum of nine points to advance to the final ahead of the Pipers.

Led by Candidates 2026 winner Javokhir Sindarov on the icon board, the Gambits looked on course despite Marc'Andrea Maurizzi losing after a blunder against Bardiya Daneshvar on the prodigy board and Carissa Yip beating Sara Khadem.

Sindarov was clearly in a winning position against Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, and Nihal Sarin was also looking good to beat M Pranesh, and two wins with black pieces could have seen their team through. But Nihal made an error under pressure and lost on time, thereby reducing Sindarov's victory to merely a consolation win as they lost the match 11-6.

The two teams will now once again face off on Sunday in the third-place play-off.

Earlier, Alpine APL Pipers looked on course in the first few minutes of the match before Aravindh Chithambaram began tightening the noose around Vidit Gujrathi's white king. Despite the time scramble in the endgame, Aravindh managed to convert the position and won the match in 36 moves.

BSF's Kalyani Vishwakarma wins historic Asian Karate silver



NEW DELHI, Sept. 12: BSF woman constable Kalyani Vishwakarma scripted history by becoming the first Indian woman to win a silver medal at the Senior Asian Karate Championships, held in Amman, Jordan, from September 9 to 11.

Competing in the Kumite +68 kg category, Kalyani became the first Indian woman to reach the championship final before securing the silver medal.

The BSF congratulated Kalyani and her coach, calling the achievement a historic milestone for Indian women's karate and a proud moment for the force and the nation.

HAVE PLANS TO COUNTER BUMRAH, SAYS ZADRAN

New Delhi, Sept. 12: Afghanistan captain Ibrahim Zadran said his team has devised plans to counter India's premier pacer Jasprit Bumrah ahead of Sunday's opening T20I at the Arun Jaitley Stadium.

Bumrah is returning to international cricket after recovering from a left knee injury. Zadran, who considers Bumrah one of the best fast bowlers, said Afghanistan would keep its approach simple and focus on executing its plans.

Zadran also said the team has studied teenage Indian opener Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, using inputs from teammates who faced him in the IPL. "We have already watched his videos and will try to execute the right plans at the right time," he said.



Taking over the T20I captaincy from Rashid Khan, Zadran said their strong understanding would help Afghanistan. He added that the team was familiar with Indian conditions after playing several matches and tournaments in the country.

Afghanistan have never beaten India but came close in the 2024 T20I series, which featured two Super Overs in Bengaluru. Zadran said his side would focus on the process rather than the result and hoped to win both a game and the series.

He also praised new coach Richard Pybus for building on the work of former coach Jonathan Trott. Zadran said the team was focusing on areas that needed improvement at the international level.

Calling the series a "great achievement" for Afghan cricket, Zadran said playing India in their home country represented a significant milestone. As captain, he said handling pressure, making the right decisions and keeping the team composed would be key to his leadership.

Harmanpreet urges India to 'take responsibility' AGAINST SRI LANKA IN ASIA CUP FINAL

DUBAI, SEPT. 12

India captain Harmanpreet Kaur has urged her team to step up and take responsibility when it matters most as India face Sri Lanka in the Women's Asia Cup final in Dubai on Sunday.

India have been heavily dependent on their opening pair during the tournament, with Smriti Mandhana scoring 154 runs and Shafali Verma contributing 168. With the title at stake, Harmanpreet will be hoping the middle order steps up and shares the scoring responsibility in the crucial final.

"We know we have such a good batting line-up, and I think when you have such a good batting line-up, it is only about whoever is doing well on that day," Harmanpreet said, according to the ICC website.



"That person should take responsibility and finish the game for the team. I think that is the key on this pitch," she added.

Captain pleased with all-round contributions

India have seen different players emerge as match-winners during the tournament, something that has particularly pleased Harmanpreet ahead of the final. "It is good to see that whoever gets the opportunity is coming up with solid performances," she said.

"We have managed to get runs on the board, and our bowlers are coming up with some really solid performances. So overall, I'm really happy with the way we have played so far."

The captain will now expect the team to produce another collective performance in the final, with India looking to maintain their momentum and secure the Asia Cup title.

Sri Lanka pose a tough challenge

Sunday's final will be a repeat of the 2024 Asia Cup title clash, when Sri Lanka produced a memorable performance to stun India and lift the trophy. Harmanpreet is expecting another closely fought contest and believes Sri Lanka will once again come into the final with well-planned strategies.

"I think the last time we played against Sri Lanka, they came up with some really solid plans and performances," Harmanpreet said. She stressed that T20 cricket often comes down to which side executes its plans better on the day.

"Winning in T20 cricket is all about who plays better cricket on the day," she said.

With the title on the line, Harmanpreet will look to her experienced players to handle the pressure while expecting every member of the squad to contribute when given an opportunity.

India's strong start in the tournament has given them confidence, but the captain knows that the final presents a different challenge, particularly against a Sri Lankan side that has already demonstrated its ability to defeat India in a major final.

Archery Premier League Season 2 to feature 36 Indian, 12 international archers

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 12

The Archery Premier League (APL) is set to return for its second season with an expanded field featuring 36 of India's leading archers and 12 international stars representing 10 countries. The tournament will be held in Hyderabad from October 8 to 18.

Four-time Olympian Deepika Kumari and World Championship silver medallist Atanu Das will lead India's recurve contingent, alongside reigning Asian champion Dhiraj Bommadevara, according to a release.

India's compound section will also feature a strong line-up, spearheaded by multiple-time World Cup and Asian Games champion Jyothi Surekha Vennam and former World No. 1 Abhishek Verma. Former World Champion Ojas Pravin Deotale will also be part of the Indian squad.

The domestic stars will face a formidable international line-up that includes Tokyo 2020 Olympic champion Mete Gazoz of Türkiye, Paris 2024 Olympic bronze medallist Casey Kaufhold of the United States, World No. 1 Marcus D'Almeida of Brazil, World No. 2 Ella Gibson of Great Britain and Dutch compound star Mike Schloesser, a former World Champion and four-time World Cup Final winner.

Adding further significance to the tournament, all 12 members of India's archery squad for the upcoming Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya later this month are part of the APL ecosystem. This gives the league a direct connection with India's immediate international campaign and provides the country's leading archers with another competitive platform ahead of major events.

Speaking about the upcoming season, Anil Kamineni, Director of the Archery Premier League, said the second edition would build on the response generated by the inaugural season.

"Following an incredible response to our inaugural season, we are ready to deliver an even bigger Season 2. Having the world's top international archers join our league transforms the APL into a truly global spectacle, while continuing to give our Indian archers an invaluable competitive platform to test themselves directly against the best in the world," he said.

Mix of established stars and emerging talent

The 36-member Indian roster has been selected on the basis of World Archery and national rankings. It features a combination of established international performers and emerging Indian talent.

Twenty-one archers from the inaugural season will return for the second edition, while 15 archers will make their APL debut.

Among the debutants are World Championships silver medallist Rajat Chauhan and World Cup stage gold medallist Ridhi. World University Games gold medallist Kushal Dalal and junior national champion Kirti Sharma will also make their first appearances in the league, according to the release.

The APL was initiated by the Archery Association of India (AAI) with the support of the Government of Telangana. The six-franchise league will feature mixed-gender teams competing in both the Recurve and Compound categories.

15-second shot clock adds pressure

One of the major features of the Archery Premier League will once again be its 15-second shot clock. The time limit is five seconds faster than the standard Olympic timing.

The format is aimed at testing the archers' decision-making, speed and composure under pressure, while adding another competitive dimension to the team-based format.

Season 2 will be conducted over 11 days, with matches scheduled from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm each evening at People's Plaza on Hyderabad's Necklace Road.

The organisers are looking to build on the audience engagement generated by the inaugural edition, which saw Rajputana Royals become the first champions in APL history. The first season also attracted a significant digital audience among younger viewers.

With an expanded field comprising established Indian stars, promising emerging archers and some of the world's leading international names, the second season is expected to further strengthen India's domestic competitive archery landscape while taking the sport to a wider audience.

Complete APL Season 2 roster

Compound Men — India:

Rishabh Yadav, Kushal Dalal, Sahil Rajesh Jadhav, Abhishek Verma, Thirumuru Ganesh Mani Ratnam, Ojas Pravin Deotale, Shivshankar Sakharam Landkar, Aman Saini, Rajat Chauhan.

Compound Men — Foreign:

Mike Schloesser (Netherlands), Mathias Fullerton (Denmark), Nico Wiener (Austria).

Compound Women — India:

Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Parneet Kaur, Madhura Dhamangaonkar, Taniparthi Chikitha, Prithika Pradeep, Jasveer Kaur, Swati Dudhwal, Raj Kaur, Avneet Kaur.

Compound Women — Foreign:

Andrea Maya Becerra Arizaga (Mexico), Ella Gibson (Great Britain), Alejandra Usquiano (Colombia).

Recurve Men — India:

Bommadevara Dhiraj, Neeraj Chauhan, Yashdeep Bhoge, Atanu Das, Mrinal Chauhan, Rohit Kumar, Pawan, Abhyuday Amol Pakhale, Juyel Sarkar.

Recurve Men — Foreign:

Marcus D'Almeida (Brazil), Matias Grande (Mexico), Mete Gazoz (Türkiye).

Recurve Women — India:

Deepika Kumari, Kirti Sharma, Kumkum Anil Mohod, Ankita Bhakat, Sangeeta, Simranjeet Kaur, Ridhi, Kondapavuluri Yuktha Sri, Gatha Anandrao Khadake.

Recurve Women — Foreign:

Casey Kaufhold (USA), Alejandra Valencia Trujillo (Mexico), Elia Canales (Spain).

Srilatha Shines With Natural Chemistry



The upcoming film Idupu Kayitham is steadily building buzz for December release. The film is produced by Bunny Vas and Thabitha Sukumar under Bunny Vas Works and Sukumar Writings banner. The film is directed by Vamsi Reddy Dondapati. The film has struck the right chord with its first single Srilatha. The song arrives as a refreshing romantic melody that perfectly blends fun, love, and Telangana culture. It is the kind of breezy number that instantly reminds you of feel-good romantic chartbusters. The visuals are a major winner. From the beautiful stretches of Tank Bund to the iconic Secretariat, every frame looks vibrant and colorful. The lyrical video gets an extra layer of charm as Suresh Bobbili is seen enjoying the composing process on location, while the little girls' dance sequences add an irresistible aesthetic appeal. Alaraju pens lyrics that are simple, catchy, and deeply rooted in Telangana slang and culture. The voices of Shankar Babu, Mohana Bhogaraju, Seelam Punnamma, and Bollepogula Subhadra bring wonderful energy, making the melody both soulful and instantly hummable. Priyadarshi and Naga Durga steal the show with their effortless chemistry. Their playful romance and energetic dance moves make Srilatha a song every young couple will enjoy watching and listening to on repeat.

AK47 Teaser: Family Hero Venky's Action Mode



Aadarsha Kutumbam brings the most celebrated actor-director duo Victory Venkatesh and Trivikram Srinivas. The film has built solid buzz with the character teasers. The wait is over as the teaser of Aadarsha Kutumbam – AK47 is now out, and it promises a rollercoaster ride of action, fun, and wholesome family entertainment. The celebrated reunion looks every bit entertaining, with the teaser striking the perfect balance between laughter and high-energy action. Set against the backdrop of a vibrant middle-class family, the teaser showcases the entertaining lives of Chittibabu and Swarna. Venkatesh's effortless humour and Srinidhi Shetty's lively presence create delightful moments, while glimpses of intense action hint at an exciting commercial entertainer. Trivikram's writing once again steals the show with dialogues and entertaining situations that instantly connect with audiences. The film brings together a powerful ensemble featuring Nara Rohith, Nivetha Pethuraj, Satya, Rao Ramesh, Brahmaji, Vennela Kishore, Raghu Babu, Udaybir Sandhu, Yuvina Parthavi, Raj Prajwal, and many more. Produced by Haarika & Hassine Creations, Aadarsha Kutumbam – AK47 is gearing up for a worldwide theatrical release on October 2, 2026.

Happy Journey Trailer: Witness A World Of Emotions

Happy Journey is a unique travel-based film, directed by first-timer Abhiramm Naidu and produced by Balaji Gutta and Koushik Reddy under the banners of Gutta Productions and Kamalakar Film Corporation. A holiday with strangers can be exciting, unpredictable, and sometimes chaotic. Happy Journey takes that familiar idea and gives it an interesting twist by bringing seven women from different walks of life together for a trip across Europe. The trailer opens on a humorous note, with Annapurnamma asking the tourist guide about serving alcohol during their flight to Europe, where she travels with six other women. What initially appears to be a carefree vacation soon turns into an entertaining clash of contrasting personalities. Each woman has her own way of looking at life, leading to amusing disagreements and comic situations before they gradually develop a strong bond. The film's biggest attraction is arguably its unusual combination of characters. Director Abhiram Naidu chose a light-hearted treatment while keeping the emotional relationships at the centre. The lead cast gets ample space to establish their individual characters, and the performances appear natural and engaging. Amani, Anchor Jhansi, Payal Radhakrishna, Jinisha Alishetty, Roopaa Srinivas, and Sunaina are the other central characters. Manikandan Subramaniyan's camera work captures the European landscapes beautifully, giving the film a vibrant travel-film feel. Shekar Chandra's music enhances both the fun and emotional portions. Happy Journey looks like an entertaining blend of travel, friendship, comedy, and a world of emotions. The film is gearing up for its theatrical release on September 18.





Anupama's Bold Lip Steals The Show

Anupama Parameswaran kept her outfit minimal this time, but her lipstick did all the heavy lifting. Dressed in a crisp white pantsuit, Anupama let a bold, statement red lip take centre stage in her latest pictures.Against the all-white palette, the deep red instantly popped, giving the entire look an edge it wouldn't have had otherwise. Paired with loose curls, chunky gold jewellery, and a confident smile, the lipstick tied the whole styling together, proving how one strong colour choice can change the mood of a look completely. Fans in the comments couldn't stop talking about how the bold lip elevated her otherwise simple outfit, with many calling it the highlight of the shoot. Sometimes it really is all about the lips.

Namitha Questions The Thali Tradition



Actress Namitha, who was once a popular star heroine in the South Indian film industry, has been away from films after getting married. However, she is now back in the spotlight with her recent comments on marriage, traditions, and the unequal expectations placed on women. Speaking about the institution of marriage, Namitha questioned why customs and responsibilities associated with married life are often imposed more heavily on women. She pointed out that marriage is a bond between two individuals that brings together their lives and emotions, and therefore, she believes that the rules and expectations surrounding it should be equal for both partners. According to Namitha, society has numerous expectations from women after marriage. Women are often told how they should dress, what they should wear, and which traditions they should follow as a symbol of their marital status. However, similar restrictions and expectations are rarely imposed on men.m She particularly questioned the tradition of women wearing a *thali* (mangalsutra) as a symbol of marriage. Namitha wondered why only women should be expected to wear a visible symbol of their marital status and suggested that men could also wear something to signify that they are married. Her comments have sparked a mixed response on social media. While some netizens have supported her views, arguing that husbands and wives should enjoy equal rights and importance in a modern marriage, others have criticized her for questioning traditions that have been followed for generations. Namitha's remarks have once again triggered a wider conversation about whether traditional expectations surrounding marriage should evolve with changing times and whether marital customs should apply equally to both men and women.

'3 Flowers' bilingual film opens grandly



The new film '3 Flowers' being produced by 'Vizag Friends Team'. The muhurta ceremony of this film, which is being shot simultaneously in Telugu and Hindi languages, was held in a grand manner at the film office in Hyderabad in the presence of the film crew and film celebrities. While Nupur Mukherjee, Adithi and Padma are playing the female leads in this film.. Ajay Ghosh, Kalakeya Prabhakar and Jabardasth Chalaki Chanti will be entertaining in key roles. Speaking on the occasion, director Ajay AJ said, "The story and screenplay will be new, and this drama revolving around the three heroines will impress the audience immensely. We will start regular shooting soon with the help of senior actors." The director said that the story, screenplay, and direction of this film are by Ajay AJ, cinematography by Manu, production by Vizag Friends Team, and the lead actors are Nupur Mukherjee, Adithi, Padma, Ajay Ghosh, Kalakeya Prabhakar, Jabardasth Chalaki Chanti and others.

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