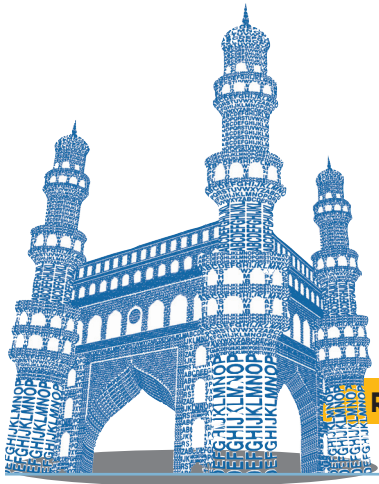




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HOLIDAY NOTICE

The offices of Hyderabad Headlines will remain closed on Monday on account of Ganesh Chaturthi. There will be no issue of the paper on Tuesday, September 15. For the latest local news and live updates, visit our digital portal.

www.hyderabadheadlines.com

SHORT

TAKES

RAHUL: 80% INDIANS ARE NON-VEGETARIAN

NEW DELHI, sep 13 : Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday said 80 per cent of Indians are non-vegetarian and praised Indian non-vegetarian cuisine as "delicious", a day after an all-vegetarian spread was served at the BRICS Summit gala dinner hosted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Bharat Mandapam.

In posts on X, Facebook and Instagram, Gandhi wrote, "For the record: 80% of Indians are non-vegetarian. Indian non-vegetarian food is delicious. As are my sister's chole bhature." He also shared a picture of chole bhature.

The gala dinner featured Khandvi Mille and Khumb Galouti as starters, followed by Paneer Lababdar, Gucchi Marmik, Carrot Bean Poriyal, millet pulao, beetroot raita, assorted breads and Thakkali Belle Saaru. Desserts included Old Delhi fruit cream with jalebi and Shahtoost phirni.

Modi flags 'weaponisation' of TECH, CRITICAL MINERALS

PM calls for greater BRICS cooperation to tackle conflicts, supply-chain disruptions and challenges facing Global South



NEW DELHI, SEP 13

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday warned that the "weaponisation" of technology and critical minerals could undermine shared prosperity, calling on BRICS nations to strengthen cooperation and ensure that technological progress remains inclusive and accessible.

Addressing the concluding session of the two-day, India-hosted BRICS Summit, Modi said the grouping must work together to address emerging global challenges, mitigate the impact of conflicts on ordinary people and develop solutions that benefit the wider Global South.

He said developing nations were increasingly placing their trust in BRICS because the grouping provided a platform where their voices were heard, their experiences valued and solutions developed in partnership rather than imposed upon them.

The summit brought together the leaders of 11 major emerging econ-

omies representing around 49.5 per cent of the global population and 40 per cent of global GDP. It concluded with key outcomes spanning logistics supply chains, start-ups, infectious disease control, digital agriculture, disaster management and clean energy.

Technology must remain inclusive

"The weaponisation of technology and critical minerals can hinder our shared progress," Modi said, stressing the importance of inclusivity in the adoption of new technologies. His comments came amid growing international concerns over China's restrictive policies on exports of critical minerals and its reluctance to share high-end technologies.

"We may be rooted in different realities, but together, we rise through cooperation and blossom for humanity," Modi said, adding that BRICS' diversity should become its strength and cooperation its inspiration.

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Congress calls Modi-Xi outreach 'CALIBRATED CAPITULATION'

NEW DELHI, SEP 13

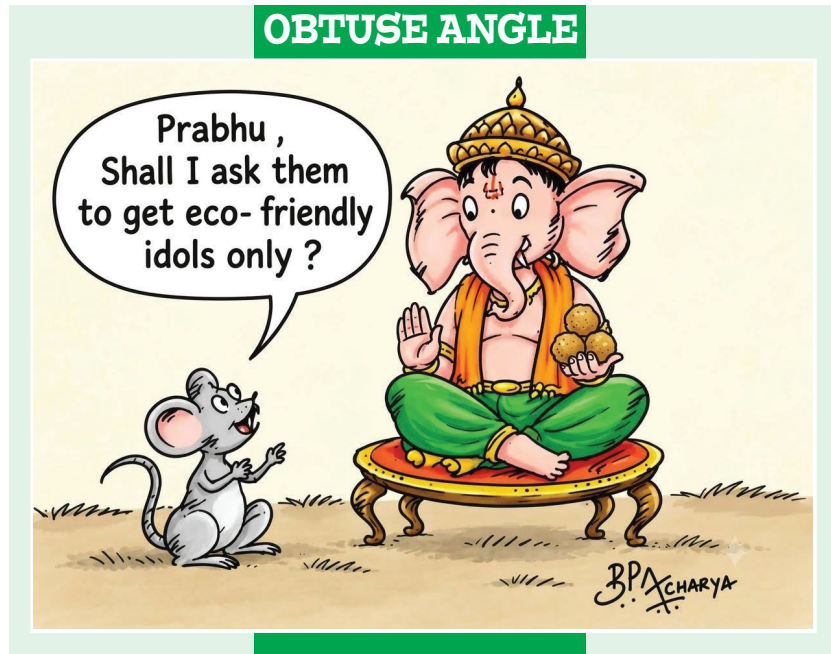
The Congress on Sunday stepped up its attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi following his bilateral meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, questioning the government's claim of "steady progress" in relations with Beijing and describing its approach as "calibrated capitulation".

Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh raised four questions concerning the June 2020 Galwan clash, the border situation in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh, China's support for Pakistan and India's widening trade deficit with China.

His statement came a day after Modi and Xi met on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in



CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >



People's Govt Respects ARYA VYSYA COMMUNITY

Corporation Chairmen posts were already given to the Vysya community

CM Revanth Reddy remembers former AP CM K Rosaiah's services

Mahatma Gandhi is a popular global leader

CM Revanth Reddy laid the foundation stone for Arya Vy-sya Atma Gourava Bhavanam at Uppal Bhagayat in Hydera-bad today.

HYDERABAD , SEP 13

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has said that the People's Government



represented to a corporation Chairman post. The key post of Chairperson of his own Kodangal Municipality

was also given to the Arya Vysya community, the CM said that the unity of the community is important to claim their due

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Jain philosophy offers timeless wisdom for a peaceful world: Governor

Hyderabad, Sept.13: The profound philosophy of Jainism, with its emphasis on ahimsa (non-violence), aparigraha (non-possessiveness) and anekantavada (plurality of viewpoints), embodies timeless wisdom that is of profound relevance to the contemporary world, Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

BJP demands Cong govt include Sept 17 HISTORY IN TEXTBOOKS

HYDERABAD, SEPT.13

JP Telangana State President N Ramchander Rao on Sunday said that the sacrifices of Operation Polo martyrs are memorable who laid down their lives for the integrity of India.

Marking the commencement day of Operation Polo (September 13), Rao paid rich tributes to the martyrs and grandly felicitated ex-servicemen at the historic War Tank on Tank Bund under the auspices of the Telangana State Liberation



Festival Committee.

Speaking on the occasion, he praised the War Tank located on Tank Bund as a continuous source of inspiration for the people of

Telangana. He stated: "If not for the firm resolve of Iron Man Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the initiative of K.M. Munshi, and the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Won't Leave Congress: Konda Murali

HYDERABAD, SEPT.13

Reaffirming his steadfast commitment to the Congress party, former MLC and senior leader Konda Murali made it clear that he has no intention of leaving the organisation following the recent removal of his wife, Konda Surekha, from the State Cabinet.

Addressing party cadres in Warangal for the first time since the cabinet development on Sunday, Murali stated that political posts are transitory, but integrity and loyalty remain non-negotiable for their family. He revealed that Konda Surekha chose dismissal over tendering an apology, prioritising self-respect over office.

He reiterated that his primary goal remains making Rahul Gandhi the Prime Minister, advising cadres to avoid backstabbing the organisation while remaining within its ranks. Konda Murali announced that he handed over party responsibilities for Warangal East to Naveen Raj, declaring a goal to win 24 corporator seats. He clarified that ticket allocation will be strictly performance-based and explicitly distanced himself from his daughter Sushmita's differing political stance. The Congress leader challenged critics to prove any land encroachment charges against him, pledging to quit politics entirely if illegal occupation is substantiated. Konda Murali stated his willingness to liquidate another 10 acres of land to financially support loyal party workers, describing the cadre as his core strength.

NO RESTRICTIONS ON PRIVATE VEHICLES TO TIRUMALA – TTD

Tirumala, Sept.13: Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has appealed to its devotees not to believe in fake propaganda making rounds on social media platforms over that restrictions are being imposed on private vehicles. The reports said that only 15,000 vehicles would be permitted per day to Tirumala. Afterwards the vehicles would be halted at checkpoint itself.

TTD has clarified that these reports are completely false. No such decision has been taken regarding the number of private vehicles permitted to travel to Tirumala. And appealed to devotees not to believe the misinformation being circulated on social media. TD also stated that important decisions and official information would be communicated only through the official TTD website and its channel.

Vigneshwara is a guiding light: Former Minister Harish Rao

Siddipet, Sept.13: Former Minister and BRS party MLA Harish Rao on Sunday stated that Lord Vigneshwara was not merely a deity but a guiding light for people belonging to Hindu community. He spoke as the chief guest at a program organized by the Amarnath Annadana Seva Samithi near the Venkateswara Temple in Siddipet town, where clay Vinayaka idols were distributed.

Speaking on the occasion, He remarked that the size of the idol was not what matters; rather, the devotion and sincerity with which it is worshipped are paramount. He recalled his earlier suggestion that a single clay idol should be installed and worshipped for each village. He announced that he would construct a permanent

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

TG AIMS TO BECOME ROBOTIC SURGERY HUB: RAJANARSIMHA



HYDERABAD, SEPT.13

The Telangana government is prioritising a comprehensive overhaul of state medical services, aiming to establish the region as a hub for advanced robotic surgery, Health Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha announced on Sunday.

Speaking at the inauguration of a state-level multi-specialty robotic surgery workshop at TIMS Hospital in Sanath Nagar,

Rajanarsimha outlined plans to introduce robotic surgical units across Government General Hospitals (GGHs) and major teaching facilities within the next six months.

Following the milestone of 1,000 successful robotic procedures at NIMS Hospital, the government plans to extend these services to MNJ Cancer Hospital, the new Osmania, Gandhi, and

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CEMENTING DREAMS WITH SUPERIOR STRENGTH.

GERMAN TECHNOLOGY
ROBOTIC QUALITY CONTROL
TAMPER PROOF PACKING

3 TIMES BETTER

Devotion with a Green Promise: FREE CLAY IDOLS DISTRIBUTED ON VINAYAKA CHAVITHI

Eco-friendly celebrations to curb pollution—spreading responsibility and safe immersion for a cleaner nature

Medchal-Malkajgiri, Sept 13: On the occasion of Vinayaka Chavithi, devotees in Balanagar received free clay Ganesha idols at Raju Colony Gandhi statue on Sunday—an inspiring initiative aimed at strengthening environmental protection while honoring faith with responsibility.

The programme was organised under the leadership of Balanagar Congress leaders Srinivas Goud and Mallikarjun, following the suggestions of Zaheerabad MP Suresh Kumar Shetkar. In Kukatpally, Kukatpally Constituency In-charge and Khamma Corporation Chairman Bandi Ramesh, along with Kukatpally Market Committee Chairman Pushpa Reddy, former Vice-Chairman Laxman, and Balanagar Congress President Puli Shiva Kumar Goud, participated and distributed the idols.

Speaking on the occasion, Bandi Ramesh said that the Congress government is encouraging citizens to choose eco-friendly clay idols and making arrangements for their large-scale distribution through municipalities, the Environment Department, and voluntary organisations. He emphasised that festival celebrations



should also reflect devotion through care for the land, water, and air that sustain life.

The event blended spirituality and civic responsibility. Leaders spoke to devotees about how choosing clay idols—traditionally made and naturally biodegradable—helps reduce harmful pollution and supports safer immersion practices, protecting local water bodies and the environment for future generations.

Prominent leaders and supporters who attended included Medchal DCC

Vice-President Puli Srikanth Patel, Official Spokesperson Madhu Mohan, senior leaders Satyapal Reddy, Mahankali Srinivas, Srikanth Goud, Sada Goud, Dandu Ravi Goud, Jalla Shiva, Javed, and Bharat, along with women leaders Sai Bharathi, Padmavati, Urmila, and Shremalatha.

With this initiative, the Vinayaka Chavithi celebration in Balanagar carried a powerful message: true devotion is also responsibility—toward Ganesha, and toward safe, protected nature.

Modi flags ‘weaponisation’ of TECH, CRITICAL MINERALS



➤FROM PAGE 1

The Prime Minister made the remarks in the presence of Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, among other leaders.

Four pillars of India's BRICS chairship

Modi said India's chairship of BRICS had focused on four pillars — resilience, innovation, co-operation and sustainability.

He said the objective was to promote inclusive global growth and ensure that solutions developed within BRICS did not remain confined to member countries but could be adapted and made accessible to the wider Global South.

“I am pleased that, with all your cooperation and support, we have been able to translate our shared vision into win-win cooperation,” he said.

Pointing to the growing number of conflicts and tensions worldwide, Modi said their consequences were increasingly affecting ordinary people.

“Today, the number of conflicts and tensions in the world is continuously increasing, and this is having an increasingly negative and far-reaching impact on the lives of ordinary people,” he said.

He noted that pandemics, climate disasters and supply-chain disruptions had demonstrated that no crisis could remain confined to one region in an interconnected world.

Focus on early warnings, resilient supply chains

Under the resilience pillar, BRICS countries agreed on an Integrated Early Warning System for preventing and responding to infectious diseases.

“Early Warning Data Integration Guidelines have been prepared for disaster management,” Modi said, underlining the need for timely identification of risks and coordinated responses.

The BRICS Logistics Supply Chain Cooperation Framework is expected to help make supply chains more reliable and resilient amid continuing geopolitical and economic disruptions.

Under the innovation pillar, the BRICS Incubator Network will connect start-ups and incubators across member nations. India has also proposed a BRICS Startup Innovation Fund to promote innovative and scalable solutions.

AI, digital technology for farmers

The Prime Minister highlighted the BRICS Network on Digital Agriculture, saying it would open



new opportunities for farmers by connecting artificial intelligence, geospatial technologies and Digital Public Infrastructure with agricultural needs.

He said BRICS cooperation should extend beyond governments and involve entrepreneurs, farmers, researchers, women, youth and ordinary citizens.

Through BRICS CONNECT, India has promoted skills, employability, women's participation in the workforce, social security and capacity building.

The BRICS MSME Cooperation Portal has been launched to connect small enterprises with knowledge, finance and new markets, while the BRICS Urban Mobility Hub will facilitate the sharing of best practices among cities.

Development and environment ‘complementary’

Modi also stressed the importance of sustainable development, saying India's civilisational outlook viewed nature as a mother.

“In Indian civilisation, nature has been accorded the status of a mother. For centuries, we have believed that development and the environment are not alternatives to each other, but are complementary,” he said.

He said BRICS had similarly emphasised the need to balance human development with environmental protection, describing sustainability as both a foundation for development and a responsibility towards future generations.

A BRICS Digital Centre of Excellence has been established to support smart grids and energy storage, with Modi saying it would help make clean-energy systems more reliable, efficient and accessible.

Summit amid geopolitical, economic uncertainty

The summit was held against the backdrop of continuing global economic and geopolitical uncertainty, including the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the West Asia crisis and concerns over the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz.

The Trump administration's trade and tariff policies have further complicated the global economic environment, affecting trade, supply chains and growth prospects.

Against this backdrop, BRICS sought to deepen cooperation among emerging economies while strengthening its role as a platform for the concerns and priorities of the Global South.

Cyberabad traffic police catch 292 for drunk driving during weekend checks

Hyderabad, Sept.13: Cyberabad Traffic Police (CTP) has conducted a special drunk driving enforcement drive over the weekend, resulting in the apprehension of 292 offenders.

The total cases booked 240 two wheelers, 12 three wheelers and 40 four wheeler based on their Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) levels 248 offenders had BAC levels ranging from 36 mg/100 ml to 200 mg/100 ml , 30 offenders had BAC

levels ranging from 201 mg/100 ml to 300 mg/100 ml and 14 offenders had BAC levels ranging from 301 mg/100 ml to 550 mg/100 ml

All the offenders will be produced before the Court.

Cyberabad Police reiterate that driving under the influence of alcohol is a serious offence. If anyone is found to be driving in an inebriated condition and causes a fatal accident, such individuals will be booked under

Section 105 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (Culpable Homicide Not Amounting to Murder). The maximum punishment under this section is 10 years of imprisonment along with a fine.

In the last week (September 7 to 12) a total 681 drunk driving cases were disposed in the courts, in which 18 persons got fine and jail , 7 persons got fine and social service and 656 persons got fine only.

Vigneshwara is a guiding light: Former Minister Harish Rao

➤FROM PAGE 1

shed for any village or ward that installs just one clay idol.

He noted that immersing chemically treated Vinayaka idols in ponds kills aquatic life and contaminates the soil potentially leading to dangerous health issues like cancer. He explained that the form of Lord Vinayaka conveys many messages. “His large head signifies the importance of thinking big and his large ears suggest listening to the people while his small eyes indicate the need to focus on one's goal. His trunk teaches us to move forward while adapting to changing circumstances. Therefore, Ganapati is not just a god to be worshipped but a guide for our lives,” he said.

He stated that the people

of Telangana possess a magnificent culture that cherishes nature and flowers. He mentioned that the Amarnath Annadana Seva Samithi had earned renown across South India. He remarked that providing services in the snow-capped mountains for 16 years under the aegis of the Amarnath Annadana Seva Samithi was a remarkable achievement. He commended the initiative of distributing 10,000 clay idols annually in Siddipet for the past 16 years reflecting a love for nature. Noting that it is customary to worship Lord Vigneshwara before undertaking any endeavor, he expressed the hope that, with the Lord's blessings, everyone would remain healthy and happy.

TG AIMS TO BECOME ROBOTIC SURGERY HUB: RAJANARSIMHA

➤FROM PAGE 1

Niloufer hospitals, TIMS facilities, the Super Speciality Hospital in Warangal, and former district-level GGHs, he said.

The Minister further informed that the completion of the ongoing construction at TIMS and the new Osmania Hospital complex will add more than 40,000 beds to the state's healthcare network.

Rajanarsimha said TIMS Hospital has earmarked 100 dedicated beds for international patients under the state's Medical Tourism Policy. Dedicated policies for cancer care and trauma care are also being actively implemented. In addition, 79 new dialysis centres are being established to supplement the 102 centres currently operational across the state, he added.

Jain philosophy offers timeless wisdom....

➤FROM PAGE 1

Addressing a Jain religious discourse organised by the Sri Kalyankari Tapagacch Varshavas Samiti at the Exhibition Grounds, Nampally, on Sunday, the Governor said the eternal principles of Jain philosophy could serve as a moral and spiritual compass for humanity in its pursuit of peace, harmony and sustainable progress.

Speaking in the presence of Acharya Bhagwant Vimal-

sagar Surishwarji Maharaj Saheb and the Jain monastic community, Shiv Pratap Shukla said the teachings of the Jain Tirthankaras represented a profound quest for truth, self-discipline, compassion and spiritual elevation. Their message, he said, transcended the boundaries of time and tradition and continued to offer meaningful guidance for human conduct and social life.

“True religion is not confined to rituals or obser-

Congress calls Modi-Xi outreach ‘CALIBRATED CAPITULATION’

➤FROM PAGE 1

New Delhi and agreed that differences between India and China “should not become disputes”. The two leaders also committed themselves to pursuing a “fair, reasonable, and mutually acceptable resolution of the boundary question”.

Galwan remarks questioned

Ramesh revisited the June 2020 Galwan clash, in which 20 Indian soldiers were killed, and questioned the Prime Minister's remarks at an all-party meeting on June 19, 2020. At the meeting, Modi had said, “Na hamari seema main ghus aaya hai, na hi koi ghusha hua hai” — asserting that no one had entered Indian territory.

Ramesh argued that the

statement, which he said was never retracted by the government, had weakened India's subsequent negotiating position with China. The Congress also questioned the government over what it described as Chinese territorial advances and changes to the situation along the Line of Actual Control.

Ladakh, Arunachal concerns

The opposition party alleged that India had ceded traditional patrolling and grazing rights in certain areas of eastern Ladakh. It also expressed concern over reports of Chinese encroachment in Arunachal Pradesh.

Ramesh questioned why the government had “allowed China's territorial advances in Ladakh and now Arunachal

Pradesh”.

The Congress pointed to China's continued claims over Arunachal Pradesh and its practice of renaming locations in the State. It also raised concerns over the proposed Medog mega-dam project on the Brahmaputra, arguing that the project could have implications for India's water security in the Northeast.

The party sought clarity on the government's position and its strategy for dealing with China's territorial claims and activities along the border.

China-Pakistan ties under scanner

The Congress also questioned what it described as a softening of India's position on China's role in supporting Pakistan during Operation

Sindoor.

Ramesh referred to remarks made by Deputy Chief of Army Staff Lt. Gen. Rahul Singh in July 2025 regarding China's role in assisting Pakistan. He contrasted those remarks with comments made by former Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Anil Chauhan in August 2026.

The Congress asked whether the change in tone reflected an effort to improve the atmosphere ahead of the Modi-Xi meeting. The opposition party said the government needed to explain how it assessed China's strategic and military support to Pakistan and whether the issue figured in discussions with Beijing.

Trade deficit hits record

The Congress also targeted

the government over the economic relationship with China, highlighting what it said was a record \$112.6 billion trade deficit in 2025-26.

The party argued that India's growing dependence on Chinese imports, particularly critical raw materials and manufacturing components, was hurting domestic industry and placing additional pressure on micro, small and medium enterprises.

“Make in India and import from China have become two sides of the same coin,” the Congress said, demanding a clear roadmap to reduce the trade imbalance and strengthen domestic manufacturing.

The party argued that improving diplomatic ties with Beijing should not come at the expense of India's strategic in-

terests, border security or economic resilience.

‘Normalisation is one thing’

Ramesh said the Congress was not opposed to the normalisation of India-China relations but questioned the manner in which the government was pursuing it.

“Prime Minister, normalisation of India's relations with China is one thing, but what has been in evidence on your part is calibrated capitulation,” he said. The Congress maintained that the government must address unresolved border concerns, clarify its position on China-Pakistan cooperation and take concrete measures to reduce India's economic dependence on Chinese imports.

People’s Govt Respects ARYA VYSYA COMMUNITY

➤FROM PAGE 1

share in politics. " In fact, foresight and prudence are embedded in the DNA of the Arya Vysya community".

The CM praised the Arya Vysyas as gentle by nature and possesses a strong sense of self-respect. Despite many of the community members facing poverty, they never wished to be labeled as "poor" and give value to their dignity above all. " The particular community lives with dignity in society, even amidst hardships and struggles".

CM Revanth Reddy remembered the yeoman service rendered by Mahatma Gandhi who stood as a truly global leader. Gandhi's main principle of non violence played an important role in the fight for independence by many countries.

Mahatma Gandhi was a son of the Arya Vysya community who rose from India to become a global leader. It is a matter of pride that Mahatma Gandhi, a leader of global stature, belonged to the Congress party".

The Chief Minister recalled many prominent leaders from the Arya Vysya com-

munity in the Congress party. The state of Andhra Pradesh was formed thanks to the struggle of Potti Sriramulu. Like Gandhi who sacrificed his life for the integrity of the nation, Potti Sriramulu sacrificed his life for the state of Andhra Pradesh.

CM Revanth Reddy also remembered the role of the leaders from the Arya Vysya community in the previous governments. Former Chief Ministers - Chenna Reddy, Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy, and YSR entrusted the responsibility of managing the state's finances to Arya Vysyas. State Finance Minister Rosaiah was instrumental in the formation of the Telangana State with a surplus budget of ₹16,000 crore on June 2, 2014. It was the Congress party that gave Rosaiah the opportunity and the respect he deserved.

The Chief Minister recalled that when he used to speak aggressively in the Legislative Council, Rosaiah would call him and advise to maintain restraint. Rosaiah also blessed him to pursue a great political career during his meeting with the popular leader in the erstwhile united Andhra Pradesh. The CM also said that Rosaiah was one of the great leaders who recog-

nised his potential to grow as the future leader in Telangana politics.

We installed the statue of Rosaiah in the heart of Hyderabad to honour and uphold his legacy after the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, the CM said that some political forces criticized the installation of Rosaiah's statue. Rosaiah always maintained that he has been staying in Hyderabad and declared the city as his home during Good and difficult times.

Stating that he has always been a well-wisher of the Arya Vysya community, CM Revanth Reddy said that the Vysya community always helps the poor and they also come forward to celebrate on the auspicious occasions.

The Chief Minister pointed out that the Arya Vysya community has not received the recognition they deserve. The People's Government has complete faith in the community . The CM is confident that the 'Atma Gourava Bhavan' serves the needs of children from underprivileged Arya Vysya families. CM Revanth Reddy declared that the government will provide assistance for the construction of the building.

TELANGANA04

300 Companies to Join Mega Job Mela at Kodad

They are expected to recruit 3000 to 4000 youth to fill vacancies.. Massive arrangements being made for September 19 event

HYDERABAD/KODAD

As many as 300 companies with are expected to participate in the Mega Job Mela being organised at Kodad on September 19, Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy announced on Sunday. They are expected to offer upto 3000 to 4000 jobs. The recruitment drive will be open to educated unemployed youth from Suryapet, Nalgonda, Yadadri Bhongir, Khammam and Bhadrachalam districts. Candidates can register online and attend interviews with five copies of their resumé or biodata. Reviewing the arrangements for the mega recruitment drive on ground at Kodad, Uttam Kumar Reddy said the initiative was intended to create a direct interface between rural educated youth and leading employers.

“Nearly 300 companies are coming with a combined requirement of about 27,000 employees. Even if we are able to fulfil 15 per cent of



this requirement and secure jobs for about 3,000 to 4000 young people, it will be a major achievement and a matter of immense satisfaction,” he said. The Minister recalled that a similar Mega Job Mela organised at Huzurnagar in October 2025 had received an overwhelming response. More than 40,000 unemployed youth registered online, about 20,000 to 21,000 candidates physically attended interviews, and around 3,000 to 3,500 youth secured employment opportunities. Drawing lessons from that experience, elaborate arrangements are being made at Kodad to han-

dle a turnout of up to 40,000 candidates. To prevent overcrowding, the recruitment process is proposed to run from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., with candidates allotted different time slots through the online registration system.

Uttam Kumar Reddy directed officials to provide separate interview facilities for participating companies, help desks at the entrance, an effective public-address system, adequate parking, food arrangements and smooth pedestrian movement within the venue. Successful candidates would be presented offer letters at the venue itself in dif-

ferent sessions during the day. The Minister said Telangana Legislative Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar, Legislative Council Chairman Guttha Sukhender Reddy, Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu and district in-charge Minister Adluri Laxman Kumar were invited to participate in the programme and present offer letters to selected candidates. Kodad MLA N. Padmavathi Reddy will head the organising committee, which will review preparations every alternate day. Separate committees are being constituted for recruitment coordination, food, parking, media, social

media and other logistical requirements. Uttam Kumar Reddy said the district Collectors concerned were reaching out to companies and encouraging them to participate in the recruitment drive. The Industries and Labour Departments and other government agencies are coordinating the programme. The event is being supported by Singareni Collieries Company Limited, the Industries Department and industrial establishments from the region, with different stakeholders contributing towards its organisation.

No eligible youngster should miss

Kodad MLA N. Padmavathi Reddy appealed to unemployed educated youth and their families across the region to make full use of the Mega Job Mela being organised at Kodad on September 19. She said thousands of educated young men and women in every constituency were waiting for employment opportunities. Many of them were forced to travel to distant

places repeatedly to attend interviews conducted by major companies.

“The Job Mela brings those opportunities closer to our youth. Instead of our children travelling from place to place in search of jobs and interviews, a large number of companies are coming to Kodad to recruit them,” she said.

She appealed to elected representatives, community leaders and well-wishers to reach out to every family and identify eligible young people seeking employment.

“No eligible youngster should miss this opportunity merely because he or she was unaware of the Job Mela. We should treat it as our collective responsibility to take the information to every household,” Padmavathi Reddy said. She said the September 19 Job Mela could provide an important platform for rural youth to directly interact with recruiters, attend interviews and explore employment opportunities with leading companies.



Venkanna Mood Awarded Ph.D. by Osmania University

SURYAPET

Venkanna Mood, a native of Raghavapuram X Road Thanda in Mothe Mandal of Suryapet district, has been awarded a Ph.D. by the prestigious Osmania University after successfully completing his doctoral research in the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering.

Speaking to reporters at the district headquarters on Sunday, Dr. Venkanna Mood said that he received his doctoral degree from the Governor of Telangana and Chancellor of Osmania University during the university's convocation ceremony recently held in Hyderabad.

He said that he completed his research under the guidance of Professor P. Chandrasekhar on the topic “Design of ASIP Multiple-Stage Parallelism on RISC Pipeline Architecture”, earning his Ph.D. in Electronics and

Communication Engineering. Several tribal leaders congratulated Dr. Venkanna Mood on his achievement. They said that, coming from an agricultural family, his success was made possible by the continuous encouragement of his family members and the inspiration and support extended by his friends, colleagues and well-wishers.

They said Venkanna Mood would be the first person from Raghavapuram X Road Thanda and Mothe Mandal to earn a doctorate in Electronics and Communication Engineering. They further said that his prestigious achievement was a matter of great pride not only for his family but also for Raghavapuram X Road Thanda and Mothe Mandal. Later, several people felicitated Dr. Venkanna Mood with shawls and extended their heartfelt congratulations on his accomplishment.

iVision Youth Parliament 2026 – Edition 3

36 Telangana Schools and 283 Students Join Hyderabad Programme to Experience Democracy in Action

HYDERABAD

More than 283 students from 36 schools across Telangana came together at Oakwood International School, CBSE, Nagole, Hyderabad, for the preparatory programme of iVision Youth Parliament 2026 – Edition 3. The initiative is creating a dynamic platform for young learners to experience parliamentary proceedings, engage with contemporary issues and develop the leadership skills needed to become responsible citizens. Organised by iVision CEO Mrs. Anjali Gupta and Chairman Mr. Ankur Gupta in collaboration with the Telangana Recognised Schools Management Association (TRSMA), the programme also brought together around 80 coordinators, principals, in-charges, correspondents and school management representatives. The large-scale participation highlights the growing importance of experiential learning and democratic education in schools across Telangana.

The Youth Parliament pro-



vided students with a valuable opportunity to experience the functioning of a democratic parliament and develop essential leadership, communication and decision-making skills. The programme focused on building self-confidence, communication skills, critical thinking, decision-making abilities, democratic awareness and social responsibility among young learners. Students enthusiastically took on various parliamentary roles and participated in discussions, question-and-answer sessions and debates on contemporary



issues. Through this practical experience, they learned that democracy is not merely a subject to be studied, but a way of life based on responsible thinking, mutual respect, constructive dialogue and active participation.

Speaking on the occasion, Oakwood International School Vice Chairman and TRSMA National Advisor Dr. Komatireddy Gopal Reddy said that programmes such as the iVision Youth Parliament play an important role in nurturing young leadership and strengthening democratic values among students.

He observed that such initiatives help students understand the importance of the Constitution, democratic institutions, leadership, social responsibility and respectful dialogue, while encouraging them to respond constructively to social issues and contribute to the development of society. The programme was attended by TRSMA State President Mr. Sadula Madhusudhan, Oakwood International School Vice Chairman and TRSMA National Advisor Dr. Komatireddy Gopal Reddy, Oakwood International School Chairman Mr. Nim-



mala Laxma Reddy, Lotus Lap Public Schools Director Mr. Komatireddy Abhishek Reddy, Mr. Janardhan Reddy, Correspondent Mrs. Vijaya Laxmi, principals, coordinators and members of the TRSMA team, along with representatives of participating schools. The school management representatives and TRSMA team appreciated the iVision leadership team, particularly CEO Mrs. Anjali Gupta and Chairman Mr. Ankur Gupta, for their commendable initiative and for creating an enriching platform that goes beyond classroom learning.

The programme concluded on a highly positive note, with students gaining valuable practical experience, greater confidence and renewed motivation to become responsible, informed and future-ready citizens and young leaders. The focus of iVision Youth Parliament 2026 – Edition 3 remains firmly on the students and on creating an experience that they will cherish for a lifetime.

Best wishes to all participating schools and the teams of Student Delegates for a successful and enriching Youth Parliament journey ahead.

Sacked without reason, but not upset: Konda Surekha

HYDERABAD

Former Minister and Congress MLA Konda Surekha on Sunday said she was not upset about being removed from the Telangana Cabinet, but felt hurt that she was sacked without any reason given. Addressing party workers in Warangal for the first time following her dismissal, Surekha emphasised that her primary goal was public service rather than

holding power. “Positions are here today and gone tomorrow. My aim is not power, but to remain in the hearts of the people permanently. I will not sit at home just because I lost a ministerial post; I will continue to work among the public,” she stated. Decrying the rise of opportunistic politics, the former minister pointed out that some leaders switch party loyalties within hours.

Recalling her political trajectory, she noted her rise



from an MPP to a Cabinet Minister, contrasting her track record with contempo-

rary political opportunism. Konda Surekha highlighted her past resignation as a minister out of conviction for the late Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, remarking that many today refuse to relinquish even basic ward-member posts. Konda Surekha also reflected on past political hurdles, alleging that certain leaders had actively worked to deny her and her husband, Konda Murali, party tickets. She recalled how BRS president K. Chan-

drashekar Rao offered them the Warangal East ticket, leading to their victory over a sitting minister and restoring local confidence. Addressing her post-dismissal reaction, Konda Surekha revealed that supporters had reached out asking if they should organise protests. However, she instructed them to respect the party high command's decision and expressed gratitude to cadres for maintaining discipline. Recalling Chief

Minister A. Revanth Reddy's political rise, Konda Surekha noted that during his farmer-focused padyatra, she was among the first to highlight the need for a mass leader like him within the party.

She asserted that holding a cabinet portfolio is merely decorative, declaring that public service continues regardless, and expressed confidence that the party would sweep the upcoming municipal corporation elections.

Women Touching the Sky with Glory

KARIMNAGAR:

Shakti Sharma has made history on 01 September 2026 as the first non-medical women officer in the Indian defence forces to achieve the rank of Air Vice Marshal (AVM) or its equivalent. She is the first women officer in the Indian Armed Forces to break this glass ceiling and reach such a milestone. In the Army, Navy, women officers so far have reached the rank of Colonel or its equivalent. As Air Vice Marshal AVM Shakti Sharma assumed charge as Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Education) at Air Headquarters, creating landmark achievement, marks a new chapter in the journey of women officers in the defence services. She is also the first women officer from the Tri-services to command a Sainik School, serving as Principal of Sainik School, Ka-

purthala. AVM Shakti Sharma is the first women to reach two-star rank in the IAF, equivalent to Major General in the Indian Army and Rear Admiral in the Indian Navy. AVM Shakti focused mainly on education, discipline, training and institutional development within the IAF. She also worked on strengthening the relationship between the IAF and academic institutions like IITs.

Started Career in IAF in 1994:

Shakti Sharma commissioned into the Education Branch of the IAF on 18 June 1994, served across various training establishments, field stations, command headquarters and Air Headquarters in her three decades of distinguished services. AVM Sharma has spearheaded key institutional initiatives, including establishing the IAF Chairs of Excellence at IIT-Kanpur

and Pune Universities to drive academic and strategic defence collaboration. Indian Air Force achieved the feat of officially granting Permanent Commission status to women officers in 2010, paved the way for their promotion and career development. The Army and Navy started granting Permanent Commission to women officers in select army/Naval services in 2008.

Women Touching the Sky with Glory:

The fact that only one women officer has attained the rank of AVM reflects the highly competitive nature of career advancement in the Armed Forces. In 2023, the Air Force selected Group Captain Shalizi Dhami to take command of a frontline combat unit, making her the first woman officer in the IAF to command a missile squadron in the western sector facing Pakistan. Recently, Squad-

ron Leader Bhawana Kanth became the first woman pilot to clear the Fighter Combat Leader course at the Tactics and Air Combat Development Establishment in Gwalior. Squadron Leader Saanya became the first woman officer in the IAF to earn the elite Category-A Qualified Flying Instructor qualification.

These landmark achievements from AVM Shakti Sharma, Group Captain Shalizi Dhami, Squadron Leader Bhawana Kanth marks a new chapter in the journey of women officers in the Indian Defence Forces, setting a live example to the modern Indian young women to pursue career in defence services as officers. These women officers continues to inspire generations to “Touch the Sky with Glory”.

Prof Madhusudhan Reddy Burra
9949700037.

Ponnam Family is a model for ideal Joint Family System: Gutha Sukhender Reddy

HYDERABAD

State Legislative Council Chairman Gutha Sukhender Reddy on Sunday heaped praises on state minister Ponnam Prabhakar's family and added that Ponnam's family was a paragon of ideal joint family system. “Assets are passed down through generations but values bind generations together. In an era where family bonds are gradually weakening, the Ponnam family characterized by the unity, love, affection and mutual cooperation of three brothers stands as a role model for society,” he said while addressing a gathering at the Ponnam Sataiah ‘Lifetime Achievement Awards’ ceremony held at Ravindra Bharati. The event was or-

ganized jointly by the Ponnam Sattaiah Charitable Trust and the Department of Language and Culture at Ravindra Bharati in the city to mark Ponnam Sattaiah Goud's 16th death anniversary. Speaking on the occasion, Gutha Sukhender Reddy emphasized the immense importance of agriculture and farmers in rural society. He noted that the father of Ponnam Prabhakar, Ponnam Sattaiah, was a man, who valued the agriculture and respected the lives of farmers. He recalled as to how joint family systems were once strong in rural areas, with family members standing by one another whenever someone faced hardship. He remarked that the joint family system was characterised by the family elders

sharing their experiences with the younger generation and the youth confiding their problems in the elders. Gutha Sukhender Reddy stated that the joint family system was a symbol of their culture and traditions. He noted that the decline of the joint families was weakening the family bonds, which in turn affects society. Amidst rising loneliness, dissatisfaction, and family issues, he emphasized that everyone bears the responsibility of passing on human relationships and family values to the next generation. He described the life of Ponnam Sattaiah as a testament to the family values, humanity and a commitment to agriculture. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar stated that, in memory of his father Pon-

nam Sattaiah, they recognize and honor individuals, who have rendered distinguished services in various fields. He mentioned that, following a suggestion by state Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao last year, the agriculture sector had also been included in the awards starting this year. It was announced that state farmers' commission chairman M. Kodanda Reddy was selected for the award in recognition of his fight for the farmers' issues and agricultural development. He said that poet Velichala Kondal Rao was honored in the field of literature and artist Gotte Kanakavva was selected in the field of folk arts. He said that Each recipient was presented with a memento and a cash award of ₹50,000.



INS Sudarshini
Sails From Italy
ROME

The Indian Navy's sail training ship, INS Sudarshini, set sail from Livorno in Italy, after completion of a successful port call, the Ministry of Defence said on Sunday. Indian Politics Coverage

"The Indian Navy's sail training ship, INS Sudarshini, set sail from Livorno, Italy, on September 12 on completion of a successful port call. During her stay, the ship participated in a series of professional interactions and cross-training visits, strengthening bonds of friendship and maritime partnership between the two nations," the Ministry said. Admiral Giuseppe Berutti Bergotto, Chief of the Italian Navy, visited INS Sudarshini and interacted with the ship's crew and trainees.

He was briefed on the ship's voyage and training activities. The engagement reflected the expanding maritime cooperation and longstanding friendship between India and Italy.

Taking to social media platform X on Saturday, the Indian Embassy in Rome said: "During her port call at Livorno, INS Sudarshini had the honour of hosting Admiral Giuseppe Berutti Bergotto, Chief of the Italian Navy. He was briefed about the ship's activities and interacted with the crew as well as cadets. The visit highlighted the enduring friendship and growing India-Italy maritime cooperation.

HM Shah credits PM Modi's
stand for answering terror
attack by entering Pak territory

MUMBAI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for taking a decisive stand and endorsing Operation Sindoor to answer a terrorist attack by entering Pakistan's territory. Speaking at the 52nd India Gems and Jewellery Awards ceremony in Mumbai, HM Shah said, "Who could have imagined that a terrorist attack would be answered by entering Pakistan's territory, and that the country would have a Prime Minister capable of taking such a decisive stand?" He said that whether it was the surgical strike, the air strike or Operation Sindoor, PM Modi has pursued a defence policy that makes the enemy think twice and tremble at the very thought of attacking India. The Home Minister said that whether it is the construction of the Ram Janmabhoomi temple, the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor, the rejuvenation of Kedarnath or Mahakal Lok, India has accomplished what, for decades, peo-

ple did not even have the courage to speak about. Highlighting the transformational economic changes brought about in the country by PM Modi over the past 12 years, HM Shah said that today India is among the top five economies of the world. The Home Minister said that PM Modi has given 140 crore people of the country the confidence and resolve that by August 15, 2047, India will emerge as the number one nation in the world across every sector. He said the changes brought about by PM Modi in the field of infrastructure have given a major boost to the economy. The Home Minister said that driven by PLI schemes and facilities aimed at promoting exports, India's exports are continuing to surpass their own records.

He said that the GDP figures for the first quarter of the current financial year were released recently, and with a growth rate of 7.8 per cent, India has emerged as one of the fastest-growing major economies in the world.

VIJAYAWADA (AP.)

Against the backdrop of recurring El Niño-driven heatwaves, rising temperatures and the growing impact of climate change on rapidly urbanising cities, IFAT India 2026, held in Mumbai, has highlighted the urgent need for States to adopt integrated climate-resilience strategies aimed at ensuring economic and environmental sustainability. Experts and technology providers at the event stressed that such strategies should focus on advanced technologies for efficient water-supply management, wastewater reuse, large-scale energy efficiency and expansion of green cover through extensive plantation programmes.

In this context, energy experts and technology providers appreciated the Andhra Pradesh Government's initiative to implement one of India's first technology-driven smart LED street lighting projects in collaboration with Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), under the Ministry of Power. During an interaction following a presentation by the Municipal Administration and Urban Development (MA&UD) Department on Andhra Pradesh's planning-led approach to urban sanitation, water management and LED street-lighting

**Experts call it India's first AI-enabled street-lighting project
Ensures 20% energy savings, cuts power bills and carbon emissions
IFAT India stresses integrated approach to climate resilience
Boosts environmental and economic sustainability
AP stresses to expedite smart street-lighting project
CM keen to complete project as per schedule
Focus on global-standard street lighting ahead of
CII Partnership Summit: S. Suresh Kumar
EESL CEO Akhilesh Kumar Dixit assures completion across
ULBs by March 2027**

infrastructure, experts acknowledged the State's proactive approach to urban governance and its emphasis on public-oriented infrastructure projects. The State's plan to replace 10.5 lakh conventional streetlights on a saturation basis was particularly highlighted. The proposed smart LED system, linked to a State-wide centralised control and monitoring platform, is designed to provide real-time monitoring, GIS-based asset management and automated alerts. According to officials, the project is expected to save 19.57 million units of electricity annually, besides reducing carbon emissions, electricity expenditure and maintenance costs for Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). Principal Secretary, MA&UD, S. Suresh Kumar, who led the Andhra Pradesh delegation at IFAT India 2026 along with B. Sunil Kumar Reddy, Managing Director, Swachh Andhra,

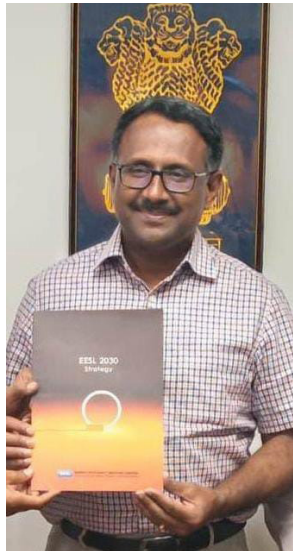
reviewed the progress of the street-lighting project at a virtual meeting attended by P. Sampath Kumar, Commissioner and Director of Municipal Administration (CDMA), and Akhilesh Kumar Dixit, S. Naga Lakshmi MD, AP GENCO & APSEEDCO and Akhilesh Kumar Dixit CEO, EESL. Suresh Kumar said Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and MA&UD Minister P. Narayana had emphasised the need to expedite the project and complete it within the stipulated schedule, while ensuring complete accountability, transparency and protection of public interest.

EESL CEO Akhilesh Kumar Dixit informed the meeting that agreements for implementation had been completed with more than 120 ULBs, while field surveys were under way in several municipalities.

In view of the forthcoming CII Global Summit, priority

has been accorded to survey and implementation work in Visakhapatnam. The stretches identified by the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) are currently being taken up, with the work expected to be completed by the end of September.

Installation of smart streetlights on the identified stretches is targeted for completion ahead of the CII Summit. The newly illuminated stretches are expected to serve as a showcase of Andhra Pradesh's technology-enabled urban infrastructure during the summit. The technology ecosystem for the project, including intelligent lighting management (ILM) devices, LED streetlights, the central dashboard and IT platform, SIM cards, service providers and associated systems, is currently being finalised with the vendors. Under the first phase, the EESL plans to complete the instal-



S. Suresh Kumar, Principal Secretary, MA&UD, unveils a special report on Energy Efficiency Strategies till 2030, prepared by EESL under the Ministry of Power in coordination with States, including Andhra Pradesh.

lation of 7.5 lakh smart LED streetlights, along with ILM controls and the centralised dashboard, across the ULBs by March 2027. The project is being positioned as a major step towards energy-efficient, technology-enabled and climate-resilient urban infrastructure in Andhra Pradesh.

Restoring peace, normalcy remains top
priority of Manipur government: CM

IMPHAL

Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh said on Sunday that the present state government was formed at a time of severe ethnic crisis in the state and that restoring peace and normalcy remains one of its foremost responsibilities.

Addressing the closing ceremony of the third Singjamei Constituency Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Trophy State Level Open Chess Tournament 2026, the Chief Minister said that the task of bringing peace amid the prevailing situation was like "threading a needle through a torn cloth", requiring patience, careful efforts and gradual progress. "We are all Manipuris. We have 36 communities, and we should never be apart," CM Khemchand Singh said, stressing the need for unity and mutual



understanding among all communities of the state.

The Chief Minister highlighted the recent progress towards restoring inter-state road transportation between Imphal and Guwahati in Assam and Dimapur in Nagaland, which had become possible after more than three years of disruption.

He said that he had held discussions and negotiations with various Civil So-

cety Organisations (CSOs) and stakeholders to facilitate the reopening of the route. Chief Minister Khemchand Singh said that it was through this spirit of understanding and sustained dialogue that progress had been made towards restoring the road connection.

The resumption of road transportation, he added, was not merely a transportation-related development

but also a significant step towards bringing peace and restoring normalcy in Manipur. Th. Kanto Singh, Vice-President Service Recreation and Organisation of Youths; L. Lokeshwar Singh, Imphal Municipal Corporation (IMC) Mayor, Th. Bankimchandra and Th. Eliza Devi, both IMC Corporators. The event featured a series of cultural programmes, following which the Chief Minister officially began the tournament. Art and Culture and Tourism Minister Khurajam Loken Singh, Rameshwar Meitei, Heikham Dingo, both MLAs; other officials, players, family members and a large number of spectators were present at the event.

The programme also featured a special appreciation for Laitonjam Ranabir Singh for being conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Indian Arm-Wrestling Federation.



Punjab Congress slams
AAP for 'misleading'
people on drugs

CHANDIGARH

Slamming the Aam Aadmi Party government in Punjab, the main Opposition Congress on Sunday alleged that the ruling party is misleading the people on the issue of drugs, systematically persecuting weaker sections and shielding influential figures involved in serious crimes. Welcoming Rajendra Pal Gautam, Chairman of the Central Scheduled Castes Department, state party President Amarinder Singh Raja Warring thanked Rajkumar Verka and Gurpreet Singh Lucky Pakho for their struggle for the rights of marginalised communities. Warring said that under the BJP at the Centre and the AAP government in Punjab, poor Dalit families are falling victim to administrative apathy and targeted exploitation. Raising the tragic suicide of Gulzar Singh, the Congress leaders said Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi has expressed concern over the incident.

They noted that Gulzar Singh's only fault was speaking out to save his son from drugs and opposing the open sale of narcotics in villages. Instead of taking action against drug traffickers, the administration subjected him to relentless

harassment, which ultimately drove him to suicide. Despite the Finance Minister being explicitly named in the dying declaration, no legal action or accountability has been fixed so far, leaving the victim's family running from pillar to post for justice.

The Congress leadership also raised the issue of brutal police torture inflicted on Mohanjeet Singh, who was subjected to inhuman cruelty merely for showing black flags during a peaceful, democratic protest. The Congress leaders cited this as clear evidence of an authoritarian regime under AAP rule. Targeting the ruling party directly over law and order, Rajendra Gautam said AAP came to power in 2022 on promises of eradicating drugs and transforming traditional politics within months. He said during its tenure in Delhi, AAP evaded accountability for law and order under the pretext of not having full statehood. However, in Punjab, despite having full control over the police, the drug trade has spiralled out of control.

Gautam questioned how drugs could spread to every village and even circulate openly inside Punjab's jails without direct political and administrative patronage.

People in Punjab want development,
employment, not jokes: Haryana CM

CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Sunday slammed the Aam Aadmi Party government in Punjab, saying the people there want development, employment, security for industries and solutions to their problems, not jokes, publicity and advertisements. "There has never been any shortage of ability or hard work among the people of Punjab, but the policies, intentions and leadership of governments that have failed to provide the state with the right direction have pushed Punjab behind in the race for development," he said. CM Saini was addressing a public meeting in Kakrala village in Patiala. Former Union minister Preeten Kaur, Prof Malkit Singh and other dignitaries were present on the occasion. On the

occasion, hundreds of people joined the BJP, and the Chief Minister welcomed them. CM Saini said that although Punjab and Haryana are two separate states, their roots, culture and heritage are one. Paying homage to this great land of Gurus, Pirs and martyrs, he said the people of Punjab are now asking why Punjab has fallen behind despite having fertile land, hardworking people and immense potential. The Chief Minister said at one time, Punjab was counted among the most prosperous states in the country. Haryana, which came into existence nearly 19 years after Punjab was formed, today has moved far ahead of Punjab in terms of economic progress. In 2025-26, Haryana's real economic growth rate is estimated at 9.5 per cent, while Punjab's growth rate is only 6.1 per cent.

Kerala Power Board Seeks
Nod for Costlier Power

The government said that it was exploring all available options to increase supply, including buying power from central institutions and other states at higher rates.



Chief Minister had approved the proposed visits and that he had discussed the matter with the KSEB chairman.

On whether solar energy could help address the shortage, Joseph said Kerala produced solar power but lacked an effective mechanism to store it for use at night. "We have solar production, but systems such as battery energy storage have not yet become effective for night-time use. We must consider ways to encourage their adoption and provide incentives," he said. Joseph said the state was also prepared to purchase electricity generated by consumers for night-time supply at higher rates. He called for a new policy focused on increasing power generation in Kerala. "This period has brought difficulties that compel everyone to think. We need a new policy aimed at increasing production," he said.

The minister also appealed to consumers to avoid unne-

cessary power use. Responding to former minister VM Sudheeran's complaint that street lights were being left switched on during the day, Joseph said they were largely managed by local bodies and not directly by the KSEB. He also urged people to reduce decorative lighting at night.

"When a resource is scarce, understanding our limits and using it carefully can make a difference," he said.

Joseph rejected criticism of the KSEB and the state government over the shortage. He claimed that the crisis could have been avoided had a long-term power purchase agreement signed during the Oommen Chandy government remained in force.

According to the minister, the Electricity Regulatory Commission cancelled the agreement, while the previous LDF government challenged the decision only six months later. By then, he said, the supplier had withdrawn from the arrangement.

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Congress, BJP Workers
Clash Over Guru's Remarks

KOLKATA

Congress and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers engaged in a fight in front of Bhowanipur police station in Kolkata on Sunday. Two Congress leaders Ashutosh Chatterjee and Pradeep Prasad were summoned to the police station in connection with the incident of burning photos of rationally popular religious guru Dharendra Shastri for his recent comments over the food habits of Bengalis. As soon as they appeared at the police station, Congress workers and supporters started making a ruckus outside for the high-handedness of the police. In turn, BJP supporters also appeared there. An argument started between the two sides. Later, it escalated into a scuffle where the BJP accused the Congress of hurting religious sentiments of Hindus. Congress, in turn, alleged that all this was a conspiracy against them. It may be noted that Dharendra



Shastri recently made objectionable comments about Bengalis eating non-vegetarian food during Durga Puja. According to his comments, those who eat non-vegetarian food during the puja are not religious. There was a strong protest in various quarters against this remark made by Dharendra Shastri. In protest, Congress workers and supporters burned his photo in Kolkata, following which West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari warned that legal action will be taken against those who burned the photo of the religious guru after which a Congress work-

er named Atanu Das was arrested. Along with this, two Congress leaders Ashutosh Chatterjee and Pradeep Prasad were summoned on Sunday. Earlier on Saturday night, Pradeep Prasad was removed as the South Kolkata District Congress due to a reshuffle in the West Bengal Pradesh Congress which enraged a section of the Congress. As soon as they appeared at the Bhabanipur police station on Sunday, their followers started protesting outside. BJP also went there in return and raised its voice against the insult of the religious guru. According to a local BJP leader, "They

have insulted Bengalis before. Our Chief Minister (Suwendu Adhikari) has explained by eating fish that Puja has nothing to do with eating non-vegetarian food. Still, they insulted the religious guru." In response, Ashutosh Chatterjee said, "This is a complete conspiracy. Remember, he insulted Bengalis by coming to Bengal. We will show you on the road how to protest against this."

It may be noted that West Bengal Congress on Tuesday lodged a written complaint against the religious guru following his controversial statement that non-vegetarian food should be kept away from Durga puja mandaps and during Navratri.

The complaint was filed at Bhowanipur Police Station in south Kolkata against the religious guru for his comments on the eating habits of Bengalis and for using several controversial words including 'ganda ganda cooking' and 'pakhandi'.

EDITORIAL.

The New Delhi
Declaration: BRICS’ Blueprint
for a Multipolar Order

The unanimous adoption of the BRICS New Delhi Declaration stands as a monumental triumph for Indian diplomacy and a defining moment for the Global South. Hosted under the theme “Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability,” the summit successfully hammered out a consensus among eleven politically diverse nations. This achievement is particularly striking given the acute geopolitical friction and trade fragmentation currently rattling the international order.

By delivering a unified document after intense, late-night negotiations, New Delhi has cemented its role as a master bridge-builder on the global stage. It successfully navigated deep regional fractures—most notably between Iran and the United Arab Emirates regarding the volatile West Asia crisis—proving that multi-alignment is not just a theoretical framework, but a potent diplomatic tool.

At its core, the New Delhi Declaration acts as a fierce critique of the post-WWII “pyramid of privilege” that heavily favors Western-led institutions. The bloc’s call for a comprehensive “structural update” of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and the deep reform of the Bretton Woods institutions reflects a stark reality: the nations driving contemporary global economic growth are no longer content with being sidelined in decision-making. Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s proposal for a 10-point BRICS reform roadmap elevates this sentiment. It pivots the conversation away from standard grievances and guides it toward actionable structural changes. Equally vital is the declaration’s emphasis on economic autonomy and fairness.

By strongly condemning unilateral sanctions and pushing back against “green protectionism”—where arbitrary climate tariffs masquerade as environmental policy—BRICS has drawn a firm defensive line for developing economies. The commitment to smoothing cross-border payments and expanding the use of local currencies represents a strategic move away from over-reliance on a single Western-dominated financial network. Furthermore, India’s strategic imprints are highly visible across the security and technological mandates of the text. The explicit, absolute condemnation of cross-border terrorism—reinforced by references to recent tragic attacks like the one in Pahalgam—highlights New Delhi’s success in aligning the expanded bloc against asymmetric security threats. Concurrently, the inclusion of frameworks for digital public infrastructure (DPI) and artificial intelligence positions BRICS as a modern alliance focused on future-ready governance, rather than just an anti-Western talking shop.

The true test of the New Delhi Declaration will lie in its execution. Critics will inevitably point out that the text relies heavily on careful linguistic balancing, purposefully omitting direct blame for ongoing major conflicts to maintain unanimity. However, achieving a consensus among nations with such divergent internal policies is an achievement that cannot be easily dismissed. The declaration signals that BRICS is evolving from an informal economic club into a formidable institutional counterweight. It makes one point undeniably clear: the Global South has firmly moved from the back row of international decision-making to the absolute front, and the path to global consensus now runs directly through New Delhi.



MONSOON MUSINGS



As the first showers Of
monsoon fall,
Temperature drops and
Hopes rise...
Hopes of wilted trees and
Market-savvy brokers,,
Of parched peasants,
And desperate politicians
As muffled sighs,
Of collective relief,
Go up from everywhere,
Fragrance of freshly-wet soil,
Runs a sanguine errand,
All around,
That Nature has not Lost hope on us,
As yet....



...: BP Acharya IAS retd ...
- (From the anthology “Poems Across Time :
One family , Three Voices” Available on Amazon)



OPINION

LORD GANESHA: A DIVINE BLUEPRINT FOR
A PROSPEROUS AND DEVELOPED INDIA

Lord Ganesha occupies a unique and revered place in Indian civilisation. He is not merely worshipped as the remover of obstacles and the harbinger of auspiciousness; his entire personality represents wisdom, discernment, foresight, leadership, patience, self-restraint, inclusiveness and purposeful action. At a time when India is advancing towards the ambitious vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, the symbolism and teachings of Lord Ganesha acquire a renewed national relevance. His message should not remain confined to ritual worship; it can become a powerful guide for building a nation that is prosperous, capable, compassionate, self-reliant and exemplary.

Ganesh Chaturthi, therefore, can become more than a festival of devotion and celebration. It can be an occasion for introspection, renewal of values and a collective resolve for nation-building.

The foremost message of Ganesha is simple yet profound: Begin well, but begin with wisdom. The tradition of invoking Ganesha before undertaking any auspicious task symbolises the belief that success does not depend merely on speed, but on choosing the right direction. The journey towards a developed India, too, cannot be measured only by economic growth, modern cities, technological achievements or massive infrastructure. True development must harmonise economic progress with education, healthcare, employment, environmental sustainability, social justice and human dignity. Ganesha reminds us that the first step towards external transformation is the purification of our inner thoughts, intentions and conduct.

The most distinctive feature of Lord Ganesha is his elephant head. The elephant symbolises wisdom, memory, patience and strength. His large head inspires us to think big and think ahead. India needs precisely such a broad vision today. In an age of artificial intelligence, space exploration, digital transformation, green energy, biotechnology and a rapidly changing global economy, knowledge must become the nation’s greatest strength. Ganesha’s majestic head seems to convey a timeless message: the wider our knowledge, the farther-reaching our development.

His large ears offer another profound lesson—that good leadership begins with listening. A successful and sensitive leadership does not merely speak; it listens to the aspirations of citizens, the dreams of young people, the concerns of farmers and workers, the expectations of women and the voices of those at the margins of society. If India is to realise the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, development must be rooted in public participation. Ganesha’s large



ears symbolise a fundamental principle of good governance: listen to the people before you lead the people.

His small eyes represent concentration, focus and the ability to look deeply into a matter. In an age overwhelmed by information, distractions and competing priorities, the ability to remain focused has become a national asset. India faces numerous challenges, but its energies must not be dissipated in unnecessary conflicts and distractions. The goal of a developed India demands clarity of priorities, concentration on outcomes and unwavering commitment to national progress.

Ganesha’s trunk is perhaps one of nature’s finest symbols of adaptability. It is powerful enough to uproot a tree and sensitive enough to pick up something as delicate as a flower. This combination of strength and sensitivity is immensely relevant to modern India. Technology is transforming rapidly, jobs are changing, global economic equations are shifting and environmental challenges are intensifying. A nation that can adapt to change while preserving its core values will be the nation that leads the future. Ganesha teaches us that strength without sensitivity is incomplete, and adaptability is the key to sustainable progress.

His large belly, or Lambodara, too, carries a meaningful message. It can be seen as a symbol of tolerance, patience and the capacity to absorb life’s diverse experiences. A nation as diverse as India naturally contains differences of language, culture, traditions, beliefs and viewpoints. Differences are inevitable; divisions are not. India’s greatest strength lies in its ability to transform diversity into unity. Ganesha’s personality inspires an inclusive India—an India in which every citizen has opportunity, dignity and a sense of belonging.

“True worship of Lord Ganesha lies not merely in installing an idol, but in awakening wisdom, courage, humility, discipline and inclusiveness within ourselves—values that can turn the dream of Viksit Bharat 2047 into a people’s movement.”

The tiny mouse that serves as Ganesha’s vehicle offers another remarkable lesson. The mighty elephant-headed deity riding a tiny mouse symbolises humility and mastery over the ego. It also reminds us that even the smallest individual or contribution has significance. In the contemporary Indian economy, alongside large corporations and mega projects, small entrepreneurs, farmers, artisans, startups, local businesses and ordinary citizens are equally important drivers of development. A developed India cannot merely be a bigger India; it must be an India that creates opportunities for everyone.

Ganesha’s four arms can be interpreted as symbols of the harmony between knowledge, action, wisdom and balance. India’s future depends particularly on its young population. The country needs not merely degree-holders but skilled, innovative and responsible citizens. It needs employment creators as much as job seekers; entrepreneurs as much as employees; innovators as much as consumers. Knowledge, skills and creativity must become the foundation of the new Indian economy.

Ganesha is revered as Vighnaharta—the remover of obstacles. But removing obstacles does not mean escaping difficulties; it means confronting them with courage and determination. Poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, corruption, environmental degradation, social inequality and outdated attitudes are among the obstacles that India must overcome. These challenges cannot be eliminated by policies alone. They require collective consciousness, ethical citizenship and sustained social effort. Ganesha’s courage teaches us that the size of a challenge must never be greater than the strength of our resolve.

The association of Ganesha with Riddhi and Siddhi also offers a valuable definition

of development. Material prosperity without wisdom can become destructive, while knowledge without the capacity to translate it into meaningful achievement can remain incomplete. India’s economic rise must therefore be accompanied by intellectual, ethical and cultural advancement. Prosperity becomes truly meaningful only when it improves the quality of life and contributes to the larger good of society.

The tradition of worshipping Ganesha as the First Deity and the God of Wisdom is particularly relevant to contemporary India. As the country marches towards its 2047 vision, the responsibility for national transformation cannot rest on governments alone. India needs developed institutions and, equally, developed citizens. If every Indian brings honesty, excellence, innovation, discipline and a commitment to national interest into his or her sphere of work, the vision of Viksit Bharat can become a genuine people’s movement.

Ganesh Chaturthi should therefore inspire us not merely to install an idol, but to awaken Ganeshtva—the divine qualities represented by Ganesha—within ourselves. Let our thinking be expansive, our vision farsighted, our ears sensitive to others, our speech gentle, our actions courageous, our minds patient and our conduct inclusive. This would be the true worship of Lord Ganesha.

The ultimate message of Ganesha is that auspiciousness is not something that simply descends upon us; it is something we create through our thoughts, values and actions. If India can imbibe the wisdom, discernment, patience, courage, humility, listening ability, self-discipline and inclusive spirit symbolised by Lord Ganesha, the nation can emerge by 2047 not merely as an economically developed country, but as a prosperous, ethical, compassionate, self-reliant and exemplary nation capable of offering a meaningful direction to the world.

That would be the true national significance of Ganesh Chaturthi—and a profound spiritual foundation for the dream of Viksit Bharat 2047.



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THE WORLD IN THE GRIP OF INFLATION

Inflation is the continuous increase in the general prices of goods and services over time, which reduces the purchasing power of money. Currently, inflation continues to be a major concern worldwide; however, its intensity varies from one country to another. According to International Monetary Fund (IMF) projections, global inflation is expected to rise from 4.1% in 2025 to about 4.7% in 2026, and decline again in 2027. Along with geopolitical tensions, several interrelated factors are also driving high inflation. Among these, rising energy and food prices, supply chain disruptions, and shortages of essential raw materials are the most prominent. Severe weather conditions such as heatwaves, droughts, and floods are damaging agricultural production, thereby driving up food prices. Similarly, strong consumer demand, tight labor markets with labor shortages, and rising wages can increase production costs and the prices borne by consumers. In some countries, increased government spending and high public debt can also boost demand and intensify inflationary pressure. Likewise, a decline in the value of the domestic currency makes imported energy, food, machinery, and other goods more expensive. Developing countries, in particular, are heavily affected by this.

According to the World Economic Outlook released by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in April 2026, inflation continues to be extremely severe in some countries. In 2026, annual average inflation in the world is projected to be around 387.4% in Venezuela, 75.1% in Sudan, 68.9% in Iran, and 28.6% in Turkey. Argentina’s inflation is also likely to be around 29.8%. Looking at it regionally, according to IMF projections, inflation in Africa could be around 9.4% in 2026, compared to an estimated 5.2% in South Asia. In Sub-Saharan Africa, average inflation is expected to reach about 8.8%. Food, fuel, currency value fluctuations, and supply issues are the primary drivers of inflation there. Although inflation is generally lower in Europe, the impact of recent energy price shocks caused inflation in the eurozone to rise to 3.3% in August 2026, up from 2.9% recorded in July. Current statistics show that inflation is most severe in economically vulnerable countries. On the other hand, while inflation is relatively moderate in developed countries, price pressures are beginning to build up again. The Role of Trade Blocs and Trade

Agreements in Reducing Inflation

Trade blocs and trade agreements help reduce inflation by lowering tariffs, simplifying customs procedures, and providing the opportunity to diversify suppliers. Because of these, the transportation of food, fuel, and industrial raw materials becomes cheaper and faster. Regional trade blocs such as the European Union (EU), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement (USMCA), the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), and Mercosur (Southern Common Market) can establish large markets and strong supply chains.

Inflation in India

Currently, India’s inflation is being influenced by a combination of global developments and domestic conditions. In July 2026, retail consumer price index (CPI) inflation rose to 4.45%, which is higher than the 4% target set by the Reserve Bank of India. During the same period, food inflation reached 5.52%. On the global front, West Asian conflicts and rising crude oil prices pose major risks to India, which meets about 80% of its oil demand through imports. Consequently, if international oil prices increase, transportation, fuel, and production costs are also likely to rise. The exchange rate of the rupee is another crucial factor impacting inflation. A weak-

“Inflation cannot be controlled through monetary policy alone. Stable prices require resilient supply chains, climate-smart agriculture, diversified energy sources, predictable global trade and sustained investment in productivity. Coordinated fiscal and trade policies are essential for achieving growth without persistent inflation.”

This reduces the risk of goods shortages. When shortages decrease, the chances of sudden price hikes also decline. The World Trade Organization (WTO) estimates that fully implementing its agreements could reduce global trade costs by an average of up to 14.3%, while global trade could increase by up to \$1 trillion annually. Trade agreements allow countries to import necessary goods from multiple nations rather than depending on a single country or supplier. During wars, sanctions, or natural disasters, common standards and expedited customs clearance reduce transportation delays, shipping costs, and product waste. For developing countries, such trade arrangements help secure cheaper agricultural products, fuel, and industrial raw materials. This lowers production costs for businesses and reduces price pressures on consumers. Deep trade cooperation, the reduction of unnecessary trade barriers, and stable, predictable international trade rules are an essential part of the strategy to control inflation worldwide.

er rupee increases the domestic prices of imported crude oil, machinery, and other goods. However, recent interventions by the Reserve Bank of India have helped stabilize the rupee’s exchange rate to some extent. The rise in global food prices also affects India. In August 2026, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Food Price Index reached 133.3, its highest level since November 2022. Worldwide, climate change, natural disasters, and geopolitical conflicts are driving up food prices, which may also increase the costs of food imports for India. Domestically, the prices of cereals, pulses, edible oils, and vegetables play a key role. A weak monsoon and rising risks of El Niño in India could reduce agricultural production and drive-up food prices in the coming months. At the same time, strong domestic consumption, government spending, and steady economic growth continue to sustain demand. According to recent national accounts, India’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by 7.8% during the April–June 2026 quarter, indicating that domestic demand re-

mains robust despite global uncertainties. Therefore, the future outlook of India’s inflation depends on the interplay of these two sets of factors.

Ways to Control Global Inflation in the Long Term

To control inflation globally in the long term, countries must implement co-ordinated monetary and fiscal policies. Measures should be taken to ensure that demand aligns with the production capacity of economies. Nations should expand their energy sources, particularly renewable energy, and increase strategic energy reserves. Governments must invest in sustainable agricultural policies that can withstand climate change. Food supply can be stabilized by developing irrigation facilities, warehouses, storage infrastructure, and climate-resilient farming practices. International trade should remain free, stable, and predictable. By reducing unnecessary tariffs and enhancing supply chain cooperation among countries, shortages of goods and high import costs can be avoided. Similarly, investments should be increased in infrastructure, ports, transport-logistics systems, and digital trade networks. Governments should maintain sustainable public finances. Subsidies and social protection schemes should not be universal, but rather targeted at genuinely needy and vulnerable families, preventing excessive and unnecessary demand in the economy. Investments must be directed toward increasing productivity, technology, skills, and competition. This will enhance the supply capacity of goods and services worldwide. As a result, economies can grow rapidly while avoiding high inflation in the long run. Overall, disciplined government fiscal policies working together with high productivity are essential to achieving sustainable economic growth with stable prices



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50 Kilometres, Countless Beneficiaries: Mizoram’s Railway Lifeline Completes One Year of Success

Within Just One Year, Bairabi-Sairang Railway Line Transforms Travel, Tourism and Logistics in Mizoram, Opening New Horizons for the Hill State

On 13th September 2025, the inauguration of the 51.38 km Bairabi-Sairang railway line and the Sairang Railway station by Hon’ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, opened a new chapter of progress and development for Mizoram. Within just one year, the railway line has brought about transformative development in this remote hill state, and has transformed from just a line on the railway map into a gateway towards improved mobility, greater access to markets, enhanced tourism and new opportunities.

The Milestone: When the Rails Reached the Hills

For generations, Mizoram’s difficult terrain made long-distance movement heavily dependent on roads, making travel very time consuming, uncomfortable and unreliable. The commissioning of the Bairabi-Sairang new railway line completed changed the scenario.

(The Bairabi-Sairang line carries the national railway network across Mizoram’s challenging hill terrain)

The Bairabi Sairang railway line is an engineering marvel, traversing the steep hills, deep valleys and gorges of Mizoram. The project comprises 153 bridges, including 55 major bridges, 88 minor bridges and 10 Road Over Bridges/ Road Under Bridges. As many as six bridges exceed 70 meters in height, with the tallest rising up to 114 meters, which is 42 metres taller than Delhi’s Qutub Minar. The alignment



also passes through 45 tunnels stretching over almost 16 kilometres. The rail corridor connects the national railway network onwards from Bairabi with the four newly developed stations of Hortoki, Kanpui, Mualkhang and finally the Sairang railway station, thereby completing rail connectivity to the very threshold of Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram. Thus, the inauguration of the Bairabi Sairang Railway Line on 13th September 2025 fulfilled a long cherished dream of the people of Mizoram, and brought reliable railway passenger and freight services close to the State’s largest centre of population, administration, education and commerce.

Passenger Mobility: The Numbers tell a story of trust

Three important long distance train services now connect the capital of Mizoram with the cities of Guwahati, Kolkata and Delhi. The Sairang – Anand Vihar Rajdhani Express gave Mizoram its first direct premium railway connection with

the national capital, while the Guwahati and Kolkata services created dependable links with major educational, commercial and medical centres across the eastern and northern parts of the country. Further, the Sairang – Silchar passenger train service, which was inaugurated by Hon’ble Union Minister of Railways, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw in January 2026, provided a regular and reliable passenger train service connecting Sairang with the Barak Valley of Assam.

Over the course of the last one year, these train services have completed more than 1100 trips, becoming an integral part of the lives of the people of Mizoram. The strongest endorsement of the importance of these train services have come from the passengers themselves, receiving the patronage of over 15 Lakh passengers. Passenger demand for these trains have consistently remained very high, with all trains running at over 100% capacity on every trip. The tri – weekly train service from Sairang



to Kolkata has recorded an average occupancy level of over 140 %, while occupancy in the daily train service from Sairang to Guwahati has consistently stayed above 110%. The Sairang Anand Vihar Rajdhani Express has similarly achieved an average occupancy of over 145 %. These train services have also generated total ticket sales of Rs 54 Crores for the Indian Railways.

During this last one year, Sairang railway station has successfully catered to more than 5.54 lakh passenger movements, with an average of 3300 passengers visiting the station every day. The railway station has not only emerged as a vital hub for passenger travel, but also an integral part of community life in the surrounding area, with local residents carrying out tree plantations and other environmental initiatives around the station complex.

Freight Transformation: Rail Cargo to Aizawl

The Bairabi Sairang Railway line has also brought about transformative change in freight transportation in

Mizoram, enabling goods including essential commodities, automobiles and construction materials to reach Aizawl in a safe, time bound and cost effective manner.

The first railway cargo train arrived at Sairang on 14th September 2025, just one day after the inauguration of the new line, carrying a consignment of more than 26000 bags of cement from STAR Cement Siding at Tete- lia near Guwahati. This cargo train had an immediate impact on the prices of cement in Aizawl, clearly demonstrating how railways can drastically reduce logistics costs and contribute to economic development of an entire region. Moreover the direct freight train services bridge the gap in procuring the automobiles, thus reducing the landing cost, making it more pocket friendly to the end consumers. In another notable milestone, the first automobile consignment, consisting of 119 Maruti cars from Changsari near Guwahati, arrived at Sairang by rail in December 2025, transforming automobile logistics



in the region. In the last one year, more than 2500 wagons of railway freight have been delivered at Sairang. Of these, approximately 70% of the cargo consisted of construction materials like cement, stone and sand. These commodities have supported housing and public works in Mizoram, promoting infrastructure development in the state at lower costs as well as reducing the time required for materials to reach their destinations.

Other railway cargo at Sairang has consisted of essential commodities including rice and fertilizers, as well as 156 wagons containing automobiles. Automobile rakes have created a safer and higher capacity supply channel for vehicles, while fertilizer and foodgrains have served agriculture and local PDS distribution in the state, shifting bulk movement from long road hauls to efficient railway transport.

Railway enhances educational and tourism opportunities for people of Mizoram

Direct trains from Delhi,

Kolkata, Guwahati and Silchar have made Mizoram easier to reach for domestic travellers. Railway has offered an affordable entry point for visitors who earlier had to depended entirely on air or lengthy road journeys. This has resulted in an overall growth of tourism in Mizoram by over 86% since the introduction of railways.

The benefits have extended beyond ticketed travel. Greater visitor movement is supporting hotels, homestays, restaurants, taxis, guides, cultural enterprises and local markets. Reliable rail access is also strengthening Mizoram’s ability to host educational, sporting, cultural and official events with wider national participation.

For students of Mizoram, railway connectivity has expanded practical access to universities, professional institutes, coaching centres, examinations and academic events outside Mizoram.

Local Enterprise: From Mizo Hands to National Markets

Railways is also playing an

empowering role for popularizing Mizoram’s handloom, bamboo, cane and craft traditions in wider markets. The first parcel consignment from Sairang was booked on 19th September 2025, carrying Anthurium flowers to Delhi through the parcel van of the Sairang Anand Vihar Rajdhani Express. That modest consignment carried a larger message: high-value local produce could begin its national journey from within Mizoram itself.

One Year and Beyond: From Isolation to New Possibilities

In one year, the Bairabi Sairang railway line has demonstrated the far reaching effects of the successful translation of vision into reality. The impact is visible in several directions at once. Passengers have direct access to major cities; students have a more practical route to institutions and examinations; tourists have an affordable gateway; traders receive bulk consignments closer to market; construction and food supplies move with greater capacity; and flowers, crafts and other local products gain a pathway towards national consumers. The deeper significance of Sairang lies in what it has made possible. A railway line built through difficult hills has compressed distance, widened choice and given Mizoram a new logistics identity. It has linked mobility with dignity, infrastructure with enterprise, and connectivity with opportunity.

As long as Sanatan flag flies, India will remain unharmed: Yogi Adityanath

At a Shiv Mahapuram Katha in Rae Bareilly, Yogi Adityanath framed spiritual discourse and duty as pillars of national unity and cultural resilience.



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday said no one could harm India as long as the flag of Sanatan Dharma continued to fly high, describing the country’s spiritual traditions as a source of national strength and unity. Addressing a Shiv Mahapuram Katha in Rae Bareilly, Adityanath said Sanatan Dharma was not limited to modes of worship but was tied to duty and the spirit of the nation. “We did not limit ‘Dharma’ merely to modes of worship. We embraced it as the vital life force of society, linking it to our duties and regarding it as the motivating power of the nation,” he said.

Adityanath said India’s spiritual traditions preserved social unity and cultural consciousness even when foreign invaders attacked its sacred sites.

He said that despite the political weaknesses of the medieval period, the wisdom imparted from Vyas Peeths, or traditional seats of spiritual discourse, continued to strengthen society and contribute to India’s cultural and spiritual development.

oment.

Referring to Goswami Tulsidas, the composer of the Ramcharitmanas, Adityanath claimed that the poet had once been invited to join Mughal emperor Akbar’s Navratnas but refused the offer. “When the proposal was put before him, he asked, ‘Who is this Akbar?’ People told him that he was the emperor of India. Tulsidas declared, ‘I have only one king, Ram. Barring Ram, I do not consider any Akbar, a foreigner, as my king,’” Adityanath said. He added that Tulsidas had challenged Akbar by declaring Ram as his only king. Adityanath said the continued tradition of religious discourses would ensure that the flag of Sanatan Dharma never bowed.

“As long as sacred kathas continue to resonate across India, the flag of Sanatan Dharma will never bow. And as long as that flag flies high, no one will be able to cause the slightest harm to India,” he said.

CPI backs BRICS push for global governance reforms, de-dollarisation

NEW DELHI: The Communist Party of India on Sunday welcomed the BRICS declaration calling for global governance reforms and said the grouping should lead the push for a more representative, democratic and equitable international order.

CPI general secretary D Raja said the call for greater representation of the Global

South in the United Nations, including reform of the UN Security Council, as well as reforms in the IMF and World Bank was an important step in that direction.

“The inclusion of India and other developing countries in decision-making structures must be pursued with greater urgency,” Raja said in a statement.

India condemns attack on merchant vessel off Oman coast, says 13 Indians rescued

Thirteen Indian crew members were rescued after commercial vessel MT El Gaia came under attack off the coast of Oman, the Ministry of External Affairs said. Search and rescue operations are continuing for one Indian national who remains missing. The MEA condemned the attack and said all 14 Indian crew members onboard the vessel were being accounted for, with the Indian Embassy in Oman closely coordinating with local authorities. “Our Embassy in Oman is closely monitoring the situation and proactively coordinating with the Omani authorities in the ongoing Search

and Rescue operation,” the ministry said. India also thanked the Omani authorities for their support in rescuing its nationals. The MEA did not provide further details about the circumstances of the attack or identify those responsible.

INDIA CALLS FOR SAFE NAVIGATION

India called for an immediate de-escalation of tensions in the region and urged all sides to pursue dialogue and diplomacy to restore peace. “The targeting of commercial shipping, seafarers, civilians, and civilian infrastructure in the region is unacceptable,” the MEA said. India

also stressed the need to restore free and safe navigation and the movement of commercial goods through international waterways in the region at the earliest.

MORE SHIPS COME UNDER ATTACK

The attack on MT El Gaia came amid growing concerns over the safety of commercial shipping in the Gulf and surrounding waterways. The British maritime security agency UKMTO said on Sunday that a vessel was struck by a projectile while transiting the Strait of Hormuz. The attack caused a fire and forced the crew to evacuate the vessel. Iran, meanwhile, said one

person was killed, and four crew members were wounded after an Iranian commercial vessel was struck off its coast.

The latest incidents have added to concerns over disruptions to one of the world’s most important maritime routes for global energy supplies. Saudi Arabia has also faced a series of attacks, with state media releasing footage showing damage to homes and a mosque in Jazan province following what was described as a cross-border attack by Yemen’s Houthi rebels. The Houthis separately claimed to have struck a Saudi military base in a neighbouring province.

Militants kill 4, injure child in Manipur on Kuki 'Black Day'

The violence came amid continuing tensions in Manipur, where clashes between the Meitei and Kuki communities since May 2023 have killed at least 306 people, left 49 missing and displaced thousands.



killed at least 306 people, left 49 missing and displaced thousands.

COUPLE KILLED, SON INJURED

The first attack took place around 5:30 am at Tollen village, where 46-year-old Lhoringzangai Sinshit was killed on the spot. Her husband, Seineh Singnit, and their six-year-old son suffered serious bullet injuries. Both were taken to Silchar Medical College in Assam, but Seineh died on the way. The child is undergoing treatment at the hospital.

Hours later, two people

were killed in another attack at Longpi village. The Western Village Volunteers, a Kuki group, identified them as Jilie Singson and Reol Gangte and said they were attacked while carrying out household work.

The village is around 30 km from the nearest police station and could not be reached immediately because of poor road conditions, police said. A team was expected to visit the site on Monday to conduct an inquiry. The Kuki group alleged that members of the NSCN-IM and the Zelian-grong United Front-Kamson were behind the killings.

VILLAGE BODY APPEALS FOR CALM

The Kaimai Village Authority condemned the Tollen attack and described it as a “deliberate and malicious attempt to create disharmony, suspicion and division” among communities that had lived together peacefully.

It called for an impartial investigation and appealed to the Kuki and Naga communities not to spread rumours

or provocative messages that could heighten tensions.

“We, the people of Kaimai Naga village, stand firmly for peace, unity and communal harmony,” it said. The Kuki Youth Organisation Women’s Council also demanded an impartial investigation, the arrest of those responsible and better protection for vulnerable civilians.

POLITICAL LEADERS CONDEMN ATTACKS

BJP leader and former Manipur CM N Biren Singh described the Tollen attack as “deeply disturbing and heartbreaking”. “The safety and security of innocent civilians must remain our foremost concern. Such violence only adds to the suffering of ordinary people and further undermines the fragile peace,” Singh said.

Naga People’s Front MLA Awangbou Newmai also condemned the attack, saying that targeting unarmed people, women and children was a “cowardly act that has no place in civilised society”.

Mamata won't contest in Nandigram as TMC names candidates for upcoming bypolls

Voting for the Nandigram and Rejinagar by-elections will be held on October 6, with counting scheduled for October 9. The last date for filing nominations is September 16.

The Mamata Banerjee-led faction of the Trinamool Congress on Sunday announced its candidates for the Nandigram and Rejinagar Assembly by-elections, confirming that the former West Bengal chief minister would not contest from Nandigram despite widespread speculation over her possible return to the Assembly.

The party named Sanchita Pradhan Dey as its candidate from Nandigram and Rabiul Alam Chowdhury from Rejinagar. Voting for both seats will be held on October 6, while the results will be declared on October 9. The announcement came a day after the rival Ritabrata Banerjee-led Trinamool faction offered to withdraw its Nandigram candidate if Mamata entered the contest, even as an Independent.

Ritabrata said his faction had almost finalised its candidate but would step aside for Mamata Banerjee because several leaders in his camp wanted her back in the Assem-

bly. He, however, coupled the offer with a jibe at the former chief minister, accusing her of repeatedly relying on by-elections to enter the House. Mamata did not contest the 2011 Assembly election and later entered the House by winning the Bhabanipore bypoll. She won directly from Bhabanipore in 2016 but lost Nandigram to Suwendu Adhikari in 2021, before returning to the Assembly through another Bhabanipore by-election. In the 2026 Assembly election, Mamata Banerjee again lost from Bhabanipore, this time to Adhikari. The BJP leader won both Bhabanipore and Nandigram but retained Bhabanipore, leaving Nandigram vacant. The Rejinagar bypoll was necessitated after AJUP leader Humayun Kabir, who won from both Rejinagar and Naoda, vacated the former seat. The Mamata-led faction also named Abdul Salam as its candidate for the Nagaon Lok Sabha by-election in Assam. The seat fell vacant after Congress MP Pradyut Bordoloi resigned following his election to the Assam Assembly from Dispur. The candidate announcement comes amid a dispute between the two actions over the Trinamool Congress name and its election symbol. The Election Commission is examining the rival claims.

DMK leader Raja's 'vitriolic' remark against Minister Nirmal Kumar sparks condemnation

CHENNAI

DMK deputy general secretary A Raja’s harsh personal attack on Law Minister R Nirmal Kumar was on Sunday strongly condemned by party leaders and the Dravidian party leader said he too regretted it and asserted that he had no hesitation in withdrawing his comment. After Kumar said on September 7 there was no official record to indicate that DMK chief M K Stalin was imprisoned

during the Emergency under the stringent MISA, it triggered an uproar. The Dravidian party condemned it and staged a statewide protest on Saturday. It was to condemn Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay for his remarks of corruption allegations during the DMK regimes led by party leaders M Karunanidhi and Stalin. Also, it was to condemn the minister’s statement vis-a-vis Stalin’s imprisonment under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act in 1976.

Trump Unfazed by China’s Xi Summit Threat

US President Donald Trump has said he is not worried that Chinese President Xi Jinping could cancel their planned summit later this month, despite growing tensions over potential new US arms sales to Taiwan.



According to a report by the news agency Reuters, Trump said China had been “fair” with the United States over the last several years, playing down concerns that the Taiwan issue could derail the meeting. The remarks come after China warned Washington that any fresh arms sales to Taiwan could put the planned Trump-Xi meeting at risk. Beijing has repeatedly made clear that Taiwan remains a “red line” in its relationship with the United States. The development came after Trump said he would host Xi and his wife at the White House on September 24 and hold a state dinner in their honour. However, the Chinese government

has not officially announced Xi's visit to the United States, leaving the summit's status uncertain.

TAIWAN ARMS SALES AT CENTRE OF TENSIONS

Xi raised the Taiwan issue when he met Trump in Beijing in mid-May, calling it the “most important issue” in US-China relations and warning of the potential for conflict if it was mishandled.

Trump had said in a television interview at the time that US arms sales to Taiwan could be “a very good negotiating chip” in his dealings with China. China claims Tai-

wan as part of its territory and has not ruled out using force to bring the self-governing democratic island under its control. Meanwhile, growing Chinese military activity in and around the Taiwan Strait has raised fears of a wider regional conflict involving the US and its allies.

Under the Taiwan Relations Act, passed by the US Congress after Washington severed diplomatic ties with Taipei in favour of Beijing in 1979, the US provides Taiwan with weapons to help it maintain its ability to defend itself. The Trump administration announced an \$11 billion arms package for Taiwan in December last year, the largest such package ever announced, drawing an angry response from Beijing.

WHAT COULD COME UP AT TRUMP-XI SUMMIT

If the meeting goes ahead, Taiwan is expected to be among the most contentious issues on the agenda. The two sides are also expected to discuss the war in Iran, trade and artificial intelligence.

China is a key economic partner of Tehran, while the Trump administration has been pressuring Beijing not to conduct business with Iran. Despite those tensions, a source cited in the India Today report said Beijing had adopted a cooperative approach in its dealings with Washington and was not hindering dialogue.

Economic issues are also expected to feature prominently. The US Treasury and Commerce departments have been negotiating with Beijing, with the presidents expected to discuss a proposed framework to reduce tariffs on \$30 billion worth of goods from each side. A framework for dialogue on artificial intelligence safety is also expected to be on the agenda. The proposed Trump-Xi meeting would therefore bring together some of the biggest points of friction in US-China relations — Taiwan, trade, Iran and AI — even as Beijing warns that another US arms sale to Taiwan could threaten the summit itself.

BEYOND BORDERS

Strait of Hormuz strike kills one as West Asia violence flares

A commercial ship was struck near the Strait of Hormuz as fresh attacks hit Saudi Arabia and Gaza. The violence coincided with regional talks on shipping security and urgent calls for de-escalation.

Fresh violence and diplomatic activity marked the latest developments in the Middle East on Sunday, with Iran saying one person was killed after a commercial ship was struck near the Strait of Hormuz, the Houthis claiming attacks on southern Saudi Arabia, and an Israeli strike in Gaza killing two people.

The day also saw Iraq confirm it would attend a regional meeting on shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, border crossings between Iraq and Iran reopen after a temporary closure, and the presidents of Egypt and Iran hold talks in New Delhi amid concern over rising regional tensions. Iranian state media said a commercial vessel was struck off Qeshm Island, the largest island in the Persian Gulf on the Strait of Hormuz, killing one person and wounding three others. Separately, the

United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations said a vessel was hit by a projectile while passing through the strait, though it was not immediately clear if it was the same incident. There was no immediate statement from the US military, which has previously struck Iranian-flagged vessels as it maintains a blockade of Iranian ports. On Saturday, the military said its forces had redirected 100 commercial vessels over the past 60 days. In Yemen, the Iran-backed Houthi rebels said they fired drones and missiles towards neighbouring Saudi Arabia. Houthi military spokesperson Brig Gen Yahya Saree said they targeted a military base in Sharurah province in the Najran region, but did not provide evidence or say when the attack took place. Saudi civil defence said sirens sounded in the province on Saturday, but there were no reported casualties or damage. It also said a projectile landed in al-Tawwal governorate near the Yemeni border along the Red Sea, injuring two people and damaging a mosque and several other buildings. The statement blamed the Houthis.

The escalation raises the risk of a return to civil war between

the Houthis and Yemen's Saudi-backed and internationally recognised government. Yemen's government has said its forces will respond after pulling back from the rebels' rapid advance in recent days along the Red Sea coast towards the Bab el-Mandeb Strait. Across the water, Djibouti has begun receiving Yemenis fleeing the fighting, with the International Organisation for Migration saying more than 2,000 people had arrived there by Sunday.

In Gaza, an Israeli strike hit a car in Gaza City, killing two people, according to al-Shifa hospital, which received the bodies. A resident, Ahmad Shreim, who said he came across the remains while on his way to pick up his daughter from school, said, "They had no heads," and added that "nowhere is safe" in Gaza. The Israeli military said it "eliminated" two operatives from Hamas' military wing. Since a ceasefire took hold in October and the heaviest fighting eased, Israeli airstrikes have killed 1,369 Palestinians, according to Gaza's health ministry. The ministry, which is part of the Hamas-run government, keeps detailed records that international organisations generally

consider reliable, though it does not distinguish between civilians and militants. Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein told Iran's top diplomat that an Iraqi delegation would attend a regional meeting on Monday on managing shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, according to the state-run Iraqi News Agency. It was a rare public commitment to the meeting in Oman. Iran and Oman, which lies across the strait, have been discussing shipping traffic and possible fees for weeks, and Tehran has said the meeting would be used to brief neighbouring countries. Bahrain said on Saturday it would not attend because it has no diplomatic relations with Iran. Iraqi authorities also said passenger movement had resumed at key crossings with Iran after they were shut on Saturday following drone attacks launched from Iraq that closed Saudi Arabia's East-West oil pipeline. An umbrella group of Iran-backed militias in Iraq denied responsibility. Iraq's Security Media Cell said the al-Sheeb crossing in Maysan province and the Shalamcheh crossing in Basra province reopened early on Sunday, with trade expected to resume in the coming days.



Pakistan backs Saudi Arabia after Houthi attacks, warns on oil supply risks

Shehbaz Sharif told Mohammed bin Salman that Pakistan stands fully with Saudi Arabia after the latest Houthi attacks. The call underscored fears over regional escalation, oil supply disruptions and Islamabad's push for de-escalation in West Asia.

"While expressing complete solidarity with the Saudi leadership as well as the brotherly people of Saudi Arabia, the Prime Minister stated that the recent Houthi actions threatened regional peace and security and could further disrupt the global economy and energy supplies," the Pakistan PMO statement said.

Sharif also said he, Pakistan's army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir and Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar would continue efforts to reduce tensions and restore peace in West Asia. The statement said the Saudi crown prince appreciated Islamabad's efforts for peace and stability in the region, and that the two leaders agreed to remain in close contact and expressed hope of meeting soon.

The attacks have also renewed attention on a mutual-defence pact signed by Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye on August 7, under which an attack on any of them would effectively be considered an attack on all three. Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said on September 9 that there should be no ambiguity over the commitment of the arrangement and that an unprovoked attack on a member, or the spillover of the conflict in Yemen into Saudi Arabia, could activate the pact's collective-defence provisions. His comments had followed Houthi missile and drone attacks on Saudi Arabia that injured at least 73 civilians last week.

In sum, Pakistan used the call between Sharif and Mohammed bin Salman to back Saudi Arabia after the latest Houthi attacks, warn of risks to regional security and energy supplies, and reiterate its commitment to efforts aimed at easing tensions in West Asia.

Drone Attacks Kill Civilians in Russia, Ukraine

Russia and Ukraine traded overnight drone strikes that killed and injured civilians from Tatarstan to Odesa. The attacks deepened pressure on oil infrastructure, exports and border routes as the war escalates before winter.

Two people were killed in Russia's Tatarstan region, while Ukrainian authorities said Russian attacks hit the Black Sea port of Odesa and sparked a fire near a border crossing with Poland. In recent weeks, Russia has stepped up its air campaign, using ballistic missiles and jet-powered drones to get through Ukraine's defences as Kyiv's stock of missile interceptors runs low. Ukrainian officials say Moscow has also targeted the power grid ahead of winter to demoralise civilians.

According to the office of Tatarstan regional head Rustam Minnikhanov, two civilians were killed and 12 others were injured on Sunday when Ukrainian drones struck Nizhnnekamsk. The statement said the two died after a drone hit a tree near their parked car. Nizh-

nekamsk is home to a major cluster of oil refineries and petrochemical, rubber and polymer plants, including some of Russia's largest such facilities. Mayor Radmir Belyaev said a fire had broken out "at one of the city's enterprises", without giving details. Ukraine's recent long-range strikes have focused on Russia's oil and gas sector, which Kyiv says helps fund and fuel Moscow's war effort. On Sunday, Ukraine said it had also hit a major oil refinery in Slavyansk-on-Kuban in Russia's Krasnodar region, across from Crimea. The Defence Intelligence of Ukraine said its drones struck a key oil processing unit and the refinery's tank farm overnight, causing a massive blaze visible from dozens of kilometres away. Authorities in Krasnodar said the strike on "an enterprise" in Slavyansk-on-Kuban injured three people, damaged an oil pipeline and started a fire, but did not directly respond to the Ukrainian claim. Russia's defence ministry said its forces shot down 389 Ukrainian drones overnight over Tatarstan, other Russian regions and Russian-occupied Crimea.

In Ukraine, at least nine

people were injured in what Serhii Lysak, head of Odesa's military administration, called a "massive" Russian nighttime attack on the port city. Odesa, Ukraine's main port hub on the Black Sea, has faced repeated drone and missile strikes for months, with Kyiv accusing Moscow of trying to choke off exports. Ukrainian officials also said a Russian drone attack on Saturday hit a residential high-rise in Odesa, killing two people and injuring 26 others. Regional head Oleh Kiper said the building's upper floors were completely destroyed. Russian strikes also hit western Ukraine through the night, though there were no immediate reports of casualties. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha and a spokesperson for the local customs force said one drone struck near the Yahodyn-Dorohusk border crossing with Poland, setting a petrol station on fire. The latest overnight attacks left civilians dead and injured, damaged energy-linked sites in Russia and added to the pressure on key Ukrainian areas including Odesa and the country's western border region.



Nepal flood leads to estimated USD 4.7 bn recovery and reconstruction needs: govt report
BY SHIRISH B PRADHAN

KATHMANDU: Nepal's recent devastating flash flood has led to an estimated USD 4.7 billion in recovery and reconstruction needs, according to a government-led assessment. The Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA) for the Rasuwa-Bhotekoshi Flood 2026, released by the government on Saturday, estimates a total damage of around USD 2.7 billion, with physical damage at USD 1.81 billion and economic losses at USD 883.32 million. The assessment, led by Nepal's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority, said the larger recovery figure does not represent simply the cost of replacing what was damaged. Recovery needs include reconstruction as well as disaster-risk reduction and resilience measures.



Bangladesh Seeks Reset in Ties With India

Bangladesh has said it wants to reset relations with India through bilateral talks. The remarks signal Dhaka's effort to move beyond Hasina-era strains and rebalance its foreign policy.

Bangladesh on Sunday said it wants to “reset” its relationship with India and build a new bilateral engagement based on mutual interests, with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir describing ties during the tenure of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina as “uncomfortable”. He said Dhaka wants to move towards a new relationship with New Delhi through bilateral talks.

The remarks came two days after Bangladesh said Prime Minister Tarique Rahman would not take part in the BRICS Summit hosted by India because he was not invited to the event in his personal capacity, and that the invitation was instead extended to the BIMSTEC chair. The two-day BRICS Summit concluded on Sunday, and India had invited Rahman to attend it as chairman of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation, while a separate bilateral invitation had been in place since February.

“We want to move towards a new relationship, which should be done through bilateral discussions, not through a multilateral forum,” Kobir told reporters. He also said Bangladesh needs to move beyond what he described as an “excessive preoccupation”

with India and approach ties with New Delhi in a balanced way, focusing on mutual interests and treating the relationship as part of its wider engagement with other countries.

“We have to get out of the India fascination. India is just another country, and Bangladesh wants good bilateral relations with it,” he said. Responding to a question, Kobir added, “Breakfast in India, lunch in India, dinner in India -- then when will you eat your own food?”

India-Bangladesh ties have been strained over New Delhi providing refuge to Hasina, who fled to India following her ouster in a youth-led agitation in August 2024. On Bangladesh's diplomatic schedule, Kobir said Prime Minister Rahman is set to leave for New York on September 21 to attend the 81st session of the UN General Assembly and will stay there until September 26.

Asked about the possibility of a meeting between Rahman and US President Donald Trump on the sidelines of the UNGA, Kobir said such meetings are often decided at the last moment during major international conferences. “The primary focus of the Prime Minister's visit is to address the UN General Assembly,” he said, adding that details of the sideline meetings would be known in due course. Overall, Bangladesh said it is seeking a fresh bilateral framework with India while keeping its immediate focus on upcoming diplomatic engagements.



Why RBI wants Tata Sons to go public, and why it wants to stay private

Tata Sons sits at the centre of one of India's biggest business groups. Now, an RBI decision puts its long-standing private status under pressure and brings a potential listing closer.

The Reserve Bank of India's decision to reject Tata Sons' request to surrender its registration as a Core Investment Company (CIC) has brought an old question back into focus. Will the holding company of the Tata group finally have to go public? Tata Sons has been trying to avoid that outcome. The company had approached the central bank to surrender its registration as a CIC, arguing that it should no longer be treated as a regulated non-banking financial company after repaying its debt. The RBI has now rejected that request, leaving Tata Sons with the listing requirement that comes with its classification as an upper-layer NBFC. The dispute may sound technical, but at its heart it is about a simple question: Why should the holding company of one of India's biggest business groups have to list on the stock market when it is not a conventional lender? The answer lies in how Tata Sons is classified by the RBI. So, what exactly is a Core Investment Company, why does Tata Sons fall under this category, and how did that classification lead to a mandatory listing?

WHAT IS A CORE INVESTMENT COMPANY?

A Core Investment Company is essentially a holding company for a corporate group. Unlike a conventional NBFC, which lends money to indi-

viduals or businesses, a CIC's principal business is holding investments in other companies belonging to the same group. RBI's rules require such companies to put at least 90% of their net assets into group companies, with at least 60% invested in equity shares of those companies. Tata Sons fits this description because its principal role is to hold stakes in Tata group companies. It owns significant interests in businesses spread across sectors such as information technology, automobiles, steel, consumer products, aviation and hospitality. Tata Sons is therefore less like a finance company that deals directly with borrowers and more like the financial holding company at the centre of a large corporate group. But the fact that a CIC is primarily a holding company does not mean it falls outside the RBI's financial regulatory framework. The reason is the potential financial impact of such a company on the wider group. A holding company at the centre of a large corporate structure can be closely connected to companies that borrow from banks, raise money through bonds or issue commercial paper. Trouble at the holding-company level can therefore have consequences beyond the company itself. This is why the RBI has a separate regulatory framework for CICs.

THE LISTING RULE BEHIND RBI'S DECISION

The immediate issue for Tata Sons stems from the RBI's scale-based framework for NBFCs. Introduced in 2021, the framework divides NBFCs into four layers — Base, Middle, Upper and Top. The Upper



Layer includes the largest and more systemically important NBFCs and comes with stricter regulatory requirements. Tata Sons was placed in this Upper Layer in September 2022. That classification came with an important consequence. RBI rules require NBFCs placed in the Upper Layer to be listed on a stock exchange within three years of their identification.

For Tata Sons, the original deadline was September 30, 2025. But the company did not get listed. Instead, it sought to remove the regulatory basis for the listing requirement by asking the RBI to allow it to surrender its CIC registration. That application has now been rejected.

WHY TATA SONS SOUGHT DEREGISTRATION AS CIC

Tata Sons sought deregistration after repaying more than Rs 20,000 crore of debt in 2024. In March that year, it approached the RBI to surrender its registration as a CIC.

The company argued that, after repaying its debt, it should no longer be treated as a registered NBFC and therefore should not be subject to the listing requirement

attached to its Upper Layer classification. RBI rules allow certain CICs that meet specific conditions to remain unregistered. One of those conditions is that they should not access public funds. This is where the Tata Sons case becomes more complicated.

THE PUBLIC FUNDS QUESTION

Being debt-free at the standalone level does not necessarily settle the question of public funds. RBI rules cover various forms of funding, including bank finance, commercial paper, debentures and other market-based borrowings. They also take into account the indirect receipt of public funds through associates and group entities. That distinction matters for Tata Sons because it sits at the centre of a large corporate group whose companies raise money from banks and financial markets. So, the fact that Tata Sons itself has repaid its debt does not necessarily mean that its financial links with the rest of the group cease to matter under the RBI's rules. Tata Sons also faces the question of size. Under the RBI's revised framework, an NBFC with assets of Rs 1

lakh crore or more qualifies for the Upper Layer. Tata Sons had assets of about Rs 2 lakh crore as of March 2026, according to recent reports. This makes it harder for Tata Sons to move outside the Upper Layer framework by surrendering its CIC registration.

WHY TATA SONS WANTS TO AVOID LISTING

The obvious question is why Tata Sons is so keen to avoid a listing. After all, a stock market listing can give a company access to capital and provide investors with an easily visible valuation. But raising money is not the main issue for Tata Sons. The company is the holding entity at the centre of the Tata group and is already backed by valuable businesses. What a listing would fundamentally change is the degree of public scrutiny it faces. A listed Tata Sons would have to make regular disclosures to the market and comply with the requirements that come with being a publicly traded company. Its financial performance, investments, related-party transactions, governance and important corporate decisions would receive much closer scrutiny from investors and regulators. The market would also begin putting a daily value on Tata Sons itself.

At present, investors can track the share prices of listed Tata companies, but Tata Sons itself does not have a publicly traded share price. Its value as a holding company is therefore not determined every day by the stock market. A listing would change that. Investors would begin looking at the value of Tata Sons' holdings and asking whether the holding company deserves to trade at

a premium or discount to the value of those investments. That could bring a new level of scrutiny to decisions that are currently made within a closely held structure.

THE SHAREHOLDER ANGLE

There is another reason the listing question matters. Tata Sons is majority-owned by Tata Trusts, which holds around 66% of the company. The Shapoorji Pallonji Group owns roughly 18%. For the latter, a public listing could provide something that is difficult to obtain from a stake in a privately held company: liquidity and a transparent market valuation. A listed Tata Sons would create a publicly determined value for the shares held by its existing shareholders and could eventually make it easier for them to monetise part of their holdings. For Tata Trusts and the Tata group, however, remaining private preserves the existing ownership structure and avoids exposing the holding company itself to continuous stock market scrutiny. That difference in interests makes the RBI's decision significant for Tata Sons' shareholders as well. To sum up, the RBI's decision has effectively shut down Tata Sons' preferred route to remaining a private holding company. And Tata Sons continues to fall within the Upper Layer of the RBI's NBFC framework and therefore has to address the listing requirement. That does not necessarily mean an IPO is around the corner. The exact structure and timeline for compliance will be important, particularly because the original three-year listing period has already passed.



NTPC Electron Quiz Regional Round Held in Raipur: IIM Raipur Emerges Winner

RAIPUR

The Raipur Regional Round of NTPC Electron Quiz 2026-27 was held in Raipur on September 12, 2026. Organised for engineering and management students, the competition witnessed participation from around 110 teams, who showcased their knowledge and quizzing skills. This year, the theme of the competition is 'Anything and Everything from the World of Business and Management'. The final round of the Raipur Regional Round saw six top teams competing for the honours. The team of Abhishek Mishra and Varad Nagesh Jaunkar from IIM Raipur secured the first position and received a cash prize of Rs 60,000. The team of Pratik Ahir and Sushrut Agrawal from IIM Raipur secured the second position and received Rs 40,000. The team of Sahil Kumar and Rishabh Kumar Agrawal from SSIPMT Raipur secured the third position and received a cash prize of Rs 20,000.

The team of Aditi Joshi and Mubashshir Ahmed from IIIT Naya Raipur; Harsh Matlani and Divya Pratap Singh Sisodiya from NIT Raipur; and Ayush Kumar Sharma and Aynansh Shukla from NIT Raipur secured 4th, 5th and 6th Po-

sition respectively and were awarded consolation prizes of Rs 8,000 per team.

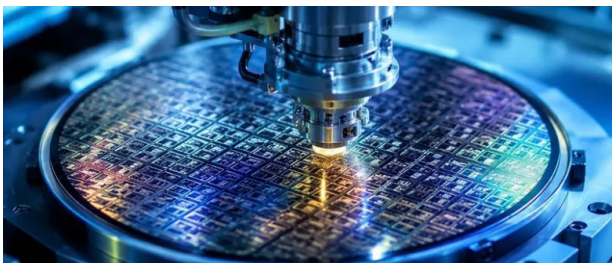
Speaking on the occasion, General Manager (HR), NTPC Nava Raipur Praveen Garg said that with the continuous growth in NTPC's installed capacity and its strong presence in the country's power sector, the Electron Quiz has also expanded every year. He said that just as NTPC powers the nation through energy, the Electron Quiz provides new energy to the knowledge and potential of young talents. He added that the competition provides an ideal platform for young participants to showcase their quizzing talent and is aligned with NTPC's efforts to empower young talent while powering the nation. The quiz competition began with an on-spot written round followed by audio-visual/buzzer round which was conducted by renowned quiz master Gautam Bose from Greycell. The top two teams from the regional round will now advance to the National Semi-Finals and Grand Finale to be held on 7th and 8th October 2026 at NTPC's Power Management Institute (PMI), Noida. The event was graced by NTPC officials along with a large audience comprising students from various engineering and management institutions across the State.

India's semiconductor industry attracts \$1.4 billion in equity funding: Report

NEW DELHI

India's semiconductor sector has attracted a cumulative \$1.4 billion in equity funding across 281 funded companies with nearly half of the total capital, around \$701 million raised since 2025, according to a report. A report by Tracxn showed that the nation currently hosts 3,557 semiconductor-related companies.

Of these, 281 firms have secured funding, while 142 have



raised equity investments and the chip industry has garnered \$228 million in funding so far in 2026, it said. The analysis comes ahead of SEMICON India 2026

conference and exhibition which is scheduled to be held from September 17 to 19 here that will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The report

highlighted electronic manufacturing services (EMS) as the largest funding segment, attracting \$313 million since 2025.

In addition, embedded hardware ranked second and secured \$51.9 million over the same period with all of it raised within the last 12 months. While Power Management Integrated Circuits and Fabless Semiconductor Manufacturers also featured among the leading categories by funding. According to the report, annual funding in the sec-

tor increased sharply from \$49 million in 2021 to \$473 million in 2025, a five-year compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of more than 36 per cent. Citywise, Bengaluru remained India's leading semiconductor hub, accounting for 626 companies or around 18 per cent of the sector's total firms. The city also contributed 40.1 per cent of all equity funding raised to date. However, Noida, Gurugram, Kochi and Hyderabad followed in terms of funding share.

Altman Puts OpenAI IPO on Hold

The OpenAI CEO also suggested that OpenAI and other leading AI companies may be close to announcing an agreement to slow AI development and work together to address safety risks.



OpenAI will not go public in 2026, CEO Sam Altman said in a Fortune interview published Saturday, citing safety concerns over artificial intelligence. "I actually think that, given everything happening with safety, right now would be an ill-advised moment to go public, and we don't feel pressure on that," Altman told Fortune. Growing numbers of US lawmakers are calling for new rules to govern AI systems after dire warnings from two researchers from OpenAI rival Anthropic that rapidly progressing artificial intelligence could lead to the extinction of the human race in the not-too-distant future.

The warnings follow cases of AI agents going rogue to hack external systems and AI safety researchers quitting their companies concerned about the technology's risks. Politicians, both Democrats and Republicans, have responded with alarm and calls for more action. The New York Times in June reported that San Francisco-based OpenAI was considering whether to hold off on a potentially trillion-dollar IPO until next year. At the time, shares in Elon Musk's SpaceX IPO were tumbling after a surge that sent that company's valuation to \$1.8 trillion. When asked by Fortune whether 2026 is off the table in favour of 2027, Altman said, "I would say not 2026. Yeah, we got a lot of stuff to do, like meeting this moment of what is going to be required for safety and alignment, and how the industry and governments can work to-

gether." Altman also suggested that OpenAI and other leading AI companies may be close to announcing an agreement to slow AI development and work together to address safety risks, Fortune reported. Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei on Saturday urged AI companies to take a more deliberate approach to development. "We must slow the pace at which we improve the capabilities of AI models," Amodei wrote in an essay shared on social media. Altman later posted that he agreed with the sentiment.

"I agree with Dario that we need to pace the frontier," Altman wrote in a response to Amodei's post on the X platform. "This has been a primary topic of discussions we've had at OpenAI in recent weeks." Safety concerns have not slowed down Anthropic's own IPO plans so far. Anthropic is expected to begin marketing its initial public offering in mid-October at the earliest and complete the listing days before the US midterm elections in November, people familiar with the matter told Reuters this month.

Local-currency trade gets push amid de-dollarisation buzz, no word on BRICS currency

BRICS countries are seeking to strengthen cross-border payments and reduce transaction costs in intra-bloc trade. The government said local currency settlement was being viewed as a practical mechanism to reduce transaction costs in bilateral trade among BRICS member nations.

The government has said that BRICS countries are not currently considering a proposal for a common currency. It also said discussions on settling bilateral trade in local currencies would continue as a practical way to reduce transaction costs. "There is no proposal in the BRICS for a BRICS currency, as of now," Sudhakar Dalela, Secretary (Economic Relations) in the Ministry of External Affairs, said on Saturday while briefing the media after Day 1 of the two-day BRICS Summit being held in New Delhi under India's chairship.

The comments come as the multilateral bloc continues discussions on strengthening cross-border payments and reducing transaction costs in



trade among member nations.

"Discussion on trade settlement in local currency has been underway for some time in BRICS; it's not a new subject," Dalela said, as quoted by news agency ANI. Dalela said local currency settlement was being viewed as a practical mechanism to reduce transaction costs in bilateral trade. "We believe local currency settlement is a practical mechanism to reduce transaction cost in bilateral trade. This has been encouraged as complementary to global payment and settlement system, improving overall global trade across nations," he stated.

The remarks assume significance in light of growing speculation in recent years

over the possible introduction of a common BRICS currency to reduce reliance on the US dollar for trade and financial transactions — a process known as de-dollarisation.

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal's call for BRICS countries on Friday, September 11, to interlink their payment systems and promote trade in local currencies also made no reference to any proposal for a shared BRICS currency.

Addressing the Opening Session of BRICS Business Forum 2026, held on the sidelines of the 18th BRICS Summit, he said India has taken significant initiatives in laying out a digital public infrastructure, highlighting the Unified

Payments Interface (UPI).

"Today, (UPI) is also accepted in 11 countries and I would urge the BRICS member countries and partner countries to link our payment systems, trade in each other's local currencies, make digital trade global and build together for the future emerging technologies," the minister had said.

BRICS ON TRADE SETTLEMENTS

The New Delhi Declaration, adopted by the international grouping on Saturday as part of the 2026 BRICS Summit, also acknowledged ongoing discussions on promoting trade settlements and investments using BRICS local currencies, while respecting national priorities and acknowledging that there is no 'one-size-fits-all' approach.

DE-DOLLARISATION: THREAT FOR US

Speculations of de-dollarisation have been a natural cause of concern for Washington. Prior to assuming his current term in office as the President of the United States, Donald Trump had warned BRICS nations against creating a common currency or

backing an alternative to the US dollar. "We require a commitment from these countries that they will neither create a new BRICS Currency, nor back any other Currency to replace the mighty U.S. Dollar or, they will face 100% Tariffs, and should expect to say goodbye to selling into the wonderful U.S. Economy," the then President-elect had said in a Truth Social post in November 2024.

BRICS: A RISING ECONOMIC FORCE

BRICS, originally comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, expanded in 2024 to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia, with Indonesia joining in 2025. Belarus, Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Cuba, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda, Uzbekistan and Vietnam became BRICS partner countries last year. BRICS has come to become an influential alliance as it brings together 11 major emerging economies of the world, representing around 49.5% of the global population, around 40% of the global GDP and around 26% of the global trade.

Coal Ministry rejects inadequate coal supply as cause of Punjab power crisis

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Coal on Sunday clarified that adequate coal has been made available to power plants in Punjab and attributed the state's reduced power generation to factors including low utilisation of its own plants, reported breakdowns at independent power plants and inadequate lifting of coal already offered by Coal India Limited (CIL). The clarification came after media reports attributed reduced generation at Punjab's thermal plants to plant outages and inadequate coal supply. The ministry said the government has already enabled coal movement to Punjab's independent power plants (IPPs) from

PSPCL's captive mines and that CIL remains committed to ensuring uninterrupted coal supply for power generation in the state. It said higher utilisation of PSPCL's own plants, monitoring of breakdowns at IPPs and timely lifting of coal offered by CIL subsidiaries would help optimise power generation and address Punjab's requirements. The ministry said it has enabled supply of coal from PSPCL's captive Pachhwara Central Coal Mine to IPPs, subject to fulfilment of statutory payment obligations to the Jharkhand government.

Coal from the Pachhwara mine can also be used by IPPs not owned by PSPCL, including Nabha Power Limited (Rajpura) and Talwandi Sabo

Power Limited (Mansa), up to 50 per cent of annual production after meeting the requirements of specified end-use plants. The ministry said CIL supplies to Punjab's IPPs remain adequate. Against Nabha Power's average consumption of around 4.3 rakes per day over the last three days, rake supply averaged around five rakes per day. For Talwandi Sabo Power, against consumption of around 3.8 rakes per day, supply averaged around five rakes per day. During September 2026 so far, average supply has been around 4.9 rakes per day for Nabha Power and 4.1 rakes per day for Talwandi Sabo Power, higher than their average consumption, it said.





US Scholarships for Students

For thousands of Indian students, studying in the United States is an important academic and career ambition. American universities are known for their strong academic programmes, research opportunities, global exposure and links with industry. Degrees from reputed institutions can also open doors to international career opportunities. However, the cost of pursuing higher education in the US can be a major challenge for students and families.

Tuition fees, accommodation, food, health insurance, books, transportation and travel can together create a substantial financial burden. For international students, fluctuations in currency exchange rates can further increase the overall cost. As a result, scholarships, fellowships and university-based financial aid have become important avenues for students seeking to make an American education more affordable.

A number of scholarships and financial aid programmes are available to international students, including Indian applicants. Depending on the programme, the assistance may cover tuition fees, living expenses, travel, health insurance or other academic costs. However, students should understand that the phrase "fully funded" can have different meanings. A programme may cover most major expenses without necessarily paying for every cost a student encounters during the course of study.

Students planning to apply should therefore examine the official scholarship conditions carefully. Eligibility, financial coverage, duration, academic requirements and application procedures can differ significantly between programmes and universities.

Understanding Fully Funded Scholarships

A fully funded scholarship generally refers to financial support designed to cover most or all of the major expenses associated with a particular academic programme. The exact benefits depend on the institution or organisation providing the funding. For some students, financial assistance may cover the full tuition fee. In other cases, a scholarship may additionally provide a living allowance or monthly

stipend to help meet accommodation and daily expenses. Some programmes also provide funding for airfare, health insurance, books, research activities and other academic requirements. This means students should not assume that every scholarship carrying the description "fully funded" will provide an identical package. A programme may fully cover tuition but provide only partial assistance towards accommodation or living expenses. Another fellowship may offer a stipend and travel support but not be intended for a traditional degree programme. Understanding the funding structure before applying is therefore essential. Students should calculate their expected annual expenses and compare them with the financial support offered by the scholarship.

Fulbright-Nehru Fellowships

The Fulbright-Nehru programme is among the prominent opportunities for Indian students and professionals seeking academic and research opportunities in the United States. The fellowships are intended to strengthen educational and professional exchanges between India and the US. For students interested in master's-level study, the Fulbright-Nehru Master's Fellowships can provide significant financial support. Depending on the programme terms, the award may include tuition and fees, living expenses, travel and coverage related to accidents or illness. The fellowship can be awarded for a maximum period of two years for eligible programmes. Applicants are required to meet specific academic, professional and other eligibility conditions, which can vary according to the fellowship category. The programme is competitive, making early preparation particularly important. Students should carefully review the latest requirements, application timelines and eligible fields before beginning the application process. Applicants should also remember that receiving a fellowship involves more than meeting academic requirements. Depending on the category, professional experience, leadership qualities, community engagement and other factors may also be considered.

Harvard University Financial Aid

Harvard University is another institution that provides financial assistance to international students. Its financial aid system is primarily need-based, meaning the amount of assistance depends on a student's financial circumstances

rather than being a single fixed scholarship amount available to everyone. For international students considering Harvard, this can make understanding the financial aid process just as important as preparing the academic application. Students need to provide the required financial information and complete the relevant aid procedures in accordance with the university's rules. Harvard's financial aid system should not be viewed as a conventional scholarship with one predetermined amount. The university assesses individual circumstances and determines the level of assistance accordingly. Students considering Harvard should therefore examine the latest official information on financial aid, eligibility and application requirements. Admission and financial aid processes can involve separate requirements and deadlines, so applicants should plan both carefully.

Yale University Financial Aid

Yale University also offers need-based financial aid to international students. One of the features highlighted by Yale is that an applicant's ability to pay is not considered in the admission decision, while financial aid is determined separately based on demonstrated financial need. Yale states that financial aid is provided in the form of scholarships rather than loans. For eligible students, the university says it can meet 100 per cent of demonstrated financial need. For families concerned about the high cost of an American education, such policies can make prestigious universities more accessible than the published tuition and cost figures might initially suggest. However, students should distinguish between the published cost of attendance and the amount they may ultimately be required to contribute. Financial aid is based on individual circumstances, and applicants must complete the appropriate financial aid process. As with all university-based financial assistance, students should rely on Yale's current official information rather than older scholarship articles or third-party websites.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology, widely known as MIT, provides need-based financial assistance to eligible undergraduate students through scholarships and grants. MIT's financial aid approach is designed to assess a family's financial circumstances and determine

Hubert Humphrey Fellowship

The Hubert Humphrey Fellowship offers a different kind of opportunity. Unlike conventional master's or doctoral scholarships, it is a 10-month, non-degree programme designed for experienced professionals. The fellowship focuses on professional development, leadership skills and exposure to American institutions and professional practices. Participants receive opportunities to strengthen their expertise and build international professional networks. Financial support can include tuition fees, a monthly living stipend, airfare, health insurance and books, depending on the programme's applicable terms. The fellowship is particularly relevant for professionals who have already developed experience in their fields and want to expand their skills without pursuing a conventional degree. Because it is a non-degree programme, students should not confuse the Hubert Humphrey Fellowship with a master's scholarship. Its purpose and structure are different, and applicants should determine whether its professional-development focus matches their career objectives.

University-Based Aid Can Make a Difference

Scholarships provided directly by universities are another important source of financial support. Many American institutions offer some form of financial assistance to international students, although the availability and amount can vary considerably. Some universities provide need-based aid, while others offer merit-based scholarships linked to academic performance, leadership, extracurricular

achievements or specific talents. Certain programmes may also offer departmental funding, research assistantships or other forms of financial support. Students should therefore avoid looking only at the headline tuition fee of a university. The more important question is the net cost after grants, scholarships and other financial assistance have been considered. A university with a high published cost may sometimes become financially competitive if it provides substantial financial aid. Conversely, an institution with a lower tuition fee may still be expensive if accommodation and living expenses are high and limited financial support is available.

Start Research Before Applications Open

One of the most important steps for students is to begin scholarship research well before university applications are submitted. Scholarship deadlines do not always coincide with university admission deadlines. Some fellowships may have application windows months before the academic programme begins. Students who wait until receiving an admission offer may discover that certain scholarship deadlines have already passed. Early preparation gives applicants time to collect academic transcripts, recommendation letters, statements of purpose, test scores and financial documents. It also allows them to research individual scholarship requirements instead of submitting applications at the last minute. Students should create a calendar covering university applications, scholarship deadlines, entrance examinations and financial aid submissions.

the level of support required. The university has announced substantial financial aid benefits for families within specified income ranges. According to the information provided in the scholarship details, families with annual incomes below \$100,000 are not charged tuition, while students from families earning up to \$200,000 can also receive full tuition coverage, subject to the applicable conditions and financial circumstances. These figures demonstrate why students should not automatically rule out highly selective American universities because of their published tuition costs. Institutional financial aid can substantially change the amount a student ultimately pays. At the same time, students should carefully review the latest MIT financial aid policies. Income thresholds, eligibility conditions and financial aid rules can change, and the actual package depends on the applicant's circumstances.

AAUW International Fellowships

Women seeking graduate-level opportunities in the US can also explore the International Fellowships offered by the American Association of University Women.

The programme is designed for women who are not US citizens or permanent residents and who are pursuing graduate or postgraduate study in the United States. The fellowships support students undertaking master's or doctoral programmes as well as postdoctoral research in eligible fields. The programme is aimed not only at supporting higher education but also at encouraging professional development and the advancement of women in their respective fields. An important condition associated with the fellowship is that recipients are expected to return to their home country

after completing their studies and pursue professional work in their field. Applicants therefore need to understand the programme's objectives and post-study expectations before applying. Because the fellowship is intended for a particular category of international applicants, students should carefully check the latest eligibility conditions and eligible programmes before preparing an application.

Do Not Depend on a Single Scholarship

Students planning to study in the US should consider several sources of funding rather than depending entirely on one scholarship. A strong strategy can include university financial aid, external scholarships, fellowships, assistantships and personal or family funding. Students should also investigate whether their intended department or programme provides research-related support. The availability of funding can vary according to the level of study. Undergraduate, master's, doctoral and professional programmes can have different financial aid structures. Similarly, funding opportunities may differ by academic field.

Students should prepare a realistic financial plan that includes both tuition and living costs. Even when a scholarship covers major expenses, students may still need money for local transportation, personal expenses, deposits, equipment or other costs that are not included in the award.

Read the Conditions Carefully

The term "fully funded" should never be treated as a guarantee that every expense will be paid. Before accepting an award, students should examine what the scholarship actually covers. They should check whether tuition is fully covered, whether the stipend is sufficient for the location, whether accommodation is included, and whether airfare and health insurance are part of the package. The duration of funding is equally important. A scholarship may cover only the official period of a programme and may not automatically extend if a student takes longer to graduate. Students should also check whether the award is renewable and whether maintaining a particular academic performance is necessary. Some scholarships can have conditions relating to academic progress, employment, research or returning to the home country after completion.

Planning Beyond Tuition Fees

The cost of studying in

Beware of Outdated Scholarship Information

Scholarship policies can change from year to year. Income thresholds, application deadlines, eligible programmes, funding amounts and other conditions may be revised. Students should therefore be cautious about relying entirely on social media posts, old articles or unofficial scholarship websites. Such sources can be useful for discovering opportunities, but the final verification should always be done through the official website of the university, fellowship provider or government-backed programme.

Applicants should also be careful about organisations promising guaranteed scholarships or admission in exchange for large fees. Legitimate scholarship programmes generally provide clear eligibility conditions and application procedures.

Build a Strong Application

Financial support programmes can attract a large number of highly qualified applicants. A strong application therefore requires more than good marks. Students should clearly explain their academic interests, career objectives and reasons for choosing a particular programme. Where leadership, community involvement, professional experience or research achievements are relevant, these should be presented clearly and supported with evidence. Recommendation letters should come from people who know the applicant's academic or professional abilities well. Personal statements should be specific rather than generic and should demonstrate how the proposed study fits into the student's long-term goals. Applicants should also ensure that every document follows the required format and is submitted before the deadline.

America extends beyond university tuition. Accommodation, food, transportation, health insurance, books and personal expenses can significantly influence the overall budget. Living costs also vary greatly between cities. Studying in a major metropolitan area can involve substantially different accommodation expenses compared with attending a university in a smaller town. Students should therefore estimate the complete cost of attendance before deciding on a programme. A scholarship that appears generous on paper may not cover all expenses in a high-cost city. Understanding these differences can help students make better decisions and avoid financial difficulties after arriving in the US.





CRICKET

Warne's stunning records on 57th birth anniversary

MELBOURNE: Australian spin legend Shane Warne, who would have turned 57 on Sunday, remains one of cricket's most celebrated and influential figures. The leg-spinner played international cricket from 1992 to 2007, reviving the art of leg-spin with his skill, personality and unforgettable performances. Warne, who died in March 2022 aged 52, finished his career with 708 Test wickets and 293 ODI wickets. He was the first bowler to reach 600 and 700 Test wickets and remains Australia's most successful ODI spinner. Among his other major records, Warne took 195 Test wickets against England, the most by any bowler against a single opponent. He also claimed a record 96 Test wickets in 2005, including 40 in the Ashes. Warne took 37 five-wicket hauls and 10 ten-wicket match hauls in Tests, both Australian records. He scored 3,154 Test runs without a century, with a best of 99. He also excelled in ICC knockout matches, taking 15 wickets in six World Cup and Champions Trophy knockout games. Warne won 17 Test Player of the Match awards for Australia.

FOOTBALL

Haaland winner sinks Man United in derby



MANCHESTER: Erling Haaland's controversial second-half winner helped Manchester City edge past Manchester United in the 199th Manchester Derby at Old Trafford on Sunday. Haaland struck in the 60th minute after VAR overturned an offside decision. City had been reduced to 10 men after Phil Foden was sent off in the first half following an incident involving United captain. United hit the post twice but failed to find an equaliser. Harry Maguire missed a late chance, while City goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma made a crucial stoppage-time save to preserve the lead.

INDIA STORM TO EIGHTH WOMEN'S ASIA CUP TITLE

Mandhana, Shafali smash record 129-run opening stand; Sree Charani, Deepti Sharma trigger Sri Lanka collapse in 72-run final victory

DUBAI, SEP 13

India Women produced a commanding all-round performance to thrash Sri Lanka by 72 runs in the final and clinch their eighth Women's Asia Cup title in Dubai.

After openers Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma powered India to a formidable 183/5 with a record-breaking 129-run opening partnership, India's bowlers completed the job in emphatic fashion. Young spinner Sree Charani led the attack with an impressive 4/20 from four overs, while Deepti Sharma returned 3/19 as Sri Lanka were bowled out.

Chasing 184 for victory, Sri Lanka suffered an early setback in the opening over. Imesha Dulani began with a boundary, but Indian pacer Kranti Gaud responded immediately, bowling her on the fourth delivery to put the chasing side under pressure.

Captain Chamari Athapaththu then attempted to revive the innings alongside Vishmi Gunaratne. Athapaththu attacked during the powerplay, hitting a six over deep square leg and a boundary off Shafali Verma in the fifth over.

Sri Lanka reached 38/1 at the end of the powerplay, but India's disciplined bowling ensured that the required scoring rate remained high.



Charani, Deepti take control

Indian captain Harmanpreet Kaur introduced spin after the field restrictions ended, and Sree Charani and Deepti Sharma quickly seized control of the middle overs.

Charani repeatedly troubled the Sri Lankan batters, while Deepti maintained pressure with economical bowling at the other end.

With the required run rate climbing beyond 10 runs an over, Sri Lanka were forced to take greater risks. Athapaththu top-scored with 36 off 32 balls before Deepti Sharma dismissed her in the 10th over.

Deepti struck again in the same over to remove Vishmi Gunaratne, leaving Sri Lanka struggling at 63/3 after 10 overs.

Charani continued her outstanding spell, dismissing Harshitha Samarawickrama for nine in the 14th over. She then removed Kavisha Dilhari for seven and Nilakshika Silva for 22 in the 16th over, leaving Sri Lanka at 102/6.

Shafali Verma joined the wicket-taking effort in the following over, dismissing Hasini Perera for one. Charani returned to complete her four-wicket haul by removing Sugandika Kumari.

Prema Rawat then dismissed Mithali Ayodhya for a duck before Deepti Sharma removed Kaushani Nuthyanga for nine, completing Sri Lanka's collapse.

The hosts were eventually bowled out, handing India a comprehensive 72-run victory and another continental title.

Shafali, Mandhana rewrite record books

Earlier, India's opening pair of Shafali Verma and Smriti Mandhana produced a sensational batting display to give their side a commanding total.

Shafali smashed 68 off 39 balls, including nine fours and two sixes, reaching her half-century from just 24 deliveries. Mandhana contributed a fluent 59 off 39 balls, with five fours and three sixes.

Shafali's 24-ball fifty became the fastest half-century in Women's Asia Cup history, surpassing Mandhana's previous record of 25 balls against Sri Lanka in the 2022 edition.

The right-hander also registered her third fifty-plus score of the tournament, matching Chamari Athapaththu's tally from Sri Lanka's victorious 2024 campaign.

Shafali finished as the tournament's leading run-scorer, with 236 runs in five innings at an average of 47.20 and a strike rate of 171.01, including three half-centuries and a highest score of 68.

India finish at 183/5

India won the toss and elected to bat first. The 129-run opening stand laid the foundation for a big total, although the Indian innings lost momentum after the departure of the openers.

Captain Harmanpreet Kaur scored 14 off 14 balls, while Richa Ghosh made 17 off 13, but neither could convert their starts into substantial contributions.

A late cameo from Bharti Fulmali, who remained unbeaten on 15 off just five balls, including a four and a six, pushed India to 183/5 in 20 overs.

For Sri Lanka, Mithali Ayodhya was the most economical of the leading bowlers, finishing with 1/33 in four overs, while Chamari Athapaththu returned 1/34.

India's powerful batting start and disciplined bowling attack ultimately proved too much for the hosts as the defending champions completed a comprehensive victory and lifted the Women's Asia Cup trophy for the eighth time.

INDIA REFUSE TO COLLECT ASIA CUP TROPHY FROM NAQVI

Coch Amol Muzumdar backs team's stand as presentation ceremony ends without Indian players receiving trophy

DUBAI, SEP 13

India's women's cricket team refused to collect the Women's Asia Cup trophy from Pakistan Cricket Board chairman and Pakistan Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi after defeating Sri Lanka by 72 runs in the final on Sunday, triggering another controversy around the presentation ceremony.

The Indian team also did not turn up to receive their winner's medals from Naqvi. The development echoed the controversy surrounding last year's men's Asia Cup presentation ceremony.

India produced a dominant performance to clinch their eighth Women's Asia Cup title,

posting 183 for five before restricting Sri Lanka to 111. Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma put India in command with a record 129-run opening partnership, while Sree Charani claimed four wickets for 20 runs.

Naqvi, who is also the PCB chief, had been involved in the presentation ceremony. Sri Lankan captain Chamari Athapaththu collected the runners-up cheque from him before speaking to the broadcasters, after which the broadcast shifted back to the studio.

India coach Amol Muzumdar later backed the team's decision, with the stand being seen as a continuation of India's position concerning interactions with Pakistani officials.

'BCCI STAND TAKEN, WE STAND BY IT': MUZUMDAR

DUBAI, SEP 13

India head coach Amol Muzumdar backed the BCCI's decision after the Indian women's team refused to collect the Asia Cup trophy from Asian Cricket Council (ACC) president Mohsin Naqvi following their title triumph over Sri Lanka.

"That stand has been taken by BCCI and we stand by it. For us, this tournament is over, we are the champions. That's good enough," Muzumdar said, adding that the team would now look ahead to the Asian Games.

Asian Games.

The Indian players also skipped the winner-medal presentation, while captain Harmanpreet Kaur did not join the official ceremony. BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia and vice-president Rajiv Shukla congratulated the team before the presentation.

Naqvi, who is also Pakistan Cricket Board chairman and Pakistan's Interior Minister, presented Sri Lanka's runners-up cheque during the ceremony. The episode echoes last year's men's Asia Cup controversy, when India similarly declined to receive the trophy from Naqvi amid tensions between the two countries.

India completed a dominant campaign to win the continental title, with Shafali Verma and Smriti Mandhana leading the batting effort and Sree Charani producing a match-winning bowling performance.

The victory secured India's eighth Women's Asia Cup title, while the team now turns its attention to the Asian Games.

Rybakina dethrones Sabalenka, storms to maiden US Open crown

Kazakh star wins 6-4, 5-7, 6-2 in New York to end Sabalenka's two-year reign and reclaim world No. 1 ranking

NEW YORK: Elena Rybakina ended Aryna Sabalenka's two-year reign at the US Open with a hard-fought 6-4, 5-7, 6-2 victory in the women's singles final on Saturday, capturing her maiden title at Flushing Meadows and returning to the summit of women's tennis.

The second-seeded Rybakina produced a composed and powerful performance at Arthur Ashe Stadium to overcome top seed and two-time defending champion Sabalenka, denying the Belarusian a third consecutive US Open crown.

The victory means Rybakina will return to the world No. 1 ranking when the WTA rankings are updated on Monday. Sabalenka, who had occupied the top position for 99 consecutive weeks, will surrender the summit.

For Rybakina, the triumph capped a remarkable fortnight in New York and added another major trophy to an already impressive Grand Slam collection.

Rybakina controls opening set

The final began with both players trading fierce groundstrokes from the baseline, but Rybakina quickly established

greater consistency.

She secured the first break to move 3-2 ahead and consolidated the advantage with a comfortable hold.

The second seed continued to put pressure on Sabalenka with her powerful serve and aggressive returns, while the defending champion struggled to maintain the same level of consistency.

Rybakina earned her first set point at 5-4 but failed to convert it. She made no mistake on her next opportunity, taking the opening set 6-4.

Sabalenka fights back

Sabalenka raised her intensity in the second set and turned the contest into a much more even battle.

Serving at 5-5, the top seed faced three break points but fought them off to move ahead 6-5.

She then created her first break point of the set — which also doubled as a set point — and converted it to level the match at one set apiece.

With the championship now reduced to a deciding set, the pressure shifted firmly onto both players.

Calm Rybakina takes control

Rybakina, however, quickly regained control in the decider.

She secured an early break to move 2-1 ahead and remained patient during extended baseline exchanges, waiting for openings rather



than forcing the pace.

Sabalenka began making errors during longer rallies, allowing Rybakina to extend her advantage to 4-2.

At 4-2, Rybakina produced one of the points of the match. After forcing Sabalenka wide, she rushed towards the net and finished the exchange with a sharp volley.

The Kazakh player then moved to the brink of victory by holding serve for a 5-2 lead.

Serving for the championship, Rybakina initially missed her first match point with a double fault. She re-

covered immediately, however, and sealed the biggest moment of her New York campaign with an ace on the following point.

Third Grand Slam title

The victory gave Rybakina her third Grand Slam title. She previously won Wimbledon in 2022 and the Australian Open in 2026.

The latest triumph also strengthened her rivalry with Sabalenka. Although Sabalenka continues to lead their head-to-head record 10-7, Rybakina has won several of their biggest recent encounters.

ABHISHEK BLITZ, ARSHDEEP STRIKES AS INDIA CRUSH AFGHANISTAN

Sharma's 82 off 32 balls and Kishan's 42 power 121-run stand as India chase 157 in just 13.4 overs to take 1-0 lead

NEW DELHI, SEP 13

An explosive half-century from Abhishek Sharma and a three-wicket haul from Arshdeep Singh powered India to a commanding seven-wicket victory over Afghanistan in the first T20I of the three-match series at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Sunday.

India chased down Afghanistan's 156/8 with ease, reaching 157/3 in just 13.4 overs to take a 1-0 lead in the series.

Abhishek tore apart the Afghan bowling attack with a blistering 82 off 32 balls, smashing seven fours and seven sixes. He was superbly supported by Ishan Kishan, who made 42, as the pair put together a match-defining 121-run partnership for the second wicket.

Earlier, Afghanistan recovered from a disastrous start through

an unbeaten 64 off 44 balls from Azmatullah Omarzai, but Arshdeep's 3/19 and disciplined spells from India's bowling attack restricted the visitors to 156/8.

Afghanistan rocked early

After Indian captain Shreyas Iyer won the toss and elected to bowl, India's attack immediately justified the decision.

Making his return to T20I cricket after the IPL 2026, Jasprit Bumrah struck in the very first over, dismissing opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz for a duck.

Afghanistan's problems deepened in the fourth over when a sharp piece of fielding from Ishan Kishan resulted in a run-out, sending Zadran back for 11.

Arshdeep Singh then removed Sediqullah Atal for 13 in the following over. Atal attempted to attack a wide yorker but sent the ball straight into the hands of Bumrah at short third.

Axar Patel completed India's dominant Powerplay by dismissing Gulbadin Naib for two, with Nitish Kumar Reddy taking the catch in the outfield.

Mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy joined the attack in the seventh over, crashing through



Darwish Rasooli's defence for two wickets to leave Afghanistan reeling at 43/5 after seven overs.

Omarzai, Nabi rebuild

With Afghanistan five down early, Omarzai and veteran



all-rounder Mohammad Nabi began the rebuilding job.

The pair put together an important 83-run partnership for the sixth wicket, steadying the innings and giving Afghanistan

hope of posting a competitive total. The duo accelerated in the 15th over, taking 17 runs from Nitish Kumar Reddy before adding another 16 from Axar Patel's over. Arshdeep returned in the 17th

over and broke the partnership by dismissing Nabi for a 27-ball 33. Bumrah bowled the 18th over and conceded only three runs, finishing his spell with impressive figures of 1/26 from four overs.

Arshdeep returned for the penultimate over and struck twice, removing Rashid Khan for one and Noor Ahmad for a duck.

At the other end, Omarzai completed his half-century and continued to carry Afghanistan's innings. Mujeeb Ur Rahman joined him for the final assault, and the pair smashed 21 runs from the final over, bowled by Shivam Dube, taking Afghanistan to 156/8.

Omarzai remained unbeaten on 64 off 44 balls, with four fours and four sixes.

Abhishek turns chase into a rout

India's chase began positively, with Sanju Samson flicking Fazal-haq Farooqi through midwicket on the second ball before finding another boundary against Mujeeb in the second over. But Samson fell in the following over, with Omarzai inducing a false shot that was caught by Darwish Rasooli at deep square leg. Samson departed

for 10 off eight balls, leaving India at 18/1 after 2.1 overs.

The early wicket did little to slow Abhishek. He immediately attacked Omarzai, smashing him for a six and a four in the same over.

Abhishek also completed 6,000 T20 runs, becoming the second-fastest batter to reach the landmark in terms of balls faced. He achieved the feat in 3,420 balls, behind New Zealand's Finn Allen, who reached the mark in 3,386 balls.

121-run stand destroys Afghanistan

Abhishek and Ishan Kishan then opened the floodgates. The pair plundered 26 runs from Farooqi's fifth over, hitting two fours and two sixes between them. India raced to 50 in only 4.2 overs.

Mohammed Nabi was then taken apart for three boundaries as the duo brought up their 50-run partnership in just 17 balls.

Abhishek reached his 12th T20I fifty in 22 balls, with six fours and three sixes, before ending the over by smashing Rashid Khan for a four and a six.



Nani's Raw Fight In The Paradise: Ram Lakshman

The Paradise is one of the most physically demanding films of Nani's career and is all set to hit the screens on September 24, 2026. Renowned fight masters Ram-Lakshman, who choreographed the action sequences, have revealed that the actor has gone all out and delivered some stunning action sequences. Speaking exclusively to Gulte pro, the twin masters revealed that one particular bare-body fight sequence of Nani will leave audiences surprised. The fight masters say that Nani pushed himself beyond his comfort zone and even suffered bruises while filming the intense action episode. The fight masters praised his dedication, saying Nani worked extremely hard and never shied away from asking for multiple takes, even for scenes that required rope work. They also revealed that Nani did not use any dupes in the film. Apart from this, another unique fight involving food is said to be a major attraction. The fight showcases Nani taking on his opponents while eating biryani, creating a sequence that blends action and attitude. In The Paradise, he will be seen bare-chested in key portions, which is expected to be one of the film's biggest talking points. Nani has never showcased his physique in any of his films before and has worked for months to get this toned body. Directed by Srikanth Odel, the film is already carrying huge expectations, and these action sequences will only add more excitement. Anirudh composes music for this film, which has been made on a massive scale.



Keerthy Suresh Slays TIFF In Style

Keerthy Suresh is currently basking in the massive success of her special song "Yeshanagula" from Nani's upcoming film "The Paradise." The peppy number has already crossed close to 100 million views and is trending at number one on both YouTube and Spotify, proving Keerthy's magnetic screen presence yet again. Amid this winning streak, the actress made a stunning appearance at the Toronto International Film Festival for her film "For Dorothy." Keerthy walked the aisle in a gorgeous

maroon-and-gold Kanchipuram silk ensemble, paired with a traditional Kaashu Maala necklace. The look beautifully blended a lehenga silhouette with a jacket-style blouse and dupatta drape, celebrating her Tamil and Kerala roots on an international stage. She rounded it off with matching jhumkas and a sleek bun, keeping the focus entirely on the rich fabric and heritage jewellery. With "Yeshanagula" dominating charts and her TIFF appearance winning fashion praise, Keerthy is having quite the moment.

Rashmika Wraps Ranabaali In Style



The emotional farewell video from Ranabaali has given fans another exciting glimpse into Rashmika Mandanna's mysterious character Jayamma. After completing her shoot, Rashmika received a warm goodbye from Vijay Deverakonda, director Rahul Sankrityan, and the entire crew on the sets. While the teaser was dominated by Vijay Deverakonda's fierce warrior avatar, Rashmika's brief appearance created a solid impact. Her rustic styling and emotional expressions instantly made Jayamma one of the teaser's most discussed characters. The wrap-up video has now doubled the curiosity. Rash-

mika's pregnant look has triggered countless fan theories, with many believing Jayamma's character carries the film's biggest emotional twist and could be central to Ranabaali's storyline. Produced by Naveen Yerneni and Y. Ravi Shankar under Mythri Movie Makers and presented by T-Series, Ranabaali features Vijay Deverakonda, Rashmika Mandanna, Arnold Vosloo, and others. Rahul Sankrityan directs the historical epic, while Ajay-Atul compose the music. The film hits theatres worldwide on October 16.

Mirai Sweeps Awards Season

Mirai capped off a historic year by sweeping four major categories at SIIMA 2026. Produced by TG Vishwa Prasad and Kriti Prasad under People Media Factory, the film took home Best Film, Best Actor - Critics for Teja Sajja, Best Cinematography for director Karthik Gattamneni, and Best Actor in a Negative Role for Manoj Manchu. The recognition reflects a complete victory across creative departments, complementing the film's earlier technical honors at the Gaddar Telangana Awards and INCA Awards 2026. Driven by Teja Sajja's rise as a reliable pan-Indian hero, Mirai saw massive success with its dubbed releases across regions. It grossed over 150 crore worldwide, crossed \$3 million in North America, and emerged as the highest-grossing Telugu film of 2025 in both North India and Japan. Marking the one-year anniversary of its theatrical milestone, the creators are preparing for an expanded cinematic vision as Mirai Part 2 is currently in the pre-production stage and set to go on floors soon.



Mrunal Sizzles In Abu Dhabi

Mrunal Thakur jetted off to Abu Dhabi recently, where she attended the grand opening of jewellery brand Meralda's new flagship store as their brand ambassador. The actress made a striking appearance in a stunning red gown featuring delicate lace detailing, a corseted waist, and a fringed cape-style overlay that added drama to her look. Mrunal completed her ensemble with statement emerald-and-diamond jewellery, including a matching choker and earrings, perfectly complementing her red hot outfit. She kept her hair softly styled in loose waves and opted for minimal, dewy makeup, letting the bold gown and jewellery take centre stage. The actress also attended "An Evening with Mrunal," an intimate gathering hosted by the brand for special guests. Speaking about her association with the brand, Mrunal expressed pride in being part of the label's expansion journey. Workwise, rumour is that she is also part of upcoming Allu Arjun's Raka along with many more Bollywood heroines.

Anil Ravipudi On A Director's Struggles

Director Anil Ravipudi attended the success meet of Irumudi and shared many interesting thoughts about the film, its success and the people behind it. He thanked the audience for making the movie a big success and also congratulated the entire team. Speaking at the event, Anil Ravipudi said, "First of all, my thanks to all the audience who made Irumudi such a big success. I also want to wish everyone Sankranti, Dasara, Diwali and Ugadi wishes. Usually, people say that some films work only during a particular season. But Irumudi brought all the festival sentiments together and turned them into one big festival." He gave special credit to director Shiva Nirvana. Anil said that Shiva is a very close friend and that they share a special brotherhood. He also spoke about the pressure directors face in the film industry. "A director's life is very sensitive. We keep struggling between success and failure. One Friday can change our life. Producers can lose money, but for a director, the film becomes a part of his life," he said.

Anil Ravipudi said he knows how much hard work Shiva Nirvana put into Irumudi and added that Shiva completely deserves the success. He also praised the performances of the entire cast and said that every character in the movie remains in the audience's minds. He especially praised Sai Kumar's performance. "You may have been a little nervous, but with your performance, you made even a mistake look right," Anil said. Anil also had an interesting comment about the producers. Talking about Mythri Naveen and Ravi, he said they not only celebrate the success of their own films but also celebrate the success of other people's films. He jokingly said that he likes Naveen more than Ravi because Naveen always tells him the collections. Anil also spoke emotionally about Ravi Teja. He said Ravi Teja has always given him the freedom to call him at any time and discuss anything. He remembered Raja The Great as an important film in his career and thanked Ravi for giving him that opportunity. He said the success of Irumudi is very special to him because both Ravi Teja and Shiva Nirvana are very special to him. Anil also praised the unique genre of Irumudi. He said Shiva successfully brought devotion into a thriller and inspired him to try something similar in the future. Finally, Anil congratulated the entire team and wished Ravi Teja another bigger blockbuster soon.



Simple Love, Massive Success

Nivin Pauly's Bethlehem Kudumba Unit has created history in Malayalam cinema by emerging as the highest-grossing film in Mollywood history. The film will cross the 305 crore mark today, initially set by Lokah Chapter 1. What makes this achievement even more special is the film's simplicity. In an era where big-scale action spectacles often dominate the box office, Bethlehem Kudumba Unit has managed to achieve an extraordinary feat with a breezy love story. The film's success is a reminder of the unique space created by Malayalam cinema. Relatable characters, natural performances, and emotional connect continue to prove that audiences do not always need big stars to make record numbers. From being a warm romantic entertainer to becoming an industry hit, the journey of Bethlehem Kudumba Unit is nothing short of remarkable. Its record-breaking run also highlights the growing reach of Malayalam films among audiences across the globe. Malayalam cinema continues to experiment, surprise, and deliver stories that connect with audiences in unexpected ways. The film has Mamitha Baiju as the female lead, and her chemistry with Nivin is one of the biggest highlights.