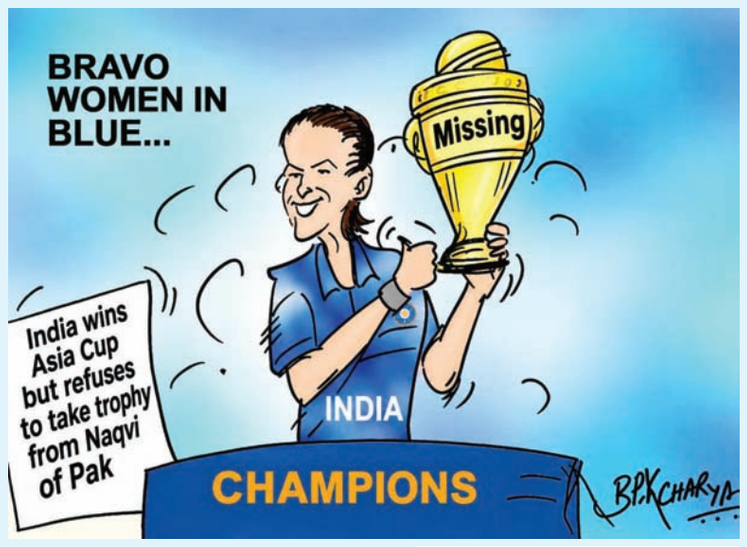
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OBTUSE ANGLE



by BP ACHARYA



Revanth Invites Aga Khan to Summit

Hyderabad, Sept.15 : Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has invited Prince Rahim Aga Khan V to attend the prestigious Telangana Global Summit 2026, scheduled to be held over three days from December 7 at Bharat Future City. During a courtesy meeting with Prince Rahim Aga Khan V at Taj Falaknuma Palace in Hyderabad on Tuesday, the Chief Minister sought the Aga Khan Foundation's collaboration in strengthening Telangana's education, tourism and healthcare sectors.

Minister Azharuddin, Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju, CM's Advisor Ramakrishna Rao, senior government officials and representatives of the Aga Khan Foundation participated in the meeting.

Revanth Reddy expressed his condolences to Prince Rahim Aga Khan V on the passing of his father, the late Aga Khan IV, and recalled the long-standing association of the Aga Khan family with the historic city of Hyderabad. The Chief Minister said the Telangana government holds the Aga Khan Foundation in high regard and appreciated

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Big UPI Payments Face 0.4% Merchant Charge

UPI payments above 2,000 to attract 0.4% merchant charge from October 15

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 15

Digital payments through the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) will undergo a significant change from October 15, with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) introducing a 0.4 per cent Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on select person-to-merchant (P2M) transactions above ₹2,000.

The new framework, however, will not impose a direct charge on consumers. The MDR will be borne by merchants and will apply only to specified merchant transactions. Person-to-person (P2P) UPI transfers, such as sending money to family members or friends, will continue to remain free.

Under the revised structure, a merchant receiving a UPI payment of more than ₹2,000 will face an MDR of 0.4 per cent, subject to a maximum charge of ₹300 per transaction for payments of ₹75,000 and above. For example, a ₹5,000 merchant payment would attract an MDR of ₹20, while the customer would continue to pay only ₹5,000.

Certain essential-service categories will have a separate flat-rate structure. UPI payments above ₹2,000 for railways, telecom services, insurance and fuel will attract a ₹5 MDR per transaction, according to the revised framework. The move comes after the government formally clarified that banks and payment system providers cannot impose charges on UPI transactions of up to ₹2,000. The provision also covers payments made through RuPay-powered debit cards within the specified limit.

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At a glance

Effective from: October 15, 26
Threshold: Above 2,000
Standard MDR: 0.4%
Maximum MDR: 300
P2P UPI: No charge
UPI payments up to 2,000: No charge
Railways/telecom/insurance/fuel: 5 flat MDR above 2,000
Small QR merchants: Eligible merchants below 1 lakh monthly receipts exempt

Rahul: Centre Has Opened the Door to UPI Charges



NEW DELHI, SEP 15

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi has accused the Centre of paving the way for charges on UPI transactions. He alleged that a recent notification issued by the government has opened the door for the imposition of a Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on UPI transactions above ₹2,000.

Rahul Gandhi said UPI transactions of up to ₹2,000 are currently protected from MDR charges. However, he alleged that the government has now created an avenue for imposing MDR on higher-value transactions in the future. Such a move, he said, could increase the cost of digital payments.

Burden will ultimately fall on consumers

Rahul Gandhi argued that if merchants are charged MDR on UPI

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Centre–Opposition Consultations Over Special Session



NEW DELHI, SEP 15

The central government is reportedly in talks with the opposition regarding the conduct of a special session of Parliament. It is understood that the government has begun the process of seeking the views of opposition leaders on the dates and arrangements for the special session. As part of this process, the office of Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju has reportedly contacted Congress president and Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, government sources said.

According to reports, discussions were held with Kharge over the possibility of conducting the special session by October 11. The government is also

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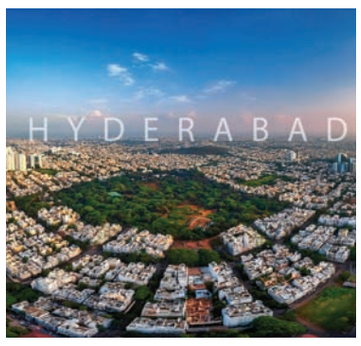
AP's former D.CM Alla Nani dies of cardiac arrest

Visakhapatnam, Sep 15 : Former Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Kali Krishna Srinivas (Alla Nani) died of cardiac arrest on Tuesday. He was 57. Popularly known as Alla Nani, he breathed his last at his residence in Visakhapatnam. Alla Nani began his political career with the Congress party. He was elected to the Assembly of united Andhra Pradesh from Eluru in 2004 and 2009 on the Congress party ticket. He later joined the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) and contested unsuccessfully on the party ticket in the 2014 Assembly elections. Alla Nani was elected to the Legislative Council under the MLA quota in 2017. He was elected to the Assembly from Eluru in 2019. From 2019 to 2022, he served as the Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Medical and Health in YS Jagan Mohan Reddy-led YSRCP government. Last year, Alla Nani quit YSRCP to join the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has

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Hyd emerges as top REIT office hub

Hyderabad, Sept.15: Hyderabad has emerged as one of India's leading office markets for institutional real estate, with Real Estate Investment Trusts (REIT)-owned assets accounting for 20 percent of the city's operational office stock, according to the latest ASSOCHAM-Knight Frank India report, "Building Viksit Bharat - Real Estate as a Catalyst for Growth". The city has 129.1 million sq ft of operational office space, of which 26.2 million sq feet is REIT-backed.



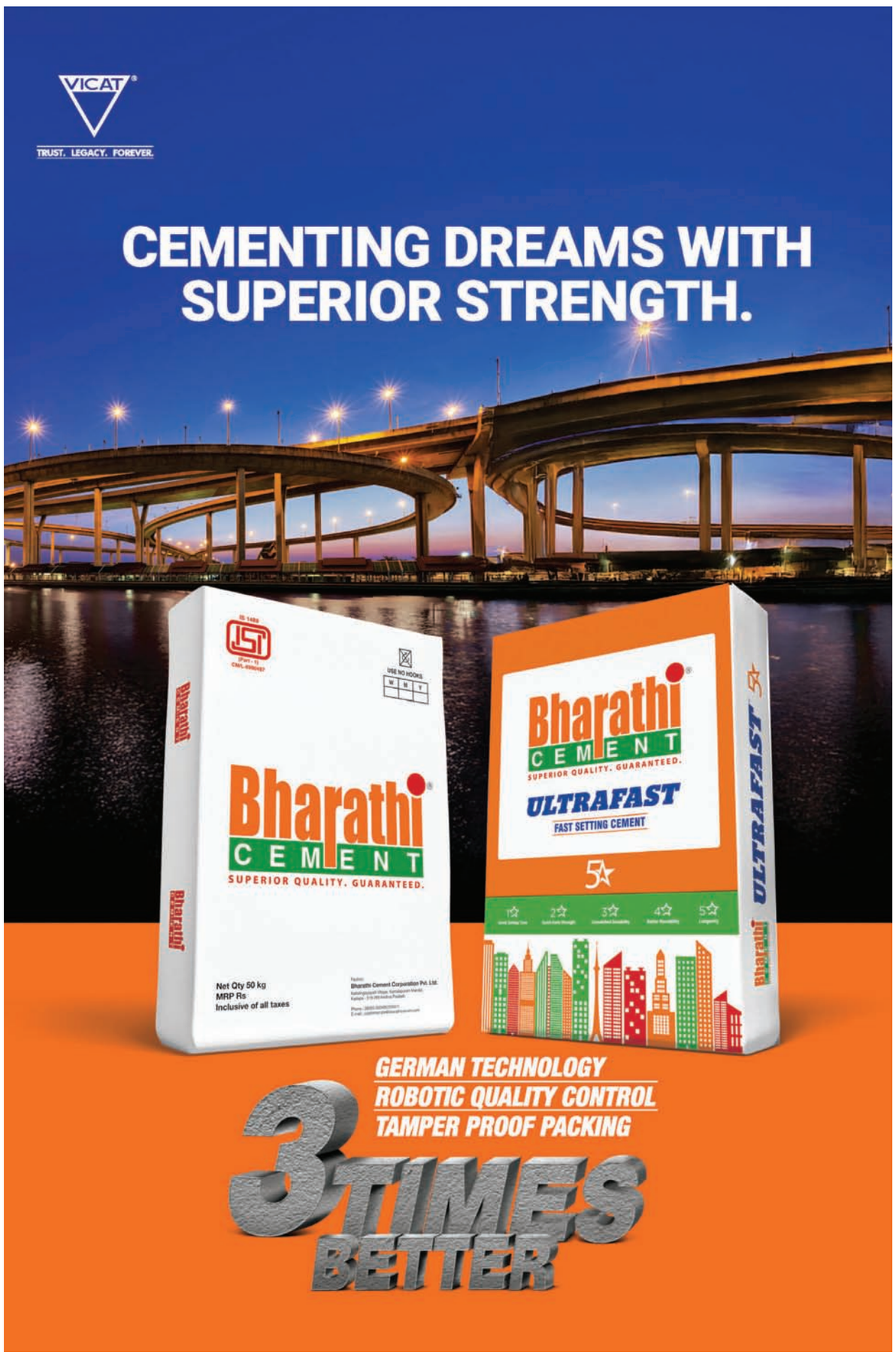
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CS reviews arrangements for VP's 17 Hyd visit

Hyderabad, Sept.15: Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju on Tuesday chaired a high-level review meeting at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat to oversee preparations for Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan's upcoming visit to the city on September 17. The Vice-President will serve as the chief guest at the Union government's official Telangana Liberation Day celebrations, organised under the aegis of the Union Ministry of Culture.

According to the Chief Secretary, the Vice-President is scheduled to land in Hyderabad at 8:30 a.m. on September 17. He will then attend the central event at the Secunderabad Parade Grounds,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤



Polling stations to rise by 46% by 2029

NEW DELHI, SEP 15

The number of polling stations across the country is expected to rise by nearly 46% by the time of the 2029 Lok Sabha elections, according to the Election Commission. In response to an RTI query, the EC provided details of its plans to increase the number of polling stations, procure new electronic voting machines (EVMs), and phase out old machines. There were 10.52 lakh polling stations across the country during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The number is projected to increase to around 15.38 lakh by the 2029 elections — an increase of nearly 46% in five years. The increase is aimed at accommodating the growing number of voters and reducing the number of electors assigned to each polling station.

More EVMs for 2029

The Election Commission has also drawn up a plan to meet the EVM requirements for the 2029 elections. According to its RTI response, the EC currently has 30.48 lakh Ballot Units and 21.92 lakh Control Units. It plans to procure an additional 3.57 lakh Ballot Units and 1.25 lakh Control Units ahead of the 2029 elections. At the same time, old machines and those that no longer meet the prescribed standards will be phased out in a systematic manner.

486 crore earmarked for new EVMs and VVPATs

The EC said it is expected to spend around ₹486 crore on the procurement of new EVMs and VVPAT machines.

The measures are part of the Commission's preparations to strengthen election infrastructure well ahead of the 2029 Lok Sabha polls. With plans to increase the number of polling stations and ensure adequate availability of EVMs and VVPATs, the EC is gearing up to conduct the 2029 general elections more efficiently, given their massive scale.

BRS, Cong Fear MIM Over Liberation Day: NRR



Hyderabad, Sept 15 : Telangana BJP State President N Ramchander Rao today said that the BJP has been demanding that September 17 be officially celebrated as Telangana Liberation Day, but successive BRS and Congress governments have failed to do so because of their fear of the MIM and their vote-bank politics.

Rao was addressing the gathering before commencement of Mahila Shakti Scooty Rally by BJP MAhila Morcha

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

KTR Seeks Judicial Probe Over 22-A Land Issues



New Delhi, Sep 15: BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) has demanded a judicial inquiry into alleged irregularities in removing lands from Telangana's 22A prohibited properties list and in the regularisation of assigned lands. Speaking to the media in Delhi, KTR launched a strong attack on the state government. KTR questioned why the government had taken three years to regularise assigned lands. He alleged that settlements had been carried out in the matter for three years and that efforts were now underway to regularise them.

KTR criticised Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, alleging that every scheme introduced by him has a major scam behind it. Taking a dig at the government's "Bhu Bharati" initiative, he said it was effectively being

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CMD JITESH V. PATIL INSPECTS GANESH MANDAPS

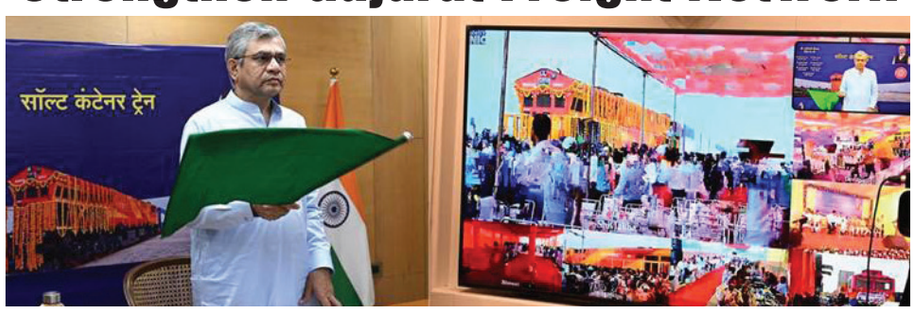


Medchal-Malkajgiri, September 15, 2026: CMD Jitesh V. Patil conducted an inspection and organized a public event in the Kukatpally Section under the Kukatpally Division, bringing attention to a key principle for the Ganesh festival: devotion should always be paired with safety. The program included participation of Janapriya DE/Op Kukatpally, B. Prasad ADE/Op Kukatpally, G. Chaitanya AE (Kukatpally), along with staff members from the division, who joined the CMD during the site review and engagement with the teams involved in the arrangements.

During the visit, the CMD reviewed Ganesh mandaps the areas where Ganesh idols were being arranged and also inspected the baby ponds area where the immersion of Lord Vinayaka takes place, ensuring that every space prepared for devotees and families maintained readiness for a safe public gathering. He carefully checked the electricity supply arrangements at the site, along with the safety measures already adopted by the teams. This inspection reflected the importance of reviewing ground realities—where power connections, lighting, and electrical distribution directly affect the safety of everyone present.

Emphasizing strict compliance, CMD Jitesh V. Patil advised that all Ganesh mandaps must strictly follow electricity safety norms. He urged the teams to take necessary preventive steps so that there are no electric hazards, reinforcing that festival arrangements must be planned in a disciplined manner rather than left to chance. Alongside safety compliance, the CMD also instructed the teams to ensure proper arrangements for continuous and uninterrupted power supply, so that the celebrations can run smoothly without disruptions while remaining secure for devotees throughout the event.

Five Gati Shakti Cargo Terminals Strengthen Gujarat Freight Network



NEW DELHI, SEPT. 15

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Tuesday inaugurated, dedicated to the nation and laid the foundation stone for five Gati Shakti Cargo Terminals (GCTs) in Gujarat, aimed at speeding up freight movement, reducing logistics costs and improving connectivity between industries, ports and national markets.

The GCT at Shivlakha in Kachchh was inaugurated, while terminals at Bhimasar, Devaliya in Morbi and Chandisar in Banaskantha were dedicated to the nation. The foundation stone was laid for a GCT at Linch in Mahesana.

Vaishnaw also flagged off a salt-loaded freight train from Shivlakha to Mithapur. Highlighting Gujarat's major role in salt production, particularly Kachchh, he said conventional wagons posed challenges as salt absorbs moisture and part of the wagon capacity is occupied by the wagon itself.

The Railways has introduced lightweight stainless-steel salt containers, which allow top loading and side unloading, making transportation and handling more efficient.

The minister said 150 GCTs have now been commissioned across the country, strengthening freight connectivity and helping industries access wider markets.

Vaishnaw said railway projects worth around ₹5,600 crore are under way in Kachchh, including capacity augmentation and doubling works. The Samakhiali-Bhachau and Gandhidham-Adipur sections have been made four-line, while Adipur-Bhuj is being doubled. The Bhuj-Naliya section has also been converted to broad gauge, with a new line to Jakhau Port sanctioned.

On the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail project, Vaishnaw said construction of the Vapi-Surat section is targeted for completion by December 2026. He added that India's first indigenous high-speed train coach has been prepared and is undergoing tests.

Lord Ganesha Blesses Isha's Nest: Traditional Chaturthi Celebrations

Neighbours, relatives, and residents joined in faith and festive spirit throughout the celebrations



MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI, SEP 15

In a heartwarming display of devotion and togetherness, Vinayak Chaturthi celebrations took place in KPHB Colony, 7th Phase, at the Isha's Nest building. The festival brought together neighbours, families, friends, and relatives under one shared spirit—praying to Lord Ganesha for blessings, harmony, and new beginnings.

Throughout the celebrations, all the rituals and poojas were carried out with reverence and tradition. Residents of every floor participated wholeheartedly, turning the building into a vibrant space filled with bhakti, cultural warmth, and festive joy. The atmosphere reflected not just religious devotion, but also the beauty of community bonds—where people gather, share, and celebrate as one family.

A special mention goes to the individuals who took part in the Vinayaka Chaturthi Festival: Samudrala Bharathi Jagadeesh war, Samudrala Kiran, Radhika Kathak, Samudrala Isha, Samudhrala Ravi, P. Seema, Samudhrala Ishma, Samudhrala Varshith, Gayathri Chowdhary, Neha Padhi, Gedela Rajesh, Gedela Gayathri, Gedela Rishanth, Routhu Chaitanya, Divya Kuttur, Bibhubikram Mahapatra, and Meenal Joshi—whose involvement added to the grace and meaning of the celebrations.

The event at Isha's Nest stood out as a true reflection of tradition continuing through collective participation—where faith was honored, culture was celebrated, and the spirit of get-together brought everyone closer.

Rahul: Centre Has Opened the Door..

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transactions, they are likely to pass on the additional cost to consumers by increasing the prices of goods and services.

He said imposing charges on UPI, which is widely used across the country, could particularly affect small businesses and ordinary consumers.

Allegation of pressure from US payment companies

Rahul Gandhi also alleged that the Narendra Modi government was giving in to pressure from US-based payment companies over UPI charges. He criticised the move, saying that the focus should instead be on strengthening India's domestic digital payments infrastructure.

However, the Centre has not announced any specific MDR rate for UPI transactions above ₹2,000. Rahul Gandhi's comments on the latest notification have triggered a political debate, while attention is now focused on whether any new charging mechanism for UPI transactions will be introduced in the future.

Centre–Opposition Consultations Over..

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expected to consult the opposition on the duration of the session, issues to be discussed, and other key matters.

However, the central government has not yet made any official announcement regarding the special session. Sources concerned say that clarity on the dates and agenda is likely to emerge after consultations with the opposition are completed. It also remains to be seen how the Congress and other opposition parties will respond to the proposal for a special session. With discussions between the Centre and the opposition continuing over the conduct of Parliament proceedings, further clarity on the matter is expected in the coming days.

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Hyd emerges as top..

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Hyderabad's office REIT stock has more than doubled, rising 111 percent from 12.4 million sq ft in June 2025 to 26.2 million sq ft in June 2026. The sharp rise reflects growing institutional ownership, supported by established commercial hubs such as HITEC City and Hyderabad's strong occupier base.

The city also recorded 0.8 million sq ft of operational retail REIT assets as of June 2026, highlighting the expanding institutional footprint across asset classes.

Joseph Thilak, Executive Director – Occupier Strategy & Solutions and Head of Data Center Business (India), Hyderabad, Knight Frank India, said the rapid expansion of REIT stock reflected the growing depth of institutional capital in Hyderabad's commercial real estate market. The city's established office clusters and occupier ecosystem would continue to support large-scale institutional portfolios and position Hyderabad as an important market for the next phase of India's REIT-led office growth, he added.

At the national level, real estate attracted $59.8 billion in cumulative private equity investment between 2015 and H1 2026, with the office sector accounting for 46 percent. Hyderabad is also strengthening its position in emerging segments such as GCCs and data centres, alongside its established office market.

Revanth Invites Aga Khan to Summit

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its initiatives in the state. He particularly commended the Foundation's role in restoring Hyderabad's heritage assets.

Revanth Reddy informed the Prince about the recent inauguration of the restored Legislative Council building, which was undertaken with the support of the Aga Khan Foundation. The two also recalled their earlier meeting during the inauguration of the Qutb Shahi Tombs, which were restored with the Foundation's assistance.

The Chief Minister briefed Prince Rahim Aga Khan V on the state government's ambitious plans for the rejuvenation of the Musi River. He highlighted the challenges posed by encroachments and severe pollution along the river, which is formed by the confluence of the Eesa and Moosa rivers. Revanth Reddy said comprehensive plans had been prepared to rejuvenate the Musi and develop a vibrant 'night economy' along its riverfront. He sought the Aga Khan Foundation's cooperation in restoring the historic City College and Osmania Hospital buildings located within the Musi catchment area.

The Chief Minister also requested the Foundation to consider developing the existing Osmania Hospital building as a heritage asset under its aegis, noting that a new hospital building is currently being constructed at Goshamahal.

During the meeting, Revanth Reddy outlined the state government's plans to develop Bharat Future City across approximately 30,000 acres near Shamshabad Airport. Prince Rahim Aga Khan V expressed keen interest in the project and enquired about its location.

The Chief Minister said a Singapore-based company was preparing the master plan for Future City, which is being envisioned as a net-zero city with a green zone spread across approximately 15,000 acres.

He also briefed the Prince about investments and operations by prominent companies, including Amazon, in the Future City.

Revanth Reddy outlined the Telangana government's goal of transforming the state into a $3 trillion economy by 2047. He said the Telangana Global Summit 2026 would bring together representatives from more than 100 countries and provide a platform to showcase the state's investment and business opportunities.

The Chief Minister reiterated his invitation to Prince Rahim Aga Khan V to attend the summit and sought his participation in the state's development initiatives.

AP's former D.CM Alla Nani dies of cardiac arrest

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condoled the demise of Alla Nani. He stated that he was deeply shocked to learn about the death of the former Deputy Chief Minister due to a heart attack at a young age. He conveyed his profound condolences to his family. Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan said in his condolence message that the sudden demise of former Deputy Chief Minister and senior political leader from Eluru, Alla Nani, caused him profound sorrow. He noted that Alla Nani served the people as Eluru MLA for three terms and once as MLC. He prayed for his soul to attain peace and conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the family members. Former Chief Minister and YSRCP President YS Jagan Mohan Reddy expressed deep shock and grief over the sudden demise of Alla Nani. Jagan said Alla Nani's untimely death was deeply painful and recalled his long public career, including being elected three times as MLA from Eluru and serving the people for many years. He remembered Alla Nani's key role in the YSRCP government as Deputy Chief Minister and Health Minister, and said he discharged his responsibilities in the public health sector with dedication. Jagan said Alla Nani's passing was an irreparable loss to his family and admirers. He prayed for peace to the departed soul and for strength to the bereaved family. He conveyed his heartfelt condolences to Alla Nani's family members, relatives and supporters.

BRS, Cong Fear MIM Over Liberation Day: NRR

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wing from Bhagyalaxmi temple near historical Charminar monument.Union minister G Kishan Reddy also participated in the function. Rao recalled that even as India was moving towards Independence from British rule and the country was partitioned, the Nizam had his own plans for Hyderabad. "The erstwhile Nizam had conspired to keep Hyderabad separate, create an 'Osmanistan' and align with Pakistan," he said.

BJP state chief said that under the rule of the Nizam and the Razakars, the people of Telangana, particularly women, suffered brutal atrocities. Despite this oppression, the people of Telangana stood courageously and fought against the Nizam's rule.

He said many nationalists sacrificed their lives during the struggle against the Nizam and the Razakars. "Shoaibullah too was killed for raising his voice against the Nizam. Despite the extraordinary courage and sacrifices of the people of Telangana, successive governments have failed to properly honour their legacy and tell their story," he said.

He pointed out that regions in present-day Maharashtra and Karnataka, which were once part of the erstwhile Hyderabad State, commemorate their liberation, while the Telangana government continues to refuse to officially celebrate September 17 because successive BRS and Congress governments have afraid of MIM which has descended from Razakars.

He stressed that younger generations must be made aware of this history and the sacrifices made by countless people for the liberation of Hyderabad and its complete integration with India. "Our younger generations need to know this history. They must be taught about the sacrifices of those who gave their lives and fought for the liberation of Hyderabad and its complete integration with India," he said adding that "the sacrifices made for Telangana's liberation must never be forgotten. September 17 is a historic day, and its true history must reach every household and every generation".

Rao said it was due to the efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy that the Union Government began officially commemorating Hyderabad Liberation Day, thereby giving due recognition to this glorious chapter of history.

BJP chief congratulated Union Minister G Kishan Reddy, the BJP Mahila Morcha team and everyone involved in organising the Mahila Shakti Scooty Rally and taking the message and history of Telangana's liberation to the people.

Big UPI Payments Face 0.4% Merchant Charge

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NPCI has stressed that the new framework is intended to support the long-term sustainability of the country's rapidly expanding digital-payment infrastructure while keeping everyday low-value transactions free. More than 95 per cent of P2M UPI transactions are reportedly within the ₹2,000 threshold and will therefore remain outside the MDR framework.

Small merchants will also receive protection under the new system. Merchants receiving up to ₹1 lakh a month through UPI QR payments are reported to be exempt from the MDR. The measure is aimed at ensuring that small retailers, street vendors and other micro businesses do not face an additional payment-processing burden.

The introduction of MDR marks a departure from the zero-MDR regime that has helped UPI become one of the world's largest real-time payment systems. UPI processed around 24 billion transactions worth $311 billion in August 2026, highlighting the enormous scale of the network.

The government and NPCI have sought to make clear that the announcement does not mean consumers will start paying a UPI transaction fee. The charge is a merchant-side processing fee applicable only to specified transactions above the prescribed threshold.

KTR Seeks Judicial....

➢FROM PAGE 1

turned into "Bhu Haarathi" (a play on words suggesting the looting of land). He further alleged that there were accusations of commissions as high as 30% being collected for removing lands from the 22A prohibited list, and claimed that lands were being removed from the list only after such commissions were paid. KTR demanded a comprehensive investigation into the matter and said the facts should be placed before the public. He said the lack of transparency in land-related matters was causing serious difficulties for ordinary people.

comments on Uniform Civil Code

KTR questioned the need to introduce the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) at this point. He said his party would discuss the issue further before taking a final position. He said it would not be appropriate to claim that the UCC is meant to be "uniform" while attempting to introduce it only in states governed by the NDA. KTR said an issue that is supposed to establish a uniform framework across the country should not be handled differently from state to state for political gain.

CS reviews arrangements for VP's 17 Hyd visit

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which is set to run from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

The Chief Secretary directed the officials concerned to ensure seamless administrative, security, and logistical arrangements for the event. Special Chief Secretary (GAD) Ahmed Nadeem, Special Chief Secretary (Roads & Buildings) Vikas Raj, DGP CV Anand, Principal Secretary (Health & Medical) Christina Chongthu, Hyderabad and Malkajgiri Police Commissioners Sajjanar and Sumathi, Special Commissioner (Information department) Mukunda Reddy, and others participated in the review meeting.



BHEL bags second prize in Rajbhasha Keerti Award

New Delhi, Sept. 15: Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has been conferred the Rajbhasha Keerti Puraskar for excellence in the implementation of the Official Language, Hindi.



The prestigious national award, instituted by the Rajbhasha Vibhag, Ministry of Home Affairs, was presented to BHEL in the Public Sector Enterprises in 'A Region' category. The company secured the second prize under the Rajbhasha Keerti Awards for 2025-26.

BHEL Director (Power) and Additional Charge (Human Resources) Tajinder Gupta received the award from Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar on September 14. Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai was also present at the ceremony. The award was presented during the Hindi Diwas celebrations and the 6th All India Rajbhasha Conference held in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra.

The latest recognition marks the third consecutive year that BHEL has received the Rajbhasha Keerti Puraskar. The company had also won the award for 2023-24 and 2024-25, highlighting its continued efforts towards promoting and implementing the Official Language in its operations.

GITAM Hosts Talk on 'When Brainrot Met Politics: The Cockroach Janata Party Story'



HYDERABAD

The Department of Political Science, GITAM School of Humanities and Social Sciences (GSHS), Hyderabad, organized a thought-provoking talk titled 'When Brainrot Met Politics: The Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) Story' on September 15, 2026. The session featured Dr. Rathin Roy, Eminent Economist and Dean, GSHS, along with Dr. Supriy Ranjan and SurveshPratap Singh, Faculty Members in the Department of Political Science.

The speakers explored changing political aspirations among younger generations, economic mobility, social solidarity, technological transformation, protest movements, and the evolving relationship between youth and politics.

Dr. Roy reflected on changing patterns of prosperity and inequality, highlighting the role of resistance, street politics, technology and youth aspirations in shaping emerging political movements. Dr. Supriy Ranjan discussed the transformation of youth movements in India, particularly in the post-liberalization era, and the challenges posed by issues such as merit, paper leaks and structural inequalities. SurveshPratap Singh spoke on cultural reorientation, economic mobility and the idea of democracy as a phenomenon rooted in public spaces and street-level participation.

The speakers also engaged with students and faculty members in an interactive question-and-answer session. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Dr.Mayank Mishra.

Engineers' Day Celebrated at GITAM

GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, celebrated Engineers' Day 2026 with a Mini Hackathon, games and engaging activities on September 15. Students from various departments actively participated in the celebrations. Engineers' Day is observed annually on September 15 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sir MokshagundamVisvesvaraya, one of India's most celebrated engineers and a pioneer in irrigation, water management, infrastructure and industrial development.

The celebrations highlighted the vital role of engineers in addressing real-world challenges through innovation, technology and sustainable solutions. The event also encouraged students to carry forward Sir M. Visvesvaraya'slegacy by becoming responsible engineers who combine innovation with sustainability, technology with humanity, and excellence with social responsibility. The programme concluded with a message for the young engineering community to continue creating solutions that contribute to a more innovative, sustainable, resilient and inclusive India.

Vivek assures phased upgrade of infrastructure in residential schools

HYDERABAD

Minister for Energy and Mines Dr. G. Vivek Venkataswamy on Tuesday stated that the State government is placing special focus on strengthening Gurukuls (residential schools) across Telangana to ensure quality education, improved nutrition, and robust infrastructure for students. Speaking after interacting with students at the Social Welfare Residential School for Girls in Mandamarri, the Minister commended their discipline, academic dedication, and ambitious goals. He emphasised that essential facilities for students' future development are being upgraded in a phased manner. Highlighting health and well-being in residential institutions, Dr. Vivek announced that the government has enhanced mess charges by 40% to guarantee nutritious meals. To further raise academic standards, the state is currently recruiting 10,000 teachers. He also acknowledged the crucial role educators play in building self-confidence among rural and remote students, guiding them toward higher achievements.

PROVISION OF LC GATE MONITORING SYSTEM

E-Tender Notice No. KIR-N-2026-K-25 Dated: 08-09-2026. Works tenders through "E" Tendering system for and on behalf of the President of India are invited for the works as detailed below:- **Name of work:** Provision of LC Gate Monitoring System at Non-Interlocked LC Gates with TVU < 10,000 in Katihar Division. **Tender Value:** ₹ 2,42,41,309.46/-. **Earnest Money:** ₹4,84,800/-. **Date & time of closing of tender:** At **15.00** hrs. & opening at **15.30** hrs. on **08-10-2026.** The complete information with tender documents of above e-tender will be available upto **15.00** hrs. on **08-10-2026** in the website **www.ireps.gov.in**

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Chennal Division (Mechanical Branch)
GEM Bid No. GEM/2026/B/8020049 dated 11.09.2026

Divisional Railway Manager/Mechanical Branch/Chennal Division, Chennai-600 003 for and on behalf of the President of India invites ONLINE tenders for the following work as per tender notice given in the GeM Portal **https://gem.gov.in.** The tenderer(s) / contractor(s) intending to apply for GeM-tender for Mechanical works in Chennai Division, need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal **https://gem.gov.in** and only online tenders will be accepted.

Description: Welding Panel Repair/Patching and Gas Cutting works in JTJ Wagon Depot for a period of 02 years

Location	Advertised tender Value in Rs	Earnest Money Deposit in Rs	Similar Nature of Work	Period of completion
JTJ	4,08,28,824	3,54,140	Applicable	2 Years

Tender closing date and time: 03.10.2026, 13.00hrs

Details of value of tender, EMD are given in GeM-portal **https://gem.gov.in.** For details bid submission please refer to web portal **https://gem.gov.in.**

Divisional Railway Manager (Mechanical)
Chennai Division, Southern Railway
Chennai-600003

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Madurai Division
Tender Notice No: U-E-OT-2026-14 dated 11.09.2026

The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/General service /Madurai, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites E-TENDER for the following work.

The prospective tenderers/bidders will be able to submit their offers online & **upto 14:00 hrs. on 05.10.2026** which is the closing time of the tender. Submission of offers manually is not permissible and manual offers if any, received even within the closing time of the tender, will be summarily rejected.

Sl. No.	Tender No & Name of the Work	App,Tender value in (Rs.)	Bid Security (Rs.)	Period of Completion
1.	**U-E-OT-2026-14-01:** MDU Division: Raising of platforms at 18 stations, Provision of FOB at 8 stations - Power supply arrangements, wiring and installations and Provision of earthing arrangements.	2,41,19,141/-	4,82,400/-	6 months
2.	**U-E-OT-2026-14-02:** MDU Division: Provision of FOB at 4 stations, Construction of new running room at Bodinayakkanur and RPF outpost building at Manamadurai & Vanchi maniyachi station - Power supply arrangements, wiring and installations.	93,64,405/-	1,87,300/-	6 months
3.	**U-E-OT-2026-14-03:** Madurai Division: Repair Attention of Lights in Madurai, Tirunelveli & Rameswaram Pit lines and improvements in Coaching depot facilities.	1,46,81,468/-	2,93,600/-	6 months

Time & Date of closing: 14:00 & 05.10.2026.

For further details, log on to website at **http://www.ireps.gov.in**

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/
General Service, Southern Railway, Madurai - 16

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

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (through http://ireps.gov.in) PUB/653

Chief Electrical Engineer, Construction, South Central Railway, Secunderabad invites e-tender on behalf of the President of India for the following works in Two packet system of tendering.

NIT No. : E29CTrDSC_04-2026-27 Dt. 11.09.2026 **Name of the work:** Tender No. E29CTrDSC_04-2026-27 Dt. 11.09.2026 "Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 2x25kV, 50Hz single phase a.c. traction overhead equipment with 65 sq.mm catenary and 107/150 sq.mm contact wire, LT supply transformer stations including modifications to the existing OHE in view of proposed doubling between Alamapur Road - Dupadu section with associated yard modifications on Mahabubnagar-Dhone section & Modification of 1x25 kV SP at Kotla to suit double line in Hyderabad Division of South Central Railway." **Estimate Cost: (₹):** 19,60,89,664.78/- **EMD/Bid Security: (₹):** 39,21,800.00/- **Document Cost:** Online tender document can be downloaded free of cost **Completion period:** 09 months **Date of closing:** 16.10.2026 at 15:00 hrs

1) For bid document and other details, please login to website **http://ireps.gov.in**.
2) The Bidder will have to provide Bid Security through IREPS.gov.in or submitted as Bank Guarantee Bond or e-BG from a scheduled commercial bank of India. The Bank Guarantee bond shall be as per GCC or any latest correction slip and shall be valid for a period of 90 days beyond the bid validity period. Manual payment through Demand Draft, Bankers cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc., are not allowed.
3) Tenderer can submit their offers online during tender submission period which is fifteen days period to closing of tender.
4) Tenderer should watch for any Corrigenda (issued online only) upto the date of commencement of the Tender submission period.

Chief Electrical Engineer, Construction, Secunderabad

Open e-Tender Notice Nos. C/E.29/Elec/M/SC/40/WS/OT/ 2026-27 Dt.12.09.2026 PUB/654

For and on behalf of President of India, the undersigned invites e-tender for the given below work up to **15.00 hours on 05.10.2026**

e-Tender No. : etenderNo. C/E.29/Elec/M/SC/40/WS/OT/2026-27 etender No.E-M-SC-40-OT-2026-27 **Name of work:** Secunderabad Division Electrical Maintenance Department - (i) DLS/KZJ - Provision of VDC flooring in the existing Under Truck and Bench sections of size 123x28 sq.m (ii) DLS/KZJ - Construction of Room of size 25x6 sq.m for Airbrake section attached to Light Repair bay shed towards SC end (iii) DSL/KZJ - Construction of new two store building of size 20x7 sq.m with stairway, for general stores (iv) DSL/KZJ - Provision of Vehicle Parking Facilities of size 52x14 sq.m and Construction of additional Gents Toilets of size 5x3 sq.m (v) DLS/KZJ - Construction of Supervisor's rest room on existing staff canteen building of size 14.6x8sq.m (vi) DLS/KZJ - Construction of Annexure Building for Electronic Lab of size 10x7 sq.m (vii) DLS/KZJ - Construction of Rooms of size 40x6 sq.m for E2 and E5 sections, attached to Express bay shed (viii) DLS/KZJ - Setting up rain water leakage testing facility as per RDSO SMI No.315 - Electrical arrangements. **Tender Value (₹):** 1,62,00,132.16 **EMD (₹):** 3,24,000.00 **CTF**: **(₹)** 0.00 **Completion period:** 6 Months

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

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer, (Maintenance), Secunderabad

Tender Notice No. NED/E-23 24 & 25/2026-27 dt. 12.09.2026 PUB/655

For and on Behalf of President of India, the undersigned invited E-tenders for the following works

1. Tender No : NED/E-23/2026-27 **Name of the work:** Nanded Division-Provision of Retro fitted Emission Control Devices for various capacity DG sets over the division **Approximate cost (₹):** 52,69,524.00/- **Bid Security (₹):** 1,05,400/- **Validity of offer**: 60 days **Period of completion**: 12 Months **Available at**: **www.ireps.gov.in,** under Nanded Division Administration **Date and time of closing :** 15.00 hrs of 05.10.2026

2. Tender No : NED/E-24/2026-27 **Name of the work:** Nanded Division: Provision of Power Quality Restorers in Electrical Installations. **Approximate cost (₹):** 27,16,134.00/- **Bid Security (₹):** 54,300/- **Validity of offer**: 60 days **Period of completion:** 06 Months **Available at**: **www.ireps.gov.in,** under Nanded Division Administration **Date and time of closing :** 15:00 hrs of 05.10.2026

3. Tender No : NED/E-25/2026-27 **Name of the work:** Provision of ring main unit (RMU) and Panel rooms at Electrical substations over Nanded Division-Electrical Arrangements **Approximate cost (₹):** 2,08,41,571.00/- **Bid Security (₹):** 4,16,800/-**Validity of offer**: 60 Days **Period of completion:** 12 Months **Available at**: **www.ireps.gov.in,** under Nanded Division Administration **Date and time of closing :** 15:00 hrs of 05.10.2026

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

Divisional Railway Manager, (Elec.)/Nanded
A756

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

1000 Days of Broken Promises: Congress Yet to Deliver 420 Guarantees!

BRS Opposition Holds Protest and Hands Out "Due Cards" to Every Home in Vivekananda Nagar

MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI



More than 1,000 days have passed since the Congress government came to power, but the people are still waiting for the promises it made during elections. The opposition BRS party says this is not just a delay—it is a betrayal of public trust.

BRS leaders remind the public that Congress promised 420 election guarantees and six guarantees, saying they would be implemented within 100 days. But according to the BRS, after all these days, many of those promises have not been fully delivered. People who expected relief are still facing the same problems in daily life, and the BRS says the government has failed to give clear answers.

Former corporator Madhavaram Rangarao held a strong protest in the Vivekananda Nagar division. He visited households in Venkateswara Nagar blocks 33, 34, and 35 together with local leaders and handed out "Due Cards" to residents.

Rangarao said, "When Congress made promises, the people believed them and gave votes. But now, after about 1,000 days, the government has not fulfilled the promises. These cards are not for politics—they are to remind the government and society about what it is still owing to the people."

He criticized the government for failing to act on guarantees meant for women, farmers, youth, unemployed people, and poor families. The BRS leader demanded immediate implementation of the welfare schemes and asked the government to stop hiding behind excuses.

Rangarao also questioned why the government has not provided a clear plan or timeline for completing the promises it made. He said people deserve honesty, results, and respect—not broken words.

Leaders including Gottumukkala Pedda Bhaskararao, Anjaneyulu Satyanarayana, Yashwanth, Babu, Srinivas Sagar, and others participated in the program.

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI-221004

Bid No. E-24/2026-27 **E-TENDER NOTICE** Date: 11/09/2026

E-Tenders are invited for & on behalf of the President of India for the supply of following items. Only e-offer will be accepted for which vendors must have Class III Digital Signature and registrations on IREPS. The details of tenders are in the following sequence. **S.No., Tender No. (Due Date), Description, PL No. and Quantity. 01.** 10261019 (28/09/2026), Price Agreement/Running Contract for supply of STEEL-CRANKSHAFTS, PL No. 16140163 and 274 Nos.; **02.** 10251258 (25/09/2026), MACHINED PISTON, PL No. 16120073 and8000 Nos.; **03.** 10261351 (06/10/2026), Kit of Piston & Piston Ring set, PL No. 16031027 and 3914 Set; **04.** 10261404 (30/10/2026), KIT OF TURBO DOWELLING COMPONENTS, 16081110 and 161 Nos. **05.** 10261400 (24/09/2026), Nozzle Ring, PL No. 16080610 and 638 Nos.; **06.** 10261461 (29/09/2026), Pump & Motor Assembly, PL No. 16241526 and 316 Nos.; **07.** 03261498 (28-SEP-26 15:00), PINION 17 TEETH, Part No. 18440010 and 650 Nos.; **08.** 03261486 (28-SEP-26 15:00), VALVE RELAY, Part No. 17452582 and 490 Nos.; **09.** 03261510 (05.10.2026), HIGH TENSILE TIGHT COUPLER, PL NO. 29130074 AND 79 NOS.; **10.** 09261078 (30/09/2026), SCAVENGE BLOWER TO TM/OIL COOLING UNIT INCLUDING MOTOR (WOUND WITH CORONA RESISTANCE WIRE) Spec: CLW/ES/3/0021 ALT. H OR LATEST AND RDSO SPEC/E-10/3/09 (MOTOR) WITH AMENDMENT NOS. 01 TO 06 OR LATEST to PL No. 29440117 and 700 Sets; **11.** 09261084 (30/09/2026), TRACTION MOTOR BLOWER INCLUDING MOTOR (WOUND WITH CORONA RESISTANCE WIRE) Spec: CLW/ES/3/0019 ALT.G OR LATEST AND RDSO SPEC/E-10/3/09(MOTOR) WITH AMENDMENT NOS. 01 TO 06 OR LATEST to PL No. 29440075 AND 307 Sets; The details of above tenders are available on **website www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in** and **www.ireps.gov.in. Corrigendum: 12.** Tender No. 04251104, Bid NO. E-30/2025-26, Rev. 09, Existing due Date: 10/09/2026 and Revise due Date: 15/10/2026. All other terms and condition shall remain unchanged.

PRO/BLW/S-25 **Senior Material Manager/Shell**

/blwvaranasi **Website: blw.indianrailways.gov.in**

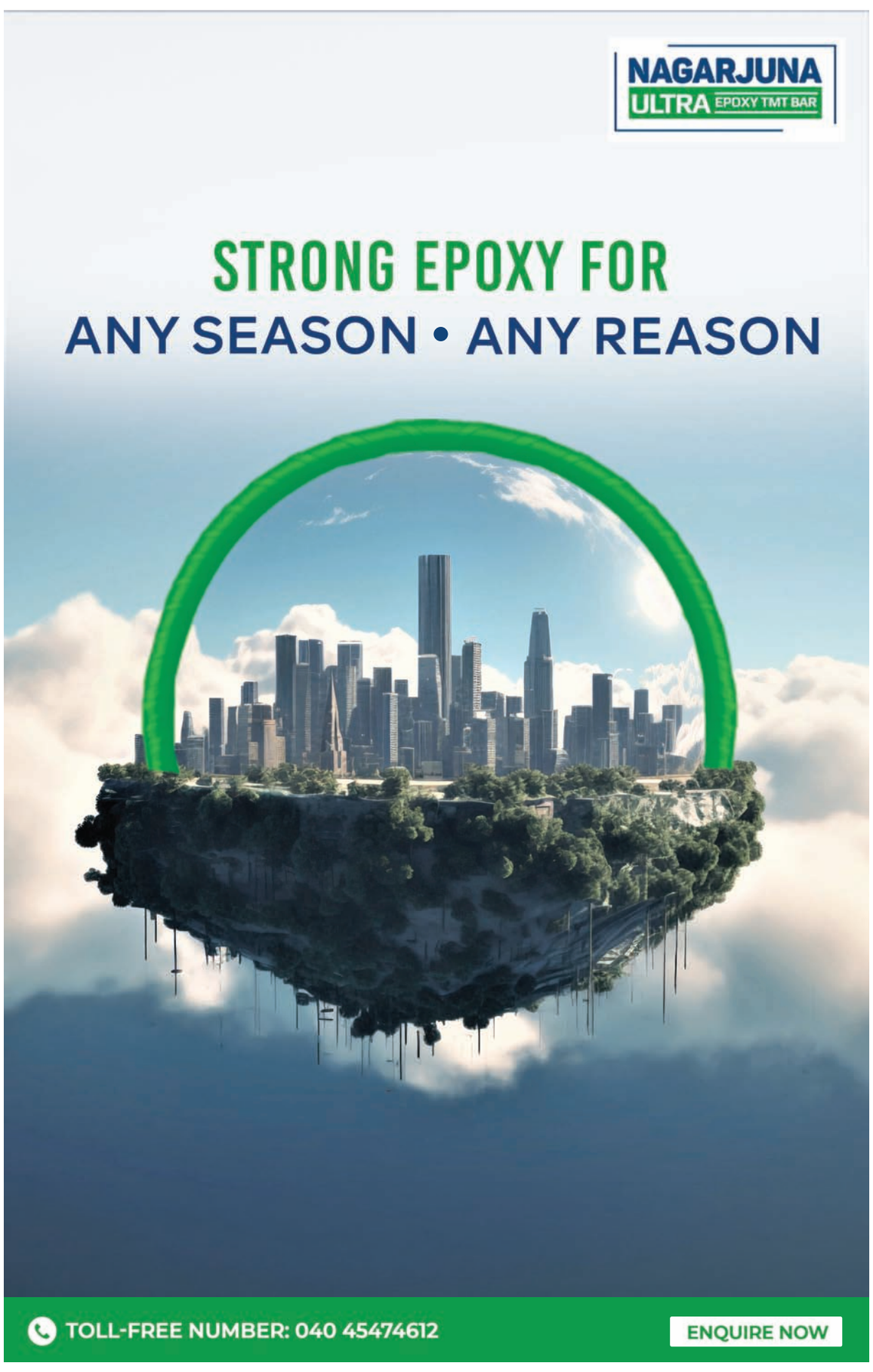
Governor and his wife perform the first puja to the Khairatabad Maha Ganapati



Dr Srinivas Vooradi

HYDERABAD

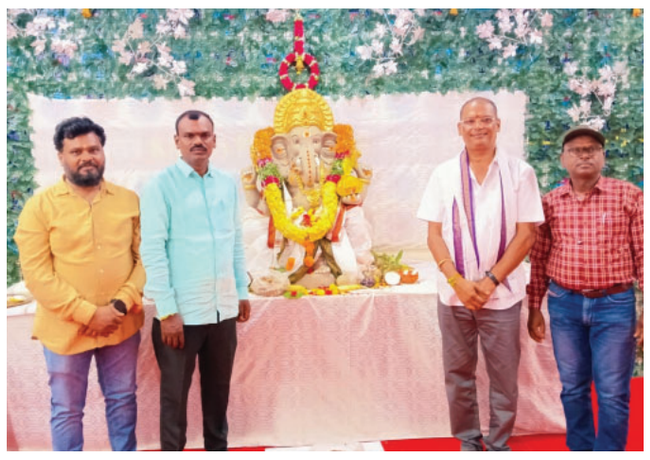
Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla and his wife visited the 69-foot-tall 'Panchamukha Sankatahara Mahaganapati' of Khairatabad on Monday morning and performed its first puja. Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla and his wife, who came to visit Maha Ganapati were extended traditional welcome with Poornakhumbha by Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, MP Anil Kumar Yadav, MLA Danam Nagender, Khairatabad Ganesh festival organizers, and priests. Speaking on the occasion, Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla commented that he was happy to perform the first puja at Khairatabad Ganesha temple. He said that he prayed to Maha Ganapati that the people of Telangana may be happy with good health and long life, and that the State may be prosperous. Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, MP Anil Kumar Yadav, and MLA Danam Nagender also participated in the first puja. Later, the Governor and his wife participated in a special Ganesha puja program organized by the Lok Bhavan Youth Association at the Lok Bhavan Staff Quarters. Earlier, the Governor and his wife performed the first puja to Lord Ganesha in the main house and Durbar Hall of Lok Bhavan on the occasion of Vinayaka Chavithi. Joint Secretary to the Governor, Commander Shashi Kiranachari, and Lok Bhavan officials participated in the program.



Kapra Press Club Celebrates Vinayaka Chavithi with Devotion and Unity

- **Festive celebrations highlight spiritual fervour, journalists' unity and community spirit**

KAPRA



The Kapra Press Club celebrated Vinayaka Chavithi with great devotion and enthusiasm on Monday. Journalists and members of the local press fraternity came together at the Press Club premises to offer special prayers to Lord Vighneshwara and seek his blessings. The celebrations reflected not only spiritual fervour but also unity, brotherhood and community spirit among journalists. As part of the celebrations, traditional puja rituals were performed amid the chanting of Vedic hymns. Flowers, fruits, undrallu and other traditional offerings were presented to Lord Ganesha. The participants prayed for wisdom, prosperity, good health and the removal of obstacles from their lives.

Senior journalists Merugu Chandra Mohan, Belide Ashok and Empalli Padma Reddy said that Vinayaka Chavithi holds immense spiritual as well as cultural significance. They said Lord Ganesha is revered as the symbol of wisdom and knowledge and is traditionally worshipped before the commencement of auspicious activities. They prayed for the well-being, prosperity and success of everyone and wished that all obstacles in life would be removed with the blessings of Lord Ganesha.

They further said that festivals such as Vinayaka Chavithi promote unity, positivity and brotherhood in society. The participation of journalists together on a common platform for the puja strengthened mutual bonding and camaraderie among members of the local media fraternity. The Press Club premises were beautifully decorated on the occasion. Red carpets were laid across the venue, while branches of green leaves, decorative creepers and other festive elements added to the grandeur of the celebrations. The entire premises wore a festive and devotional look.

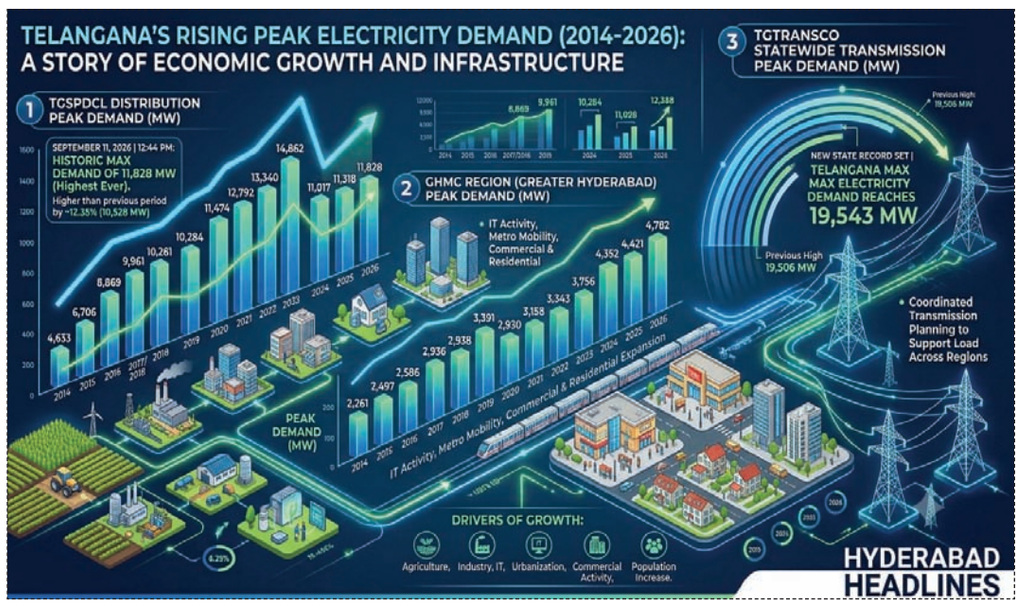
Special prayers were offered to Lord Ganesha with various flowers, fruits, undrallu and other offerings. Following the puja, prasadam was distributed among journalists, devotees and members of the Press Club. Several journalists from the Kapra Circle participated in the celebrations and offered prayers. The programme served as a platform for journalists to come together beyond their professional responsibilities and strengthen their bonds of friendship, cooperation and mutual support.

The celebrations also conveyed a message of social responsibility and collective spirit among members of the local journalistic community. The Press Club members wished that the blessings of Lord Vighneshwara would bring wisdom, prosperity, happiness, good health and success into the lives of all, while promoting peace and unity in society. The programme was attended by former Press Club presidents Shanigaram Ashok and Patel Narasimha, former treasurer Yataraju, general secretary Muthyam Mukesh Goud, vice-presidents Yavapuram Ravi and Govindakuntla Anjaneyulu, treasurer Ramachandra Murthy, Dommati Kiran Kumar Rao, joint secretary D. Srinivas, K. Venkat, organising secretaries O. Narasimha and Keerthi Srinivas, executive committee member Thodupunuru Balakrishna, senior journalists Basant Reddy, Mamatha and several other journalists and Press Club members.

Telangana Breaks Power Demand Records Again: TGSPDCL

- **GHMC and State Peak Touch New Highs (2014–2026)**
- **From 2014's first peaks to 2026's historic surges, the rise in agriculture, industry, IT, and urban consumption is pushing maximum demand levels to unprecedented levels—reaching 11,828 MW in TGSPDCL and 19,543 MW statewide.**

MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI



Telangana's electricity consumption has been rising steadily since the state was formed, and the peak-demand trends from 2014 to 2026 show how major reforms, expanded infrastructure, and growth across multiple sectors have translated into record-breaking demand every year. As agriculture, industries, information technology, urbanization, and commercial activity expanded rapidly, the government and power utilities strengthened both distribution and transmission planning to meet these new requirements. The result is a clear pattern: Telangana's maximum demand has consistently increased, with each year creating higher peak thresholds than the last.

In the distribution segment, TGSPDCL's maximum demand figures illustrate this strong growth. Starting from 4,633 MW in 2014, TGSPDCL's peak demand climbed through consecutive years—reaching 6,706 MW in 2015, 8,869 MW in 2016, 9,961 MW in 2017, 9,961 MW in 2018, 10,284 MW in 2019, 11,474 MW in 2020, 12,792 MW in 2021, 13,340 MW in 2022, 14,862 MW in 2023, and 11,017 MW in 2024—before moving upward again to 11,318 MW in 2025 and then 11,828 MW in 2026. A major highlight came on September 11, 2026, when at 12:44 PM TGSPDCL recorded a historic maximum demand of 11,828 MW, the highest in its history. Compared with the same period in the previous year—reported as 10,528 MW—this peak was higher by about 12.35%, confirming that demand escalation is not slowing down. Overall, TGSPDCL's journey from 4,633 MW in 2014 to 11,828 MW in 2026 reflects a substantial increase in electricity usage, driven by rising consumption across households, businesses, and connected economic activities.

In Greater Hyderabad, the GHMC region's peak demand also mirrors the pace of urban growth. GHMC-area maximum demand rose from 2,261 MW in 2014, reaching 2,497 MW in 2015, 2,586 MW in 2016, 2,936 MW in 2017, 2,938 MW in 2018, 3,391 MW in 2019, and 2,930 MW in 2020. The upward trend continued to 3,158 MW in 2021 and 3,343 MW in 2022, followed by 3,756 MW in 2023 and 4,352 MW in 2024, then moving to 4,421 MW in 2025 and 4,782 MW in 2026. The reported reason for this acceleration is consistent with city dynamics: expansion of IT activity, the metro-linked mobility ecosystem, growth in commercial establishments, and the rise in residential consumption all increase daytime and peak-hour demand. As a result, in 2026–27 the GHMC region is noted to have recorded a peak demand of 4,782 MW, underscoring how Hyderabad's economic and infrastructural expansion is directly influencing electricity load patterns.

At the statewide transmission level, TGTRANSCO's data indicates that Telangana's growing demand is also placing increasing demands on the transmission backbone. The state-level peak demand trend from 2014 to 2026 shows persistent growth, with Telangana reaching a new high on September 9, 2026. On that date, Telangana's maximum electricity demand reached 19,543 MW, which created a new state record and surpassed the previous record of 19,506 MW. Such a rise at the state level reflects the growing overall load across distribution areas and highlights the need for coordinated transmission planning. When both demand increases rapidly and peak hours shift upward, transmission systems must be reinforced to ensure power can flow reliably across regions, balancing supply and meeting peak demand without disruption.

Taken together, the 2014–2026 peak-demand records for TGSPDCL, the GHMC region, and TGTRANSCO provide a single integrated story: Telangana's economy and population demand more electricity each year, and the power sector's expansion and planning efforts have enabled the grid to successfully meet these new ceilings. The record milestones—especially TGSPDCL's 11,828 MW peak on September 11, 2026 and Telangana's 19,543 MW peak on September 9, 2026—confirm that the state's electricity demand growth is both structural and continuing, driven by urbanization, sectoral expansion, and rising power usage across residential and economic activities.

Young Engineers Should Take Inspiration From Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya's Vision



- **ESCI Director on Engineers Day**

HYDERABAD

The Engineering Staff College of India (ESCI) Director, Colonel Harpal Singh Grewal, called upon all the staff members working at ESCI and every trainee attending engineering-related programmes at the institution to draw inspiration from the vision, thoughts, values and services of the legendary Engineer Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya.

Marking the 165th birth anniversary of Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya, Engineers' Day was celebrated at the Engineering Staff College of India on Tuesday, 15 September 2026. On the occasion, the Director conveyed Engineers' Day greetings to all engineers across the country on behalf of ESCI. Colonel Harpal Singh Grewal, along with the staff members of the College, paid floral tributes at the statue of Sir M. Visvesvaraya as a mark of respect and remembrance.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director said that Engineers' Day, celebrated every year on September 15 across India, is an important occasion to recognize and remember the significant role played by engineers in nation-building and development.

He recalled the remarkable contributions of Sir M. Visvesvaraya to the development of water resources and infrastructure in the country. In 1908, he played a significant role in designing measures to protect Hyderabad city from the devastating Musi floods, including the development of the Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar reservoirs. He also made notable contributions to major irrigation and water-resource projects, including the Krishna Raja Sagara (KRS) project in Karnataka and the Khadakwasla project near Pune, besides several other engineering marvels.

Recognizing his outstanding contributions to engineering and nation-building, the British Government conferred the title of "Sir" on Visvesvaraya in 1915, while the Government of India honored him with the country's highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna, in 1955.

Colonel HS Grewal said that Sir M. Visvesvarayaattached great importance to the efficient utilization of water resources, provision of irrigation facilities for agricultural development and creation of better infrastructure and public facilities for the people. His contributions continue to remain a source of inspiration for generations of engineers. Sri S.Laxmikantha Rao, Chief Finance along with several Heads of the Departments and Faculty of the college attended on occasion.

Speed up disposal of pending cases: Sunpreet Singh, Goush Alam

KARIMNAGAR



Senior police officials on Tuesday inspected the Karimnagar Town Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) office as part of the annual inspection programme and reviewed the crime situation, pending cases and law-and-order arrangements in the division.

Sunpreet Singh, IPS, Joint Commissioner of Police, Cyberabad Traffic and DIG (HFAC), Rajanna Zone-III, along with Karimnagar Police Commissioner Goush Alam, IPS, conducted the inspection. The officials were accorded a warm welcome by the police personnel and received a ceremonial salute on their arrival.

During the inspection, the senior officers reviewed crime records, pending cases, CCTNS maintenance and the overall law-and-order situation with the ACP and other officers. They directed the officials to expedite the investigation and disposal of pending cases and ensure speedy justice to victims.

The officers also stressed the need for people-friendly policing and instructed personnel to remain accessible to the public and address their grievances promptly.

Focus on peaceful Ganesh celebrations

With Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations approaching, the senior officers directed the police to make comprehensive security arrangements to ensure that the festivities are conducted peacefully without any untoward incidents. They instructed the officials to identify sensitive locations in advance, strengthen surveillance and deploy adequate personnel at key points and along procession routes.

Karimnagar Town ACP C.H. Venkataswamy, Town Inspectors Ramachander Rao, Tirumal and Pullaiah, along with other police officers and personnel from the division, participated in the inspection.

BC Welfare Association burns BJP effigies over caste census

KARIMNAGAR

Members of the BC Welfare Association staged a protest at Geetha Bhavan Circle in Karimnagar on Tuesday, demanding a scientific caste-wise enumeration of the BC population as part of the proposed nationwide caste census.

As part of the statewide call given by the BC Welfare Association, protesters led by Karimnagar district president Nagula Kanakaiah Goud burnt effigies of the BJP, alleging that the Centre had failed to respond positively to their demands on a separate and comprehensive BC caste census. A large number of BC activists and representatives of various caste associations participated in the protest and raised slogans in support of caste-wise enumeration. The association leaders said a comprehensive BC caste census would help establish the actual population of different BC communities and provide a clear picture of their social and economic conditions.

A Great Opportunity for Unemployed Youth in the District

- **Mega Job Mela to be held in Kodad town on September 19**
- **Job opportunities for 3,500 youth through around 300 companies**
- **Job Mela being organised with the support of Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Telangana Digital Employment Exchange and Industries Department**
- **Arrangements made to provide every candidate with interview opportunities in five companies**
- **State Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies Nalamada Uttam Kumar Reddy**

SURYAPET

State Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies Nalamada Uttam Kumar Reddy said that a mega job mela would be organised in Kodad on September 19 to provide employment opportunities to unemployed youth in the district.

On Tuesday, the Minister held a review meeting at the meeting hall of the Integrated District Collectorate Complex along with District Collector Tejas Nand Lal Pawar, Kodad MLA Uttam Padmavathi Reddy, Industries Department officials from the erstwhile Nalgonda district, representatives of various industries, college correspondents and officials from the erstwhile district.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said unemployment was one of the major problems affecting society and, keeping this in view, special attention was being given to providing large-scale employment opportunities to unemployed youth in Suryapet district. He said the job mela was being organised with the support of Singareni Collieries Company Limited and DEET (Digital Employment Exchange of Telangana) under the Industries Department.

He said rural youth had no shortage of talent, but the lack of a proper platform to access employment opportunities in the organised sector had become a major challenge. The government, he said, was moving forward with a systematic action plan to bridge this gap.



The Minister said unemployment among educated youth was one of the most serious problems facing society, with the situation being particularly concerning in rural areas. Parents were spending beyond their financial means to educate their children in engineering, pharmacy, polytechnic, ITI, degree and various vocational courses, but were experiencing severe distress when their children failed to secure suitable jobs after completing their education.

He said finding information about job vacancies, approaching reputed companies, repeatedly travelling to Hyderabad and attending interviews had become a major financial and social challenge for rural youth.

"If rural youth cannot easily reach reputed companies, those companies should be brought to the doorstep of rural youth. That is the main objective of the Kodad Mega Job Mela," he said.

The Minister stated that the job mela was an effort to bring together the skills required by industries, the qualifications offered by educational institutions and the talent possessed by youth on a single platform. Rural unemployed youth would be given an opportunity to meet representatives of several companies at one venue and demonstrate their capabilities.

Arrangements were being made to enable each candidate to attend interviews with five companies based on their educational qualifications and skills, he said.

The Minister revealed that more than 200 companies had participated in the job mela held in Huzurnagar last year, while around 300 companies had been invited to participate in the Kodad job mela this time.

He said reputed companies from Hyderabad and various industrial areas, as well as industries operating in the erstwhile Nalgonda district, were being brought into the initiative.

Companies including Apollo Group, GMR, Ramky and Mahindra & Mahindra, along with several leading organisations from the cement, manufacturing, services, IT, pharma, construction and business sectors, were being approached. He directed Industries Department officials to personally contact every industry operating locally and ensure its participation in the job mela.

The Minister said the job mela was expected to provide employment opportunities to more than 3,500 youth. Special arrangements were being made to issue offer letters at the job mela venue itself, as far as possible, to candidates selected through the interviews.

He advised candidates to register online through the QR code. He said the QR code was being widely publicised up to the village level through press releases, pamphlets, posters and social media.

Through online registration, details such as candidates' educational qualifications, skills and experience could be classified in advance and matched with the manpower requirements communicated by companies, he said.

The Minister called upon public representatives, political party workers, panchayat secretaries and village- and mandal-level officials to identify unemployed youth in their respective areas and provide them with information about the job mela.

Opportunity to Secure a Job Based on Talent

"The government's responsibility is to create a platform of opportunities and bring reputed companies to rural youth. We will provide every young man and woman with an opportunity to prove their talent on that platform and secure a job," Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy said.

He expressed his wish that the Kodad Mega Job Mela should not remain merely a one-day recruitment programme, but should evolve into a permanent and replicable model connecting rural talent with educational institutions and the organised industrial sector.

He said the objective of the job mela was to provide a platform where the journey of youth—from the classroom to the interview room and from there to the appointment letter—could be realised.

Breaking Promises and Going Back on His Word Is Revanth Reddy's Trademark

Employees and teachers are being threatened when they demand resolution of their problems
Remember, government employees are not your slaves
The government must fulfill the promises made to them by September 18
Otherwise, employee unions should be prepared for a Hyderabad blockade
TRS will extend full support to their struggle
Telangana Rakshana Sena Chief Kalvakuntla Kavitha





HYDERABAD:

Telangana Rakshana Sena chief Kalvakuntla Kavitha said that breaking promises and going back on one's word is Revanth Reddy's trademark. She lashed out at him for failing to fulfill the promises made to government employees and teachers before the elections. She was speaking at a conference organized by the Telangana Rakshana Sena on Tuesday at Sundarayya Vignana Kendram in Bagh Lingampally on the problems faced by government employees and teachers. Kavitha alleged that Revanth Reddy was threatening employees who were demanding that their problems be resolved. She said the Chief Minister should remember that government employees are not slaves who would be intimidated by his threats. She asserted that no government that antagonized government employees and teachers had returned to power and declared that the Congress government's days in office were also numbered.

Kavitha said that once the Telangana Rakshana Sena comes to power, it would ensure that government employees live happily and with dignity and would make them development partners.

"That Is Revanth's Trademark"

Kavitha said the Revanth Reddy government was failing to fulfill the promises made to employees before the elections. She expressed anger over what she described as serious negligence regarding Dearness Allowance (DA), Pay Revision Commission (PRC), pensions and retirement benefits due to employees. She questioned why Revanth Reddy, who had severely criticized the previous government over these very issues, was not doing anything for employees after coming to power. She alleged that the government was attempting to silence employees by threatening those demanding resolution of their problems. She warned that employees were not slaves who would be frightened by the Chief Minister's threats. Kavitha assured employees that they need not be afraid while demanding the benefits due to them from the government. "We fought against the parent Congress and brought Telangana; fighting this child Congress is not a difficult task for us," she said. Kavitha alleged that six DAs had remained pending for government employees for the past 32 months. She said the Chief Minister had "swallowed" the dearness allowance that should have been provided in line with rising prices of essential commodities. She said government employees play a crucial role in ensuring transparent administration under any government. She expressed anger that Revanth Reddy was treating such employees with disregard and negligence. Kavitha criticized Revanth Reddy, saying that breaking promises and going back on his word had become his trademark. She demanded that the government respond immediately and resolve the problems faced by employees.

"Governments That Antagonized Teachers Failed to Win Again"

Kavitha reminded the gathering that no government that antagonized government teachers and employees had returned to power. She said the Revanth Reddy government would also not return to power. She said not a single teacher or government employee was happy under the Congress government. She described the government's attitude toward teachers in particular as inhumane.

She alleged that teachers were not being given due promotions and that their DA arrears were being kept pending. She further criticized the government for repeatedly assigning them various reporting-related duties instead of allowing them to focus on teaching. Kavitha expressed concern that around 40 percent of posts in the state were vacant, yet the government was neither filling those vacancies nor properly supporting the teachers who were already in service. She demanded implementation of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) for teachers recruited in 2003. She said that shifting their pension system to OPS would bring an estimated ₹2,000 crore to the government. Kavitha mocked the Chief Minister, saying that he was unaware of even this fact.

She demanded that the government immediately shift the affected employees to OPS and use the resulting ₹2,000 crore to clear the pending dues of government teachers and employees.

"Problems Must Be Resolved by September 18"

Kavitha criticized the Chief Minister, saying that although he had promised before the elections to resolve all the problems of government employees, he was now resorting to threats when employees raised those issues. She said the situation had deteriorated to the extent that even employees' health cards were not functioning properly. Kavitha said that if the health card was accepted at any private hospital, TRS was prepared to do whatever the Congress government demanded. She challenged the Chief Minister to resign if the health cards were not functional. Kavitha also expressed concern over the condition of police personnel and demanded that all benefits due to them be paid immediately. She reiterated her demand for implementation of the OPS pension system for employees recruited in 2003. She said that if government employees were unhappy under any government, administration would eventually come to a standstill. Kavitha said that 206 employee associations in the state had come together as a Joint Action Committee (JAC) and submitted 37 demands to the government, most of which, she said, did not involve financial expenditure. She criticized the government for failing to resolve several issues, including GO 317, even though many of them could be addressed easily. She also alleged that employee unions were postponing protests out of fear of the government, resulting in lower-level employees losing confidence in the unions. Kavitha assured government employees that they had no reason to be afraid under any circumstances while pursuing their demands. She reminded the employee unions of the government's assurance that their problems would be resolved by September 18. Kavitha called upon the employee unions to launch a Hyderabad blockade if the problems were not resolved by September 18. She assured them that her organization would stand firmly by their side. Expressing confidence that the Telangana Rakshana Sena would definitely come to power in the coming days, Kavitha said that government employees would then be made development partners. She promised that they would be treated with respect and steps would be taken to ensure their well-being and happiness.

"Employee Unions Are Also Causing Damage"

TS TU State President Abdullah expressed concern that even the unions that were supposed to work for the welfare of employees were succumbing to government pressure and causing harm to their interests. He said that during the previous government, employees faced cases when they demanded protection of their interests, while the present government was making promises to provide everything but was delivering nothing. He said they had faith that TRS, under Kavitha's leadership, would fight for the resolution of problems faced by government employees and teachers. Meanwhile, RTC employees were facing severe pressure, said Sanjeev, a leader of RTC employee unions. He alleged that employees were being made to work for nearly 16 hours a day. He appealed to Kavitha to fight for a change in this system. He recalled that several employees who had been dismissed for minor reasons had been reinstated because of Kavitha's efforts and demanded that steps be taken to prevent exploitation of labour in the RTC. State President of the Pensioners' Association Enugu Malla Reddy, TRTUU State General Secretary Jadi Srinivas, Kanishka Mahender Reddy, and educationist Dharani Rani participated in the programme.

Jitendra Singh to Launch Special Campaign 6 Portal

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh will launch the dedicated online web-portal (https://scdpm.nic.in/SCDPM26) for monitoring of progress of Special Campaign 6 in a meeting of Nodal Officers of Special Campaign 6, Nodal Officers of Public Grievances and Appellate Authorities in all the 84 Ministries/Departments of Government of India. The meeting will also be addressed by Secretary DARPG, Secretary Posts, Secretary Coal, Secretary DoSEL, and Secretary Mines.

Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, since 2021 acts as the nodal department for coordinating and steering the Special Campaigns which are held every year for institutionalizing Swachhata and reducing pendency in Government Offices across the country. The Special Campaign 6 will be held from 2nd - 31st October 2026 and will be preceded by the preparatory phase from 16th - 30th September, 2026. The Special Campaign seeks to institutionalize Swachhata in all offices of Government of India with a saturation approach. Since 2021, through five editions of the Special Campaign (2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 & 2025) and monthly Secretariat Reforms monitoring (up to July 2026), more than 24.20 lakh sites have been covered, over 180.48 lakh files have been weeded out/closed, and a revenue of more than ₹5,102.91 crore has been generated through scrap disposal. In Special Campaign 5 alone, nearly 11.6 lakh sites were covered, 29.52 lakh files were weeded out, 233.75 lakh sq. ft. of office space was freed, and around ₹833.92 crore was earned from scrap disposal.

Vishwakarma Brahmotsavam begins on a grand note in Karimnagar

Special prayers, flag hoisting and bike rally mark the celebrations





KARIMNAGAR

The three-day Brahmotsavam of Sri Madvirat Vishwakarma Bhagavan began on a grand and devotional note in Karimnagar on Tuesday. The celebrations are being held at the Sri Gayatri Vishwakarma Sahita Sri Sri Sri Govindamamba Sametha Potuluri Veerabrahmendra Swamy Temple. The first day of the celebrations began with Suprabhatam and Vedic chanting, followed by special fruit and Panchamrita abhishekams and elaborate decoration of the presiding deities. Special rituals including Maha Ganapathi Puja, Swasti Punyahavachanam, Deeksha Kankana Dharana and Akhanda Deepa Sthapana were performed as part of the festivities. The Vishwakarma flag was hoisted amid devotional fervour. A large-scale bike rally was subsequently organised with the participation of devotees and representatives of various Viswa Brahmin associations. A large number of devotees took part in the rally. Several Vedic rituals, including Go Puja, Yagashala and Vedika Pravesham, Ankurarpanam, Ritwik Varanam, Pradhana Kalasha Sthapana, Mandaparadhana and Agni Pratishta, were performed as per tradition. Temple organisers said Vishwakarma Bhagavan is revered as the divine architect and is worshipped as the originator of various crafts, arts and traditional professions. They appealed to devotees to participate in the annual Brahmotsavam and seek the blessings of the deity. Annadanam was served to devotees in the afternoon. Special abhishekams, Laksha Pushparchana, Sahasra Deepalankarana Seva, spiritual discourses and other religious programmes are scheduled for the evening. Cultural programmes by the Katta Vani troupe will also be held.

The celebrations witnessed the participation of Temple Committee chairman Muttoju Ram Kumar, trustees Gokulakonda Narsimha Chary, Ragati Kavitha, Edulapuram Mahesh and Gogulakonda Karunakar, vice-president Veggalam Ramakrishna, honorary president Vangala Naveen, district Goldsmith Association leaders Katta Jagan, temple staff, members of the Hare Rama Hare Krishna Bhajan Mandali, representatives of Viswa Brahmin associations and devotees.

BJP National President Nitin Naveen visit to Madhya Pradesh on 17th and 18th September

Will participate in the 'Aashirvad Ka Diya' lighting program in Ujjain under the Seva Sankalp campaign
Will launch a new statewide registration process under the ownership scheme in Indore

DR.BHUPENDRA VIKAL



Bhopal: National President of Bharatiya Janata Party, Shri Nitin Naveen will be on a visit to Madhya Pradesh on 17th and 18th September. During this time he will participate in various programs organized in Indore and@ Ujjain. National President of Bharatiya Janata Party, Shri Nitin Naveen will reach Devi Ahilyabai Holkar Airport, Indore on September 17 at 1:45 pm. Thereafter will participate in the local program at 2:00 pm. Will inaugurate the new statewide registration process under the ownership scheme at Gandhi Nagar Ground in Indore at 2:55 pm. After this we will reach Ujjain at 5:05 pm. BJP National President Nitin Naveen will participate in Shipra Aarti and lighting of 'Aashirwad ka Diya' at Ramghat in Ujjain at 6:45 pm under the 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan' to commemorate the completion of 25 years of public life of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji. You will also attend the Bhajan evening organized at Ramghat at 8:00 pm. National President of Bharatiya Janata Party Shri Nitin Naveen ji will participate in Bhasma Aarti at Shri Mahakaleshwar Temple in Ujjain on 18th September at 4:05 am. You will leave from Ujjain for Indore at 9:30 am and depart for Punjab from Indore airport at 10:00 am.

Speakers at Round Table Meeting Demand Official Observance of Telangana Liberation Day

Emphasise the Need to Convey the Significance of September 17 to Future Generations







HYDERABAD

Several prominent personalities have demanded that the Telangana State Government officially observe September 17 as Telangana Liberation Day and ensure that its historical significance is conveyed to future generations. A round table meeting on the theme "The Government Should Officially Observe Telangana Liberation Day" was organised by the Alai Balai Foundation under the leadership of Smt. Bandaru Vijayalaxmi on Tuesday at the Press Club, Somajiguda, Hyderabad. Former Governor Shri Bandaru Dattatraya Ji, former Governor of Maharashtra Shri C. H. Vidyasagar Rao Ji, Malkajgiri Member of Parliament Shri Eatala Rajender Ji, MLC Shri Kodandaram Ji, MLC Shri Anjireddy Ji, Shri Prem Singh Rathod Ji, Shri B. S. Ramulu Ji, Shri Pasham Yadagiri Ji, Smt. Paduri Karuna Ji, and several other prominent personalities from the social, political and historical fields participated in the meeting and expressed their views.

The speakers unanimously urged the Telangana Government to officially observe September 17 as Telangana Liberation Day, in the same manner that Karnataka and Maharashtra officially commemorate historical events associated with the integration of regions that became part of their respective states.

September 17 Is a Historic and Crucial Day in Telangana's History: Bandaru Dattatraya Speaking on the occasion, Shri Bandaru Dattatraya Ji said that September 17 is one of the most significant days in the history of Telangana. He recalled the oppression, exploitation and violence suffered by the people of Telangana under the autocratic rule of the Nizam. He referred to the atrocities, violence and killings perpetrated by the Razakars under the leadership of Qasim Razvi, stating that the people of Telangana suffered immensely for nearly 13 months due to the atrocities committed by the Razakars. He said that the Nizam's rule came to an end following action taken by the Indian armed forces under the firm leadership of the then Union Home Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, resulting in the integration of the Telangana region into the Indian Union. With this historic development, the people of Telangana were liberated from the autocratic rule of the Nizam. hri Dattatraya Ji said that it is the responsibility of every citizen to remember the sacrifices of the martyrs who laid down their lives during the Telangana liberation struggle. He stressed the need to preserve and pass on this important chapter of history to future generations.

We Must Not Forget History: C. H. Vidyasagar Rao

Former Governor of Maharashtra Shri C. H. Vidyasagar Rao Ji said that everyone has a responsibility to ensure that the history of the Telangana liberation movement is conveyed to future generations.

He recalled his visit to Bairanpalli village while serving as Union Minister of State for Home Affairs. He said that Bairanpalli stands as a tragic testimony to the atrocities committed by the Razakars and that the incidents that took place there reflect the suffering and sacrifices endured by the people of Telangana. He emphasised that the history of the Telangana liberation struggle should be viewed above political considerations and that historical facts should be conveyed truthfully to future generations. He said that officially observing September 17 would ensure due recognition of Telangana's history and pay appropriate tribute to those who sacrificed their lives during the liberation struggle. Other speakers said that officially observing September 17 would help bring the history of Telangana closer to the people, particularly the younger generation. They suggested collecting historical evidence relating to the Telangana liberation movement, encouraging research, and introducing this history to future generations through educational curricula and cultural programmes. The meeting appealed to the Telangana Government not only to officially observe Telangana Liberation Day but also to organise grand state-wide government programmes on September 17.

Historians, sociologists, political leaders, intellectuals and prominent personalities from various fields participated in the round table meeting.

PM Modi Meets AU Chairperson, Burundi President at BRICS Summit



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi held a bilateral meeting today with H.E. Évariste Ndayishimiye, Chairperson of the African Union and President of the Republic of Burundi, on the sidelines of the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi.

The two leaders, while recalling India's role in bringing the African Union into the G20 fold during India's presidency in 2023, stressed that the India-African Union partnership is a key pillar of cooperation within the Global South. They discussed the early convening of the 4th India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-IV) at a mutually convenient date.

Prime Minister commended the AU leadership for successfully combating the Ebola Outbreak. The AU Chairperson appreciated the medical support from India to Africa CDC to help in mitigating the outbreak.

The two leaders discussed India-Burundi ties, which continue to be defined by warmth, solidarity and shared developmental aspirations. The two leaders reviewed bilateral ties in the areas of economic cooperation, development partnership, agricultural modernization, healthcare and capacity-building initiatives.

EDITORIAL

Balancing Growth and Groundwork: Why UPI's Calibrated MDR Fee Makes Economic Sense

The implementation of a selective Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions above ₹2,000—effective October 15, 2026—marks a decisive transition in India's digital economy. Since January 2020, the zero-MDR mandate shielded merchants from transaction fees, fueling an unprecedented surge in digital payment adoption across every corner of the country. Yet, as transaction volumes scaled to billions monthly, the fiscal burden on banks, fintech infrastructure, and payment service providers reached a breaking point. By enabling a modest 0.4% MDR on high-value merchant payments while explicitly ring-fencing small vendors and consumer-to-consumer transfers, policymakers have struck a necessary balance between commercial sustainability and economic inclusion. The Financial Reality Behind Zero-MDRThe zero-MDR regime served as an engine for financial inclusion, converting a cash-reliant nation into a global leader in real-time digital payments. However, maintaining high-frequency, low-latency payment infrastructure demands continuous investment in server capacity, cybersecurity, and fraud mitigation systems. For years, government subsidies attempted to bridge the revenue shortfall for acquiring banks and system operators. As scale outstripped budgetary allocations, funding bottlenecks threatened system resilience and stifled innovation among third-party app providers.

A payment rails system that operates without a sustainable revenue model poses systemic risks. Reintroducing a calibrated MDR creates an explicit monetization channel, ensuring that the financial institutions supporting NPCI's core architecture can reinvest in network security, system uptime, and cross-border payment integration. Protecting Small Business and the End-Consumer. The fundamental strength of the October 15 rollout lies in its targeted architecture. Person-to-person (P2P) transfers remain entirely free, ensuring everyday digital interactions among citizens face zero friction. Crucially, micro and small merchants—the neighborhood kirana stores, street vendors, and local service providers—are exempt from the fee structure. By limiting the 0.4% charge to larger merchants and payments exceeding the ₹2,000 threshold, the framework targets commercial entities capable of absorbing nominal processing costs. Furthermore, strict regulatory mandates forbid merchants from passing the fee on to consumers as a checkout surcharge. This protects consumer trust while aligning UPI's commercial terms closer to global card networks—though at a fraction of standard credit card MDRs. Despite its clear rationale, the policy faces operational hurdles. Larger merchants facing tighter margins may attempt indirect cost pass-throughs, such as scaling back loyalty programs or adjusting product pricing. Regulators and enforcement authorities must monitor compliance to prevent illegal "cash discounts" or off-platform transactions designed to evade the levy. Clear communication from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and partner banks will be essential to prevent misinformation regarding consumer charges. The transition from a subsidized digital utility to a self-sustaining ecosystem represents a mature phase in India's digital transformation. By guaranteeing that everyday users and small merchants remain unencumbered, the October 15 policy safeguards the democratized access that made UPI a global success story. Simultaneously, it provides fintech enterprises and banks with the financial foundation required to secure, refine, and expand India's digital payment rails for the next decade.

HAPPINESS

On the solitary path of arrival,
there is only the cry of weeping;
In the mansion of a solitary life, the wailing is self-inflicted;
It is the boundless joy, let slip
that the beautiful world of poetry sketches.

Who is a friend and who is a foe
In a swaying cradle of uncertainty, where the path remains
unclear at any given moment,
There is doubt, bewilderment, and obstacles in every step;
The fault lies in the meaning of words
whether spoken with honesty or commitment.

The damp breeze amidst veils of falling mist,
The jasmine bloom amidst the scorching sun
To strike the heart of friendship with a clenched fist
While sipping the nectar of joy
at some fleeting, unstable address
Is truly an unnatural song of spring.
Alas, this earth! How much it has patiently borne,
just like a mother!

An elephant swallowed wood apple
Weeping in disguise
Beware, spoiler of joy!

What need is there for flashy publicity
for a movie that moves one to tears?
Why that much is
Seek the answer within
is the heart yours or mine?
Yesterday, today, and tomorrow,
the soul serves as our conscience.

Happiness is forbidden here;
It is a wind that bears the wings of weeping.
Look at the sky, where happiness hides behind the clouds
A black mirror reflecting tears and the anguish of sorrow.
Happiness is an ever antagonistic to weeping

..: - Dr. T. Radhakrishnamacharyulu:..
9849305871.

DRUG-FREE INDIA: FROM SEIZURES TO SOCIAL DAMAGE

India's drug-control machinery is intercepting more narcotics, dismantling trafficking networks and securing more convictions. In 2025, the Narcotics Control Bureau seized 1,33,965 kg of narcotic drugs worth about ₹1,980 crore and arrested 994 traffickers in 447 cases. It reported convictions in 131 cases and the destruction of more than 77,000 kg of seized drugs. These figures show the scale of enforcement. They do not, however, reveal whether drug dependence is declining, whether fewer young people are entering the market, or how much social and economic damage is being prevented. For a country pursuing a drug-free India, that is the harder measure of progress.



"India is seizing more drugs, dismantling more trafficking networks and securing more convictions. But the harder question is whether these gains are reducing the damage drugs inflict on families, health, education, employment and the wider economy."

Drug abuse does not remain confined to the user. Dependence can disrupt education, reduce participation in work and put pressure on household income. Treatment costs add to the burden, while the loss of an earning member can affect the welfare and education of other family members. The consequences also extend to public safety. Drug markets sustain organised criminal networks, while dependence can be associated with risky or unlawful behaviour. Intoxication can impair judgement and coordination, creating road-safety risks. Substance use can also intersect with severe psychological distress and suicidal behaviour. These relationships require careful interpretation; drug use cannot automatically be treated as the sole cause of a crime, accident or suicide. But its possible role is significant enough to warrant better recording across police, hospitals, emergency services and road-safety agencies.

The economic cost is equally important. Lost working days, reduced productivity, premature mortality, healthcare expenditure, accidents, policing and criminal justice all consume resources. Addiction can reduce household income while increasing expenditure, and over time weaken the productive capacity of the working-age population. There is no reliable basis for assigning a single percentage of GDP to this burden without a comprehensive economic assessment. But treating drug dependence as only a social or health issue overlooks its implications for productivity and growth.

The drug market itself is changing. NCB data show that seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants and related synthetic drugs rose from 1,890 kg in 2019 to 11,994 kg in 2024. Synthetic substances can be produced clandestinely and distributed through rapidly changing networks. Trafficking is also moving into digital spaces, using online networks, encrypted communication, cryptocurrencies and darknet markets. The recent dismantling of darknet-based networks by the NCB illustrates the shift. Enforcement must therefore extend beyond physical interception to cyber investigation, digital evidence, financial intelligence and faster forensic identification of new substances.

A related challenge is the misuse of legitimate pharmaceuticals. Medicines with genuine therapeutic uses can be diverted or misused. In May 2026, the Union Health Ministry placed pregabalin under Schedule H1, tightening controls on its sale and prescription. Preventing diversion without restricting legitimate treatment will require better prescription monitoring and stronger accountability across manufacturers, distributors, pharmacies and regulators.

India also lacks a sufficiently current picture of drug use. The last completed comprehensive national survey was based on data collected in 2018. It estimated 3.1 crore cannabis users and 2.26 crore opioid users, with about 77 lakh people needing help for opioid-related problems. Those figures remain an important baseline, but they predate the rapid growth of synthetic drugs and digital trafficking. Without updated prevalence data, it is difficult to identify where consumption is rising, which substances are emerging and whether interventions are reducing dependence.

This information gap points to a larger weakness in prevention. Awareness campaigns remain useful, but they cannot by themselves detect emerging patterns of use. Schools and colleges need systems to identify early signs of risk and connect students to counselling. Primary healthcare should be able to recognise substance-use disorders and refer patients for treatment. Hospitals should record drug involvement more systematically in overdoses, accidents and cases of acute psychological distress. Data from these systems, combined with information from forensic laboratories, treatment centres and law-enforcement agencies, could form a national early-warning mechanism for emerging substances and changing patterns of use.

Treatment must also be judged by outcomes rather than admissions. The number of people entering rehabilitation says little about whether they remain in recovery. More meaningful measures include treatment completion, relapse, sustained recovery and return to education or employment. Rehabilitation should also involve families, since recovery does not end when a patient leaves a treatment centre. Linking treatment to skills, employment and social reintegration can reduce the risk of returning to the conditions that contributed to dependence.

These changes require closer coordination among institutions that currently see different parts of the problem. Police and the NCB need cyber and financial intelligence; health agencies need reliable treatment and outcome data; schools need referral systems; road-safety agencies need better evidence on drug-impaired driving; and regulators need faster responses to pharmaceutical diversion and new psychoactive substances. The aim is not another layer of administration, but a system in which information moves across institutions as quickly as the drug market itself.

This should also change how India measures success. Seizures, arrests, prosecutions and convictions will remain essential indicators of enforcement. But they should be matched by measures of new drug use, early detection, treatment outcomes, relapse, reintegration and drug-related harm. The central question should move beyond how much narcotic the State has removed from circulation to how much damage it has prevented.

A drug-free India will ultimately be judged by fewer people becoming dependent, fewer families bearing the consequences, fewer young people losing their education, more recovering users returning to productive lives and fewer health and safety risks associated with substance abuse. Enforcement remains indispensable. But its success should increasingly be measured not only by the drugs seized, but by the harm prevented.



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SAUDI OIL ROUTES UNDER SIEGE, IRAN TIGHTENS GRIP ON GLOBAL ENERGY

A drone strike on Saudi Arabia's strategic East-West Pipeline has pushed the Middle East conflict into a new and potentially dangerous phase, putting global oil supply routes at the centre of the crisis. With the Strait of Hormuz, Bab el-Mandeb and Red Sea already facing heightened risks, the disruption of a key alternative pipeline route has renewed fears of prolonged supply disruptions, crude prices above $100 a barrel and mounting economic pressure on oil-importing nations such as India.

Oil routes have now become the real target in the Middle East war. The focus is no longer limited to territory, ports, or military bases. A drone attack on Saudi Arabia's East-West Pipeline has once again exposed just how fragile the global energy system is. Stretching roughly 1,200 kilometers, the pipeline carries oil from the Persian Gulf to the Red Sea port of Yanbu and has a maximum capacity of around 7 million barrels per day. Following the attack, operations had to be suspended.That is the most significant implication of the attack. Saudi Arabia built the East-West Pipeline to reduce its dependence on the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz. Under normal circumstances, around 20 million barrels of crude oil and petroleum products pass through the Strait of Hormuz every day. Now, with the Strait under pressure because of the war and Saudi Arabia's alternative pipeline route also damaged, it is only natural for fear to return to the global oil market.

The price of crude oil crossing the $100 mark is the cost of that fear. Brent crude has reached around $109 per barrel. In oil markets, expectations of future shortages push up prices today. If the pipeline remains shut for an extended period, exports from Yanbu will be affected and Saudi Arabia will have to rethink its supply strategy. The pipeline had recently been carrying roughly 4 to 5 million barrels of oil per day. Its shutdown therefore represents a major shock to the global market, equivalent to around four percent of global supply. Saudi Arabia's problem is that it is not facing a crisis on just one route. To the east lies the Strait of Hormuz, to the south is Bab el-Mandeb, and to the west lies the Red Sea. Houthi attacks have already placed shipping through Bab el-Mandeb and the Red Sea at risk. The confrontation with Iran around the Strait of Hormuz has made another major energy route increasingly vulnerable. Now, the pipeline that was supposed to serve as an alternative to these maritime risks has also been disrupted.

It would be a mistake to view this incident merely as an attack on Saudi Arabia. Oil prices are determined not only by production but also by transportation, insurance, inventories, and geopolitical risk. A pipeline shutdown does not mean that millions of barrels of oil have suddenly disappeared from the world. It means that getting available oil to the market has become more difficult and more expensive. This is where India's real concern begins. Domestic petrol and diesel prices do not necessarily reflect every jump in international crude prices on the same day. Oil companies can temporarily absorb some of the shock through existing inventories and domestic pricing conditions. But if crude remains above $100 per barrel for an extended period, the pressure will intensify. India's import bill will rise, the rupee will come under pressure, and higher transportation costs will eventually affect everything from food prices to industry.

The political dimension of this crisis is equally important. Saudi Arabia has entered into a defense agreement with Pakistan and Turkey covering the protection of Mecca. If Saudi Arabia's oil infrastructure comes under repeated attack, questions will inevitably arise over whether such security partnerships are merely political statements or whether they would translate into troops, weapons, and air-defense support when the need arises.Saudi Arabia and the Houthis are now bitter adversaries, but their relationship has a complicated history. After the Saudi-Yemeni War of 1934, territories such as Asir and Najran came under Saudi control. Later, after Yemen's monarchy was overthrown in 1962, Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser sent troops to support the republican government. At one point, nearly 70,000 Egyptian soldiers were stationed in Yemen. Saudi Arabia responded by providing money, weapons, and support to forces backing the Zaidi monarchy. The traditions from which the Houthi movement later emerged had once received support from Saudi Arabia through their predecessors.

The modern Houthi movement eventually became a major challenge to both Saudi Arabia and Yemen's central authorities. Several rounds of fighting took place between 2004 and 2009, and in 2009 the Saudi military directly entered the conflict. Yemen's mountainous terrain and guerrilla warfare forced the Saudi military to pay a heavy price. In 2019, Houthi attacks also targeted pumping stations along the same East-West Pipeline.The biggest question now is what Iran's strategy is. If Iran can keep the Strait of Hormuz under pressure while using allied groups to increase threats in the Red Sea and against oil infrastructure, it can raise the economic costs for the United States and its allies. In that scenario, the battlefield moves beyond missiles and military bases and directly into global markets. Expensive oil could become not only an economic problem for the United States but also a domestic political challenge.

This is where the importance of Iran's strategy of indirect warfare becomes clear. Directly attacking Iran is one thing; using armed groups within its sphere of influence to place energy infrastructure under pressure is another. It creates ambiguity over responsibility while forcing opponents to deal with multiple fronts simultaneously. That is why, even when responsibility for an attack remains unclear, its strategic consequences cannot simply be ignored. For Saudi Arabia, the threat is no longer limited to missiles crossing its borders. Even a small drone approaching from an unexpected direction can pose a serious danger.

If the pipeline itself becomes a target, even an existing alternative to the Strait of Hormuz can become vulnerable. Protecting hundreds of kilometers of energy infrastructure is fundamentally different from protecting a military base. It is impossible to station soldiers every few hundred meters along the entire route. That is the real strategic power of such attacks: a relatively small drone can temporarily cripple an energy strategy spanning thousands of kilometers.The decisive question in the coming days will be how quickly Saudi Arabia can restore the pipeline and whether conditions in the Red Sea and the Strait of Hormuz improve. If one route remains closed, another remains unsafe, and a third continues to face attacks, oil at $120 per barrel cannot be ruled out. At that point, the crisis will no longer be limited to petrol and diesel prices. Import bills, inflation, currencies, and global economic growth will all come under pressure. The bottom line is clear: the Middle East war is no longer confined within national borders. Its real flames have now reached the world's oil routes.



AJAY KUMAR
Senior Journalist,



Ghiyakoti Gears Up for Grand Sheshnag Devta Procession and Traditional Butter Holi Festival

Devotees from across Jaunpur region gather as the sacred palanquin of Lord Sheshnag visits the village once every three years

SUNIL THAPLIYAL

Nainbagh (Tehri Garhwal) : The village of Ghiyakoti in Tehri Garhwal is set to witness a unique blend of faith and folk tradition on Wednesday as the sacred procession of Lord Sheshnag Devta reaches the village during its three-yearly ceremonial tour. The festival's main attractions will be the grand tableau of Lord Sheshnag and the traditional Butter Holi, drawing devotees from Jaunpur and other nearby regions.

The ceremonial palanquin of Lord Sheshnag received a warm welcome in Ghiyakoti on Tuesday evening. Hundreds of villagers joined a traditional Mela procession, escorting the deity with devotional fervour. The sounds of dhol-damau, ransingha and other traditional instruments filled the village, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the Jaunpur region. Religious rituals, special prayers and abhishek began on Wednesday morning, with devotees offering prayers for peace, prosperity and well-being.

Later in the day, the colourful procession of Lord Sheshnag will be taken out through the village, followed by the centuries-old tradition of Butter Holi, considered the highlight of the festival.

Village elder Surat Singh Rawat and Baman Gram Sabha Pradhan Subhash Ratudi said that the sacred palanquin of Lord Nag Devta visits Ghiyakoti once every three years, and the entire village celebrates the occasion as a grand religious festival after months of preparation.

Women dressed in traditional attire perform the Tandi folk dance, while village youth enthusiastically participate in welcoming the deity and organising the celebrations. The festival reflects not only deep religious devotion but also preserves the vibrant folk culture, traditions and communal harmony of the Jaunpur valley. Villagers have appealed to devotees from across Uttarakhand to visit Ghiyakoti and seek blessings of Lord Sheshnag Devta while witnessing this unique cultural and spiritual celebration.

State governments are unable to stop the sale of adulterated food in the country

S. N. VERMA

New Delhi: As soon as the monsoon goes away, the festival season will continue in the country for the next few months. On the days of festivals, our homes and kitchens are full of sweets and various kinds of delicious dishes. But this interesting and flavourful food starts to feel bad when it is found that it is all made from adulterated and contaminated food. According to the Human Rights Commission, every person in the country has the right to live a healthy and disease-free life, but due to the lax attitude of the government, our right is being violated. From Diwali to Holi, we keep reading the news of raiding and destroying food shops, especially sweets. A look at India's legal framework for combatting food adulteration suggests that the Madras Adulteration Prevention Act, 1918, the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and the National Food Safety Act (NFSA), 2013. Food adulteration is a global issue that affects both formal and informal sectors despite existing laws, regulations and guidelines. Once adulterated products have entered the supply chain, they are almost impossible to detect or recall them. A single bad sample can affect hundreds. State governments issue licenses to vendors. But there is no competent arrangement for effective monitoring and testing of adulterated products at various levels by the concerned State Governments. Due to which food adulteration has become a serious health and economic challenge in India. Cases of adulteration in basic foods used in daily life such as milk, ghee, spices, oil and cereals are constantly coming to light. Milk is one of the most adulterated food products in India. Water is often added to increase the volume, but more anxiolytic adulterants such as detergents, urea, starch, and hydrogen peroxide have also been found in various cases over the past few years. Ghee is given a lot of importance in homes, unfortunately this is the reason why it becomes a target for adulteration. Adding cheap fat, vegetable ghee or other oils to ghee can increase profitability, but it significantly reduces authenticity and quality. Food adulteration is not only playing with the health of consumers, but also a major burden on the country's economy and food security system. The adulteration of water, urea, detergent, starch and synthetic milk is the most common in dairy products and milk. Supplements and starch are often added to mawa and cheese. Ground spices are mixed with wood filings, synthetic colour, brick powder (in red pepper) and metanyl yellow (in haldi). The adulteration of cheap argimon oil or mineral oil is seen in edible oils. Cereals and pulses, rice, and pulses use pebbles, lead chromate (for brightness) and restricted colours. Fruits and vegetables are widely used in calcium carbide for premature cooking and chemical dyes and wax to make them appear shiny. Food adulteration can lead to a number of health problems, including digestive disorders, allergies, nutritional deficiencies, a weakened immune system, and long-term illnesses such as cancer and liver damage. According to the World Health Organisation, globally, about 600 million people are affected by foodborne diseases and 4.20 million people die each year due to unsafe food. Most consumers evaluate food based on its appearance, aroma, and price. Unfortunately, unscrupulous traders often take advantage of these factors to sell adulterated food. The problem is that consumers often associate bright colours with freshness and quality. In reality, overly bright colours can sometimes be a warning sign rather than a sign of better quality. Prolonged exposure to certain unauthorised dyes has been linked to liver damage, kidney toxicity, behavioural effects in children, and even potential risks of cancer. Therefore, food should be purchased only from reliable and reputed sources. Read the label carefully before buying. See the valid license and manufacturing details. Be careful with products that look unusually bright or that cost well below the market value. Avoid buying open products from unreliable sources. Report suspicious products to food safety officials. Food security is a shared responsibility. Regulators, manufacturers, retailers, scientists and consumers all have a role to play in this. Because ultimately, the purpose of food should be to nourish people, not to jeopardise their health.

According to food security experts, there are several major obstacles in the way of ensuring food security in a large and densely populated country like India. India's food market is largely unorganised. Local street vendors, weekly markets and small grocery vendors remain outside the rigid framework of the FSSAI, making them difficult to monitor. There is a huge shortage of modern food testing laboratories in the country. In addition, the number of food safety officers is much less than the sanctioned posts, which does not lead to regular inspection. Due to the slow legal process and lax enforcement, cases against adulterators remain pending in the courts for years. Due to delays in justice and reduced fines, criminals have no fear of the law.

Tackling food adulteration in India is not only the responsibility of the government, but requires the collective participation of manufacturers, traders and consumers. Unless strict laws, modern technology and conscious citizens come together, the dream of a safe and healthy India will remain unfulfilled.

Railway will build a road over bridge on Mathura Achnera Railway line : Hema Malini

MATHURA



Railway to build a road over bridge on Mathura Achnera Railway line on Parkham Ole road, Mathura, MP, Hema Malini said. In a letter addressing Mathura MP Hema Malini, Railway, Information and Broadcasting and Electronics and Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw conveyed the decision to construct a rail overbridge on Kilometre 372/6-7 of the Mathura Achnera Rail block.

Recognising the need for an overbridge for smooth vehicular movement on the road, actor-turned-politician Hema Malini wrote a letter on 29 September last year to the Railway Minister, requesting him to approve the construction of an overbridge on the existing railway crossing on Parkham Ole road. The road is part of an alternative passage connecting National Highway 19 from Farah to Kosi Kalan via Jajampatti, Sonkh and Goverdhan. When completed, it will significantly reduce the travel time and will decongest National Highway 19, Hema Malini said. The road also connects Bharatpur via Jajampatti. The overbridge, once completed, will directly benefit nearly 2 dozen nearby villages.



Divisional Railway Manager Shri Ashish Jain Inspects Coaching Depot

Banaras and Reviews Maintenance Standards

Special Emphasis on Passenger Safety and Railway Coach Modification Works; Directives Issued for 100% Compliance with RDSO and Railway Board Instructions

VARANASI

With the objective of providing safe and comfortable travel to railway passengers, Divisional Railway Manager, Varanasi, Shri Ashish Jain, inspected the Coaching Depot, Banaras, today, 15 September 2026. He was accompanied by Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer (C&W), Shri Abhishek Rai. During the inspection, the Divisional Railway Manager conducted a detailed review of the latest status of Coach Alteration Instructions (CAIs) and their compliance. Through a PowerPoint presentation, Coaching Depot Officer Shri Harishankar Kumar briefed him on the current status of various modification works. Shri Jain carried out a detailed inspection of the functioning of the Centre Buffer Coupler (CBC), the vertical restrictors installed in the locomotive and power car, the assembly of the vestibule fall plates, and the modifications carried out in these components. He also reviewed the progress of replacement work for the aluminium bars/rods fitted in coach windows and emergency windows.

The Divisional Railway Manager directed the concerned officials to accord priority to these safety-related works and complete them at the earliest. He also instructed them to ensure full compliance with the technical and safety standards prescribed by the Railway Board and the Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO). He further reviewed the construction of a new building and renovation works being undertaken in view of the capacity enhancement of the mechanised laundry.

Divisional Railway Manager Shri Ashish Jain laid special emphasis on regular monitoring of the works, ensuring quality, and completing all pending works within the stipulated timeframe. He directed that quality, safety, and timely completion should be accorded the highest priority in all technical works being undertaken at the Coaching Depot. During the inspection, Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer (C&W) Shri Abhishek Rai, Coaching Depot Officer Shri Harishankar Kumar Gupta, and other concerned senior supervisors were present.

Major Rehabilitation Revitalises Assam's Historic Saraighat Bridge

Comprehensive Overhaul Strengthens Critical Structural Components; Enhances Long-Term Safety of Assam's Historic Gateway

MALIGAON

The iconic Saraighat Bridge- Assam's Historic Gateway:

The Saraighat Bridge at Guwahati is an iconic landmark of the Indian Railways and a testament to India's engineering excellence. It holds unparalleled historical and strategic significance for Assam and the entire Northeast region. Commissioned in 1962, the bridge has served the nation continuously for over six decades, playing a vital role in connecting the Northeast with the rest of the country.

Over the years, the bridge had undergone considerable wear and tear. The deterioration of the upper deck slab had begun to affect the main structural members, necessitating urgent and comprehensive intervention. At this stage, routine maintenance and minor repairs were no longer adequate. A comprehensive rehabilitation was therefore taken up at a cost of approximately Rs. 7 Crores to restore the bridge and enhance its long-term structural reliability. The repair works commenced on 13th July, 2026 and the comprehensive rehabilitation work has now been successfully completed on 15th September, 2026.





Comprehensive Structural Rehabilitation Undertaken:

The rehabilitation work was taken up with the objective of restoring the condition of the bridge, strengthening its critical structural components and ensuring that its structural integrity continues to meet modern load-bearing requirements and safety benchmarks. During inspection and assessment, several areas requiring urgent attention were identified. These included a distressed Expansion Joint at the Amingaon end, distress in supporting steel members, development of structural cracks and cavity formation in spalled concrete, resulting in ingress of water and damage to 8 out of the 11 expansion joints provided in the bridge. Multiple potholes and distressed portions were also observed on the road deck, requiring dismantling, repair through concreting and adequate curing time. Earlier this year, pothole repairs had been undertaken on multiple occasions, particularly between January and May, 2026. However, due to the limited curing time available while maintaining traffic movement, the repaired concrete surface was damaged again, particularly under the impact of heavy-loaded vehicles. This necessitated a more comprehensive and durable rehabilitation approach.

Major Works Completed:

As part of the comprehensive rehabilitation of the Saraighat Bridge, extensive repair and strengthening works were undertaken. These included dismantling and repair of eight damaged expansion joints, removal and recasting of distressed portions of the concrete road deck and detailed repair and strengthening of the underlying steel structural members. Damaged deck portions at multiple locations were systematically restored through concreting, followed by adequate curing to ensure durability, structural integrity and long-term performance of the bridge.

Investment in Long-Term Infrastructure Safety:

The rehabilitation of Saraighat Bridge is not merely a routine maintenance exercise. It represents a significant intervention towards safeguarding a critical piece of national infrastructure and ensuring its continued reliability for the people of Assam and the Northeast. The comprehensive works have addressed the distressed expansion joints, strengthened supporting structural members and rehabilitated the road deck at multiple locations.

Strengthening a historic gateway:

The successful completion of the major rehabilitation work reflects the sustained efforts and technical expertise of the Engineering team of Indian Railways. The work has been undertaken with a clear focus on safety, structural integrity and long-term durability. Saraighat Bridge stands as one of Assam's most historic gateways, connecting communities and facilitating the movement of people and goods across the Brahmaputra. Its comprehensive rehabilitation is an important step towards preserving this engineering landmark and ensuring that it continues to serve the region safely and reliably for decades to come.

Agreement on Kishau Project a Historic Achievement for Haryana: CM

Says Haryana Will Directly Benefit from Increased Water Availability in Yamuna

CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that today is a historic day for Haryana. The signing of an MoU among six states regarding the Kishau Multipurpose Project is a significant step towards taking forward the project that has been pending for years.

Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini was speaking to media persons in New Delhi on Tuesday after a meeting on the Kishau Multipurpose Project chaired by Union Home and Cooperation Minister Sh. Amit Shah. The meeting was attended by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Sh. Yogi Adityanath, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Sh. Pushkar Singh Dhami, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sh. Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu and Delhi Chief Minister Smt. Rekha Gupta, along with the senior officers of the concerned states. Union Jal Shakti Minister Sh. C.R. Patil was also present at the meeting. Speaking to media persons after the meeting, Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that important decisions were taken during the significant meeting of the six states. Due to the initiative of Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi and the active efforts of Union Home and Cooperation Minister Sh. Amit Shah, the way has been paved for building consensus among the states on this issue that has been pending for years. He expressed his special gratitude to Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Sh. Amit Shah for this important initiative.



Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini participating in a meeting of the Chief Ministers of various States on the Kishau Project, chaired by Union Home Minister Sh. Amit Shah, in New Delhi. Union Minister for Jal Shakti Sh. C.R. Patil is also seen in the picture. (15/09/2026)

He also thanked Union Jal Shakti Minister Sh. C.R. Patil and said that he has continuously worked to expedite the Kishau Project by coordinating with the states and concerned departments. The signing of the MoU among the six states under the chairmanship of Sh. Patil is a major achievement in this direction.

Haryana Will Directly Benefit from Increased Water Availability in Yamuna

The Chief Minister said that Haryana's share in the water of the Yamuna is 48 per cent. Therefore, Haryana will directly benefit from increased water availability in the Yamuna. Along with the Kishau Project, the Renuka Ji and Lakhwar projects are also important for Haryana. Construction work on both these projects is already underway, and now work on the Kishau Project is also expected to begin soon.

Varuna Elevated Corridor: Balancing Heritage, Mobility and Growth in Varanasi

For centuries, the Varuna River has been an integral part of Varanasi's geographical and cultural landscape, lending the city half its name and shaping its growth. Today, the river corridor is set to assume a new role as a key axis of modern urban mobility. Following the Union Cabinet's approval in July, the ₹10,998-crore, 43.218-km Varuna Elevated Corridor is set to become an important component of Varanasi's future transport network. The project will connect NH-31 with the Varanasi Ring Road along the Varuna River, providing an alternative high-capacity route through the city and helping ease congestion on existing urban roads. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), under the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, will develop the predominantly elevated 6/4-lane corridor, comprising the main carriageway, flyovers, loops, ramps and service roads. The project will also include an iconic cable-stayed bridge and an extradosed foot over bridge-cum-major bridge.

A Key Link in Varanasi's Decongestion Plan

The corridor forms an important part of the Varanasi Decongestion Plan, designed to improve movement between major highways, railway stations, the airport and important urban destinations.

By providing a direct link between NH-31 and the Varanasi Ring Road, the project will improve access to key transport gateways, including Varanasi Airport, Varanasi Cantonment, Varanasi City Railway Station, Kashi Railway Station and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Junction. It will also strengthen connectivity to Ramnagar Port and important areas along the Varuna corridor. The improved road network is expected to provide faster and more predictable journeys for residents, pilgrims, tourists, students and businesses, particularly in a city that witnesses substantial daily and seasonal movement. Designed for speeds of 80–100 kmph, the corridor is expected to reduce the travel time between NH-31 and Kashi Railway Station from about 40 minutes to nearly 20 minutes. The reduction in travel time will improve traffic flow, reduce vehicle operating costs and support more efficient movement of both passengers and freight.

Connecting Varanasi's Cultural and Knowledge Economy

Varanasi is one of India's foremost centres of faith, culture, education and tourism. The improved road infrastructure will facilitate smoother access to major religious and tourism destinations, including the ghats, Kashi Vishwanath Corridor and Kashi Vishwanath Temple. During major festivals and peak pilgrimage periods, when the city experiences a sharp increase in visitor movement, the additional road capacity is expected to help distribute traffic more efficiently and reduce pressure on key urban corridors. The project will also improve access to major educational institutions such as Sampurnanand Sanskrit University, strengthening connectivity between educational centres and residential areas and making daily travel more convenient for students, faculty and researchers. The corridor is also expected to strengthen Varanasi's role as a regional logistics and economic centre. Aligned with the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, it will improve access to the Chandauli Socio-Economic Zone, Chandauli Social Node and six major logistics nodes.

69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference Grandly Inaugurated in Cape Town

CAPE TOWN

The 69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference was inaugurated on a grand scale in Cape Town, South Africa. This prestigious international conference has been organized to facilitate in-depth discussions on key issues such as parliamentary procedures, the strengthening of democratic values, and mutual cooperation among Commonwealth nations.

A delegation of prominent leaders represented India at the conference. From the state of Andhra Pradesh, Legislative Assembly Speaker Shri Chintakayala Ayyannapatrudu and Legislative Council Chairman Shri Koyye Moshenu Raju specially participated in the meeting. They were joined in the inaugural ceremony by other key members of the Indian delegation, including Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Shri Harivansh and Members of Parliament Shri Tenneti Krishna Prasad and Smt. Daggubati Purandeswari. The Indian representatives are engaging actively in the conference proceedings alongside delegates from various countries across the globe.

BRICS condemning Pahalgam terror attack diplomatic achievement for India: Report

NEW DELHI



The New Delhi Declaration 2026, adopted at the 18th BRICS Summit in the national capital, condemning the Pahalgam terrorist attack and adopting strong language against cross-border movement of terrorists, terrorist financing, safe havens and double standards in dealing with terrorism represents an important diplomatic achievement for India, a report has detailed.

BRICS has strengthened the statement made by India over the years that terrorism cannot be legitimised by political explanations and nations cannot selectively distinguish between terrorists as per their strategic convenience, a report in 'Rising Kashmir' mentioned. "Pakistan has not been expressly named. That fact should neither be concealed nor exaggerated. Yet the political significance of the declaration lies precisely in the terminology accepted by a diverse group of important nations. For India, the development represents an important diplomatic achievement," Sunil Sethi and Altaf Thakur wrote in Rising Kashmir.

For Pakistan, it presents an increasingly uncomfortable question: how long can the international narrative surrounding cross-border terrorism remain separated from the infrastructure, organisations and ideological networks that India has repeatedly accused of operating from Pakistani territory," the author further mentioned.

India did not allow the terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam to disappear into the long list of terrorist attacks it has faced over the years. India made the Pahalgam attack an important diplomatic issue, and the BRICS declaration's condemnation of the Pahalgam attack in the strongest terms gives it an important multilateral dimension. The development is more significant as it comes along with the language dealing with cross-border terrorism, financing and safe havens, according to the report. India has consistently argued that terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir cannot be seen only through the prism of political dispute, as terrorists need weapons, training, finance, recruitment networks and places from which they function. Fighting terrorism requires action against the individual who pulls the trigger and the whole ecosystem that enables it, according to the report in Rising Kashmir. That principle has now received support from the BRICS member countries.

The leaders of the BRICS member countries strongly condemned the terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam last year and reiterated their resolve to combat terrorism in all its forms, including cross-border movement of terrorists, terror financing and the provision of safe havens, while calling for zero tolerance against terrorism.

"We express strong condemnation of any acts of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, whenever, wherever and by whomsoever committed. We condemn in the strongest terms the terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir on 22 April 2025, during which 26 people were killed and many more injured. We reaffirm our commitment to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the cross-border movement of terrorists, terrorism financing and safe havens," read the joint declaration.

During the deadly Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, 2025, Pakistan-backed terrorists gunned down 26 innocent tourists after identifying their religion, in one of the most brutal incidents targeting civilians in recent years. "We reiterate that terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilisation or ethnic group and that all those involved in terrorist activities and their support must be held accountable and brought to justice in accordance with relevant national and international law. We urge to ensure zero tolerance for terrorism and reject double standards in countering terrorism," the Declaration added.

According to the declaration, the leaders emphasised that the primary responsibility of States in combating terrorism, and that global efforts to prevent and counter terrorist threats must fully comply with their obligations under international law. Such efforts, they said, must be consistent with the Charter of the UN, in particular the purposes and principles thereof, and relevant international conventions and protocols, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, as applicable.

India, UAE discuss strengthening parliamentary cooperation

NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, on Tuesday, received Abdulla Saif Al Nuaimi, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to India, at his residence in New Delhi and discussed strengthening parliamentary cooperation between India and the UAE. "Pleased to receive Mr Abdulla Saif Al Nuaimi, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to India, at my residence in New Delhi. The UAE is an important member of BRICS, and I conveyed my deep appreciation for its active participation and constructive contribution during India's BRICS Presidency," Speaker Birla stated on X. "We had a warm and substantive discussion on the multifaceted and ever-growing India-UAE partnership, which is rooted in mutual trust, shared interests and strong people-to-people ties. We also discussed strengthening parliamentary cooperation between India and UAE.

'India has potential to power next wave of global growth'

WASHINGTON

India has the potential to power the next wave of global growth, supported by its strong economic foundations, private-sector dynamism and expanding technological capabilities, a senior International Monetary Fund official has said.

IMF Deputy Managing Director Nigel Clarke made the assessment after completing a five-day visit to India that included meetings in New Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai.

"India has the potential to power the next wave of global growth, and the IMF remains a close partner in supporting the country on this journey," Clarke said in a statement issued from Washington.

It was Clarke's first visit to India as an IMF deputy managing director. He met Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Reserve Bank of India Governor Sanjay Malhotra and NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Ashok Kumar Lahiri.

"I was delighted to visit India for the first time as Deputy Managing Director of the IMF and engage with senior officials, business leaders, and other stakeholders in New Delhi, Mumbai, and Chennai," he said.

Clarke thanked the three senior Indian officials for their "warm hospitality and constructive discussions".

The IMF official described India as the world's fastest-growing major economy and a central contributor to international economic expansion.

"India continues to be a key driver of global growth as the world's fastest-growing major economy, supported by strong fundamentals and sound policy frameworks," he said.

Clarke said his discussions with Indian policymakers covered the country's economic outlook, changes in the global environment and measures needed to support sustainable and inclusive growth.

"Against a backdrop of heightened global uncertainty and evolving risks, preserving macroeconomic stability and resilience remains essential," he said.

Rights body expresses grave concern over continuing enforced disappearances of civilians in Balochistan

QUETTA

Another civilian was forcibly disappeared in Balochistan province of Pakistan, a leading human rights organisation said on Tuesday. The latest incident comes against the backdrop of a growing wave of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances across the province.



Paank, the human rights department of Baloch National Movement (BNM), mentioned that 20-year-old Fahad Anwar, son of Anwar, a resident of Mullahi Bazar, Turbat, was subjected to enforced disappearance on the night of August 19. It mentioned that Fahad, a student who also works as a tailor at a cloth-sewing shop in Turbat, was forcibly taken from his home at around 1 am. "His family has the right to know his fate and whereabouts. Paank urges relevant authorities to investigate this case and end the practice of enforced disappearances in Balochistan," the rights body stated.

Last month, Paank said that 40-year-old Saddam Bugti was reportedly abducted on August 29 from the Nawab Bazar area in Dera Bugti district by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD). In a separate incident, two labourers, 28-year-old Majid Shahwani and Abdur Razzaq, were allegedly abducted on August 26 from the same area by CTD and police.

Additionally, 23-year-old Muhammad Nasir was taken from his residence in the provincial capital, Quetta, in July by ISI and CTD. "Enforced disappearance violates fundamental human rights and must be immediately ended. Pakistani authorities must disclose the fate and whereabouts of all four individuals and ensure that anyone detained is held in accordance with the law and afforded due process," Paank said, expressing grave concern over the incident.

On August 30, Baloch Women Forum (BWF) strongly condemned the enforced disappearance of three civilians, including minor girls, by Pakistani forces in Kech district of Balochistan.

The victims were identified as 17-year-old Shahnaz, 14-year-old Sharanaz and 50-year-old Arif Essa. According to the BWF, both Shahnaz and Sharanaz are students and have previously been subjected to enforced disappearance. The group described the repeated abduction of minors as a "grave and deeply disturbing violation of their fundamental rights."



Ozone Layer is the Earth's Sunscreen

(On the occasion of "World Ozone Day" on 16 September)

The ozone layer was scientifically documented in 1913 by French Physicist Charles Fabry and Henri Buisson, who discovered that something in our atmosphere was blocking specific UV radiation from Sun. Years later, the discovery of the "Ozone Hole" over Antarctica in the 1980s highlighting the urgency to address ozone layer depletion. In response, the "Montreal Protocol" was signed on 16 September 1987, making it a defining success in international environmental cooperation. The Protocol aimed to phase out ozone-depleting substances like CFCs(Chlorofluorocarbons) used in aerosol sprays, refrigeration, and air conditioning. It has been ratified by all 197 UN member countries, helping to slow down and even reverse ozone loss.

World Ozone Day

The ozone layer is crucial for Earth's healthy, natural survival. It absorbs the majority of the Sun's harmful UV radiation, safeguarding humans, animals, and plants. The depletion of ozone layer terribly expose to health risks, even up to skin cancers. World Ozone Day is celebrated annually on 16 September to educate and inspire global action for the preservation of the ozone layer - Earth's vital shield from harmful UV or Ultra-voilet radiation. This day commemorates the signing of Montreal Protocol, a landmark agreement that brought countries together in the fight against ozone layer depletion. This day is officially known as "International Day for Preservation of the Ozone Layer", established by UN in 1994. The ozone layer sits in the Earth's stratosphere and absorbs most of the Sun's harmful UV rays, making its protection essential for all forms of life. The theme of World Ozone Day-2026 is "Global action for a cooler planet – Celebrating 10 years of sustainable cooling under the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol", propagating the importance of the ozone layer as an irreplaceable shield for our Mother Earth and also to celebrate the global success and future potential of the Montreal Protocol.

Importance of Ozone Layer

The ozone layer, composed of triatomic Oxygen molecules (O3), lies between 10 - 30 km above the Earth's surface in the lower stratosphere. It's main role is to absorb and block the Sun's most damaging UV radiation. Without this protective shield of ozone, rate of skin cancer, cataract, and other illnesses caused by UV exposure would increase drastically. The plants and marine life would be severely affected by theses ozone rays. At large, the overall global ecosystems and biodiversity will also suffer long-term harms. The depletion of ozone layer also disrupts weather patterns and effect climate. The protection of the ozone layer is not just a global responsibility, but a gift we give to future generations.

Small actions lead to big changes. Protect the ozone layer today for a brighter tomorrow. Ozone for life, safeguard Earth against harmful UV rays and ensuring a sustainable future. Together, we can heal the ozone layer and safeguard the climate for future generations. This day is not only a reminder of the dangers posed by ozone depletion but also a celebration of International unity and scientific progress for re-establishing the lost ozone layer. By reducing pollution, saving energy, and adopting eco-friendly habits, we contribute to a sustainable future.

- Lion Capt Dr Burra Madhusudhan Reddy
9949700037.

Chinese weapons transfer to Iran through Pakistan cast doubts on Islamabad's role

OTTAWA



Pakistan's claim of being an "honest broker" has been further undermined throughout the US-Iran war by a series of actions that starkly contradict its self-appointed image as a peacemaker, a report has highlighted.

Citing the latest reports, Canada-based 'Geopolitical Monitor' stated that the transit of Chinese weapons through Pakistan to Iran should prompt Washington to reassess Islamabad's carefully cultivated image as a neutral mediator in the Iran war.

"The alleged transfer, involving between 300 and 400 Chinese air-defence systems worth up to $70 million, is merely the latest in a series of developments that cast serious doubt on Pakistan's claim to impartiality. Islamabad's self-proclaimed role as a "peacemaker among the nations of the world" was already difficult to reconcile with its own regional security commitments and recent tensions with Tehran, long before hostilities erupted in the Middle East. This is without mentioning Pakistan's own conflict with neighboring Afghanistan," the report detailed.

"Acting as a conduit for Chinese arms shipments to Iran, however, represents the clearest and most significant contradiction yet. Not only does such assistance bolster Iran's military capabilities, but it also helps to prolong the very war that Pakistan's political and military leaders insist they are working to end," it stated.

The report noted that Pakistan was seeking to broker a ceasefire even as it reportedly allowed Iranian military aircraft to shelter at Pakistani Air Force Base Nur Khan. Islamabad denied the allegation, insisting that the aircraft were transporting diplomatic personnel involved in peace negotiations with the United States, but the explanation remains questionable.

"After all, for Iran, relocating military aircraft to neighboring countries appears a tried and tested means of shielding valuable military hardware from US and Israeli strikes, having also moved aircraft to Afghanistan before the war precisely for this purpose," it added.

According to the report, Pakistan's role in facilitating Chinese weapons transfers to Iran is the strongest contradiction yet of Islamabad's claim to be a peacemaker. Iran's deal with China is its largest known effort to acquire weapons and replenish its stockpiles since the war began, indicating that the Islamic Republic is preparing for a prolonged conflict rather than an imminent settlement.

At the same time, Islamabad has sought an additional $10 billion in assistance from Washington in exchange for its peace-making efforts, even though those efforts have failed to deliver a long-term settlement, it mentioned.

"Pakistani officials officially requested the funds from the US Treasury's Exchange Stabilization Fund (ESF), which has been used previously to support strategic allies, such as Argentina, in the past. The promise of political and economic gain has therefore been the driving motivation behind Pakistan's actions in the past few months, rather than a commitment to securing regional stability," the report stated.

"This, coupled with its continued assistance to Tehran, limited diplomatic capabilities, and subservience to Beijing, underscores the reality that securing a credible and lasting peace cannot be a task entrusted to Islamabad," it noted.

Indian American lawmakers slam DHS 'Mr Singh' post

WASHINGTON

Five Indian American lawmakers have urged President Donald Trump to act over a deleted Department of Homeland Security post depicting a man called "Mr. Singh", warning that it could encourage racial profiling and hostility towards Sikh and South Asian Americans.

Representatives Raja Krishnamoorthi, Shri Thanedar, Suhas Subramanyam, Pramila Jayapal and Ami Bera, all Democrats, raised their concerns in a September 15 letter to Trump. They accused the agency of using Sikh identity to portray a dangerous and unwanted foreigner while promoting immigration enforcement.

According to the letter, the post depicted a brown, bearded man identified as "Mr. Singh". It told him to "get off our roads" and warned him to "self-deport or find out".

The lawmakers said the name Singh was closely associated with Sikh identity. Its use in this context was degrading, they argued.

"We write to express grave concern about the increasingly open racial and xenophobic hostility directed at South Asian Americans, particularly Sikh Americans, and about the ways federal rhetoric surrounding immigration and visa policy can reinforce the idea that these communities are suspect, disposable, or less American," they wrote.

The letter also questioned how DHS promoted a new Immigration and Customs Enforcement tipline. The lawmakers said the agency had formally described it as a mechanism for reporting suspected commercial driving licence fraud.

Its social media messaging, however, urged people to report "illegal aliens on American roads", they said.

Paired with the depiction of "Mr. Singh", that language could encourage people to treat perceived ethnicity, religion or foreignness as grounds for suspicion, the lawmakers warned. They said the campaign created a risk of racial profiling affecting Sikh, South Asian and other nonwhite drivers, including US citizens.

The supplied material did not include a response from DHS or the White House to the letter.

The lawmakers cited findings from Stop AAPI Hate to support their concerns. Anti-South Asian slurs in online spaces monitored by the organisation increased 109 per cent between January 2023 and December 2025, according to the letter.

South Asians were the targets of 71 per cent of anti-Asian online threats of violence identified between August 2024 and December 2025 in those spaces, it said.

The letter also cited a nationally representative survey in which 48 per cent of South Asian adults reported experiencing a hate act because of their race, ethnicity or nationality in 2025.

The lawmakers asked Trump to direct federal agencies, particularly DHS, to publicly acknowledge the harm they said the post had caused. They sought enforceable standards prohibiting agency communications that use racial, ethnic, religious or national-origin stereotypes.

They also urged Trump to make clear that immigration enforcement must never be used to stigmatise South Asian communities.

"South Asian Americans are not abstractions in an immigration debate, nor are they convenient symbols of foreignness. They belong in the communities they have helped build. For millions, this is their country and their home. There should be no room for such hate in our country," they wrote.



Blue Star JV Partner Challenges Arbitration Award in Dubai

NEW DELHI

Air-conditioning and refrigeration systems maker Blue Star Ltd on Tuesday said its Oman-based joint venture partner W J Towell & Co LLC (WJT) has approached the Dubai Court of Appeal seeking annulment of an arbitration award that dismissed all claims against Blue Star. An arbitration tribunal, in July this year, rejected claims worth Rs 223.6 crore made by WJT, with which Blue Star had entered into a shareholders' agreement in October 2015 for managing the affairs of Blue Star Oman Electro Mechanical Company. "WJT, as part of the legal remedies available to it, has approached the Dubai Court of Appeal seeking annulment of the award. Annulment proceedings do not constitute an appeal or reconsideration of the merits of the award and are confined to limited grounds," Blue Star said in a stock exchange filing.

WTITC, Sharjah Join Hands to Drive Innovation for Global Impact

Chairman Sundeep Makthala signs strategic pact with Government of Sharjah to connect technology, innovation and talent across borders

SHARJAH, UAE





The Government of Sharjah and the World Telugu Information Technology Council (WTITC) have joined hands in a landmark technology and innovation partnership aimed at creating a two-way bridge between Sharjah's research and innovation ecosystem and the global Telugu technology community. The strategic MoU was signed at the Sharjah Research Technology and Innovation Park (SRTIP) by Dr. Fareed Mahmoud Abdalla Alameeri, Chief Strategy Officer, SRTIP, and WTITC Chairman Sundeep Kumar Makthala, marking a significant new chapter in UAE–India technology collaboration. The partnership follows Sundeep Makthala's sustained engagement with Sharjah's technology and innovation ecosystem, including multiple visits and discussions to identify meaningful areas of collaboration. WTITC brings together a global network of Telugu technology companies, technocrats, entrepreneurs, innovators and researchers, while Sharjah offers a strong government-backed ecosystem connecting academia, industry, research, innovation and technology commercialisation. With institutions including the University of Sharjah, American University of Sharjah and other leading academic and research centres, alongside SRTIP's growing innovation and technology ecosystem, the partnership creates significant scope for two-way exchange of technology, knowledge, talent and market opportunities.

The collaboration will focus on applied research, technology transfer, prototyping, pilot projects, university–industry engagement, innovation and knowledge exchange, technology commercialisation and access to the UAE and wider GCC markets. For the global Telugu technology community, the partnership creates new pathways to explore Sharjah as a base for research, innovation and international expansion; for Sharjah, it opens another channel to connect with a large global network of Telugu technocrats, technology companies, entrepreneurs and innovators. The partnership therefore represents a two-way technology and innovation corridor rather than a one-sided market-entry initiative.

WTITC Chairman Sundeep Makthala said: "This is an important partnership for both Sharjah and the global Telugu technology community. Telugu-origin technocrats, entrepreneurs and technology companies have built a strong presence across the global technology industry. Our vision through WTITC is to connect that strength with international innovation ecosystems. This partnership creates a genuine two-way platform for technology, research, talent, knowledge and market access — enabling Telugu innovation to reach new markets while bringing Sharjah's technologies and opportunities closer to the global Telugu ecosystem."

Dr. Fareed Mahmoud Abdalla Alameeri, Chief Strategy Officer, SRTIP, said: "We see strong potential in this collaboration with WTITC to connect Sharjah's research and innovation ecosystem with the global Telugu technology community. The partnership provides an opportunity to bring together technology companies, researchers, universities and industry stakeholders to explore practical collaboration in research, technology transfer, innovation and commercialisation, while strengthening international exchange."

The partnership also reflects the growing global footprint of Telugu technology talent. Satya Nadella, Chairman and CEO of Microsoft, is originally from Hyderabad, while Shantanu Narayen, Chair and CEO of Adobe, is also originally from Hyderabad. WTITC will use the new platform to engage Telugu technocrats, technology companies, startups, researchers, innovators and investors across the world and identify a pipeline of research collaborations, technology opportunities, pilot projects and market-access initiatives with Sharjah.

The MoU signing was attended by Former IT Minister representing the two Telugu states and WTITC Advisor Ponnala Lakshmaiah, WTITC Secretary Mr. Kishore Pulluri, WTITC Governing Council Member and Canada Chapter representative Sreedhar Gonepally, Rajkumar Banda, Ravinder Biyyani, Mahesh Mukkara, along with other members and representatives from the technology and business community.



Apple under consumer regulator's scanner over iOS 18 update, warranty terms

Apple is facing a detailed investigation by the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) over allegations that its iOS 18 software update caused display, microphone and other functionality problems on iPhones, with consumers allegedly having to pay for expensive repairs, reported news agency Reuters.

The investigation has also put Apple's software warranty terms under the scanner. The company says its software is provided without warranty, while the regulator is examining whether consumers' rights were violated when they were charged for repairs linked to problems allegedly caused by the update, according to the report. The CCPA escalated the matter on July 29 and referred it to its investigation wing for a "detailed investigation", according to documents reviewed by Reuters. The regulator said the case involves alleged violations of consumer rights. The investigation raises the possibility of penalties for Apple and, more significantly, could lead to demands for refunds or changes to the company's business practices if it is ultimately found to have violated consumer protection rules.

WHAT IS THE COMPLAINT AGAINST APPLE?

The case relates to Apple's iOS 18 update, which began rolling out in late 2024. The CCPA said it had received complaints that the update led to several problems, including green, pink or white lines appearing on iPhone screens and microphone malfunctions. According to the regulator, consumers subsequently had to pay for display replacements and other repairs despite the problems allegedly stemming from Apple's software upgrade. The CCPA has accused Apple of violating the rights of "consumers as a class", rather than treating the matter simply as a collection of individual complaints. The estimated cost of servicing damage to an iPhone 15 screen is Rs 27,900, or $291, according to the report. That is more than a third of the phone's retail price. The regulator told Apple that charging consumers for problems arising from the company's "own negligence" violates the principle of fair trade.

APPLE SAYS IOS 18 HAD NO SYSTEMIC PROBLEMS

Apple has rejected the accusations and is contesting the matter. In its response to investigators on August 20, Apple said it had not identified any issues or safety concerns with iOS 18 in India. The company also said it would work with the authorities to provide clarity on how it responded to customers. Apple has also challenged the basis of the investigation, saying the CCPA's case was based on 75 complaints. It pointed out that only around 11% of iPhones were still running iOS 18 by June 2026. The company has defended its software warranty terms as well. Apple's software licence agreements state that the software is provided "without warranty of any kind". The company's limited warranty, meanwhile, covers hardware. Apple argues that such a no-warranty clause is not unusual and that consumers are informed about it before installing the software. It also pointed to similar practices followed by other electronics companies, including Sony and Samsung. "A requirement that every issue ... be treated as a breach of an absolute warranty would effectively convert any software provider into an insurer against all technological risk," Apple said in its response, according to the report. The company has maintained that iOS 18 did not have any systemic issues in India.

India's merchandise exports surge by a phenomenal 26.12% to US$ 43.81 Billion in August

NEW DELHI

India's merchandise exports registered a phenomenally strong 26.12% year-on-year growth in August 2026, rising to US$ 43.81 billion, compared with US$ 34.74 billion in August 2025. Overall exports of merchandise and services are estimated at US$ 82.68 billion, registering a robust 25.41% growth over August 2025. India's merchandise imports stood at US$ 70.67 billion during August 2026, while the merchandise trade deficit narrowed marginally to US$ 26.86 billion, compared with US$ 27.22 billion in August 2025. Overall imports of merchandise and services were estimated at US$ 92.09 billion, resulting in an overall trade deficit of US$ 9.41 billion. Commenting on the trade data, Mr S C Ralhan, President, FIEO, said "the 26.12 per cent growth in merchandise exports in August is a very encouraging performance and yet again reflects the resilience, competitiveness and adaptability of Indian exporters. Equally significant is the broadening of India's export markets, which indicates that our exporters are increasingly leveraging new and emerging opportunities while strengthening their presence in traditional markets."

Mr Ralhan noted that the April–August 2026-27 period has also maintained strong momentum. Merchandise exports increased by 17.85% to US$ 215.91 billion, while overall exports of merchandise and services rose 15.55% to US$ 399.27 billion. Services exports are estimated to have

FIEO sees broadening of export markets

grown 12.95% during the period. He further said that encouraging export growth across markets such as China, Singapore, Germany, South Africa, Malaysia, Tanzania, Hong Kong, Australia, Spain and Sri Lanka points towards greater diversification of India's export basket. Exports to BRICS countries grew 13.3% during April–August 2026, while exports to China increased 38.71%. Shipments to the US grew 6.17%, while exports to the European Union increased 3.84%.

"The diversification of markets is particularly important in the present global environment. Stronger engagement with BRICS, emerging economies and other high-potential markets will help Indian exporters build greater resilience and reduce concentration risks," Mr Ralhan added.

The export performance in August was supported by a broad-based improvement across several key sectors, with engineering goods, petroleum products, electronic goods and chemicals emerging among the important contributors to merchandise export growth. Automobile exports also recorded a strong 22.2% year-on-year increase, led by two- and three-wheelers, while gems and jewellery exports remained positive, rising 3.14% to US$ 2.30 billion. The continued expansion of electronics and engineering exports, along with the resilience of chemicals, pharmaceuticals and other manufacturing-intensive sectors, indicates a strengthening of India's diversified export basket. Mr Ralhan added that the sectoral performance is particularly encouraging as growth is not confined to a single export segment. Engineering, electronics, chemicals, petroleum products, automobiles and other value-added sectors are contributing to the expansion of India's export basket. At the same time, the composition of imports underlines the need to further strengthen domestic manufacturing and value chains, particularly in critical industrial and technology-intensive inputs." Further on the import side, petroleum and energy products, electronic goods and other industrial inputs continued to account for significant import demand, reflecting domestic production and consumption requirements, while gold imports declined sharply to around US$ 2.3 billion, helping moderate the merchandise trade deficit.

Mr Ralhan emphasised that sustaining the export momentum would require continued focus on competitive trade finance, logistics and infrastructure, market diversification, ease of doing business and targeted support for MSMEs and emerging exporters. "With merchandise exports already growing 17.85 per cent in the first five months, exporters have demonstrated a strong foundation for further expansion. A coordinated effort to address cost competitiveness, logistics, finance and market-access challenges can help India convert this momentum into sustained export growth during the remainder of FY 2026-27," he said.

ANU and Indosol Solar Join Forces to Accelerate Next-Generation TOPCon Solar Cell Technology

HYDERABAD

The Australian National University (ANU) and Indosol Solar Private Limited have signed a StrategicMemorandum of Understanding (MOU) & Collaboration Agreement to fast-track the development and commercial scale-up of next-generation Tunnel Oxide Passivated Contact (TOPCon) silicon solar cell technologies.

Facilitated by the India Australia Technology Commercialisation Challenge Pilot Program, the partnership bridges world-leading photovoltaics research at ANU with Indosol Solar's giga-scale manufacturing footprint in Andhra Pradesh, India. Together, the entities will co-develop advanced TOPCon cell architectures designed to achieve higher conversion efficiencies, improved degradation resistance, resulting in lower levelized cost of electricity (LCOE) for global solar deployments.

Key Highlights of the Collaboration

- Joint R&D & Process Optimization: ANU researchers will work alongside Indosol's process teams to optimize manufacturing processes for advanced N-type TOPCon solar cells, accelerating key lab-to-fab breakthroughs.
- Efficiency & Reliability Push: The collaborative research targets enhanced cell conversion efficiencies beyond standard TOPCon baselines, alongside enhanced resistance to light- and UV-induced degradation.
- Opportunity for research exchange: This collaboration will enable researchers from both organisations to visit each other's facilities, undertake joint research, and build capability through hands-on knowledge exchange.
- Giga-Scale Technology Transfer: ANU advanced cell designs will be validated directly within Indosol Solar's integrated manufacturing lines in India, providing a rapid pathway to commercial market delivery.
- Bilateral Clean Energy Ties: Supported by bilateral innovation frameworks such as the India-Australia Technology Commercialisation Challenge (TCC), the project strengthens clean-energy technology supply chains between both nations.

Leadership Statements

"Our team at ANU has a long history of driving silicon solar efficiency breakthroughs that define the global market. Partnering with Indosol Solar allows us to translate cutting-edge TOPCon innovation directly into gigawatt-scale production, ensuring high-efficiency technology makes a tangible impact on Indian PV market."

— Dr. Rabin Basnet & Dr. Marco Ernst, Lead Photovoltaic Researchers, The Australian National University

Legal Era India Conclave 2026 brings legal, judicial and corporate leaders together in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD





The 15th Annual Legal Era India Conclave 2026 brought together leading members of the legal, judicial, corporate and technology communities at Novotel Hyderabad for a full-day conference on the evolving role of law in business, technology, innovation and governance.

The programme commenced at 9 a.m. with the inaugural address and traditional lamp-lighting ceremony by Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Surepalli Nanda, Judge, High Court for the State of Telangana, who was the Chief Guest. The conference continued through the day with discussions and interactions among members of the judiciary, Bar, corporate legal fraternity and industry, and concluded at 8 p.m. Addressing the gathering on "Law, Technology, Digital Infrastructure and Corporate Leadership", Justice Nanda spoke about the growing impact of technology and artificial intelligence on the legal profession, courts, businesses and society. Justice Nanda observed that technology should enable courts to discharge their constitutional responsibilities more effectively. While AI can augment judicial intelligence, she emphasised that it cannot replace judicial conscience or the judicial mind. She stressed that technological progress should ultimately be measured by whether it makes justice more accessible, affordable and comprehensible to those whom the courts serve. She also highlighted the emergence of techno-legal professionals, noting that lawyers of the future would need an understanding of areas such as AI governance, cybersecurity, data protection and technology regulation. She emphasised the need for a more interdisciplinary approach to legal education to prepare the next generation of lawyers for a rapidly changing technological environment. Justice Nanda further underlined the importance of human-centred leadership, observing that while technology can improve efficiency and automate routine tasks, qualities such as empathy, compassion and emotional intelligence remain essential to effective leadership. The conclave was organised under the leadership of the Legal Era team, including Aakriti Raizada, and provided a platform for meaningful interaction between the judiciary, Bar, corporate legal fraternity and industry. The event was attended by several prominent members of the legal and corporate fraternity, including Senior Advocate Krishna Grandhi, Mrs. Isha Sinha, Chief Legal Officer, Medicover Hospitals, Nitin Sharma of Qualcomm, and Ms. Divya Adepu, Special Government Pleader, among other dignitaries. The conclave also saw participation from senior legal heads representing Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, Cyient, Apollo Hospitals and Colyryt, along with other leading in-house legal professionals and industry representatives. The event also witnessed international participation, bringing a global perspective to the discussions. A key highlight of the conclave was the presentation of awards recognising leading in-house counsels and corporate legal professionals for their contribution, leadership and excellence. The awards recognised the increasingly strategic role of corporate legal teams in business decision-making, governance and risk management. The gathering included senior advocates, corporate legal heads, prominent law firms including Trilegal, Khaitan & Co. and Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas, general counsels, in-house counsels, legal and compliance professionals, technology and intellectual-property experts and industry leaders.

The Hyderabad edition highlighted the city's growing prominence as a hub for technology, healthcare, life sciences and corporate activity, making it an appropriate setting for discussions on the future of law, technology and corporate leadership.

The conference concluded at 8 p.m. with the vote of thanks delivered by Senior Advocate Krishna Grandhi, bringing the full-day Hyderabad edition of the 15th Annual Legal Era India Conclave 2026 to a close.

Kainchi Dham

A Spiritual Magnet

Nestled among the green hills of Uttarakhand, Kainchi Dham is far more than a quiet mountain retreat. Over the decades, the ashram associated with Neem Karoli Baba, also known as Maharaj Ji, has developed a remarkable global following. What began as a spiritual centre in the Kumaon hills has attracted devotees, seekers, entrepreneurs, technology leaders, celebrities and visitors from different parts of the world. The name of Neem Karoli Baba has become increasingly familiar to a younger generation, particularly after stories about visits by Apple co-founder Steve Jobs and Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg began circulating widely. Indian cricketer Virat Kohli and actor Anushka Sharma have also visited the ashram, adding another dimension to its growing popularity.

The renewed public interest has coincided with the release and success of *Hanuman Ansh*, a spiritual drama inspired by the life and teachings of Neem Karoli Baba. The film has brought renewed attention to the spiritual figure and his philosophy, but the following around Maharaj Ji existed long before cinema turned his life into a subject of popular discussion. For many devotees, Kainchi Dham represents a place of peace, devotion and introspection. For others, the stories surrounding some of its famous visitors raise a fascinating question: what draws highly successful and influential people to a relatively secluded Himalayan ashram?



Steve Jobs' Journey to India

Perhaps the most famous story connecting Kainchi Dham with the technology world involves Steve Jobs. Jobs was 19 when he travelled to India in 1974. At the time, he was searching for spiritual answers and hoping to find a teacher who could help him understand questions about life, consciousness and purpose. His journey was very different from the image of the successful technology entrepreneur that the world would later know. Jobs travelled through India, often under difficult conditions, exploring ashrams and meeting spiritual teachers. One of the places he visited was associated with Neem Karoli Baba. By the time Jobs arrived, however, Maharaj Ji had already died in 1973. The young Jobs therefore never met the spiritual teacher personally. Yet the experience left an impression. Walter Isaacson's authorised biography of Jobs recounts how his time in India became an important part of his personal journey. Jobs returned to the United States after several months, and the experience remained part of his evolving worldview. His India journey has subsequently been linked to his emphasis on simplicity, intuition and seeing beyond conventional assumptions.

Did Kainchi Dham Shape Apple?

The story of Steve Jobs and Kainchi Dham has often been repeated in discussions about Apple's philosophy. There is a temptation to draw a direct line between the ashram and the later success of Apple, but the reality is more nuanced. Jobs' spiritual journey was one influence among many in his life. His ideas about design, simplicity, technology and business were shaped by a combination of personal experiences, education, relationships and professional challenges. Nevertheless, his visit to India is significant because it reveals the mindset of a young man who was already searching for meaning before he became one of the world's most influential technology leaders. The association with Neem Karoli Baba became particularly powerful because Maharaj Ji's teachings emphasised simplicity, compassion and service. These themes later became part of the stories people told about Jobs' approach to life and work. Whether one views the connection as spiritual, philosophical or simply personal, the India journey clearly occupies an important place in the story of Steve Jobs.

Mark Zuckerberg's Visit

More than four decades after Jobs travelled to India, another technology leader visited Kainchi Dham. Mark Zuckerberg travelled to India in 2015 during a difficult period for Facebook. According to accounts of the visit, Zuckerberg had been advised by Jobs to visit the temple. Zuckerberg's journey became particularly notable because it happened at a time when Facebook was already a global technology company but was undergoing questions about its future direction and purpose. During his India visit, Zuckerberg spent time at Kainchi Dham. He later spoke about the experience and its influence on his thinking about Facebook's original mission. The visit generated considerable attention because it connected one of Silicon Valley's most prominent figures with an Indian spiritual centre that, despite its international following, remained far removed from the world of technology corporations. The story also reinforced the idea that spiritual journeys are not necessarily limited to people seeking to withdraw from the modern world. Sometimes they are undertaken by people operating at the centre of it.

A Search for Clarity

The experiences of Jobs and Zuckerberg have contributed to a popular narrative surrounding Kainchi Dham: that people facing important decisions or periods of uncertainty may turn towards places associated with reflection and spiritual thought. This does not mean that the ashram offers a formula for business success. Nor does it suggest that visits automatically lead to better decisions. Instead, the attraction may lie in the opportunity to temporarily step away from intense professional environments. For technology executives, entrepreneurs and other high-profile personalities, everyday life can involve constant competition, public scrutiny and decision-making. A quiet spiritual setting can offer a different environment in which to reflect. Kainchi Dham's appeal may therefore be less about achieving material success and more about seeking perspective.

Larry Page and Other Global Visitors

The list of international personalities associated with Kainchi Dham extends beyond Jobs and Zuckerberg. Google co-founder Larry Page has also visited the ashram. So has eBay co-founder Jeffrey Skoll. Dr Larry Brilliant, a physician and public health expert who later became associated with Google's philanthropic work, spent time at the ashram. These visitors represent a striking intersection of technology, entrepreneurship, public service and spirituality. Larry Brilliant's association with Neem Karoli Baba is particularly notable. His experiences in India influenced his life and spiritual outlook, and he became one of the people who helped carry the Maharaj Ji tradition into wider international circles. The presence of Western seekers at Kainchi Dham reflects a broader historical trend. From the late 1960s onward, many young people from the West travelled to India searching for alternative approaches to spirituality and consciousness. Kainchi Dham became one of the places where some of these journeys eventually converged.

Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma's Visit

The connection with Kainchi Dham is not restricted to technology entrepreneurs and international spiritual seekers. Indian cricket star Virat Kohli and actor-producer Anushka Sharma visited the ashram in Uttarakhand in November 2022. Their visit attracted widespread public attention because both are major figures in Indian popular culture. Photographs and social media posts from the trip circulated widely, bringing Kainchi Dham to the attention of a new generation of Indians. For fans, the visit offered a glimpse into a more personal side of the celebrity couple. Away from cricket stadiums, film sets and public events, they were seen visiting a spiritual destination known for its association with Neem Karoli Baba. Their visit also demonstrated how the ashram's appeal has expanded beyond a particular community of devotees. People from different professional backgrounds and age groups now associate the place with peace, spirituality and introspection.

A Quiet Place in a Fast-Moving World

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of Kainchi Dham is the contrast between its setting and the lives of some of its famous visitors. Steve Jobs became synonymous with one of the world's most powerful technology companies. Mark Zuckerberg built a global social media platform. Larry Page helped create one of the world's most influential internet companies. Virat Kohli became one of India's most recognised sporting personalities. Their professional worlds are defined by speed, innovation, competition and constant change. Kainchi Dham represents almost the opposite. It is a mountain ashram where visitors come to slow down, pray, reflect and experience an environment removed from the demands of modern professional life. That contrast may explain part of its enduring attraction.

Visiting Kainchi Dham

Kainchi Dham is situated in Uttarakhand's Kumaon hills and is commonly described as being around 38 kilometres from Nainital, although road distances can vary depending on the route and starting point. The ashram is accessible by road from Nainital as well as from Haldwani and Kathgodam. The journey itself takes visitors through scenic mountain landscapes, forests and hill roads. Kathgodam is the nearest major railway station and is connected to several cities in northern India. Visitors travelling by train can continue their journey by taxi or local transport. For air travellers, Pantnagar Airport is the nearest airport, located roughly 65 kilometres away by road. However, visitors should check the latest arrangements before travelling because the ashram's visitor policies, timings and access arrangements can change.

The Best Season to Visit

The Kumaon hills experience significant seasonal variations. The months from March to June generally offer pleasant conditions for travel, while September to November can also be comfortable after the monsoon. The monsoon months can bring heavy rainfall to Uttarakhand, potentially affecting road conditions and travel plans. Visitors should therefore check local weather and travel conditions before setting out. The annual Bhandara held in June is among the most important occasions associated with Kainchi Dham. It attracts large numbers of devotees and has become a significant event in the ashram's calendar. Because of the crowds during major religious occasions, visitors planning to travel during such periods should make arrangements well in advance.

Respecting the Ashram's Spiritual Character

As Kainchi Dham becomes increasingly popular, particularly among younger travellers, maintaining respect for its spiritual character is important. The ashram is not simply a tourist attraction associated with famous personalities. For devotees, it is a sacred place connected with the memory and teachings of Neem Karoli Baba. Visitors should therefore familiarise themselves with the current rules before arriving. Information about accommodation, photography, timings and access can change, and travellers should not rely solely on older online posts. The experience of visiting a spiritual centre can also be very different from visiting a conventional tourist destination. Quietness, discipline and respect for fellow devotees are an important part of the atmosphere.

More Than a Celebrity Destination

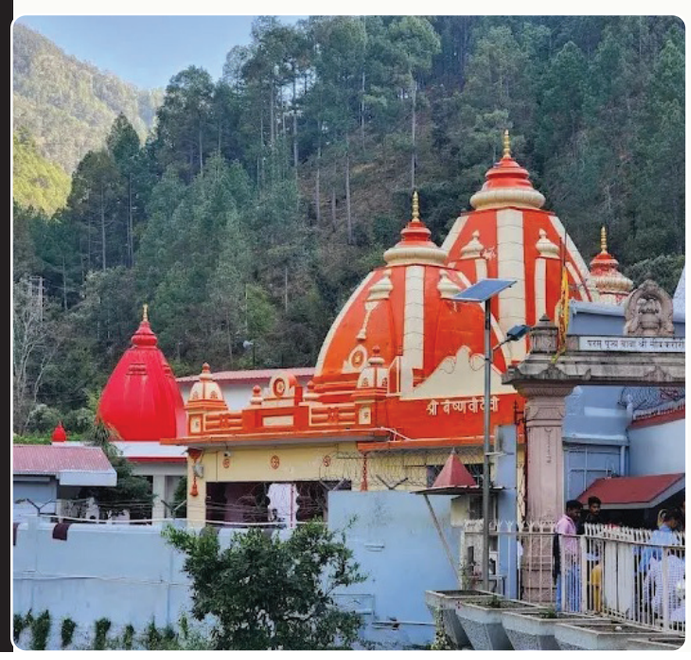
The growing fascination with Kainchi Dham may have been fuelled by the stories of Steve Jobs, Mark Zuckerberg, Larry Page, Virat Kohli and other prominent visitors, but reducing the ashram to a celebrity destination misses the larger story. Its significance comes from the spiritual legacy of Neem Karoli Baba and the generations of devotees who have kept that legacy alive. For some people, the ashram represents devotion. For others, it offers an opportunity for introspection. Some arrive because they have heard a personal story from a friend, while others discover the place through the experiences of famous personalities. The reasons may differ, but the attraction often comes down to a desire to pause and reconnect with something beyond everyday concerns.

Why Do People Feel Drawn to Kainchi Dham?

There is no single explanation for Kainchi Dham's popularity. For devotees, the answer is deeply spiritual. Many believe that Neem Karoli Baba's presence and teachings continue to influence people even after his death. For travellers, the Himalayan surroundings themselves can be an attraction. The ashram sits amid mountains and forests, creating a setting very different from the crowded cities where many visitors live and work. For spiritual seekers, the legacy of Maharaj Ji provides another reason to visit. His teachings emphasise love, compassion and service rather than material achievement. And for younger visitors, stories about famous personalities may be the first reason they hear about Kainchi Dham, even if their eventual interest becomes more personal and spiritual.

The Power of Word of Mouth

One of the unusual features of Kainchi Dham's popularity is the role of personal stories. The ashram did not become internationally known through conventional tourism campaigns. Its reputation travelled through devotees, visitors and people who shared their experiences with friends and family. In the digital age, this process has accelerated. Photographs, videos and personal accounts shared online have introduced Kainchi Dham to millions of people who may never previously have heard of Neem Karoli Baba. Celebrity visits have amplified that interest, but they are not the foundation of the ashram's reputation. The spiritual community around Maharaj Ji existed for decades before social media made such stories instantly accessible.



The Legacy of Neem Karoli Baba

- Neem Karoli Baba was a Hindu spiritual teacher whose reputation grew through his simple teachings, devotion to Lord Hanuman and emphasis on service and love. His followers have carried his message across India and abroad, contributing to the establishment of spiritual communities and centres associated with his teachings.
- Unlike many public figures, Maharaj Ji did not build his reputation through conventional publicity. Stories about his spiritual presence, compassion and interactions with devotees spread primarily through personal accounts and the experiences of people who met him.
- His teachings are often associated with love, service, remembrance of God and helping others. These ideas appealed to people from very different backgrounds, including Western seekers who travelled to India during the 1960s and 1970s in search of spiritual experiences.
- Kainchi Dham eventually became one of the most important places connected with his legacy.
- The ashram is located in the Kumaon region of Uttarakhand, surrounded by mountains, forests and a flowing stream. Its relatively secluded setting has helped preserve an atmosphere that many visitors describe as calm and removed from the pressures of ordinary life.

SHORT NEWS

Samson, Abhishek power-dominant chase as India beat Afghanistan by 7 wickets



NEW DELHI

India produced another emphatic chase at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, defeating Afghanistan by seven wickets in the second T20I on Tuesday to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

Chasing 160 after Afghanistan posted 159/8, India needed only 14.5 overs to cross the line, riding an explosive opening stand between Sanju Samson and Abhishek Sharma before Ishan Kishan and Tilak Varma completed the job.

Samson provided the defining contribution at the top, smashing a 22-ball 57 in an innings that combined seven fours and four sixes. After a quiet opening couple of overs, the right-hander rapidly shifted gears, finding the boundary repeatedly against Afghanistan's spinners.

Abhishek was equally aggressive, reaching 39 from 19 deliveries with two fours and four sixes. The pair raced to a 50-run partnership in only 28 balls and took India to 82 without loss at the end of the powerplay — the same score India had managed in the first six overs of the opening T20I.

Afghanistan captain Rashid Khan was brought into the attack in the seventh over and immediately provided some relief. He ended the 93-run opening partnership by dismissing Abhishek, who miscued an attempted big hit to Sediqullah Atal at mid-wicket.

Rashid struck again, four balls later, ending Samson's blistering stay when the opener lofted a delivery towards long-off, where Mohammad Nabi completed the catch. Despite losing both openers, India were already 99/2 after seven overs and firmly in control.

Shreyas Iyer joined Ishan Kishan, who had continued the momentum with a six off Noor Ahmad. Iyer briefly threatened to accelerate, hitting Rashid for a six over extra cover, but the Afghanistan skipper claimed his third wicket soon after when Iyer edged a faster delivery to Ibrahim Zadran at slip. That was effectively Afghanistan's final opening. Tilak Varma joined Kishan with India needing only 35 runs, and the pair kept the chase moving without taking unnecessary risks.

Kishan then launched Mujeeb Ur Rahman for four, six and four in the 14th over, reducing the equation to a single hit. Tilak took a single off Rashid before Kishan finished the chase in style, cutting the next delivery through the off-side for four.

Earlier, Afghanistan had a difficult start after Jasprit Bumrah opened with a maiden, and Arshdeep Singh removed Rahmanullah Gurbaz for a second successive duck in the series. Ibrahim Zadran rebuilt with Sediqullah Atal before Nitish Kumar Reddy dismissed Zadran for 37.

Reddy went on to claim three wickets for 24 runs, while Arshdeep took two. Rashid Khan's 28 off 16 and Mohammad Nabi's 20 helped Afghanistan recover late, but Bumrah and Reddy struck in the final two overs to prevent a bigger finish.

Noor Ahmad hit a six from the final ball to take Afghanistan to 159/8, but India's openers ensured the target never became a serious challenge.

The third and final T20I will be played on Thursday, with India holding an unassailable 2-0 advantage.

'We need to bring that intent', says Zadran

Afghanistan captain Ibrahim Zadran admitted his side failed to address the batting issues that hurt them in the opening T20I against India, with another Power-play collapse leaving the visitors unable to set a challenging target in the second game of the series at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Tuesday.

Afghanistan again struggled to establish momentum at the top of the innings, allowing India's bowlers to dictate terms during the first six overs. Zadran said the team had discussed the need for a more aggressive approach after the first match but was unable to translate those plans into action.

"Well, yeah, definitely we struggled again. We didn't get what we wanted, but as a group, we thought about it: how to improve, how to have that approach in international cricket, to carry on, especially against the top teams. Yes, we didn't play well in the powerplay, I would say. "So we didn't get the momentum there. They put pressure on us there. I'm giving credit to the bowlers; we will think about it to improve in that area, and then I'm sure we will fight against the biggest team in international cricket," Zadran said after the game.



'I always wanted to become the greatest all-rounder,' says NKR

NEW DELHI

Nitish Kumar Reddy marked his return to bowling form with a three-wicket haul against Afghanistan in the second T20I at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi on Tuesday, helping India restrict the visitors to 159/8 before the hosts chased down the target by seven wickets to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the series. Named Player of the Match, Reddy said his performance was built on trusting his ability after his recent injury setback.

Reddy, who finished with 3-24, said the work put in during his rehabilitation at the Centre of Excellence (CoE) had left him feeling confident about his fitness. "It's good. Right now I'm feeling great. We have done some great work at CoE, and the body's recovering well," Reddy said after receiving the award.

His return to bowling also provided India with a significant boost as the team continues to look for greater balance through its seam-bowling all-rounders. Reddy said the additional pace he has developed is part of a larger ambition to establish himself as a complete all-rounder.

"I feel great. I always wanted to become the greatest all-rounder, and for that I wanted that extra pace, which I'm getting. You will have the pros and cons, and (staying) fit," he added.

The 23-year-old's contribution came after Varun Chakaravarthy was ruled out of the remainder of the series with a side strain, leaving India without one of their key bowling options. Reddy responded by making a decisive impact in the middle overs, where his three breakthroughs helped prevent Afghanistan from converting a steady start into a bigger total.

His performance also represented a strong response after the opening T20I, where he had limited impact with the ball. For Reddy, however, the emphasis was less on what had happened previously and more on maintaining belief in his own game.

Asian Games

Expectation of gold gets converted into motivation, says Pawan Sehrawat



GANDHINAGAR: Indian kabaddi star Pawan Sehrawat believes the expectation of winning a gold medal at the 2026 Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games will serve as motivation for the team rather than put it under pressure. The Indian men's kabaddi team is preparing for the continental showpiece with the aim of retaining its position at the top, and Sehrawat feels the high expectations surrounding the side are a matter of pride. "You expect something from someone who deserves it, and you expect gold from Kabaddi. So it's a proud moment for the Kabaddi team. We are seen as a team that will bring a gold medal, and it is a matter of pride.

CRICKET

Charani becomes first Indian bowler to cross 800-mark in ICC rankings



NEW DELHI: Sree Charani has accomplished a significant achievement as she became the first Indian bowler to cross the 800-rating mark in the ICC T20I rankings following the latest update on Tuesday. This follows a stellar performance for the left-arm spinner in the Asia Cup 2026 final, where she scalped 4-20 in the title decider against Sri Lanka to cap off a strong tournament, as she ended with 12 wickets. Charani's performances have made her breach the 800-mark rating in the T20I bowlers' rankings as she now tallies 804 ratings.

Jodar, Sakamoto, Cina among contenders to reach Next Gen ATP Finals

NEW YORK

As the dust settles on the 2026 edition of the US Open, the last Grand Slam tournament of the season, Rafael Jodar remains atop the Race To ATP Next Gen 2026 to be played from December 16–20, 2026.

With his remarkable rise, Jodar is the top contender for the event, with plenty of other players continuing to make moves in their bids to qualify for the showpiece, which will be played in Reggio Calabria, Italy.

Behind second-placed Joao Fonseca and third-placed Martin Landaluce is Rei Sakamoto, who claimed his first main-draw win at the US Open and has surged to fourth with 321 points.

The 19-year-old Japanese won three rounds of qualifying in New York, including a victory against his idol and former World No. 4 Kei Nishikori, before overcoming Aleksandar Vukic in five sets for his first main-draw win at a major. Sakamoto, who is aiming to make his Next Gen ATP Finals debut, is nine points clear of fifth-placed Federico Cina. Cina also came through qualifying to reach his first US Open main draw, but fell to eventual quarter-finalist Alex Michelsen in the first round.

Laura Wolvaardt equals Smriti's record for most international hundreds

NEW DELHI

South African skipper Laura Wolvaardt has put herself alongside Smriti Mandhana at the summit of the century chart of women's international cricket, producing a record-breaking 126 not out to power the Proteas women to an unassailable 3-0 series lead over Zimbabwe.

The Proteas skipper's extraordinary innings in the third T20I was her fourth hundred in the format and the 18th century of her international career, taking her level with India's Mandhana for the most hundreds in women's cricket.

Wolvaardt needed only 62 deliveries to reach 126, striking at a remarkable 203.22. Her assault on the Zimbabwe bowling attack featured 16 fours and four sixes, while the unbeaten effort also rewrote the South African record books.

The 27-year-old surpassed her own previous T20I best of 115 not out, scored against Ireland in December last year.



More significantly, she went past Shandre Fritz's unbeaten 116 against the Netherlands in 2010 to claim the highest individual T20I score by a South African woman. It was a performance that turned an already dominant series into a personal landmark for Wolvaardt, who was named Player of the Match after carrying South Africa to 200/1.

The skipper found valuable support at the other end from Karabo Meso, with the wicketkeeper-batter completing an unbeaten 50 from 51 balls. Together, the pair ensured South Africa had a formidable total to defend.

Zimbabwe's response never threatened to match the tempo set by Wolvaardt. The hosts were reduced to 29/4 during the powerplay and slipped further to 35/6 after losing two more wickets in the next two overs.

Annerie Dercksen then added another milestone to South Africa's evening, claiming her maiden five-wicket haul in T20Is. Her 5/15 helped complete Zimbabwe's collapse as the hosts were dismissed for 120, handing the Proteas an 80-run victory.

Michelle Mavunga offered Zimbabwe some resistance with a 23-ball 41, while Nyasha Gwanzura made 28. Christine Mutasa and Loryn Phiri contributed 19 and 14 respectively, but the damage had already been done. Dercksen was backed by Eliz-Mari Marx, Seshnie Naidu, Luyanda Nzuza and Ayanda Hlubi, who took a wicket apiece.

Telangana Police shooters excel & bag 15 medals



DGP C.V. Anand congratulated medal winners

HYDERABAD

Telangana Police shooters won 15 medals six gold, four silver and five bronze at the Telangana State and South Zone Shooting Championships-2026.

On Tuesday DGP C.V. Anand congratulated the medal winners and appreciated their discipline, concentration and precision. He wished them success in upcoming national and international competitions.

At the XII Telangana State Shooting Championship, held at the HCU-SATG Shooting Range, Gachibowli, from June 20 to 28, the police contingent won 11 medals four gold, three silver and four bronze.

G. Niranjan Reddy (PC 1304) of the 13th Battalion TGSP won gold in the 50-metre pistol and silver in the 25-metre standard pistol and 10-metre air pistol events. A. Prasanna Kumar Inspector of police, DG Technical Services won gold in the 50-metre pistol (Master) and bronze in the 25-metre centre-fire pistol (Master).

B. James Babu Inspector of Future City won a silver and a bronze, while Women ASI V. Suvarna of Warangal Commissionerate secured gold in the 50-metre rifle prone (Master Women). CI B. Shankar of CSW Hyderabad won gold in the 25-metre standard pistol (Master). P. Srinivas (HC) 3rd Battalion TGSP and Women PC B. Shravani of Koutala Police Station also secured medals.

At the 17th South Zone Shooting Championship, held in Thiruvananthapuram from August 31 to September 8, Telangana Police shooters won four medals - two gold, one silver and one bronze. Mr. Niranjan Reddy won gold in the 50-metre free pistol and 25-metre centre-fire pistol and silver in the 25-metre standard pistol. Inspector B. James Babu won bronze in the 25-metre standard pistol (Master). IG (P&L) Gajarao Bhupal, Sports DSP Ramarao and other police officials congratulated the shooters on their performance and wished them further success.

The Disciplined Lifestyle for Maintaining Good Health: Dr. D. Tirupati Rao, leading medical expert

KARIMNAGAR

Renowned senior medical expert Dr. D. Tirupati Rao said that today's youth are living in a way that is harmful to their health with an unhealthy lifestyle. Speaking at a special program held at the local Allforce Gen-Nexts High School premises today, he said that it is dangerous for today's school children to become addicted to unhealthy practices like obesity, anemia, excessive screen time, oral health, educational and psychological stress, and sedentary lifestyle. He advised them to reduce their consumption of junk foods,



packet/processed foods, chocolates, sweets and get used to fruits and mother's cooking. He said that obesity can cause many other dangerous diseases. He advised that sitting and reading for hours is not a good habit, and that they should get up and move for five minutes every hour. He said that physical and mental growth is stunted due to low hemoglobin levels in the blood. Dr. V. Narender Reddy, head of AllForce, presided over the program and advised to take proper precautions as advised by doctors without forgetting that health is a great blessing. Lion captain Dr. Burra Madhusudhan Reddy, the guest of honor, spoke and explained a better lifestyle to the students. Dr. Tirupati Rao was felicitated by the management at the event.

Nairobi, Munich to host 2029 and 2031 World Athletics Championships

NEW DELHI

World Athletics Championships will head to Africa for the first time as Nairobi has been chosen as the host for the 2029 edition of the biennial event, while German city Munich will be hosting the 2031 World Athletics Championships.

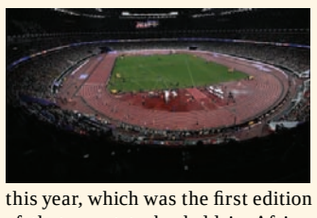
The decision was made during the 242nd World Athletics Council Meeting in Budapest as London lost its bid to host the 2029 event. Kenyan capital Nairobi edged past other bidders Rome, Munich and London for the 2029 edition. "We were fortunate to have four outstanding bids for 2029 and 2031, and this was not an easy decision for the Council," said World Athletics President Sebastian Coe. "The quality, ambition and commitment demonstrated by all four candidates underline the strength and global appeal of the World Athletics Championships.

"With this Council decision today, we continue to fulfil our mission of growing athletics worldwide with the hosting of our World Athletics Championships in Asia, Africa and Europe over its next three editions.

"Nairobi and Munich ultimately presented two compelling propositions. They offer very different but equally exciting opportunities for our sport, and I am delighted that we can now begin working with both cities to stage two world-class championships," Coe added.

African nations have been hosting several multinational events in the past. Uganda's Kampala hosted the World Cross Country Championships in 2017, before Nairobi played host to the World U18 Championships in the same year.

Gaborone in Botswana hosted the World Athletics Relays earlier



this year, which was the first edition of that event to be held in Africa. However, this will be the first time that the World Athletics Championships, athletics' biggest event after the Olympics, will take place in an African nation.

Meanwhile, London was reportedly seen as a frontrunner for the 2029 edition after being in back-and-forth with West Ham for the event to take place at the London Stadium. West Ham argued that it had priority over the stadium during the football season but were later satisfied. However, the venue did not get a nod for the 2029 event.

Kenya is the second-most successful nation in the World Athletics Championships history. "Nairobi presented a compelling and emotional bid, and taking the World Athletics Championships to Africa for the first time will be historic," said Coe. "Kenya is one of the great athletics nations. The sport is woven into the fabric of the country, and athletes such as world gold medallists Faith Kipyegon, Vivian Cheruiyot, Eliud Kipchoge, Hellen Obiri and David Rudisha, as well as two-time Olympic champion Kip Keino, multiple world cross-country champion Paul Tergat and multiple world half marathon champion Tegla Loroupe, have shaped the history of our sport. "It was important that the World Athletics Championships should come to Africa when we had the right host, the right bid and the right circumstances. Nairobi has demonstrated emphatically that this is their moment." Meanwhile, Germany will be hosting the World Athletics Championships for the third time, with Munich's Olympic Stadium set to play host for the 2031 event. "Germany has proved time and again that it is an outstanding and dependable host for major athletics events," said Coe. "Berlin 2009 remains one of the memorable editions of the World Championships, and we have since seen tremendous support for the sport at the European Championships in Berlin and Munich.



MS Subbulakshmi Biopic: High Expectations

Legendary Singer MS Subbulakshmi's Biopic is formally announced with Rashmika in the lead role. The movie bankrolled by Rockline Venkatesh, Allu Aravind, and Bunny Vas will have its Pooja tomorrow in Chennai. Mahanati has set a benchmark in how Biopics should be made. The Drama in the Central Role and the Performance of the Protagonist are the key for the success of a Biopic. Everyone is waiting to see if Rashmika will fit in the role which should be calm and serene. As far as the Drama in the Biopic is concerned, there are loads in MS Subbulakshmi's life. She is born in the Orthodox Devadasi family in Tamil Nadu. In those days, Devadasis lives would be very miserable. Moreover, Carnatic music was an impenetrable bastion of Upper Caste Males. She escaped from her home breaking all the shackles. She got married to T Sadasivan, a freedom fighter and Publicist. The relationship helped her gain global recognition but it is also complicated as Sadasivan yet held absolute control over her career, finances, and public image. Despite raising tens of crores for temples, hospitals, and charities throughout her career, she kept practically nothing for herself. In their twilight years, financial setbacks forced the couple to sell their sprawling estate and move into a humble, rented house in Kotturpuram, Chennai, living on quiet modesty and royalty stipends. When her husband, T. Sadasivam, passed away in 1997 after nearly six decades together, the loss shattered her. She took a permanent step back from public life, never performed a concert again, and let the voice that enthralled the world fall completely silent. She spent her last years immersed in prayer and meditation. In December 2004, following a bout of broncho-pneumonia and cardiac complications, she passed away peacefully at the age of 88, bidding adieu not as a glamorous celebrity, but as an austere, saintly recluse.

Mythri Joins Hands For Sigma



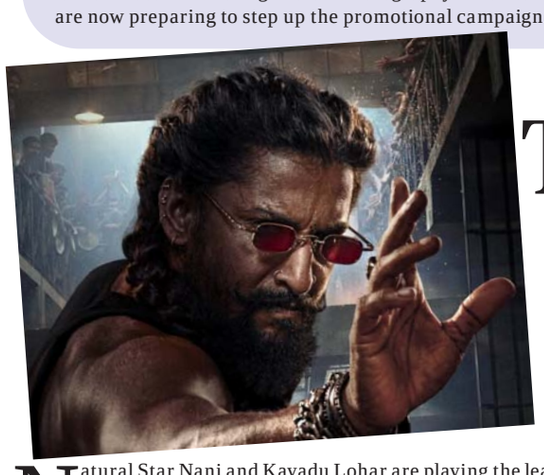
The action-adventure Sigma featuring Sundeep Kishan is very special because Tamil Nadu chief minister Vijay's son Jason Sanjay makes his debut as a director. The film is being produced by Subaskaran under the Lyca Productions banner. Sigma will make its worldwide theatrical release on October 2nd. This release date gives the film a valuable Gandhi Jayanthi holiday window. Mythri Movie Distributors LTD, one of the leading production and distribution houses, will be presenting the film in Coastal Andhra and Telangana. The film will be released in Ceded through NVR Cinema. Their involvement marks a valuable addition to Sigma's theatrical plans. The collaboration of Lyca, Mythri and NVR will also be interesting because of the scale and experience both banners bring to the table. Sundeep Kishan plays an action-packed role in the movie that will have adventurous elements, and surprises in the narrative. Faria Abdullah is the heroine in the movie that has Thaman S composing the music and Krishnan Vasant handling the cinematography. The makers are now preparing to step up the promotional campaign.



Sivagami Steps Into Kamala Reddy

Remember Sivagami from Baahubali? Ramya Krishnan is now set to surprise audiences once again with her powerful look as Kamala Reddy in David Reddy. The makers celebrated her birthday by unveiling a striking special poster, and her fierce royal avatar has already grabbed attention. With a sword in her hand and a fearless expression, Ramya Krishnan looks every bit like a warrior queen. Her powerful screen presence instantly reminds fans of Sivagami, but Kamala Reddy appears to be a completely different character with her own strength, authority and emotional depth. Starring Manchu Manoj in the lead, David Reddy is a grand period action drama set during the British rule. The teaser already showcased Manoj's explosive transformation as a rebel, while Ramya Krishnan's birthday poster has added more curiosity about the powerful characters in the film. Produced by Venkat Reddy Nallagangula and Bharat Motukuri, the film is directed by Hanuma Reddy Yakkanti, with music by Ravi Basrur. Maria Ryaboshapka stars opposite Manoj, while Samuthirakani, Abhay Deol, Kanchana and Ramya Krishnan are part of the ensemble cast. The multilingual pan-India film is gearing up for a theatrical release soon, and Ramya Krishnan's Kamala Reddy is certainly one of the characters to watch out for.

Nani's Double Trouble In Paradise!



Natural Star Nani and Kayadu Lohar are playing the leads in 'The Paradise'. Directed by Srikanth Odela, the film is hitting the screens on the 24th, with paid premieres on the 23rd. With only a week left for the release, the team is caught between completing the final post-production work and planning the promotions. The team is currently busy with multiple tasks, including post-production, re-recording and patchwork. Since Srikanth and his assistants are occupied with different responsibilities, Nani seems to have stepped in to supervise the post-production work and keep track of the deliverables. Nani mentioned that they could not manage their time well during the press meet. However, he also assured that everyone is juggling multiple responsibilities to give the best possible experience to the audience. The director is reportedly sitting with Anirudh to complete the re-recording, while Srikanth's assistants are taking care of the patchwork. With Nani also involved in the post-production work, the film's promotional plans have now become a little unclear. There are reports that the team may begin promotional interviews shortly, while another plan is to keep the promotions limited before the release and focus more on the pre-release event. Since 'The Paradise' is a prestigious project for everyone involved, the team is giving utmost priority to finishing the film properly. The film already has strong hype, and even if full-fledged promotions are difficult at this stage, Nani could focus on digital promotions and ramp them up closer to the release. The team has already decided not to release a trailer, making the promotional strategy even more interesting. With just one week to go, it remains to be seen how Nani manages these two sides of The Paradise and whether the limited promotions will have any impact on the film's advance sales.

Disha's Outfit Sparks Controversy

Disha Patani recently made headlines for attending the Ambani Family's Ganesh Chaturthi Celebrations at Antilia in Mumbai on September 14, 2026. However, the outfit she wore for the event sparked a lot of uproar on social media. Disha wore a red ghagra with intricate embroidery, a matching blouse featuring a plunging neckline, and a red dupatta draped over one shoulder. However, the look attracted trolls, as many commented that it was not the right way to present herself at a devotional event. Many people commented that Disha lacks basic sense and that she does not know how to carry herself. Some opined that Disha cannot treat every event as glamorous and should dress according to the situation. Moreover, this is not the first time actors have dressed up like this for events, and we have seen it before too, but some feel it is not appropriate styling. On the other hand, a lot of other celebrities like Salman Khan, Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal, Kiara Advani and Siddarth Malhotra, Genelia and Ritesh, Saif Ali Khan and Kareena kapoor and many more from Bollywood visited Ambani's residence for the celebrations. Every year, the Ambani family celebrate the event in a grand manner, in the presence of celebrities from different walks of lives. On the work front, was recently seen in Awarapan 2 and she is set to make her debut in Hollywood soon.

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