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Radhakrishnan Calls for Equal Rights, Dignity



HYDERABAD, SEPT.17

Political integration can unite territories, but constitutional democracy is what brings citizens together, Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan stated on Thursday.

Emphasising that national unity cannot be sustained by geography alone, he stressed the need to reinforce unity through equal rights, equal dignity, and equal opportunity for all. Speaking as the Chief Guest at the 79th Hyderabad Liberation Day celebrations held at the Parade Grounds in Secunderabad, the Vice-President remarked that Bharat's unity does not demand uniformity among its citizens.

He noted that while Indians speak different languages, follow diverse traditions, practice different faiths, and hold varied political views, they remain bound together by the Constitution and the fundamental principle that sovereignty ultimately resides with the people.

Reflecting on the significance of the occasion, Radhakrishnan stated that Hyderabad Liberation Day is not merely the commemoration of a historic milestone, but a enduring reminder of the journey of nation-building and the core values that sustain Bharat.

He urged that the legacy of Hyderabad serve as a constant reminder that integration must lead to genuine inclusion, and that patriotism finds its highest expression in dedicated service to the nation.

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Revanth Seeks People's Role in TG's Rise

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday called for the collective participation of Telangana's four crore people in building a progressive State that commands global recognition, saying the spirit of the Telangana struggle must guide modern development, welfare and social justice.

- *CM calls for people's participation in Telangana's growth*
- *Revanth unveils roadmap for Telangana's global rise*
- *CM highlights welfare, jobs and development initiatives*
- *Revanth pitches $3-trillion Telangana vision*
- *CM seeks inclusive growth across all regions*
- *Revanth stresses self-respect, equality and social justice*
- *CM outlines Telangana's 2047 development vision*
- *Revanth calls for people-centric governance*
- *CM highlights farmer, women and youth welfare*
- *Telangana targets global growth with inclusive development*

HYDERABAD, SEPTEMBER 17

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday called upon the people of Telangana to actively participate in the state's development and help build a Telangana that the world would take pride in. Speaking at the Telangana Praja Palana Dinotsavam (Democracy Governance Day) celebrations at Nampally Public Gardens, the Chief Minister said the collective participation of four crore citizens was essential to ensure that development reached every region of the state.

The Chief Minister said modern Telangana should be built in the spirit of the Telangana struggle and recalled the sacrifices of those who fought for the freedom, self-respect and rights of the people. He said self-respect, freedom, equality and social justice, along with development and welfare, were the foundations of Praja Palana.

"September 17 reminds us of our responsibility. The historical background of Telangana and the fruits of its movements must be reflected in the lives of the people," he said. He stressed that farmers should have assurance, women should achieve economic independence, weaker sections should receive justice, poor children should have access to quality education and healthcare, and young people should have opportunities to compete globally.



The Chief Minister said Telangana had historically raised its voice against generations of oppression, exploitation, feudalism and aristocratic dominance. The region, he said, had produced heroes who fought against autocratic rulers and continuously mobilised people around identity, self-respect and rights.

He said September 17, 1948, marked a historic transition when Hyderabad State became part of India, paving the way from monarchical rule to democratic

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farmer registry vs digital agri transformation

FARMER REGISTRY IS THE START OF SERVICE, NOT THE END OF IT. HYDERABAD CAN LINK FARM DATA TO TIMELY HELP, CLEAN INPUTS AND PAYABLE INCOME

B. C. SUBRAHMANYAM

The South Zone agriculture discussion in Hyderabad brings Farmer Registry, digital crop survey, fertiliser management, pulses, natural farming, horticulture and oil palm onto one table. India now holds a growing digital record of the cultivator. The useful test is whether that record helps the crop and the household in time.

India is building a large digital farm record. That effort is serious and it should be judged with care. A Farmer ID identifies a cultivator. It is a necessary first step. It is not, by itself, fertiliser in the hand, a saved crop, or a price that pays the risk the farmer carries. The distinction is simple. It is also easy to lose when the numbers look impressive.

As of 3 August 2026, more than 10.31 crore Farmer IDs had been created. The near-term national target is about 11 crore. Telangana had crossed 50 lakh IDs by late July. In Rabi 2025-26 the Digital Crop Survey ran in 648 districts and covered more than 31.3 crore plots. Minister of State Ramnath Thakur has told Parliament that AgriStack is "built as a public good" for efficient, easier and faster service and scheme delivery to farmers." The intention is sound. The next task is to show that registration is followed by delivery.

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There Must Be an Investigation Into KCR Family's Lands: Mahesh Goud

There may have been lapses by officials in the dispute over 22A lands; an inquiry into the Janwada farmhouse is also necessary.

Delhi, sep 17: TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud made several key remarks after meeting Meenakshi Natarajan, the Congress in-charge for Telangana affairs. He said coordination within the Telangana Congress has improved since Meenakshi Natarajan took charge. He stated that all those who have previously served as in-charges of Telangana worked toward strengthening the party. He revealed that discussions were held with the party leadership regarding organisational matters and pending appointments.



Mahesh Goud said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had spoken in detail in the Assembly about the issue of lands belonging to the KCR family. He stated that KCR's 2009 election affidavit showed that he owned no land, while subsequent election affidavits showed an increase in the details of land holdings.

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Ponguleti questions KCR's asset growth, cites 2004 affidavit discrepancies

Hyderabad, Sept.17: Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy sparked a fresh political row on Thursday, highlighting discrepancies in former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao's (KCR) election affidavits to accuse the BRS leadership of massive asset accumulation during their decade in power.

Citing KCR's 2004 Karimnagar Lok Sabha election submission, where the BRS chief reported owning zero acres of land, the Minister questioned how the family acquired vast landholdings over the past two decades. In a post on 'X', Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy alleged that the Kalvakuntla family amassed wealth at the expense of Telangana movement activists, accusing them of encroaching on government, assigned, and Dalit-owned lands.

Tagging BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), the Minister demanded clarification on whether past election disclosures were falsified or if recent claims regarding ancestral landholdings were misleading.

KTR Calls for Probe Into Families' Assets

Hyderabad, Sept.17: Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president K.T. Rama Rao on Thursday launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, challenging him to agree to a judicial inquiry by a sitting judge of either the High Court or Supreme Court into the assets of the families of former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao and Revanth Reddy from the time of their birth.

Stating that the BRS had full faith in the judiciary, KTR demanded that the inquiry be headed by a sitting judge rather than by Special Investigation Teams (SITs) constituted by the government. He said the BRS leadership was ready to face any legal consequences if any wrongdoing was established. "If the Chief Minister has the spine, he must immediately accept this challenge and submit to an impartial inquiry," he said.

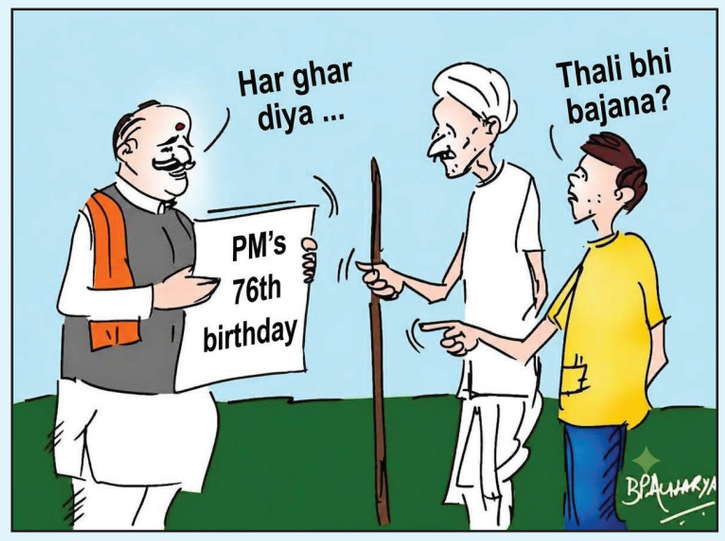


Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan after hoisting the national flag on the occasion of Telangana National Integration Day, KTR extended greetings to the people of the State and said those holding high constitutional offices should conduct themselves with dignity.

He alleged that the Chief Minister had turned the Assembly into a platform for making false and

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OBTUSE ANGLE



by BP ACHARYA

Congress Set for a Major Overhaul in the AICC!

NEW DELHI, SEP 17

Review of Leaders' Performance

The Congress party is reportedly preparing for key changes in its national organisational structure. Party sources have revealed that around 50 percent of AICC secretaries may be replaced, with new leaders likely to be given responsibilities in their place. The changes are reportedly aimed at further strengthening the party organisationally and bringing in more active leadership at the grassroots level. As part of this process, senior Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, and AICC General Secretary K.C. Venugopal are reportedly said to have interviewed around 130 leaders over the past week. There are currently 64 secretaries in the AICC, several of whom are serving as in-charges of different states.

During the interviews, details were reportedly gathered about the leaders' past performance, services to the party, organisational experience, relationships with party workers at the grassroots level, and future plans. Party sources say they also sought their views on the 'Sanghatan Srijan Abhiyan' and their suggestions for strengthening the party's organisational structure.

While some of the existing secretaries may be retained, some others may reportedly be relieved of their responsibilities for particular states. The interviews with 130 leaders are believed to be part of the process of selecting new leaders who can take on these responsibilities. In particular, organisational experience,

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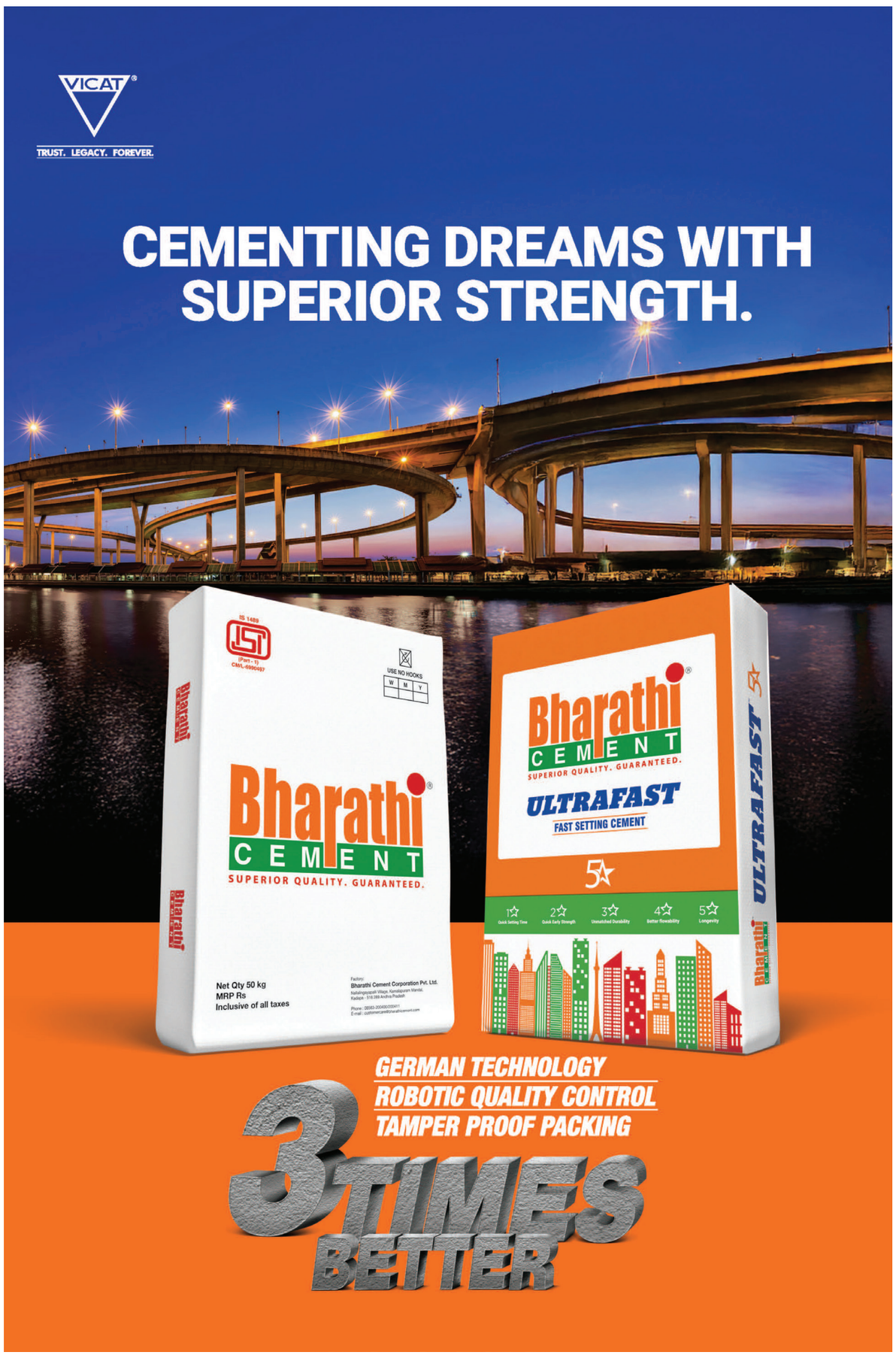
No Foreign Pressure on UPI MDR

NEW DELHI, SEP 17

The Department of Financial Services (DFS) has denied allegations that pressure from the United States or other foreign organisations was behind the decision to impose a Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on UPI transactions. It clarified that there is no truth to claims that the Centre took the decision based on recommendations in a report by the United States Trade Representative (USTR) calling for charges to be imposed on UPI. The DFS said the MDR decision was taken in line with the requirements of India's domestic digital payments system.

From October 15, an MDR of 0.4 percent will apply to person-to-merchant (P2M) UPI transactions above ₹2,000. However, the DFS explained that this charge cannot be collected directly from consumers and will have to be borne by merchants. It said the main objectives of the policy are to provide a sustainable source of revenue for smaller, domestic UPI companies and to increase competition in the market by reducing the dominance of large companies.

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farmer registry vs digital agri transformation

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Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has already offered the right measure. “Meaningful agricultural progress can only be achieved through continuous field level engagement,” he has said. Read in that spirit, Hyderabad is a place to match tools with practice. If satellite watch finds crop stress, the system should help an officer reach the plot in time. If the registry improves targeting, schemes should reach the right farmer with less delay. If checks mark fertiliser diversion or fake pesticides, the farmer should find a genuine bag in the shop when he needs it.

A Farmer ID is an address in a government system. It gains meaning when that address receives seed, advice, a clean input and a payable price.

Hyderabad is a fitting venue because Telangana has already moved on digital crop surveys and farmer registration. Agritech India LLP, based in the city, has placed Krishivaas in the field. The platform reads satellite imagery through artificial intelligence and studies a field in grids of three metres by three metres. Adarsh Reddy Muri of Krishivaas has said that square is the area one satellite pixel can watch. Early notice can reduce loss. That is the strength of the tool. The other side should be stated with equal fairness. A satellite records a change in vegetation. It does not explain the cause. Cloud, small holdings, mixed cropping and cultivators without regular phone use will decide how far the tool travels. The system has to work on the bund as well as on the screen.

Once an alert is raised, the questions are practical. Who receives it? How soon can a field officer visit? Who confirms pest or disease? Is the recommended input available nearby? Is it genuine? Can the farmer afford it? If the cultivator is a tenant and not the recorded owner, does the system recognise him and serve him? Telangana’s Rythu Vedika network and Andhra Pradesh’s Rythu Bharosa Kendras are the State channels for that last stretch.

Tamil Nadu brings precision farming, Karnataka brings pulses. Kerala brings procurement and market concerns. The Centre can ask what produced results and what cost money without enough return. The States can ask about funds, data use and delivery. That exchange would make a zonal meeting worthwhile.

Technology can mark a suspect sale or a stressed patch. A genuine bag of fertiliser still depends on supply, inspection and a shop that works. The administrative chain remains part of the harvest.

Pulses, oil palm and horticulture belong to the same economic story. India wants lower import dependence and stronger farm income. Production targets help only when the farmer has quality seed, reliable inputs, usable advice, protection from fake chemicals, a working market or procurement window, and a price structure that does not leave him alone with the loss. A database can count how many farmers grow a crop. A complete system should also help the farmer judge whether growing it makes sense.

The useful public questions are numerical, not theatrical. How many Farmer IDs improved service delivery? How many digitally cropped fields were physically checked? How quickly did intervention follow an alert? How much crop loss was prevented? How much fertiliser diversion was detected? How many fake pesticide cases were taken forward? How much did farmers save? How much extra income did they earn? Public money spent in the farmer’s name deserves that accounting.

Five tests for the Hyderabad table

Can registry data speed service?
Can satellite alerts reduce real loss?
Can digital watch limit fake inputs before they reach the farm?
Can tenant cultivators be served?
Can income and crop protection be shown in measured rupees?

MY SHOT

India is right to keep the memory of its own soil in its own systems. That is a national duty, quietly discharged. The harder work is balance. The State should be as good at answering the farmer as it is becoming at recording him. Chouhan, Revanth Reddy and the southern agriculture ministers can leave the table with one clean distinction. A better file of the cultivator is valuable. A better service to him is the purpose. The verdict will be written in the field, in time, in yield and in the money that reaches the house.

Hyderabad Murder Wave: Knives and Sickles Leave City on Edge

Police probe a string of targeted killings, citing motives from personal rivalry to theft as CCTV and forensics drive investigations

HYDERABAD, SEPTEMBER 17



Hyderabad is witnessing a disturbing rise in targeted killings, with recent murder cases across the city highlighting a pattern of brutal attacks carried out using knives, sickles and other sharp weapons. Police say the incidents appear to be separate, but the violence has intensified concerns over how personal disputes and criminal rivalries are increasingly turning deadly.

The latest killing took place on Monday in Bandlaguda, Nagole, where rowdy-sheeter Mohd Nayeem was hacked to death inside a wine shop permit room. Investigators suspect that previous enmity with a childhood friend may have triggered the attack. CCTV footage reportedly captured the assailants tracking Nayeem, chasing him inside the premises and then attacking him with knives and sickles.

Police sources said the case reflects a broader pattern emerging in the city, where many of the recent murders appear to have been planned rather than spontaneous. In several incidents, investigators are looking at motives such as old rivalries, personal grudges and, in some cases, theft-related disputes. While the cases are not believed to be interconnected, the repeated use of deadly weapons has raised alarm among law enforcement officials.

CCTV footage has become one of the most important tools in these investigations. Officers are using camera recordings to reconstruct the final moments before each attack, identify the accused and determine whether the victims were followed or lured into vulnerable locations. Forensic teams are also examining weapon traces, blood evidence and other material to support the probe.

The killing of Nayeem has added urgency to police efforts to curb targeted violence in the city. The fact that the attack happened in a public place has intensified fears that offenders are becoming bolder and more willing to strike in crowded areas. Residents in affected neighborhoods are now watching these developments closely, worried that personal feuds are spilling into open street violence.

Police have not indicated that there is a single gang behind the recent murders, but they are treating each case seriously and examining whether there are common tactics or repeat offenders involved. For now, investigators are focused on identifying suspects, confirming the exact sequence of events and establishing the motive behind each crime.

The recent murders serve as a stark reminder of how quickly unresolved disputes can escalate into fatal attacks. As Hyderabad police continue their investigations, the city is left grappling with the broader challenge of preventing targeted violence before it turns into another headline.

KTR Calls for Probe Into Families’ Assets

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fabricated claims, thereby lowering the dignity of the office he holds.

KT Rama Rao pointed out that Revanth Reddy had earlier claimed that KCR owned a 1,000-acre farmhouse but later admitted on the floor of the Assembly that the land measured only 67 acres.

Challenging the Chief Minister to identify the remaining 933 acres, KT Rama Rao said the BRS would immediately register the land in favour of the State government if the claim was proved.

“These 67 acres were transparently declared by KCR in his statutory election affidavits, with every rupee of stamp duty and income tax duly accounted for,” he said, demanding that the Chief Minister tender an unconditional apology to KCR for what he described as “malicious mudslinging”.

KT Rama Rao also attacked the Congress government, alleging that its 420 electoral guarantees had proved “bogus” after 1,000 days of what he termed administrative paralysis and governance failure.

He further alleged that the BRS Legislature Party was suspended from the House in an undemocratic manner because the treasury benches feared being held accountable for the alleged failure to fulfil key electoral assurances.

Singareni steps up Naini coal supplies to Yadadri

Hyderabad, Sept 17: Singareni Collieries Company Ltd (SCCL) has intensified efforts to increase coal supplies from its Naini coal mine in Odisha to the Yadadri Thermal Power Station in Telangana amid rising power demand and El Niño conditions. SCCL Chairman and Managing Director Dr. Buddhaprakash Jyoti directed officials to gradually raise coal transportation from the present 2,100 tonnes per day to 10,000–14,000 tonnes per day. He also instructed Singareni areas to enhance coal production to ensure uninterrupted supplies to thermal power stations across Telangana.

The CMD reviewed coal production, stock availability and transportation arrangements with Singareni directors, Executive Director (Coal Movement) and the General Manager of Naini Area on Thursday. Dr. Jyoti directed officials to identify and immediately remove bottlenecks in transporting coal from Naini to Yadadri. Naini Area GM Baidya said adequate coal stocks were available at the mine, but local conditions had resulted in truck movement to railway sidings being largely restricted to night hours.

The CMD directed officials to increase the number of trucks and coordinate closely with Telangana GENCO. Additional transportation contracts should be arranged if required, he said. He also called for coordination with the Angul district administration to resolve road transportation issues. The Executive Director (Coal Movement) was asked to monitor railway rake availability and ensure smooth movement of coal.

Dr. Jyoti stressed that all departments should work in coordination and remain vigilant to prevent coal shortages at Telangana’s thermal power stations. Directors L.V. Suryanarayana, K. Venkateshwarlu and Gowtham Potru, ED B. Venkanna, GM T. Srinivas and other officials attended the meeting.

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Revanth Seeks People’s Role in TG’s Rise

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governance. The State observes the day as Praja Palana Dinotsavam, he said, as a reminder of the importance of people-centred administration.

According to the Chief Minister, Praja Palana means respecting the voice of the people, resolving their problems, protecting their rights and ensuring that government resources reach all sections of society. He said his government was continuing its programmes in the same spirit.

Telangana competing with the world

Revanth Reddy said Telangana was no longer competing merely with neighbouring States but was aspiring to compete globally. He said the State’s per capita income had reached ₹4,18,931, nearly 91 per cent higher than the national per capita income.

He said the objective was to ensure that development was reflected not merely in economic statistics but also in the everyday lives of the people.

Focus on farmers and agriculture

The Chief Minister described the government as pro-farmer and said its objective was to ensure that every farmer family lived without the burden of debt. The government had waived farm loans of up to ₹2 lakh, releasing ₹20,616 crore and bringing 25.35 lakh farmer families out of debt, he said.

More than ₹36,000 crore had been deposited into farmers’ accounts under Rythu Bharosa, while a bonus of ₹500 per quintal had been paid for fine-grain paddy.

With government support, Telangana had emerged as the country’s number one State in paddy cultivation acreage and yield, he said. Nearly ₹1.72 lakh crore had been spent on agriculture and farmer welfare during the last 32 months.

The government had introduced comprehensive reforms in land administration through the Bhoo Bharathi Act and launched Bhoodhaar and AI-based Bhoomitra services. Pattadar Passbooks had been issued to 5.94 lakh farmers, he said.

Revanth Reddy said the government was pursuing a legal battle to secure Telangana’s rightful share of Krishna waters. Works on the Palamuru–Ranga Reddy Lift Irrigation Scheme, Sitarama Lift Irrigation Project, SLBC and other pending projects were being expedited.

Women’s economic empowerment

The government’s objective was to enable every woman in Telangana to live with dignity and become economically independent, the Chief Minister said. The government had set a target of turning one crore women into millionaires.

Under the Mahalakshmi scheme, women had been provided free travel in RTC buses, resulting in savings of ₹12,385 crore for women, he said.

Under Gruha Jyothi, more than 53 lakh families were receiving free electricity up to 200 units. Cooking gas cylinders were being provided at ₹500 to 43 lakh families.

Under Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak, assistance worth ₹4,709 crore had been provided to 1.68 lakh women.

The government had extended bank linkages of ₹60,487 crore and interest subsidies of ₹1,900 crore to 4.54 lakh Self-Help Groups. Women’s incomes were also being increased through Women Marts, petrol pumps and RTC hired buses, he said.

Food security and social welfare

Through the Public Distribution System, fine rice was being supplied to 3.42 crore people. More than 15 lakh new Smart Ration Cards had been distributed.

Social security pensions were being provided to more than 43 lakh people, with nearly ₹31,000 crore disbursed since the government assumed office. The government had recently paved the way for extending pensions to another 2.25 lakh beneficiaries.

Housing for the poor

The government’s objective was to ensure that every family could live with self-respect, Revanth Reddy said.~In the first phase of Indiramma Housing, 4.50 lakh houses had been sanctioned at a cost of ₹22,500 crore, with ₹5 lakh being provided for each house. Another 2.50 lakh houses had been sanctioned in the second phase.

Within Hyderabad city limits, the government had begun construction of Indiramma Towers to facilitate the construction of one lakh Indiramma houses, he said.

Social justice and reservations

The Chief Minister said the government had undertaken a scientific social, economic, educational, employment and political caste survey with the objective of reducing social inequalities and ensuring justice to all sections. Based on the survey data, the State Legislature had passed bills providing 42 per cent reservation to BCs in education, employment and local bodies and forwarded them for the President’s assent. Following the Supreme Court ruling, Telangana had undertaken SC categorisation for the first time in the country, he said. The government was observing February 4 every year as Telangana Social Justice Day.

“Social justice for us is not merely a slogan; it means bringing backward sections forward,” the Chief Minister said.

Education as a priority

Revanth Reddy said education and healthcare were the two major priorities of the Praja Government. Young India Integrated Residential Schools were being constructed in every constituency to provide quality education to children without discrimination based on caste or religion.

The schools were being developed with comprehensive facilities across 20 to 25 acres in each constituency.

The government had introduced pre-primary classes in government schools and decided to establish a Telangana Public School in every constituency. An amount of ₹927 crore was being spent to provide breakfast and milk to students in government schools. The mid-day meal scheme had been extended up to Class 12. Scholarships and fee reimbursements were being directly deposited into the bank accounts of 11 lakh students.

He said Telangana had improved its position in the Performance Grading Index from 28th to 18th place following measures taken in the education sector. The government was also working to bring offshore campuses of leading global universities to Hyderabad. Northeastern University of the US and the University of London, a federation of 17 independent educational institutions in the UK, had expressed willingness to establish offshore campuses, he said.

Radhakrishnan Calls for Equal Rights, Dignity

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Later, the Vice-President inspected the parade and witnessed the impressive March Past and evocative cultural performances at Parade Grounds. The cultural performances portrayed the struggle, valour and sacrifices of the people during the liberation and integration of Hyderabad, paying tribute to the courage and resilience of those who contributed to this historic chapter of India’s nation-building journey.

Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla, Union Minister for Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar, Malkajgiri MP Etela Rajender and other dignitaries were present.

Congress Set for a Major Overhaul in the AICC!

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the ability to effectively manage the party in different states, and coordination with party workers are expected to be given priority.

Final Decision Soon

After the interview process, a comprehensive review of the leaders’ performance is expected to be conducted, following which the party leadership may take a final decision on the restructuring of the AICC. Party sources said clarity is likely to emerge soon regarding new appointments, changes in state in-charges, and alterations in the responsibilities of secretaries.

However, the Congress has so far made no official announcement regarding who will remain in the AICC, who will receive new responsibilities, or who may be removed. An official decision on the matter is likely to be announced only after the party’s internal review and organisational restructuring process is completed.

No Foreign Pressure on UPI MDR

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The DFS said that, with digital payments now taking place on a massive scale through UPI, continuous investment is required in infrastructure, technology systems, cybersecurity, and other areas. Against this backdrop, the government believes that the UPI ecosystem needs a sustainable long-term revenue model.

Meanwhile, political criticism over the implementation of MDR continues. Concerns have been raised that the measure could place an additional burden on UPI usage. However, the DFS clarified that the MDR will not apply to P2M transactions of up to ₹2,000 and that, under the new policy, merchants will bear the charge. With this clarification, the Centre is seeking to counter allegations of foreign pressure.

There Must Be an Investigation ..

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However, he said a full-scale investigation based on official records is necessary to establish the facts.

According to the details reportedly presented by the Chief Minister in the Assembly, KCR and his wife Shobha have approximately 67.13 acres in their names, while about 123.19 acres are held in the names of four members of KTR’s family. Reports stated that the Chief Minister mentioned approximately 49.50 acres in KTR’s name, 17.30 acres in Shailima’s name, 9.38 acres in Alekhya’s name, and 46.30 acres in Himanshu Rao’s name.

“Whether the properties mentioned in the affidavits match the details of the lands currently held has to be established. The investigation should clarify how the KCR family came to own so much land. There are poor people in Telangana who do not even have a square yard of land. If it is found to be government land, the government is proceeding with the intention of distributing it to the poor and Dalits. The government will not take away anyone’s private property,” Mahesh Goud said.

He said the Chief Minister had also ordered a comprehensive inquiry into the lands surrounding the Erravelli farmhouse. Recent reports stated that the government has decided to examine records relating to approximately 700 acres of land. The Chief Minister has already announced in the Assembly that if government land is found, action will be taken according to the rules.

On the Janwada Farmhouse

Mahesh Goud also raised the issue of the Janwada farmhouse. “KTR said that the Janwada farmhouse does not belong to him. However, we have information that he was present there. There should be clarity, based on records, about who actually owns that land and how it was acquired,” he said.

On the 22A Dispute

Mahesh Goud said the Congress government had not deliberately introduced rules in connection with the 22A land dispute. He said there may have been lapses at the officials’ level in some cases and that those issues would also be investigated. He added that the government has a responsibility to take steps without causing inconvenience to the public.

At the same time, he said the manner in which BRS leaders behaved toward the police was inappropriate. He also said that the language used regarding the Speaker’s mother was not appropriate.

Mahesh Goud recalled that during Indira Gandhi’s tenure, house sites were allotted for the development of Dalits. He said that, keeping the interests of landless poor people in mind, the facts surrounding the land issue need to come to light.

Mahesh Goud clarified that the purpose of investigating the KCR family’s lands was not to personally defame anyone, but that the public needs to know the facts concerning land ownership, records, and purchases. Meanwhile, BRS Working President KTR has demanded a judicial inquiry into the matter.

Mahesh Goud also referred to KCR’s former residence in Delhi and the bulletproof arrangements at Pragathi Bhavan, raising questions about decisions taken by the then government. He said that once the investigations into the KCR family’s lands and the 22A land dispute are completed, the actual facts will come to light.

Telangana Liberation Day Commemorated with Jayanthostava Celebrations

Honouring Late Co-Founder Mrs. Komati Reddy Manjula Rani Garu

HYDERABAD

Lotus Lap Public Schools, Dilsukhnagar Branch, commemorated Telangana Liberation Day with a meaningful programme highlighting the historical significance of September 17. The occasion also marked the Jayanthostava celebrations of the late Co-Founder and former Managing Director of Lotus Lap Group of Schools, Mrs. Komati Reddy Manjula Rani Garu, with a heartfelt tribute to her enduring contribution to the institution.



The programme was conducted under the inspiring theme:

"Your Vision Lives On, Your Legacy Inspires Us"

September 17, 1948, marks the integration of the erstwhile Hyderabad State into the Indian Union following Operation Polo. The day is observed in different official contexts as Hyderabad Liberation Day, Telangana Liberation Day or Praja Palana Dinotsavam.

The programme brought together the Lotus Management, distinguished guests, parents, teachers, staff and students. The gathering remembered the valuable contribution of Mrs. Komati Reddy Manjula Rani Garu, whose vision, dedication, affection and commitment to education played an important role in shaping the Lotus educational institutions.

Distinguished Guests

The programme was graced by:

* Vidya Ratna Dr. Lion Komati Reddy Gopal Reddy Garu – Chairperson, Lotus Lap Public Schools
* Mr. Komati Reddy Abhishek Reddy Garu – Director, Lotus Lap Public Schools
* Mr. M. Srinivas Garu – President, Telangana Study Forum (TSF)
* Mr. B. Somi Reddy Garu – Vice President, Telangana Study Forum
* Mr. Raja Mahendra Reddy Garu – General Secretary
* Mr. Prasanna Chary Garu – Organising Secretary
* Mr. Venu Gopal Garu – Organising Secretary

Special Tribute Portrait

One of the most touching moments of the programme was the presentation of a special tribute portrait of Mrs. Komati Reddy Manjula Rani Garu, creatively designed by Mr. G. Satyam Sir, Creative Artist.

The artistic creation beautifully captured her personality and reflected her vision, dedication and lasting association with the Lotus family. The surprise tribute evoked cherished memories of her contribution to the institution.

Special Song Dedicated to Manjula Rani Garu

Another highlight of the Jayanthostava celebrations was the presentation of a special song dedicated to Mrs. Komati Reddy Manjula Rani Garu.

The lyrics were specially written by Mr. Vijay, Chairman of Manrobo and a journalist. The song reflected her journey, dedication to education, affection towards students and her vision for the growth and development of Lotus Lap educational institutions. The inspiring composition served as a heartfelt tribute and a source of motivation for students, teachers and the entire Lotus family.

Remembering History and Nurturing Responsible Citizens

Addressing the gathering, the dignitaries highlighted the importance of understanding Telangana's historical journey and respecting the sacrifices associated with the region's transition to democratic governance. They also emphasised the responsibility of educational institutions in nurturing young minds to become responsible and socially conscious citizens. Students participated enthusiastically through speeches, cultural presentations and other activities, adding vibrancy to the celebrations. The programme provided students with an opportunity to learn about Telangana's historical journey while reflecting on the values of freedom, unity, democracy, responsibility and service.

A Legacy That Continues to Inspire

A special tribute was offered to Mrs. Komati Reddy Manjula Rani Garu on the occasion of her Jayanthostava celebrations.

Her absence continues to be deeply felt by the entire Lotus family. However, her ideals, values, affection and educational vision continue to guide the institution. The values she cherished are being carried forward through every student, teacher, staff member and well-wisher of the Lotus family.

"Her presence may no longer be with us, but her vision continues to light our path, and her legacy continues to inspire generations."

The programme concluded with a renewed commitment to preserving the values of history and building a future founded on knowledge, unity, compassion, service and responsible citizenship.

BJP PROG ON PM MODI's BIRTHDAY

HYDERABAD

Telangana BJP president N Ramchander Rao welcomed Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Hyderabad. Chouhan is scheduled to participate in the "Aashirwad Ka Diya" programme at Thimmapur village as part of events marking Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 76th birthday. The programme is intended by its organisers to offer prayers and blessings for the Prime Minister's long life and continued service to the country and lead India on its journey towards a Viksit Bharat.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. SR-TVC0SnT (TEND)/3/2026/12 Dated: 16.09.2026

Senior Divisional Signal &Telecommunication Engineer, Southern Railway, Thiruvananthapuram-14 for and on behalf of The President of India invites e-tenders for the following works.

Sl.No.	Tender No.	Name of work
1	TVC-SNT-SIG-26-27-14	Replacement of old version IPS at CHPD, CNPD, CNGR, TVCS, NYY, PASA and KZT stations in TVC Division.

Sl.No.	Cash Value (Approx.) (Rs.Ps)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.)	Last Date for Receipt of Tender Up to	Completion period (in Months)
1.	1,48,45,724.04	2,96,900.00	08.10.2026 15.00 Hrs	06

Complete details & tender document will be available at **www.irs.gov.in**

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer/TVC

Professor, Dr. Syed Jhangir inaugurates Bites Dental Clinic

HYDERABAD

Prof.Dr.Syed Jhangir, Former Dean and Head of the Department of Arabic Studies, English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU) has today inaugurated a Dental Clinic named "BITES DENTAL CLINIC" at King Koti, Hyderabad. The Clinic was established by Dr.Syed Abdur Rafay Hashmi and Dr.Md.Mubasheer under joint venture. While speaking after inauguration of the Clinic, Dr.Syed Jhangir wished the doctors success in all their future endeavors and suggested them to treat the patients with all dedication and patience.



Mr.Syed Ahsan Hashmi, Deputy Director, Information and Public Relations Department, Mr.Kamaluddin, was present on the occasion .

The inaugural programme came to the end with the dua of Janab Mohammed Afzal Hussain, Tutor, Jamia Aisha Niswan, Hyderabad. Dr.Azmath Ali Ilyas, Radiologist, Mr. Syed Taseen Hashmi, Mr.Syed Yameen Hashmi, Mr.Syed Moizuddin, Mr.Syed Jawad Hashmi, Mr.Sadruddin, Mr.Abdul Quddus, Mr.Shujauddin Ifteqari, Dr.Bazahar Ali, Mr.Arif and others participated.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Ministry of Railways, Southern Railway Construction Organisation
E-Tender Notice No. E/CN/ERS/TN/07/2026-27 Dated 15.09.2026

The For and on behalf of The President of India, The Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer. Construction, Southern Railway, Emakulam Junction-682016 invites E- tenders for the work mentioned below as per Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in the portal **www.ireps.gov.in** tenderer/Contractors intending to apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the portal **www.ireps.gov.in** and only online tenders will be accepted. The cost of the tender form and Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) should be paid through online payment gateway available on the website by the way of multiple banks net banking, debit and credit card.

Sl No.	Description	Item
1.	Tender No.	E.572/CN/ERS/WC/OT/607
2.	Name of Work	Construction of a New 11 kV/433 V Substation, including Switch Room and Backup Power Supply Arrangements, at Irumpanam Yard.
3.	Approx. cash value	Rs 2,82,15,408
4.	Earnest money deposit	Rs. 5,64,300
5.	Completion period	12 months
6.	Closing/Opening of Tender	12:00 hrs on 07.10.2026

For further details visit internet site **www.ireps.gov.in** or contact Office of Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Ernakulam-682016.

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer, Construction, Ernakulam Junction
For and on behalf of President of India

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Palakkad Division

E-Tender Notice No. PGT/OT/20/2026 dated 16/09/2026

For and behalf of the President of India, the Sr. Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination / Southern Railway / Palakkad invites E-TENDERS for the following works.

Sl. No	Name of work	Approx. Cash value in (₹) Lakhs	Bid Security Amount ₹	Tender closing date on 15.00 hrs.	completion Period in months
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1.	Palakkad Division: Kulukkallur Platform raising and upgradation of Kulukkallur PF No.1. upgradation of PF No.2 and provision of Divyangjan amenities.	307.64	6,15,300/-	16.10.2026	Nine
2.	Melattur - Platform raising and upgradation of Melattur PF No.1 and upgradation of PF No.2 and provision of Divyangjan amenities.	220.69	4,41,400/-	16.10.2026	Nine
3.	Palakkad Division Provision of new 1.80 m wide FOBs at Kulukkallur (HG 2 category stn) and Melattur station (HG-1 category Stn) in Shoranur-Nilambur section.	439.78	8,79,600/-	16.10.2026	Nine

Further details are available in details on webite "http://www.ireps.gov.in." tenderer (S) Contracto (s) to apply for e-tender for works in Southern Railway, need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal www.ireps.gov.in and only online tenders will be accepted.

Note: (i) It is the responsibility of the tenderer to check if any Corrigendum is issued for any correction or modifications uploaded subsequently in the wbsite and the same shall be taken into account while submitting the tender.

(ii) Exemption from remitting Bid Security Amount (EMD):

The following categories of tenders are only exempted from remitting Bid security:

(a) Any firm recognized by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) as "Startups' shall be exempted from payment of bid security.

(b) Labor Co-operative Societies shall submit only 50% of the Bid Security.

Tenderer should submit relevant documents along with his/her offer from remitting Bid security. Non submission of relevant documents, shall lead to summary rejection of offer.

Sr. Divisional Engineer /Co-ord./Southern Railway/Palakkad
(For and on behalf of the President of India)

Invisible Heroes Unveiled: GDCW Hussainialam Celebrates International Microorganisms Day 2026



"Journey with Invisible Friends" brings students together through science, creativity, and fermented-food discoveries

HYDERABAD

The Department of Microbiology, Government Degree College for Women (GDCW), Hussainialam, Hyderabad, celebrated International Microorganisms Day on 17 September 2026 with great enthusiasm under the theme "Journey with Invisible Friends." The programme brought students into the fascinating world of microorganisms—small, unseen organisms that play an essential role in human life, health, food, the environment, and industry.

To make the learning experience engaging and interactive, the celebrations featured a range of competitions and activities. Students participated in the Apron Ceremony, Microbial Mehndi, Microbiology-themed Role Play, One-Minute Video Competition, and a Fermented Foods Exhibition. Through these events, students showcased both creativity and scientific understanding of how microorganisms can be beneficial as well as harmful, depending on their nature and context.

The programme was attended by Principal Professor Praveen Kumar along with Dr. Mohammad Ghouse, Dr. Pranitha, Dr. Sreedevi, and Anitha Saka (Incharge). All guests encouraged the students and appreciated the Department of Microbiology for organizing a meaningful and educational event.

Dr. Marian Rajini, Lecturer in Microbiology, coordinated the programme with support from Humera, Shailaja, Dr. Shanmuki, Jyothi, and Dr. Zulfiqar Sir (Dr. Quddus). Faculty members actively motivated students throughout the activities, contributing to the overall success of the celebrations.

Emphasizing the idea of microorganisms as the "unseen heroes" of the world, the event highlighted their wide-ranging impact on human health, agriculture, food production, biotechnology, and environmental balance. The celebrations concluded with appreciation for students' enthusiastic participation and the collective efforts of the faculty and college administration, making International Microorganisms Day 2026 a memorable and impactful learning experience.



Sri Virat Vishwakarma Bhagavan Yajna Mahotsavam Held in Karimnagar

Vishwabrahmin community members participate in special pujas and yajna

KARIMNAGAR

A spiritual atmosphere prevailed in Karimnagar as the Sri Virat Vishwakarma Bhagavan Yajna Mahotsavam was organised on Thursday under the aegis of the Backward Classes Welfare Department, as per the directions of the Telangana government. The programme was held at the Zilla Parishad meeting hall opposite the RTC Bus Stand, with Vishwabrahmin community members, leaders and officials and staff of the BC Welfare Department participating in the celebrations.



The yajna and special puja rituals were performed with devotion under the guidance of Vishwabrahmin priest Kothapelli Brahmachari. Special prayers were offered to Lord Vishwakarma, followed by the performance of the yajna.

Speaking on the occasion, the participants said Lord Vishwakarma was worshipped as the divine creator and highlighted the significant contribution of the Vishwabrahmin community to society. They praised the traditional skills and services rendered by the community through occupations such as carpentry, blacksmithing, metal work, sculpture and goldsmithing over generations.

They urged eligible members of the community to make effective use of various welfare and self-employment schemes being implemented by the government through the BC Welfare Department and work towards achieving greater economic progress.

District Revenue Officer Swamy, DD BC Welfare Anil Prakash, DWO Saraswathi, officials and staff of the BC Welfare Department, and Vishwabrahmin community leaders Sriramoju Ravindra Chari, Chellozu Raju, Srimanthula Sadashivam, Tipparapu Srinivas, Galipelli Shankaraiah, Nampalli Srinivas, Miyapuram Ravindra Chari, Kaitozu Brahmachari, Katta Jagan, Sridhar Raju, Sriramoju Bhagavan, Gogulakonda Srinivas, Thomiti Sadanandam, Kadarla Shivaprasad, Kanaparthi Divakar, Kadarla Chandrasekhar, Samanapalli Lakshmi Shankarachari and Gogulakonda Raju, among others, attended the programme.

Schedule released for revision of electoral rolls for Graduates' constituencies

HYDERABAD

The Election Commission has announced the schedule for preparing new electoral rolls for two Graduates' constituencies in Telangana. The process is being undertaken in view of the ordinary vacancies of Legislative Council members that will arise in March 2027 in the Mahabubnagar–Rangareddy–Hyderabad Graduates' and Warangal–Khammam–Nalgonda Graduates' constituencies, the Telangana Chief Electoral Officer's office said in a statement issued on September 17. November 1, 2026 has been fixed as the qualifying date.



Public notice on September 28

As part of the electoral-roll revision process, a public notice will be issued on September 28, 2026, under Rule 31(3) of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960. This will be followed by the first publication in newspapers on October 15 and the second publication on October 25.

Applications accepted until November 6

Applications in Form 18 will be accepted until November 6, 2026, from those who wish to enroll their names in the electoral rolls of the Graduates' constituencies. The preparation and printing of the draft electoral rolls will be completed by November 20, and the draft electoral rolls will be published on November 25.

Claims and objections to the draft rolls will be accepted from November 25 to December 10. After examining and disposing of the claims and objections received, the supplements will be prepared and printed by December 25. The final electoral rolls will be published on December 30, 2026.

Fresh application mandatory even if name is in the old roll

As the electoral rolls for the Graduates' constituencies are being prepared afresh, every person whose name is currently on the electoral roll will also have to submit a fresh application in Form 18. Along with Form 18, certified copies of the necessary documents and certificates relating to eligibility must be submitted. The Chief Electoral Officer's office clarified that eligibility will not be determined merely on the basis of a person's name already appearing in the existing electoral roll.

Applications can also be submitted online

Eligible graduates can apply online through the official website of the Telangana CEO. They can also submit Form 18, along with the required documents, to the concerned Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs), or designated officials. The statement also said that applications may be sent by post to the concerned officials.

Final roll: December 30, 2026

Last date for Form 18 applications: November 6, 2026

Smart Ration Cards in Balanagar: Hope Returns to Poor and Middle-Class Families

Bandi Ramesh recalls 'Roti, Kapada aur Makaan' and 'Garibi Hatao' as families receive tamper-proof food security on Praja Palana Day

MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI

Praja Palana Day celebrations in the Balanagar division on September 17 carried a message of hope for thousands of poor and middle-class families—when eligible beneficiaries received Smart Ration Cards. For many households, ration support is not just a scheme, but the difference between worry and peace of mind, between uncertainty and daily stability.

Kukatpally Constituency Incharge and Khamma Corporation Chairman Bandi Ramesh unfurled the national flag on Balanagar Main Road. Later, along with ASO Kalyan, he distributed the new Smart Ration Cards at the Vinayakanagar Ration Shop—an event that brought smiles to families who had been waiting



for reliable food security. Addressing the gathering, Bandi Ramesh said, "When a family receives ration on time, it strengthens dignity. This day is not only about distribution of cards—it is about ensuring 'Roti, Kapada aur Makaan' for every deserving household. This historic slogan of the Indian National Congress is rooted in one simple truth: food, clothing, and shelter are not luxuries for a poor family—they are rights."

He added, "The Congress party, under the leadership of Indira Gandhi, also gave a powerful voice to the dream of every common person through 'Garibi Hatao'—abolish poverty. Because when poverty reduces, families begin to plan for the future—children's education, better health, and a stable life."

"That is why," Bandi Ramesh said with emotion, "people across the country desire the 'Indiramma Rajyam'—Indira's rule. In Indiramma Rajyam, support reaches the needy with respect, transparency, and trust. And with these tamper-proof smart cards, we ensure benefits go to genuine beneficiaries, without delays and without irregularities."

ASO Kalyan shared that the government has sanctioned 16.32 lakh new ration cards across Telangana, extending food security to an additional 61.09 lakh people. He added that with this expansion, the total number of ration cards in the state has reached 1.05 crore, benefiting 3.42 crore people through the public distribution system. Families across Balanagar expressed relief and gratitude as officials handed over the cards, reinforcing the promise that support will reach them with dignity. Leaders including Kukatpally A-Block President Nagi Reddy, Market Committee Chairperson Pushpa Reddy, Balanagar Division President Puli Sivakumar, Medchal District Vice-President Puli Srikanth Patel, Official Spokesperson Madhu Mohan and other Congress leaders participated in the programme.

Mahatma Gandhi University observes Telangana Liberation Day

Dr Srinivas Vooradi

NALGONDA



Marking the historic significance of Telangana Liberation Day, Mahatma Gandhi University (MGU) here on Thursday held a solemn and inspiring flag-hoisting ceremony with Registrar Prof. Koppula Anji Reddy unfurling the national tricolour in the presence of faculty, administrative staff, and a large gathering of students. The programme conducted in accordance with State-wide observance of September 17 as Telangana Praja Palana Dinotsavam, began with the ceremonial unfurling of the flag amid the singing of the National Anthem. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Reddy saluted the martyrs of the 1948 struggle that led to the end of the Nizam's rule and the integration of Hyderabad State into the Indian Union.

Addressing the gathering, the Registrar recalled the sacrifices of the people of Telangana during the anti-Nizam movement and Operation Polo, emphasising that the day symbolises not only political liberation but also the awakening of democratic values and social justice in the region. He noted that universities, as custodians of knowledge and nation-building, have a special responsibility to keep alive the spirit of this historic milestone through education, research, and community engagement.

Prof. Koppula Anji Reddy used the occasion to deliver a focused message to the student community, linking the legacy of the liberation struggle to their present-day duties as young citizens and scholars. Urging the students to internalise the ideals of liberty, equality, and fraternity enshrined in the Constitution, describing them as the true inheritance of the 1948 liberation, the Registrar called upon students to treat their studies as a national duty, stressing that excellence in learning and research is the most meaningful tribute to the martyrs who fought for a free and integrated Telangana. Encouraging students to actively participate in community service, rural outreach, and value-based initiatives, stating that "liberation is incomplete unless it reaches the last person in society," Prof Reddy highlighted the importance of unity in diversity and asked students to transcend caste, region, and political affiliations on campus and work together for the development of the university and the nation. He appealed to the students of History and Social Work to document oral histories, conduct field studies, and produce research on the Telangana movement and Operation Polo, so that future generations learn an authentic and nuanced account of this chapter.

Dean of the Faculty of Commerce and Business Management Prof Aluvala Ravi, IQAC Coordinator Dr Ramesh Kumar Miryala, Director (Infrastructure) Prof Akula Ravi, Principal of the University Engineering College Dr Harish, Director of Academic Affairs Dr Prashanthi and non-teaching staff and students were present.

Kavitha accuses Congress, BJP of distorting Sep 17 history



HYDERABAD

Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) chief Kalvakuntla Kavitha on Thursday vowed to fight and oust what she termed "anarchic forces" from the state, invoking the spirit of the historic Telangana Armed Peasant Struggle.

Speaking after hoisting the national flag at the party headquarters in Banjara Hills on Telangana Integration Day, Kavitha remarked that September 17 stands as a testament to the region's valor, resilience, and the heroic sacrifices of its martyrs. The TRS president accused both the Congress and the BJP of distorting historical facts for electoral advantages. She asserted that the armed struggle was a native mass uprising against oppression, emphasising that neither the Congress nor the BJP played a role in the movement.

Citing historical references, Kavitha noted that Mahatma Gandhi had explicitly stated the Congress maintained a policy decision against intervening in princely states. She further pointed out that the BJP and RSS did not exist in their current form during the struggle, criticizing the BJP's decision to observe the day as "Liberation Day" as an attempt to stoke communal tensions.

Kavitha urged the people to reject the BJP's narrative and accused past Congress administrations of betraying the farmers by restoring 10 lakh acres of redistributed land to zamindars following Telangana's integration into the Indian Union. Reiterating the core mandate of the Telangana Rakshana Sena, Kavitha stated that the outfit was established to safeguard public rights regardless of religion, caste, or economic background, and to mobilise communities against administrative overreach.

BJP marks Sept 17 as "Hyderabad Liberation Day"

HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Liberation Day was observed at the Telangana state BJP office at Nampally here on Wednesday, with state president N Ramchander Rao unfurling the National Flag in the presence of Union Minister G Kishan Reddy.

Speaking on the occasion, Ramchander Rao described September 17 as a "sacred and historic day" and recalled Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's role in integrating Hyderabad State into the Indian Union. He said the people of Hyderabad State had fought against the Nizam's rule and the atrocities of the period.

He recalled Operation Polo, through which Hyderabad was integrated into the Indian Union in 1948. The BJP president said his party had for decades demanded official recognition of September 17 as Hyderabad Liberation Day. He questioned why the Congress and BRS governments had chosen different names for the occasion. "While August 15 liberated India from British rule, September 17 marked the liberation of Hyderabad from Nizam rule and its integration with India", he noted.



The mystery of the "tempo loads of black money"

PM's sensational allegation on black money ignored!!

HYDERABAD

There are moments in public life when a political statement is so extraordinary that it cannot simply disappear with the news cycle. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's allegation during the 2024 Lok Sabha election campaign about "tempo loads of black money" was one such moment.

It may be recalled that on May 8, 2024, addressing an election meeting in Karimnagar, Telangana, the Prime Minister had clearly alleged that the Congress party had entered into an understanding with big industrialists Gautam Adani and Mukesh Ambani and questioned whether large quantities of black money had allegedly been transported to the party in tempos. The Prime Minister shouted at the top of his voice, stretching his two hands "let him (Rahul Gandhi) declare how much money has been taken from Ambani and Adani. How many sacks of black money? Have tempos full of currency notes reached Congress? What deal has been struck? ".

The Prime minister's speech was reported by the media. Not only that. Promptly responding to Modi's accusation, Rahul Gandhi had dared the PM to send ED. CBI and other central agencies to them (Adani, Ambani) and " get a thorough investigation done as soon as possible ". Not only that. Five days later, Congress leader from Delhi, Kanhaiya kumar had also demanded the PM to ensure that raids are conducted against those he (Modi) suspected of sending tempo loads of looted money (chori ka maal) to the Congress.

Recently, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi has asserted at Prayagraj that the Industrial magnate Adani's wealth has increased by 30 times during the last ten years, while the BJP's bank account went up from Rs.150 crore to Rs.10,000 crore during the same period. He said there is a quid pro quo between the two. Neither the Industrial giant nor the BJP refuted the statement.

What is surprising and mysterious is the fact that none of the Central agencies have taken due note of the Prime Minister's open declaration. Why these agencies opted to totally ignore Mr Modi's loud assertion is the Million dollar question. In spite of all the open declarations by the PM and challenges from the Congress, none of the Central agencies thought it fit to carry on raids and investigation to ferret out the truth in the PM's open assertions.

Observers strongly feel that the central agencies cannot afford to totally ignore the PM's open accusations, and there is something mysterious in this case. Many doubts and questions also arise out of the whole affair. Is the BJP also getting huge truck loads of money from the two industrialists, and hence the BJP bosses have advised the central agencies to keep mum in the matter? Has NaMo blurted out the two names out of frustration on coming to know that the support-base.

Rs. 2,278 cr airfield to transform Adilabad connectivity: Shabbir Ali

ADILABAD

Telangana Government Advisor Mohammed Ali Shabbir on Thursday said the proposed Rs.2,278.14 crore joint-user airfield in Adilabad would boost connectivity, investment, employment and tourism in northern Telangana.

Speaking at the Telangana Praja Palana day celebrations at the Police Parade Ground, Shabbir Ali said 2,009.23 acres was being acquired for the airfield. Besides, the government was also developing an industrial park over 2,062.01 acres in Boraj mandal, while the Rs.40-crore IT Tower at Mavala was ready for inauguration, he added.

As for irrigation, he said works worth Rs.2,023 crore were being undertaken under the Lower Penganga project, including the Chanaka-Korata pump house and canal network. The government planned to provide irrigation to 35,000 acres through the main canal.

Shabbir Ali further said 1,61,121 farmers had received Rs.327.92 crore under Rythu Bharosa during the current Vanakalam season, while families of 686 deceased farmers received Rs.34.30 crore under Rythu Bima. He also highlighted housing, healthcare, education and welfare initiatives, including 21,767 sanctioned Indiramma houses, Young India Integrated Residential Schools at Adilabad, Utnoor and Boath, and hospital infrastructure upgrades. Later, he distributed Indiramma housing sanction letters, Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak benefits and spectacles to beneficiaries and students at a welfare programme in Adilabad.

Telangana Symbolises Struggle for Identity: Minister Adluri

Unforgettable journey from armed struggle to statehood recalled at Praja Palana Day celebrations

KARIMNAGAR





Telangana is not merely a geographical region but a symbol of several historic struggles waged for identity, self-respect and people's rights, said State Social Welfare Minister Adluri Lakshman Kumar.

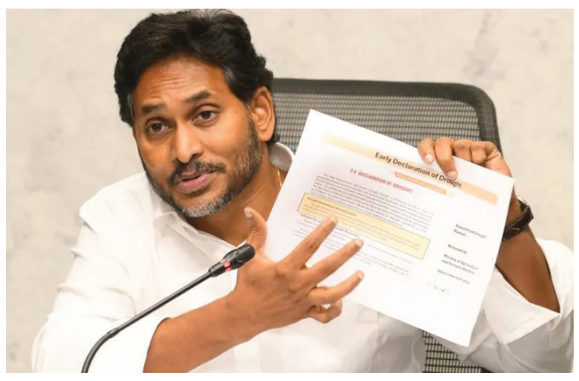
The Minister was the chief guest at the Praja Palana Day celebrations held at the Police Parade Grounds in Karimnagar on Thursday. He unfurled the national flag and took the salute during the ceremonial programme. Earlier, he paid tributes at the Martyrs' Memorial.

Speaking on the occasion, Lakshman Kumar said September 17, 1948, marked the liberation of Telangana from the Nizam's rule and its integration with the Indian Union. The struggles of the Telangana armed peasant movement and the subsequent movement for a separate Telangana state would remain an unforgettable part of the region's history, he said. The Minister said the State government was giving priority to the welfare of people and development of all districts. He highlighted various welfare initiatives being implemented in the district, including free bus travel for women, LPG cylinders at ₹500, Gruha Jyothi, Rythu Bharosa, Indiramma Indlu, Cheyutha pensions, new ration cards, Rajiv Aarogyasri and infrastructure support for women's self-help groups. He said the government had also initiated measures for land survey and re-survey as part of the implementation of the Bhu Bharati Act. Efforts were being made to strengthen infrastructure in agriculture, healthcare, education, Anganwadi centres and welfare sectors, he added. Lakshman Kumar expressed his gratitude to public representatives, officials, employees, police personnel, journalists, voluntary organisations and the people of Karimnagar district for extending constructive cooperation towards development.

Choppadandi MLA Medipalli Satyam, Manakondur MLA Kavvampalli Satyanarayana, Collector Chitra Mishra, Police Commissioner Goush Alam, Additional DCP Venkataramana, District Library Organisation Chairman Sattu Mallesh, Karimnagar Market Committee Chairman Akula Narsanna, Additional Collectors Ashwini Tanaji Vakade and Srinivas Reddy, DRO Swamy, RDO Sharmila and officials and staff from various departments attended the programme.

Jagan Blames Chandrababu for Andhra Drought Crisis

AMARAVATI



Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party President YS Jagan Mohan Reddy said on Thursday that negligence by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has worsened the intensity of the severe drought in the state. YS Jagan held a video conference with YSRCP Regional Coordinators and District Presidents and reviewed the drought conditions, crop losses, water scarcity and the hardships being faced by farmers across the State. "This is not merely a natural drought. The Chief Minister's failure to respond in time has made the situation more serious," a party release quoted him as saying.

He stated that Chandrababu had warned about El Nino on February 4, but took no follow-up action. Despite continuous rainfall deficits in June, July and August, the government failed to declare drought-hit mandals, arrange alternative seeds, supply fodder or seek additional workdays from the Centre under the (VB-G RAM G) scheme, he said. "The State is not suffering from the El Nino effect, but from the 'Yellow Nino effect'," he remarked in an obvious reference to the colour of TDP's flag. YS Jagan said the State had recorded a rainfall deficit of more than 51 per cent from the beginning of the Kharif season until September 16. Nearly 628 of the 688 mandals were facing drought-like conditions, while around 332 mandals were experiencing severe drought.

Against the normal Kharif cultivation area of 76 lakh acres, crops were sown in only 56.4 lakh acres. Nearly 20 lakh acres remained unsown, he said.

He claimed that farmers who trusted the government's assurances and began cultivation suffered losses ranging from Rs 15,000 to Rs 30,000 per acre. Red gram, cotton, groundnut, maize, paddy and fruit orchards were severely affected.

He accused the government of wasting Srisailam water on power generation instead of supplying it to Rayalaseema. He also criticised Chandrababu's silence over Telangana's lift projects near Pulichintala and alleged that the government was compromising on Polavaram's full storage capacity. "When the rainfall deficit was clearly visible, the government remained busy switching on pumps, lifting gates and posing for photographs," he said.

YS Jagan demanded the immediate declaration of drought-hit mandals, rescheduling of farmers' loans and restoration of free crop insurance. He sought compensation of Rs 15,000 per acre for unsown land and Rs 25,000 per acre for damaged crops, besides Rs 6,000 crore towards input subsidy.

He demanded payment of Rs 41,000 in pending Annadata Sukhibhava assistance, restoration of zero-interest loans, fodder distribution, 150 additional workdays and uninterrupted power supply. He also sought drinking water through free tankers and an 80 per cent subsidy on tanker costs to save fruit orchards.

YS Jagan directed party leaders to visit drought-affected areas, meet farmers, submit district-specific demands and pressure the government to provide immediate relief. He said he would also tour the affected regions based on the severity of the situation.

YSRCP State Coordinator Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy, MP P.V. Midhun Reddy, MLC Lella Appi Reddy, former Minister Kurasala Kannababu, senior leader Sake Sailajanath, State General Secretary (Agriculture) M.V.S. Nagi Reddy and Agriculture Wing President Ginnuri Rama Rao, former MLA TJR Sudhakar Babu were among others who participated in the video conference.

Lokesh Asks Police Not to Seize DJ Vehicles During Ganesh Festivities

AMARAVATI



Andhra Pradesh HRD and IT Minister Nara Lokesh on Thursday directed that not a single DJ vehicle during Ganesh Nimmajanam should be seized. The minister posted on X that he is receiving messages that police are not giving permission for DJ vehicles during Ganesh Nimmajanam. He requested Home Minister V. Anitha and Director General of Police Harish Kumar Gupta to ensure permissions are given without hassle. Not a single DJ vehicle should be seized, he added. Home Minister Anitha responded to Lokesh's tweet, saying she has issued necessary instructions to the police department to ensure that DJ permissions for Ganesh Nimmajanam are processed in accordance with the prescribed guidelines.

"The celebrations should uphold the spirit of the occasion and should not deviate from the ethos of Hindu Dharma," she posted.

The Andhra Pradesh government is providing free electricity to Ganesh pandals across the state.

Andhra Pradesh Central Power Distribution Corporation (APCPDCL) on September 10 issued orders for providing free electricity supply to Ganesh pandals.

APCPDCL announced the extension of free temporary supply to the Ganesh pandals up to 3 KW in rural areas and 5 KW in urban areas under the LT Temporary supply category for nine days -- from September 14 to September 22. The orders were issued following a decision taken by the Telugu Desam Party-led NDA government. APCPDCL directed Superintending Engineers/Operation Circles to extend free power supply to all authorised applicants/organisers of Ganesh pandals.

They have been requested to take necessary action accordingly and arrange to obtain applications from all the authorised organisers as per the proforma and to consolidate the total amount and submit the bill amount statement to the Chief General Manager/Finance/Corporate Office/APCPDCL without delay. APCPDCL issued the orders a day after Lokesh announced that free electricity will be provided for Ganesh pandals. "I am happy to announce that this Ganesh Chaturthi, all Ganesh pandals across Andhra Pradesh will be provided free electricity. This is a major festive initiative by our (TDP) government to support communities celebrating across the state and make the celebrations even more vibrant," Lokesh said on social media platform X.

ECI Freezes TMC Name, Symbol for Both Factions

KOLKATA

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Thursday ordered the freezing of the "name" and "symbol" of Trinamool Congress as a political party for the time being, for both the factions in Trinamool Congress— the first being the "original but minority" faction led by the former West Bengal Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee and her nephew, Abhishek Banerjee, and the second faction being the "rebel but majority" faction led by the expelled party legislator, Ritabrata Banerjee. This means that neither the Mamata Banerjee-led faction nor the Ritabrata Banerjee-led faction would be able to use both the "party name" as well as the "party symbol" for any election till the Commission takes a final decision in the matter. The decision from the ECI to freeze the party name and symbol comes hours after the full bench of the Commission met five-member delegations from both the factions earlier in the day at ECI's headquarters in New Delhi.

Technically, this means that neither of the two factions would be able to use this "party name" and "party symbol" for the forthcoming by-elections for Nandigram assembly constituency in East Midnapore district and Rejinagar assembly constituency in Murshidabad District, which are scheduled on October 6, with the results to be declared on October 9.

CSMRS team continues tests at Polavaram ECRF dam site

POLAVARAM

A team of experts from the Central Soil and Materials Research Station (CSMRS) continued its field investigations for the second consecutive day at the Polavaram Project, focusing on the Earth-Cum-Rock Fill (ECRF) Dam construction area.

The CSMRS experts — Harendra Prakash, Deepamudra Nayak and Gaurav Pandey, among others — conducted tests at different locations between 350 metres and 800 metres of the ECRF Dam to assess water seepage characteristics and the strength of the soil.

The team examined the quality of soil and rock materials used in the project and assessed moisture content at the construction site. Tests relating to density, permeability and the core were also carried out as part of the investigations. The experts measured the rate of water flow through the ECRF area and conducted field tests to determine the strength and other properties of the soil. Samples collected from the site were subsequently examined at the laboratory located within the Polavaram Project construction area. The project authorities provided the CSMRS team with the required technical details and facilitated the field investigations. MEIL General Manager A. Gangadhar, Deputy General Managers Murali Pammi and Guttapati Shankaraiah, Water Resources Department Executive Engineer D. Srinivas, and Deputy Executive Engineers Nirmala, Srinivas, Shekhar Babu, Sivaprasad and Mallikarjuna were present. The officials also reviewed the progress of the tests and the ongoing field investigations.

Congress pays extra Rs 4 lakh for Rahul Gandhi event site in Indore

The Congress paid an extra Rs 4.03 lakh for the Indore site of Rahul Gandhi's September 19 event. The demand sparked a fresh BJP-Congress clash over land-use rules and political pressure.



The Congress on Thursday deposited an additional Rs 4.03 lakh with the Indore Development Authority for the temporary lease of land for its 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' event on September 19, which will be addressed by Rahul Gandhi. With this, the party's total payment for the site has gone up to Rs 14.11 lakh. The additional payment came after the authority said the party had used part of the land before the approved lease period. The demand also triggered a political exchange, with the BJP saying the issue was about collecting the prescribed revenue for the use of government land, while the Congress alleged the administration was acting under pressure from ruling party leaders. Officials said the Congress had first deposited Rs 10.08 lakh for the temporary lease. In a letter to City Congress Committee president Chintu Chouksey, the authority said 12,000 square metres of land had been allotted on a temporary lease for the event from September 17 to 19. However, a site inspection found that 4,800 square metres of land had been used by the party from September 14. For this, the authority asked the party to deposit an additional Rs 4.03 lakh as a three-day lease fee. A Congress leader said the amount had been paid, taking the total to Rs 14.11 lakh. The authority's demand came after BJP state spokesperson Rakesh Singh Yadav complained that the space was being used beyond the stipulated period, in violation of the permit terms.

"This matter is not about opposing any political event, but about the collection of prescribed revenue for the use of government land," Yadav said in a statement. Chouksey objected to the demand and said it had come due to pressure from BJP leaders. He alleged that the administration was acting as a puppet of the ruling party leaders. The Congress had earlier sought permission on September 12 to hold Gandhi's event at the city's Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. But Mayor Pushyamitra Bhargava said that, under an old order of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, the stadium could be used only for sports events or state-level government events. The Congress then rescheduled the programme for September 19 and applied for land opposite the Regional Park. 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' is a student-dialogue campaign launched by former Congress president Rahul Gandhi to target the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party on issues such as question paper leaks, expensive education, irregularities in government recruitment and unemployment. So far, four editions of the programme have been held under Gandhi's leadership in Kota, Dehradun, Prayagraj and Pune. In sum, the Congress has paid the additional amount sought by the Indore Development Authority for alleged early use of the event site, even as the dispute over the charge has led to a fresh exchange between the BJP and the Congress ahead of Rahul Gandhi's September 19 programme.

Indian missions abroad launch 'Swachhata Hi Seva 2026' campaign

NEW DELHI

Indian Embassies and Consulates around the world on Thursday launched the 'Swachhata Hi Seva 2026' campaign. Heads of mission administered the Swachhata Pledge to their officials and led cleanliness drives at their premises. In Baku, Ambassador of India to Azerbaijan, Abhay Kumar administered the pledge to Embassy officials. "Ambassador Abhay Kumar administered the 'Swachhata Hi Seva' pledge to the Embassy officials and planted a sapling as a part of "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam". He led the EOI Baku team in cleaning up the Embassy premises at the launch of the 'Swachhata Hi Seva 2026' campaign," the Embassy of India in Azerbaijan said on social media platform X. In Iceland, the Indian Embassy officials also conducted a cleanliness drive. "Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 Ambassador R. Ravindra launched the campaign at the Embassy of India, Reykjavik, today, administering the Swachhata Pledge to Embassy officials. As part of the campaign, the Ambassador led the officials in Shramdaan for a cleanliness drive," the Indian Embassy in Iceland said on X.

The Indian Consulate General in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, also launched the campaign promoting cleanliness.

"Marking the launch of Swachhata Hi Seva 2026, Consul General Fahad Suri administered the Swachhata Pledge to officials of the Consulate General of India, Jeddah. Under the theme "Swachhata Mein Sahbhag, Swachh Bharat, Viksit Bharat", the campaign seeks to promote cleanliness, Jan Bhagidari and collective responsibility towards building a Swachh and Viksit Bharat."

Pinarayi Vijayan slams UPI merchant fee over Rs 2,000 as daylight robbery

Pinarayi Vijayan has opposed the Centre's new UPI fee on high-value merchant payments. He said the charge will burden consumers and chiefly benefit corporates.



Former Keralam Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Thursday criticised the Centre's decision to impose a fee on certain high-value UPI merchant transactions, calling it "daylight robbery" and urging the government to withdraw the move. In a Facebook post, he said the decision was unacceptable and alleged that the government was trying to turn the UPI system into a source of large profits for fintech companies. The Centre has introduced a 0.4 per cent Merchant Discount Rate on specified person-to-merchant UPI transactions above Rs 2,000 from October 15, ending the zero-MDR regime for such high-value merchant payments. Person-to-person transactions will remain free, while payments to merchants up to Rs 2,000 and transactions covered under the zero-MDR framework for small merchants will also remain free. The Finance Ministry on Wednesday rejected allegations of foreign influence behind the decision and said the new MDR framework was meant to provide a level playing field for stakeholders in the digital payments ecosystem. Vijayan said UPI had been promoted by assuring people that transactions would remain completely free, after which ordinary people, unorganised workers and small traders had largely shifted to digital payments. "After forcing people to shift to UPI transactions in the name of Digital India, the government is now trying to turn it into a source of revenue," he alleged. He also accused the Centre of protecting the interests of foreign financial agencies and private banks, and questioned the purpose of the Digital India campaign launched after demonetisation. Describing the proposed 0.4 per cent fee on merchant transactions above Rs 2,000 as "daylight robbery", he said that although the charge was officially to be paid by merchants, it would eventually be passed on to consumers through higher prices.

"This would ultimately put the entire financial burden on the common people," he said, adding that the UPI charge had come after banks had already been imposing minimum-balance penalties and ATM charges. He urged the Centre to immediately withdraw what he described as a decision aimed at benefiting corporates at the expense of the people.

The row over the new UPI charge centres on high-value merchant payments above Rs 2,000, with the Centre saying smaller transactions and person-to-person payments will stay free, while Vijayan has attacked the move as a burden that will eventually fall on consumers.

Karnataka to launch two-year anti-anaemia campaign in Kalyan Karnataka

Kalaburagi

The Karnataka government will launch a special two-year campaign to combat anaemia in the Kalyan Karnataka region, with a focus on screening, prevention and treatment, particularly among pregnant women, adolescents and lactating mothers, Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar announced at the Kalyan Karnataka Utsav held in Kalaburagi on Thursday.

The campaign is among a slew of new measures announced by Shivakumar during the Kalyan Karnataka Liberation Day celebrations in Kalaburagi, covering healthcare, industry, agriculture, infrastructure, technology, tourism and sports.

The government will undertake screening, prevention and treatment programmes over the next two years to reduce the prevalence of anaemia in the region. Special attention will be given to pregnant women, adolescents and lactating mothers. As part of its plans to accelerate industrial growth and investment, the government will establish the Kalyan Karnataka Economy Mission (KKEM) as a Section 8 company. The mission will seek to attract large-scale investments and create new economic opportunities in the region. A Bio Economy Mission will also be established to increase farmers' incomes through processing and value addition of agricultural produce. The initiative will focus on major regional products, including tur dal, Kamalapur bananas, raisins and millets.

For Kalaburagi city, the government announced the construction of a flyover on the Sedam Road Ring Road



to ease traffic movement. A new peripheral ring road is also being planned, with the Detailed Project Report (DPR) under preparation. A new lake and recreational park will be developed at a cost of Rs 30 crore as a major green and public leisure space for the city. The government will develop 50,000 housing sites for site-less families in Kalaburagi district as part of its commitment to inclusive development. Shivakumar also announced plans to develop an IT Park on 30 acres in Kalaburagi to expand the growth of the IT and innovation sectors beyond Bengaluru. Alongside this, KRIYA — Kalaburagi Research, Innovation and Youth Accelerator — will be established to promote innovation, start-ups and young entrepreneurs. An AI-based CCTV network will be installed in Kalaburagi city and taluk headquarters to strengthen public safety, crime prevention and traffic management. The network will also be used to monitor civic services, including waste management. The government will develop a pilgrimage and heritage circuit connecting Kalaburagi Fort, Sharanabasaveshwara Temple, Khwaja Bande Nawaz Dargah, Buddha Vihara, Malkhed, Sannati and Ganagapur. Heritage sites at Malkhed, Nagavi, Kalagi and Sannati are also being redeveloped through Kalyan Karnataka Regional Development Board funds. Ganagapur will be developed in the first phase at a cost of Rs 50 crore. A Vachana Mantapa will also be established in Kalaburagi to take the teachings of Basavanna and the vachana tradition to the younger generation. The chief minister said the Chandrashekhar Patil Stadium would be comprehensively redeveloped with modern sports infrastructure over the next two years. The government would also enter into an agreement with the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) to develop cricket facilities benefiting the entire Kalyan Karnataka region. A "Sports City" will be established at Hadgil Haruti village in Kalaburagi taluk to promote sporting excellence, with international-standard indoor and outdoor facilities for various sports. The government will also undertake the Koti Vruksha Abhiyan across Kalyan Karnataka over the next two years, with the objective of planting and nurturing one crore saplings to increase green cover and strengthen the region's resilience to climate change.

Shivakumar said the government was committed to the overall development of Kalyan Karnataka and stressed that development should extend beyond infrastructure to improving the quality of life of the people. "Kalyan Karnataka is our priority," he said, adding that the region was the "Shakti Peetha" of Karnataka while Bengaluru was the crown of the state.

Assam lights 'Ashirwad Ka Diya' for PM Modi's birthday

GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Thursday shared glimpses of statewide celebrations marking Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday, highlighting the participation of people across towns and villages in honouring the Prime Minister. In a series of posts on social media platform X, CM Sarma said that people across Assam came together to light the "Ashirwad Ka Diya" and extend their greetings and blessings to PM Modi on his birthday. "Today the people of Assam, rose in unison, in towns and villages across the state, to light the #AshirwadKaDiya and shower our beloved Prime Minister @narendramodi Ji with love and blessings on his birthday," the Chief Minister added. He shared photographs from Dhekiajuli, Jagiroad, Nalbari and Gohpur, showcasing the celebrations held in different parts of the state. He also posted additional glimpses from Morigaon, Raha, Duliajan and Doomdooma, describing the images as a reflection of the affection and blessings that the people of Assam hold for the Prime Minister. "These glimpses reflect the love and blessings that the people of Assam hold for Adarniya Modi ji. These are pictures from Morigaon, Raha, Duliajan and Doomdooma," CM Sarma said in another post on X. In a subsequent update, the Chief Minister shared visuals from Bokakhat, Tingkhang, Golaghat and Majuli, saying that the spirit of the celebrations continued across the state.

EDITORIAL

The Looming Storm: Governance, Legacy, and the Tata Boardroom Showdown

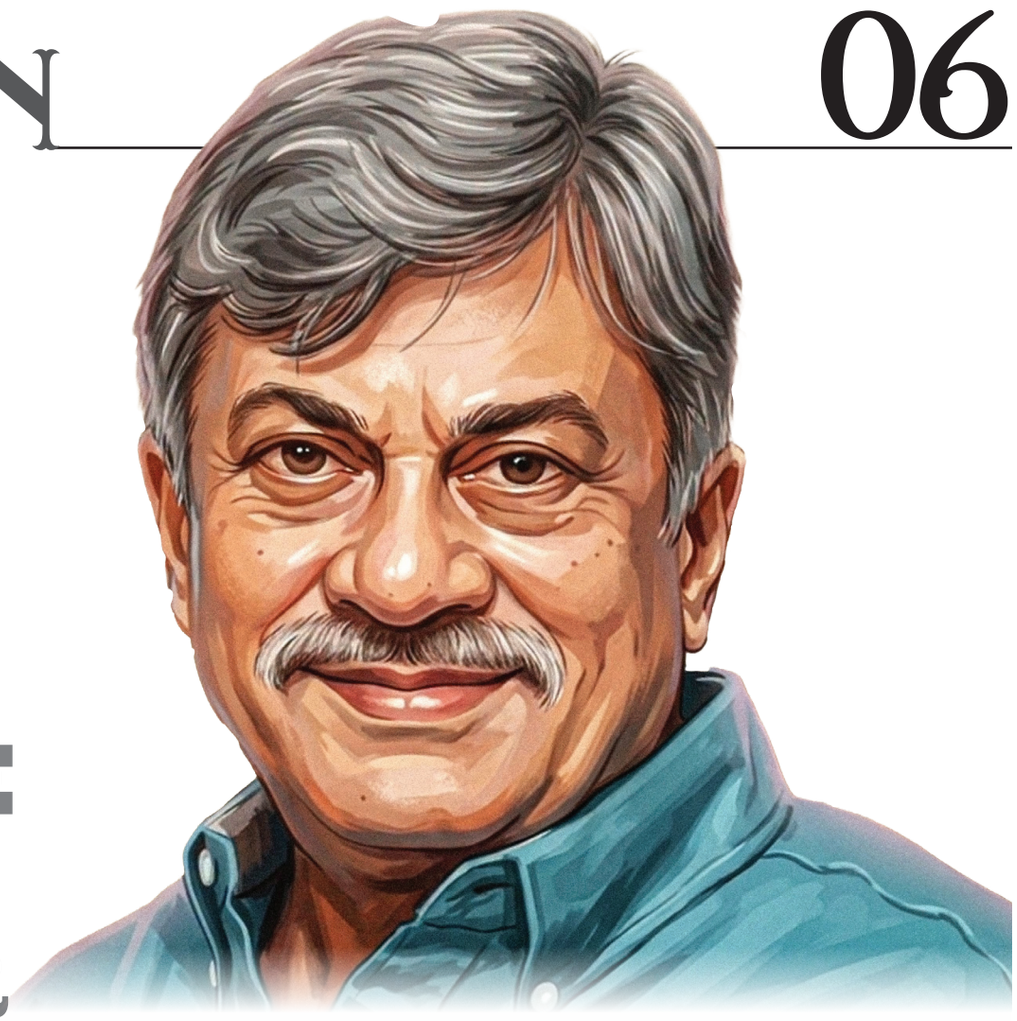
The Tata Group, a $185 billion global conglomerate synonymous with ethical corporate governance and philanthropic values, stands at a critical historical crossroads. The recent boardroom eruption, where the Tata Sons board voted 4–1 to reappoint N. Chandrasekaran for a third five-year term as Executive Chairman, has triggered an institutional crisis. Noel Tata, Chairman of the Tata Trusts—which owns a controlling 66% stake in the holding company—has publicly declared the reappointment a "legal nullity" and "illegal." This public fracture between the group's philanthropic soul and its commercial engine shatters the carefully cultivated image of consensus that has long defined the House of Tata.

At the core of this institutional friction is a fundamental disagreement over power, strategy, and regulatory compliance. This escalating dispute centers around two critical operational issues: the legality of executive reappointment and the mandate for a public stock market listing. Chandrasekaran had previously indicated he would step down when his current term ends in February 2027. The board's subsequent request for him to remain in the "larger interests" of the group fractured the Tata Trusts' consensus. Because the two nominee directors representing the Trusts disagreed—Vice-Chairman Venu Srinivasan voting in favour and Noel Tata voting against—the Trusts contend that the required unified majority was not met, rendering the decision invalid under the company's Articles of Association. Furthermore, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has classified Tata Sons as an Upper Layer Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC-UL), a regulatory status that legally mandates a public stock market listing. The Tata Sons management under Chandrasekaran is moving to comply with the central bank's directives. However, the Tata Trusts remain opposed, citing a March 2024 resolution passed under the late patriarch Ratan Tata declaring that the holding company must remain unlisted to preserve its unique, private character.The friction highlights structural challenges between the twin pillars of the empire: the commercial drive of Tata Sons and the philanthropic autonomy of the Tata Trusts. For over a century, the private structure of Tata Sons has shielded the conglomerate from the short-term pressures of public stock markets. Forcing an Initial Public Offering (IPO) to satisfy RBI mandates opens the door to aggressive public scrutiny, quarterly profit demands, and rigorous disclosure standards that may conflict with the long-term, charity-first mission of the Trusts. Additionally, under Chandrasekaran's stewardship, Tata has aggressively transformed itself into a modern digital and aerospace heavy hitter. However, massive capital outlays and losses in newer ventures like Air India and Tata Digital (BigBasket) have drawn sharp financial critiques from Noel Tata's camp, who seek greater capital discipline to protect the dividend pipelines required for their philanthropic operations.

For a group built on the bedrock of trust, settling this crisis strictly in public courtrooms or through aggressive proxy battles at the upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM) would inflict severe reputational damage. First, the Tata Sons board and the Tata Trusts must arrive at a unified legal consensus regarding leadership succession. Ramming an executive appointment through a split board vote risks alienating the majority shareholder and creating long-term operational paralysis. Second, the group must constructively engage with the RBI to explore structural alternatives to an IPO, such as restructuring its asset base or surrendering its specific financial registration, without triggering an outright regulatory confrontation. Ultimately, the House of Tata must remember that its greatest asset is not its balance sheet, but its institutional integrity. Reconciling the commercial realities of a changing global economy with the traditional legacy of its founders is the only way to ensure the empire remains stable for the next century.

ANANT NAG:

THE ACTOR WHO PUT A HUMAN LIFE BEHIND THE CHARACTER



Cinema often gives its hero a recognisable shape: decisive, courageous and capable of confronting a crisis. Anant Nag has spent much of his career exploring what lies beyond that certainty — the hesitant, vulnerable and conflicted individual who exists behind the conventional hero.

To call Nag merely a "natural actor" is to overlook the precision of his craft. His strength lies in allowing the contradictions of ordinary life to remain visible within a character. He rarely reduces people to heroes or villains. Their weaknesses, desires, anxieties and compromises are allowed to coexist.

Born in 1948, Nag spent about five years in theatre after moving to Bombay, performing more than 50 roles in Konkani, Kannada, Marathi and Hindi plays. Theatre gave him a foundation in understanding character from within. He entered Kannada cinema with Sankalp in 1973 and went on to move comfortably between mainstream and parallel cinema.

His collaborations with Shyam Benegal in Ankur, Nishant, Manthan, Bhumika, Kondura and Kalyug established him as an actor capable of locating the individual within larger social structures. In Ankur, his portrayal of Surya is revealing. He does not reduce the privileged young landlord to a convenient villain. Authority, insecurity and weakness coexist in the character, suggesting how personal conduct can be shaped by social position.

Bayalu Daari brought wider commercial recognition in 1976, but Nag retained the inwardness that marked his serious work. In comedies such as Ganeshaana Maduve and Gauri Ganesha, too, humour often arises from characters taking their own circumstances seriously rather than from an actor visibly trying to be funny.

Nag has described his approach as one of preparation followed by openness. He studies a role beforehand but allows that preparation to recede once the scene begins, responding to the circumstances rather than mechanically reproducing a plan. His comparison of an actor to water taking the shape of a vessel captures this adaptability.

His association with his brother Shankar Nag added another dimension to his career. Their work in Minchina Ota and Nodi Swamy Navirodu Hige, and Nag's appearance in Malgudi Days, extended his reach beyond conventional cinema. In the latter, he inhabited the ordinary people of R.K. Narayan's fictional world with an understated ease suited to its humour and humanity.

There is also a critical dimension to his body of work. Nag has often appeared most at home in urban, educated and middle-class worlds. Roles rooted in extreme rural hardship or severe social marginalisation have been comparatively fewer. This need not diminish his achievement; rather, it points to the particular social and psychological terrain in which his craft has been most deeply explored.

In Godhi Banna Sadharana Mykattu, Nag's performance as Venkob Rao showed how much could be conveyed without theatrical display. Playing an elderly man whose memory is fading, he did not turn the role into a demonstration of illness. The film instead becomes a meditation on the changing relationship between father and son, and on what remains of family when memory begins to disappear.

As he aged, Nag moved naturally into roles as fathers, teachers, elders and family heads. What changed was not merely the age of his characters but their rhythm. Pauses, silences, restrained gestures and accumulated experience began to carry as much weight as dialogue. His role as a Kannada teacher in Gaalipata 2 also drew upon his own familiarity with Kannada-medium education.

Nag's finest performances have a literary quality. A compelling character is never defined only by what he does; behind every action lies a history, a family, a social position, a desire and a fear. In Ankur, the individual reveals the social order behind him. In Godhi Banna Sadharana Mykattu, a father's fading memory exposes the emotional distance between generations.

Nag does not always provide definitive answers about his characters. He leaves room for the audience to interpret them. That incompleteness may be one reason his performances endure: the character continues to live in the viewer's imagination after the film has ended.

More than five decades into his career and with over 300 films to his credit, Nag received the Padma Bhushan in 2025 and was selected in 2026 for the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for the year 2024. Yet awards are only the formal record of a career. Its deeper measure lies in the characters that remain alive in memory.

Nag's journey has been, in many ways, a gradual movement away from the dominance of the conventional hero. He expanded the hero, made the character larger than the hero, and eventually learned to step back when the role demanded it.

That is what remains distinctive about Anant Nag. Not a particular gesture or celebrated line, but the persistence of a human presence after the performance has ended.

The character leaves the screen. The actor moves on. But the person he created can remain with the viewer, carrying questions the film itself may never have answered. That is perhaps the lasting achievement of Anant Nag: to give a character not merely a performance, but a second life in the imagination.



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THE LANDLESS FARMER

Lean as a famished season,
weathered like thirsty earth
that drinks the rain
but cannot hold it,
skin close to bone,
his brow a field
furrowed by sweat.

His name is Anandam Joy.

What irony of fate
joy stayed in his name,
never in his home.

Before the rooster
could crack the shell
of dawn,
he shouldered his spade
and walked towards
the fields,

as though the earth itself
had risen early
and learned to walk
on two bare feet.

Once,
with his village soil
alive in his heart,
he crossed the seas
to Libya,

selling sweat
beneath an alien sun
to buy a little sunrise
for those at home.

He broke his body
into labour,
saved coin upon coin,
and returned
with tomorrow in his hands.

Then Mumbai

hope wore a city's name.
He followed a promise
the man who promised the road
stole the road itself.

Money vanished.
Trust shattered.
Dreams scattered.
Only debt
found its way home.

Debt bred interest,
interest bred debt,
until sorrow alone
knew the arithmetic
of his life.

One by one,
the numbers ate the earth.

The field
that remembered his
grandfather's feet,
his father's plough,
his own falling sweat,
changed hands
with one signature.

The soil stayed.

Anandam became landless.

Once
he walked behind
bullocks
through a field of his own
now
he walks behind
the village cattle
along another man's bund.

When cattle stray
into a neighbour's crop,
he drives them out

but when Time
grazed through his life,
he found no fence
strong enough.

Once,
a farmer of his field
now,
a keeper of cattle.

Yet his palm
never became
a begging bowl.

He returned to labour
the one inheritance
no creditor could seize.

The field is not his,
the title is not his,
the well is not his

yet every clod
knows the signature
of his palm.

He ploughs.
He plants.
He weeds.
He reaps.

The grain
fills another man's
granary
the sweat



follows Anandam
home.

At noon,
when the sun becomes fire,
a tamarind tree
lends him a roof.

Two coarse rotis,
an onion cracked in
his fist,
a bite of green chilli,
and a smile
sharp enough
to shame hunger.

No watch
the wandering shade
tells him the hour

No map
the cracks in his heels
know every road
from hunger to harvest.

When clouds gather,
the owner reads the sky
Anandam
reads the soil.

When rain fails,
one loses a crop
the other
loses a meal.

One night,
worry murdered
sleep.

The wind rose,
dust erased the road,
darkness swallowed
direction.

One step slipped.

Anandam fell
into a well.

Above
a coin of sky.
Below
the mouth of death.

Between them
a pipe.

His fingers closed
around it
like roots
around the last drop
of rain.

Hour after hour,
arms numb,
fingers failing,
body trembling,
he held on.

Death waited below.
Dawn waited above.

Anandam,
suspended between
them,
refused the dark.

All night
he hung there
a frail comma
between death
and another sentence.

Morning broke.

A voice came
from above.
From the belly
of the well
rose his answer

"I am here!"

A rope descended.
Hand over hand,
breath over breath,
he climbed
out of the well,
out of the night,
out of death's unfinished line.

At the rim,
his body trembled
his courage did not.

Perhaps life
had always been
such a well

Mumbai,
debt,
lost land,
hunger
darkness beneath,
a slender hope above.
Each time he fell,
he found something
to hold
until dawn.

Falling may have been
written in his fate
rising was written
in his blood.

His life,
like thirsty earth,
could never hold its joy

yet no summer
dried his humanity,
no debt
mortgaged his dignity,
no betrayal
bankrupted his faith
in sweat.
No title deed
bears his name.
No ledger
records his labour.

Yet beneath every
green shoot
lies a drop of Anandam;
behind every grain
glows the invisible
thumbprint of toil.

The land was lost.
The money was lost.
The dreams were robbed.

Anandam was not.
His name is Anandam Joy.

Life seldom gave him
the meaning of his name.
Still,
wherever his sweat
falls upon the earth,
something green
breaks through.
The deed may name
another man,
but every harvest
remembers
whose sweat
became its rain.

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



UP cop rushes sick newborn to hospital on bike after ambulance breaks down

A traffic constable took a critically ill newborn to Chitrakoot District Hospital on his motorcycle after an ambulance broke down near the LIC intersection. The viral video of police and passers-by pushing the ambulance has raised questions over local emergency transport services.

A critically ill newborn being shifted to a district hospital in Uttar Pradesh's Chitrakoot had to be transported on a traffic police officer's motorcycle after the ambulance carrying the infant broke down near the hospital. A video of the ambulance being pushed by police personnel and passersby has gone viral on social media. The newborn was being transferred from the Manikpur Community Health Centre (CHC) to the District Hospital in a 'Dial 108' ambulance late on Wednesday night when the vehicle broke down.

AMBULANCE BREAKS DOWN NEAR DISTRICT HOSPITAL

The ambulance was nearing the District Hospital when it suddenly stopped near the LIC intersection. Traffic police personnel on duty, along with passersby and the infant's attendants, tried to get the vehicle running by pushing it. Despite their efforts, the ambulance did not start. As the newborn was in critical condition, Traffic Police Constable Ajay Yadav decided to transport the infant and a family member on his motorcycle to the District Hospital. The baby was subsequently taken into treatment at the hospital.

VIDEO OF AMBULANCE BEING PUSHED GOES VIRAL

A video showing traffic police personnel and others pushing the malfunctioning ambulance has surfaced on social media and is going viral. The incident has raised questions about the condition of ambulance services and healthcare facilities in the district, particularly after a vehicle transporting a critically ill newborn broke down while the infant was being shifted for treatment. The Additional Chief Medical Officer (ACMO) said the incident had only recently been brought to his attention. He said he had spoken to the district officials responsible for the 102 and 108 ambulance services following the incident. The officials have been given strict instructions to ensure that ambulances are thoroughly checked so that such breakdowns do not occur in the future.

Uttarakhand govt clarifies awarding TPP to Adani Power

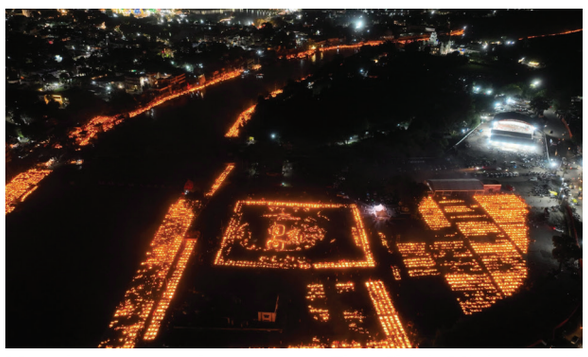
DEHRADUN:

The Uttarakhand government issued a clarification on Thursday regarding questions raised about the 1,320 MW thermal power project, saying that the project was awarded to Adani Power through a tariff-based competitive bidding process. The project was not awarded through a joint venture between the state-owned UJVNL and THDC India, because THDC India, being a subsidiary of NTPC, was not permitted to engage in thermal power generation, an official said.

In a statement issued here, Uttarakhand's Principal Secretary (Energy), R Meenakshi Sundaram, explained that the joint venture proposal could not proceed because NTPC did not authorise THDC to undertake thermal power generation.2w

3.55 crore lamps illuminate MP on PM Modi's birthday, Ujjain sets world record

UJJAIN/BHOPAL



Madhya Pradesh on Thursday witnessed a spectacular display of lights as 3.55 crore 'Ashirwad Diyas' were lit simultaneously across the state to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday and launch the month-long 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan'.

The main celebration was held in Ujjain, where 33.27 lakh lamps were lit simultaneously at various locations, including the ghats along the Shipra River and Mahakal Lok corridor. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, BJP national president Nitin Nabin, state BJP president Hemant Khandelwal and state in-charge Mahendra Singh joined thousands of residents at Ramghat to light the lamps. At 7 pm, the sound of sirens signalled the start of the mass lighting.

More than 25,000 volunteers, devotees and citizens joined the ceremony at Ramghat, Datt Akhada, Kedareshwar, Sunhari and Bhookhi Mata ghats, besides Mahakal Lok.

"The lighting of lamps is a symbol of people's affection, respect and gratitude for Prime Minister Modi's 25 years of service to the nation and his contribution to nation-building," Yadav said.

The Chief Minister said the celebrations were aimed at taking the spirit of service and public participation to every part of the state. "The Seva Sankalp Abhiyan will carry forward the spirit of service through activities focused on public welfare and social participation. It is a collective pledge to contribute to the development and welfare of Madhya Pradesh," he said.

The BJP leaders also participated in the Shipra Aarti and offered prayers for the happiness, prosperity and well-being of the people of the state.

The massive illumination transformed the Shipra riverfront into a sea of lamps, with the glow stretching across the ghats and surrounding areas. The 33.27 lakh lamps lit at different locations in Ujjain included those at Ramghat, Datt Akhada, Kedareshwar Ghat, Sunhari Ghat, Bhookhi Mata Ghat and Mahakal Lok.

Across Madhya Pradesh, the 'Ashirwad Diya' programme was organised simultaneously at 845 iconic locations, with people joining the celebrations in large numbers, according to a statement from the state BJP. Before it, Nitin Nabin, along with CM Yadav, launched 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan' in Indore.

Delhi Woman Gets ₹200-Cr Extortion Threat

NEW DELHI

A 50-year-old woman from Civil Lines who recently received an Internet-based call demanding Rs 200 crore in extortion had allegedly been threatened with a similar demand by Canada-based gangster Goldy Brar in May 2024, police sources said.

A case had been registered at the Civil Lines police station in connection with the earlier threat and was later transferred to the Delhi Police Special Cell after the local police failed to make headway in the investigation, they said.

The woman, whose family has a real estate business and substantial property in Delhi-NCR, received the latest threat call around 10.40 pm on September 7 from an international number on WhatsApp, according to the complaint.

AAP leader Baltej Pannu calls BJP's Nasha Mukt Punjab Yatra political nautanki

AAP leader Baltej Pannu has attacked the BJP's Nasha Mukt Punjab Yatra as political nautanki. He said the party must answer for its 2007-17 record and stop singling out Punjab on drugs.



Punjab AAP leader Baltej Pannu on Thursday attacked the BJP over its upcoming 'Nasha Mukt Punjab Yatra', calling it "political nautanki" and asking why the party did not run a similar campaign when it was part of the Punjab government between 2007 and 2017. He said that was the period when 'chitta', or synthetic drugs, emerged and spread across the state.

Pannu also accused the BJP of selectively targeting Punjab on the drugs issue while staying silent on other "drug-affected" states, including neighbouring Haryana. He said if the party was serious about the problem, it should address it at the national level instead of using it to defame Punjab.

Pannu, the state unit's media in-charge, said, "Every effort against drugs is welcome, but the BJP must first answer for its own record. The BJP was a partner in the Punjab government from 2007 to 2017, precisely during the period when the menace of 'chitta' (synthetic drugs) emerged and spread across Punjab." He added, "Today, the same BJP is undertaking a 'Nasha Mukt Punjab Yatra'. Why did the BJP not undertake any yatra, campaign or sustained pressure against drugs when it was itself in the government?"

He alleged that the impact of the drug crisis during that period was severe. "Young people were dying from overdoses, which were often described publicly as 'silent heart attacks'. The situation had reached a stage where even de-addiction facilities for women had to be opened during the Akali-BJP government. Where was the BJP's concern for Punjab's youth at that time?" he asked.

Pannu said a recent report mentioned 73 ultra-sensitive districts, of which six were in Punjab. He said several other districts named in the report were in other states, but the BJP continued to centre its political narrative only on Punjab. "If the BJP is genuinely concerned about drugs, it should address the entire national drug problem instead of using the issue to defame Punjab. Why is the BJP silent about the drug situation in states where it is in power? Why is Punjab being selectively targeted?" he asked.

He also said that all sensitive districts in Punjab were border districts under the Border Security Force and that the BJP should explain what it was doing to stop drugs from entering the state. Referring to what he called the situation on the ground, Pannu said Punjab's growing sporting culture was visible in more than 25,000 young people taking part in the Bathinda run, while 3,100 sports grounds had been built across the state and around 750 of them had already been dedicated to the public.

The BJP's 'Nasha Mukt Punjab Yatra' is scheduled to begin on September 18. BJP president Nitin Nabin will flag it off from Pathankot, and Union Home Minister Amit Shah will address its culmination in Jalandhar on September 30. The row centres on whether the campaign is a genuine anti-drugs effort or, as Pannu alleged, a political move aimed only at Punjab.

Lord Vishwakarma Puja Ceremony Celebrated with Devotion, Faith and Festivity at BLW

General Manager Shri Ashutosh Pant performed ceremonial worship at various shops and extended greetings to employees

VARANASI

Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) celebrated the worship Ceremony of Lord Vishwakarma, the presiding deity of craftsmanship, manufacturing and creation, today, on September 17, 2026, with great devotion, faith and enthusiasm. On this occasion, BLW General Manager Shri Ashutosh Pant, along with Principal Chief Departmental Heads, senior officers and employees, performed the rituals and worship of Lord Vishwakarma and extended his heartfelt greetings and best wishes to everyone on the auspicious occasion of Vishwakarma Puja. The Vishwakarma Puja occasion created a festive atmosphere across the BLW Workshop. Employees thoroughly cleaned and beautifully decorated their respective workplaces, while the puja venues were adorned with flowers, foliage, colourful flags and attractive electric lights. Beautiful puja pandals set up at various shops witnessed employees offering prayers to the revered image of Adi Shilpi Lord Vishwakarma with devotion and dedication.

Puja Ceremony Commences from Design Department

The Vishwakarma Puja ceremony commenced at the Design Department with General Manager Shri Ashutosh Pant leading the ceremonial worship of Lord Vishwakarma. Thereafter, the General Manager and senior officers visited various shops of the BLW Workshop, offered prayers to Lord Vishwakarma and interacted warmly with the employees.

As part of the ceremony, Lord Vishwakarma was worshipped at various workplaces, including the New Block Shop, CTS Shop, Tool Room, Engine Division, Loco Frame Shop, Pipe Shop, Loco Assembly Shop, Traction Assembly Shop, Track Machine Shop, Loco Test Shop and Depot. Employees displayed great enthusiasm as the General Manager and senior officers visited the various shops. The beautifully decorated puja pandals, electric illumination



and enthusiastic participation of employees transformed the entire workshop premises into a festive environment.

Vishwakarma Puja Symbolises Industrial Tradition and Work Culture

The celebration of Vishwakarma Puja is deeply associated with BLW's industrial heritage and work culture. For BLW employees engaged in manufacturing, technology, craftsmanship and creation, the occasion also symbolises dedication, skill and commitment towards their work. On the occasion, General Manager Shri Ashutosh Pant extended his heartfelt greetings and best wishes to all officers and employees and said that worshipping Lord Vishwakarma inspires us to remain continuously dedicated to skill, quality, innovation, hard work and creativity. He wished happiness, prosperity and continued progress for the entire BLW family. He said that BLW's identity has been built on excellent technical capabilities, a dedicated workforce and continuous innovation. The worship of Lord Vishwakarma inspires all of us to move forward with quality, efficiency and complete dedication in our work.

Through the Vishwakarma Puja ceremony, BLW employees also expressed their resolve to further strengthen their glorious industrial heritage, technical excellence and commitment towards their work. On this occasion, Principal Chief Electrical Engineer Shri Manish Kumar, Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer Shri Vivek Sheel, Principal Chief Material Manager Shri Alok Agrawal, Principal Financial Adviser Shri Muktesh Mittal, Principal Chief Engineer Shri Ram Janam, Principal Chief Personnel Officer Shri Lalji Chaudhary, Principal Chief Medical Officer Shri Sunil Kumar, Inspector General-cum-Principal Chief Security Commissioner Shri Devraj Kumar Maurya, Chief Electrical Service Engineer Shri Manoj Kumar Gupta, Financial Adviser & Chief Accounts Officer (Headquarters) Shri Ajay Srivastava, Chief Electrical Engineer/Loco Shri Arvind Kumar Jain, Chief Design Engineer-Electrical Shri Anurag Kumar Gupta, Chief Design Engineer-Diesel Shri Praveen Kumar, Chief Design Engineer-Project Shri Kaushlesh Singh, Chief Mechanical Engineer (Production & Marketing) Shri Ram Janam Choubey, Chief Mechanical Engineer/Service Engineer Shri Vipul Singh, Deputy General Manager Shri Sagar, Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer/Loco Shri Sudeep Rawat, Public Relations Officer Shri Rajesh Kumar and other senior officers were present. Joint Secretary, Staff Council, Shri Pradeep Kumar Yadav, other members of the Council, a large number of employees and their family members were also present. Everyone offered prayers to Lord Vishwakarma with devotion and enthusiasm and prayed for the happiness, prosperity, good health and continued progress of the BLW family.

The entire workshop premises remained immersed in an atmosphere of devotion, enthusiasm, faith and festivity throughout the day. The Vishwakarma Puja ceremony once again showcased BLW's glorious industrial heritage, technical prowess and the spirit of a united work culture among its employees.

Blood Donation is the Biggest Donation of Life: Chief Minister Dr. Yadav

DR. BHUPENDRA VIKAL

Bhopal: On the occasion of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's birthday, Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav inaugurated a blood donation camp under the 'Seva Mera Yogdan Karyakram' organized at Government Jayaprakash Hospital, Bhopal, as part of the 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan'. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav enquired about the well-being of the participants who donated blood and also provided them with certificates. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav met the blood donors and encouraged them. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that it is a matter of happiness that in honor of Prime Minister Shri Modi's 25 years of service journey, blood donation camps have been organized at more than 290 places in Madhya Pradesh under the 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan'. So far, 6,744 units of blood have been donated in the camps. This number will continue to increase till evening. Blood donation is the biggest donation of life, through which timely medical assistance is made available to the needy and many lives can be saved. On Prime Minister Shri Modi's birthday, Chief Minister Dr. Yadav prayed to Baba Mahakal for his healthy and long life and said that under the leadership of Shri Modi, positive changes have come in every sector of the country. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav gave this information while talking to the media at Government Jayaprakash Hospital. On this occasion, Bhopal Mayor Smt. Malti Rai, MLA Shri Bhagwandas Sabnani, State General Secretary Shri Rahul Kothari, public representatives, doctors, and medical students were present.



Delhi CM Rekha Gupta donates blood, launches organ portal on PM Modi's birthday

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta donated blood and launched the city's organ donation portal during programmes marking Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 76th birthday. The day-long Seva Sankalp Abhiyan blended welfare outreach, public participation and symbolic tributes across the capital.

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Thursday donated blood at a mega camp organised by the Delhi government as part of programmes held to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 76th birthday. According to a statement from the Chief Minister's Office, the camp collected 2,080 units of blood, while several events were organised across the city under the 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan'.

Gupta also launched Delhi's official organ donation portal and pledged to donate her organs. She said the 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan', inspired by Modi's 25 years in public life, was strengthening the spirit of service and public participation in Delhi. The blood donation camp was held at Thyagaraj Stadium. Union Minister of State and Delhi BJP president Harsh Malhotra, along with Delhi government ministers, also donated blood there. Gupta said, "Blood donation is not merely the act of giving blood, but a noble pledge that strengthens the sacred bond of humanity, compassion and empathy." Modi was born on September 17, 1950, in Vadnagar, Gujarat. He will complete 25 uninterrupted years in public office on October 7, having first taken oath as Gujarat chief minister in 2001 before becoming prime minister in 2014. Earlier in the day, Gupta inaugurated a Namo Shramik Sewa Kendra in her Shalimar Bagh constituency and said government services and welfare schemes would be made available under one roof. She said 13 such centres would be opened in the first phase. She also took part in a yajna at the Khatu Shyam Temple on GT Karnal Road. Under the 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan', the Delhi government also released two special songs at the secretariat. Gupta launched the songs, which were sung by schoolchildren, and also joined them in singing, the CMO statement said. Education Minister Ashish Sood and a large number of students from Delhi government schools were present, it added. In the evening, Gupta joined people at Kartavya Path to light 1.25 lakh earthen lamps under the 'Ashirwad Ka Diya' campaign, seeking blessings for the prime minister. The day's events, from the blood donation camp and organ donation pledge to the launch of welfare initiatives and public programmes, were organised by the Delhi government to mark Modi's birthday.

13-year-old girl found tied inside locked water plant in Uttar Pradesh, 2 arrested

A 13-year-old girl was rescued from a locked RO water plant in Chandauli after her family heard her cries. Police have arrested two men, with the case pointing to an alleged debt-linked abduction. Police said the Class 9 student went missing on Wednesday after returning from school and going to a nearby grocery store. When she did not return for a long time, her family began searching for her. During the search, the family heard cries coming from inside an RO water plant located between the school and the store. They immediately informed the police, following which a team reached the spot, broke open the lock of the plant and rescued the girl. "The minor girl was found with her hands and feet tied inside the plant," police said. After the rescue, the girl's family submitted a written complaint alleging that the plant's operator, Zubair Alam, and another man, Ikram, had held her hostage. Shahabganj Station House Officer Arun Kumar Singh said preliminary questioning of the two men suggested that the matter was linked to a dispute over a debt of Rs 15,000. A case has been registered against both accused under Sections 137(2) (kidnapping), 127(2) (wrongful confinement) and 115(2) (voluntarily causing hurt) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, he said.

Talks on BRICS sidelines demonstrate India's rising influence across Global South

NEW DELHI

India is forging its own path between non-alignment and alignment, remaining independent of big-power blocs while strengthening its position as a trusted partner for mid-sized countries in security, technology and trade, a report has stated.

The meetings held on the sidelines of the 18th BRICS summit showcased a clear reflection of this approach. The multilateral declaration keeps India firmly within the Global South framework, while bilateral understandings on defence, maritime security and counter-terrorism give that engagement practical depth through Indian equipment, training and operational links, according to a report in India Narrative.

"While the plenary produced a consensus New Delhi Declaration on resilience, innovation, UN reform, and counter-terrorism, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi used the gathering to lock in concrete defence, technology, and security understandings with African and Asian partners. Meetings with Ethiopia's Abiy Ahmed Ali, South Africa's Cyril Ramaphosa, Nigeria's Vice President Kashim Shettima, Uganda's Vice President Jessica Alupo, Burundi's Evariste Ndayishimiye (as African Union chair), Malaysia's Anwar Ibrahim, Kazakhstan's Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, and the Philippines' Ferdinand Marcos Jr.



placed defence cooperation, technology transfer, maritime safety, and counter-terrorism at the centre of India's outreach," the report detailed. "This is how India practices multi-alignment in practice: keep the multilateral tent broad and non-aligned, then harvest bilateral strategic gains that actually move capability and influence," it noted.

The report identified maritime security as an underlying pillar of India's approach. It noted that New Delhi's vision, MAHASAGAR—Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions—extends the SAGAR doctrine from the immediate Indian Ocean sphere to the broader Global South, connecting naval engagement with intelligence-sharing, capacity enhancement and economic collaboration.

The inaugural Africa-India Key Maritime Engagement (AIKEYME 2025), co-hosted by India and Tanzania with the participation of 11 African countries, featured anti-piracy exercises, visit-board-search-and-seizure operations, helicopter manoeuvres and search-and-rescue drills. Meanwhile, India's Information Fusion Centre–Indian Ocean Region has established dozens of maritime domain-awareness linkages, India Narrative mentioned.

"Western Indian Ocean instability—piracy, Houthi disruptions, jihadist networks, and chokepoint risks at Bab-el-Mandeb and the Mozambique Channel—is not a distant African problem. It is an Indian energy-security and trade problem. Bilateral talks on the BRICS sidelines allowed India to translate that shared vulnerability into practical offers: training, equipment, hydrography, and eventual logistics understandings. This is net-security-provider language made operational, without requiring BRICS consensus that an expanded, internally diverse grouping cannot easily deliver," it mentioned.

The report said that the New Delhi Declaration adopted at the 18th BRICS Summit marked a multilateral gain for India, with its unequivocal rejection of terrorism in all forms, condemnation of the April 2025 Pahalgam terror attack, opposition to double standards, and focus on cyber-terrorism, online radicalisation and the misuse of emerging technologies.

"Sideline meetings allowed that language to be operationalised country-by-country. Defence and security discussions with Nigeria, Ethiopia, South Africa, and others sit inside a wider pattern of intelligence-sharing, training, and capacity-building against transnational threats that do not respect the neat boundaries of "Asian" versus 'African' security," India Narrative highlighted.

"India's pitch is consistent: terrorism and maritime disorder are shared problems of the Global South. Solutions should not wait for great-power permission or UN Security Council paralysis," it added.



Saudi Civil Defence says debris from drone launched by Houthis killed one person

RIYADH

One person was killed, and two others were injured after debris from an intercepted and destroyed drone launched by the Houthi group fell in Taif, western Saudi Arabia, the Saudi Civil Defence said on Thursday.

A Civil Defence spokesperson said in a statement posted on social media platform X that Civil Defence teams in Taif responded after debris from the intercepted drone fell in the city.

The incident killed a Yemeni resident and injured a Saudi woman and a Pakistani resident, who is in critical condition, the spokesperson said, adding that a number of buildings and vehicles sustained material damage, Xinhua News Agency reported.

Earlier in the day, Saudi airstrikes hit several areas in northwestern and southwestern Yemen, killing at least one person, Houthi-run al-Masirah TV reported.

In the northwestern province of Hajjah, two airstrikes struck the city of Abs, killing one person and wounding another, according to al-Masirah. The strikes also destroyed four vehicles and damaged a house.

Further south, separate strikes targeted three telecommunications towers in Taiz province, the broadcaster reported.

There was no immediate comment from Saudi authorities on the reported strikes or casualties. On Wednesday, the Houthi group said that it had shot down a Saudi armed reconnaissance drone in Yemen's northeastern Marib province and intercepted Saudi warplanes over Yemen's western coast.

Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Sarea said in a statement carried by Houthi-run al-Masirah TV on Wednesday evening (local time) that the group's forces had "a short while ago shot down an armed reconnaissance drone belonging to the Saudi enemy while it was carrying out hostile operations over Marib province, using an appropriate weapon."

In a related development, Sarea said the group's forces at 6:40 p.m. local time intercepted two formations of Saudi F-15 fighter jets that had taken off from the Khamis Mushait air base in southwestern Saudi Arabia and entered the airspace over Mocha in Yemen's western Taiz province.

Bangladesh slips to 79th position as gender parity deteriorates sharply

DHAKA

In a major setback on gender parity, Bangladesh has dropped 55 places to 79th in the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Gender Gap Index 2026, recording the sharpest decline among the 145 economies assessed, local media reported.

The index's 20th edition, released on Wednesday, showed Bangladesh closing just 71.2 per cent of its gender gap, down from 77.5 per cent a year earlier. The fall in gender parity was largely driven by a steep 21.2-percentage-point deterioration in political empowerment.

Speaking to Bangladesh's newspaper The Business Standard, Fahmida Khatun, Distinguished Fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) in Dhaka, said women had long held a stronger presence in Bangladesh's political arena, serving as Prime Minister, speaker of parliament, and directly elected MPs. "However, the data used in the 2026 index show that women's political participation has declined from previous years. The share of women among directly elected MPs has fallen, as has their representation among ministers. This has weakened Bangladesh's performance in political empowerment", she said. Bangladesh performed weakest in Economic Participation and Opportunity, closing 41.9 per cent of the gap in 2026 compared with 45.7 per cent last year. The decline was largely attributed to lower parity in estimated earned income, labour-force participation and senior workforce leadership, which dropped by 15, 5.7 and 1.3 percentage points, respectively.



Additionally, Bangladesh has slipped to 12th globally in political empowerment, with gender parity standing at 50.9 per cent, a sharp drop from third place last year. Parliamentary parity also fell to a record low of 2.4 per cent during the measured period. Earlier this year, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) highlighted that Bangladesh's electoral landscape showed a persistent gender gap, with women active as voters, but their transition to leadership roles remains alarmingly slow.

Nepal, India discuss post-flood reconstruction, trade, energy and connectivity to deepen economic partnership

NEW DELHI

Nepal and India held comprehensive discussions on development cooperation, focusing on post-flood reconstruction, trade, investment, energy and connectivity, as the two sides looked to strengthen and broaden their longstanding economic partnership.

Nepal's Finance Minister Dr. Swarnim Wagle held an official bilateral meeting with India's Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi on Thursday, according to a post by the Embassy of Nepal in India on social media platform X.

The two ministers discussed a wide-ranging set of issues related to development cooperation and areas of mutual interest between the two neighbouring countries. The discussions placed particular emphasis on post-flood reconstruction, trade and investment, along with cooperation in the energy sector and improving connectivity between Nepal and India.



The meeting also covered other areas of mutual interest aimed at strengthening and broadening the longstanding economic partnership between the two countries.

"Dr. Swarnim Wagle, Finance Minister of Nepal, had an official bilateral meeting with Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs of India, in New Delhi today," it said. "The two ministers had a comprehensive discussion on a wide-ranging set of issues related to development cooperation, with a focus on post-flood reconstruction, trade, investment, energy, connectivity as well as other areas of mutual interest to strengthen and broaden longstanding economic partnership between Nepal and India," it added.

Both sides emphasised the importance of further strengthening the trade and economic partnership between India and Nepal, the statement reads.

Nepal's finance ministe is on a three-day visit to New Delhi at the invitation of the Indian government. His visit comes as Nepal assesses the economic damage from recent disasters and begins planning reconstruction.

The bilateral engagement comes as Nepal and India continue to work on areas of economic and development cooperation, with connectivity, energy and trade remaining important components of their relationship.

India is so lucky to have Prime Minister Modi as their leader: Mary Millben



WASHINGTON

African American singer Mary Millben sang a birthday greeting for Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday, praising his leadership and describing him as the right leader for the US–India relationship. Speaking exclusively to IANS, Millben credited PM Modi with advancing infrastructure and technology in India, expanding opportunities in rural areas and empowering women and girls. She also praised his engagement with successive US Presidents and his role in bringing world leaders together in Delhi.

"He certainly is the right leader for the US-India relationship," she said in the birthday message, which combined a personal tribute with her assessment of his record at home and abroad. She said the occasion offered an opportunity to celebrate his life, leadership and legacy.

"What a wonderful day to celebrate his life and his leadership and his legacy," she said. "And so a big happy birthday to the Prime Minister." Her message ended with a musical greeting. Asked whether she had a personal message for PM Modi, Millben offered to sing. "Well, sure. Why don't I sing Happy Birthday, yeah?" she said, before singing the birthday song and addressing the Prime Minister directly.

The performance followed her remarks on India's development and the bilateral relationship. Throughout the brief conversation, Millben spoke warmly of Modi and repeatedly praised his leadership.

"I tell you, India is so lucky to have Prime Minister Modi as their leader," she said.

Asked about the changes she had observed in India under PM Modi, Millben pointed to infrastructure, technology and opportunities for people in rural communities. She also cited efforts to empower women and girls as part of her favourable assessment of his leadership. On relations with Washington, Millben said PM Modi's experience of working with successive American presidents had helped him understand how the relationship functioned. She credited his leadership with helping keep ties healthy. "And then the Prime Minister certainly has been one of the best leaders for the US-India relationship," she said. Millben also referred to the gathering of world leaders in Delhi for the BRICS summit.

Pakistan hospital where 14 babies died in blaze lacked fire alarms, sprinkler system: Report

ISLAMABAD

The neonatal unit in Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) in Islamabad, where 14 babies died in the blaze in August, had no fire alarms and sprinkler system, a report claimed, citing an official inquiry.

One firefighter who wanted to remain anonymous said that other rescue workers told him that entering PIMS was "extremely difficult." The firefighter said that the doors towards the ward were locked and they had to enter through windows, the UK-based BBC reported.

The report from an investigative committee led by a retired senior civil servant found "systemic and institutional failure" which implies that what started as an electric spark led to "catastrophe."

Some of the people who were present in the hospital on the morning of August 26 found out about the fire eruption through shouts of the people. Abdul Ghafoor who was in nearby ward with his mother, who was a patient at the hospital, heard someone warning that a fire had erupted.



CCTV from the hospital's corridor revealed how quickly the blaze spread. The first indication that something was wrong in the hospital occurred at 6:38 am when a nurse was seen running from the ward to get help and coming back with a security guard after 20 seconds. Later, another nurse, was seen rushing to the ward, who returned with one of the babies who was the only one to survive, the BBC reported.

According to the report, smoke detection, fire alarms and sprinkler system were not working there. The report found no proof that the staff in the unit had been given training on how to evacuate children from the ward. It also found that staff were not given training on how to isolate the oxygen supply if there is any emergency.

Pakistani authorities suggested the fire erupted from a spark in the air conditioner of the ward. According to the report, this was the most probable reason behind the fire, due to an overheating electricity supply cable, although it is not clear what exactly caused the electricity defect.

Several babies in the unit were on oxygen support. The report mentioned that oxygen might have increased the fire but there is no proof that it created a pathway for it to spread.

On August 26, 14 babies died after a fire erupted at the Mother and Child Health (MCH) ward at PIMS. At the time, Pakistan's Health Minister had said that the fire erupted due to a spark in the air conditioner. The families of the deceased babies had said that the rescue teams reached the spot late, leading Pakistani daily Dawn had reported earlier.

At the time, the hospital said that the incident was caused by a spark inside the ward at 6:38 am, and massive fire erupted within seconds due to oxygen points at each incubator.

EAM Jaishankar, King of Bhutan light 'Aashirvaad Ka Diya' at iconic Tashichho Dzong in Thimphu

THIMPHU

External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar, along with Bhutan's King, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, on Thursday lit 'Aashirvaad ka Diya' at the iconic Tashichho Dzong in Thimphu.

The 'Aashirvaad ka Diya' was lit at the iconic Tashichho Dzong in Thimphu in the gracious presence of His Majesty the King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck. We paid tribute to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 25 years of committed Janseva, which has impacted countless lives globally. We were joined by Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay, Foreign Minister of Bhutan, D. N. Dhungyel, friends of India from Bhutan and the Indian community in this special moment," EAM Jaishankar stated on X.

Earlier in the day, EAM Jaishankar handed over 54 'Made in India' electric vehicles to the Himalayan Kingdom during his meeting with PM Tobgay.

EAM Jaishankar also conveyed PM Modi's warm greetings to Tobgay and expressed India's commitment to Bhutan's progress and prosperity.



"Delighted to call on PM Tshering Tobgay of Bhutan in Thimphu today. Conveyed warm greetings of PM Narendra Modi. Deeply value his sentiments for our unique ties of friendship and cooperation. India stands firmly committed to Bhutan's progress and prosperity," EAM Jaishankar posted on X after the meeting.

While handing over 54 'Made in India' electric vehicles to Bhutan, EAM Jaishankar said that India is supporting Bhutan's advancement towards e-mobility and sustainability transport.

"Delighted to hand over 54 'Made in India' electric vehicles to PM Tshering Tobgay. India is supporting Bhutan's advances towards e-mobility and sustainability transport," the EAM said.

On Wednesday, EAM Jaishankar and his Bhutanese counterpart Lyonpo D N Dhungyel inaugurated the 65-bedded Gyaltsuen Jetsun Pema Mother and Child Hospital in Mongar. EAM Jaishankar noted that the health facility will strengthen access to quality, specialised maternal and child care in eastern Bhutan.

EAM Jaishankar and Lyonpo D N Dhungyel also inaugurated the 80-metre-long Jaganathan Bridge in Samdrup Jongkhar. EAM Jaishankar said that the bridge, being built by Project Dantak, the Bhutan-India friendship project, will improve connectivity between Trashigang and Samdrup Jongkhar in eastern Bhutan.



Singareni Should Strengthen Its Contribution to Telangana's Development

HYDERABAD

Singareni should further strengthen its contribution to the industrial and economic development of Telangana by efficiently meeting the state's growing energy requirements, said SCCL Chairman and Managing Director Dr. Buddhaprakash Jyoti. He emphasised the need for sustained coal production and timely supplies to thermal power stations to ensure energy security for the state, particularly in view of the possibility of increased power consumption due to El Niño conditions. The Telangana Praja Palana Dinotsavam 2026 was celebrated at Singareni Bhavan on Thursday. As part of the celebrations, SCCL CMD Dr. Buddhaprakash Jyoti unfurled the National Flag and addressed the employees and officials gathered on the occasion. Speaking at the programme, the CMD said that every employee has a responsibility to contribute effectively to the development of Telangana and the progress of the nation.

Sensex, Nifty end flat as Tata stocks rally and NSE IPO gets moderate bidding

Benchmark indices ended mixed on Thursday as buying in Tata group stocks, banks and other select large-caps helped the Nifty recover, while the Sensex remained almost flat.



Investors continued to weigh the US Federal Reserve's hawkish stance, elevated crude oil prices and a crowded primary market led by the National Stock Exchange's IPO. BSE Sensex opened at 74,182.62 and closed at 74,314.59, down 21.86 points or 0.03%. The Nifty 50 opened at 23,195.25 and ended at 23,270.60, gaining 53 points or 0.23%. The benchmarks had risen as much as 0.6% and 0.5%, respectively, during the session before giving up some gains towards the close. The Nifty has now risen for two consecutive sessions after falling around 6% over the previous five weeks.

TATA STOCKS LEAD THE RALLY

Tata group stocks were among the key highlights of Thursday's session. Tata Steel was the top Sensex gainer, rising 2.82% to Rs 188.Reuters data also showed gains of between 2.3% and 5.5% across several major Tata group companies, including Tata Motors PV, Tata Motors, Tata Steel and Tata Investment.

The buying in Tata stocks came after the board of Tata Sons approved a fresh five-year term for N Chandrasekaran as executive chairman.

Apart from Tata Steel, BEL rose 2.38%, IndiGo gained 2.32%, Eternal advanced 2.24% and Maruti climbed 1.64%. Bajaj Finserv rose 1.24%, Cement gained 1.03%, Trent advanced 0.86% and Bajaj Finance rose 0.74%. Asian Paints gained 1.45%, NTPC rose 0.72%, Sun Pharma advanced 0.67% and ITC gained 0.62%. On the losing side, HDFC Bank fell 1.30%, Titan declined 1.14%, ICICI Bank dropped 1.03%, SBI fell 0.67% and Bharti Airtel declined 0.52%. Infosys fell 0.43%, Hindustan Unilever declined 0.38% and Reliance Industries slipped 0.05%. 12 OF 16 SECTORS END HIGHER Twelve of the 16 major sectoral indices ended higher.

Nifty Auto was among the stronger performers, rising 0.99%, while Nifty Pharma gained 1.66%. Nifty Realty advanced 1.45%, Nifty Healthcare rose 1.56% and Nifty MidSmall Healthcare gained 1.62%. Nifty Financial Services Ex-Bank climbed 1.14%, Nifty Metal rose 0.94%, Nifty Media gained 1.19% and Nifty Chemicals advanced 0.74%.

Nifty MidSmall Financial Services rose 0.48%, while Nifty MidSmall IT & Telecom gained 0.48%.

On the other hand, Nifty Private Bank fell 0.42%, Nifty PSU Bank declined 0.16% and Nifty Oil & Gas slipped 0.14%. Nifty FMCG was almost flat, rising 0.03%.

The broader market outperformed the benchmark indices. Nifty 100 rose 0.39%, Nifty 200 gained 0.50% and Nifty 500 advanced 0.54%.

Nifty Midcap 50 rose 0.96%, while Nifty Midcap 100 gained 0.92%. Nifty Smallcap 100 climbed 0.76%. India VIX fell sharply by 7.82% to 12.14, indicating a decline in market volatility. Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said value buying following the recent correction supported the domestic market. "The anticipated Fed rate hike, along with easing bond yields, offered temporary support to global equities and reinforced expectations of gradually moderating inflation. Despite this, domestic markets remained volatile but ended higher, supported by value buying following the recent correction," Nair said.

He added that mid- and small-cap stocks continued to outperform as investors favoured companies with strong earnings visibility, solid order books and healthy balance sheets, particularly in capital goods, industrial, defence, power and healthcare.

NSE IPO OPENS FOR SUBSCRIPTION

The Rs 2.3-billion NSE IPO opened for bidding on Thursday, becoming the country's third-largest IPO and the fifth active offering in the primary market. Investors subscribed to around 36% of the portion on offer by 3:30 pm, according to the information provided.

The NSE had allocated shares worth Rs 6,746 crore to anchor investors on Wednesday at Rs 1,785 per share, the upper end of its IPO price band. The anchor allocation included Norway's and Abu Dhabi's sovereign wealth funds. The crowded IPO market remains a concern for secondary-market liquidity as investors continue to allocate money to new issues.

FED, CRUDE OIL REMAIN KEY RISKS

The US Federal Reserve's rate hike and hawkish commentary remained important factors for investors. The Fed raised interest rates by 25 basis points, while its projections indicated the possibility of another hike depending on the economic outlook.

Crude oil prices also remained elevated amid continuing geopolitical concerns. Brent crude was trading at $103.90 a barrel, down 1.82%, while WTI crude was at $101, down 1.40%.

Ankita Pathak, head of global investments at Ionic Asset, said another Fed rate hike remains possible in December 2026 depending on the evolving macroeconomic environment, particularly crude oil prices. "India may have to consider a hike at its next policy meeting after the Fed decision," Pathak said. The market has recovered over the last two sessions after a sharp five-week decline, but the broader trend remains sensitive to global interest rates, crude oil prices, foreign flows and the heavy IPO pipeline. Nair said investor sentiment is likely to remain cautious amid concerns over a possible broader rate-tightening cycle driven by Middle East tensions and the risk of US tariffs. For now, Tata stocks, the NSE IPO, crude oil prices and global bond yields will remain among the key factors to watch as investors assess whether the recent rebound can continue.

RISE Health Innovation Summit 2026 in Hyderabad on Sept 24

HYDERABAD



Healthark's flagship annual summit, RISE Health Innovation Summit 2026, will hold its live event in Hyderabad on 24th September 2026. The summit will be graced by the presence of Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology, Electronics & Communications, Industries & Commerce, & Legislative Affairs, Government of Telangana, Shri D. Sridhar Babu, who will deliver the keynote address, alongside Ajit Reddy, CEO, Invest Telangana, bringing an important policy and industry perspective to the day's conversations on healthcare and life sciences industry. The summit will bring industry leaders from pharmaceutical, healthcare, and biotechnology organizations together for a day of high-impact dialogue. The conversations will address the priorities currently shaping the global life sciences and healthcare ecosystem. The day will open with a keynote on India's healthcare future, followed by the launch of a Book on India's GCC opportunity by Healthark, co-authored alongside leaders from Opella, Roche, Novo Nordisk, and Takeda. This will be followed by dedicated discussions on Global Capability Centers (GCCs) and emerging trends in genomics and biotechnology.

Distinguished speakers at the summit include John Dawber, Vice President & Managing Director - Global Business Services, India, Novo Nordisk; Chandani Palshetkar, Global Head of GCC Strategy & Services, Opella; Pawan Sachdeva, Senior Managing Director - Technology, Carelon Global Solutions; Mahesh Natarajan, Senior Director - Research & Development, Thermo Fisher Scientific; and other eminent leaders shaping the sector.

"Healthcare innovation doesn't happen in silos - it takes leaders, institutions, and industries coming together with a shared purpose," highlighted Dr. Purav Gandhi, Founder & CEO, Healthark. "RISE Health Innovation Summit 2026 reflects that belief, bringing together the expertise and perspectives needed to shape what comes next for the industry."

Sudeep Krishna, President & Co-Founder, Healthark, echoed this outlook: "India's role in global healthcare and life sciences has evolved well beyond execution - the country has become a genuine hub for strategic thinking and innovation. By bringing these conversations to RISE, we aim to give that shift the platform it deserves." The summit will also mark a skilling initiative that began in Hyderabad two years ago to bridge the region's life sciences industry with the talent needed to power it. Starting with a pilot batch of around 140 students across Telangana, the programme has since grown into a broader model. The students, principals, and HR leaders driving that growth will be felicitated at the event, recognized for laying the groundwork for the industry's future workforce. With the momentum of its previous editions, RISE Health Innovation Summit 2026 continues to stand as a defining platform for the global life sciences and healthcare ecosystem. By bringing visionary leaders together, the live summit will drive the conversations set to define the future of global healthcare and life sciences. Registration for the live summit is open on a paid basis, with limited seats available. Secure your spot now.

Industry commits to 3,590 Cr to accelerate India's decarbonisarion journey at 25th CII Energy Efficiency Summit 2026

HYDERABAD

The 25th edition of the CII Energy Efficiency Summit 2026 brought together policymakers, industry leaders, technology providers, academia and sustainability experts to deliberate on accelerating India's transition towards a net-zero economy through energy efficiency, clean technologies and sustainable practices. The next phase of India's transition would require accelerated electrification, wider deployment of clean technologies, greater adoption of digital solutions and stronger collaboration between government, industry and institutions.

Shri Krushna Chandra Panigrahy, Director General, Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Government of India, Ministry of Power, in his keynote address said, "The 25th edition of the CII Energy Efficiency Summit marks an important milestone for India's energy efficiency journey. The past 25 years provide lessons to build on as India enters a transformative phase of growth. Energy must remain affordable and reliable to support this growth. Energy efficiency and electrification will be central to meeting rising energy demand. While large industries have made significant progress, adoption among MSMEs needs to accelerate. The ADEETIE scheme can help address barriers related to technical capability, financing and operating costs. We must also advance industrial electrification, heat pumps, building efficiency, sustainable transportation, e-cooking and efficient cooling to support India's Net Zero 2070 and Viksit Bharat 2047 goals. Energy efficiency should not be seen as a compliance requirement, but as a pathway to global competitiveness. We need to use energy efficiently, electrify where technically viable, and progressively power electricity with cleaner sources. As energy demand grows, efficiency, affordability and reliability must remain central to India's



energy transition." Mr. Tejpreet Singh Chopra, Chairman, CII Energy Efficiency Summit 2026 and Founder & CEO, BLP-Industry.AI, said "AI and digital tools are becoming a catalyst for everything this Energy Efficiency Summit stands for, compressing the time between identifying an efficiency opportunity and acting on it. This is particularly important for India's MSME sector, which contributes over 30% of our GDP, more than 33% of manufacturing output and close to 50% of our exports. AI can bring tremendous impact to this vast base by making energy-efficiency insights more accessible, affordable and actionable. It can help MSMEs identify inefficiencies, optimise processes and make better data-driven decisions, even with limited technical teams. The opportunity is not AI versus workers, but AI plus workers — augmenting human expertise and accelerating India's journey towards a Net Zero economy." Mr. P V Kiran Ananth, Executive Director- Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy & Green Entrepreneurship, CII Godrej GBC while setting the context said, "Energy efficiency remains one of the most cost-effective levers for industrial decarbonisation. The 27th National Award for Excellence in Energy Management highlights this opportunity, with 720 industry respondents investing around ₹5,700 crore over the last three years and achieving savings of more than ₹7,100 crore. Within just one year, participating companies have committed another ₹3,590 crores of investment towards electrification, process improvement, waste-heat recovery, digitalisation, IoT and AI. The focus now must be on maximizing the productivity of existing assets—where even 1% improvement in renewable-asset performance could deliver significant output without any additional investment. By combining energy efficiency, electrification, renewable energy, emerging technologies and innovative finance, India can accelerate decarbonisation while strengthening industrial competitiveness."

A key highlight was the launch of the India Heat Pump Atlas – The National Installation Insights Dashboard, developed under the CII Heat Pump Alliance, a collaborative platform to accelerate heat-pump adoption and innovation in India. The Atlas consolidates data from 13 technology partners, covering 2,201 installations with a combined capacity of 288 MW of capacity, including 1,063 industrial and 1,138 commercial installations. Heat pumps have been deployed across sectors including automobiles, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, textiles, food, electronics, paper and petrochemicals, with applications ranging from hot water and process heating to drying, steam generation and boiler-feed-water heating. Notably, the Atlas identifies 34 industrial installations operating at 100°C or above, with applications reaching 140°C, demonstrating the potential of heat pumps for industrial process heating.

Dr. Prasanna Kumar Acharya Assumes Charge as CMD of NLC India Limited

CHENNAI



Dr. Prasanna Kumar Acharya assumed charge as the Chairman cum Managing Director (CMD) of NLC India Limited on 17.09.2026 at the Company's Corporate Office, Neyveli. Dr. Acharya is a seasoned professional with nearly three decades of rich and diverse experience across leading Indian organisations in the Power, Mining and Infrastructure sectors. Prior to assuming charge as CMD, he served as Director (Finance) of NLC India Limited. During his professional career, he has held key positions in organisations including GRIDCO, NTPC and Tata Power. Dr. Prasanna Kumar Acharya holds a Bachelor's degree in Commerce (Honours) from Utkal University, Odisha, and a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) from M.S. Law College, Cuttack, Odisha. He holds a Master of Commerce from Ravenshaw University, Odisha, and a Master of Business Administration (MBA). He is a Fellow Member of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of India and an Associate Member of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India. He holds a Doctorate in Philosophy (Ph.D.) from Utkal University, Odisha, and has also undergone a Management Development Programme in Strategic Finance at IIM Lucknow. His professional journey encompasses diverse domains, including Power Generation, Transmission, Distribution and Mining, as well as Metro Rail infrastructure. He made significant contributions to major infrastructure initiatives, including the Phase-II Project of Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL), a project with an estimated value of over ₹63,000 crore. During his tenure at NLC India Limited, Dr. Acharya has led several initiatives in digital transformation and governance reforms, including ERP modernisation, centralisation of various Finance functions, adoption of AI-enabled systems and introduction of a Vendor Invoice Management System. His strategic leadership has also contributed to securing critical Government approvals and advancing initiatives relating to acquisition of coal and critical mineral blocks and renewable energy projects.

He has played an important role in steering joint ventures with various State utilities and in supporting NLCIL's ambitious growth roadmap, which envisages achieving more than 20 GW of power generation capacity and over 100 MTPA of mining capacity by 2030.

With his extensive experience across diverse sectors, coupled with his broad vision and strategic acumen, Dr. Prasanna Kumar Acharya is poised to lead NLC India Limited through its next phase of growth and nationwide expansion, with a focus on strengthening the Company's position and progressing towards its vision of becoming a Maharatna enterprise. Dr. Acharya is a native of Kendrapara, Odisha, and is the eldest son of Dr. Surendranath Acharya and Smt. Jyotshnarani Acharya. On the personal front, he is supported by his wife and two children, both of whom are pursuing their studies.

Banks need to recycle, optimise capital amid infra investment needs: NaBFID's deputy MD

MUMBAI

Banks face imminent credit exposure limits for infrastructure developers amid the growing need for infrastructure investment, making it necessary to explore alternative financing structures and recycle bank capital, NaBFID Deputy Managing Director Monika Kalia said on Thursday.

"Looking at the need for infrastructure investment in the country, the kind of capital the banks will have, we will soon run out of the exposure limits on the developers," Kalia said during the panel discussion at NaBFID's Infrastructure Conclave 2026.

She said market participants need to explore structures that can help sustain infrastructure financing without requiring banks to raise capital to an exponential level.

Doctors Lead Adult Vaccination Drive at Medicover Secunderabad

senior doctors take influenza vaccine; Adult Immunization Card introduced

HYDERABAD



Four senior doctors at Medicover Hospitals, Sangeet, took the influenza vaccine in front of the media on Thursday as the hospital launched an Adult Vaccination Drive, highlighting the need for immunization beyond childhood. As part of the initiative, the hospital introduced an Adult Immunization Card to help individuals maintain their vaccination records and understand vaccines recommended based on their age, health conditions and risk factors. "Vaccination should not stop with childhood. Many adults are unaware of the vaccines they may need or when they last received them. We want to encourage people to make vaccination a part of routine preventive healthcare and maintain a proper immunization record," said Dr Pradeep Kumar Mishra, General Medicine, Medicover Hospitals, Secunderabad.

Focus on Influenza and Respiratory Protection

Doctors said influenza vaccination is particularly important for older adults and people with conditions such as asthma, COPD, heart disease and other chronic illnesses.

"People often wait until flu cases increase before considering vaccination. Adults at higher risk of complications should discuss influenza and pneumococcal vaccination with their doctor and take preventive measures at the right time," said Dr Gangadhar Reddy Mallu, Pulmonologist, Medicover Hospitals, secunderabad.

Protecting Newborns

Doctors also stressed that adult vaccination can help protect vulnerable newborns by reducing the risk of infections being brought into the household. "Parents, grandparents and other caregivers should also be aware of their vaccination status. Keeping people around a newborn appropriately vaccinated can help reduce the risk of infections," said Dr Vinay Kumar Ratan, Paediatrician & Neonatologist, Medicover Hospitals, Secunderabad.



HPV Vaccination

Doctors highlighted the importance of HPV vaccination, particularly for those who may have missed it during adolescence. "HPV vaccination helps prevent HPV-related diseases, including cervical cancer. Women who have not been vaccinated should discuss their eligibility and vaccination schedule with their gynaecologist. Pregnant women should also discuss recommended vaccines such as Tdap with their doctor," said Dr Valluri Padmini, Gynaecologist, Medicover Hospitals, Secunderabad. The drive will offer influenza, pneumococcal, hepatitis B, Tdap, HPV and shingles vaccines, based on individual eligibility and physician recommendation. Every adult will undergo a physician assessment before vaccination, and those receiving vaccines will be given an Adult Immunization Card to maintain their vaccination history. The hospital is encouraging adults, particularly those above 50, people with chronic conditions, pregnant women, healthcare workers, smokers and caregivers of newborns, to consult their doctors about appropriate vaccination. The event was attended by Dr. Rajeev, Nephrologist,Ms. Krishnaveni, Centre Head and Dr. Prashanth, Medical Superintendent, Medicover Hospitals, Secunderabad.



7 Health Benefits of Indian Spices

Indian cooking is almost impossible to imagine without spices. From the earthy aroma of cumin and the warmth of black pepper to the sweet fragrance of cinnamon and cardamom, spices have been an essential part of Indian kitchens for generations. They do far more than add flavour, colour and aroma to food. Many commonly used spices contain naturally occurring compounds that have antioxidant, anti-inflammatory or antimicrobial properties and may contribute to overall wellbeing when consumed as part of a balanced diet.
For centuries, traditional Indian food practices have used spices not only for culinary purposes but also in connection with digestion, seasonal discomfort and general health. Modern nutrition research has also begun examining several of these ingredients for their potential effects on areas such as heart health, metabolism, blood sugar regulation and inflammation.
However, spices should not be considered substitutes for medical treatment. Their health effects can also vary depending on the quantity consumed, preparation method and an individual's overall diet and health condition. Still, incorporating a variety of spices into everyday meals can be a simple way of adding flavour along with potentially beneficial plant compounds.
Here are seven common Indian spices that have some interesting health associations.

Cardamom: A Fragrant Spice Linked With Heart Health

Cardamom, commonly known as elaichi, is one of the most popular aromatic spices used in Indian households. It appears in tea, desserts, rice dishes, curries and traditional beverages. Its distinctive fragrance comes from a combination of naturally occurring essential oils and other plant compounds. Cardamom has attracted attention for its antioxidant content and its possible relationship with cardiovascular health. Antioxidants help protect cells from oxidative stress caused by unstable molecules known as free radicals. Oxidative stress is associated with several chronic conditions, including cardiovascular disease. Some research has also examined whether cardamom may have a beneficial effect on blood pressure and other cardiovascular risk factors. Its traditional use as a digestive and aromatic spice has made it a regular part of many cuisines across South Asia and the Middle East. Cardamom also contains dietary fibre, although the amount consumed in normal cooking is relatively small. Therefore, eating a few cardamom pods should not be viewed as a major source of fibre or as a treatment for high cholesterol or blood pressure. The more practical takeaway is that cardamom can be used to flavour tea, milk, rice dishes and desserts without relying entirely on sugar or artificial flavourings. Its strong aroma means a small quantity can make a noticeable difference to a dish.

Cinnamon: The Warming Spice That Has Drawn Metabolic Interest

Cinnamon, or dalchini, is another familiar Indian spice that has attracted considerable attention from nutrition researchers. Made from the bark of cinnamon trees, the spice contains several bioactive compounds, including cinnamaldehyde, which gives it its characteristic aroma and flavour. One area of interest is metabolism. Laboratory and animal studies have investigated whether compounds found in cinnamon may influence thermogenesis and energy metabolism. Thermogenesis refers to the process through which the body produces heat and uses energy.

Cinnamon has also been studied for its potential effects on blood glucose regulation and insulin sensitivity. Some clinical research suggests that cinnamon may have modest effects on blood sugar markers in certain people, although the findings are not consistent enough to regard cinnamon as a treatment for diabetes. Its potential role in weight management is similarly more complicated than simply saying that cinnamon "burns fat." No single spice can compensate for an unhealthy diet, inadequate physical activity or excessive calorie intake. Nevertheless, cinnamon can be a useful addition to a balanced diet. Adding a small amount to oatmeal, fruit, yoghurt or unsweetened beverages can provide flavour without requiring additional sugar. Its naturally sweet aroma can make healthier foods more appealing.

Cumin: A Small Seed With a Notable Nutrient Profile

Cumin, or jeera, is one of the defining flavours of Indian cuisine. It is used in everything from dals and vegetable preparations to rice dishes, curries and spice blends. Cumin is often tempered in hot oil or ghee at the beginning of cooking, releasing its distinctive aroma. One lesser-known nutritional feature of cumin is its iron content. According to USDA food composition data, cumin seeds are particularly rich in iron by weight. However, the amount of cumin normally consumed in a meal is much smaller than 100 grams, so it would be misleading to assume that everyday use alone will meet a person's entire iron requirement. Iron is essential for producing haemoglobin, the protein in red blood cells responsible for transporting oxygen throughout the body. Adequate iron intake is particularly important for people at risk of iron deficiency. Cumin also contains plant compounds with antioxidant properties. Traditional food practices have frequently associated jeera with digestion, which may explain its popularity in spice mixes and beverages such as jeera water. Rather than treating cumin water as a miracle health drink, it is more useful to see cumin as part of a varied diet. Using it regularly in dals, vegetables and whole-grain dishes can add flavour and contribute small amounts of nutrients and beneficial plant compounds.

Ajwain: A Traditional Kitchen Favourite With More Than One Use

Ajwain, also called carom seeds, is another spice deeply connected with traditional Indian food culture. Its sharp, thyme-like aroma comes largely from thymol, a naturally occurring compound also found in some other aromatic plants. Ajwain is commonly used in parathas, pakoras, savoury snacks and lentil preparations. It is also traditionally consumed after meals or prepared as a warm infusion. Thymol has antimicrobial properties in laboratory settings and is used in some oral-care products. This has contributed to interest in ajwain's possible relationship with oral hygiene. Traditionally, ajwain preparations have been used for issues such as tooth discomfort, mouth freshness and digestive complaints. However, it is important not to describe ajwain as a guaranteed cure for toothache, gum disease or mouth ulcers. Dental pain can be caused by cavities, infection, gum disease or other problems that require professional treatment. For everyday use, ajwain remains a useful culinary spice. Its intense flavour means that only a small quantity is generally needed, making it easy to include in home cooking without significantly changing the nutritional profile of a meal.

Cloves: A Tiny Spice With Powerful Plant Compounds

Cloves, or laung, are another spice that may look insignificant but contain a concentrated collection of plant compounds. The most widely recognised of these is eugenol, an aromatic compound responsible for much of the characteristic smell and flavour of cloves. Eugenol has antioxidant and antimicrobial properties and has been extensively studied for its potential biological effects. Clove-derived ingredients are also used in certain dental products because of their traditional association with temporary relief from dental discomfort. Cloves have additionally been used traditionally in beverages and foods associated with relaxation and warmth. Some people consume clove-infused drinks at night, although strong claims that eating a couple of cloves will guarantee better sleep are not supported by robust clinical evidence. The important distinction is between a food containing potentially useful compounds and a medical treatment. Cloves can be included in a normal diet, but concentrated clove oil should not be consumed casually because essential oils are far more potent than the amounts found in food. Cloves work particularly well in chai, pulao, biryani, spice blends and certain desserts. Their intense flavour means that a little goes a long way.

Asafoetida: The Strong-Smelling Spice Traditionally Used for Digestion and Respiratory Comfort

Asafoetida, popularly known as hing, is famous for its powerful aroma. A tiny amount can transform the flavour of a dish, particularly dals, curries and vegetable preparations. Despite its strong smell before cooking, hing develops a more complex savoury character when heated. Traditional food practices have long associated asafoetida with digestion. It is often used in lentil and bean dishes, foods that can cause gas or bloating in some people. The spice contains several compounds that have been investigated for antioxidant, antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory activity. Asafoetida has also appeared in traditional remedies for respiratory discomfort. However, claims that it can cure viral infections, eliminate phlegm or treat respiratory diseases should be approached cautiously. Laboratory findings and traditional uses do not necessarily mean that the same effects occur in humans at normal dietary doses. The safest way to appreciate hing is as a culinary ingredient. Using a small amount while preparing dal, beans or vegetables can enhance flavour while fitting naturally into a balanced eating pattern. People with specific medical conditions or those taking medication should also avoid treating concentrated herbal preparations as harmless simply because the ingredient is commonly used in cooking.

Black Pepper: More Than Just Heat

Black pepper, or kali mirch, is among the most frequently used spices around the world. It is often paired with salt and added to soups, curries, salads, eggs and beverages. Its major bioactive compound is piperine, which is responsible for much of its pungency. Piperine has been investigated for antioxidant and anti-inflammatory effects and is also known for influencing the absorption and metabolism of certain compounds. Black pepper is sometimes described as a remedy for coughs, colds and sore throats. Warm preparations containing pepper, lemon or honey are traditional household choices during seasonal discomfort. Such drinks may feel soothing, but they should not be confused with antibiotics or treatments that eliminate infections. Black pepper's more interesting nutritional characteristic may be its interaction with other compounds. Piperine has been studied for its ability to increase the bioavailability of certain substances, most famously curcumin. This is one reason black pepper and turmeric are frequently paired in traditional cooking. Like other spices, black pepper is best viewed as part of the overall diet rather than a standalone health solution.

The Importance of Using Spices Sensibly

More spice does not necessarily mean more health benefits. Concentrated extracts and essential oils can behave very differently from the small quantities used in ordinary cooking. People taking prescription medicines should also be cautious with concentrated spice supplements because certain compounds may interact with medications. Pregnant or breastfeeding individuals and people with specific medical conditions should seek professional advice before taking medicinal amounts of herbs or spices. For most people, however, using common spices in normal culinary quantities is a simple and enjoyable way to add variety to meals.

A Traditional Treasure With Modern Relevance

Indian spices have survived generations not simply because they make food taste better but because they are deeply connected to the country's culinary traditions. Modern science is now exploring many of the compounds that make these ingredients biologically interesting. Cardamom, cinnamon, cumin, asafoetida, ajwain, cloves and black pepper each bring different flavours and naturally occurring compounds to the table. Some have been investigated for antioxidant or anti-inflammatory activity, while others have attracted research attention for possible effects on digestion, metabolism, cardiovascular markers or oral health.

Why Variety Matters More Than Any Single Spice

The real strength of Indian spices may lie not in one particular ingredient but in the variety of plant compounds that enter the diet when different spices are used regularly. A typical Indian meal can contain several spices at once. Cumin may provide aroma to dal, turmeric may contribute colour and curcuminoids, coriander may add freshness, black pepper may provide piperine, and ginger and garlic may contribute their own bioactive compounds. This diversity reflects an important principle of nutrition: no single food generally provides everything the body needs. A varied diet containing vegetables, fruits, whole grains, pulses, nuts, seeds and appropriate sources of protein provides a much broader range of nutrients than relying on one so-called superfood. Spices can make this healthy pattern easier to maintain because they improve flavour without requiring large quantities of sugar or unhealthy sauces.

Spices and Weight Management: Keep Expectations Realistic

Several Indian spices are promoted online as "fat burners" or "detox ingredients." Such claims often exaggerate what scientific evidence actually shows. Cinnamon, black pepper and other spices contain compounds that researchers have studied for their potential effects on metabolism. But the effects observed in laboratory experiments or controlled studies should not be interpreted as proof that adding a teaspoon of a particular spice will lead to substantial weight loss. Weight management depends on several factors, including total energy intake, dietary quality, physical activity, sleep, genetics and long-term eating habits. Spices can nevertheless play an indirect role. A flavourful meal may be satisfying without requiring excessive salt, sugar or heavy sauces. Replacing calorie-dense flavourings with herbs and spices can therefore be a useful part of a healthy eating pattern.

SHORT NEWS

CRICKET

Labuschagne named captain of Queensland in the One-Day Cup



NEW DELHI: Australia's senior batter Marnus Labuschagne has been named captain of the Queensland side in the One-Day Cup following his removal from the ODI squad for the African tour. Labuschagne was dropped from the ODI squad for the Zimbabwe and South Africa ODI series but kept his place for the Test series against the Proteas later, despite the slump in his form. He will be leading the team for their clash against Victoria on Saturday and for the New South Wales game next Monday before the Test-bound players leave for the South Africa Tests.

UPL 2026

Players' draft completes squads, Rishikesh River Kings secure Akash Madhwal



DEHRADUN: The Uttarakhand Premier League (UPL) franchises completed their player drafts to complete their squads ahead of the upcoming season. All the seven men's teams finalised their squads ahead of the tournament, scheduled to be played from September 21 to October 1 at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium, Raipur, Dehradun as Chennai Super Kings' IPL 2026 replacement fast bowler Akash Madhwal was roped in by Rishikesh River Kings. Other prominent Uttarakhand players - Suchith J, Avneesh Sudha, Yuvraj Choudhary, Tejasvi Jaiswal, Kunal Chandela and Mayank Mishra also headline the respective squads as icon players.

Abhishek's record century takes India to 127-run win over Afghanistan, clinch series 3-0

NEW DELHI



Left-handed opener Abhishek Sharma lit up the Arun Jaitley Stadium, packed with 26,230 fans, by hitting the fastest T20I century by a player from a Test-playing nation and the quickest ton by an India men's batter, off just 30 balls, as India thrashed Afghanistan by 127 runs to seal a 3-0 series win on Thursday.

If Sunday hinted at Abhishek finding form again by hitting a swashbuckling fifty, Thursday left no doubt. The left-handed opener knocked over a stack of records on the way to his hundred, bettering the 35-ball effort of Rohit Sharma against Sri Lanka in 2017 for the fastest by an Indian, and going third on the overall list behind only Estonia's Sahil Chauhan (27 balls) and Turkey's Muhammad Fahad (29).

Though Afghanistan mounted a late fightback in the back end of the innings and kept India to 221/7, including taking four wickets in the final four overs, Nitish Kumar Reddy and Ravi Bishnoi then took 3-25 and 3-26 respectively to bowl Afghanistan out for 94 in 14.1 overs. With Afghanistan losing four wickets in the power play, India were on course to clinch a clinical 3-0 series win after defeating Zimbabwe by the same margin in July.

On a pitch with no demons, Abhishek showcased supreme power and timing to hit a brilliant 108 off 34 balls, laced with nine fours and eleven sixes at a strike-rate of 317.65, with 102 of those runs coming from boundaries alone. His carnage meant India were 100/0 at the end of the power play, and despite a late stumble, the designated visitors managed to cross the 220-mark.

He found an able partner in Sanju Samson, who made a 35-ball 50, his second fifty in a row in this series, as the duo shared a 142-run opening stand. For Afghanistan, Azmatullah Omarzai picked up 2-27, while Rashid Khan, who was electrifying in effecting a run-out and taking two astounding catches, and Abdullah Ahmadzai took a scalp each.

Electing to bowl first, Afghanistan had a slip in for Abhishek when he came on strike in the first over. But once he drove Fazalhaq Farooqi through cover for four, the slip was moved out. After that, whatever Afghanistan tried, it didn't work, as Abhishek's brilliance just threw them out of gear.

Omarzai bowled short at the stumps in the second over, and Abhishek pulled it 86 metres behind square for six. With his attacking instincts unlocked, Abhishek hit Omarzai over his head for four with mid-off and mid-on up, then danced down the track to loft over cover for six, as 17 runs came off it. Farooqi's next over went for 23 runs, as Abhishek hammered him for two sixes and as many fours.

Mohammad Nabi's only over cost 29 runs. Samson first hit him for consecutive sixes, before being dropped on 22 by captain Ibrahim Zadran at mid-off. But Abhishek reached his fifty off just 16 balls with a six down the track - the sixth time he has reached a fifty inside 20 deliveries - before hitting a four through the gap between cover and point, and finished the fifth over with a six over the straight boundary.

Abhishek treated Rashid Khan with disdain – hitting him for four over extra cover, and followed by an inside-out boundary and six over wide mid-off to bring up India's century in the power play. After that, it was all going Abhishek's way – as Ahmadzai and Mujeeb were clobbered for boundaries.

The next 14 balls he faced brought him 51 runs, and his third T20I hundred came in the ninth over when Abhishek drove Ahmadzai for a single. He did not seem to realise straight away that he had broken a slew of records, and he took off his helmet and bandana and sat down in a meditation pose to celebrate the feat, with his father, Rajkumar Sharma, clapping and smiling with sheer joy at the hospitality stand.

But Rashid got him out in the tenth over with a googly bowled from behind the stumps, edged through to Rahmanullah Gurbaz, as the entire ground stood up to give Abhishek a standing ovation. Rashid then caused the run-out of Tilak Varma with a direct hit, and caught Samson at long-off, leaping with his hands above his head, off Omarzai.

Two overs later, he ran to his left at long-on and took a diving catch over his head to dismiss Shivam Dube. Ishan Kishan was run out by Gurbaz, who threw his right glove away before hitting the stumps. Ahmadzai, playing his first game of the series, kept going at the yorker and had Reddy caught at deep midwicket.

By the time skipper Shreyas Iyer was run out for 29, India had managed to cross the 220-run mark, despite scoring just 79 runs in the last 60 balls. But the night was already brightened by Abhishek's unforgettable, breathtaking blitzkrieg.

In the pursuit of 222, Gurbaz, who had not scored a run in the series so far, got off the mark by backing away and steering a short-of-length ball from Reddy behind point for four, and hit the next ball between cover and point for another boundary.

Ibrahim Zadran, on strike for the fifth ball, picked up a short one over square leg for six, as 15 runs came off the opening over. After Gurbaz and Zadran hit three more boundaries collectively, Afghanistan's slide began. Axar Patel struck with his first ball as Gurbaz backed away to sweep but missed the delivery, leaving stumps in a mess.

Three balls later, Sediqullah Atal top-edged a slog sweep, and Abhishek ran in from deep midwicket to take it. Bumrah then yorked Darwish Rasooli with a 140 kmph delivery while Yash Thakur had Zadran caught at deep square leg. With Afghanistan four down in the power play, the game's result became a foregone conclusion, and the pattern repeated yet again.

Debutant Noor ul Rahman, dropped by Varma at long-off, made 11 off 15 balls before Bishnoi had him miscuing in the deep. Reddy then returned to get his second three-wicket haul on the trot - Nabi swung across the line at a length ball that stayed low, skidded under the inside edge and knocked the stumps over.

Wuhan Open: Rybakina, Sabalenka, Gauff and Swiatek lead star-studded field

WUHAN



The Wuhan Open is set for a blockbuster return next month, with the tournament attracting every player currently ranked inside the WTA Rankings Top 10. US Open champion Elena Rybakina, who has also taken over the No. 1 ranking, will headline the WTA 1000 event. The Kazakh will be joined by Aryna Sabalenka, Jessica Pegula, Coco Gauff, Mirra Andreeva, Linda Noskova, Elina Svitolina, Karolina Muchova, Iga Swiatek and Marta Kostyuk.

The strength of the field extends beyond the leading names, with all but one player from the current Top 25 set to compete in Wuhan. Victoria Mboko is the notable absentee as she continues her recovery from a left knee injury sustained earlier this summer.

The tournament, the second WTA 1000 event in a back-to-back stretch on the WTA Tour Driven by Mercedes-Benz calendar, will feature a 56-player singles draw. The main draw comprises 43 direct entrants, eight qualifiers, four wild cards and one special exemption.

Daria Snigur, Yuliia Starodubtseva, Cristina Bucsa and former World No. 1 Karolina Pliskova complete the list of direct entrants. Lilli Tagger, Anhelina Kalinina, Mayar Sherif and Tamara Korpatsch are the first four players on the alternate list.

Gauff will arrive as the defending champion after producing a flawless run last year without dropping a set. The American overcame Jasmine Paolini in the semifinals before defeating Pegula in the final. Gauff had reached the semifinals in Wuhan the previous year, where she lost to Sabalenka, and owns an 8-1 career record at the tournament.

Sabalenka, meanwhile, has established herself as one of Wuhan's most successful players. The Belarusian won consecutive titles in 2018 and 2019 before the tournament went on a four-year hiatus. She returned to the event in 2024 and immediately reclaimed the trophy.

The three-time champion has a remarkable 20-1 record in Wuhan, with her only defeat coming against Pegula in last year's semifinals. The upcoming edition will offer another substantial reward, with the champion earning 1,000 PIF WTA Rankings points and a USD 665,000 winner's cheque. The main draw action is scheduled to begin on Monday, October 12, with the tournament concluding on Sunday, October 18. The draw ceremony will take place on Saturday, October 10.

3rd T20I: It all depends on the process I've been doing before every series, says Abhishek

NEW DELHI



Dynamic opener Abhishek Sharma, who lit up the third T20I against Afghanistan by hitting a breath-taking 108 off just 34 balls at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, believes his explosive form at the top of the order is a direct result of meticulous, bowler-specific preparation, while adding that "one or two bad series" will not alter the team's aggressive batting template.

Abhishek, who now holds the record for the fastest men's T20I fifty by an Indian batter and the quickest ton by a batter from a Full Member nation, was named both Player of the Match and Player of the Series in India's 3-0 T20I series win over Afghanistan, coming via a thumping 127-run triumph.

"I feel it all depends on the process I've been doing before every series. It's just, it's very particular for me against whom I'm gonna play and who are gonna be the bowlers. So for personally me as a batter, it's always been about the process: how I'm gonna utilise the power play, who is gonna bowl me the power play, and then the seventh, eighth over. It's very specific for me," Abhishek said in the post-match presentation ceremony.

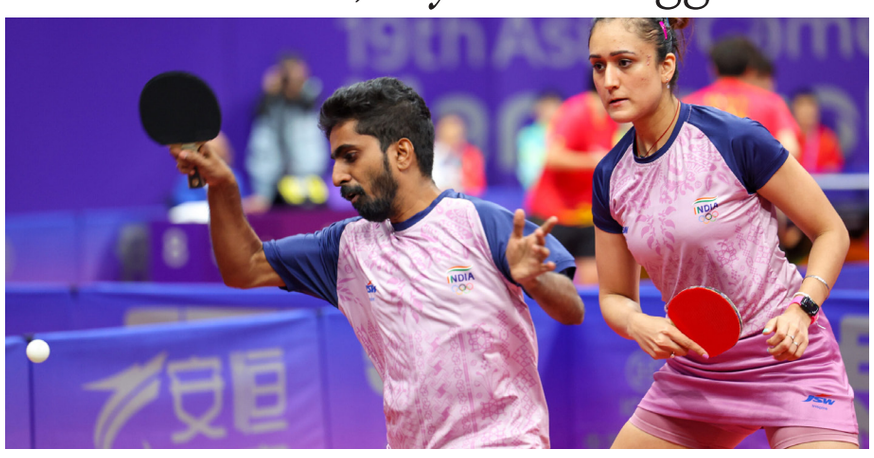
Dismissing concerns over occasional failures, Abhishek stated that the squad remains united in its long-term goal of dominating opponents across all conditions. "I mean, I've told in the first interview as well, because we have been doing this for the last two years, and I told this before as well, one or two bad series won't define us as a batting department, because we wanted to dominate throughout the whole year before the World Cup, and no matter who, against whom we are playing.

"But I feel as a batter, as a cricketer, sometimes it's gonna go up and down. But it's the team dressing room momentum and the way we all think about it. I feel that's very important, because that's the time we have to be in one unit and just focus on the next game and just keep on dominating," he added.

Crediting the Indian team management for providing clarity and freedom, Abhishek further spoke about the importance of clear communication from the team leadership in consistently executing a high-risk playing style.

Doubles events are India's brightest medal hopes in table tennis at Asian Games, says Neha Aggarwal

NEW DELHI



Former India paddler Neha Aggarwal Sharma believes the country's table tennis contingent at Aichi-Nagoya has both the experience and the temperament to better its modest Asian Games record, with the doubles events offering the brightest hopes for clinching medals in the continental event.

Olympians Sreeja Akula and G Sathiyan will lead India's 10-member squad at the continental showpiece event, where table tennis matches will be held from September 20 to 28 at the Sky Hall Toyota in Aichi Prefecture. The men's squad is spearheaded by veteran Sathiyan alongside Harmeet Desai, Manav Thakkar, Manush Shah and Payas Jain, with Ankur Bhattacharjee and Ronit Bhanja in reserve.

"Like you rightly said, it's a good mix of experienced and young players. On the men's side, I would now term the team quite experienced, with Harmeet Desai, Sathyan, Manav, and Manush all part of the previous Asian Games as well. Payas is the only change, and it's great to see him there.

"So that way, this team has had the experience of competing, especially these four competing together at the World Championships, the Commonwealth Championships, which was held earlier this year. So the camaraderie, their team bonding and all of that is also really good. So look forward to that," Neha said to IANS in an exclusive conversation facilitated by Sony Sports Network on Thursday.

In the women's team, Sreeja, India's highest-ranked female paddler, heads a side that also includes Yashaswini Ghorpade, Diya Chitale, Sutirtha Mukherjee and 17-year-old Syndrela Das. Manika Batra, a mixed doubles bronze medallist at Jakarta 2018, was controversially excluded from the main team and has been named a reserve along with Swastika Ghosh.

"On the women's side, of course, the team will miss Manika. But, as I said, they are all going in some very good form. Sreeja is just fresh up, winning the WTT feeder title. She had some injury issues, but it was so good to see her resolve and all of that. Sreeja is one player who also performs really well under pressure. So the team will really rely on her.

"I am excited to watch Diya Chitale, Yashaswini, and Syndrela Das - only 17 years old, playing her first Asian Games, and when you watch Syndrela, you can't say that she's 17. Her maturity is really good, and her ability to handle pressure is also really nice. So I'm excited to see the team together.

"The era of Sharath is past us. These young folks have a lot on their shoulders, but I genuinely believe they can come back with medals, especially in mixed doubles. We do have bright chances in mixed doubles and men's and women's doubles," added Neha, who represented India in the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Asked whether Indian paddlers now had enough international exposure to trouble the continent's best players, Neha said, "I think now we are fairly okay. See, the exposure has been really good. Now, table tennis players are playing about 15-16 tournaments a year. In fact, now we need really good windows for them to train and do like an off-season training camp.

"So, in terms of international exposure, the players have received really good support, and each one of them knows the opponents also really well. It's all about how well you can believe in yourself. For example, Sreeja was part of the team at the Paris Olympics. We were at the quarterfinals and lost a very close match against Germany.

Nakashima gets Laver Cup call-up as Shelton's withdrawal reshapes Team World

LONDON

Brandon Nakashima has been handed his first Laver Cup opportunity after being drafted into Team World for the 2026 edition, replacing fellow American Ben Shelton in the six-man line-up for the September 25-27 event at The O2 in London. The change comes shortly after Shelton's breakthrough run at the US Open, where the American reached his first Grand Slam final. Nakashima, meanwhile, arrives in London amid a career-best stretch that has taken him to No. 16 in the ATP Rankings.

The 25-year-old American produced a 13-4 record during the recent North American hard-court swing, with his standout result coming in Montreal, where he reached his maiden ATP Masters 1000 final.

Nakashima will join Alex de Minaur, Taylor Fritz, Alexander Bublik, Learner Tien and Francisco Cerundolo in Team World, which will attempt to retain the trophy after winning last year's competition in San Francisco.

For Nakashima, the call-up represents the fulfilment of a long-standing ambition. "I'm really excited to be making my Laver Cup debut in London. It's an event I've always dreamed of playing, and I can't wait to be part of Team World, competing alongside the guys and playing for Andre and Pat. Looking forward to getting to The O2 and doing everything I can to help the team," Nakashima said, as quoted by ATP.

The American side will be led by captain Andre Agassi, with Patrick Rafter serving as vice captain. Both Agassi and Rafter are members of the ATP No. 1 Club. Team World will face a European line-up featuring Carlos Alcaraz, Alexander Zverev, Flavio Cobolli, Rafael Jodar, Jakub Mensik and Casper Ruud. Yannick Noah will captain Team Europe, with Tim Henman as vice captain.

170 no longer a winning total in T20s, says Bishnoi

NEW DELHI



Highlighting the rapid evolution of T20 cricket in recent years, India leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi said a score of 170, once considered a winning total, has now become a mere average or below-par in the modern game.

Bishnoi came into the second game held on Tuesday in place of wrist-spinner Varun Chakaravarthy, who was ruled out of the ongoing series against Afghanistan due to a side strain. In that game, which India won by seven wickets, Bishnoi picked up 1-32 in his four overs and dismissed top-order batter Sediqullah Atal.

Reflecting on his performance in the opening match and the changing dynamics of the shortest format, the 25-year-old spinner emphasised that executing practice drills and sticking to core processes remain vital when bowling on flat tracks and small grounds.

"It was a really good match. One important thing was that I was able to put into practice the things I had been working on during training. Being able to contribute to the team's win made it even better. "T20 cricket has changed a lot. From 2022 to 2026, things have changed massively. Back then, 170 was considered a minimum score. Today, 170 is barely a competitive total. What was once a winning score has now become an average or below-par score," said Bishnoi in a chat with the broadcasters, ahead of the third T20I starting at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Thursday.

Asked about his approach to handling tough bowling conditions, the Jodhpur-based Bishnoi, who plays for Rajasthan Royals in the Indian Premier League (IPL), stated that maintaining control and sticking to one's strengths is key to success in the shortest format. "My philosophy is to do what you know best and keep improving at it. You have to stick to your process and your plans. Playing on good pitches and small grounds is certainly a factor, but you also have to focus on your bowling,.



Meenakshi Serves Pure Swag

Meenakshi Chaudhary, who is currently gearing up for her upcoming film Vrushakarma opposite Naga Chaitanya, has treated her fans to a fresh set of portraits. In the pictures, the actress opts for a simple black tank top paired with denims, keeping the styling minimal yet chic. Her hair is left loose and tousled, adding an effortless, breezy vibe to the look. What stands out the most, though, is her expression. Meenakshi gives the camera a soft, sultry gaze, with a hint of a smile playing on her lips, striking a balance between confidence and charm. The natural lighting and plain backdrop keep the focus entirely on her, letting the expression do all the talking.

Dulquer's AOT Locks November 20 Release

Dulquer Salmaan's Aakasamlo Oka Tara has finally locked its theatrical release date, with the makers announcing a grand worldwide release on November 20. The film brings together director Pavan Sadineni, producers Sandeep Gunnam and Ramya Gunnam, and presenters Swapna Cinema and Geetha Arts for a promising emotional entertainer. Following the impressive glimpse that generated strong buzz, the team has begun planning a wide promotional campaign to connect the film with audiences ahead of release. The makers are confident that the film's emotional story and refreshing narrative will stand out this festive season. The first single, Chitti Chitti Cheema, has already become a favorite among music lovers. The soothing melody, emotional lyrics, and beautiful presentation have given audiences a glimpse into the film's heartfelt world and increased excitement for what's to come. Featuring Dulquer Salmaan alongside Satvika Veeravalli and Shruti Haasan, Aakasamlo Oka Tara promises meaningful storytelling with strong emotional depth. G.V. Prakash Kumar's music is expected to be one of the film's biggest strengths as it heads toward its November release.



Maya Lady Teaser Promises Crazy Lov

Maya Lady has officially entered the promotional phase with a lively teaser that promises entertainment, romance, confusion, and plenty of laughter. Crazy Ants Productions continues its streak of backing fresh concepts, while Rakesh Varre appears ready to deliver another unique theatrical entertainer as both hero and producer. The teaser showcases a relatable youngster searching for the perfect life partner while constantly dealing with jokes and taunts from family and friends. His search takes a surprising turn after meeting a crazy girl whose unpredictable actions completely shake up his carefully planned life. Rakesh Varre looks effortlessly charming and relatable, showcasing multiple emotional shades with ease. Madhumita Sarcar grabs attention with her energetic and obsessive character, while Satya's hilarious comedy punches add another entertaining layer to the teaser. The chemistry between the lead pair looks fresh and exciting. Prasankar directs the film with an interesting blend of romance and suspense, while Vishal Chandrasekhar's music becomes one of the teaser's biggest highlights. Set in Vizag with visually rich cinematography, Maya Lady stars Rakesh Varre, Madhumita Sarcar, Satya, Indraja, and Mysore Suresh. Presented by V D Jagan Mohan Rao and produced by Rakesh Varre, the film is releasing in October 2026.



Trivikram No Longer Part Of HANUMAN Ansh?

It was announced that Director Trivikram Srinivas will be presenting the Telugu Version of the blockbuster film, Hanuman Ansh. It was a distribution deal with some percentage of the Telugu collections to Trivikram for giving his name and the movie was supposed to release through Mythri Film Distribution. The Telugu Version was announced for a September 18th release, and even a venue was announced for the Teaser launch. But everything was canceled at the last minute. They said the postponement is because of dubbing delays but all the tweets regarding the film were deleted from Trivikram's Fortune Four Cinemas X handle. Sources say that Trivikram is not happy with the producer adding new conditions into the deal one after the other just before the agreement signing. The producer is apparently new to the industry but things operate here differently. So, the ace director decided to drop off from the deal. We will have to see if they can find a new buyer or the Telugu version will come out only on the OTT. There is also not enough space at the box office with big films coming up.



Rashmika Goes All In For MS Biopic

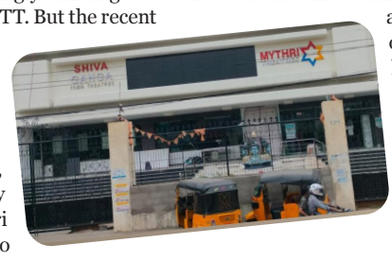


The launch of the Bharat Ratna M.S. Subbulakshmi biopic turned into an emotional celebration as the makers officially unveiled the ambitious pan-India project at the Music Academy in Chennai. Backed by producers Allu Aravind, Rockline Venkatesh, and Bunny Vas, the film is directed by Gowtam Tinnanuri with music by Anirudh Ravichander. Ulaganayagan Kamal Haasan inaugurated the film and gave the first clap for Rashmika Mandanna's opening scene. Speaking at the launch, Rashmika said she considers portraying M.S. Subbulakshmi a blessing and an enormous responsibility. She shared that receiving the opportunity to play one of India's greatest cultural icons fills her heart with gratitude and humility. The actress said being on the stage during M.S. Amma's 110th birth anniversary felt spiritual, and she believes the legendary singer's blessings will guide the entire team throughout the making of the film. Rashmika added that she is proud to become a part of such an extraordinary life story. She assured everyone that she would give her hundred percent to the role and portray M.S. Subbulakshmi with complete sincerity, hoping audiences across generations connect with her performance and embrace the biopic with love and respect.

Mythri Adds A New Premium Cinema



Single screens have been facing a tough phase for years with audiences increasingly shifting towards multiplexes and OTT. But the recent box-office trend in Telugu cinema is changing that perception. When a film creates enough excitement and the theatre offers a good experience, audiences are still ready to fill the seats. Mythri Movie Makers seems to have understood this shift well. After turning Vimal Theatre in Balanagar into a premium destination, the production house is now giving Hyderabad another upgraded single screen. Mythri has taken over Ganga Theatre in Dilsukhnagar and has given it a complete makeover. The new screen comes with modern projection and sound technology, along with a large auditorium and redesigned interiors. A 66×29-foot screen, 4K Christi e projection and 64-channel Dolby Atmos sound system are among the major highlights. The revamped Ganga Theatre will officially open this Friday. The initial screenings will serve as a soft launch before the theatre gets ready for a major release next week.



Disha Stuns Despite Online Criticism

Disha Patani recently found herself at the centre of a fashion debate after she was seen wearing a bold red lehenga with a plunging neckline at a Ganpati celebration linked to the Ambani family. While the actress looked striking in the richly embroidered outfit, several social media users criticised her choice of attire for the occasion, sparking a wave of trolling online. Despite the criticism, there's no denying that Disha nailed the glamour quotient in the outfit. The deep red lehenga, paired with statement jewellery, bangles, and soft waves, gave her a regal, old-world charm. Her sultry poses and confident expressions only added to the appeal of the pictures, which have been doing the rounds on social media. This isn't the first time Disha's fashion choices have triggered discussions online, but the actress has largely stayed unbothered, continuing to serve bold and glamorous looks on her own terms.

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