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Govt will soon deliver good news on land issues: Ponguleti

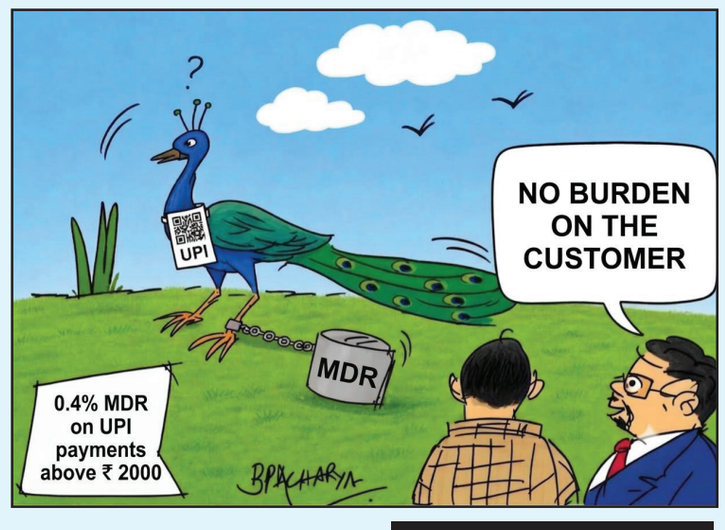
SPECIAL 02

Mamitha Baiju's Classy Chic Look

BOX-OFFICE 12



OBTUSE ANGLE



by BP ACHARYA

ABVP Wins 3 Posts in DUSU Elections

HOME LAND 07

65 LMT Kharif Paddy Arrivals Expected



HYDERABAD, SEPT.19

The Telangana Civil Supplies department has activated its statewide procurement arrangements for the Kharif 2026-27 season, anticipating paddy arrivals of around 65 lakh metric tonnes (LMT). To ensure smooth operations from the first week of October, the department is implementing a comprehensive SHT (Storage, Hamali and Transport) strategy. The three-pronged approach is aimed at plugging supply-chain

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Govt to distribute uniforms to students in more attractive

Arrangements are being made from now to distribute uniforms for next academic year

CM Revanth reviews uniform distribution and other essentials to government school students

HYDERABAD, SEP 19

Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy ordered the officials to distribute uniforms to the students in more attractive colors. The officials were directed to explore diverse designs before finalizing the uniform colours. On Saturday, the Chief Minister reviewed the distribution of uniforms and other supplies to students. The officials briefed the CM on the completion of the distribution of one set of uniforms to students in government schools, hostels, and residential schools. The second set would be provided by the end of September. Two sets of uniforms had already been provided to students in KGBVs and Model Schools. The authorities updated the CM about the status of the distribution of notebooks to all students which was already completed. The distribution of plates, glasses, bowls, spoons, cups, carpets, bedsheets, and towels to students across government hostels, residential schools, KGBVs, and Model Schools was reviewed in the meeting .

CM A Revanth Reddy instructed the officials to formulate an action plan from now to

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World-class airport at Warangal.. the dream is taking flight!

Hyderabad: The BRS was in power for 10 years and still failed to make Warangal's long-pending airport dream a reality, while its leaders remained focused on family interests and luxury farmhouses.

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'India's ancient wisdom can guide modern climate action: Pm Modi

New Delhi, Sept. 19: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated the National Green Tribunal's (NGT) two-day international conference on 'The Future of Environment and Climate Dynamics' in New Delhi and launched the NGT mobile application. Chief Justice of India Justice Surya Kant, Attorney General R. Venkataramani, Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Bhupender Yadav and NGT Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava attended the inaugural session. Addressing the gathering, Modi underlined India's longstanding cultural and civilisational connection with nature and said traditional wisdom continues to contribute to modern approaches to climate action. He commended the NGT for its role in advancing environmental protection and promoting collective action on climate challenges.



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Bandi Sanjay Inaugurated 20th Rozgar Mela

Hyderabad, Sept.19: Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, on Saturday inaugurated the 20th Rozgar Mela held at Dr. MCR HRD Institute, Jubilee Hills, here. The event was organised by the Central Tax and Customs, Hyderabad Zone.A total of 221 candidates received appointment letters at the Rozgar Mela. Addressing the program, Bandi Sanjay Kumar said that the 20th Rozgar Mela is being organised at 45 locations across the country, where around 51,000 appointment letters are being distributed. He said that the initiative reflects Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's commitment to providing 10 lakh jobs in the Central Government.

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RTC Union Elections on October 9: Ponnam

Hyderabad, Sept.19: The Praja Palana government is restoring the rights of Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) employees' unions that were curtailed during the previous government, Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar said on Saturday. He said recognition elections for trade unions in TGSRTC would be held on October 9, nearly a decade after the last elections conducted on July 19, 2016.

Recalling the role played by RTC employees' unions in the Telangana statehood movement, Ponnam Prabhakar alleged that the previous government had sought to suppress the rights of the very unions that had fought for statehood. Instead of addressing their legitimate demands, the then government

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Telangana to Play a Key Role in Achieving the Viksit Bharat Goal: Bhatti

- *Target is to transform Telangana into a $3 trillion economy by 2047*
- *Plan to increase Telangana's share in the national economy from around 5% to 10%*
- *Moving from dependence on government borrowing towards mobilising private and institutional investments*
- *Balanced development across the state through the CURE–PURE–RARE model*
- *Bharat Future City to be developed across more than 30,000 acres*
- *Youth are Telangana's greatest strength: Deputy CM*



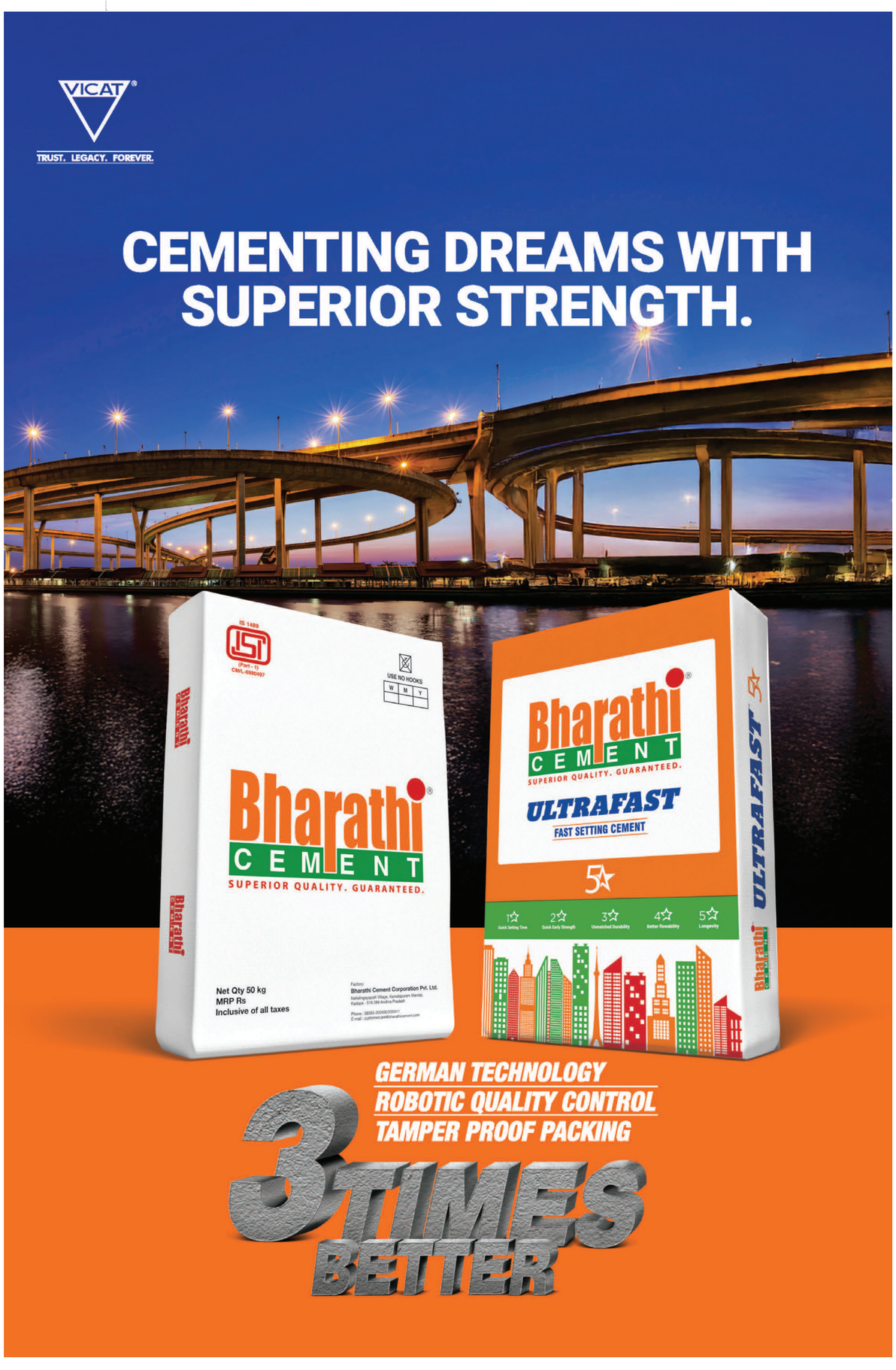
NEW DELHI , SEP 19

Telangana is ready to play a key role in achieving the Viksit Bharat–2047 goal, Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka said. He stated that Telangana views the ambitious economic targets set by the country not as distant aspirations, but as an immediate responsibility requiring concrete action.

The Deputy Chief Minister addressed the conference on "Mobilising Financial Resources for India's Journey Towards Viksit Bharat", held in New Delhi on Saturday under the leadership of Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman. Chief Ministers and Finance Ministers of various states, senior officials of the Union and state finance departments, and economic experts participated in the conference. From Telangana, the Deputy Chief Minister was accompanied by Dr. Gaurav Uppal, Secretary, Finance and Planning Department.

Bhatti Vikramarka said that the major challenge was to mobilise the financial resources required to achieve

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UDAAN to Bridge Skills-Employment Gap

TASK–Dell Technologies MoU | 5,500 Students | 25 Training Centres |

Hyderabad, sep 19: With the objective of preparing Telangana's youth for emerging technologies and connecting skills with meaningful employment opportunities, the Telangana Academy for Skill and Knowledge (TASK) and Dell Technologies have joined hands to implement the 'uDaan' programme in the State. The MoU was formalised at a meeting held under the leadership of Hon'ble Minister for IT & Industries, Shri D. Sridhar Babu, with the participation of senior government officials, TASK leadership, Dell Technologies and programme partners.

Under the uDaan programme, 5,500 students will undergo a structured three-month

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Danam Nagender Approaches the Supreme Court

Hyderabad, Sep. 19: The disqualification case involving Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagender has reached the Supreme Court. Challenging the Telangana High Court's judgment disqualifying him as an MLA in the party-defection case, Danam Nagender has approached the Supreme Court. It is learnt that he has sought a stay on the High Court's judgment from the apex court.

Danam Nagender won the Khairatabad seat as a BRS candidate in the 2023 Assembly elections. He subsequently joined the Congress. In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, he contested from the Secunderabad constituency as a Congress candidate. The Telangana High Court delivered its judgment on September 18 on petitions filed alleging that this amounted to defection. The court stated that his disqualification under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution would take effect from April 23, 2024.



Harish Questions Govt on Irrigation, Power

Hyderabad, Sept.19: Senior BRS leader and Legislature Party Deputy Floor Leader T. Harish Rao on Saturday launched a sharp attack on the Congress government, attributing the ongoing irrigation water and power shortages in Telangana to administrative failure rather than natural causes. Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan, Harish Rao dismissed the government's claim that El Niño was responsible for the crisis, calling it a "man-made drought created by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's administration."

"As a statehood activist, a seven-term legislator, and a farmer's son, I am speaking out of responsibility, not politics. The suffering of farmers across the state cannot be ignored," Harish Rao

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Govt will soon deliver good news on land issues: Ponguleti

HYDERABAD, SEPT.19

The State government will soon deliver good news to the public regarding the resolution of long-pending land-related issues, Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy said on Saturday.

Recalling Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's announcement in the Legislative Assembly, the Minister said the government is focusing on the 12 key land issues identified by the House and is resolving them in a phased manner. As part of this effort, the government issued GO 118 to address colony-specific land matters and GO 76 to regularise house plots in the Singareni belt.

Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, alongside Cabinet colleagues Ponnam Prabhakar and Mohammed Azharuddin, distributed regularisation certificates to beneficiaries at the Saroornagar Indoor Stadium. The event marked the regularisation of housing plots across 44 colonies in the LB Nagar Assembly constituency.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister highlighted that issues in 44 out of 64 colonies in the area have now been resolved in line with the Chief Minister's directives.

He noted that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy fulfilled a promise made to LB Nagar residents during his tenure as Malkajgiri MP regarding the implementation of GO 118.

The Minister emphasised that District Collectors have been instructed to resolve colony-level grievances without political bias. Addressing public concerns, the Minister assured residents that properties previously placed under prohibitory lists by the previous BRS government will be cleared and regularised within a month, explicitly ruling out any house demolitions.

Furthermore, Minister Srinivasa Reddy announced that GO 118 will soon extend benefits to more residents across Medchal-Malkajgiri and Ranga Reddy districts within a month. On the issue of lands listed under Section 22-A, he confirmed that orders will be issued within a week to clear long-standing restrictions.

LB Nagar and Ibrahimpatnam MLAs D. Sudheer Reddy and Malreddy Ranga Reddy, LB Nagar Congress party in-charge Madhu Yaskhi Goud and others were also present.

RTC Union Elections on October 9: Ponnam

➢FROM PAGE 1

resorted to threats of dismissal, he alleged. The Minister further alleged that the previous government had created hurdles to holding democratic elections for recognition of trade unions and had prevented the process from being carried out in accordance with the Code of Discipline. After the Praja Palana government, led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, came to power, it had been addressing RTC employees' issues one by one, the Minister said. Along with ensuring financial security for employees, the government was also restoring their rights, he said. The government had recently initiated the process for recognition elections, and the polls would be held on October 9, Ponnam Prabhakar said.

The Minister appealed to all RTC employees to participate in the elections voluntarily and in a democratic manner.

Congress Welcomes High Court Verdict: Mahesh goud

HYDERABAD, SEP 19

Telangana PCC chief Mahesh Kumar Goud welcomed the High Court verdict on defections, accusing the BRS of starting the "bad culture" of party switching. He cited the defections of Talasani Srinivas Yadav and Sabitha Indra Reddy as examples. Goud said Congress had received a clear public mandate and dismissed repeated claims that the government would collapse. He also referred to the earlier Sampath Kumar case on MLA disqualifications.

On Danam Nagender, Goud said the AICC would decide on his Congress candidature, while Chief Minister Revanth Reddy would take a call on any ministerial post. He also criticised the BJP over defections in Goa, Manipur and Maharashtra.

Goud demanded a comprehensive survey of land linked to the Janwada farmhouse and said political leaders should be ready to disclose their assets. He rejected reports of differences within Congress and said Minister Konda Surekha would continue in the party.

Expressing confidence in Congress's electoral prospects, Goud said welfare schemes had increased public support for the government. He hoped the party would perform well in any bypolls and the GHMC elections.

He urged people not to believe everything circulated on social media and advised youngsters to develop the habit of reading books and newspapers. He also stressed the national significance of leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

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65 LMT Kharif Paddy Arrivals Expected

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gaps, ensuring timely lifting of paddy and preventing logistical delays for farmers.

As part of the preparations, Civil Supplies Commissioner M. Stephen Raveendra conducted district-wise review meetings at the department's head office to assess storage preparedness and other arrangements at the ground level.

Telangana State Warehousing Corporation (TGSWC) Managing Director Korra Lakshmi participated in the review meetings and assessed warehousing and logistics requirements. District Civil Supplies Officers (DCSOs) and District Managers (DMs) presented updated field-level data and highlighted infrastructural bottlenecks requiring immediate attention.

A key focus of the review was the expansion and clearance of storage facilities across the State. The department is mobilising additional storage capacity to ensure that the anticipated 65 LMT of paddy can be accommodated without any last-minute shortage of storage space.

Officials have been directed to complete the necessary arrangements well ahead of the commencement of procurement operations

Govt to distribute uniforms to students in more...

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ensure that uniforms and other supplies reach students on the first day of next academic year. Noting the possibility of a 10 per cent increase in student enrollment, the Chief minister also ordered the authorities to prepare plans accordingly for additional intake. The CM noted that parents have expressed satisfaction with the quality of the uniforms and other materials provided this year.

State Government Advisor P. Sudarshan Reddy, MP Vem Narendar Reddy, CM's Principal Secretary Sridhar, CM's OSD Vemula Srinivasulu, and officials from various departments, including Sabyasachi Ghosh, Bala Mayadevi, Ahmed Nadeem, Divya Devarajan, Naveen Nicholas, Shruti Ojha, Saidulu, Santosh, and Sita Lakshmi were present in the meeting.

World-class airport at Warangal..

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Now, under Congress #PrajaPalana the dream is finally becoming reality. The #Telangana Government has allocated ₹295 crore for #MamnoorAirport land acquisition. The required land has now been fully acquired and handed over to the Airports Authority of India (AAI). The dream is now taking shape on the ground. This is not just an airport. It is a new gateway for industry, tourism, education, jobs and investment.

Looking forward to flying from Mamnoor Airport, Warangal - a new symbol of a growing and connected Telangana. What should we name Warangal's new airport..?

Give your suggestions..!!

'India's ancient wisdom can guide modern climate action: Pm Modi

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Climate rights need stronger global cooperation: CJI

Chief Justice Surya Kant highlighted the evolution of environmental jurisprudence in India, noting that the Supreme Court has recognised the right to a pollution-free environment as a fundamental right. He referred to principles such as the precautionary principle, polluter pays principle, absolute liability and public trust doctrine.

He said climate change has brought issues relating to equality, livelihood and health into sharper constitutional focus. Justice Kant called for greater cooperation among the judiciary, scientific community and countries to strengthen global environmental governance.

India committed to equity, implementation: Yadav

Bhupender Yadav said India's climate action was anchored in equity, implementation and sustainable development. He said non-fossil fuel sources now account for 54.18 per cent of the country's installed electricity capacity, exceeding the 2030 target of 50 per cent nine years ahead of schedule. Yadav said India ranks third globally in installed renewable energy capacity and is the world's second-largest solar growth market. He maintained that economic growth and climate action could progress together.

Highlighting conservation efforts, the Minister referred to the reintroduction of cheetahs, conservation breeding of the Great Indian Bustard and restoration of forests, grasslands and wetlands. India's forest and tree cover, he said, stands at 8.27 lakh square kilometres. Citing the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025 of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, Yadav said India has retained its third position globally in annual net forest-area gain.

Ahead of the UNFCCC COP31 in Antalya, he said India would continue to advocate climate action based on equity, effective implementation and the concerns of vulnerable nations.

Call for stronger global environmental framework

Attorney General R. Venkataramani said environmental challenges could not be addressed by individual countries and called for global action to move beyond declarations towards practical and enforceable mechanisms.

He called for a new global environmental regulatory framework and stronger international institutions to advance environmental justice, while balancing concerns relating to energy and food security, housing, health, water, ecosystems and economic opportunities.

NGT Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava said environmental protection was a collective responsibility involving governments, institutions, industries and citizens. He stressed that the impact of environmental degradation often falls most heavily on communities that contribute the least to it.

Delegates from 17 countries

The two-day conference has brought together jurists, academicians, policymakers, scientists and environmental experts from 17 countries, along with representatives of the UN Environment Programme and the Asian Development Bank. The conference is discussing judicial, scientific, policy and institutional approaches to environmental governance. It aims to strengthen environmental laws and institutions, promote climate justice and inter-generational equity, support sustainable and resilient cities, facilitate a just energy transition and encourage cooperation on transboundary environmental challenges.Two technical sessions were held on Saturday. The first focused on 'Climate Justice, Equity and Inclusion: From Principles to Action', while the second examined 'The Future of Environmental Law and Governance', including institutional enforcement, sustainable cities, energy transition, green infrastructure and green finance.

The conference is expected to conclude with recommendations and a roadmap for future international cooperation on environmental and climate issues.

Bandi Sanjay Inaugurated 20th Rozgar Mela

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On the occasion, Bandi Sanjay highlighted that more than 12.75 lakh appointment letters have been issued through the first 19 Rozgar Melas held across the country. Adding further, the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs stated that the Government is working towards the goal of building a Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Underlining the Government's commitment towards the goal of Viksit Bharat by 2047, he also said that Government has taken up several initiatives such as Startup India, Make in India, welfare schemes and many other programs creating new opportunities, supporting employment for the youth. Congratulating the newly appointed candidates, Bandi Sanjay said that getting a Central Government job is an important milestone for the candidates and their families. He encouraged them to work with dedication and contribute to nation-building.

Earlier, Arun Kumar, IRS, Chief Commissioner, Central Tax & Customs, Hyderabad Zone, welcomed the gathering. He said that the induction of young employees would bring new ideas and energy to government services.

He said that the 221 newly appointed recruits will undergo training at the National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes and Narcotics (NACIN), Hyderabad. The training will cover GST, Customs, related laws, office procedures and practical work. Inspectors will also receive specialised firearms training in coordination with the Telangana Police Academy.

Arun Kumar urged the new recruits to follow the principle of "Citizen First, Taxpayer First, Nation First" and perform their duties with sincerity and dedication. He said that their work at the field level would contribute to the effective implementation of government policies and the goal of a developed India by 2047. N.J. Kumaresh, IRS, Principal Commissioner, Hyderabad GST Commissionerate, senior departmental officers and family members of the newly appointed candidates were also present at the event.

Harish Questions Govt on Irrigation, Power

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said, alleging that the recent Assembly debate exposed the government's attempt to cover up its operational lapses. Rebutting statements made in the Assembly by Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy regarding Srisailam water usage, Harish Rao challenged the government to account for the drawals. "The Minister claimed Telangana used 84 TMC from Srisailam this year. If so, where did that water go? Which reservoirs were filled, and which fields received irrigation?" he asked.

Harish Rao highlighted that under the major Srisailam-based lift schemes, the Palamuru-Ranga Reddy pumps have remained idle while only around 8 TMC was lifted through the Kalwakurthy project. Citing Central Water Commission (CWC) figures, he claimed Telangana recorded its lowest utilization of Krishna waters in recent years under the current regime. Turning to the energy sector, the former minister charged the government with squandering the power-surplus status achieved during the BRS tenure. He alleged that over 3,300 MW of installed thermal capacity remains unutilised due to poor management

UDAAN to Bridge Skills-Employment Gap

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training programme across 25 centres in Telangana. The initiative will focus on future-ready areas such as Artificial Intelligence, Cloud Computing, Electronics Manufacturing, Emerging Technologies and Digital Skills, along with industry exposure and employability capabilities. Special emphasis will also be placed on extending these opportunities to students and youth from rural areas, enabling wider access to industry-relevant technology skills.

From Education to Industry – From Skills to Employment

The vision of uDaan goes beyond training. The programme aims to create a comprehensive pathway:

Education /Skilling /Industry Exposure ☐ Employment / Apprenticeship / Entrepreneurship. The objective is to enable students to acquire industry-relevant skills while they are still pursuing their education, rather than waiting until graduation to begin preparing for employment.

By combining technical skills, industry exposure and job-readiness, the programme seeks to provide pathways towards employment, apprenticeships and entrepreneurship.

Industry-Aligned Curriculum and Technology Support

Training under the programme will be based on a curriculum developed by IIT Delhi, with technology support from Dell Technologies. At the national level, the uDaan initiative brings together Dell Technologies, FITT–IIT Delhi, Learning Links Foundation and Generation India Foundation to equip young people with skills in emerging technology domains.

The initiative in Telangana is being taken forward with the support and leadership of Hon'ble IT & Industries Minister Shri D. Sridhar Babu, creating opportunities for the State's youth to gain future-ready skills aligned with evolving industry requirements. For TASK, the partnership reinforces its larger mission of building an outcome-driven, industry-linked skilling ecosystem by equipping youth with emerging technology skills, 21st-century employability capabilities and an entrepreneurial mindset.

The focus is clear: move beyond training numbers towards measurable employment outcomes and create a stronger Training-to-Employment ecosystem for Telangana's youth. The meeting was attended by Shri Anudeep Durishetty, IAS, Joint Secretary, IT&C Department; Shri Ram, State Council Secretary; Shri Nitin Kumar Reddy, CEO, TASK; Shri Sunkireddy Raghavender Reddy, COO, TASK; Shri Nikhil, COO, Learning Links Foundation; Shri K. Krishna Kishore, Senior Account Manager–Government, Dell Technologies; and Shri Ramesh Jampula, APJC Regional CIO & Hyderabad Site Director, Dell Technologies, among others. "From Skills to Opportunities — TASK–Dell uDaan aims to empower Telangana's youth for the jobs and technologies of tomorrow."

Telangana to Play a Key Role in Achieving the Viksit Bharat Goal: Bhatti

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unprecedented levels of development while maintaining fiscal stability, enhancing productivity, and ensuring that the benefits of development reach every citizen and every region. He said that the goal of building Viksit Bharat cannot be achieved by the Centre or the states independently and stressed the need for the Centre and states to move forward together in the spirit of cooperative federalism. He emphasised the need for effective mobilisation of both public and private resources, along with strong institutions and policies based on mutual cooperation.

He said Telangana was participating in the discussion not merely to seek funds, but with a clear development plan, a defined strategy for mobilising financial resources, and a long-term vision.

Target is a $3 Trillion Economy

The Deputy Chief Minister said Telangana was ready for the next phase of growth with strong economic foundations. He stated that the state's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) reached ₹17.82 lakh crore in 2025–26, registering 10.7% growth at current prices. At constant prices, real GSDP growth was estimated at 8.5%. He said Telangana's per capita income had risen to ₹4,18,931, nearly twice the national average of ₹2,19,575. The services sector recorded growth of 13.5%, while the secondary sector grew by 9.4%, he said.

At the current growth trajectory, Telangana's economy is estimated to reach $1.21 trillion by 2047, he said. However, the state government has set a much more ambitious target of transforming Telangana into a $3 trillion economy by 2047. He said the objective was also to increase Telangana's share in the national economy from the present level of around 5% to 10%.

Focus on Mobilising Private Investments

To build a $3 trillion economy, Telangana needs to change the way infrastructure is financed, Bhatti Vikramarka said. He stressed the need to gradually move away from excessive dependence on government borrowing to finance roads, bridges and other infrastructure. He said Telangana was moving towards a model that would mobilise larger investments from private investors, institutional funds and sovereign funds, while using government resources strategically.

Government funding would play a key role in reducing investor risk, bridging viability gaps and building confidence among private investors, he said. To achieve this, the state was strengthening mechanisms such as Public–Private Partnerships (PPPs), green bonds and blended finance, he added.

Statewide Development Through CURE–PURE–RARE

Development should not be confined to a single city, while rural areas should not be left behind, the Deputy Chief Minister said. With this objective, Telangana has developed a distinctive development model based on three interconnected economic regions — CURE, PURE and RARE. The CURE (Core Urban Region), centred around Greater Hyderabad, is being developed as a hub for high-end services, artificial intelligence, global capability centres, fintech, life sciences and knowledge-based industries, he said.

The PURE (Peri-Urban Region) along major transportation corridors will be developed as a hub for industrial and manufacturing activities, he said. Through RARE (Rural Agricultural and Resource Economy), the state aims to provide a new impetus to the rural economy. Digital technology in agriculture, expansion of food-processing clusters and development of cold-chain infrastructure will connect rural producers with domestic and international markets that offer higher-value opportunities, he said.

Bharat Future City Spread Across More Than 30,000 Acres

Bhatti Vikramarka said Bharat Future City, spread across more than 30,000 acres, was being developed as a model for the cities of the future in India.He said the city was being envisioned as the country's first net-zero, AI-enabled green megacity. It would include world-class universities, international research centres, clean technology parks and environmentally sustainable residential areas, he explained. The Regional Ring Road (RRR) would be one of the key infrastructure projects connecting the CURE, PURE and RARE regions, he said.

Youth Are Telangana's Greatest Strength

The Deputy Chief Minister said that along with infrastructure and investments, human resources are the real foundation of a $3 trillion economy. Telangana's youth are the state's greatest strength, he said.

To bridge the gap between higher education and the requirements of industry, the government has established the Young India Skill University in partnership with leading international organisations, he said. Bhatti Vikramarka stressed that the benefits of economic growth should reach every family and that inclusive development was the government's objective. He said the government was committed to ensuring that everyone becomes a participant in the development process through social security, accessible healthcare, quality housing, and support for women entrepreneurs and self-help groups.

He stated that Telangana's goal of becoming a $3 trillion economy is not merely a target for the state, but its contribution towards building a prosperous and self-reliant Viksit Bharat by 2047. If the financial systems of the Union and state governments work in coordination, with priority given to investments, sustainable financial resources and human capital, the goal of Viksit Bharat can be achieved, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka said.

Laxmi Manchu Inspires Students to Dream Big and Build Brighter Futures at GDC Hussaini Alam

Teach For Change Founder Highlights the Power of Education, Digital Skills, Higher Learning and Career Readiness at Career Guidance Programme

HYDERABAD



The Government Degree & PG College for Women, Hussaini Alam, Hyderabad, organised an inspiring Career Guidance Programme to create awareness among students about higher education, career opportunities, skill development and future pathways. The programme was conducted from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. with the aim of motivating students to plan their careers confidently and prepare themselves for the changing demands of the professional world.

The programme commenced with the inauguration of a Computer Lab at Government School, Hussaini Alam, Shahgunj. The new facility is expected to provide students with better access to digital learning, online educational resources, computer-based training and technology-oriented opportunities. The inauguration reflected the importance of integrating technology with education and equipping students with the digital skills required for higher studies, competitive examinations and modern careers.

Following the inauguration, the gathering continued at the Kurshidjah Seminar Hall of GDC Hussaini Alam. The event brought together students, faculty members, educational officers and representatives of Teach For Change Trust. It served as a meaningful platform for strengthening cooperation between educational institutions and community organisations for the academic, personal and professional development of students.

Madhavi, School Headmistress, delivered special remarks and expressed the importance of providing students with proper guidance, encouragement and access to learning facilities. Prof. K. Praveen Kumar, Principal of GDC Hussaini Alam, addressed the gathering with his presidential remarks and emphasised the responsibility of educational institutions to support students not only in their academic growth but also in their career planning, skill development and personal confidence.

R. Suman, Deputy Educational Officer, Bahadurpura, offered guest remarks and highlighted the need for continued collaboration among schools, colleges, government departments and social organisations. Such partnerships can help students access better educational resources, mentorship, digital facilities and opportunities for higher learning and employment.

The keynote address was delivered by Laxmi Manchu, Founder and Managing Trustee of Teach For Change Trust. Addressing the students, she encouraged them to believe in their abilities and to understand that education is one of the strongest tools for personal empowerment and social progress. She urged them not to limit their dreams because of their present circumstances and reminded them that determination, discipline and continuous effort can help them overcome challenges and achieve their goals.

Laxmi Manchu advised students to view education as more than the pursuit of a degree. She explained that true education develops knowledge, confidence, communication, values, leadership qualities and the ability to make responsible decisions. She encouraged students to remain curious, read widely, ask questions, participate actively in learning and seek guidance from teachers, mentors and experienced professionals.She also emphasised the importance of acquiring computer knowledge, communication skills, problem-solving ability and practical experience. In a rapidly changing employment environment, students need to combine academic qualifications with digital awareness, creativity, teamwork and adaptability. She encouraged them to make effective use of the newly inaugurated Computer Lab and explore online courses, digital learning platforms, career information, scholarships, entrance examinations and professional training programmes.

Laxmi Manchu motivated students to set clear goals and choose academic and career paths according to their interests, abilities and aspirations. She encouraged them to explore opportunities in education, technology, healthcare, public service, finance, entrepreneurship, social development, teaching and other emerging fields. She also advised them to remain open to new career possibilities and to understand that success may require continuous learning and the development of new skills throughout life.

She further reminded the students that failure is not the end of the journey but an opportunity to learn and improve. Her message encouraged them to overcome fear, self-doubt and hesitation, while developing the courage to accept challenges and take leadership roles. She stressed that punctuality, discipline, honesty, consistency and a positive attitude are essential qualities for long-term success.

The programme was made interactive through the active participation of students and faculty members. Students benefited from the guidance, experiences and encouragement shared by the dignitaries and resource persons. The interaction helped them gain greater clarity about higher education, career planning, skill development and the importance of preparing early for future opportunities.

The event also included the announcement of the Student-Teacher Volunteer Programme, which aims to encourage students and teachers to participate in educational and community-based activities. The initiative is expected to promote leadership, teamwork, social responsibility and a spirit of service among students. The programme concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by CPO Aishwarya, followed by the felicitation of the dignitaries and a group photograph. Dr. Anita Monga, Career Guidance Coordinator, organised the programme successfully in coordination with the Teach For Change team. The active cooperation of the principal, faculty members, students, school authorities and invited guests contributed to the successful conduct of the event.

The programme conveyed a powerful message that education opens doors, technology expands possibilities and determination transforms aspirations into achievement. With its central theme, "Together for Brighter Learners," the event encouraged students to pursue higher education, strengthen their skills, make informed career choices and confidently work towards building successful and meaningful futures.



27th CII National Excellence in Energy Management, 2026

Kacheguda Railway Station Conferred 'Excellent Energy Efficient Unit'

Five SCR Units awarded as 'Energy Efficient Units'

HYDERABAD

South Central Railway has bagged awards at the 27th CII National Excellence in Energy Management 2026. These awards were adjudged by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) to SCR for its sustained efforts towards promoting energy efficiency and adopting energy conservation measures across its establishments. The awards were presented at the CII Energy Efficiency Summit held at Hyderabad International Convention Centre (HICC) on 18th September, 2026.

Kacheguda Railway Station has been conferred with the 'Excellent Energy Efficient Unit' award, while Lekha Bhavan, Central Hospital/Lallaguda and Zonal Railway Training Institute (ZRTI)/Moula Ali have been recognised as 'Energy Efficient Units'. Further, Rail Bogie Karkhana/Yadgir and Signal & Telecom Workshop/Mettuguda have also been recognised as 'Energy Efficient Units'. The awards were received by Shri Rama Rao, Additional Divisional Railway Manager, Hyderabad Division and other senior Railway officers.

South Central Railway has been able to bag these awards through relentless efforts in the area of Energy Efficiency and Green Initiatives by all the Divisions, Workshops, Field units of all the departments. The recognition reflects the collective efforts of the zone towards improving energy efficiency, promoting energy conservation and adopting sustainable practices across its establishments. These initiatives contribute towards reducing energy consumption and promoting environmentally responsible Railway operations.

Shri Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, General Manager, South Central Railway congratulated the SCR team for their efforts in receiving this National recognition. He complimented Principal Chief Electrical Engineer, SCR, Divisional Railway Managers and other concerned Railway officials on this occasion. He stated that the zone remains committed towards energy conservation and efficient energy management.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

CARRIAGE & WAGON WORKS

For and on behalf of President of India, Chief Workshop Manager, Carriage and Wagon Works, Southern Railway, Ayanavaram, Chennai - 600 023 invites e-tender for the following work as per the tender notice given in e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in.**

Tender No.:	MLR-SB-CR-PL-AB-PA-0926			
Name of the work:	SHOT BLASTING, CORROSION REPAIR, PLUMBING, AIRBRAKE & PAINTING ACTIVITIES IN LHB AC COACHES DURING MLR ATTENTION.			
Approximate Cash Value	Bid Security / Earnest Money	Bidding start date	Tender closing date and time	Period of Completion
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
₹7,02,52,349.47	₹14,05,100.00	28/09/2026	12/10/2026 15:00 Hrs	24-months
Cost of tender form : Nil				
Website Address	www.ireps.gov.in			
Office Address	Chief Workshop Manager, Carriage & Wagon Works, Southern Railway, Ayanavaram, Chennai - 600 023.			

Shilparamam Hosts Poompuhar Handicrafts Expo

Inaugurated by Tamil Nadu Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises P. Madhan Raja

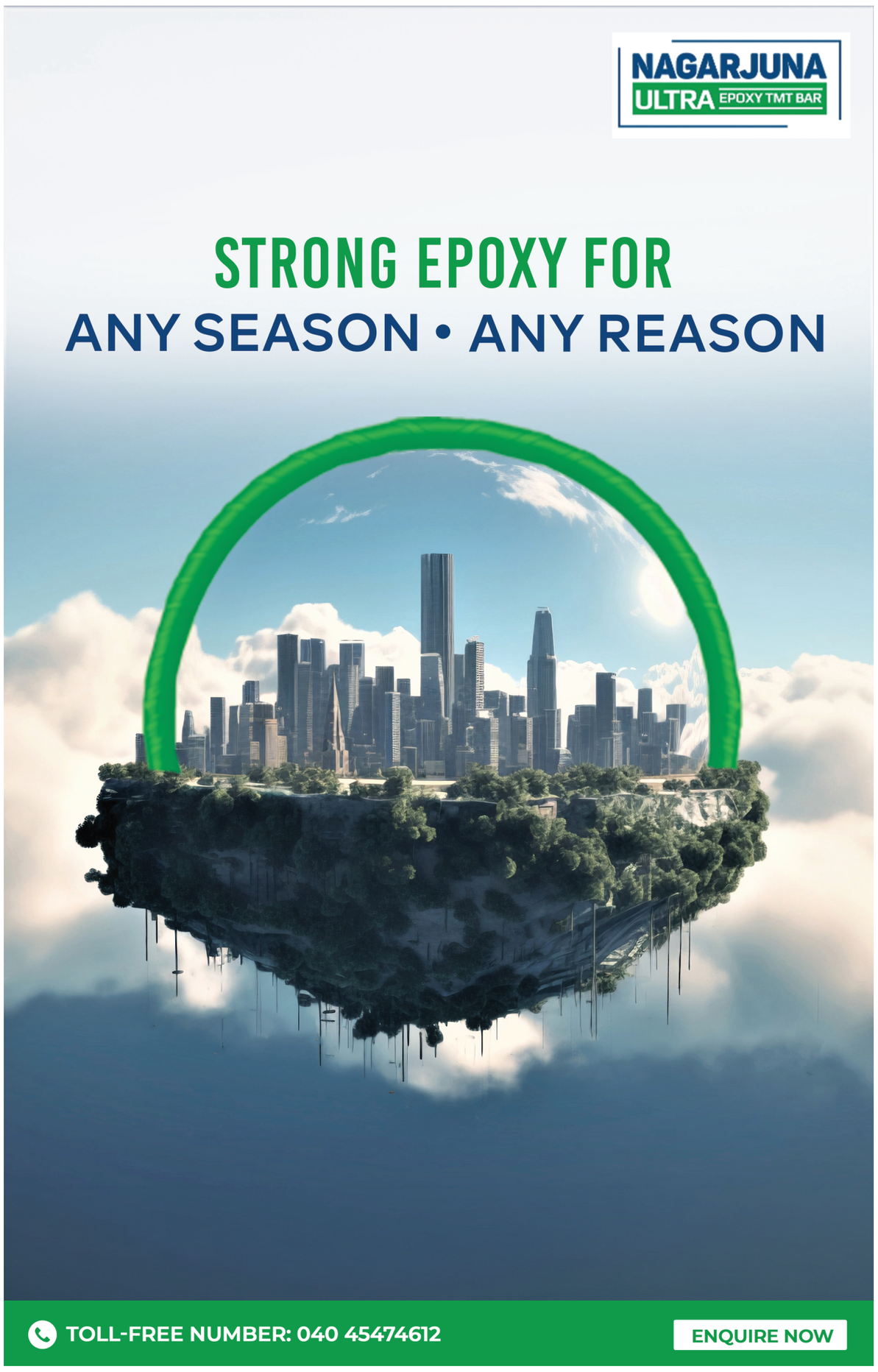
HYDERABAD





The "Mega Handicrafts Expo," organised by the Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Development Corporation Limited under the brand name Poompuhar, commenced at Shilparamam on Saturday. Tamil Nadu Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises P. Madhan Raja inaugurated the expo. Speaking on the occasion, he said the exhibition showcases a wide range of exquisite handicraft products created by skilled artisans from various districts of Tamil Nadu. He said the exhibition aims to introduce the public to Tamil Nadu's rich and diverse traditional handicraft heritage.

The expo is being held at Shilparamam from September 19 to 23 under the auspices of the Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Development Corporation Limited (Poompuhar), a Tamil Nadu government organisation. The event was attended by S. Amrutha Jyothi, Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Development Corporation Limited, and C. Gopikannan, Assistant Manager (Sales), Poompuhar. The exhibition features a wide variety of traditional handicrafts, including bronze statues, traditional brass lamps, Thanjavur paintings, Thanjavur art plates, papier-mâché dolls, wood and stone sculptures, brass artefacts, clay and terracotta products, cane furniture, banana-fibre products, jute products, palm-leaf products, fashion jewellery, incense, spices, handmade textiles and handloom products.





Izhaan's 5th Birthday: Love, Laughter, and Family Blessings

HYDERABAD

In the heart of Suncity P&T Colony, the Magnus Apartment at Suncity witnessed a celebration filled with joy, warmth, and love as Mohammed Abdul Nadeem and Dr. Sadiya marked a beautiful milestone with their family.

Their younger son, Md. Izhaan, celebrated his 5th birthday with a memorable celebration at Magnus Apartment, Suncity P&T Colony. From the moment the event began, the atmosphere carried the sweetest emotions—laughter, togetherness, and countless heartfelt moments that truly made the day special.

The celebration was graced by all family members, along with friends and near and dear who came from different places to share in the happiness. Their presence turned the occasion into more than just a birthday—it became a celebration of family bonds, blessings, and dreams for a bright future.

As everyone joined in wishing Md. Izhaan a wonderful year ahead, the day stood as a reminder that the greatest gifts are not only toys and treats, but the love of those who surround you. May his journey ahead be filled with health, success, and endless smiles. Happy 5th Birthday, Md. Izhaan!

GITAM Scholar – Awarded Ph.D. in Mathematics & Statistics

HYDERABAD

GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, proudly congratulates Dr. M. Nagesh on being awarded a Ph.D. in Mathematics and Statistics for his pioneering research on financial time-series forecasting, under the guidance of Dr. D. Mallikarjuna Reddy, Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, GITAM School of Science.

Dr. Nagesh's research develops a hybrid forecasting framework integrating statistical, machine learning, and deep learning techniques to address the challenges of nonlinearity, volatility, structural breaks, and time-varying dependencies in financial markets. The study analyses four financial time series—global crude oil prices, FDI inflows to India, the Nifty Auto Index, and the Nifty IT Index—using ARIMA, SVR, LSTM, GRU, and Bidirectional LSTM models, along with hybrid ARIMA-SVR, ARIMA-LSTM, and ARIMA-GRU approaches.

The findings demonstrate that deep learning models perform strongly on highly volatile datasets, while hybrid models offer greater accuracy and stability for macroeconomic and sectoral indices. In particular, ARIMA-GRU emerges as a robust model for stock-index forecasting. The study highlights the importance of dataset-specific model selection and demonstrates the potential of hybrid approaches for accurate, adaptable, and robust financial forecasting.

Prof. D. S. Rao, Pro Vice-Chancellor; D.V.V.S.R. Varma, Resident Director; Dr. M. Reza, Director, School of Science; Dr. Jadav Ganesh, Head, Department of Mathematics and Statistics: and subject experts Prof B.M. Naidu & Dr. Krishna Kummari congratulated Dr. Nagesh on his academic achievement and significant contribution to financial time-series forecasting.

Water-Efficient Paddy Farming Can Boost Yields

- **Support Climate-Smart Agriculture: Peddapalli Collector**



PEDDAPALLI

Peddapalli District Collector Koya Sri Harsha urged farmers to embrace water-efficient and modern cultivation practices in paddy farming to improve farm productivity, conserve water resources and promote sustainable agriculture.

The Collector was speaking at the 'Vari Varahalu' farmers' felicitation programme, organised by Sow & Reap Climatech at Venkata Padma Function Hall in Rangampally, Peddapalli. Farmers who adopted efficient water-management practices in paddy cultivation were recognised during the programme and presented with incentive cheques of Rs. 500 per acre.

Addressing the gathering, Koya Sri Harsha said the changing agricultural and climatic conditions require farmers to adopt scientific methods that can improve productivity while making better use of available natural resources. "Efficient water management is an important part of sustainable paddy cultivation. Farmers can reduce unnecessary water use by supplying water based on the actual requirement of the crop. Along with conserving water, such practices can contribute to better farm management and productivity," he said.

The Collector appreciated Sow & Reap Climatech for its efforts to encourage farmers in Peddapalli and Karimnagar regions to adopt water-efficient paddy cultivation practices. He also assured the organisation of the administration's support in taking forward its biochar, biogas and agroforestry projects in the erstwhile Karimnagar region.

He encouraged farmers who have successfully adopted modern cultivation practices to share their experiences with other farmers and help accelerate the adoption of sustainable agricultural methods.

District Agriculture Officer B. Srinivas said efficient water management is becoming increasingly important for the future of agriculture. He encouraged farmers to adopt Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD), a scientific irrigation practice in which paddy fields are periodically allowed to dry before being irrigated again, instead of maintaining continuous standing water.

"AWD can help farmers use water more efficiently while also contributing to environmentally responsible farming. Wider adoption of such practices can play an important role in conserving water resources," he said.

Sow & Reap Climatech COO N. Muralidhar said the organisation is working with farmers to demonstrate that water conservation and agricultural productivity can go hand in hand.

"Scientific water management can help farmers reduce unnecessary water use and improve the efficiency of paddy cultivation. Our focus is on enabling farmers to experience the benefits of modern practices and encouraging wider adoption through farmer participation. Such efforts can strengthen the foundation for more sustainable agriculture," he said.

Sow & Reap Climatech Director D. Divya Reddy said the initiative goes beyond water conservation and is aimed at encouraging farmers to become partners in building climate-resilient agriculture.

"When paddy fields are continuously flooded, they can generate higher methane emissions. By adopting Alternate Wetting and Drying and providing water according to crop requirements, farmers can reduce unnecessary water use and also create an opportunity to reduce methane emissions from paddy cultivation," she said.

Divya Reddy added that reducing methane emissions from agriculture can contribute to broader efforts to address climate change. She said the adoption of water-saving and environmentally responsible farming practices today can help protect soil health and natural resources for future generations. The Collector called for greater coordination between the Agriculture Department and organisations working in the agricultural sector to strengthen farmer awareness on water conservation, scientific cultivation methods and modern agricultural technologies. The programme was attended by AD Kanthaiah, Assistant Director of Agriculture Srinath, Divisional Administration Officer, Peddapalli, Telangana Gazetted Officers Association District President Thoomu Ravinder Patel, High Court Advocate and Yuva Janata Foundation President Buddharthi Naveen, and MAO Nagarjuna. Representing Sow & Reap Climatech were COO N. Muralidhar, Director D. Divya Reddy, Operations Manager CH. Venkata Ramana, NBS Head Prithviram and Project Coordinator P. Swapna, along with members of the organisation's team and participating farmers.

As Overseas Doors Close, Kodad Job Mela Offers New Hope: Speaker

- **Gaddam Prasad Kumar calls the recruitment drive unprecedented**
- **Says more such job fairs must be held across Telangana**

KODAD

With countries such as the United States and Australia shutting their doors to Indian youth and access to employment opportunities abroad becoming increasingly difficult, the unprecedented Kodad Mega Job Mela has emerged as a new source of hope for Telangana's unemployed, Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar said on Saturday.

Addressing thousands of jobseekers at the event, he called for more such large-scale recruitment drives across Telangana to connect qualified youth directly with employers.

"When America closes its doors to our youth and Australia does the same, going abroad becomes increasingly difficult. At a time when many young people are struggling without employment, bringing around 350 companies to Kodad is an extraordinary achievement," he said. Prasad Kumar said he had been in politics and public life for nearly 30 to 35 years but had never witnessed a job mela organised on such a massive scale.

"This is unprecedented. It should not remain a one-time event. More such job melas must be organised throughout Telangana," he said, describing the event as a significant opportunity for the youth of Kodad, the erstwhile Nalgonda district and neighbouring regions.

The Speaker said the mela was not merely a recruitment exercise but the beginning of a new chapter in the lives of thousands of young people.

"I can see the determination to secure employment in the eyes of every candidate who has come here. That determination will certainly make you successful," he said.

Pointing out that a job could transform not only an individual's life but also the future of an entire family, he said employment generation remained one of the foremost priorities of the Congress government under Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. He said the government had already filled more than 60,000 vacancies and would continue issuing notifications to create further employment opportunities. "The people's government will fulfil the dreams of unemployed youth," he asserted.

Referring to the earlier job mela organised at Huzurnagar, Prasad Kumar said it had attracted between 20,000 and 30,000 candidates and helped nearly 3,000 young people secure jobs. The Kodad mela, with around 350 participating companies, was being conducted on an even larger scale, he added.

The Speaker advised candidates not to fear interviews or become discouraged if they failed to secure a job in their first attempt.

"Even if you do not get a job today, do not lose hope. The interview experience you gain here will help you succeed tomorrow. Success does not always teach us how to face life, but defeat teaches us how to rise again," he said.

"If one company says no, another company may be ready to recognise your talent," he added.

Prasad Kumar said the broader objective of the initiative was not merely to offer employment but to prepare Telangana's youth to compete with the best in the world. Candidates from different educational backgrounds—including degree, engineering and technical courses—could find companies suited to their qualifications and abilities at the mela.

Stressing the importance of continuous learning, he said rapid technological changes, particularly the emergence of artificial intelligence, made skill development essential in every profession.

"Today, you have come here looking for a job. Tomorrow, you should become entrepreneurs and rise to a position where you can provide employment to ten others," he said.

The Speaker praised Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy and Kodad MLA N. Padmavathi Reddy for organising the massive recruitment drive.

"The people's government stands behind you. Uttam Kumar Reddy and Padmavathi Reddy are firmly behind the youth of this region, and the entire government stands with them," he said.

No compromise on food quality in welfare hostels, says Adluri

HYDERABAD



Welfare Minister Adluri Lakshman Kumar has directed officials to accord the highest priority to the safety, health, nutrition and overall well-being of students staying in welfare hostels, residential educational institutions and Ashram schools. He stressed that there could be no compromise on the quality of food served to students and called for a robust and continuous monitoring mechanism to ensure strict implementation of prescribed diet norms.

The Minister also directed officials to ensure regular inspections of hostels, residential institutions and Ashram schools under the supervision of District Collectors, with concerned departmental officials working in close coordination with the district administration to identify and resolve issues promptly.

At a detailed review meeting held at the Dr B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat on Saturday, Adluri Lakshman Kumar reviewed the functioning of welfare hostels under the SC Development department, the Telangana Social Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Society (TGSWREIS), the Telangana Tribal Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Society (TGTWREIS), Ashram schools and hostels, besides residential facilities under the department for the Welfare of Persons with Disabilities. The Minister directed officials to establish an effective monitoring mechanism to ascertain at the field level whether every facility and service intended for students was actually reaching them. Inspections, he said, should not be confined to scrutiny of records but should also involve direct interaction with students to understand their concerns, requirements and difficulties. He further instructed officials to conduct regular inspections of hostels, residential institutions and Ashram schools under the supervision of District Collectors.



High drama at Janwada farmhouse as Congress delegation inspects site

HYDERABAD

Tensions ran high at Janwada in Ranga Reddy district after Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) workers attempted to block a delegation of Congress leaders visiting the disputed Janwada farmhouse. Police stepped in to disperse the protesters, clearing the path for the bus carrying senior leaders, including MP Anil Kumar Yadav and MLC Balmuri Venkat.

Addressing reporters during the inspection visit, Nagarkurnool MP Mallu Ravi alleged that the farmhouse was constructed without valid permissions on a natural water channel (nala). He questioned the legitimacy of the structure, stating that legal ownership of the property remains unclear.

Bhuvanagiri MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy claimed the land originally belonged to Satyam Computers founder B. Ramalinga Raju and had been attached under the provisions of GO 111. Questioning how such a massive structure was allowed in the catchment zone, he assured that all violations would be thoroughly investigated and formally escalated to HYDRA (Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Monitoring and Protection Agency) for swift action.

Special Prayers Offered to Lord Ganesha for Telangana's Development and Farmers' Welfare

NEW DELHI

Telangana Congress Party president Mahesh Kumar Goud participated in a special Maha Ganapati puja held at Telangana Bhavan. He performed special prayers to Lord Ganesha with devotion and prayed for the happiness and well-being of the people of the state. Mahesh Kumar Goud said that he prayed for Telangana to emerge as a leading state in all sectors and for farmers to prosper with good crops and agricultural production.

He said that the Telangana government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, is moving forward with a focus on people-centric governance. He stated that the government is working in accordance with the aspirations of the people of the state. The PCC president said he prayed to Lord Ganesha for Telangana to become the number-one state in the country and for the well-being of all its people. Telangana Bhavan staff, Congress leaders, and party workers participated in the puja ceremony.



Revanth seeks public suggestions for name of Warangal Airport

HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Saturday appealed to people through 'X' to suggest a name for the proposed Warangal Airport. The Chief Minister said the long-pending dream of having an airport in Warangal was becoming a reality due to the efforts of the Praja Palana government.

He alleged that BRS leaders had spent a decade focusing on family interests and luxurious farmhouses instead of making efforts to secure an airport for Warangal.

Revanth Reddy said the State government had allocated Rs.295 crore for land acquisition and acquired the required land before handing it over to the Airports Authority of India (AAI), thereby giving concrete shape to the long-pending project.

Describing the airport as more than an aviation facility, he said it would open new opportunities for industries, tourism, education, employment and investments. The Warangal-Mamunur Airport would emerge as a new symbol of a developing and well-connected Telangana, he said, adding that he was eagerly looking forward to travelling from the airport.

Minister Ponnam's Vision Takes Shape as NH-563

- **From a demand raised as MP to a highway taking shape across North Telangana**

KARIMNAGAR



A road is more than a route connecting two destinations. It saves travel time, links villages with towns, opens new avenues for trade and gives a region a stronger foundation for growth. For North Telangana, NH-563 is emerging as one such vital corridor. The development of the Warangal–Karimnagar–Jagtial route as a National Highway reflects a long-standing demand that was pursued by Ponnam Prabhakar during his tenure as a Member of Parliament. What began as a demand before the Centre is now taking shape as a major highway corridor, with efforts continuing to complete the remaining stretches.

A vision taken to the Centre

During his tenure as an MP, Ponnam Prabhakar identified the growing transportation needs of North Telangana and sought the development of the Warangal–Karimnagar–Jagtial road as a National Highway. He approached the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways on several occasions, seeking National Highway status and comprehensive development of the route.

The demand was rooted in the strategic importance of the corridor, which connects several important parts of North Telangana. The initiative sought to address not only present transportation requirements but also the region's future connectivity needs.

Centre gives clarity in 2016

The Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways responded to the representations with an official communication dated May 24, 2016. According to the letter, the route had already been declared NH-563 in March 2014 and was entrusted to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for development as a four-lane highway over a stretch of around 130 km.

The National Highway status gave a formal framework for taking up the development of the Warangal–Karimnagar–Jagtial corridor and strengthening its role as a key road link in the region.

Warangal–Karimnagar stretch completed

A major portion of NH-563 between Warangal and Karimnagar has been completed and opened to traffic. The improved road connectivity has strengthened the link between two important urban centres of North Telangana while also improving access for communities and commercial establishments along the corridor. The highway is expected to contribute to smoother movement of people and goods and support economic activity in the areas connected by the route.

Focus now on Karimnagar–Jagtial works

With the remaining works between Karimnagar and Jagtial yet to be completed, Minister for Transport and BC Welfare Ponnam Prabhakar is focusing on expediting the process. He has also brought the issues relating to the pending works and the hurdles in the corridor to the attention of Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar, seeking steps for faster completion.

Once the remaining works are completed, the entire Warangal–Karimnagar–Jagtial corridor will have a stronger and more integrated National Highway connection.

From MP to Minister: A continuing road agenda

The NH-563 story also traces a continuity in Ponnam Prabhakar's public role. The demand for upgrading the corridor was raised when he was an MP, while the completion of pending works has now become an issue he is pursuing in his capacity as a State Minister.

The journey from a demand placed before the Centre to a highway taking shape on the ground illustrates how infrastructure projects often evolve over several years. For North Telangana, the completion of NH-563 is expected to bring improved mobility, stronger regional connectivity and greater opportunities for movement, commerce and development. A demand raised yesterday is taking the shape of a highway today — with NH-563 poised to become an important transport corridor for North Telangana.

Pilot phase of NIRMaL Sagar launched in Vizag

HYDERABAD, SEP 19

Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India, Hyderabad, in association with the Andhra University and Vignana Bharati(VIBHA) has launched the pilot phase of the NIRMaL sāgarprogramme (National Initiative for Remediation of Marine Litter), a clean ocean initiative to establish the first integrated marine litter tracking framework in Visakhapatnam on 19th September 2026 (Saturday), the concluding day of the week-long Swachh SagarSurakshit Sagar 5.0 campaign in an assembly arranged in Andhra University Auditorium in RK Beach. The pilot program was inaugurated by the Dr. T. Srinivasa Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences in the presence of Shri. M. Shribharat Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Visakhapatanam and several other dignitaries.



In his welcome address, Dr. T. M. Balakrishnan Nair, Director, INCOIS informed that by combining ocean modelling, satellite remote sensing, and AI/ML-based tools, the programme will identify marine litter hotspots, monitor, and forecast to support targeted clean-up and mitigation efforts. Aligned with the SwachhSagar, Surakshit Sagar mission and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, NIRMAL sāgar aims to provide scientific inputs for a cleaner, healthier, and more resilient ocean, promote community participation, and policy support.

In the special address, Shri. M. Sribharat, Hon'ble MP of Visakhapatanam requested the technology and logistics support of the MoES to ensure that the plastic waste does not reach our oceans through open drains.

Dr. Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Earth Sciences addressed the gathering via video conferencing. He thanked all the volunteers and officials in realising the dream of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sri. Narendra Modiji for an SwatchhSagar and Surakshit Sagar.

In his inaugural address, Dr. T. Srinivasa Kumar, Secretary, MoESreaffirmed the commitment of the Ministry towards nurturing cleaner and healthier oceans through various schemes and projects. He also promised the support of the MoES to Visakhapatanam towards such objectives through the implementation of the programs like NIRMaL sagar. In this pilot phase, extensive scientific studies will be conducted in and around Visakhapatnam to identify the sources of the marine plastic litter, track their movement, identify potential regions of their accumulation and develop strategies to remove them and recycle the plastic waste to support circular economy.

Shri. Sribharat, Hob'ble MP administered the Swatchh SagarSurakshit Sagar pledge to the audience.

Prof. G. P. Raja Sekhar, Hon'ble Vice Chancelor of Andhra University, Shri. G. Sreenivasa Rao, Joint Secretary, MoES, Rear Admiral Gokul Krishna Datta VSM, Chief Staff Officer, Southern Naval Command, Inspector General Anurag Kaushik, TM, Chief of Staff, HQ Coast Guard Commander and Shri. Vivekananda Pai, Secretary, VIBHA attended the program. Over 1300 participants, including personals from Indian Navy, Coast Guard, Andhra University, Fishermen Communities, scientists and students from various institutes and general public attended and shared their thoughts on the issue of marine litter. The meeting ended with Vote of Thanks proposed by Prof. Sailaja, Director, Centre for Bay of Bengal Studies in Andhra University.

The participants formed a human chain to promote the awareness on the 'Swatchh Sagar Surakshit Sagar' initiative in the RK Beach road after the event. Volunteers also carried out cleaning of RK Beach in connection with the SSSS-5.0 after the public meeting. In association with the event, Platypus Escapes, conduced an underwater cleanup off Visakhapatanam Beach on 18th September, Friday.

CM Naidu Ends Four-Decade Wait..

Gives Pattas to 28,445 Families

- ***distributes house-site pattas to 28,445 Poor families in Visakhapatnam***
- ***Chief Minister assures to resolve long-pending Panchagramalu issue in Visakhapatnam soon***
- ***CM assures to resolve water scarcity problem in Visakhapatnam by bringing Godavari water***

VISAKHAPATNAM, SEP 19



Putting an end to 40 years long wait of thousands of families of Visakhapatnam region, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu distributed conveyance deeds to 28,445 beneficiaries providing full rights over their house sites under Pedalaku Pattabhisekham- Mee Illu Mee Hakku programme held here today. The Chief Minister personally handed over pattas to several beneficiaries at the programme. Under this programme the government regularised 399 acres of land across 11 mandals in Visakhapatnam, covering a total extent of 19,33,853 square yards.The pattas confer rights over land with a registration value of approximately Rs 8,874 crore, while the market value is expected to be considerably higher.

Later addressing a public meeting, the Chief Minister said by distributing conveyance deeds today the government putting an end to decades-long uncertainty of thousands of poor suffering without ownership rights so far. He advised beneficiaries not to sell their properties merely because land values have increased, stating that the land would provide them security and confidence.He described the distribution of pattas as more than a transfer of property rights, calling it a recognition of the self-respect of the poor and their rights and their children's future.

The Chief Minister said "food, shelter and clothing" remained the government's guiding principle and that it was working with the inspiration of former Chief Minister N.T. Rama Rao to ensure every poor family a permanent house."We will provide house sites, construct houses and give every family a permanent address," he said.He stated that more than 5 lakh houses had been constructed in the last two years and another 5 lakh-plus houses would be completed by next March.

On the long-pending Panchagramalu issue in Visakhapatnam, Chandrababu Naidu said the government would take steps to resolve it soon. Pattas have to be issued to around 22,000 people, and efforts would be made to complete the process at the earliest.He also said poor families living on Endowments Department lands should be provided house sites wherever eligible.Through the 'Mee Bhoomi–Mee Hakku' programme, the government was working to free people from long-standing revenue-related problems, he said. Land has already been regularised and pattas issued to 12,000 families in various districts.

The Chief Minister said Visakhapatnam was among the fastest-growing cities in the country and described it as a city with the potential to become a global city.He said the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport had given wings to the aspirations of North Andhra and stressed that the government had a responsibility to ensure that the poor also shared in the benefits of Visakhapatnam's development.He directed officials to make Visakhapatnam cleaner and greener. Referring to Tirumala's 89.4 per cent green cover, the Chief Minister directed officials to similarly increase greenery in Visakhapatnam.He said the government was making all-round efforts for the development of Visakhapatnam, including measures to safeguard the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant with the support of the Union Government. He also said the long-pending Visakhapatnam Railway Zone had commenced operations.

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu said the impact of El Niño was creating drinking water difficulties in Visakhapatnam.He said he had reviewed the drinking water situation immediately after arriving in the city and assured that measures would be taken to overcome the problem.The government would bring Godavari water to Visakhapatnam through the Polavaram project and provide a permanent solution to the city's drinking water requirements, he said.Through river-linking initiatives, the State would work towards ensuring that there was no shortage of water, the Chief Minister said. Godavari water had already been brought to Anakapalli through the Polavaram Left Main Canal, and steps were being taken to link it with the Vamsadhara river, he added. He also said the Veligonda project was being completed to provide water to Markapuram.

The Chief Minister said people in Visakhapatnam had faced difficulties during the previous government due to land disputes, demolitions and other issues.He said a decision would soon be taken on the utilisation and maintenance of the buildings constructed at Rushikonda, with the objective of putting them to public use.Chandrababu Naidu said the government was working to attract industries to the State, while some were creating obstacles and spreading misinformation regarding data centres.He reiterated that ensuring adequate drinking water for Visakhapatnam residents and water availability for industries would be the responsibility of the government.

Ministers K Atchannaidu,Nadendla Manohar, Dola Balaveeranjaneya, BJP State President PVN Madhav, MP M. Bharat, MLAs and other public representatives and officials attended the programme.

From the Cricket Pitch to the Responsibility of Selection

Ashish Yadav's Inspiring Journey

VARANASI, SEP 19

117 Matches of Experience, Now Entrusted with the Important Role of Selector for Indian Railways' Ranji Trophy Team

When a player who has spent years sweating it out on the cricket field takes on the responsibility of identifying talent and providing them with the right opportunities, his experience becomes a guiding force for the new generation. The cricketing journey of Ashish Yadav, working at Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW), Varanasi, is a story of this inspiring transition. Working as an Office Superintendent, Ashish Yadav began his cricketing career in domestic cricket in Uttar Pradesh. Representing Uttar Pradesh in the Ranji Trophy from 2006 to 2010 and Indian Railways from 2010 to 2019, he gained experience of playing 117 matches across various formats of the game.

Established a Distinct Identity through All-Round Performance –

As a left-handed batsman and slow left-arm orthodox bowler, Ashish Yadav played an effective all-rounder's role on the field. His cricketing journey includes prestigious tournaments such as the Ranji Trophy, Vijay Hazare Trophy, Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, Duleep Trophy, Deodhar Trophy, Vizzy Trophy and Indian Universities. He also represented the Central Zone. His experience of playing cricket at the highest level for a long period gave him an opportunity to



understand the finer aspects of the game closely. Understanding of technique, fitness, mental toughness, match situations and team requirements became an important part of his experience.

Now, Not a Player but a Talent Scout –

After a long stint as a player on the field, Ashish Yadav has now added a new role to his cricketing journey. He has been entrusted by the Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB), New Delhi, with the responsibility of serving as a selector for the Indian Railways Ranji Trophy Cricket Team. For him, this responsibility is not merely a change of role, but an opportunity to utilise his years of sporting experience for the development of new talent. He will now look for players who demonstrate the ability, commitment and consistency required to take the Indian Railways cricket team forward.

Experience from the Field to Guide New Talent –

The distinctive feature of Ashish Yadav's cricketing journey is that he has personally experienced the challenges of the field as a player and will now, as a selector, be entrusted with the responsibility of assessing talent on the basis of those very experiences. He believes that cricket is not merely a game of runs and wickets, but also an art of discipline, patience, team spirit and consistently striving to perform better under challenging circumstances. He is now applying these very experiences gained as a player to the process of identifying and selecting young cricketers.

One Journey, Two Important Roles –

Ashish Yadav's story exemplifies that sporting experience does not come to an end when a player leaves the field. With the right approach and continued association with the sport, the same experience can eventually become a source of guidance and strength for nurturing new talent. From a player on the cricket pitch to the selection table, Ashish Yadav's journey is a matter of pride for BLW and a message of inspiration for young players.

MP petrol pumps to stop accepting UPI above 2,000 from Oct. 16

Bhopal, Sept. 19: Petrol pump dealers in Madhya Pradesh have decided to stop accepting UPI payments above ₹2,000 from October 16, citing the proposed 0.4 per cent Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on such transactions. The Madhya Pradesh Petroleum Dealers Association said the additional charge would put a financial burden on dealers, who operate on narrow profit margins. Association president Ajay Singh said dealers earn around 0.5 per cent margin and cannot absorb the additional cost.

According to Singh, an average petrol pump sees around 100 transactions above ₹2,000 a day. The proposed MDR would result in a loss of about ₹590 per day, or nearly ₹17,700 a month, for a dealer, he said.

"We cannot recover this because our profit margin is very small," Singh said, adding that customers would continue to have the option of paying through debit and credit cards without any limit. The association has urged the government to extend the MDR exemption available to petrol pumps on credit and debit card transactions to UPI payments as well.

Pooja festival special trains between Charlapalli and Nagercoil

CHENNAI, SEPT. 19

South Central Railway will operate five pairs of Express Special trains between Charlapalli and Nagercoil to clear the additional rush of passengers during the Pooja festival season. Train No. 07535 Charlapalli–Nagercoil Express Special will depart Charlapalli at 7.45 pm on September 25 and October 2, 9, 16 and 23, and reach Nagercoil at 10.45 pm the following day.

In the return direction, Train No. 07536 Nagercoil–Charlapalli Express Special will leave Nagercoil at 12.45 am on September 27 and October 4, 11, 18 and 25, reaching Charlapalli at 3.45 am the following day.

The special trains will stop at Nalgonda, Miryalaguda, Nadikude, Sattenapalle, Guntur, Tenali, Bapatla, Ongole, Nellore, Gudur, Nayudupeta, Sullurupeta, Chennai Egmore, Tambaram, Chengalpattu, Villupuram, Vriddhachalam, Tiruchchirappalli, Dindigul, Madurai, Virudunagar, Satur, Kovilpatti, Tirunelveli and Valliyur, besides the originating and terminating stations. Each train will comprise three AC Two-Tier, five AC Three-Tier, 10 Sleeper Class and four General Second Class coaches, besides two luggage-cum-brake vans. Advance reservation for these special trains will open at 8 am on September 20 from the Southern Railway end.

Railways approves Rs. 133.23-cr FOUR-LANE ROB IN GUJARAT

New Delhi, Sept. 19: Indian Railways has approved construction of a four-lane Road Over Bridge (ROB) on the Udhna–Ukai–Songadh section of Western Railway at a cost of ₹133.23 crore. The project will be executed on a 50:50 cost-sharing basis with the Gujarat government, with both contributing about ₹66.61 crore. The railway portion will feature an Open Web Girder and the viaduct will span 311.58 metres. The ROB is expected to ease road traffic, reduce interference with train operations and improve safety and operational efficiency on the section.

Collaboration Key to Scaling Clean Technologies:

CII Energy Efficiency Summit

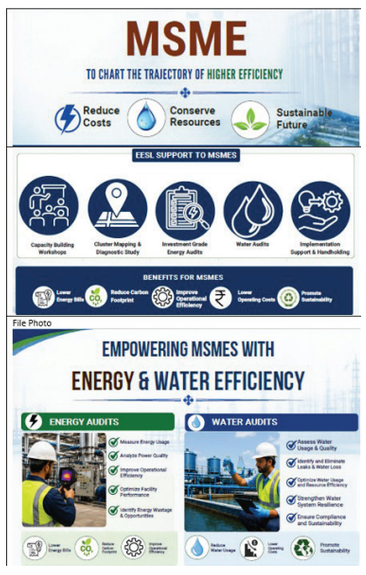
- ***EESL initiative to drive energy efficiency and sustainable manufacturing among MSMEs hailed***
- ***Faster decarbonisation vital to combat growing climate-change challenges***
- ***Telangana emerges as a major opportunity for advanced technologies with 2.6 million-plus MSMEs***

HYDERABAD, SEPTEMBER 19

Stronger collaboration among governments, industry and institutions is essential for accelerating the deployment of cleaner technologies, improving energy efficiency and advancing Bharat's transition towards a sustainable, net-zero economy, experts said at the 25th CII Energy Efficiency Summit 2026 held in Hyderabad.

The summit brought together policymakers, industry leaders, technology providers and energy-efficiency experts, who emphasised the need for coordinated efforts to promote global-standard technologies, sustainable manufacturing practices and efficient utilisation of energy and other resources.

The experts also stressed the urgency of adopting an integrated approach to address the growing economic and environmental consequences of climate change. Recurring El Niño-related weather patterns, rising temperatures,



File Photo

heatwaves, floods in some regions and severe droughts in others are increasing pressure on economies and natural resources, underscoring the need for greater climate resilience.

At the summit, experts acknowledged the initiatives of the Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), under the Ministry of Power, in collaborating with State governments and industry in key States, including Gujarat, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Such partnerships, they noted, could help create a favourable ecosystem for the adoption of advanced industrial technologies and sustainable manufacturing practices, particularly among MSMEs.

The EESL roadmap is expected to contribute to lower operational and maintenance costs for MSMEs, enhance productivity and competitiveness, generate employment opportunities, promote efficient utilisation of energy and water resources, and encourage cleaner production practices. These interventions could also contribute to reducing greenhouse-gas emissions and strengthening the sustainability and climate resilience of lakhs of MSMEs across the country.

The initiative assumes particular significance for MSME clusters covering sectors such as textiles and spinning mills, power looms, printing, pharmaceuticals, granite cutting and slab polishing, where improvements in energy efficiency and production technologies can have a significant impact on both costs and environmental performance.

The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Ministry of Power, is implementing its flagship ADEETIE programme to promote the adoption of energy-efficient technologies across the MSME sector. EESL, which has played a major role in national initiatives such as the LED Street Lighting Programme and UJALA, has also identified Telangana and the Hyderabad metropolitan region as important destinations for facilitating the adoption of globally proven technologies in the MSME sector.

Telangana's MSME ecosystem is a vital pillar of the State's economy, with more than 2.6 million MSME units and a large employment base. The adoption of energy-efficient and cleaner technologies across this sector can therefore have significant implications for productivity, competitiveness, employment generation and environmental sustainability.

The summit brought together several senior policymakers, industry leaders and experts, including K.C. Panigrahy, Director General, BEE; Milind Deore, Secretary, BEE; Aravind Talan, Head – Finance, EESL; Tejpreet Singh Chopra, Chairman, CII Energy Efficiency Summit; Ravi Chandran Purushothaman, Chairman, CII Southern Region; Siddarth Jain, Energy Adviser, GIZ; Dr. B.P. Thapliyal, Secretary General, ARPMA; K.S. Venkatagiri; and Kiran Anant, Executive Directors, CII, among others.

On behalf of Akhilesh Kumar Dixit, CEO, EESL, Aravind Talan, Head – Finance, EESL, made a presentation outlining the future impact of EESL's energy-efficiency programmes on economic and environmental sustainability.

The deliberations at the summit underlined that sustained cooperation between policymakers, technology providers, financial institutions and industry will be critical to scaling energy-efficiency solutions and enabling MSMEs to become more competitive, resource-efficient and climate-resilient.

EDITORIAL

The Vanishing Towers: Uttarakhand's Shrinking Glaciers Signal a Subcontinental Crisis

The recent scientific findings highlighting the accelerated retreat of Uttarakhand's glaciers mark a grave milestone in our ongoing climate reality. The high-altitude icy reservoirs of the Garhwal and Kumaon Himalayas—long regarded as permanent sentinels of the North—are thinning and receding at rates unprecedented in recorded history. What was once discussed as a gradual environmental shift over centuries has compressed into a rapid ecological crisis unfolding within decades. The data serves as an unequivocal warning: the "water towers" of northern India are undergoing structural depletion, and the downstream consequences will spare no one.

The immediate hazard of this ice loss manifests in the volatile destabilization of the mountain landscape itself. As giant ice bodies retreat, they leave behind expanding glacial lakes bound only by fragile embankments of loose sediment and debris. The danger of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs) has shifted from a theoretical hazard to an active, recurrent threat for mountain communities. Coupled with shifting precipitation patterns, warming high-altitude zones create prime conditions for catastrophic flash floods, ice collapses, and landslides. The fragile topography of Uttarakhand, heavily burdened by rapid infrastructure development and unmonitored tourism, faces compounding risks where a single structural breach upstream can devastate downstream towns, roads, and hydroelectric installations within hours.

Beyond the immediate disaster risk lies a far broader threat to regional water security. Glaciers feed major river systems like the Bhagirathi, Alaknanda, and Yamuna, which form the lifelines of the Indo-Gangetic plains. In the short term, accelerated melting may temporarily increase river volumes, giving a false impression of abundance. However, hydrologists warn of an impending "peak water" threshold. Once glacier volume contracts past a critical point, river flows will steadily decline, directly threatening irrigation for vast agricultural belts, drinking water supplies for millions, and energy output from key hydroelectric plants. The collapse of these alpine reserves strikes at the heart of national food security and economic stability. Addressing this crisis demands a shift from reactive disaster response to proactive, scientific mountain governance. India must prioritize comprehensive, real-time monitoring across Himalayan basins, integrating satellite surveillance with automated early-warning systems. Infrastructure projects in high-vulnerability valleys require far stricter ecological appraisals, incorporating climate risk models rather than relying on outdated geological baselines. Concurrently, local mountain communities—the first responders to these environmental changes—must be integrated into disaster readiness networks with decentralized warning mechanisms and hazard mapping. The shrinking glaciers of Uttarakhand are not merely local environmental markers; they are clear indicators of systemic planetary warming. Treating the Himalayan cryosphere as an infinite resource is no longer a viable stance. Decisive regional adaptation, sustainable land-use policies, and a committed reduction in global emissions are required to secure the future of these mountains. Ignoring the clear signals from the high peaks risks compromising the ecological foundation that sustains the entire subcontinent.

THE THINGS WE CANNOT COUNT

We count the harvest,
the houses, the highways,
the towers that pierce the morning,
the coins that move from hand to hand,
the numbers rising on a screen.

We count what grows,
what is sold,
what is built,
what can be entered into columns
and carried neatly into tomorrow.

But who counts the hours
a mother keeps awake beside a sick child,
listening to each breath
as though the night itself
were holding its own?

Who measures the patience
of a teacher writing hope
on a worn blackboard,
while outside the window
the world rushes past?

Who counts the
farmer's waiting
beneath a sky that promises rain
and then turns away?

There are rivers
whose worth cannot be printed,
trees whose shade
will never appear in a ledger,
and hands that build a city
yet remain invisible in its skyline.

We speak of growth
as though a nation were a number,
as though prosperity could be weighed
and sealed inside a figure.

But progress has a quieter language.

It is the child
who no longer fears an empty plate,
the patient who reaches a hospital in time,
the worker who returns home
with dignity in his pocket,
the old woman who finds someone to listen to her story.

It is the river left flowing,
the forest left standing,
the air left breathable
for those who have not yet arrived.

Numbers can tell us
how much we have gained.

They cannot tell us
what we have lost along the way.

Perhaps the true wealth of a
country is hidden in places
no statistic can reach—
in trust between strangers,
in kindness without witnesses,
in the freedom to dream,
in the courage to begin again.

For some of life's greatest riches
leave no receipt,
cast no shadow on a graph,
and ask for no applause.

They simply remain
in the lives we touch,
the burdens we lighten,
the futures we protect—

the things we cannot count,
but which, in the end,
are what make a life
worth counting.

GDP or Public Well-being: WHICH WAY FORWARD?



Gross domestic product has long been the principal measure of an economy's health. It tells us whether output is rising, whether economic activity is expanding and how much income an economy is generating. But higher production does not necessarily mean better lives. GDP captures economic activity; it does not, by itself, reveal the quality of healthcare and education, the distribution of income, the state of the environment, the strength of social cohesion or the degree of trust in public institutions.

This limitation is at the heart of the United Nations report, Counting What Counts: A Compass of Progress for People and Planet. The report does not call for abandoning GDP. It makes a more practical case: economic output must be complemented by a broader framework that captures well-being, equity, social conditions, environmental health and the prospects of future generations. It proposes a dashboard of 31 indicators to provide a fuller picture of progress.

The need for such a shift is evident in the experience of recent decades. Between 1980 and 2025, global economic activity contracted only twice — during the financial crisis of 2009 and the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. For much of the period in between, the world economy expanded. Yet inequality widened in many places, pressure on the environment intensified and trust in public institutions weakened. In some wealthy countries, young people have reported rising levels of anxiety and isolation. Economic expansion, therefore, cannot be treated as synonymous with social progress.

This is why the principle that "what we measure shapes what we value" deserves attention. The proposed framework groups its 31 indicators into four broad areas: peace, human rights and respect for the planet; current well-being; equity and inclusion; and sustainability and resilience. The intention is not to diminish the importance of growth, but to examine what growth actually produces for society.

The framework also broadens the idea of wealth. Physical and financial assets matter, but so do human capabilities, social relationships, institutional strength and natural resources. A country may achieve rapid growth by drawing heavily on its natural resources or by underinvesting in human capabilities. Such growth may look impressive in the short term, but if it weakens the foundations of future prosperity, its apparent success comes with a deferred cost.

GDP can tell us how fast an economy is growing, but not necessarily whether people are living better. A broader measure of progress—covering well-being, inequality, health, environment, social cohesion and future generations—is increasingly necessary to understand what economic growth truly delivers.

Distribution is equally important. An increase in average income does not show who benefited from that increase. Improvements in national health indicators may conceal persistent disadvantages among poorer communities or less-developed regions. A meaningful measure of progress must therefore look beyond averages and ask where improvements are occurring, who is benefiting and who remains excluded.

Better indicators, however, are useful only when backed by better data. Nearly half of the indicators in the proposed framework are already drawn from data collected under the Sustainable Development Goals. This means that many countries possess part of the necessary statistical foundation. The task now is to strengthen that capacity, close the gaps and ensure that reliable information reaches policymakers in time to influence decisions.

For India, the implications are particularly significant. National averages can conceal sharp differences between States, districts, cities and rural areas. Unpaid care work, the quality of education, public health, employment security and environmental damage may not be fully reflected in conventional economic accounts, yet they shape people's lives in profound ways. A meaningful measure of progress therefore requires reliable information at the level at which inequalities are actually experienced.

Progress also cannot be confined within national borders. Consumption in one country can generate environmental costs elsewhere. Trade, investment, finance, technology and supply chains connect economies in ways that make such spillovers unavoidable. A country's economic performance must therefore be assessed not only by what it produces within its borders, but also by the consequences its economic choices impose on other societies and on future generations.

The United Nations initiative is now moving towards an intergovernmental process. Requested by Member States under the Pact for the Future, the process is being advanced by Spain and Guyana. Its purpose is not to replace GDP with another single number. It is to develop a broader set of measures that countries can adapt to their own circumstances and use to inform public policy.

The real test, however, will lie beyond the statistical framework. New indicators will matter only if they influence budgets, priorities and development decisions. If incomes rise while public health deteriorates, if economic activity expands while air quality worsens, or if national wealth increases while inequality deepens, such contradictions should become visible in the way governments assess progress.

The question, therefore, is not what should replace GDP. It is what GDP leaves out, and whether governments are willing to measure those missing dimensions. Economic growth will remain essential. But a serious account of progress must also ask who benefits from growth, what it costs and what it leaves behind.

Only when governments can measure not merely how much wealth an economy creates, but how that wealth changes people's lives and what it preserves for the future, will the language of progress acquire its fuller meaning. Statistics should do more than record the speed of an economy. They should help society understand where it is headed.



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FROM POWER TO PERIL: THE POLITICAL REALITY AND BATTLE OF MAMATA BANERJEE



Mamata Banerjee's political journey—from a fearless figure of student politics to the Chief Minister of West Bengal and, now, a leader confronting formidable political and legal challenges—has been one of the most remarkable stories in contemporary Indian politics. The woman once known as "Didi," who challenged and eventually displaced the Left Front's 34-year political dominance in Bengal, is today facing one of the most difficult phases of her political career. The 2026 West Bengal Assembly election marked a major turning point. The Trinamool Congress suffered a decisive electoral setback, while the BJP emerged as the governing force in the state. Banerjee herself lost Bhabanipur, a constituency that had long been identified with her political base, to Suvendu Adhikari. Election data show Adhikari securing 73,917 votes against Banerjee's 58,812. After 15 years in power, the loss has fundamentally altered the political landscape around her.

The second major challenge is the internal crisis within the Trinamool Congress. For decades, Banerjee was the party's undisputed central figure and final decision-maker. But the electoral defeat exposed organizational tensions that had been building beneath the surface. The dispute eventually resulted in rival factions laying claim to the party's identity and organizational control, transforming an internal disagreement into an institutional crisis. The Election Commission subsequently froze the original party name, All India Trinamool Congress, and its traditional "Flowers and Grass" symbol as an interim measure.

The freezing of the party's name and symbol represents a particularly significant challenge because political symbols are not merely electoral identifiers; for regional parties, they often embody years of organizational work, public recognition and political identity. The Election Commission has temporarily assigned Banerjee's faction the name "Mamata All India Trinamool Congress" and the "Football Player" symbol, while the rival faction has been given the name "Democratic Trinamool Congress" and the "Envelope" symbol for the forthcoming by-elections. Banerjee has challenged the Election Commission's decision in the Supreme Court and described the development as a "black day" for democracy. The third dimension of her predicament is legal. Following the change of government, several complaints and FIRs have been registered against Banerjee over statements made during the election campaign and other political programmes. In June 2026, an FIR was registered in Kolkata following allegations that remarks made during an election-related programme could promote enmity between communities. Another FIR was registered in Siliguri over allegations concerning remarks about religion and religious sentiments. These remain allegations and legal proceedings; an FIR itself does not establish guilt.

There was also a legal confrontation surrounding a Trinamool Congress Chhatra Parishad rally in Kolkata in August. Police registered an FIR against Banerjee and organisers over alleged violation of a Calcutta High Court order governing the programme and the movement of supporters. At the same time, controversies surrounding the previous administration—including allegations relating to recruitment irregularities and other financial or administrative decisions—continue to remain part of the wider political debate. Such allegations need to be distinguished from proven wrongdoing and judged through the appropriate legal processes. Perhaps the most significant political challenge, however, is the erosion of the image that once constituted Banerjee's greatest political capital. She built her identity as a leader who came from a modest background, fought powerful political establishments and presented herself as the voice of ordinary people, particularly the underprivileged and women. Her political persona was built around struggle, accessibility and resistance.

Over the years, however, controversies surrounding governance, allegations of corruption and disputes over issues concerning women's safety and recruitment have generated political criticism. The teacher-recruitment controversy, in particular, became a major issue in Bengal politics. The cumulative effect of these controversies, combined with 15 years of incumbency, contributed to an environment in which questions about governance and public trust became central to the political contest. Yet Mamata Banerjee's political character has never been defined by an easy acceptance of defeat. Her early life and political career were shaped by struggle. From her formative years in politics to her long campaign against the Left Front, she repeatedly demonstrated a willingness to remain on the streets and fight prolonged political battles. Even now, she has rejected the idea of political retirement and has indicated that she intends to continue the struggle.

Her response to the changing political circumstances is also reflected in her evolving electoral strategy. Ahead of the forthcoming by-elections, Banerjee's faction withdrew its candidate in Nandigram and extended support to the Congress candidate, indicating a willingness to work with another opposition party in the changed political circumstances. This represents a notable shift from the political positioning that characterized much of her earlier relationship with the Congress. Mamata Banerjee's place in Indian political history has been shaped by her ability to build a powerful regional movement almost from scratch. She broke away from the Congress in 1998, established the Trinamool Congress and eventually succeeded in ending more than three decades of Left Front rule in West Bengal. For 15 years, she remained the dominant political force in the state. The same political journey that once symbolized an extraordinary rise is now confronting an equally extraordinary test.

The present crisis, therefore, is larger than an electoral defeat. It encompasses loss of power, organizational fragmentation, the battle over the party's name and symbol, legal proceedings, questions about political credibility and the challenge of rebuilding a political base. The Election Commission's interim decision has added a new dimension to the struggle, while the Supreme Court proceedings may determine an important part of the immediate institutional battle. The defining question for Banerjee now is not simply whether she can return to power. It is whether she can rebuild the political organization and public confidence that sustained her for so many years. Her greatest strength has historically been her capacity to convert adversity into political mobilization. But the present challenge is different: the struggle is no longer merely against an external political opponent. It is also about holding together a fractured organization and preserving a political legacy that she herself built over decades.

Mamata Banerjee has survived many political storms. Her present circumstances constitute perhaps the most demanding test of her political career. Whether she can once again transform adversity into an opportunity for political renewal will depend on how she responds to the organizational rupture, legal battles, changing alliances and questions of public trust. Her political story, therefore, is not simply a story of power gained and power lost. It is a story of a leader confronting the hardest question in politics: when the familiar symbols, structures and certainties disappear, can the political movement itself be rebuilt?



LALIT GARGG
Writer, Journalist,
Columnist

ABVP Wins 3 Posts in DUSU Elections

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 19



The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) won three of the four key posts in the Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) elections, with Yash Dabas elected president, Riya Chhawdi secretary and Lakshya Raj Singh joint secretary. Independent candidate and former NSUI member Deepanshu Shokeen won the vice-president's post. The results were declared after 20 rounds of counting on Saturday.

Polling was held on September 18 across 52 polling centres, with a turnout of 40.46 per cent, up from 39.5 per cent the previous year and the highest in three years. More than 1.51 lakh students were eligible to vote, while 20 candidates contested the four central-panel positions. Dabas defeated NSUI-backed Vijay Shankar Meena in the presidential contest, securing 24,576 votes against Meena's 22,523, a margin of 2,053 votes. Left candidate Ananya Raturi finished third with 5,377 votes, while ASAP candidate Ashmit Kumar polled 1,388 votes.

In the secretary's contest, ABVP's Riya Chhawdi secured 21,650 votes, defeating NSUI's Namrata Chaudhary, who polled 14,869 votes. The Left candidate received 8,734 votes and the ASAP candidate 7,639 votes.

The joint secretary's race was considerably closer. ABVP's Lakshya Raj Singh won with 16,615 votes, followed by Samajwadi Chhatra Sabha candidate Vishesh Yadav with 15,778 and NSUI's Gopal Choudhary with 15,206 votes.

The biggest upset came in the vice-president's election. Deepanshu Shokeen won as an independent with 30,615 votes, well ahead of ABVP's Ishu Maurya, who secured 16,910 votes. NSUI's Vir Chatrath polled 4,313 votes, while the Left candidate received 2,383 votes. Shokeen had previously been associated with NSUI but contested independently after not receiving the organisation's ticket. Shokeen's victory was described by reports as the first independent win for the DUSU vice-president's post in two decades. His campaign had focused particularly on student accommodation and safety issues. Newly elected president Dabas also said student safety would be a priority and announced plans for a safety audit of PG accommodations and hostels.

The results prompted reactions from BJP leaders, who linked the outcome to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's recent student outreach programme, "Chhatron Ki Goonj." Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda took a swipe at the programme, saying he did not hear the "goonj" but heard the "dhamaka" following the results.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah congratulated the ABVP candidates and workers, while Education Minister Pralhad Joshi, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju and Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta also welcomed the results. The election also saw reactions from the Congress camp. Congress leaders raised allegations concerning the conduct of the election, while the party said it would examine the results and its approach to student politics Following the declaration of results, officials asked winning candidates and supporters not to organise victory rallies on or outside the university campus in accordance with Delhi High Court directions.

Swachhata Hi Seva Campaign in NER On 17 Sep.to 2nd October



GORAKHPUR, SEP 19

With the objective of providing railway passengers with a clean and hygienic environment, the North Eastern Railway Headquarters at Gorakhpur and all three divisions are organizing the 'Swachhata Hi Seva' (Cleanliness is Service) campaign from September 17 to October 2, 2026, under the theme "Participation in Cleanliness; Clean India, Developed India," in coordination with Indian Railways. As part of this campaign, on its third day, September 19, 2026, extensive programmes were organized for the transformation of Cleanliness Target Units (CTUs) and Garbage-Prone Vulnerable Sites (GPVs).

In the Varanasi Division, GPVs/CTUs located along approach roads, yards, railway colonies, and railway tracks were identified, and a special cleanliness drive was conducted. Garbage was removed from the identified locations, and effective measures were taken to make these areas clean, attractive, and free from waste. Railway employees and Safai Mitras jointly participated in cleanliness drives at various stations, railway premises, colonies, and other locations across the division. Street plays were also staged at various stations, along with awareness rallies. Door-to-door cleanliness awareness campaigns were conducted in railway colonies.

In the Lucknow Division, various programmes were organized at stations, colonies, hospitals, coaching depots, and other locations to raise awareness among railway passengers, employees, and the general public about cleanliness and environmental protection. The programmes conveyed messages about maintaining cleanliness, proper disposal of waste, and keeping the environment clean.

Similarly, in the Izzatnagar Division, GPVs/CTUs were identified at various locations and cleanliness drives were conducted to ensure a clean environment across railway premises, while also promoting public participation and awareness regarding cleanliness. Railway employees and Safai Mitras jointly participated in cleanliness drives at various stations, railway premises, colonies, and other locations across the division.

I can also make this more polished and press-release style, suitable for publication in an English newspaper or official railway website.

Father to Meet Aaditya Over Defamation Notice



MUMBAI, SEPT. 19

Disha Salian's father, Satish Salian, has said he will visit Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray's residence in Mumbai along with his lawyer in connection with a defamation notice. Speaking to ANI, Satish said they planned to reach Thackeray's residence at 4 pm. He alleged that his lawyer had been threatened and told that he could not practise law.

Salian said the proposed visit was also aimed at serving a notice over alleged defamation. He said they would proceed with the legal process even if the notice was not accepted at the residence.

Thackeray rejects allegations

Aaditya Thackeray has previously denied having any connection with Disha Salian, saying he had never met or known her. In a post on X, he described attempts to link his name to the case as "evidence-free" and said the investigation should proceed without political distractions.

Disha Salian, who had worked as actor Sushant Singh Rajput's manager, died in Mumbai in June 2020 after falling from a building. Her death was initially recorded as an accidental death.

Fresh CBI investigation

The latest developments come after the Central Bureau of Investigation registered an FIR on September 14 following the Bombay High Court's direction for a fresh investigation into the circumstances surrounding her death.

According to advocate Nilesh Ojha, who represents Satish Salian, the FIR names several individuals, including Aaditya Thackeray, Rohan Roy, Rhea Chakraborty, Param Bir Singh, Dino Morea and Sooraj Pancholi, along with police and other officials. The allegations against the named individuals are now subject to investigation. Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Ambadas Danve criticised Satish Salian's proposed method of serving the notice, calling it a "publicity stunt". He argued that service of a legal notice was a matter for the court process rather than a personal visit to a residence.

BJP IT Cell workshop to focus on Gen Z outreach

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 19

The BJP's IT Cell will organise a workshop on Sunday, September 20, aimed at strengthening the party's digital outreach and improving engagement with Gen Z and younger audiences. BJP national president Nitin Nabin will inaugurate the workshop, which will bring together the party's IT and digital functionaries. Discussions will focus on making the BJP's digital communication more effective and developing strategies suited to emerging digital platforms and changing online trends.

Santosh to address session

BJP national general secretary (organisation) B.L. Santosh will address a session and interact with party functionaries on organisational and digital outreach strategies. The workshop is expected to deliberate on ways to strengthen the party's digital ecosystem and expand its connect with digitally active young audiences. The exercise comes ahead of elections in several states, with the BJP seeking to further streamline its social media and digital communication network.



New social media team

The BJP recently appointed senior Chhattisgarh leader Deepak Mhaske as its national social media convenor. Mhaske, who has previously headed the BJP's Chhattisgarh IT Cell, has experience in electoral data management and beneficiary outreach. He will be assisted by Priti Gandhi, Shivanand Dwivedi, Alok Bhatt and Arun Yadav as social media co-convenors. BJP IT department incharge Amit Malviya congratulated the new team on its appointment. Mhaske, based in Raipur and a permanent invited member of the state BJP, has also served as a state spokesperson. He is currently Chairman of the Chhattisgarh Medical Services Corporation Limited (CGMSC) with Minister of State rank.

CBI Books Rel-Capital in LIC Case

NEW DELHI, SEP 19

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered an FIR against Reliance Capital Limited, Mumbai, its former chairman and unidentified public servants, among others, in connection with an alleged LIC investment fraud.

The case was registered on the basis of a complaint filed by the Life Insurance Corporation of India, or LIC. According to the complaint, between 2012 and 2018, LIC subscribed to five Non-Convertible Debentures worth 3,900 crore rupees issued by Reliance Capital. The funds were meant for general corporate purposes, funding requirements and refinancing of existing debt.

The CBI said LIC has alleged that the accused entered into a criminal conspiracy and committed offences including cheating, criminal breach of trust, and diversion and misappropriation of funds. The alleged acts caused a wrongful loss of around 2,685 crore rupees to LIC, with a corresponding wrongful gain to the accused and other beneficiaries.

The CBI said the investigation will identify the role of all persons involved, examine the alleged criminal conspiracy and trace the diversion of the invested funds. Earlier, the CBI had registered eight FIRs against companies including Reliance Communications, Reliance Capital, Reliance Home Finance and Reliance Telecom, based on complaints from various public sector banks, the EPFO and LIC. The agency has so far filed six charge sheets and arrested seven accused persons in these cases. The investigations are being monitored by the Supreme Court.

India Dispatches Fresh Tranche of 11 Tonnes of Relief Material to Nepal



NEW DELHI, SEP 19

India today dispatched a fresh tranche of 11 tonnes of relief material to Nepal, including medicines, forensics supplies, tents, hygiene kits, sleeping bags and other essential supplies. External Affairs Ministry said that the relief material has been handed over to the Nepali side. This was the 9th Indian Air Force plane carrying relief material to support Nepal's recovery. In a social media post, External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar said that India continues to support Nepal's recovery. Nepal faced devastating floods last month, disrupting life and property. fresh tranche of 11 tonnes of relief material,

Dibrugarh Workshop Strengthens Maintenance Capacity

with Improved POH Outturn and Safety Initiatives

MALIGAON: 19 SEPTEMBER



Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has achieved improved Periodical Overhauling (POH) outturn of coaches and wagons at Dibrugarh Workshop under Tinsukia Division, against the prescribed targets. The workshop has also undertaken several initiatives to enhance maintenance capacity, workplace safety and sustainable railway operations.

The workshop is undertaking infrastructure augmentation works for refurbishment of LHB (Linke Hofmann Busch) coaches and enhancement of POH capacity. Its maintenance activities include detailed examination of coach body components, undergear and other critical parts to ensure structural integrity, safety and operational fitness. The workshop is also carrying out Intermediate Overhauling (IOH) activities for coaches and goods wagons. As part of workplace safety initiatives, two Pro Air Welding Helmets equipped with Powered Air-Purifying Respirator (PAPR) systems have been provided to staff engaged in prolonged hot-work activities at Dibrugarh Workshop. The initiative is aimed at enhancing respiratory protection and improving comfort and working conditions for personnel involved in such activities.

The workshop has also taken a green energy initiative by installing solar modules recovered from a condemned Camp Coach on the rooftop of the new Canteen Building. The solar power generated is being utilised for charging battery-operated platform trucks, promoting the use of renewable energy and contributing towards reduction of the workshop's carbon footprint.

General Manager, Northeast Frontier Railway, Shri Chetan Kumar Shrivastava, recently visited Dibrugarh Workshop and conducted a detailed inspection of various sections of the workshop. During the visit, he reviewed the progress of ongoing works and assessed the maintenance activities, including POH and IOH of coaches and goods wagons. He interacted with officials and staff and emphasised adherence to high standards of safety, quality and efficiency, while ensuring timely maintenance and availability of fit rolling stock. The General Manager was accompanied by senior officials from NFR Headquarters, Divisional Railway Manager, Tinsukia Division and other divisional officers during the inspection

During the inspection, the General Manager reviewed the progress of infrastructure augmentation and ongoing works at the workshop, emphasising timely completion with due focus on safety and quality. He subsequently inspected various railway stations under Tinsukia Division, reviewing passenger amenities, station infrastructure and cleanliness and stressed the need for continuous improvement in passenger facilities and efficient maintenance of railway assets.

'Bharat Is Not Just Geography': CDS

ROORKEE, SEPT. 19

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General N.S. Raja Subramani on Saturday urged graduating students of IIT Roorkee to remain adaptable and curious in a rapidly changing world, saying that "Bharat is not a geography; it is a responsibility" carried across generations.

Addressing the institute's convocation, General Raja Subramani outlined his vision of a changing global landscape through the acronym 'DHARA' — Disruptive, Hyper-connectedness, Asymmetry, Realignment and Autonomy.

'Technology changing faster than we can catch up'

The CDS said rapid technological change would require graduates to continuously "learn, unlearn, relearn and adapt". He also highlighted the vulnerabilities created by growing interconnectedness across financial systems, aviation, communication networks and energy infrastructure.

He called upon future engineers and technologists to develop resilient systems capable of withstanding emerging challenges.

Govt Committed to Fulfilling Students' Dreams: CM Yadav

BHOPAL, SEPTEMBER 19



Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav said that it is the responsibility of family, society and government to reward the hard work and achievements of students. The state government is committed to providing necessary resources and opportunities to fulfill the dreams of students. The progress of any talented student should not be stopped due to financial difficulties or lack of resources. The scooty being provided to meritorious students is not just a means of transport, but a reward for their talent and hard work as well as encouragement for self-confidence and a bright future. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav was addressing the state-level program for distribution of scooties under the Chief Minister Scooty Yojana to students who performed excellently in Class 12th in government higher secondary schools at Subhash School, Bhopal. To avail the benefit of the scheme, students must secure first position in the school with 70 percent or more marks in the first attempt in Class 12th. On Saturday, Chief Minister Dr. Yadav ceremonially distributed scooties to more than 7400 meritorious students of the state.

Continuous encouragement to students, from classroom success to career dreams

Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that the Chief Minister Scooty Yojana is a tribute to the hard work and talent of those students who have brought glory to their family and society by studying in difficult circumstances. He said that our government is also providing free books, uniforms and bicycles to students, so that economic conditions do not become an obstacle in their studies. Today, children of the state are studying and exploring new possibilities in traditional businesses and farming as well. Many students dream of starting agriculture startups and increasing their family's income. Agriculture can be made a better medium of profit with modern technology and innovation. Appreciating the self-confidence of the students and their clear thinking towards the future, Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said, it is a matter of happiness for us that students coming from farming and ordinary families are also dreaming of becoming Chartered Accountants, doctors, advocates, agricultural scientists and entrepreneurs today. This thinking of students is the identity of a new and self-reliant Madhya Pradesh. The future of the country and the state is in the hands of the youth. Students should dream big and move forward with hard work, discipline and self-confidence to make them come true.

China's maritime activities near Taiwan reflect 'more intrusive' form of coercion

BEIJING

As Chinese research vessels operate in waters around Taiwan, Beijing has maintained that they are conducting only marine scientific research, but their activities appear increasingly difficult to view as benign, a report has stated.

It noted that publicly available tracking data suggests that these vessels may be systematically mapping the seabed, potentially laying the groundwork for future naval operations.

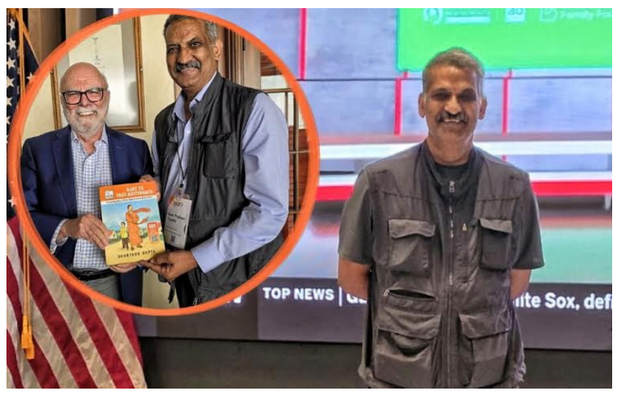
According to a report in online magazine 'The Diplomat', at least seven Chinese research vessels have come under suspicion of carrying out research with military applications since June 6. It stressed that taken together, these developments reflect the emergence of an increasingly "intrusive form of coercion".

"Since Beijing announced special maritime operations on June 6, its forces have grown more assertive – pushing patrols into new waters, rotating formations to regularise presence, and deploying research vessels that can conduct military reconnaissance. This all points to a new form of coercion taking shape," the report detailed. On July 4, the Global Times – a mouthpiece for the Chinese Communist Party – announced that China's maritime patrols had entered "a new phase," shifting towards "a more systematic, institutionalized, and long-term framework" and away from "isolated military exercises or patrols."

Gyan Prakash Tripathi Represents India at 27th International Symposium on Online Journalism in Texas

Global Media Leaders Examine Truth, Democracy and the Future of Digital News

NEW DELHI



The 27th International Symposium on Online Journalism (ISOJ), one of the world's leading forums on digital journalism and media innovation, is underway at the University of Texas at Austin from September 17 to 19.

The international gathering has brought together journalists, editors, media executives, policymakers, researchers and academics from across the globe in a hybrid format, enabling both in-person and virtual participation.

Representing India at the prestigious symposium are senior journalist Rajendra Kumar Gautam, associated with the national Hindi daily Nishpaksh Divya Sandesh, and Gyan Prakash Tripathi, associated with the Lucknow-based newspaper Tijarat. Their participation highlights the growing international recognition of Indian-language journalism and the important role of regional media in shaping democratic discourse.

Truth, Trust and Press Freedom at the Centre of Debate

The opening discussions focused on some of the most urgent challenges confronting journalism today, including trust, misinformation, press freedom and the changing relationship between news organizations and the public in the digital age.

Sessions on independent journalism and the emerging creator economy examined how digital creators and independent reporters are reshaping the traditional information industry. Participants also explored the responsibilities of major media institutions during elections and periods of political uncertainty. Senior representatives from CNN, The Washington Post, the Associated Press and JS Global Media took part in discussions on the media's role in the United States midterm elections. The day concluded with deliberations on practical strategies to rebuild public confidence in journalism, followed by a welcome reception titled "The Moody Party."

Gyan Prakash Tripathi: A Strong Voice for Indian-Language Journalism

The presence of Gyan Prakash Tripathi at ISOJ carries special significance for journalists worldwide. His participation represents the experience and perspective of India's regional and linguistic media—an essential part of the country's vast and diverse information ecosystem.

At a time when journalism is undergoing profound technological and economic change, Tripathi's engagement underscores the value of inclusive journalism that connects global conversations with local communities. His contribution also draws attention to the continuing importance of credible reporting in Indian languages, particularly across North India.

His participation sends a positive message to the global journalism community: meaningful innovation in news does not come only from large international outlets. It also emerges from dedicated journalists and regional publications working closely with their readers and communities.

Digital Sustainability and Artificial Intelligence in Focus

The second day of the symposium is dedicated to the future of digital news, with a particular focus on sustainability, emerging technologies and artificial intelligence.

Janine Warner, Executive Director of SembraMedia, is scheduled to present research on global trends in the sustainability of digital news. A fireside conversation will then examine who is shaping the future of journalism and the evolving roles of media organizations, technology platforms and business leaders. Allison Murphy, CEO of Axios, and Neil Chase, CEO of CalMatters, are expected to participate as keynote speakers.

Indian delegates Rajendra Kumar Gautam and Gyan Prakash Tripathi will also present perspectives on linguistic publications, journalism and digital transformation in North India.

A Shared Commitment to Responsible Journalism

The 27th ISOJ comes at a defining moment for the global news industry. As artificial intelligence, social media and digital platforms transform the production and distribution of information, journalists everywhere face the shared responsibility of defending accuracy, independence and public trust.

Through his participation, Gyan Prakash Tripathi stands as a constructive representative of Indian journalism, demonstrating how regional voices can contribute meaningfully to international conversations about truth, democracy and the future of news.

His presence at the University of Texas at Austin reflects the growing global relevance of Indian-language journalism and offers an encouraging message to journalists around the world: credible journalism remains strongest when it is diverse, responsible and committed to serving the public.



Egyptian mission discovers rare rock-cut tombs dating to late New Kingdom in Nile Delta

CAIRO

An Egyptian archaeological mission has uncovered a number of rock-cut tombs dating to the late New Kingdom (1550-1069 BC) at the Tell el-Yahudiya archaeological site in Qalyubia province, north of Cairo, the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities said Saturday.

The tombs feature different architectural designs, shedding light on burial practices in the eastern Nile Delta, the ministry said in a statement. The tombs fall into two main architectural types, the statement read, Xinhua News Agency reported.

The first consists of tombs with an entrance reached by a staircase leading to a hall containing burial niches, while the second features a rectangular shaft leading to two burial chambers, it said.

Such rock-cut tomb designs are rare in the Delta, where the region's clay-rich soil makes this type of burial uncommon, it added. Hisham El-Leithy, secretary-general of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities, said the discovery provides valuable evidence for understanding burial practices and their development in the eastern Delta across different historical periods.

Last week, Egypt announced the discovery of an over 4,000-year-old tomb dating to the late Fifth Dynasty (2494-2345 BC) at the Mariette Cemetery north of Saqqara, Giza Province, west of Cairo. According to a statement from Egypt's Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, the tomb, discovered by a joint Egyptian-Spanish archaeological mission, dates to the reign of King Djedkare Isesi.

The medium-sized mastaba contains two funerary chapels. One belonged to Yunmin, a senior official who served as judge, court director, and chief of scribes responsible for handling petitions and complaints.

Excavations in Yunmin's chapel uncovered a distinctive facade inscribed with funerary texts and an offering formula, alongside a depiction of the tomb owner in a formal pose.

The chapel's walls were decorated with high-quality raised reliefs depicting agricultural activities and processions carrying offerings to the tomb.

The second chapel belonged to Yunmin's father, Ity, a scribe involved in administering agricultural lands and offerings. It features a false door and colourful wall decorations of offering scenes, though much of the paint has faded.

Hisham El-Leithy, secretary-general of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, said the discovery provides new archaeological information about the Saqqara cemetery during the late Fifth Dynasty and sheds further light on the architectural and artistic styles of tombs from the period.

DR Congo expands Ebola vaccination to Ituri, over 3,700 people vaccinated

KINSHASA



Ebola vaccination was expanded Saturday to Ituri Province, the epicentre of the outbreak in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), with more than 3,700 people having received the Ervebo vaccine in the country.

The latest phase comes with the launch of a vaccination study known as BRAVO in Bunia, the capital of Ituri, conducted by Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) in collaboration with Congolese health authorities, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and other scientific partners.

The study plans to vaccinate about 20,000 frontline workers in Ituri and North Kivu, two provinces most affected by the outbreak, and follow participants over time to assess the potential effect of Ervebo against the Bundibugyo virus, Xinhua News Agency reported.

Ervebo was developed and licensed against the Zaire virus rather than the Bundibugyo virus driving the current outbreak, and whether it can protect humans against the latter has not been established.

Amid the expanding outbreak, the International Coordinating Group on Vaccine Provision approved an initial allocation of 70,000 doses of Ervebo to the DRC in August. Of the total, 50,000 doses were allocated for health and frontline workers, while 20,000 were set aside for a Phase 3 clinical trial designed to assess the vaccine's impact against the Bundibugyo virus.

According to the Africa CDC, 16,520 doses had been received in the DRC as of mid-September. The use of Ervebo had already begun on August 27 under a protocol-governed program targeting people at high risk of exposure. As of September 17, a total of 3,771 people had been vaccinated, including 3,063 in Tshopo Province and 708 in Bas-Uele Province, according to the latest epidemiological update issued Saturday by the DRC government. BRAVO, which is expected to run for nine to 12 months, including three months of vaccination and at least six months of participant follow-up, marks a further step in efforts to generate evidence on the vaccine's potential effectiveness against Bundibugyo.

Enforced disappearances of Baloch civilians in Pakistan lay bare accountability failure: Report

BRUSSELS



The recent case involving the enforced disappearance of Baloch student leader Jiand Baloch by Pakistani forces has once again exposed the vicious cycle of disappearances in Pakistan, where activists increasingly find themselves targeted for speaking out, organising students and demanding answers about those already missing, a report has stated.

Pakistan's crisis of enforced disappearances goes far beyond the fate of missing persons. It strikes at the heart of accountability — testing whether security institutions are bound by law, whether courts can force transparency and whether families will ever learn the truth about their missing loved ones, according to a report in the European Times.

"The disappearance of Baloch student leader Jiand Baloch from his Quetta home in the early hours of July 24, 2026, followed a familiar script: a raid, a family left without answers and a man taken away without an explanation. Eleven days later, on August 3, he returned home. For Jiand, however, this was not an isolated episode. It was the third time he had disappeared," the report detailed.

"His first disappearance came in November 2018, when he was taken along with his father and younger brother and remained missing for nine months. In July 2024, he disappeared again for about a month while campaigning around the Baloch Raaji Muchi, or Baloch National Gathering. His latest disappearance lasted 11 days," it noted.

Citing Amnesty International, the report said Jiand was targeted for his peaceful activism and his prominent position as chairperson of the Baloch Students Organisation. "The repetition is significant. A person can disappear once amid a security operation or an unresolved investigation. When the same activist disappears repeatedly, each time in the context of his public work, the episode becomes part of a wider question about the use of state power, due process and accountability in Pakistan," European Times highlighted.

"Jiand's case has once again placed Pakistan's long-running enforced-disappearance crisis under scrutiny. It also illustrates why the issue remains unresolved despite the existence of a state commission, judicial interventions and years of international pressure," it added.

The report cited a February 2025 communication by United Nations experts that flagged alleged arbitrary arrests, detention-related mistreatment, enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings in Balochistan. They expressed concerns over restrictions on activists, censorship and the use of counter-terrorism provisions against individuals exercising their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

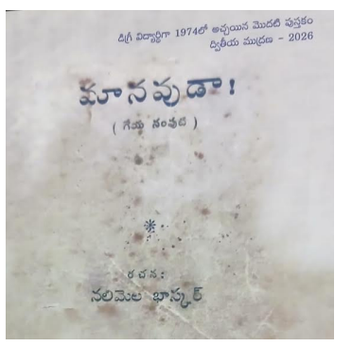
The UN experts subsequently raised alarm over amendments to Pakistan's Anti-Terrorism Act and related provincial laws that permit preventive detention for up to 90 days on broad grounds of suspected links to terrorism, the European Times mentioned.

"They warned that such provisions could increase the risk of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance and torture, particularly in cases involving political dissenters, human rights defenders, journalists, students and members of minority groups," it noted.

Manavudaa !

A Humanist Voice Undimmed by Half a Century

A Review of Dr Nalimela Bhaskar's First Lyrical Collection





As naturally as the sun belongs to the landscape of nature, Dr Nalimela Bhaskar belongs to the landscape of Telugu literature. He hardly needs an introduction. Yet, to understand a great tree, one must look at its first sprout; to comprehend the breadth of a river, one must return to its source. Seen in that light, Manavudaa! Bhaskar's first lyrical collection, written in 1974 while he was still a degree student, is the seed from which his remarkable literary journey would later grow.

This book appeared even before I was born. Reading it today feels like walking back through time and listening to the heartbeat of a young poet discovering both the world and his responsibility towards it. Published by Government College, Kamareddy, and dedicated by Bhaskar to the very institution that nurtured him, the book also reveals an enduring quality of his character—gratitude.

More than five decades later, its second edition, brought out in 2026 by Sahithi Sopathi, Karimnagar, is therefore more than the reprinting of an old volume it is the recovery of an early page of Telugu literary history for a new generation of readers. Comprising just sixteen lyrical pieces, this slender volume accommodates a surprisingly wide emotional and intellectual landscape: patriotism, humanism, social consciousness, progressive thought, nature, anguish and introspection. Most of the compositions move within matra chandas, possessing the rhythm, fluidity and musicality essential to the lyric form. The rhymes rarely appear imposed rather, they seem to arise naturally from the movement of thought. Even at that young age, Bhaskar appears to have understood when language must become tender and when it must acquire the edge of protest.

The title lyric, "Manavudaa!", is the beating heart of the collection. Its broadcast on four occasions by All India Radio, Hyderabad, is itself testimony to the resonance it achieved.

The poet addresses humanity itself and asks how the human being, having forgotten humaneness, has descended into darkness and drifted towards the demonic.

Within that opening lies the central conflict of the poem. Bhaskar does not accuse a particular individual he interrogates the dehumanisation taking place within humankind itself. Dowry deaths, corruption, black-marketing, greed, caste and religious divisions, nuclear weapons, falsehood and conspiracy all come under the scrutiny of his young but remarkably alert poetic conscience.

Particularly striking is his image of humanity falling into the "cruel well of caste and religion." More than half a century later, the metaphor has lost little of its relevance. Here lies one of the truest tests of enduring poetry a poem that expires with its moment becomes a document of its age a poem that continues to interrogate humanity across generations becomes literature. By that measure, Manavudaa! has earned its place.

Yet Bhaskar does not merely condemn and withdraw. Having asked, "Which is the path to liberation?", he turns from indictment towards moral reconstruction. He urges the human being to dedicate his hands to the service of the motherland and allow humanity to flourish within.

This movement from protest to reconstruction is crucial to the poem's ethical architecture. In Bhaskar's hands, the word is not merely a flame of anger it is also a lamp that illuminates the way forward.

The other compositions broaden this vision. Kranti Geetham carries the fire of resistance against injustice, while Santhvanam reveals compassion for those wounded and excluded by society. Nenu turns inward towards self-exploration Nijalu–Izalu displays moral clarity Vyarthalu–Arthalu reflects upon what is meaningful and meaningless in life. Poems such as Varthamanamemo Naaku and Nairasyam reveal the uncertainties and inner turbulence of a young mind confronting the contradictions of its age.

Thus, Manavudaa! is not confined to a single ideological or emotional register. It is a young poet's first attempt to look at the world through many windows and through those windows, to discover his own poetic vision.

It is significant that literary figures such as Avadhanam Ranganatha Vachaspathi, Gundi Venkatacharyulu and Kasireddy Venkata Reddy recognised Bhaskar's promise at the very beginning of his journey. The blessing "Charaiveti... Charaiveti" "Keep moving, keep moving" now reads almost like a prophecy. The literary journey that began in his student years did not end with that first milestone; it continued, widened and matured into decades of sustained service to language and literature.

It would therefore be unfair to judge Manavudaa! solely by contemporary literary standards. It must also be read within its historical context as the first book of a degree student written in 1974. Seen from that perspective, its significance becomes even clearer. At places, one may encounter the natural intensity and impatience of youth, but that very intensity is the pulse of the collection. There is heat in its emotion, strength in its language, anguish before injustice, responsibility towards society and, above all, faith in the human being.

That faith is perhaps the secret of the book's longevity

A small lyrical lamp lit in the hands of a student continues to glow more than five decades later. That is no accident. Manavudaa! is not merely Nalimela Bhaskar's first book; it is the first imprint of a literary personality that would, over the decades, grow into a distinctive presence in Telugu letters.

The question the young poet asked humanity in 1974 still stands before us

"Oh Man, have you forgotten humanity?"

Time has changed.

Technology has changed.

The rhythms of life have changed.

Yet the oldest battle the battle within the human heart remains unfinished. That is why Manavudaa! is not merely a lyrical collection from another age it is a humanist summons that has crossed half a century without losing either its urgency or its voice.

- Dr Peruka Raju
Polyglot & Literary Critic
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CBI books Reliance Capital in LIC fraud case; Anil Ambani denies wrongdoing

CBI registered a case against Reliance Capital Limited (RCAP), its former chairman, former group managing director Satish Seth, unidentified public servants and others over an alleged Rs 2,684.57-crore fraud

The CBI registered a case against Reliance Capital Limited (RCAP), its former chairman, former group managing director Satish Seth, unidentified public servants and others over an alleged Rs 2,684.57-crore fraud involving investments made by the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC). However, Reliance Group chairman Anil Ambani on Friday denied any wrongdoing. A spokesperson for Ambani, in a statement, said, "The FIR registered by the CBI pertains to Reliance Capital Limited. Ambani served as a Non-Executive Director/ Chairman of the Board of Reliance Capital Limited from 2005 until November 2021, when the Reserve Bank of India superseded the Board of Directors of the company and appointed an Administrator."

"Ambani denies any wrongdoing, whatsoever, and reserves all rights available to him in law," the spokesperson said.

The CBI registered the FIR on the basis of a written complaint from LIC against RCAP, Ambani, Seth, unidentified public servants and others.

According to the CBI, LIC alleged that between April 12, 2012, and March 9, 2018, it subscribed to five non-convertible debentures issued by RCAP, involving a total investment of Rs 3,900 crore.

The investments were made for general corporate purposes, funding requirements and refinancing of existing debt.

Roastery Coffee House's Coffee Comes Home to Bengaluru

Born in Hyderabad, built on coffee from Karnataka, Roastery opens its 17th House and first in Bengaluru — bringing its coffee closer to where it began.





Bengaluru: Roastery Coffee House has opened its 17th House and first in Bengaluru, at Banashankari II Stage, marking a particularly meaningful chapter in the brand's journey.

Roastery was born in Hyderabad in 2017, but nearly 99% of the coffee it serves today comes from Karnataka, specifically the Chikmagalur region. With its first House in the state that has supplied its coffee for years, the brand is calling this homecoming: "Roastery's Coffee Comes Home." For years, coffee has travelled from the estates of Chikmagalur to Roastery's roastery and onwards to its Coffee Houses across India. With Bengaluru, that journey has come full circle. For Nishant Sinha, Founder & CEO, Roastery Coffee House, the opening therefore represents much more than entering another city."Roastery was born in Hyderabad, but the coffee that built Roastery was born in Karnataka. For years, coffee from Chikmagalur has travelled to our roastery and then to our Coffee Houses across India. Now, for the first time, we are serving that coffee through a Roastery Coffee House in Karnataka itself. So Bengaluru doesn't feel like entering another market for us. It feels like our coffee coming home."

From Chikmagalur to Bengaluru

Karnataka has been at the heart of Roastery's coffee programme since its early years.

Today, the company sources approximately 100 tonnes of green coffee annually, with nearly 99% coming from Karnataka's Chikmagalur region. Roastery works directly with 15+ coffee estates and farmers and focuses exclusively on 80+ speciality-grade coffees, including experimental processes and micro-lots.

The relationship goes beyond simply sourcing coffee. For Roastery, the idea has always been to celebrate Indian coffee closer to its source — recognising the farmers, estates, processes and regions responsible for what eventually reaches the cup.

The Bengaluru opening therefore brings Roastery physically closer to the landscape that has played such an important role in building its coffee identity.

A distinctly Indian Roastery House

Spread across approximately 4,000 sq. ft. with seating for around 80 guests, the Bengaluru House continues Roastery's evolving approach to creating contemporary coffee spaces with a distinctly Indian character.

Rather than drawing from one particular monument or architectural style, the House takes subtle inspiration from Indian arches and traditional design vocabulary, interpreted in a contemporary manner.

The interiors carry Roastery's growing use of soft pastel colours, while Kalamkari-inspired art and upholstery introduce an Indian craft influence into the space.

The intention is not to recreate traditional architecture, but to allow familiar Indian forms, colours, textiles and craft to sit naturally within a modern speciality coffee house. It reflects Roastery's broader belief that an Indian coffee brand can express its identity not only through the coffee it serves, but also through the spaces in which people experience it.

Coffee remains at the heart of the House

The Bengaluru House carries Roastery's familiar coffee programme, including its signature Cranberry Coffee, Brownie Blend Cold Coffee, cappuccinos and a selection of manual brews featuring speciality-grade Indian coffees.

Guests can explore different beans and flavour profiles through the manual brewing programme, while Roastery's familiar hot and cold coffee offerings remain available throughout the day.

The coffee programme is complemented by an all-day food menu featuring sandwiches, flatbread pizzas, pastas and other café favourites, maintaining the Roastery experience familiar to guests across its other Houses while keeping coffee at the centre of the offering.

The beginning of Roastery's Bengaluru chapter

Roastery does not view Bengaluru as a one-off opening or classify individual cafés as flagship stores. Each House is intended to develop its own relationship with the neighbourhood and city around it.

The company is looking to build a deeper presence in Bengaluru over time, with plans to explore approximately five to seven Coffee Houses across the city over the next one to two years, subject to finding the right locations and spaces. For Roastery, however, Bengaluru carries a significance beyond expansion.

It brings together two ideas that have shaped the brand from the beginning: exceptional Indian coffee and a distinctly Indian approach to the spaces in which it is enjoyed.

A company born in Hyderabad has finally opened a House in the state where almost all of its coffee begins its journey.

India Targets 5 Chipmakers, 1 Lakh Jobs: Vaishnaw

Vaishnaw says the government's semiconductor programme is designed differently, with a long-term approach aimed at building the entire supply chain. India is targeting a semiconductor ecosystem with at least five large manufacturers, three major materials companies, advanced packaging facilities and more than one lakh jobs as it seeks to establish itself as a global chipmaking hub, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said. Speaking exclusively to India Today, Vaishnaw said the government's focus is no longer limited to setting up semiconductor fabrication units. It is working to build the wider ecosystem, including materials, equipment, packaging, chip design and skilled manpower. Looking ahead, the minister said one of the clearest markers of the programme's success would be the emergence of five large manufacturing companies, three large materials manufacturers and at least two advanced packaging facilities. He also expects the sector to generate more than one lakh jobs, both directly and indirectly.

FROM SKEPTICISM TO EXECUTION

India's semiconductor ambitions have been discussed for decades, but previous efforts failed to establish a sustained manufacturing ecosystem. Vaishnaw said the government's semiconductor programme, launched in 2021, was designed differently, with a long-term approach aimed at building the entire supply chain. "When we started this journey, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told us not to take things for granted," Vaishnaw said, recalling the approach adopted for the programme. The focus, he said, was on thinking of the semiconductor mission as a 20-year journey rather than seeking quick results. The government subsequently mapped the ecosystem, including hundreds of chemicals and gases, equipment manufacturers and other suppliers needed to support semiconductor production.

"We worked in that process. We meticulously planned," Vaishnaw said, explaining how officials reached out to potential suppliers and helped them identify partners and understand the Indian market.

7NM, 3NM TECHNOLOGY IN SIGHT

India currently has capabilities around the 40nm technology node, but Vaishnaw said the country has set its sights on more advanced 7nm and 3nm technologies over the next eight years. He acknowledged the difficulty of reaching advanced nodes, noting that countries that have developed such capabilities have taken decades to build their semiconductor ecosystems.

Blueband Sports Rally of Coimbatore Set to Host Round 2 of INRC 2026 with 64 Cars on the Grid

Blueband Sports Rally of Coimbatore to feature 64 cars and 128 competitors as leading Indian drivers prepare for Round 2 of the Indian National Rally Championship (INRC)

COIMBATORE





The FMSCI Indian National Rally Championship (INRC) 2026 heads to Coimbatore for Round 2 this weekend, with 64 cars and 128 competitors set to take on a predominantly gravel challenge across September 19 and 20. The Blueband Sports Rally of Coimbatore 2026 is being conducted under the aegis of the Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India (FMSCI), with Blueband Sports as the Official Promoter and the Coimbatore Auto Sports Club (CASC) as the organising club. The ceremonial flag-off took place on Friday, September 18, marking the formal start of the second round of the championship. The event was attended today by the Honourable Minister of Backward Classes Welfare of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. V. Sampath Kumar, and Shri Vijaya Kumar, Inspector General, CRPF, who witnessed the proceedings in Coimbatore.

The championship arrives in Coimbatore following an action-packed opening round at the 49th South India Rally, where three-time FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship winner and seven-time National Champion Gaurav Gill made a strong return to competitive rallying. Gill led the INRC Overall classification in the opening round, ahead of local challenger Ritesh Rai, with Karna Kadur in third in the provisional results. Kadur also finished second behind Gill in the APRC segment, with Jason Saldanha third. In INRC 3, Tarushi Vikram finished third in the provisional results, while also topping the Ladies and Junior INRC classifications.

The Round 2 in Coimbatore brings together several established names in Indian rallying, including Dean Macarenhas, Karna Kadur, Naveen Puligilla, Jason Saldanha, Fabid Ahmer and Philippos Matthai. The field also features a strong contingent of women drivers, including Pragathi Gowda, Anushriya Gulati, Athira Murali, Tarushi Vikram and Phoebe Dale. Foreign participation comes from Singapore, with Raguvaran Veerappan and co-driver Amanda Jia Ying Chew entered for the rally. The entry list also features varied machinery including the Peugeot 208, Ford Fiesta and Citroen C3.

Two stages, eight runs and 110.8 km of competitive rallying

Coimbatore will offer competitors a markedly different test, with gravel making up virtually the entire rally surface. Competitors will tackle two special stages; Black Thunder and S.M. Agro, across eight stage runs, with both stages repeated through the rally.

Black Thunder is entirely gravel, while S.M. Agro features a 99% gravel and 1% asphalt surface. The special stages cover 110.80 km of competitive distance, forming part of a total rally itinerary of 153.36 km, including 42.56 km of liaison sections.

With competitors returning to the same stages through the weekend, pace, consistency, car setup, tyre management and accurate pace notes will be important factors as drivers look to maintain performance across every run.

Premnath Kasinath, Promoter and Director, Blueband Sports said, "Round 2 in Coimbatore presents a very different challenge for the competitors and adds another important chapter to the 2026 INRC season. The predominantly gravel stages will demand precision, consistency and strong preparation from both drivers and teams. With the two stages being repeated through the rally, competitors will also have to adapt to the conditions and make the most of every run. We have a strong field assembled for this round and are looking forward to an exciting weekend of rallying in Coimbatore."

Drivers gear up for Coimbatore's gravel challenge

For the competitors, preparations for Round 2 have centred on adapting their cars and driving approach to the demands of the Coimbatore stages. The repeated-stage format will also give drivers the opportunity to assess their performance through each run and make adjustments as the rally progresses.

Dean Mascarenhas, TSI Racing "The preparation for Coimbatore has been focused on getting the car setup right for the gravel and making sure we are comfortable with the stages and our pace notes. The conditions can make a big difference, so consistency will be very important across the weekend. With the stages being repeated, we will have to learn from every run and adapt as we go. The aim is to start strongly, stay consistent and put all the preparation into practice when the rally gets underway."

A strong field across championship categories

The 64-car field will compete across the championship's various categories, including INRC, INRC 2, INRC 3T and INRC 3, alongside the FMSCI Gypsy Challenge, Classic Challenge and Masters Cup. The event will also feature competitors in the Women and Junior categories.

Competitive action begins on Saturday, September 19, with the first car scheduled to start Rally Day 1 at 9:30 am from the Service Park. Rally Day 2 begins at 9:30 am on Sunday, September 20, with the provisional final classification scheduled for 2:30 pm.

The Blueband Sports Rally of Coimbatore 2026 is being conducted in accordance with the 2026 FIA International Sporting Code, FMSCI General Prescriptions for Stage Rallies and FMSCI Specific Regulations for the Indian National Rally Championship. The rally carries a co-efficient factor of 1.5.



Where have all the 1 BHKs gone?

The 1 BHK still has buyers, so why are builders ditching it? Is the shift towards 2 and 3 BHKs changing the economics of housing?According to Magicbricks' PropIndex for April-June 2026, 1 BHKs accounted for 13% of buyer demand but only 5% of available housing inventory.

That is quite a mismatch.

And it gets more interesting when you look at what is replacing them. Two BHKs accounted for 42% of buyer demand and 32% of inventory, while 3 BHKs made up 37% of demand and 46% of supply. Homes with 3+ BHKs accounted for 8% of demand and 17% of available inventory. Source: Magicbricks PropIndex April-June 2026 Quaterly Report

SO WHERE HAS THE 1 BHK GONE?

Perhaps the better question is: why is the market moving away from a home that people are still looking for? A teacher in Gandhinagar went looking for a house and eventually bought a 3 BHK. "With children growing up, I wanted extra space for their studies, a separate room for guests, and more privacy for the family," the buyer says.

In Pune, an IT professional also went bigger.

"Work-from-home was the main reason. I wanted a dedicated office space without disturbing the family, along with a bigger living area," the buyer says. And in Jaipur, Narendra Sharma, a retired Subedar Major and former Army officer, bought a 3 BHK as an investment. "I looked at it mainly as an investment. Jaipur is developing rapidly, and I see good potential for future growth and appreciation," he says. Different buyers. Different reasons. But all three ended up buying something larger than the 1 BHK that has traditionally been the entry point into the housing market. That shift isn't happening only because buyers suddenly want bigger homes. There is money behind it too.

THE 1 BHK DOESN'T WORK AS WELL FOR THE BUILDER

For a developer, making an apartment smaller doesn't make the entire project proportionately cheaper. The land still costs the same. Approvals still need to be obtained. Lifts, amenities and common areas still have to be built. But a larger apartment can command a higher ticket price. "A larger home gives the developer a higher ticket size and in turn, stronger revenue potential from the project. At the same time, costs such as land, approvals, amenities and common areas remain broadly similar across configurations," says Sumit Choudhury, VP, Rise Infraventures. There is another advantage to building bigger: buyers are already showing up for them. "Moreover, there is also strong demand for 2 BHK and 3 BHK homes in many markets, which supports faster sales. When you look at the overall project economics, larger configurations offer a more attractive proposition for developers," says Preksha Singh, CEO, Agrasheel Infra. So the developer's dilemma isn't really a dilemma. A 3 BHK can bring in more money. There are buyers willing to pay for it. And many of the costs of developing the project remain broadly similar. The 1 BHK, by comparison, is cheaper to sell.And that matters when land is expensive.

THE CHEAPEST HOME IS ALSO GETTING HARDER TO BUILD

This is where the 1 BHK runs into the larger affordable-housing problem.

Santhosh Kumar, Vice Chairman, ANAROCK Group, says affordable housing — homes priced below Rs 40 lakh — has seen both declining demand and falling supply."Soaring land, construction and compliance costs have pushed developers towards higher-end projects," he says. Affordable projects typically offer margins of 10-12%, according to Kumar, compared with 25-30% or more for premium homes. "Most disposable income is headed for premium homes, so developers see no sense in addressing less profitable segments," he says. That makes the 1 BHK particularly vulnerable. It sits at the lower end of the market, where construction is getting more expensive and returns are relatively smaller. But the buyer hasn't disappeared.

SOME BUYERS ARE HAPPY TO PAY FOR THE EXTRA ROOM

This is the other half of the story. ANAROCK's Consumer Sentiment Survey for H1 2026 found that 48% of homebuyers preferred a 3 BHK, while 38% preferred a 2 BHK. The survey covered 8,320 respondents across 14 cities. The share preferring 4 BHK and larger homes touched nearly 5%, up from around 3% in H1 2024. The preferred budget has moved up too, with the Rs 90 lakh-Rs 1.5 crore range emerging as the most preferred segment. And the reasons are visible in the homes people are buying. The Gandhinagar family wants space for children. The Pune professional wants somewhere to work. For other buyers, an additional bedroom may mean a room for parents, a study or simply more space at home. Sandeep Chhillar, Founder and Chairman, Landmark Group, says buyers are increasingly choosing 2+1, 3 BHK and larger configurations for flexibility. "The consumer desire is undoubtedly shifting towards larger, well-planned homes, especially among end users. Buyers are choosing 2+1, 3 BHK, and higher configurations for greater flexibility," he says. "Suddenly, the extra space is crucial for working from home, but also for children, parents, study, or wellness."But the pull towards larger homes isn't only about having an extra room.The preference for bigger homes is also being driven by connectivity and convenience, dedicated spaces for work, long-term planning and wealth management, says Amar Sarin, MD & CEO, TARC Limited. So yes, there is a genuine shift towards larger homes. But there is still a sizeable group for whom bigger is not necessarily better.

THEN THERE IS THE BUYER WHO WANTED A 1 BHK

Surbhi Malhotra, a data analyst from Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, had considered a 2 BHK. "The biggest factor was the lower entry cost of a 1 BHK, along with the fact that it can still offer good rental and resale potential if the location is right," she says. She wanted to keep the initial investment, EMI and maintenance costs manageable. Her choice is important because it brings us back to the number we started with. 13% demand. 5% supply. There is clearly a market for the smaller home. The problem is that the market is producing fewer of them. Rajjath Goel, Managing Director, MRG Group, says first-time buyers are increasingly looking beyond the smallest configuration and thinking about whether the home will work for them several years from now.



8 Habits That Hurt Your Knees

Your knees play an important role in almost every movement you make. From walking and climbing stairs to bending down, exercising and simply getting out of a chair, these joints constantly absorb and transfer forces. Because of this, it is easy to assume that knee problems are simply an unavoidable part of ageing. But age is only one factor. Everyday habits, movement patterns and lifestyle choices can also influence how much stress your knees experience. Some habits may not cause pain immediately. However, when the same movement or behaviour is repeated day after day, it can contribute to stiffness, muscle weakness, reduced mobility or discomfort. On the other hand, regular movement, appropriate exercise and good body mechanics can help support the muscles around the knee and maintain joint function. This does not mean that a particular habit will automatically damage your knees. Knee health is influenced by several factors, including genetics, previous injuries, activity levels, body weight, muscle strength and existing medical conditions. Still, becoming aware of everyday behaviours that may place unnecessary stress on the joints can help you make healthier choices.

Your Knees Need Both Movement And Support

The knee is a complex joint that connects the thigh bone to the shin bone and works together with muscles, tendons, ligaments and cartilage. The quadriceps, hamstrings and gluteal muscles play an important role in controlling movement and supporting the lower body. When these supporting muscles are weak or when movement patterns repeatedly place excessive load on the joint, everyday activities can become more demanding for the knees. This is why maintaining overall leg strength and mobility is important. Interestingly, both too little activity and too much activity can create problems. Spending most of the day sitting may reduce muscle strength, while suddenly taking up intense exercise can overload muscles and joints that are not accustomed to the workload.

Sitting For Hours Without Moving

Modern lifestyles often involve long periods of sitting. People may spend several hours at a desk, commute in a car or public transport, watch television and then continue sitting while using a phone or computer. Extended sitting does not necessarily damage the knees by itself, but remaining inactive for long periods can contribute to muscle weakness and stiffness. The muscles around the hips and thighs are important for supporting and controlling the knees. If these muscles become weaker because of prolonged inactivity, everyday movements may become more difficult. Keeping the knees bent in the same position for a long time can also make them feel stiff when you eventually stand up. A simple way to break this pattern is to get up regularly, walk around and gently move the legs. Short movement breaks throughout the day can be easier to maintain than trying to compensate for hours of inactivity with one intense workout later.

Turning Stairs Into An Unplanned Workout

Climbing stairs is a useful form of physical activity. It works several muscles in the legs and can contribute to cardiovascular fitness. However, repeatedly climbing multiple flights of stairs can place considerable demands on the knees, particularly when someone is not accustomed to it. For people with existing knee discomfort, weak muscles or certain joint conditions, repeatedly going up and down stairs may increase symptoms. Rushing down stairs can also place significant forces through the lower limbs. This does not mean you should avoid stairs altogether. Instead, pay attention to how your knees feel and increase activity gradually. Use the handrail when necessary, maintain controlled movements and avoid turning an ordinary trip upstairs into an unnecessarily intense workout. If climbing stairs consistently causes pain or swelling, it is worth discussing the symptoms with a healthcare professional rather than simply pushing through them.

Starting Exercise Without Preparing Your Body

Jumping directly into running, jumping, squats or heavy strength training without preparation can be uncomfortable for the muscles and joints. A sudden increase in physical demand can be particularly challenging when the body is not accustomed to the activity. A warm-up does not need to be complicated. A few minutes of gentle walking, controlled leg movements or activity-specific movements can help you gradually transition into exercise. The bigger issue is often not just warming up but how quickly the intensity is increased. Someone who has been inactive for months and suddenly begins running several kilometres every day may place excessive stress on muscles and joints. A gradual approach is generally more sustainable. Increase duration, intensity or resistance progressively and give your body enough time to adapt.

Treating Pain As Something To Ignore

One of the most common mistakes people make is continuing an activity despite recurring knee pain. There is an important difference between normal muscle fatigue after exercise and pain that repeatedly appears in or around a joint. If a particular movement consistently produces knee pain, continuing to perform it at the same intensity may aggravate an existing problem. Ignoring symptoms can also make it harder to identify what is causing them. Instead of automatically stopping all physical activity, consider modifying the movement, reducing the intensity or choosing a lower-impact alternative. Persistent, severe or worsening pain should not simply be dismissed as a normal consequence of exercise. Swelling, instability, significant difficulty walking or pain following an injury are additional reasons to seek professional medical evaluation.

Wearing The Wrong Shoes For The Activity

Your feet and knees are closely connected through the mechanics of walking and movement. Footwear that fits poorly or is inappropriate for a particular activity may affect comfort and movement. For example, someone who spends long periods walking or exercising in shoes that are worn out, uncomfortable or unsuitable for the activity may experience increased discomfort in the feet, legs or knees. This does not mean everyone needs expensive specialised footwear. The important considerations are fit, comfort and suitability for the activity. Walking shoes, running shoes and everyday footwear may have different designs because they are used for different purposes. Replacing worn-out footwear and choosing shoes that fit properly can be a simple part of maintaining comfortable movement.

Sudden Changes In Your Exercise Routine

Another overlooked habit is doing too much too quickly. Someone who normally walks a few thousand steps a day may suddenly decide to run every morning. Similarly, a person who rarely performs strength training may begin doing hundreds of squats or lunges. The body needs time to adapt to changes in physical demand. Sudden increases in training volume can contribute to overuse problems and soreness. A gradual progression is therefore important. If you are increasing your walking distance, running, cycling or strength training, make changes progressively rather than dramatically increasing everything at once. Rest and recovery are also part of training. Muscles and connective tissues need time to adapt, particularly after a significant increase in workload.

Why Strong Legs Matter For Knee Health

Healthy knees are not just about the joints themselves. The muscles surrounding the hips and legs play an important role in controlling movement. The quadriceps help extend the knee, while the hamstrings and gluteal muscles contribute to movement and stability around the lower body. When these muscles are adequately conditioned, everyday activities such as walking, climbing stairs and getting up from a chair can become easier. Strength training does not necessarily require a gym or heavy weights. Depending on an individual's fitness level, exercises using body weight, resistance bands or light weights can be incorporated into a routine. The appropriate exercises will vary from person to person, particularly for people who already have knee pain or a diagnosed joint condition.

Small Changes Can Make A Difference

Protecting your knees does not require avoiding movement or becoming afraid of exercise. In many cases, the goal is to find a balance between activity and recovery. Take regular breaks from sitting. Choose comfortable footwear. Warm up before demanding exercise. Increase workout intensity gradually. Learn proper technique when lifting weights. Most importantly, pay attention to persistent symptoms rather than assuming pain is something that must always be tolerated. Regular physical activity, appropriate muscle strengthening and maintaining a healthy body weight can support the cause and determine an appropriate treatment or exercise plan. Healthy knees are supported not by one perfect habit but by many small choices made consistently. Moving regularly, building strength, respecting pain signals and avoiding sudden increases in physical stress can all contribute to better movement as you grow older. The aim should not be to keep your knees completely free from pressure. Movement is a normal and necessary part of life. Instead, the goal is to give your joints the right amount of activity while building the strength, mobility and habits that help your body handle everyday demands.

Disclaimer: This article is for general informational purposes only and does not replace professional medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. If you have persistent knee pain, swelling, an injury or difficulty moving, consult a qualified doctor, physiotherapist or other healthcare professional for personalised guidance.

Carrying Excess Body Weight

Body weight is another factor that can influence the mechanical demands placed on the knees. During activities such as walking, climbing stairs and standing up, the knee has to handle forces generated by the movement of the body. Carrying additional weight can increase the load experienced by the joints. Over time, this may contribute to knee discomfort and is associated with a greater risk of conditions such as osteoarthritis. However, discussions about weight and joint health should not be reduced to appearance or rapid weight loss. Even modest, sustainable lifestyle changes can be meaningful for overall health. A balanced eating pattern, adequate physical activity, good sleep and realistic long-term goals are generally more sustainable than extreme diets or sudden exercise programmes. If weight management is a goal, a doctor or qualified nutrition professional can help develop an approach suited to your individual circumstances.

Using Poor Technique During Squats And Lifting

Strength training can be highly beneficial for maintaining muscle strength, but technique matters. Squats, lunges, deadlifts and other exercises require coordinated movement of the hips, knees and ankles. Performing these movements with poor technique, excessive weight or too many repetitions can increase stress on different parts of the body. Problems are particularly likely when people increase the weight before developing adequate control and strength. Beginners should focus on learning the movement first rather than immediately trying to lift heavy loads. Controlled repetitions and appropriate resistance are generally more useful than simply chasing heavier weights. A qualified trainer or physiotherapist can help identify technique problems and modify exercises when necessary. This can be particularly valuable for anyone returning to exercise after an injury or dealing with recurring joint discomfort.

Avoiding Exercise Completely

It may seem logical that resting the knees as much as possible will protect them. But avoiding movement altogether can create another problem. The muscles surrounding the knees become stronger when they are appropriately challenged. Stronger muscles around the thighs, hips and buttocks can help support the lower limbs during daily activities. Regular low-impact movement can be especially useful for people who find high-impact exercise uncomfortable. Walking, cycling and swimming are examples of activities that can help maintain mobility and fitness, although the most suitable activity depends on an individual's health and physical condition. The key is consistency. A short walk every day may be more sustainable than an intense workout performed occasionally. People with existing joint problems should choose exercise based on their individual needs and, where appropriate, seek advice from a physiotherapist or doctor.

Poor Posture And Repeated Movement Patterns

The way you move throughout the day can also influence how your joints feel. Frequently bending, kneeling, squatting or lifting without appropriate technique can place additional demands on the knees. Occupational activities can be particularly relevant. People whose jobs involve prolonged standing, repeated squatting, climbing or lifting may experience more joint stress than someone with a largely sedentary routine. This does not mean these movements should always be avoided. The goal is to use appropriate body mechanics, take breaks where possible and vary positions instead of repeatedly stressing the same movement pattern. When a task must be performed frequently, improving technique and strengthening the muscles required for that task may help make movement more efficient.

‘May they give their best and shine’: PM Modi wishes Indian contingent as Asian Games begin

NEW DELHI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday extended his best wishes to the Indian contingent as the 20th Asian Games officially commenced in Aichi-Nagoya in Japan, saying the country is proud of the athletes for their hard work, dedication and determination.

“As the Asian Games commence in Aichi-Nagoya, my best wishes to the Indian contingent. Each athlete has worked incredibly hard and shown remarkable dedication and determination. India is proud of them. May they give their best, play well and shine!” PM Modi wrote in a post on X.

At Mizuho Park Athletic Stadium in Nagoya, Japan’s Emperor Naruhito declared the 20th edition of the continental sporting extravaganza open, marking the ceremonial beginning of an event that will bring together thousands of athletes over the next two weeks.

For India, the opening ceremony carried its own significance as Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker and kabaddi star Pawan Sehrawat led the Indian contingent into the stadium.

With the Indian Tricolour held high, the duo became the faces of a contingent carrying the expectations of a nation looking to build on its record-breaking campaign at the 2023 Asian Games in Hangzhou.

India won 107 medals in Hangzhou, including 28 gold, and will now look to surpass that tally in Aichi-Nagoya.

The first Asian Games were held in New Delhi in 1951, with 489 athletes from 11 countries taking part. Since then, the continental showpiece has been hosted 19 times.

The Aichi-Nagoya Games are the 20th edition of the Asian Games and the third time that Japan is hosting the continental event, after Tokyo in 1958 and Hiroshima in 1994. The Games will feature 45 countries and regions competing across 43 sports.

India will enter the competition as defending champions in both men’s and women’s cricket and kabaddi, while the men’s hockey team will also seek to retain its title.

PV Sindhu will spearhead India’s badminton campaign, while Mirabai Chanu will lead the weightlifting contingent. Manu Bhaker will be among India’s leading names in shooting, with Aman Sehrawat taking the mat in wrestling. Lovlina Borgohain will look to make her mark in boxing, while athletics will feature more than 75 Indian track and field athletes.

Gulveer Singh, Tejaswin Shankar, Murali Sreeshankar, Jyothi Yarraji and Parul Chaudhary are among India’s leading athletics names, while Tajinderpal Singh Toor heads into Aichi-Nagoya as a two-time defending champion in shot put.

India to play in official BCCI jersey for one-off Japan T20I: Source

New Delhi, Sep 19 (SocialNews.XYZ) India are set to face Japan for the one-off T20I on Tuesday in their national jersey to mark the 75 years of diplomatic ties with the Japanese nation. The Shreyas Iyer-led side will be donning the official Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) colours for their one-off contest at the Sano International Cricket Ground and not the Asian Games kit, sources told IANS.

The match will be played two days before the start of the men's cricket competition at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games, where India will also be in action along with Japan and eight other teams.

The kit for the Asian Games cricket event will be different, as was seen with the Indian women's side.

The one-off contest is the first international cricket match between the two teams and is a special fixture to inaugurate celebrations marking the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two nations. The fixture serves as the flagship event launching ‘Sport 75’, a broader bilateral initiative originating from a summit agreement between Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi designed to foster sporting exchanges and cooperation.

Speaking on the historic game, BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia highlighted that this is a significant moment for the sport. "The BCCI is delighted to be part of this historic occasion as the Indian and Japanese men’s teams come together for a special T20 International in Japan. This is a significant moment for cricket, as it takes the Indian team to new territory and provides an opportunity to introduce the sport to a wider audience in Japan and East Asia.

"India and Japan share a strong and longstanding relationship and friendship, and we are pleased that cricket will be part of the celebrations marking 75 years of bilateral relations between the two countries, and we thank the Japan Cricket Association (JCA) for its efforts in making this fixture possible," Saikia had said in a statement.

SHORT NEWS

La Liga

Madrid derby in focus as Atletico host Real with more than pride at stake



MADRID: Atletico Madrid will host city rivals Real Madrid in the first Madrid derby of the La Liga season on Sunday, with both sides looking to head into the international break on a winning note. Atletico will enter the derby at the Metropolitano Stadium high on confidence after a 3-0 away win over Real Sociedad and a comfortable 4-0 home victory against Osasuna in midweek. Real Madrid, meanwhile, sit second in the table after securing wins over Rayo Vallecano and Elche in their last two league outings.

CRICKET

HCA Secretary Attends BCCI AGM in Mumbai

MUMBAI: Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) Honorary Secretary Sri M. Jeevan Reddy attended the 95th BCCI Annual General Meeting held on September 18 at the BCCI Headquarters in Mumbai. The HCA has a long and historic association with the BCCI, dating back to 1934, when the Association was established during the formative years of organised Indian cricket. Hyderabad has made a significant contribution to Indian cricket, producing several renowned internationals, including M. L. Jaisimha, Mohammad Azharuddin, Shivlal Yadav and V. V. S. Laxman. HCA has also won the Ranji Trophy twice, in 1937-38 and 1986-87.The participation of the HCA Secretary at the AGM reaffirmed the Association’s continued engagement with the BCCI and its commitment to the development of cricket, particularly grassroots, junior and women’s cricket, in Hyderabad and Telangana.

Premier League: Manzambi, Jackson, Buendia strike as Aston Villa beat Tottenham 3-2

LONDON



Aston Villa secured their first Premier League victory of the season after beating Tottenham Hotspur 3-2 in an entertaining clash at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium on Saturday. Johan Manzambi, Nicolas Jackson and Emi Buendia scored for Villa, while Conor Gallagher and Jan Paul van Hecke found the net for the hosts as Unai Emery’s side held on for all three points.

The result means Villa have now won three of their last four matches in all competitions and have lost only once in their last five games.

Villa goalkeeper Zion Suzuki played a key role in the victory, making several important saves, including three to deny Savio in the first half.

After an open start, Villa broke the deadlock in first-half stoppage time. John McGinn kept the ball in play before finding Boubacar Kamara, who played Manzambi through. The youngster finished from close range to score on his full debut for Villa.

Tottenham thought they had equalised shortly after the hour mark when Mohammed Kudus found the net, but the goal was ruled out following a VAR review for offside in the build-up.

Villa then doubled their lead in the 67th minute. Suzuki sent a long ball forward, which Manzambi collected before laying it back for Jackson. The striker took a fine touch before placing his shot into the far corner. Buendia added a third in the 78th minute with a superb long-range finish. He received the ball from McGinn before curling his effort into the top corner from around 25 yards. Tottenham pulled one back in the 86th minute when Gallagher finished from close range, giving the home side hope of a comeback. Van Hecke then scored with a far-post header deep into added time, but Villa managed to see out the remaining moments and claim victory.

Kamil Pooran gets maiden T20I call-up, Campbell returns for West Indies’ India tour

NEW DELHI



Cricket West Indies on Saturday announced its squads for the upcoming limited-overs tour of India, with Kamil Pooran earning his maiden T20I call-up and John Campbell returning to the ODI squad after recovering from a hamstring injury.

West Indies and India will play three ODIs and five T20Is in eight cities from September 27 to October 18. The Shai Hope-led ODI team has retained the core group that featured in the recent home series against Sri Lanka and New Zealand. Campbell missed the last two ODIs against New Zealand due to his hamstring injury but returns for the India tour. Meanwhile, Ackeem Auguste has been ruled out as he continues his rehab after surgery in August. He has been replaced by Jewel Andrew, an additional option in the top and middle order.

Shimron Hetmyer, who played in the final two matches of the New Zealand series, has been given an extended recovery period following the Caribbean Premier League andwill join the squad for the T20I leg.

The first two ODIs against India will be the final of the automatic qualification cycle for the ICC Men’s 50-over World Cup. However, whatever happens West Indies cannot overtake their nearest rivals in the qualifying table and will therefore have to take part in the ICC qualifying tournament early next year.

West Indies coach Daren Sammy though believes the India series is still a big opportunity for his side.

“Playing against the top team in the world presents us with a chance to fine tune and improve our performances as an ODI team which has seen quality performances across the cycle,” Sammy said. “The series also creates a valuable platform to assess players who are stepping into important roles for this series with a long-term target of competing in the World Cup in 2027.”

Opening batter Kamil Pooran has been called up to the T20I squad for the first time following an impressive run in domestic cricket. The right-hander scored 273 runs in eight innings at a strike-rate of 159.64 with an average of 39. Quentin Sampson, who was part of the West Indies squad in the ICC T20 World Cup earlier this year in India, has also been included while experienced all-rounder Jason Holder has been rested.

Sammy said the T20I squad has been picked with an eye on building a strong side for the 2028 T20 World Cup.

“We are looking to build on the momentum from our series win against Sri Lanka, with the long-term goal of developing a strong core of players ahead of the next T20 World Cup,” he said. “The challenge of playing against the World Champions at home will provide valuable preparation, allowing us to continue improving and developing both individually and as a collective unit.” The West Indies squad will depart the Caribbean on September 21 and arrive in Thiruvananthapuram on September 23.

West Indies ODI squad

Shai Hope (captain), Jewel Andrew, John Campbell, Keacy Carty, Roston Chase, Matthew Forde, Justin Greaves, Amir Jangoo, Alzarri Joseph, Shamar Joseph, Vitel Lawes, Gudakesh Motie, Keemo Paul, Sherfane Rutherford and Jayden Seales.

West Indies T20I squad:

Shai Hope (captain), Jewel Andrew, Roston Chase, Matthew Forde, Shimron Hetmyer, Akeal Hosein, Shamar Joseph, Gudakesh Motie, Keemo Paul, Kamil Pooran, Rovman Powell, Sherfane Rutherford, Quentin Sampson, Romario Shepherd and Shamar Springer.

Vaani Kapoor to headline grand opening ceremony

DEHRADUN



Bollywood actress Vaani Kapoor will headline the opening ceremony of the third edition of the Uttarakhand Premier League (UPL) 2026, adding a touch of glamour to the tournament’s opening day at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium, Dehradun, on September 21.

The opening ceremony will also showcase the rich cultural and musical heritage of Uttarakhand, with performances by artistes from different regions of the state. Karishma Shah and Ruhaan Bhardwaj from Garhwal, Inder Arya from Kumaon, Manju Nautiyal from Jaunpur, and Ajju Tomar and Ajay Chauhan from Jaunsar will take the stage, bringing together the diverse musical traditions of Garhwal, Kumaon and Jaunsar and adding a distinct local flavour to the celebrations. The opening ceremony will be held on the evening of September 21, following the two women’s fixtures scheduled earlier in the day. The women’s competition will get the tournament underway, with Pithoragarh Hurricanes taking on Dehradun Warriors at 11:00 AM, followed by Bageshwar Aerial facing Mussoorie Queens at 3:00 PM.

Vaani Kapoor will be the star attraction at the evening ceremony, which will mark the formal opening of UPL 2026 and set the stage for the men’s competition, beginning on September 22.

The ceremony will be attended by senior officials associated with the Cricket Association of Uttarakhand (CAU) and the Uttarakhand Premier League. Kiran Verma, secretary, Cricket Association of Uttarakhand (CAU), said, “The opening ceremony marks the beginning of another exciting edition of the Uttarakhand Premier League.

Mrs. Nita M. Ambani’s message to Indian athletes for the Asian Games: “This is your moment, make it count”

Reliance Foundation’s campaign for the Games celebrates the power of opportunity and getting every child to the starting line

MUMBAI



As Team India competes at the 20th Asian Games in Aichi- Nagoya, Reliance Foundation’s campaign for the games celebrates the power of opportunity and the belief that every child deserves the chance to reach the starting line, before they can dream of reaching the finish line.

The campaign highlights how one opportunity can change the course of a young life, while athletes who get that opportunity can go on to inspire millions and make the nation proud.

Sharing her message with Team India, Mrs. Nita M Ambani, says: “My dear athletes of Team India, as you step onto one of Asia’s biggest sporting stages, remember that you carry with you the hopes and good wishes of an entire nation. Compete with courage, compete with joy, because what you do can go far beyond winning a medal. One opportunity can transform a life. One performance can inspire a dream. One athlete can inspire an entire generation. This is your moment. Make it count. The entire nation is cheering for you.” A total of 48 athletes supported by Reliance Foundation are competing across nine sports at the games, including some of India’s leading sporting stars such as Lovlina Borgohain, Tejaswin Shankar, Sreeshankar Murali, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty. Reliance Foundation is also a sponsor of Team India, supporting athletes on and off the field.

Its Sir H.N. Reliance Foundation Hospital and Research Centre’s Sports Medicine team, including physiotherapists, is part of the Indian contingent, providing medical and physiotherapy support.Through its initiatives, Reliance Foundation has reached 29+ million children across 28 states, helping them take that first step towards realising their potential. So, here’s to the next generation taking that first step. Wishing Team India athletes all the very best at the Asian Games 2026.

Admiration can wait for 90 minutes, says Akash Mishra ahead of triple friendlies

NEW DELHI



The prospect of facing Panama, Brazil and Uruguay on home soil has added to the excitement around the Indian camp, but defender Akash Mishra knows the Blue Tigers must set their opponents' stature aside once the matches begin.

For Mishra, the three fixtures offer India an invaluable opportunity to test themselves against some of the best players in world football. These friendlies will be particularly special, as the Indian players prepare to face footballers they have watched and admired.

“We have watched these opponents on television since childhood and idolised them, but that is one part of it. We have to put those emotions aside and perform for the 90 minutes. After that, the other emotions can come out,” Mishra said.

“As players, when we heard that we would be playing Panama, Uruguay and Brazil, it felt like a huge opportunity. We have not played against teams like these before, so it is a major opportunity for all Indian players. The experience will show us where we stand, because talking is easy, but playing on the pitch is what really matters.”

The Blue Tigers will play the three matches in Bengaluru and Kolkata, two cities that hold special memories for Mishra. While he remembers India’s 2023 SAFF Championship campaign at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium and qualifying for the AFC Asian Cup 2023 in Kolkata, the full-back believes the passionate support in both cities can give the hosts additional strength. “Personally, I have good memories of Kanteerava from the SAFF Championship, and we qualified for the Asian Cup in Kolkata.

Mamitha's Classy Chic Look



Mamitha Baiju is having a super run right now. The actress has topped IMDb's latest Trending People in India list, beating names like Wamiqa Gabbi and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan. In less than a month, she gave three back-to-back hits, Jana Nayagan with Vijay, Vishwanath & Sons with Suriya, and Bethlehem Kudumba Unit with Nivin Pauly, each crossing Rs 200 crore, taking her combined collections close to Rs 800 crore worldwide. Along with the career high, Mamitha is also winning hearts with her latest portraits. In the new pictures, she is seen in a navy blue satin outfit with a wrap-style neckline, her hair left open in soft curls. She strikes an elegant, candid pose, looking away from the camera with a subtle smile, giving the frame a classy and effortless charm. With her acting and her style both making headlines, Mamitha Baiju is clearly having her moment. From a promising young talent to one of the most trending names in Indian cinema today, her rise has been quick, and going by her current streak, this is only the beginning.

Marriage Hasn't Changed Her Life Much:Rashmika



Rashmika Mandanna says there has not been any major change in her life after marrying actor Vijay Deverakonda. Despite tying the knot while her career was at its peak, the actress says her professional journey has continued much as before. She recently opened up about her personal life and relationship in an interview. "We grew together. We started as co-stars, became best friends, and now we are partners. Vijay is a very sensitive person. He is extremely committed to his work on the sets, while outside work, he is very affectionate. There hasn't been much change in my life before and after marriage. Since I am busy with back-to-back films, I am getting only around four hours of sleep a day," Rashmika said. She also spoke about the pressure that comes with being a celebrity and constantly staying in the spotlight. "Being in the spotlight all the time feels like someone is pointing a gun at your head," she said, while explaining the intense pressure that comes with stardom. On the work front, Rashmika recently wrapped up the shoot of Ranabali, in which she stars alongside her husband Vijay Deverakonda. Her other film Mysaa, in which she plays the lead role, is currently in the final stages of production. Rashmika is also set to headline the biopic of legendary Carnatic vocalist M.S. Subbulakshmi. Titled M.S. Subbulakshmi Amma, the film will see the actress portray the celebrated musician in the much-anticipated biopic. and Rashmika Mandanna is playing the titular role in MS Subbalakshmi's biopic, and the project was launched the other day in Chennai. Speaking at the event, Rashmika expressed her happiness and thanked the late MS for choosing her to take the story forward. However, this speech is currently subject to criticism on social media. Many netizens point out that Rashmika should have shown more seriousness at the event, rather than smiling extensively and trying to make the situation look silly. Although it is not something to take seriously, her biggest challenge is convincing the audience that she can pull off such a huge responsibility. Among the biopic trends in Indian cinema, especially in South Indian cinema, the biopic of actress Savitri, titled Mahanati and directed by Nag Ashwin, made Keerthy Suresh a pan-Indian star. Given the ups and downs in Savitri's life, Keerthy Suresh delivered a great performance and even won a National Award for it. Fortunately, Keerthy did not have a strong image, and she was relatively less popular at that time. No one imagined Keerthy could pull off Mahanati with such ease, and in the end, it surprised everyone.

Now, Rashmika's case is a little different. Rashmika has already proved her mettle in many glamorous and author-backed roles. Be it Dear Comrade, Pushpa, or The Girlfriend, Rashmika is undoubtedly a good actor. But to imagine herself in a biographical film, that too, of a legend like Bharatha Ratna MS Subbulakshmi, is getting difficult. Rashmika's off-screen persona often dominates the imagination of the actress reprising MS on screen. However, Gowtam Tinnanuri, who delivered emotional films like Jersey, can be trusted with this project; in fact, no one has commented on the choice of director. If Rashmika carries the film well and meets audience expectations, she will grow beyond her image as a National Crush. Moreover, it will also be an important milestone for the director. After Mahanati, this project will have wide reach and appeal across the country, and if Rashmika can dodge the criticism, she will climb many steps ahead in her career and stand tall among her contemporaries. In fact, Sai Pallavi's name did the rounds for some days for playing MS on the screen, but finally, the project has fallen into the lap of Rashmika. Actors like Sai Pallavi, Keerthy Suresh, and even Anushka Shetty, who have led many female-centric films, have a completely different off-screen persona, so there is less criticism when projects like these get announced. But Rashmika is known for her cool attitude and is very candid in public, which can sometimes put her on the spot, as in the current situation. But at the end of the day, success and audience acceptance can put an end to everything!

Dada Packs Action & Emotion

Nandamuri Balakrishna is gearing up to entertain audiences this Christmas with his upcoming film Dada, directed by Gopichand Malineni. Produced by Venkat Satish Kilaru under the Vriddhi Cinemas banner, the film stars Kajal Aggarwal as the female lead, while Manchu Manoj plays a crucial role. The promotional material released so far has indicated that Dada is a gangster drama set in the 1980s. However, an interesting new detail about the film's storyline has reportedly emerged. According to reports, Dada is not just a gangster film but also blends an emotionally engaging family story. Sources close to the film suggest that this emotional dimension is expected to connect well with family audiences, adding another layer to the narrative.The film is currently in its final stages of production, and Balakrishna is reportedly expected to return to the sets soon. Dada is scheduled to arrive in theatres on December 24, making it one of the notable releases in the Christmas season.

Director Compared Raaka With Avatar, Really?



Allu Arjun's ambitious project Raaka has once again become the talk of the industry, thanks to the latest comments from director Cibi Chakravarthi. The filmmaker, who shares a close association with director Atlee, made some bold remarks about the film's visuals, raising expectations even further. Speaking recently, Cibi revealed that he had seen footage from Allu Arjun's Raaka and was left stunned by its scale. He added that he had never seen visuals like that before, even comparing them to the Hollywood biggie Avatar. Cibi also stated that Atlee is making a film that could make Indian cinema proud on the global stage. He also confirmed that audiences will get a glimpse on September 21, coinciding with director Atlee's birthday. However, such comments have also increased the pressure on the project. In recent years, several big-budget films have generated extraordinary hype before release but struggled to meet audience expectations. As a result, fans are becoming more cautious about such grand claims. If the film delivers the kind of visual experience being promised, it could emerge as a landmark project for Indian cinema. On the other hand, expectations have now reached a level where not much is known about the film or its backdrop. For now, all eyes are on the upcoming glimpse, which will be 3.7 Mins, as per news reports. With Atlee at the helm and Allu Arjun as the lead, expectations are soaring. Whether it can justify the hype remains the big question.

Anita Goswami Joins Aashram 4

Shivpuri: More than a dozen artists from Shivpuri have made Shivpuri proud by showcasing their talent in the film industry. These days, the shooting of the famous web series Aashram-4 is being done in Jaipur by renowned film director Prakash Jha. On the grand set of Aashram-4, famous film actor Bobby Deol is playing the lead role. In the shooting of Aashram, artist Anita Goswami from Shivpuri has acted in the role of the main sevadar. Her shooting continued for 16 days, and she will continue shooting further as well. Anita Goswami lives in Ludhawali, Shivpuri. She has thousands of viewers and followers on social media platforms like Instagram and Facebook for her dance and acting. Seeing her talent, she has acted in the film Barbar The Badarpur, web series Kalakand, Main Rambabu Gadariya, TV serial CCI, short films Rishte, Yah Theek Nahi, Nasha Jeevan Ka Ant, Gustakhiyan Ek Galti, and more than a dozen other short films and many albums. She is also acting in the web series Kailash Pati Ki Leela. Anita Goswami has brought glory to Shivpuri with her talent.

Without Chiru's Final Word, Why This Rush?



Megastar Chiranjeevi's upcoming films, Kaaka and Vishwambhara, are creating uncertainty in Tollywood over their Sankranthi release plans. While Bobby's Kaaka was already targeting the festive season, Vishwambhara has now entered the race for the same slot. The situation has reportedly become complicated, with both films' producers seeking Chiranjeevi's intervention. The makers of Kaaka recently reaffirmed their Sankranthi release plans, announcing January 13 as the film's arrival date. They also shared a picture of Chiranjeevi interacting with the producers of both films, further fueling discussions. Meanwhile, Vishwambhara director Mallidi Vassishta shared a cryptic tweet alongside a video of Chaganti Koteswara Rao speaking about Lord Shiva. His post has sparked speculation about his reaction to the ongoing release-date confusion. Vishwambhara has faced multiple postponements, reportedly due to extensive VFX and post-production work. The film was expected to release earlier this year but has yet to lock a confirmed date. Reports suggest that OTT commitments may also be influencing both films' release plans. Chiranjeevi reportedly met with the producers, but no final decision has been announced. With both films potentially eyeing Sankranthi, concerns remain over theatre allocation, distribution and business. Fans are now waiting for Chiranjeevi to resolve the release-date clash.

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