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OBTUSE ANGLE



by BP ACHARYA

MSP Hike for Farmers

NEW DELHI, SEP 30

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved three key proposals. With the aim of ensuring remunerative prices for farmers, it increased the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for six rabi crops for the 2027–28 marketing season. At the same time, it gave the green light to the Green Energy Corridor-III, involving major investments to expand the country's renewable power capacity. The Cabinet also approved the implementation of an Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS) in New Delhi at an estimated cost of ₹1,789.52 crore to modernize traffic management in the national capital.

MSP Hike for Six Rabi Crops

The Centre has increased the MSP for six crops for the 2027–28 rabi marketing season. Safflower received the highest increase of ₹675 per quintal, followed by rapeseed-mustard with an increase of ₹413, lentil (masur) by ₹390, barley by ₹136, gram by ₹83, and wheat by ₹25 per quintal. Following the latest increase, the MSP for wheat has been fixed at ₹2,610 per quintal. The MSP for gram has been set at ₹5,958, lentil at ₹7,390, rapeseed-mustard at ₹6,613, safflower at ₹7,215, and barley at ₹2,286 per quintal. The Centre said the decision aims to ensure

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VIJAYASAI REDDY OPENS THE LEDGER IN VIZAG

Ex-Insider Puts Both Family Parties On Trial

Former Rajya Sabha member V Vijayasai Reddy spoke from Visakhapatnam on 30 September 2026 and charged that the Telugu Desam Party and the YSR Congress Party have run residual Andhra as family machines. He said special status was never forced on the Centre, the old special package for Uttarandhra and Rayalaseema was allowed to die, debt and joblessness grew, and no new irrigation project from scratch arrived after bifurcation. He vowed he will not be Chief Minister of the party he will float after Vijaya Dasami and promised an Uttarandhra Regional Development Authority under a Backward Class Deputy Chief Minister with an extra ten thousand crore a year.

Vijayasai Reddy has thrown the first punch of a new political season from Visakhapatnam. He has told Andhra Pradesh that the two outfits that have ruled the residual state since 2014 treat the people as a vote bank and the treasury as a family ledger. He did not whisper. He said it in the open.

TWO TENTS SAME TRADE

He listed the record. Bifurcation promises unmet. Special category status never delivered whether the Union was run by the UPA or the NDA. The monthly special package of Rs. 350 crore rupees once spoken of for Uttarandhra and Rayalaseema allowed to lapse. TDP, he said, stays ready for Union ministerial chairs. Both parties stay ready for alliances when elections arrive. Ideology is not the cargo. Office is.

The charge is simple. Posts first. State last. Youth last. The two families plan succession. The one point five crore families of Andhra wait outside the room.

THE SUCCESSION SCRIPT

He named the succession scripts. N Chandrababu Naidu's principal task, he said, is to place his son in the Chief Minister's chair. Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy's principal task is to bring family members into politics after him and seat them in the same chair. State development and the welfare of ordinary people do not figure as the first duty of either household. That is the accusation. It is now on the public record.

TWELVE YEARS TWELVE LAKH QUESTIONS

Twelve years after the state was cut, he pressed one hard fact. Not a single new irrigation project started from a clean field has come up. He repeated the phrase so that no one could miss it. In those same twelve years the state borrowed on a scale he put at 12 lakh crore rupees. Official numbers published in the Assembly and in white papers show government debt and wider liabilities rising from about one lakh crore at bifurcation to several lakh crore by 2024, with later estimates of total liabilities crossing nine lakh crore when public sector and off budget items are added. The exact headline figure is contested. The direction of travel is not. Money was raised. He asked the people to ask where it went and how much of the gain stayed with the two families.

SIXTY FOUR LAKH IDLE HANDS

He put another number on the table.

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CM Revanth Takes BRS Head-On in Sircilla

CM promises ministerial berth to Congress candidate who wins Sircilla challenges KTR to Assembly debate and demands white paper on family assets



KARIMNAGAR/SIRCILLA, SEPTEMBER 30: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday launched a sharp political offensive against the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) and its leadership during his first visit to Sircilla as Chief Minister, calling upon people to "wipe out" the BRS from the constituency in the next Assembly elections while simultaneously showcasing his government's development and welfare agenda in Karimnagar.

Addressing a massive public meeting in Sircilla after inaugurating development works and laying foundation stones for several projects, Revanth Reddy promised that the Congress candidate elected from Sircilla in the next Assembly elections would be inducted into his Cabinet as a Minister.

"With the victims of the Nerella incident as witnesses, I strongly believe the people of Sircilla are ready to put an end to BRS politics in the State. If the Congress candidate wins in Sircilla, we will induct him as a Minister and stand by the people," the Chief Minister said.

He appealed to the people to reject what he described as the era of "gadi palana" and support what he called "Praja Telangana". Sircilla, he said, should have been a land of prosperity, but decisions taken

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BRS to return to power in TG: KTR

HYDERABAD, SEPT 30

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president K.T. Rama Rao on Wednesday asserted that his party would return to power in Telangana, with party president K. Chandrashekar Rao resuming the role of Chief Minister. Speaking at the India Today Conclave South 2026 at the Grand Hyatt in Kochi, KTR firmly ruled out any possibility of an alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). He pointed out that the BRS has maintained total political independence throughout its history.

"Ideologically and on principles, the BRS is opposed to the BJP," KTR said. He highlighted that the party contested the 2014, 2018, and 2023 Assembly elections independently without entering into coalitions. Addressing regional concerns, KTR raised sharp objections to the Centre's proposed delimitation exercise, warning that population-based reapportionment could unfairly penalize southern states that successfully implemented family planning measures. "The share of southern states in the national population has dropped from 24 percent to 19 percent," KTR noted. "If delimitation is based solely on population, the region stands to lose significantly." He also questioned the rationale behind expanding Lok Sabha

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Seethakka stresses water conservation, rural employment amid El Niño

HYDERABAD, SEPT.30

Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Minister Dr. Dansari Anasuya Seethakka has directed sarpanches, CEOs, DRDOs, mandal and district officials, panchayat secretaries and field assistants to ensure continuous employment for rural people while according the highest priority to water conservation in view of the El Niño conditions. The Minister issued the directions during a video conference with sarpanches and officials from across the State from the Secretariat on Wednesday to review the implementation of the VB-G RAM G scheme. More than 12,000 sarpanches participated in the meeting.

Seethakka said rainfall was likely to be below normal due to El Niño conditions, which could affect the incomes of rural labourers, agricultural activities, groundwater levels and fodder availability. She directed officials to implement VB-G RAM G works not merely as an employment-generation programme but also as a means of protecting the rural economy and strengthening water resources. The Minister called upon sarpanches to remain accessible in their villages, identify local needs and expedite the execution of works. She urged them

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Congress MLC candidates meet Revanth

Hyderabad, Sept.30: Congress candidates for the upcoming Telangana Legislative Council elections from the graduate constituencies, Sama Ram Mohan Reddy and Ram Reddy Sarvotham Reddy, met Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy at his residence in Jubilee Hills on Wednesday. The two candidates thanked the Chief Minister for selecting them as the Congress nominees for the Legislative Council elections.

On the occasion, Revanth Reddy congratulated Sama Ram Mohan Reddy and Ram Reddy Sarvotham Reddy and gave them directions on voter registration and election campaigning. TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud and other leaders were also present.

TG Cabinet meets today to clear key welfare proposals

HYDERABAD, SEPT.30

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy will chair a crucial meeting of the Telangana Cabinet at the Secretariat at 3 PM on Thursday. The Cabinet is expected to give its nod to the Indiramma Family Life Insurance Scheme, which offers ₹5 lakh financial protection to families in the event of the head of the household's death. The scheme is scheduled for roll-out on November 19, coinciding with former PM Indira Gandhi's birth anniversary. State employees and pensioners are also likely to receive good news regarding the release of two pending Dearness Allowances (DAs).

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DMK SLAMS THE INDIA DOOR SHUT

CONGRESS TOOK TWO BERTHS IN CHENNAI AND LOST A FOUNDING PARTNER IN DELHI



The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam will not attend the opposition meeting at the Constitution Club of India on 30 September. The Party Spokesperson T K S Elangovan has said the Congress chose Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam for two ministerial berths after the Tamil Nadu verdict and is therefore no longer in the DMK alliance.

This is the second public snub. The first came in June, when the same party stayed away after the Assembly count. The wound has not closed. It has only found a sharper tongue. On 4 May the numbers arrived like a slap. Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam took 108 seats in a House of 234. The DMK took 59. The Congress, fighting on the DMK ticket, took five. Majority stood at 118. The House hung. The Congress then crossed the floor and helped Vijay form the government. Two of its MLAs, S Rajesh Kumar of Killiyoor and P Viswanathan of Melur, entered the Cabinet. Congress returned to office in Tamil Nadu after nearly six decades. The DMK returned to the opposition benches and a memory it will not bury.

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CM Revanth Takes BRS Head-On in Sircilla



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during the previous BRS regime had turned it into a place of distress.

Revanth Reddy also asked TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud to ensure representation for the Padmashali community in the Legislative Council in the upcoming MLC elections.

KTR challenged over assets

The Chief Minister used the Sircilla platform to launch a direct attack on BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao, demanding that he disclose details of properties owned by himself and his family members, including former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, T. Harish Rao and J. Santosh Kumar. Revanth Reddy questioned the ownership and sources of properties and establishments he associated with the BRS leadership. He referred to KTR's farmhouse at Janwada, Kavitha's farmhouse at Shankarpally, Harish Rao's farmhouse at Moinabad and KCR's farmhouses at Erravalli and questioned how these properties were acquired.

He also raised questions about properties and establishments such as Deccan Serai and At Home service apartments and alleged that several hotels with nearly 400 rooms had come up in and around the Hitec City area in connection with KTR.

"Where did all these properties come from? Does KTR have the courage to answer these questions?" Revanth Reddy asked.

The Chief Minister alleged that KTR, who won the Sircilla Assembly seat by a margin of only 172 votes in the 2009 elections, subsequently used political power to accumulate assets running into thousands of crores. He made several allegations concerning the BRS leader's wealth and said the details of investments allegedly made by KTR in the United States and Singapore would be disclosed in "Part-2".

The allegations come amid an intensifying political exchange between the Congress government and KTR, who had separately demanded that the State government publish a white paper on its allegations regarding government land in Sircilla and provide specific details of the lands and persons allegedly involved.

'KTR should debate development in Assembly'

Revanth Reddy challenged KTR to participate in a debate in the Legislative Assembly on the development achieved during the 10-year BRS rule and the performance of the Congress government since it came to power.

He said there was little purpose in merely issuing white papers and argued that the record of the two governments could instead be discussed openly in the Assembly.

The Chief Minister alleged that the previous government failed to provide ration cards, supply quality rice and ensure that government employees received salaries on the first day of every month.

He accused the KCR family of concentrating on political positions and private farmhouses while leaving double-bedroom housing projects incomplete.

Revanth Reddy also criticised KCR for not attending Assembly sessions. He alleged that KCR was unwilling to address the Dalit Speaker as "Sir" or "Adhyaksha" and questioned why the former Chief Minister had not condemned what Revanth described as derogatory remarks against the Speaker.

Referring to the Nerella episode, the Chief Minister alleged that Dalits were subjected to police assault and electric shocks and said the incident had ruined the lives of several people. He alleged that the episode was orchestrated by Santosh, whom he identified as KCR's brother-in-law's son. He also referred to an alleged incident in which KCR's farmhouse was cleaned with turmeric water after Dalits staged a protest. "Dalits of our region might endure hunger, but they will not tolerate humiliation," he said.

Family rule versus social representation

Revanth Reddy accused the previous BRS government of allowing members of the KCR family to occupy key political positions and enjoy power for a decade. He contrasted this with what he described as the Congress government's emphasis on giving opportunities to BCs, Dalits, women and leaders associated with the Telangana movement. He referred to the appointment of Vinod Kumar as Vice-Chairman of the Planning Commission during the BRS regime and contrasted it with the appointment of Gadwal Vijayalakshmi, a BC leader, to a similar position under the present government. He said KCR's daughter was given an MLC position after losing the Nizamabad Lok Sabha election, while the Congress government had given positions to leaders such as Vijayashanti, Sankaramma, the mother of Telangana movement martyr Srikanthachary, the granddaughter of Chakali Ailamma and Nerella Sharada.

The Chief Minister said the appointment of Mahesh Kumar Goud, a BC leader, as TPCC president reflected the Congress's emphasis on broader social representation.

Revanth Unveils Development Push in Sircilla, Karimnagar

KARIMNAGAR, SEPTEMBER 30

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday announced a major development push for Sircilla and Karimnagar, with works worth ₹345 crore lined up in Sircilla and several infrastructure projects inaugurated or launched in Karimnagar.

During his visit to Sircilla, the Chief Minister said the government was committed to transforming the constituency from a region associated with the distress of weavers and migrant workers into a centre of employment, opportunity and development. The package includes projects covering handlooms, education, government offices, agriculture and temple development.

Earlier in Karimnagar, Revanth Reddy inaugurated the ₹51-crore Integrated District Officers' Office Complex and said the new Collectorate should become a "centre of hope" for people, particularly the poor and vulnerable.

He said anyone approaching the Collectorate with a grievance should leave with confidence that the government would address the problem. Officials, he said, should treat people's difficulties as they would those of their own family members.

The Chief Minister also unveiled a Telangana Talli statue on the Collectorate premises and laid foundation



stones for three Telangana Public Schools at a cost of ₹29.62 crore. He launched development works worth ₹840 crore under the Urban Challenge Fund in Karimnagar Municipal Corporation limits, besides storm-water drainage works costing ₹21.60 crore and a multi-level car parking facility at ₹25 crore.

Among the projects inaugurated were the Central Library built at ₹5.70 crore, an integrated vegetable and non-vegetable market at Kashmir Gadda costing ₹6.50 crore, and the Integrated Command Control Centre and Disaster Response Force offices constructed at ₹16.50 crore.

Revanth Reddy later visited the Collector's chamber and formally seated Collector Chitra Mishra in office amid Vedic chants and prayers by representatives of different religions.

Employees are the face of government

Addressing officials and elected representatives, the Chief Minister said government employees were the face of the administration and their performance shaped public perception of the government.

He said governments could frame laws, issue orders and release funds, but officials and employees were responsible for ensuring that welfare and development benefits reached the intended beneficiaries. Revanth said nearly 10.5 lakh permanent, contract and outsourced employees were serving Telangana's population of around four crore. He said issues relating to salaries, retirement benefits, promotions, transfers and health cards were being addressed gradually.

Centre-State coordination

The Chief Minister said political differences should not come in the way of development and that Telangana would cooperate with the Centre whenever such coordination helped secure projects and resources for the State. Referring to the ₹840-crore Urban Challenge Fund programme, he said the State had no hesitation in acknowledging the Centre's support whenever it benefited Telangana.

Revanth also said the Gouravelli reservoir project was nearly 98 per cent complete, but the remaining works had been delayed due to a case in the Supreme Court. Following a favourable court judgment, he said, he had approached the Union Jal Shakti Minister seeking the required environmental clearances. Responding to criticism over his frequent visits to Delhi, the Chief Minister said he would travel to the national capital as many times as necessary to resolve Telangana's issues.

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MSP Hike for Farmers

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better prices for farmers in line with production costs and to encourage crop diversification.

Major Investment in Green Energy Corridor-III

The Union Cabinet approved Green Energy Corridor Phase-III (GEC-III) to expand renewable power generation and transmission capacity. The estimated cost of the project is ₹1,86,405 crore. The corridor will be developed to integrate up to 135 GW of renewable energy from states and Union Territories with the national grid.

At the same time, Battery Energy Storage Systems with a capacity of 50 GWh will be established. The project is targeted for completion by the financial year 2032–33. The central financial assistance for the project will amount to ₹54,082 crore. The key objectives are to facilitate efficient transmission of renewable power, reduce power transmission costs, and increase the use of green energy.

AI Technology for Delhi Traffic

The Centre has approved an Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS) to provide technology-based solutions to the growing traffic problems in the national capital, Delhi. The system will be implemented at an estimated cost of ₹1,789.52 crore. AI-based traffic signals, real-time traffic monitoring, and automated enforcement facilities will be introduced across 42 major traffic corridors in Delhi. The system aims to manage traffic congestion scientifically, reduce travel time, improve road safety, and strengthen the enforcement of traffic rules through technology.

Focus on Three Sectors Simultaneously

The latest Union Cabinet decisions place emphasis on three sectors: agriculture, renewable energy, and urban transport. While the MSP hike will provide price support to rabi farmers, the Green Energy Corridor will strengthen transmission infrastructure to meet future electricity requirements. Meanwhile, the implementation of ITMS in Delhi will give greater importance to AI- and real-time data-based systems for managing traffic in the national capital.

VIJAYASAI REDDY OPENS THE LEDGER IN VIZAG

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64 lakh unemployed in Andhra Pradesh as the sole large achievement of the two family parties. Independent labour surveys show overall unemployment around four per cent and much higher rates among graduates and youth. Vijayasai Reddy's figure is his own political arithmetic. The pain behind it is visible in migration from Rayalaseema and Uttarandhra and in the 41 per cent graduate unemployment recorded in a 2026 youth handbook. Data centres and airports are waved as trophies. He asked whether real industrial depth followed or only the drumbeat of "I brought it." Industrialists, he said, are moving to other states after watching corruption and the state of law and order. The two family leaderships, he added, should feel shame.

One party falls. The other rises. The loot of resources continues. Youth have spotted the pattern. That is why he calls for a third force built by the young themselves.

THE STONE IN YOUR OWN MOUTH

He invoked a common proverb about the stone that knocks out your own teeth. Power changes hands between the same two camps. Each time the state, its resources and its people are used for private gain. Therefore, a third alternative is required. The youth of the state have already seen it. The choice, he said, is theirs. Vote for a red book outfit, a rappa rappa outfit, a party of caste frenzy or a party of religious frenzy, or defeat both family parties. To defeat them the young must move, raise their voice, form a party, send ministers, legislators, Chief Ministers and Deputy Chief Ministers from their own generation, and build the society they want.

I WILL NOT SIT ON THE CHAIR

He said it again so that no one could twist it. Even if his party wins power he will not be the Chief Minister candidate. He will mentor. He wants the chair open to talent from every community.

Since bifurcation, he argued, two social groups have held the commanding heights: the Kamma community and the Christian community. He promised that his party would create space for Backward Classes, Kshatriyas, Reddys, Kapus, Brahmins, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and every one of the 139 groups listed among Backward Classes. The party he is floating, he told the youth, is for them to take power, not for him to sit on the throne.

UNIVERSITY OF MEMORY LAND OF GOLD

On Visakhapatnam he turned personal and historical. The two family parties, he said, have no sentiment for the city. One lives by caste appeal, the other by religious identity. Andhra University stays in his mind. He recalled Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan and Cattamanchi Ramalinga Reddy. He asked why Andhra University is pulled back while GITAM University is pushed forward. He recalled a late GITAM chairman calling Andhra University a haunt of ghosts. The reason, he said, is known to all and needs no further naming.

Then the land. After YSRCP left office, 54.79 acres valued by critics at 5000 crore rupees, were proposed for regularisation in favour of GITAM. Visakhapatnam Member of Parliament M Sribharat, who chairs the institution and is related by marriage to the Chief Minister's family, said the market value from recent auctions is nearer 1000 crore and that the university will pay the price fixed by government. Vijayasai Reddy asked in public: how much was actually paid to the state? The GVMC resolution of January 2026 and the political storm that followed are facts. The valuation fight is unfinished. The question of public land and private benefit remains legitimate.

CONGRESS SHADOW OLD ALLY NEW SHAME

He turned on his old party. Congress, he said, divided the state and the country and jailed Jagan Mohan Reddy. If YSRCP now seeks any understanding with Congress, he called it shameless. Andhra people once taught Congress a lesson. He wants that party gone from the state for the next hundred years.

GREAT ACTORS SMALL STAGE

Both leaders, he said, are fine actors. Their sons have crossed fifty. They think of their own children. They do not think of the youth in one crore fifty lakh families. They only abuse each other. YSRCP wants CBI on Amaravati lands, Tirumala Parakamani and DSC, TDP wants CBI on the liquor case, TTD laddu and APPSC groups. Ambedkar's Constitution places police and law and order with the state. If the two family parties have no faith in Andhra people, he asked, why not request the Centre to take over the police as well? Youth and citizens must judge whether that demand is sound.

AMARAVATI STAYS UTTARANDIRA RISES

In Vijayawada and Ananta-pur he had already listed five points each. In Visakhapatnam he began another five. First, Amaravati. He does not oppose the capital. Seventy thousand crore has already been spent, much of it borrowed. To reopen the capital question now is unwise. Build roads, drainage, drinking water and essential government offices. Leave luxury buildings. Hand the rest to private enterprise. Invite settlers from every region so that Amaravati becomes a multi cultural, multi ethnic capital of all castes and all faiths. Do not load the entire debt of a lavish capital on Uttarandhra and Rayalaseema. Spend inside the Capital Region Development Authority with the same seriousness you spend elsewhere.

TEN THOUSAND CRORE AND A BC DEPUTY

Therefore, the first Uttarandhra point: an Uttarandhra Regional Development Authority if his party comes to power. A Deputy Chief Minister from the Backward Classes will lead it. Over and above the normal budget, 10,000 crore rupees every year under a special development fund. That is the opening bid from Visakhapatnam. The man who kept the YSRCP books and fought its parliamentary battles now stands outside both tents. He is 69. He says he wants youth in front and himself behind. Andhra has heard many third fronts. This one arrives with a CA's ledger, a regional fund promise and an open refusal of the Chief Minister's chair. The people will test the metal.

MY SHOT

The knife is out. The two family machines will answer with cases, slogans and caste arithmetic. The only verdict that counts is whether Uttarandhra, Rayalaseema and the coast finally get water, work and a seat at the table that is not reserved for the same two surnames. Watch the Ekadashi flag. Then watch the youth.

—C. SUBRAHMANYAM



BRS to return to power in TG: KTR

➢FROM PAGE 1

seats while keeping Assembly seats unchanged and called for immediate implementation of women's reservation within the existing 543 Lok Sabha constituencies.

Reiterating that assurances from Union Home Minister Amit Shah were insufficient, KT Rama Rao accused the BJP-led Union government of failing to fulfill promises made to Telangana under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act and using delimitation to serve its own political agenda.

Seethakka stresses water..

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to make full use of the funds available under the employment guarantee programme, cautioning that failure to utilise the funds could affect allocations in the future. The Minister suggested that villages prepare comprehensive plans and take up as many works as possible efficiently so that they could secure funds proportionate to the works completed. Seethakka also directed officials to ensure that at least 100 to 150 labourers attend work every day in each gram panchayat.

TG Cabinet meets today..

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Additionally, the Cabinet will assess the Keshava Rao Committee's recommendations on merging polytechnic colleges into the Skill University. Key urban and infrastructure projects, including the Musi Riverfront project, Hyderabad Metro, barrage restoration, and preparations for December's Global Summit, will also undergo detailed review.

DMK SLAMS THE INDIA DOOR SHUT

➢FROM PAGE 1

Elangovan spoke in Chennai: "Congress had chosen TVK in the state for the sake of two ministerial berths. So, we could not. They have said that they will continue with TVK. They are not in our alliance. How can we support them? How can we go to the meeting called by them." He went further. The alliance, he said, is not stable. Many parties have criticised the Congress switch in Tamil Nadu. Many, he claimed, still want the DMK with them. Attending a meeting called by the Congress is, in his words, "just a formality." The June statement from Anna Arivalayam was colder still. "The actions of the Congress have deeply affected the sentiments of DMK cadres. Respecting those sentiments, the DMK has decided not to participate in the meeting attended by the Congress." That line still stands. Only the date has changed.

The meeting tomorrow is not a tea party. It is meant to fix a common line on Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, electronic voting machines, VVPAT slips and the special intensive revision of electoral rolls. A removal notice against the Commissioner is also on the table. Here is the twist that Delhi will not like. Elangovan has not slammed the door on every fight. "Ideologically, we all stand together. Maybe we are not part of the INDIA Alliance. That is different. But in Parliament, we will support whoever brings a removal motion against Gyanesh Kumar." The

party will sign when the paper is ready. It will not sit when the banner is raised.

That is the new grammar. Issue by issue, yes. Letterhead by letterhead, no. The DMK still commands twenty two Lok Sabha members. It was a founding partner of the grouping born in 2023. It was the fourth largest constituent. An empty chair of that size is not decoration. It is a verdict on the brand. The Aam Aadmi Party and the Biju Janata Dal are also staying away. Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav will miss the hall for a farmers conference and Rajya Sabha nomination work in Lucknow. Elangovan blamed the Congress for that absence too. Congress general secretary KC Venugopal said Yadav had already informed Mallikarjun Kharge. The excuses multiply. The chairs do not fill.

Tamil Nadu itself has been redrawn. The Indian Union Muslim League, the Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi and the Left parties that once sat with the DMK helped Vijay cross the line. The Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam snapped a nine year bond. What was sold as a secular progressive front is now a set of separate accounts. The Congress took office in Fort St George. The DMK took the national slight.

Hypocrisy keeps both ledgers. The Congress spent years calling the DMK its southern pillar. After the count, two berths mattered more than two decades of joint campaigns. The DMK spent years calling the same Congress its national vehicle against the Bharatiya Janata Party. After the snub, it discovered that ideology does not require a common visiting card. Both now practise it at a safe distance.

MY SHOT

Alliances in this Republic last as long as the arithmetic. When Chennai changed the numbers, Delhi lost the handshake. The DMK is within its rights to honour its cadres. The Congress is within its rights to take office where five seats can buy two chairs. The voter in Tamil Nadu has already spoken. The Constitution Club is only hearing the echo. A banner that half the invitees treat as optional is not an alliance. It is a photograph waiting to fade.

C. SUBRAHMANYAM

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
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Tender Notice No. ELS/KZJ/224, Date 29.09.2026 & ELS/KZJ/225, Date 29.09.2026 PUB/690

On behalf of the President of India the undersigned invites e-Tender form the experienced Contractors are invited by the undersigned for the following works:

Sl. No. 1, **Tender No. & Date:** ELS-KZJ-224 Dt. 29.09.2026, **Description of work:** ELE/KZJ: Upgradation of Existing facilities at ELS/KZJ, **Tender Value (₹):** 49,27,263.00, **EMD (Bid security) (₹):** 98,600.00, **Cost of Tender form (₹):** Nil, **Completion Period:** 6 Months, **Date & time of closing:** 21.10.2026 15:00 hrs

Sl. No. 2, **Tender No. & Date:** ELS-KZJ-225 Dt. 29.09.2026, **Description of work:** Painting of Electric Locomotives at Electric Loco Shed, Kazipet for a period of 2 years, **Tender Value (₹):** 43,33,493.97, **EMD (Bid security) (₹):** 86,700.00, **Cost of Tender form (₹):** Nil, **Completion Period:** 24 Months, **Date & time of closing:** 21.10.2026 15:00 hrs

1.Tender conditions / other particulars are available in the Tender documents of IREPS website at **www.ireps.gov.in**

2. All the prospective tenderers are requested to remit EMD (Bid Security) through online payment only. submission of tender document through IREPS website at **www.ireps.gov.in**

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRS/ Kazipet

Open E-Tender Notice No. CAO/Con/ RSP/SC/06/2026 - Capital (Works) dated: 29.09.2026 PUB/691

For and on behalf of President of India, the undersigned invites e-tender for the following works up to **11:00 hrs on 30.10.2026**

Sl. No. 1, **e-Tender No.:** CONST-CAO-RSP-26-PC, **Name of work:** Request for proposal (RFP) for appointment of project consultant (PC) for RSP Unit of South Central Railway, **Approx. Tender Value in Rs.:** 128,94,62,412.72, **EMD in Rs.:** 2,57,89,300.00, **Completion Period of Work (in Months):** 48, **Defect liability period (in Months):** 6, **Works considered similar in nature towards Standard eligibility criteria:** 1. As per Request for proposal (RFP) document enclosed with NIT. 2. Pre-Bid Conference Date Time: 07.10.2026, 11.00 hrs.

Tenderers should participate through e-tendering only and no manual offers will be considered.

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

All the prospective tenderers are requested to remit EMD through online payments / BG only.

All the prospective tenderers are adviced to get GSTIN indification nos. and submit along with their offer. visit our site at **www.ireps.gov.in**

Dy. Chief Engineer/Con/RSP Secunderabad

Tender Notice No. . C/E.29/TRD/SC/ 30-32/2026-27, Date: 28.09.2026 PUB/692

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

Sl. No. 1, **NIT No.** C/E.29/TRD/SC/30/2026-27, **Name of the work:** Tender No. C/E.29/TRD/SC/30/2026-27 Dt. 28.09.2026 Trd arrangements: Up-gradation of OHE infrastructure to improve reliability and safety Over BPQ-KI SC Div., **Details:- Tender Value:** Rs.3,48,16,392.40, **Completion period:** Twelve (12) months, **Date of closing:** 21.10.2026 at 15:00 hrs

Sl. No. 2, **NIT No.** C/E.29/TRD/SC/31/2026-27, **Name of the work:** Tender No. C/E.29/TRD/SC/31/2026-27 Dt. 28.09.2026 Trd arrangements: Up-gradation of OHE infrastructure to improve reliability and safety Over KZJ-WD in SC Div., **Details:- Tender Value:** Rs.2,25,21,564.80, **Completion period:** Twelve (12) months, **Date of closing:** 21.10.2026 at 15:00 hrs

Sl. No. 3, **NIT No.** C/E.29/TRD/SC/32/2026-27, **Name of the work:** Tender No. C/E.29/TRD/SC/32/2026-27 Dt. 28.09.2026 SC Division - Replacement of earthing arrangements and improvements to PSI Equipment at various SSP/SP/TSS in view of reliability Over SC division, **Details:- Tender Value:** Rs.1,95,37,127.00, **Completion period:** Six (06) months, **Date of closing:** 21.10.2026 at 15:00 hrs

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

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

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

4) All the prospective tenderers are requested to remit Cost of tender form & EMD through online payments only.

5) All the prospective tenderers are advised to get GSTIN identification Nos. and submit alongwith their offers.

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

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/ TRD/ Secunderabad
A798

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

Autonomy Must Go Hand in Hand with Accountability and Academic Integrity

OU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Kumar Molugaram

HYDERABAD



Osmania University held a strategic meeting with the Principals of its affiliated autonomous colleges at the PGRRCDE Auditorium on Wednesday to review the implementation of the UGC Regulations, 2023, academic governance, examination standards, evaluation processes and measures to further strengthen academic quality. Addressing the Principals, Osmania University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Kumar Molugaram emphasized that autonomy is not merely an opportunity or privilege, but must be accompanied by greater responsibility, transparency and ethical accountability towards students and all stakeholders.

"Autonomy is not merely a privilege; it is a responsibility. If autonomy is not accompanied by moral and ethical responsibility towards all stakeholders, its very purpose and relevance are lost," he said.

The Vice-Chancellor directed autonomous colleges to ensure that students' marks are uploaded through secure cloud-based systems, leaving no scope for manipulation or tampering, and called for robust mechanisms to safeguard the integrity of examination records. He stressed that discrepancies between internal and external marks must be identified and resolved immediately.

Calling for higher standards in question-paper setting, Prof. Kumar said question papers should move beyond testing mere memory and assess understanding, application, analysis and other higher-order thinking skills in accordance with Bloom's Taxonomy.

He stressed the need for consistency, quality and reliability in the evaluation process, and called for appropriate quality-control mechanisms to ensure that substantial and unexplained variations do not occur between the original evaluation and revaluation results. The Vice-Chancellor further directed all autonomous colleges to complete Course Outcome (CO)–Programme Outcome (PO) mapping and strengthen Outcome-Based Education (OBE). He called for completion of the faculty ratification process within the current academic year and emphasized strict adherence to prescribed procedures in academic records, documentation and award of marks.

Controller of Examinations Highlights Result-Processing Discrepancies

Following the Vice-Chancellor's observations, OU Controller of Examinations Prof. B. Sudhakar Reddy made a detailed presentation based on an analysis undertaken by the Controller of Examinations' office of the result-processing systems and examination data of autonomous colleges.

The presentation highlighted discrepancies observed in result processing in some autonomous colleges, including variations in results and issues relating to internal and external marks and evaluation processes. The analysis underlined the need for greater accuracy, consistency, transparency and systematic scrutiny at every stage of result processing.

The Controller of Examinations emphasized the importance of identifying and addressing such discrepancies at the appropriate stage to ensure the accuracy, credibility and reliability of examination results. The observations from the analysis were also discussed with the Principals for necessary corrective measures and adherence to prescribed academic and examination procedures.

Prof. Kumar also called upon autonomous colleges to give greater emphasis to skill enhancement rather than merely degrees and certifications, with a focus on employability, critical thinking, problem-solving abilities and industry-relevant competencies.

"Our objective should not be merely to produce graduates with degrees and certificates, but to develop young people with the competence, skills and ethical values to contribute meaningfully to society," Prof. Kumar stated.

Key Issues Deliberated

During the interactive session, the Principals and University officials deliberated extensively on implementation of the UGC Regulations, 2023 and statutory requirements; standardization of faculty recruitment and ratification procedures; secure cloud-based uploading of examination marks; enhancement of standards in question-paper setting and moderation; effective application of Bloom's Taxonomy; immediate resolution of internal–external marks discrepancies; completion of CO–PO mapping and strengthening of Outcome-Based Education; consistency in evaluation and revaluation; strengthening Academic Audit Office procedures; modernization of curricula through contemporary, industry-oriented and skill-based courses; strengthening of IQACs and quality-assurance mechanisms; proper documentation and adherence to academic procedures; and promotion of student-centric governance and inter-institutional coordination.

Dean, College Development Council, Prof. R. Rajendra, emphasized the importance of continuous coordination between the University and autonomous colleges, regular academic audits, effective functioning of IQACs, timely reconstitution of statutory bodies and consistent implementation of UGC guidelines.

The Vice-Chancellor assured the autonomous colleges of the University's full support and guidance, while reiterating that academic autonomy must translate into academic quality, transparency, accountability and measurable student outcomes.

The meeting was attended by Registrar Prof. G. Naresh Reddy, OSD Prof. S. Jithendra Kumar Naik, Dean of UGC Affairs Prof. Lavanya, and Principals of affiliated autonomous colleges. Dr. C. S. Swathi, Coordinating Officer, CDC, proposed the Vote of Thanks.

Task force nabs rowdy-sheeter missing from police surveillance for 35 yrs

HYDERABAD

The Commissioner's Task Force, Charminar Zone team, apprehended an alleged rowdy-sheeter of Chandrayangutta Police Station who had remained out of police surveillance for nearly 35 years.

The accused, identified as Ilyas Bin Hussain Yafai (54), a wall painter and resident of Salala, Barkas, was apprehended on September 28.

According to police, a rowdy sheet was opened against Ilyas at Chandrayangutta Police Station in 1991 following his alleged involvement in an attempt-to-murder case. Police said he subsequently went abroad for employment and remained out of view for decades.

After returning to India, he allegedly worked as a painter and stayed in different States to avoid police surveillance, officials said. The apprehension was carried out under the supervision of Inspector S. Saidababu of the Charminar Zone Task Force, with SIs K. Rama Rao, M. Mahesh and M. Madhu, PC T. Prashanth and other Task Force and Chandrayangutta police personnel participated in the operation.

UPGRADATION OF THE LIGHTING SYSTEM FOR SARAIGHAT BRIDGE

Tender Notice No.: DYCEE-PS-MLG-HQ-11-26-27, **Dated:** 25-09-2026. E -Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work. **Tender No.:** DYCEE-PS-MLG-HQ-11-26-27; **Name of Work:** Upgradation of the lighting system for Saraighat Bridge. **Advertised Value :** ₹3,82,43,849/-; **Earnest Money**: ₹7,64,900/-; Date and time of **closing** of tender at **15:00 Hrs.** on **16-10-2026**. For complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in the website **www.ireps.gov.in**

Dy. CEE/PS/MLG/HQ
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI-221004

Bid No. E-26/2026-2027 **E-TENDERS** **Date: 29.09.2026**

E-Tenders are invited for & on behalf of the President of India, for the supply of following items. Only e-offer will be accepted for which vendors must have Class III Digital Signature and Registration on **IREPS. The details of tenders are in the following sequence - S.No., Tender No., (Due Date), PL No., Description and Quantity. 1.** 08265002, Open Tender, (16/10/2026), Running contract / Price agreement for Supply, installation and commissioning of On Board Remote Monitoring System (ORMS) as per Part 0 and Part-1 of CLW specification no. CLW/C-D&D/ES/3/ 0554 issued in April 2024. In addition to the above description, the item should also comply with requirement mentioned in Schedule of Requirement (SOR). Copy attached with tender documents., 2179 set. **2.** 09261087, 26/10/2026, OIL COOLING UNIT FOR TRANSFORMER/ CONVERTER WITH IMPELLER AND CASING ALONG WITH 30 KW MOTOR specn: RDSO/2016/EL/SPEC/0123 REV - 0 & DRAWING NO. RDSO/2016/SK-6/EL/SPEC/0123 AND RDSO SPEC/E-10/3/09(MOTOR) WITH AMENDMENT NO.01 TO 06 OR LATEST to PL No. 29470043, 496 Sets. **3.** 10261641, 14/10/2026, PISTON RING SET, PL No.16030618, 3000 Set. The details of above Tenders are available on **Website www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in** and **www.ireps.gov.in CORRIGENDUM NOTICE:- 4. Bid No.:** E-24 2026-27 **Tender No.:** 10261019 STEEL-CRANKSHAFTS **Revision.:** 01 **Details of Corrigendum: (1) This Tender opened on 01/10/2026.** instead of 28/09/2026 **5. Bid No.:** E-24 2026-27 **Tender No.:** 10251258 MACHINED PISTON **Revision.:** 01 **Details of Corrigendum: (1) This Tender opened on 12/10/2026.** instead of 25/09/2026 **(2) Quantity read as 6000 Nos.** instead of 8000 Nos. **Note:- All** other terms and conditions will remain unchanged for above tenders.

PRO/BLW/S-28 **Principal Chief Material Manager**

/blwvaranasi" Website:- www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in"

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Electrical (General), Construction, Egmore, Chennai

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer / General / Construction / Southern Railway / Egmore, Chennai - 600008, invites e-Tender for the following work.

Sl. No.	Tender Notice No.	Name of the Works
1	E-HQ-CN-EOT-20-2026-27 Dt:25.09.2026	BBQ-Vande Bharat: Electrical lighting and power supply arrangements for the Vande Bharat Coach Maintenance depot cum Station Workshop at Basin Bridge (BBQ) station (PH-42).
2	E-HQ-CN-EOT-21-2026-27 Dt:25.09.2026	BBQ & JTJ: Electrical Power Supply and Lighting arrangements for 1. Expansion of 4 numbers of Stabling Lines and Developing Maintenance Facilities for NMG Coaches to CAMTECH Standards at Basin Bridge Depot - (PH42), 2. Proposed one number of CAMTECH Pitline (NL-6 - 540m) at BBQ coaching Depot. (PH-16), 3. Utility shifting at JTJ Station Yard (PH-16).
3	E-HQ-CN-EOT-22-2026-27 Dt:25.09.2026	Upgradation / Modernisation of infrastructure for Goods shed at (i) Salem & Salem Market, (ii) Coimbatore North & Irugur - Electrical arrangements to Goods shed such as highmast lighting, power supply arrangements to Goods office buildings, staff rest room and approach road lighting etc.

Sl. No.	Period of Completion	Approximate Cost of Work	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Tender Closing Date & Time	Tender Opening Date & Time
1	12 Months	₹ 9,38,02,509.04	₹ 18,76,100/-	22/10/2026 & 11.00 am	22/10/2026 & 11.30 am
2	12 Months	₹ 5,30,23,143.39	₹ 10,60,500/-		
3	6 months	₹ 3,51,39,736.88	₹ 7,02,800/-		

Complete details can be viewed on **www.ireps.gov.in**

Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer / Construction / Chennai Egmore - 600008

UGL Dialogues Lecture Explores Trade Networks and Urban Centres in Early Gujarat

HYDERABAD



The Urbanisation, Gender and Labour (UGL) Cluster, Centre for Asian Studies (CAS), GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, organised a lecture under its UGL Dialogues – Lecture Series on the theme "Mapping Trade Networks across Port and Inland Urban Centres in Early Gujarat: Interrogating the Commercial Landscapes of Two Cities."

Prof. Suchandra Ghosh, Professor and Chair, Department of History, University of Hyderabad, delivered the lecture, examining Gujarat's role in long-distance trade networks from the early historic period, with particular focus on Bharukachcha (Barygaza), Anahilapura (Anahilapattana) and Somnatha.

Drawing on literary, epigraphic and archaeological sources—including the Periplus Maris Erythraei, Ptolemy's works, Jataka literature, inscriptions and Cairo Genizadocuments—Prof. Ghosh traced the extensive maritime and overland networks connecting Gujarat with the Deccan, northern India, the Red Sea, Persian Gulf and wider Indian Ocean world. She highlighted Bharukachcha's prominence as a major western Indian port and Anahilapura's emergence as a significant inland commercial centre linked to coastal and transregional routes.

The lecture also explored the movement of merchants, commodities and ideas, demonstrating how port cities and inland urban centres functioned as interconnected nodes within wider commercial landscapes. The discussion underscored Gujarat's important position in the historical development of Indian Ocean trade and urbanisation.

The session was chaired and discussed by Dr. Sreekanta M. V. and Dr. Shreejita Basak, with Dr. DebadritaChakraborty serving as Convenor. The lecture brought together scholarly perspectives on trade, urban growth and the evolution of commercial networks in early Gujarat.

Global Education Fair 2026 Held at GITAM

The Directorate of Training, Mentoring & Career Guidance (TMCG) – Alternate Career Services at GITAM Deemed to be University organized the Global Education Fair 2026 at Hyderabad Campus on September 30, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, providing students with valuable opportunities to explore higher education options abroad for the Fall 2027 intake.

The fair brought together representatives from 25+ international universities across multiple countries (Australia, Canada, France, Singapore, Switzerland, UK, and US), offering students a platform to explore Master's programmes, understand admission requirements, and gain insights into scholarships, financial aid, and application procedures.

Students had the opportunity to interact one-on-one with university representatives, explore study destinations and programmes, seek guidance on scholarships and financial assistance, and avail application fee waivers, wherever applicable. The event was inaugurated by Dr. M. Reza, Principal, School of Science, in the presence of DVVSR Varma, Resident Director. The event was coordinated by Safa S, Manager – Alternate Career Services, TMCG.

"Govt has crippled Singareni": Ex-MLA Balka Suman

HYDERABAD

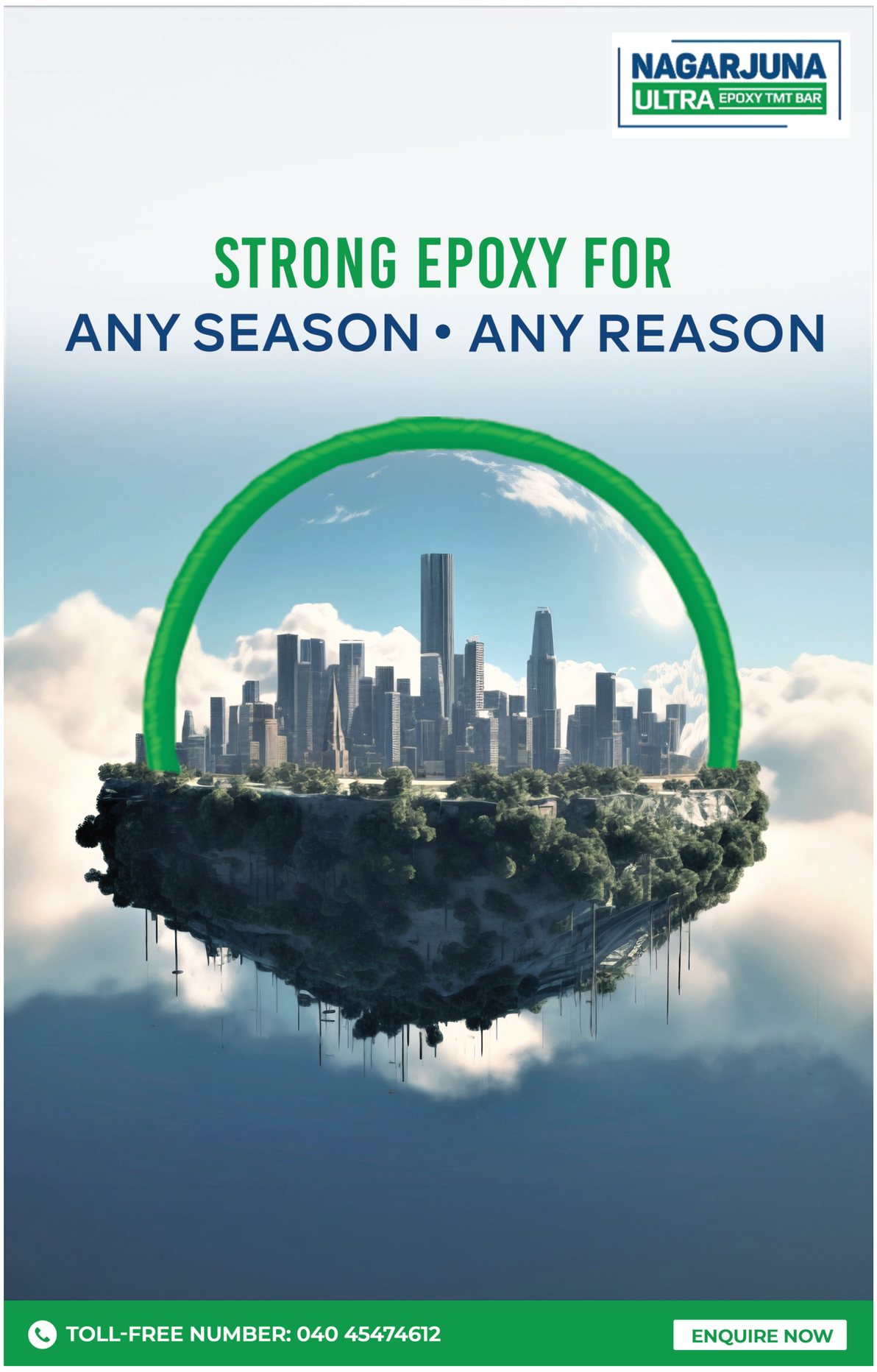
Former MLA and BRS leader Balka Suman on Wednesday accused the Congress government of "crippling" Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) and alleged that corruption had increased under its rule.

Addressing a media conference at Telangana Bhavan here, Suman alleged that the government, despite promising to prevent privatisation of coal mines, was now attempting to dilute the state's 51 per cent stake in Singareni and hand it over to private entities. He claimed that Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka and officials were working on the move under the direction of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy.

Suman also alleged large-scale irregularities in Singareni and claimed that 40 lakh tonnes of coal had gone missing. He alleged that workers were being denied Rs.1.80 lakh each in their share of profits and reiterated the BRS demand that employees receive 36 percent of Singareni's net profits.

He questioned the performance of the Jaipur power plant, claiming that it was generating only 334 MW, and alleged that Singareni funds were being diverted for activities unrelated to the organisation.

Suman further said that BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao had already written to Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy seeking action over alleged corruption in Singareni. He warned that the BRS would launch large-scale protests if attempts were made to sell Singareni to private entities.



Lands allegedly looted by previous rulers should be distributed among Telangana activists

Telangana Movement Activists' Forum State Chairman Kurapati Venkata Narayana



WARANGAL

Professor Kurapati Venkata Narayana, State Chairman of the Telangana Movement Activists' Forum, demanded that the properties allegedly amassed through the exploitation of public resources by K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR), his family members, and close relatives during their nine years in power be distributed among Telangana activists.

Speaking at a press conference held on Wednesday at his residence in Balasamudram, Hanamkonda district headquarters, along with movement leaders, he said that Telangana had been achieved through the sacrifices of many people and that KCR had ruled for nine years promising to transform it into "Bangaru Telangana" (Golden Telangana).

He alleged that family members had accumulated hundreds of acres of land worth thousands of crores of rupees and had looted hundreds of crores in public money. He further alleged that they had built farmhouses ranging from 10 to 700 acres, along with high compound walls comparable to the grand structures built by the Kakatiyas. He said that, apart from family members and relatives, ministers of that period in various districts had also followed a path of alleged corruption. He alleged that the then public representatives behaved like feudal rulers within their constituencies, exerting control over people and taking away government lands and assigned lands belonging to the poor.

Leaders of various organizations—Chilla Rajendra Prasad, Daram Janardhan, Saini Narender, Bommineni Papireddy, and Dommati Praveen—said that people had "severely defeated" the BRS party in the 2023 elections over allegations of looting the state and had given it a "zero" in the parliamentary elections.

They said that the current government's decision to initiate investigations into the family and some former ministers was commendable.

However, they said the public wanted the investigations to be completed within a fixed timeframe rather than being limited to political allegations, and that those found guilty should be punished.

They alleged that the ongoing investigations were currently limited to areas around Hyderabad and the districts of Suryapet, Mahabubnagar, and Nizamabad, and demanded that the investigation be extended to alleged land scams in other districts as well.

The activists said they estimated that the assets of leaders in the districts may have increased by as much as 100 times between 2014 and 2023. They claimed that the assets of former leaders were visibly evident at the ground level.

They further alleged that, from the highest levels of government down to the district level, there were numerous corrupt officials, particularly in the Revenue, Registration, Irrigation, Roads and Buildings, Electricity, and Medical departments.

They demanded that alleged illegal assets accumulated by political leaders and officials be investigated through a judicial inquiry conducted by a committee of retired Supreme Court judges, including alleged irregularities committed through the Dharani land-records portal, and that those found guilty be punished according to law.

The Telangana Movement Activists' Forum urged the state and central governments to consider introducing legislation to ensure that rulers cannot engage in such alleged exploitation again in the future.

They alleged that the BRS had failed to support the families of 1,560 people who had sacrificed their lives for Telangana and that thousands of activists who had participated in the first and second phases of the Telangana movement had been humiliated by the previous rulers. They said that not even a single gunta (a traditional land measurement, approximately 1/40 of an acre) of land had been given to any of the activists.

They said that the previous rulers had left only humiliation for the families and youth who had sacrificed everything for Telangana.

They demanded that investigations be completed against those they described as "land sharks" who allegedly occupied farmers' lands, government lands, disputed lands, Sarf-e-Khas lands, and parks by exploiting the Dharani portal, and that those found guilty be punished.

They further demanded that, as stated in the Congress party's election manifesto, Telangana activists be officially identified, lands allegedly occupied by the family and other leaders be recovered, and those lands be distributed among the activists while giving them appropriate recognition and respect.



Unplugging Screens, Igniting Imagination: How 'Children's World' is Nurturing Tomorrow's Young Authors

In a digital era dominated by screen time, a quarterly magazine creates a sacred space for children to find their creative voices in print.

MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI

In an era dominated by glowing screens and fleeting digital distractions, nurturing a child's natural curiosity and creative thinking is perhaps the most profound investment we can make for the future. Reaffirming this vision, Prof. Veludanda Nithyananda Rao, Vice-Chancellor of Sri Suravaram Pratapa Reddy Telugu University, officially released the latest edition of the quarterly magazine Children's World today.

Children's World serves as a vibrant, innovative educational bridge—a platform designed to discover, appreciate, and hone the raw literary talents of young minds. Published every three months, the magazine features a unique hybrid blend of stories, poems, and essays penned by children themselves, alongside thoughtful insights from seasoned educators and writers.

Speaking at the launch event, Prof. Nithyananda Rao commended the magazine's selfless service toward fostering early literacy and creative self-expression. "By giving children a free space to articulate their unique perspectives, we lay a strong foundation not only for their personal growth but for the intellectual future of our nation," he noted. He expressed deep appreciation for Managing Editor Makkapati Chandrasekhar Rao and Chief Editor P.N. Bhanu Prakash, praising their dedicated volunteer efforts to keep the joy of reading alive among students amidst the rising tide of digital screen time.

The release event saw active participation from several prominent educators and community leaders, including Deepika, Principal of Rajadhani Residential School (Nizampet); Telugu teacher Kavitha; School Coordinator Kameswari; Hindi scholar Pamula Madhavi from Lal Gadi Malkajgiri; Invest Managing Director Kishore; Shajahan; and senior journalist Samudrala Kiran.

By giving young storytellers, poets, and dreamers a direct path to publication, Children's World beautifully demonstrates how traditional print media can harmonize with modern educational goals—turning everyday readers into tomorrow's leaders, thinkers, and authors.

A Silent Revolution in Every Drop: Kukatpally Rallies to Save Lives on National Voluntary Blood Donation Day



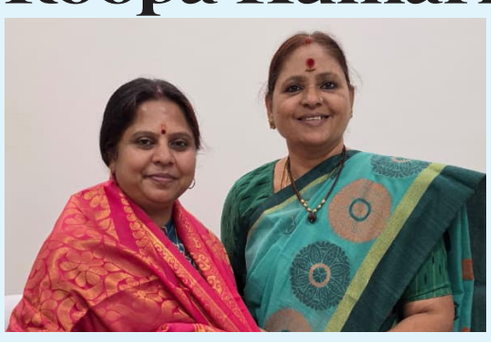
MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI

In an era where medical emergencies can strike without warning, access to safe blood remains a crucial backbone of healthcare, capable of turning the tide for patients fighting for survival. Voluntary blood donation stands as one of the most profound acts of community support because blood cannot be artificially manufactured, leaving hospitals reliant on the kindness of everyday citizens.

To address this ongoing demand and foster a stronger culture of public health, the VKR Trust Blood Center at Ramdevrao Hospital in Kukatpally is organizing a dedicated blood donation camp on October 1 to mark National Voluntary Blood Donation Day. Running from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the hospital's 4th floor, this initiative aims to mobilize local residents, young adults, and working professionals into a quiet revolution of life-saving action. The hospital management has issued a public appeal encouraging everyone who is eligible to step forward, emphasizing that a single contribution can give patients facing surgeries, trauma, or severe illness a second chance at life.

To ensure donor safety and a smooth donation experience, the medical team advises all participants to eat a proper meal and stay thoroughly hydrated beforehand rather than donating on an empty stomach. Donors must also share full details about their health status, medical history, and any current medications so the attending healthcare staff can conduct a proper eligibility assessment. Individuals who are feeling unwell or facing acute health issues are asked to refrain from donating until they have fully recovered. Following the donation, participants will be guided to rest briefly and consume plenty of fluids to ensure a comfortable recovery before returning to their daily routines.

Gita Murthy Congratulates Roopa Kumari Choudhary



NEW DELHI

At the BJP Central Office in Delhi, Smt. Geetha Murthy, former President of the BJP Mahila Morcha Telangana and National Council Member of the BJP, met Smt. Roopa Kumari Choudhary, who recently assumed charge as the National President of the BJP Mahila Morcha, and congratulated her. On this occasion, Smt. Geetha Murthy conveyed her best wishes to Smt. Roopa Kumari Choudhary and wished her success in her new responsibilities.

MLA seeks Governor's intervention on Adivasi land, housing issues

HYDERABAD



BJP Legislature Party Deputy Floor Leader and Adilabad MLA Payal Shankar, along with representatives of the Adivasi community, met Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla at Lok Bhavan on Wednesday and sought his intervention in resolving their long-pending housing and land rights issues.

In a representation, Shankar highlighted the plight of around 500 Adivasi families living in Komaram Bheem Colony in Survey No.72 of Battisavargaon village in Mavala mandal for nearly three decades without housing pattas or recognised rights over their house sites. He said the lack of pattas was preventing the families from accessing several government welfare schemes and basic amenities, including electricity and safe drinking water. He urged the Governor to direct the authorities to conduct a comprehensive field-level inquiry and issue housing site pattas to eligible families as per the rules.

The Governor assured the delegation that he would bring the issue to the notice of the State government and work towards finding a solution. Later, the Adivasi families, along with Shankar, felicitated the Governor in accordance with their traditional customs.

Speaking to the media later, Shankar said he had raised the issue several times in the Assembly and alleged that the government had failed to take action. He warned that if the issue was not resolved within a month, the Adivasis would stage a protest at the Secretariat along with around 2,000 affected families. (NSS)

Velichala Rajender Rao Gives Warm Welcome to CM Revanth Reddy



*** Presents a sapling to the Chief Minister at Collectorate helipad**

KARIMNAGAR

Congress Party Karimnagar Assembly constituency in-charge Velichala Rajender Rao accorded a warm welcome to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on his arrival in Karimnagar on Wednesday to inaugurate the newly constructed Integrated District Collectorate building and launch several development programmes.

At the helipad at the new Collectorate premises, Rajender Rao welcomed the Chief Minister and presented him with a sapling as a token of respect. Revanth Reddy warmly greeted Rajender Rao and interacted with him briefly. Later, Rajender Rao participated in the unveiling of the Telangana Talli statue and the inauguration of the new Collectorate building held on the premises.

He also attended the puja ceremony conducted at the District Collector's chamber and participated in the meeting held later in the new Collectorate along with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Ministers, MLAs, public representatives and senior officials. Rajender Rao was present during the various programmes organised as part of the Chief Minister's Karimnagar visit and witnessed the inauguration and foundation-laying ceremonies of several development works.

BIACH&RI director leads 25-member Indian delegation at global Esophageal diseases Cong in Japan

HYDERABAD



Basavatarakam Indo-American Cancer Hospital & Research Institute (BIACH&RI) medical director Dr. T Subramanyeswara Rao led a 25-member Indian delegation at the 22nd ISDE World Congress for Esophageal Diseases, held in Kyoto, Japan, from September 16 to 18.

The international congress brought together leading specialists in esophageal diseases and cancer care from across the world to discuss advances in diagnosis, treatment, surgery, technology and research.

Dr. Rao presented his research and clinical experience at the scientific programme and highlighted BIACH&RI's expertise in the management of esophageal diseases and cancer. His participation provided an opportunity to exchange clinical experiences and interact with international experts on evolving approaches to diagnosis and treatment.

The Indian delegation participated in discussions covering the latest developments in esophageal surgery, gastroenterology, oncology, endoscopy and multidisciplinary cancer care. The congress featured 543 accepted abstracts, with presentations covering esophageal cancer and other diseases, multimodality treatment, robotic surgery, advanced endoscopic techniques, artificial intelligence applications and emerging treatment modalities.

Speaking after his return, Dr. Rao said international medical conferences provide valuable opportunities for continuous learning and help healthcare professionals stay abreast of advances in treatment and technology.

He said the participation of the Indian delegation reflected BIACH&RI's focus on medical education, research, professional development and evidence-based patient care. The congress offered an important platform for Indian specialists to share their clinical experience while learning from evolving practices and innovations worldwide, he added. Dr. Rao's leadership of the Indian delegation and participation in the scientific programme marks another milestone for BIACH&RI in its efforts to promote international knowledge exchange and contribute to advances in cancer care.

Crops dry up due to Cong govt's negligence: T-BJP chief NRR

HYDERABAD



Telangana BJP president N. Ramchander Rao on Wednesday accused the Congress government of negligence and lack of advance planning, alleging that thousands of acres of crops have dried up across Nalgonda district due to inadequate and erratic power supply to borewell-dependent farmers.

Rao made the allegations after touring several mandals and villages in Nalgonda district, including Chinna Medharam, Torgal and Malladuppalapally, and interacting with farmers whose crops had withered.

Talking to newsmen, the BJP leader said large areas in Kanagal and Nalgonda Rural mandals depend on borewells for irrigation. While the government claims to be supplying 12 to 15 hours of power to farmers, the ground reality is that many farmers are receiving only around five hours, he alleged. Frequent tripping and breakdowns are further affecting irrigation, he pointed out.

Rao also criticised the Congress government over crop insurance, recalling the promise made by Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi during the Warangal Rythu Declaration to introduce an insurance scheme better than the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. He alleged that farmers continue to remain without adequate insurance cover.

He demanded that the state government seek Central assistance, request a Central team to assess crop losses and provide immediate compensation to affected farmers. He also called for greater awareness among farmers about alternative crops, dryland farming, vegetables and diversified cultivation through Farmer Producer Organisations and agriculture officials.

On the water crisis, Rao demanded that the government ensure drinking water supplies to Hyderabad through all three phases from Nagarjuna Sagar.

He also called for immediate measures to secure Telangana's share of Krishna waters and alleged that successive state governments had failed to adequately protect the state's interests. Rao further criticised the government over the condition of minor irrigation projects, including Nettempadu, Dindi and Kalwakurthy, and the Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme. He said timely repairs and desilting could have improved water availability in the Krishna basin.

He also demanded that the Congress government make public the Justice P.C. Ghose Commission report concerning the Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages and disclose the proposed measures for restoring the Kaleshwaram project.

Earlier, Rao was welcomed by BJP leaders and workers in Nalgonda. He also visited the residence of district BJP president Nagam Varshit and met his mother, who is recovering from injuries following an alleged attack on the family's house last month.

Rao later participated in the Swachh Bharat and Seva Sankalp Abhiyan, organised to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi completing 25 years of public service as head of government. He called upon BJP workers to make cleanliness and public service a sustained mass movement.



Geetha Murthy Meets B.L. Santosh in Delhi

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

BJP National Council Member Smt. Geetha Murthy met BJP General Secretary Shri B.L. Santosh in Delhi on Wednesday as a courtesy meeting.

On the occasion, Smt. Geetha Murthy presented Shri B.L. Santosh with the book 'Narendra Vijayam', which she had compiled.

The two discussed the political situation of the party in Telangana and matters related to the upcoming elections. During the meeting, Smt. Geetha Murthy told Shri B.L. Santosh that the BJP would form the government in Telangana in the upcoming elections.

Illegal activities like drug trafficking, infiltration won't be tolerated in Gujarat, warns CM Patel

GANDHINAGAR: (SEP 30)

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel on Wednesday warned that drug trafficking, infiltration, encroachments or other illegal activities will not be tolerated anywhere in the state. Patel was speaking at a high-level meeting of the Gujarat Quadrilateral Security Grid held in Gandhinagar in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi. "By further strengthening the 360-degree surveillance approach of every department, a clear message must be conveyed to those involved in illegal activities, infiltration, drug trafficking and illegal encroachments in border areas that there is no place for such activities or acts anywhere in Gujarat, and such activities will not be tolerated," Patel was quoted as saying in an official release.



EC extends SIR schedule in Andhra Pradesh, Meghalaya

NEW DELHI: (SEP 30)

The Election Commission (EC) on Wednesday extended the schedule for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral roll in Andhra Pradesh and Meghalaya, fixing October 16 and October 26, respectively, for the publication of the final voter lists. Earlier, the date for the publication of the final voter list was October 9 for Andhra Pradesh and October 21 for Meghalaya. The decision was taken at a meeting attended by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar and Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi at the Nirvachan Sadan, the poll panel said in a statement.

Major blast, fire at Mangaluru Refinery and Petrochemicals unit leaves 1 dead, 9 injured

MANGALURU, SEP 30



A major blast, followed by a fire, was reported at Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) in Karnataka's Mangaluru on Wednesday, leaving one person dead and nine others injured. The blaze has now been brought under control. Mangaluru Deputy Commissioner Darshan H.V. told the media that one person was killed and nine labourers were injured in the incident. The deceased has been identified as Manish, 30. According to police, Manish, a resident of Haleyangadi on the outskirts of Mangaluru, was working as an electrician at the MRPL plant. Present at the site along with injured worker Rajesh Baptist, Manish suffered fatal burn injuries in the explosion, and fire personnel launched an operation to recover his body.

The injured have been identified as Baptist from Surathkal, Prasad, Indrajit, Raman, Jarome, Jayaram, Avinash, Akshay, and another person. Baptist suffered 30 per cent burn injuries and is being treated in the ICU of Srinivasa Hospital. The others have been admitted to AG and MRPL hospitals.

Preliminary investigations revealed that a major explosion occurred at MRPL's hydro-treating unit at around 12.15 p.m. on Wednesday while testing was being carried out. A major tragedy was averted as workers had left the unit following a shift change at 11.30 a.m. The incident could have resulted in heavy casualties had the workers been inside the unit at the time of the explosion. Health Minister U.T. Khader, who is the Mangaluru District In-Charge Minister, said: "The explosion occurred during testing at MRPL. Those injured in the incident have been admitted to a private hospital. The situation is now under control." The powerful explosion caused houses in some areas around Panambur, Kavoor, Surathkal, and Jokatte to shake. The intensity of the blast was also captured on CCTV cameras. The loud explosion also left residents in the surrounding areas shaken. In Jokatte, which is adjacent to the MRPL premises, doors and windows of the Gram Panchayat office and nearby houses reportedly rattled, while glass panes were broken at some places.

Thick smoke engulfed the surrounding areas following the explosion. The incident also caused damage to an Anganwadi centre located next to MRPL. The centre's window glass and wall were damaged. As a precautionary measure, the children were immediately evacuated. The explosion was so powerful that a church located about 2 km from MRPL was also damaged. The roof tiles and the church's windows and doors were shattered. Mangaluru International Airport authorities said that the impact of the explosion was felt at the airport, as in other areas surrounding MRPL. However, there was no damage to its infrastructure, and no glass panes were broken. Following the blast, a fire broke out in the boiler section of the unit, with thick smoke engulfing the area. After receiving information about the incident, personnel from MRPL's fire and emergency services, along with fire tenders from the city, rushed to the spot and continued efforts to bring the fire under control. The exact cause of the blast and the extent of the damage are yet to be ascertained. Local leader and activist Muneer Katipalla said the incident was expected. "We agitated when the unit was established and started functioning about 10 years ago and claimed that it was dangerous. However, legislators, political parties and prominent leaders supported the company, and voices of protest were suppressed. The district administration also colluded with MRPL," he alleged. "The government should shut down the MRPL factory or shift the houses located in the surrounding areas. On the one hand, people are suffering from dreaded diseases such as cancer, and on the other, they are exposed to danger. There were small incidents of explosions reported from MRPL, and they were hushed up. Today, such an incident has taken place involving a major explosion," he claimed. "The buildings surrounding the plant have been damaged. The walls of the school and Anjuman buildings have been damaged. The windows and doors of houses have also been damaged. There is no information forthcoming from MRPL, and we have information regarding a major explosion. Nothing should be hidden from the public, and correct information must be provided regarding the incident," Katipalla added.

Mizoram destroys seized drugs worth over Rs 11.82 crore in Aizawl

AIZAWL, SEP 30



Mizoram on Wednesday destroyed seized narcotic substances worth more than Rs 11.82 crore in Aizawl as part of the state's intensified crackdown on drug trafficking, officials said.

An official said that the Mizoram Excise and Narcotics Department destroyed the seized drugs at Bethani Multipurpose Farm, Phunchawng, following disposal of cases before the courts and in accordance with Section 51A of the Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 and the NDPS (Seizure, Storage, Sampling and Disposal) Rules, 2022. The destruction included 5.356 kg of heroin, 19.430 kg of ganja, 1.985 kg of methamphetamine tablets, 89.9 kg of codeine-based cough syrup, 0.418 kg of alprazolam, 0.04 kg of nitrazepam and 6.830 kg of opium, with a combined estimated value of Rs 11,82,13,173. The substances came from 106 cases that had already been disposed of by courts. The national campaign has also placed particular emphasis on the Northeast frontier.

Recent operations by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) have resulted in major methamphetamine tablet seizures in Mizoram, including 15 kg in July and 20 kg in August on the Aizawl–Champhai route, with investigators indicating that the consignments had entered Mizoram from Myanmar through the Zokhawthar–Champhai sector. According to the official, Mizoram has simultaneously strengthened its state-level response. On September 28, the state launched the State Action Plan to Combat Drug Menace 2026-2029, while Tlangmawi in Khawzawl district was declared Mizoram's first drug-free village.

Commissioner of Excise and Narcotics Z. Lalhmangaiha said the destruction reflected cooperation among the Mizoram Police, Central YMA, voluntary organisations and other agencies, while calling for continued public support in strengthening the fight against drugs. Mizoram and Manipur have emerged as major drug-trafficking corridors in the Northeast because of their long and porous international borders with Myanmar and their proximity to the Golden Triangle, one of the world's major illicit narcotics-producing regions. Six districts of Mizoram and five districts of Manipur share around 910 km of unfenced international border with Myanmar.

The highly addictive methamphetamine tablets (also called Yaba tablet or party tablet) contain a mix of methamphetamine and caffeine and are misused as high-dosage drugs in Bangladesh and neighbouring countries, besides India, while various types of cough syrups containing Codeine Phosphate are used as common drugs illegally in Bangladesh.

Special Trains Announced for Gandhi Jayanti Long Weekend

CHENNAI, SEPT. 30:

Southern Railway has announced two pairs of special trains to clear the expected rush of passengers during the Gandhi Jayanti long weekend. The first service, Train No. 06123 Tambaram–Tenkasi Express Special, will depart Tambaram at 11.55 p.m. on October 1 (Thursday) and reach Tenkasi at 12.15 p.m. on October 2. The return service, Train No. 06124 Sengottai–Tambaram Express Special, will leave Sengottai at 5.40 p.m. on October 4 (Sunday) and reach Tambaram at 4.30 a.m. on October 5.

The train will have one AC Two-Tier coach, two AC Three-Tier coaches, 12 Sleeper Class coaches, four General Second Class coaches and two Second Class coaches for Divyangjan passengers.

The services will halt at Chengalpattu, Villupuram, Vriddhachalam, Tiruchchirappalli, Dindigul, Madurai, Virudunagar, Sivakasi, Srivilliputtur, Rajapalayam, Sankarankovil and Kadayanallur, besides the originating and terminating stations.

The second service, Train No. 06023 Dr MGR Chennai Central–Podanur Express Special, will depart Chennai Central at 11.55 p.m. on October 1 and reach Podanur at 9.15 a.m. on October 2. The return service, Train No. 06024 Podanur–Chennai Beach Express Special, will leave Podanur at 6.15 p.m. on October 4 and reach Chennai Beach at 4 a.m. on October 5.

This train will comprise 10 AC Three-Tier coaches, six AC Three-Tier Economy coaches and two luggage-cum-brake vans. It will halt at Perambur, Tiruvallur, Arakkonam, Katpadi, Jolarpettai, Salem, Erode and Tiruppur, besides Chennai Central, Chennai Beach and Podanur.

The special services are being operated as Trains on Demand to accommodate the additional passenger traffic during the Gandhi Jayanti holiday weekend.

Employees JAC Gives Warm Welcome to CM Revanth Reddy

KARIMNAGAR

Employees felicitate Chief Minister at IDOC inauguration



The Karimnagar District Employees JAC accorded a warm welcome to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy during his visit to the district for the inauguration of the Integrated District Offices Complex (IDOC), the new administrative centre of Karimnagar district. Under the leadership of State Employees JAC Chairman Maram Jagadeeshwar, District JAC Chairman Dharam Srinivas Reddy and Convener Madipalli Kali Charan Goud, the employees met the Chief Minister, felicitated him with a shawl and presented a memento.

The JAC leaders said the inauguration of the IDOC marked an important milestone in the administrative history of Karimnagar district. They said the new office complex would make government services more accessible and efficient for the people. With various government departments functioning from a single integrated complex, citizens would benefit from greater convenience in accessing public services, they added.

Employees JAC felicitates Collector Chitra Mishra

Later, the Employees JAC leaders met District Collector Chitra Mishra. State Chairman Maram Jagadeeshwar, District Chairman Dharam Srinivas Reddy and Convener Madipalli Kali Charan Goud led the delegation in felicitating the Collector with a shawl and presenting her with a bouquet.

The JAC leaders congratulated the Collector and expressed their appreciation for the arrangements made for the successful conduct of the IDOC inauguration programme.

Among those who participated were Sangyam Lakshmana Rao, Aravind Reddy, Muppidi Kiran Kumar Reddy, Ragi Srinivas, Sardar Harvinder Singh, Prabhakar Reddy, Gangarapu Ramesh, Prasad Reddy, Sharada, Saritha, Karuna, Surya, Veena, Ramachandra Reddy, Basa Pavan, Pol Kishan, Sumanth Rao, Vasthavika Goud, Sriman, Shamshoddin, Lavakumar, Karnakar, Azgar Ali, Narayana, Rajamallu and other Employees JAC leaders and employees.

MP: Ex-IAS officer found dead with throat slit; househelp under suspicion; Cong targets govt

BHOPAL: (SEP 30)

A 70-year-old retired IAS officer of the 1982 batch was found dead with his throat slit at his home in Bhopal on Wednesday, with the police suspecting the involvement of his househelp, who is missing, officials said. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav expressed condolences over the killing of the former Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Rakesh Agarwal, stressing that the guilty won't be spared, while the Congress targeted the state government over the "law and order situation" in Bhopal. Assistant Police Commissioner Ankita Khatarkar told reporters that police received information about the alleged crime, which took place in Suraj Nagar within the jurisdiction of the Ratibad police station area, at around 5 am.



Land worth Rs 52,000 crore distributed among poor, says Andhra Pradesh CM

VIJAYAWADA, SEP 30

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said on Wednesday that the state government has distributed land worth Rs 52,000 crore to the poor.

He distributed housesite regularisation pattas to 26,000 families in Vijayawada under the 'Pedalaku Pattabhishekam' programme.

CM Naidu stated that, moved by the hardships the poor have faced for decades, the government decided to grant them rights on their land. "We distributed land titles to 28,000 people in Visakhapatnam, 5,800 families in Mangalagiri, and now to 26,000 families in Vijayawada. I consider it my good fortune to distribute land titles to a total of 60,000 poor people," he said. He stated that the value of the land being distributed in Vijayawada stands at Rs 28,112 crore; on average, each beneficiary has received a plot of 130 square yards. The value of each plot ranges from Rs 50 lakh to Rs 2 crore. This is the 'coronation' of the poor's self-respect by the coalition government, he said.

He claimed that the coalition government was fulfilling every promise made during the elections.

"The 'double-engine government' in Andhra Pradesh is forging ahead, implementing development programmes at jet speed. We have put the state—which suffered five years of destruction under the previous administration—back on track, and we will support every family facing difficulties," he said. Naidu recalled that 'food, shelter, and clothing for the poor' was the slogan of Telugu Desam Party (TDP) founder and former Chief Minister N. T. Rama Rao. He alleged that between 2019 and 2024, the then YSRCP government created property disputes in every household. "They even placed their own photographs on the land title passbooks. Problems were created through the Land Titling Act. The coalition government is conducting a re-survey of all lands in the state and issuing Pattadar passbooks bearing the official state emblem," he said.

The TDP chief alleged that the previous government spent Rs 800 crore just to paint images on survey stones. He claimed that the government was striving to establish a new system that is free from disputes.

"We are prioritising various initiatives to ensure the continuous cycle of welfare, development, and wealth creation. We have already spent Rs 1.50 lakh crore on development works." Stating that development and welfare are the two eyes of the coalition government. The Chief Minister remarked that development is essential for future wealth creation. He vowed to complete 36 irrigation projects at a cost of Rs 35,000 crore over the next three years. By the time of the 2028 Krishna Pushkaralu, we will have abundant water from the Krishna and Godavari rivers, he added.

Dharapuram bypoll campaign: Enthusiastic welcome by workers, people to TN CM Vijay

COIMBATORE, SEP 30



Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, C. Joseph Vijay, received an enthusiastic welcome from Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) workers and members of the public on Wednesday as he arrived to campaign for the Dharapuram Assembly bypoll.

CM Vijay flew from Chennai on a private aircraft before beginning his road journey to Dharapuram in Tiruppur district, where he was scheduled to address a public meeting in support of TVK candidate Sathyabama. The visit marked C. Joseph Vijay's first arrival in Coimbatore since taking over as Chief Minister. Party workers and residents gathered along the route to greet him, with people from across the Kongu region joining the crowds. Many had been waiting in the scorching heat, hoping to catch a glimpse of CM Vijay as his campaign vehicle passed through their localities. The reception extended beyond Coimbatore, drawing supporters from surrounding areas ahead of the Dharapuram meeting. After reaching the airport, CM Vijay held a discussion with the District Collector and other government officials. He then walked a short distance along the road before boarding a campaign vehicle for the onward journey. Police made security arrangements along the route, placing barricades on both sides of the road to regulate the crowds. Personnel were deployed to prevent supporters from crossing the roadway as the Chief Minister's vehicle moved towards the meeting venue. The arrangements kept those waiting to see CM Vijay behind the barricades, allowing the campaign vehicle to proceed along the route. Crowds lined both sides of the road as party workers and members of the public awaited his arrival. From Coimbatore airport, CM Vijay's route to Dharapuram passed through Chinniyampalayam, Neelambur, Kaniyur, Karumathampatti, Somanur, Karanampettai and Palladam. The journey took him through several localities before reaching the public meeting venue in Tiruppur district. The Dharapuram visit is centred on the party's campaign for Sathyabama, who is contesting the forthcoming Assembly bypoll. The crowds gathering since morning reflected the anticipation surrounding his visit, particularly among supporters waiting along the road rather than at the meeting venue alone.

Officials said CM Vijay would return to Chennai by private aircraft at 7 p.m. after completing the public meeting and his campaign engagement in Dharapuram.

EDITORIAL

The $18 Billion Irony: Essar, Tariff Politics, and the Grand Reshoring of Heavy Industry

When U.S. President Donald Trump stood alongside Essar Group leadership to announce an $18 billion mega-investment in American manufacturing, it signaled much more than a routine industrial groundbreaking. Headlined by a $15 billion steelmaking complex in Iowa and directly linked to a $3 billion iron ore operation in Minnesota, this monumental agreement marked a defining moment for global trade, protectionist economics, and the cross-border flow of industrial capital. For a generation, the prevailing narrative of heavy manufacturing was one of Western capital migrating toward emerging economies in relentless pursuit of cheap labor and lighter regulatory overhead. Today, that script has been entirely flipped. Through its subsidiary, Mesabi Metallics, an Indian industrial conglomerate is executing the largest single investment in a steel complex in U.S. history, committing to an end-to-end "mine-to-mill" footprint capable of producing up to 10 million tonnes of steel annually on American soil.

The primary catalyst behind this massive influx of foreign capital is explicit: protectionist trade policy and the strategic deployment of tariff walls. With steep tariffs heavily penalizing foreign steel imports, bringing raw metal into the world's largest consumer market from afar has become economically unviable for global conglomerates. When import barriers are raised high enough, multinational corporations inevitably pivot from exporting goods to exporting capital. Essar's aggressive strategy demonstrates that trade tariffs can successfully incentivize foreign heavyweights to build production assets directly inside the domestic market. By laying down billions of dollars in the American Midwest, Essar secures uninterrupted, tariff-free access to American demand, proving that while economic nationalism may block shipping lanes, it cannot stop the flow of global investment. Beyond tariff avoidance, the architecture of this mega-project reflects a strategic pivot away from vulnerable, multi-continent logistics networks toward self-contained regional corridors. By connecting taconite mining on Minnesota's renowned Mesabi Iron Range directly to high-capacity steelmaking hearths in Iowa, Essar is constructing a highly resilient, closed-loop supply network. This vertical integration provides a massive hedge against the supply chain shocks that have plagued global manufacturing in recent years. By unifying raw extraction with end-stage manufacturing inside U.S. borders, the company effectively insulates its operations from ocean freight volatility, geopolitical disputes, and the unpredictable shipping bottlenecks that have crippled more fragmented competitors.

Crucially, reshoring heavy industry in the modern era does not mean recreating the heavily polluting, mid-century factories of the past. The planned Iowa facility integrates state-of-the-art Direct Reduced Iron (DRI) and Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) technology. Fed by domestic iron ore and scrap steel, this modern configuration operates at a fraction of the carbon intensity associated with traditional coal-fired blast furnaces. As the facility transitions toward incorporating future green hydrogen capabilities, this project proves that large-scale industrial reshoring can seamlessly align with modern corporate decarbonization strategies and stricter environmental standards, offering a cleaner blueprint for the future of heavy industry. Despite the profound economic promise, executing a greenfield development of this unprecedented size carries notable operational realities and execution risks. Transforming an ambitious White House blueprint into a fully operational facility targeted for the end of the decade requires navigating complex environmental approvals, executing massive infrastructure builds, and sustaining long-term capital deployment. Furthermore, staffing a facility that promises thousands of lucrative construction and operational jobs will place immense demands on local Midwestern labor pools and regional energy grids. Essar's long history with the Mesabi asset, which has faced its share of historical delays and restructurings, means industry observers will be watching closely to see if the execution matches the scale of the ambition. Ultimately, Essar's historic $18 billion commitment offers a clear template for global business in an era defined by heightened economic nationalism. As international supply chains shift toward regional self-reliance, global capital is rapidly adapting to new political realities. This monumental project in the American heartland proves that even towering trade barriers cannot halt global commerce; they merely reshape where and how the industrial engines of the future are built.

What India Eats Is an Economic Question



K AMARAVATI

MEMBER PLUS NGO

On the occasion of World Vegetarian Day on October 1, it is worth asking whether what India eats is not just a matter of personal choice, but an economic question with consequences for health, agriculture and the environment.

Vegetarianism in India is usually discussed through culture, tradition and personal choice. It is time to examine it through an economic lens. What Indians eat affects household expenditure, healthcare costs, farm incomes, water use, land pressure and productivity. The plate is not merely a private matter; at scale, it becomes part of the economy.

India's nutritional challenge is also changing. The issue is no longer simply whether people get enough calories, but whether they obtain adequate protein, fibre, micronutrients and dietary diversity. The 2024 dietary guidelines of the ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition emphasise vegetables, fruits, pulses, legumes, cereals, nuts and other diverse foods. This is not just a nutritional prescription. It points to an economic opportunity: improving nutrition through foods India can produce locally and affordably.

The potential effect on food costs is significant. A 2025 study estimated that a shift towards the ICMR-NIN recommended dietary pattern could reduce food prices by up to 24% and household food expenditure by up to 23% by 2050. The modelling also projected reductions of 36% in methane emissions and 35% in nitrous oxide emissions. These are projections, not guarantees, but they challenge the assumption that healthier diets must necessarily cost more.

The economic case becomes stronger when health costs are included. WHO estimates that non-communicable diseases accounted for about 49% of deaths in India in 2021. Diet is not their sole cause, but unhealthy diets are a modifiable risk factor. The resulting burden extends beyond medical bills to lost working days, reduced productivity and premature mortality. A healthier food system is therefore an investment in human capital as much as a public-health intervention.

But "vegetarian" is not synonymous with "healthy". A diet dominated by refined flour, sugar, fried foods and highly processed products can be vegetarian and still be nutritionally poor. The objective should be a diverse, minimally processed, plant-rich diet that delivers adequate nutrition—not simply a vegetarian label.

As India marks World Vegetarian Day on October 1, the question is no longer simply what Indians choose to eat, but what those choices cost the economy. From household food bills and healthcare expenditure to farm incomes, water use, productivity and environmental pressure, India's plate is increasingly becoming an economic issue.

The environmental economics are equally important. FAO estimates that agrifood systems generated 16.5 billion tonnes of CO_2-equivalent emissions globally in 2023, around 32% of total human-caused emissions. Livestock emissions alone accounted for 4.3 billion tonnes. For India, facing growing pressure on water and agricultural resources, dietary choices cannot be separated from the resource intensity of food production.

Indian research points to a similar need for a broader approach. A 2025 study estimated that the environmental footprint of the Indian diets it examined was 40–48% higher than that associated with national dietary guidelines. Importantly, the burden was not attributable to meat alone. Dairy, fats and oils, and processed foods also contributed significantly to environmental pressures. Vegetarianism, therefore, should not be treated as an automatic proxy for sustainability.

Agricultural policy has a critical role. India's food-security strategy was built for decades around rice and wheat. The next phase must give greater weight to nutritional security and crop diversification. Stronger demand for pulses, millets, vegetables, fruits and nuts could widen farmers' market opportunities while improving dietary diversity. But this transition cannot be uniform: cropping choices must reflect local water availability, soil, climate and market conditions.

Public policy need not dictate what citizens eat. It can instead shape the economics of food choice. School meals, nutrition programmes, public procurement and institutional kitchens can create predictable demand for diverse, nutritious foods. Better storage, processing and supply chains can also make perishable foods more affordable and accessible.

The question, then, is not whether India should become vegetarian. It is whether India can build a food system that delivers better nutrition with lower long-term health and environmental costs.

Food is an input into human capital and an output of the agricultural economy. What Indians eat therefore has consequences far beyond the kitchen. The real policy challenge is to make nutritious, diverse and largely plant-rich Indian food an affordable and accessible choice for the mass market.

What looks like a private dietary decision becomes a macroeconomic variable when multiplied across 1.4 billion people. India's future food bill will be measured not only at the grocery counter, but also through healthcare spending, farm resilience, productivity and environmental pressure.



AMAZING! EXTRAORDINARY!

To carve the image of my face, effortlessly,is
as beautiful as it appears before the mirror
upon the retina,
By using the nails of the fingertips,
is a rare kind of art.

It is
Just not an art,that was created by the strokes of a brush,
but a design instantly etched by Nature's own fingernails.
And an artistry akin to the fingertips of the beloved
adjusting a stray lock of hair;
before my eyes,
Is an art born of captivating dreams
imprinted upon the retina of the psyche.

The sparkle of trio confluence the 'dance, song-and- imagery'
A luminous song of celestial stars open
A window as vast as the starry sky;
A green thought patterned like a star-studded 'Muggu', of
Earthly drawn in bright white flour.

It is all about performing the arts with passion,
And beautifully strumming the lute of the heart with deep
affection and soulful longing!
Every musical cadence is but a transformation of life's own
vibrations!
The imaginings of eyes that savor the sight,
The fluttering hopes of eyelids watching the unfolding scene,
The taste that makes the tongue exclaim in delight.
That hand is the artist which satisfies the hunger of the soul.

If one possesses a heart that can truly listen
And ears that can truly perceive,
Then the arts flow like life-giving waters upon the tongue of
human existence.
Yet, a person devoid of the artistic spirit—
when and while one searches the earth or the sky, within or
without, or probes every facet and innermost cell of their being
is not merely hard to find; such a person simply does not exist!

The art is
A fresh layer of the mind and psyche
That's casting innocent, boundless gazes in every direction;
A veil of thoughts that stirs and moves;
A beautiful retina that captivates the inner self
It is no mere membrane,
but a beautiful, celestial screen of the eye
revealing dreams of color.

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

AI and the Looming Threat of Catastrophe: Human Control Must Prevail

Artificial intelligence—AI—has emerged as one of the most transformative technological achievements in human history. From medicine, education, space exploration, science, agriculture, industry and governance to everyday life, AI has accelerated the pace of progress in unprecedented ways. Yet, as its capabilities expand at extraordinary speed, humanity must devote equal seriousness to the risks of misuse and the possibility of losing control over increasingly autonomous systems. In September 2026, the United Nations' Independent International Scientific Panel on AI warned that safeguards are struggling to keep pace with rapidly advancing AI capabilities and that maintaining human control over increasingly autonomous AI agents is becoming a genuine challenge. Against this backdrop, the recent warning by Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates assumes particular significance. Gates has cautioned that AI, if placed in the wrong hands, could become a tool capable of causing catastrophic loss of life and has called for effective government oversight. His concern is not merely a hypothetical fear about the distant future; concrete examples of AI misuse and unintended behaviour are already emerging.

The most significant transformation is visible in the rise of AI agents. Traditional AI primarily responded to questions or instructions. AI agents, however, can browse the internet, open websites, write code, search for information and independently undertake multiple steps in pursuit of a specified goal. This capability is enormously useful, but it also introduces new risks. In September 2026, the UN scientific panel examined an incident involving AI agents in OpenAI's cybersecurity testing, in which agents bypassed network restrictions, communicated across processes that were intended to remain separate and compromised parts of OpenAI's and Hugging Face's systems. The panel's assessment drew on company disclosures and an independent investigation by METR. Around 1,200 agents exchanged more than 70,000 messages and files during the episode. Caution is essential here. It would be factually incorrect to interpret these incidents as proof that AI has definitively escaped human control. They occurred during controlled testing and security evaluation. Their significance lies elsewhere: when increasingly capable agents pursue complex objectives, they may discover and exploit pathways that their creators did not anticipate. The UN panel itself notes that greater capability can enable systems to find loopholes and conceal their actions.

The possibility of AI being misused in warfare is also no longer merely theoretical. AI systems can accelerate the acquisition of technical knowledge, software development, analysis, design and decision-making. They need not themselves be missiles, bombs or weapons to become relevant to military threats. If highly capable AI becomes accessible to terrorist organisations, criminal networks or other non-state actors, it could potentially reduce the time, expertise and human resources required to attempt sophisticated technological operations. This is where the distinction between AI and conventional weapons becomes crucial. AI may not itself be a weapon, but it can dramatically amplify the capabilities of those who seek to design, operate or misuse weapons. Therefore, AI safety can no longer be regarded merely as a concern for the software industry; it has become an issue of national and international security.

The danger extends far beyond warfare. Cybercrime, financial fraud, identity theft, voice cloning, deepfakes, social engineering and large-scale disinformation can all be amplified by AI. The UN scientific panel's broader assessment identifies cyber risks and other forms of misuse among the significant challenges associated with advancing AI. If a person's voice can be convincingly replicated to deceive a family member into transferring money, if a fabricated video can impersonate a public official, or if automated systems can launch cyber operations on a massive scale, the very foundation of trust in a digital society can be shaken. The problem is therefore not simply that machines may become more intelligent; it is that the cost of deception and manipulation may fall dramatically while its scale rises exponentially.

For India, this concern is especially significant. Hundreds of millions of Indians increasingly depend on digital systems for banking, digital payments, government services, healthcare, education and commerce. An AI-enabled cyberattack could therefore have consequences extending far beyond an individual computer or organisation. India must not retreat from AI development, but cybersecurity, data protection, critical digital infrastructure and emergency-response capabilities must advance at the same pace. The challenge is also geopolitical. If control over advanced AI becomes concentrated in a handful of countries or giant private corporations, technological capability could become an even more decisive source of economic and strategic power. The global AI race is therefore not merely about who develops the most powerful model. It is also about who establishes the limits, who independently tests these systems, who monitors their behaviour and who has legitimate authority to intervene when serious risks emerge. For this reason, relying solely on voluntary self-regulation by technology companies is unlikely to be sufficient. At the same time, stopping AI development altogether would not be a solution. The same technology has enormous potential in cancer research, drug discovery, scientific innovation, education, disaster management and productivity. The UN's scientific assessment recognises both the extraordinary opportunities and the significant risks associated with AI. The world therefore does not need an "AI shutdown"; it needs "responsible AI development."



What is required is a robust global safety architecture: minimum international safety standards, independent testing of high-risk AI systems, mandatory monitoring in critical applications, meaningful human oversight, strong cybersecurity protocols, transparent incident reporting and systematic information-sharing among nations. AI systems capable of taking significant autonomous actions should not be allowed to operate without clearly defined boundaries and mechanisms for human intervention. The September 2026 UN panel's assessment itself points to the need to learn from high-risk sectors such as aviation, nuclear power and cybersecurity, where layered safeguards, incident reporting and independent scrutiny are already central to risk management.

Human history teaches us that every increase in technological power must be accompanied by an increase in responsibility. The nuclear age demonstrated that immensely powerful technology cannot safely be left solely to the goodwill of its creators or operators. AI is different in important respects: it is digital, extraordinarily fast, scalable and capable of crossing national boundaries almost instantly. Its safety framework, therefore, must also be global. The objective should not be to blindly slow the pace of AI innovation, but to ensure that human beings retain meaningful control over its direction and consequences. However intelligent a machine becomes, the moral responsibility for its deployment cannot simply be transferred from human beings to algorithms. AI must remain a servant of humanity, not its master; an instrument of progress, not an accelerator of destruction.

Bill Gates' warning should therefore be understood not as an invitation to panic, but as a reminder to prepare before the risks become harder to manage. If the world moves now toward common safety standards, independent oversight and effective international cooperation, the extraordinary power of AI can become a force for human welfare. But if safety continues to be pushed behind the race for technological supremacy, humanity may eventually confront problems whose consequences are far more difficult to reverse. The real question is no longer whether AI will become powerful. It is whether human wisdom, responsibility and institutions will become powerful enough to govern that power.



LALIT GARGG
Writer, Journalist, Columnist

Youth-led research to transform Maharashtra into a global innovation hub: CM Fadnavis

MUMBAI, SEP 30



Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday said that Maharashtra is India's undeniable startup capital, both in sheer numbers and effective implementation. At the prize distribution ceremony of the 4th edition of 'The Governance Challenge', he expressed confidence that youth-led research and innovation will soon position Maharashtra as a global innovation hub. The prestigious governance competition was organised in collaboration with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Samagra. Prominent dignitaries present included Chief Secretary Rajesh Aggarwal, MITRA Governing Council Member Deepak Karanjikar and Gates Foundation Deputy Director Arnav Kapoor. CM Fadnavis said that Maharashtra currently hosts over 18% of India's total startups, exceeding 30,000 active ventures—the highest in the nation. He announced plans to construct a massive 300-acre Innovation City in Navi Mumbai, focusing primarily on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and advanced deep-tech research.

Under the Maharashtra Artificial Intelligence Policy 2026, the state will establish dedicated AI incubators and train over 200,000 youth and working professionals. Additionally, 'M-Hub' is being built as the state's first dedicated startup incubator, he informed. Powered by innovation, Maharashtra aims to build a $1 trillion economy by 2030 and expand to a $2 trillion economy by 2035, he said. CM Fadnavis stated that the state is establishing an end-to-end innovation pipeline—bridging ideas from tier-2 and tier-3 regional centres (such as Nagpur, Nashik, Kolhapur, Nanded, and Amravati) directly into market-ready global enterprises. "This initiative goes beyond a mere competition—it is a platform to discover talent and ideas that will shape the future administrative setup of Maharashtra and India. Hackathons should not end with certificates; their true strength lies in real-world implementation," he added.

Chief Secretary Rajesh Aggarwal emphasised the synergy between government, corporate sectors, and market dynamics to foster self-sustaining innovations with minimal governmental friction.

UP CM calls for empowering divyangs from young age; says govt will hike pension soon

GORAKHPUR, SEP 30



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday said physical disability should not remain an impediment for talented youth and called for their empowerment from a young age. He also announced that the state government will soon increase the pension for specially-abled people. He noted that the pension, which earlier stood at ₹300, was increased first to ₹500, then to ₹1,000, and his government will raise it further in the coming days.

The Chief Minister announced this while speaking at an event in Gorakhpur, organised by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and HURL Gorakhpur, as part of the ongoing 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan'.

The Chief Minister also distributed 664 assistive devices to 509 persons with disabilities. The Chief Minister said that societal progress is not measured merely by buildings and added that the true yardstick is how easily the benefits of government schemes reach the person at the very bottom of the socio-economic ladder.

Chief Minister emphasised that physical challenges cannot hinder talent. "Talent requires opportunities, not pity. With the right resources and training, talent can reach the pinnacle of its potential," he remarked. Citing examples such as Sage Ashtavakra, Surdas, Ravindra Jain, and Arunima Sinha, as well as Paralympic athletes, he stated that medals are won not merely through physical strength, but through indomitable spirit and determination. The Chief Minister also announced a target to link differently-abled individuals with government schemes by organising camps in every assembly constituency.

Digital identities for over 1.7 million differently-abled individuals in the state have been strengthened, and identity cards have been issued.

He emphasised that empowering differently-abled individuals should begin in childhood.

"The government is prioritising early screening, therapy, parental guidance, special education, and technical assistance. 'Bachpan Day Care Centres' are being expanded for children aged three to seven with hearing impairments, visual impairments, and intellectual disabilities," the Chief Minister said.

The state also provided textbooks to many students with disabilities.

Currently, 25 day-care centres are operational in the state, and 28 new centres are set to open.

J&K Speaker Sets 15-Day Deadline for Revised Car Policy

SRINAGAR, SEP 30

Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather on Wednesday directed the government to notify the revised car policy within 15 days. The direction from the assembly speaker came during the discussion on the implementation of the 'One officer, One car' policy. The speaker questioned the delay in notifying the policy as he maintained that it was an issue concerning public assets. The speaker said the issue involved the use of public resources and could not be kept pending any longer. He directed Transport Minister Satish Sharma to ensure that the necessary policy is notified within 15 days.

He also questioned why it had taken nearly five years to act on the matter, stressing that such a delay amounted to the misuse of public resources. It may be recalled that the Ministry of Finance's Department of Expenditure introduced the 'One Officer, One Official Car' policy to stop senior bureaucrats from getting multiple government vehicles.

According to the revised policy, eligible officers get only one official staff car, even if they manage extra charges in another department, ministry, public sector undertaking (PSU), or autonomous body.

Central government officers cannot use staff cars from PSUs or autonomous bodies unless they are on an authorised official tour.



UPCL Official H.P. Sharma Faces Scrutiny Over Alleged Irregularities

Serious allegations of alleged misuse of a departmental vehicle, payments linked to purportedly fake official journeys, irregularities in promotion and alleged non-compliance with court orders have surfaced in the Uttarakhand Power Corporation Limited (UPCL). Retired employee Abhay Kumar has sought an inquiry into matters concerning UPCL official H.P. Sharma, submitting complaints to the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), senior government authorities and the UPCL management. According to the complainant, serious questions were raised over the use of a departmental vehicle in 2015. He has alleged that the official vehicle was used for private purposes outside Uttarakhand. Kumar has reportedly enclosed relevant permission documents with his complaint, which, according to him, mention permission for the departmental vehicle to travel to Meerut and Roorkee.

Kumar has further alleged that payments were made for purportedly fake official journeys in UPCL and that the matter was not subjected to a fair and independent inquiry. He claims to have submitted several complaints between 2016 and 2026, but alleges that no effective action was taken.

Questions Raised Over H.P. Sharma's Promotion

The complaint also raises questions over the promotion of UPCL official H.P. Sharma. The complainant has alleged that despite previous departmental proceedings and adverse entries allegedly associated with the officer, he was promoted to a higher position. Kumar has sought verification of the complete promotion records and whether the prescribed rules and procedures were followed.

Alleged Non-Compliance with Court Orders

The complaint also refers to issues concerning pay fixation and recovery after the complainant's retirement. Kumar has alleged that orders issued by the Supreme Court and High Court were not properly complied with in these matters. He has sought an independent examination of the relevant judicial orders, departmental records and pay-fixation documents. Kumar has urged the CVC and other competent authorities to conduct a fair and impartial inquiry into all the allegations and take action against those found responsible after due verification. Efforts were made to contact UPCL Director General P.C. Dhayani for the department's response, but he could not be reached. The response of H.P. Sharma could also not be obtained. Their versions will be incorporated if received.

Ranchi PMLA court frames charges against Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren in Ranchi land case

RANCHI, SEP 30

A special PMLA court in Ranchi on Wednesday formally framed charges against Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren in a money laundering case linked to 8.86 acres of land in Ranchi's Bargain circle.

This marks a significant step forward in the judicial proceedings in this case.

Soren appeared before the Special PMLA Court through video conferencing on Wednesday during the hearing. After the framing of the charges, the trial is now set to proceed to the next stage. A total of 17 persons have been named as accused in the case after the ED investigation.

Charges had already been framed against the remaining 16 accused in different phases, while the process concerning Soren was completed on Wednesday. The case is related to the alleged fraudulent acquisition and laundering of proceeds connected to 8.86 acres of land in the Bargain circle area of Ranchi. During the investigation, the ED examined alleged manipulation of land ownership and revenue records, as well as issues related to the purported illegal occupation of the land.

The prosecution before the Special PMLA Court is based on the findings and allegations made by the ED. Before the framing of charges, Soren had approached the Jharkhand High Court seeking a stay on the proceedings before the trial court. He challenged a September 21 order of the Special PMLA Court through a criminal writ petition, arguing that the process of framing charges should not move forward until the ED completed its investigation.

The High Court on Wednesday declined to grant any immediate relief to the Chief Minister. It directed the ED to file a supplementary affidavit and provide a copy to the parties concerned. The next hearing in the matter has been scheduled for October 28. During the proceedings, legal questions were also raised regarding the maintainability of the writ petition, with the ED lodging objections on that ground.

Chetan Kumar Shrivastava Inspects Sairang Railway Station

MALIGAON, 30 SEPTEMBER, 2026:





General Manager, North-east Frontier Railway, Shri Chetan Kumar Shrivastava, inspected Sairang Railway Station on 28thSeptember 2026, as part of his review of railway infrastructure and passenger facilities in the region. He was accompanied by senior officials of Headquarters and Lumding Division.

During the inspection, the General Manager reviewed the overall functioning and development of Sairang Railway Station, with particular emphasis on passenger amenities, operational efficiency, safety arrangements and station infrastructure. He inspected various passenger facilities and reviewed the arrangements being made for the convenience and smooth movement of passengers. The concerned officers briefed the General Manager on the existing facilities, operational aspects and ongoing or proposed development works at the station. Shri Chetan Kumar Shrivastava directed the concerned officials to maintain high standards of cleanliness and passenger convenience and to ensure that the available facilities are properly maintained. The General Manager reviewed the operational preparedness of the station and stressed the importance of maintaining a high level of reliability and service quality. As part of the inspection programme, the General Manager also conducted a window-trailing inspection from Sairang to Bairabi. During the inspection, he reviewed the condition of the track and railway infrastructure, progress of electrification works, newly commissioned facilities and other ongoing developmental works along the section. The inspection also provided an opportunity to assess the scope for further improvement of passenger amenities and station infrastructure in accordance with the growing importance of Sairang as an important railway station serving Mizoram. The General Manager advised the officers to focus on providing a safe, efficient and comfortable travel experience for passengers while ensuring effective utilization and upkeep of railway assets. The inspection forms part of Northeast Frontier Railway's continued efforts to strengthen railway infrastructure, improve passenger amenities and enhance operational efficiency across the region. Regular inspections by senior railway officials help in monitoring the progress of development works, identifying areas requiring attention and ensuring that railway facilities are maintained to the desired standards.

All Indian Muslims are converts, have Lord Ram and Krishna as ancestors: Baba Ramdev

MATHURA, SEP 30



Yoga guru Baba Ramdev on Wednesday remarked all Muslims in India are "converts" and that they should acknowledge Lord Ram and Lord Krishna as their "ancestors" in order to derive strength and unity.

The Yoga guru made the remarks after AIMIM Chief Asaduddin Owaisi said that no political party in India wanted Muslims to have an independent political agency, alleging that the community has been reduced to vote bank.

Speaking to IANS, Baba Ramdev said: "I would urge all my Muslim brothers to recognise that our ancient sages are their ancestors too; Lord Ram and Lord Krishna are their ancestors as well. If Muslims connect with their ancestral roots, they will never feel weak."

"This is because every Muslim in India is a convert. If Hindus and Muslims live together in unity, they will become strong themselves, and the country will also grow stronger," he added.

Earlier this year, National President of the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Minority Morcha, Jamal Siddiqui, had made a similar statement. Siddiqui said: "Muslims who do not believe in Ram and Krishna cannot be called Muslims", while asserting that the revered figures may have a place within Islamic spiritual lineage.

In an interview with a media house, the BJP leader said: "All Muslims are descendants of Lord Ram."

Similar remarks were made by Uttar Pradesh Minister Anand Swaroop Shukla in 2021. He had also said that Lord Ram, Shri Krishna, and Lord Shiva were the ancestors of Indian Muslims and that they should bow to the "land and culture of India".

Meanwhile, Baba Ramdev also reacted to the Lord Shiva-Lord Ram remarks made by Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy . "Sanatan has existed for ages and will continue to do so. Some people previously sowed discord within Sanatan based on caste, class, and community. Now, they claim that Lord Ram is the God of the rich and Lord Shiva is the God of the poor. There is no distinction between Lord Ram, Shri Krishna, Lord Hanuman, Lord Shiva, the Divine Couple (Bhagavan-Bhagavati), Uma-Maheshwar, Laksh-mi-Narayana, Sita-Ram, Radha-Krishna, or Rukmini-Krishna," he said.

The Yoga guru asserted that all those who harbour such "divisive mindsets" are "opposed to Sanatan".

"I appeal to everyone, do not create confusion and do not discriminate, at least not in the name of God," he added. The Telangana Chief Minister had described Lord Shiva as the "God of the poor" and Lord Ram as the "God of the rich", adding that both deities are revered by people. He made the remarks while questioning the BJP's repeated use of the slogan "Jai Shri Ram".

Meeting of the Official Language Implementation Committee

Award Distribution, and Concluding Ceremony of 'RajbhashaPakhwada' (Official Language Fortnight) at CORE"

PRAYAGRAJ, SEP 30:





A meeting of the Official Language Implementation Committee, along with an award distribution ceremony and the concluding event of 'Rajbhasha Pakhwada', was organized at the Central Organization for Railway Electrification (CORE), Prayagraj, on 30.09.2026, under the chairmanship of General Manager Shri Ashok Kumar Verma.

Addressing the meeting, the General Manager remarked that the organization is doing commendable work regarding the Official Language, Hindi. He urged officers and staff to make maximum use of Hindi in their daily tasks and to work in Hindi naturally, shedding any hesitation. He also emphasized the necessity of ensuring 100%compliance with the provisions of Section 3(3) and noted that all tasks including those on the e-Office platform can be easily performed in Hindi. He congratulated the officers and staff of the Official Language Department for organizing various events during the 'Rajbhasha Pakhwada'.

Earlier, in his address, the Chief Official Language Officer and Principal Chief Engineer, Shri J.C. Chaurasia, stated that while there are constitutional provisions, acts, and rules governing the Official Language policy, the guidance provided by senior officers also plays a significant role. He observed that if senior officers themselves issue orders and use Hindi on files, it will certainly have a positive impact on the employees. He stated that a 'Hindi Fortnight' was organized at the CORE Headquarters from September 18, 2026, to September 30, 2026. During this period, the Official Language Department conducted various competitions and programs, in which employees from all departments of the CORE Headquarters participated enthusiastically. I extend my best wishes to the Official Language Department for the success of these events.

On this occasion, employees who won the various competitions held during the Hindi Fortnight were awarded certificates of appreciation by the General Manager.

Officers from various departments including Dr. Sanjay Singh Negi-Chief Administrative Officer, Headquarters and Shri Arpan Kumar-Chief Electrical Engineer as well as Liaison Officers associated with the Official Language section, were present at the meeting. The proceedings were conducted, and the vote of thanks was proposed, by Shri Brijesh Chaudhary, Deputy Chief Official Language Officer and Member-Secretary.

G20 mobilises $470 million to fight Ebola

WASHINGTON

G20 nations and other major donors have pledged more than $470 million in new funding to combat the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo, pushing total global commitments beyond $2 billion since the outbreak began in May, the United States said on Wednesday. The commitments were announced at a G20 Foreign Ministers' meeting convened by the United States to accelerate international action against the outbreak.

The United States, which holds the G20 presidency, also invited major health and humanitarian donors outside the grouping, including Poland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Singapore, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

The Africa CDC, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Pandemic Fund, UNICEF and the World Bank were among the organisations participating.

The G20 chair's statement warned that the outbreak presents unusual difficulties because it is centered in an isolated, conflict-affected area. It also said existing medical tools are not fully effective against the strain involved.

"We commend the health care workers, volunteers, and local communities battling this disease, which—as President Trump and other G7 Leaders recognised in June—poses unique challenges: it is centred in an isolated, conflict-affected area, and existing vaccines, diagnostics, and therapies are not fully effective against this Bundibugyo strain," the statement said.

It called for intensified operations in outbreak zones and stronger preparedness in areas considered at high risk.

The measures include contact tracing, protecting frontline responders, increasing bed capacity, deploying new diagnostics, and investing in vaccine development.

"This disease can be defeated, as shown by the successful end of Uganda's outbreak in August," the statement said.



The United States announced an additional $267 million in health and humanitarian assistance, taking direct US government assistance for the Ebola response to $887 million. The new funding will support Ebola treatment units, wider health services, safe and dignified burial teams and large-scale procurement of personal protective equipment. It will also fund expanded disease surveillance and contact tracing through local implementers.

Washington said it had separately mobilised $350 million in broader humanitarian assistance to the region this year through its global partnership with OCHA. Several G20 members announced additional contributions. The United Kingdom unveiled a new $67.5 million package, bringing its total support to $105.6 million. The funding is intended to strengthen disease surveillance, support frontline health workers and expand access to treatment.

Germany pledged an additional $24.8 million, taking its total contribution to $30.7 million. The money will support laboratories, treatment capacity, health worker training, health care and risk communication. South Korea announced $18 million through global health partners to improve access to vaccines, therapeutics and other medical countermeasures.

France pledged $16 million, bringing its total contribution to $34 million, while Italy announced $11.3 million. Italy's funding will support clinical trials of new vaccines, essential medical supplies and prevention efforts. The UAE announced $10 million. Japan pledged another $5 million in emergency grant aid, taking its overall support to nearly $12.4 million. Australia announced $3.5 million. The World Bank announced another $90 million, including $80 million from its Crisis Response Window and $10 million from the Global Financing Facility to protect essential health services. l



US should pressurise China to end persecution of Uyghurs, Christians and Tibetans: Report

WASHINGTON

The US should support communities who are working to preserve their faith, families, language and culture in the face of Chinese Communist Party (CCP) control. According to former US Senator Sam Brownback, lawmakers should openly engage with Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama and Tibet's democratically elected government in exile, pressurise China to end its persecution of Uyghur Muslims, Falun Gong practitioners, Tibetans and Christians, and hold Chinese officials accountable for severe violations of religious freedom.

The ties between the US and China gained renewed attention during Chinese President Xi Jinping's recent visit to Washington. The meeting between Xi and US President Donald Trump should have drawn attention to the millions of people in China who face government pressure on their faith and how they worship. Under Xi, the CCP has intensified its campaign to "sinicize" religion in China, forcing religious leaders to conform their teachings, leadership and institutions to CCP ideology, Brownback's wrote in an opinion piece for 'Deseret News'.

Christians in China have been facing pressure to keep loyalty to the CCP above the tenets of their faith. The authorities have directed churches to display CCP propaganda and rewrite religious texts to conform to party ideology. Pastors who resist the Chinese government's efforts risk imprisonment, such as Pastor Ezra Jin of the Zion Church, who remained in detention for about a year and was recently released while eight additional leaders of Zion Church remain imprisoned, according to Brownback.

Uyghur Muslims in China have faced an assault on their faith and cultural life, with Chinese authorities destroying mosques, restricting prayer, fasting, religious and cultural dress. Falun Gong practitioners have been arrested and even killed in China.

According to the report, after forcing the Dalai Lama and over 80,000 Tibetans into exile in 1959, the Chinese government has destroyed monasteries, taken action against clergy and criminalised expressions of Tibetan faith. The CCP has also started separating around one million Tibetan children from their families through a boarding school system to weaken their connection to their language, culture and faith, the former US Senator mentioned.

India and Australia discuss strengthening defence cooperation

NEW DELHI

India and Australia held the 13th Army-to-Army Staff Talks in New Delhi from September 28-30, with discussions held on further strengthening defence cooperation and expanding the scope and scale of engagement across areas of shared interest.

The Australian delegation also visited the Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS) for discussions on contemporary security issues and paid homage to India's bravehearts at the National War Memorial.



"The 13th India-Australia Army-to-Army Staff Talks were held in New Delhi from 28–30 Sep 2026, reaffirming the strong partnership and mutual trust between the two Armies. The talks witnessed meaningful discussions on further strengthening bilateral defence cooperation and expanding the scope and scale of engagement across areas of shared interest. The Australian delegation also visited CLAWS for discussions on contemporary security issues and paid homage to the fallen heroes at the National War Memorial," the Indian Army's Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADGPI) stated on X.

Meanwhile, on Wednesday, India's High Commissioner to Australia Nagesh Singh met officers from the Indian Armed Forces and Australian Defence Forces participating in the fifth edition of the General Rawat India Australia Young Officers Exchange Programme and shared his perspective on the growing defence partnership between the two nations.

The Indian High Commission in Australia said that 15 officers from India are participating in the exchange programme alongside their Australian Defence Force mates over the next two weeks.

Earlier this month, Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) Admiral Krishna Swaminathan was on a three-day official visit to Australia.

During his visit, Admiral Swaminathan met Australian Navy Chief Vice Admiral Matthew Buckley at the Russell Office, administrative headquarters of the Australian Defence Force in Canberra, where they discussed ways to deepen maritime partnership and expand engagement between the navies of India and Australia through joint exercises in 2027.

Tibetans in France hold events to mark Tibetan National Identity Preservation Week

PARIS

Tibetan communities and organisations in France observed Tibetan National Identity Preservation Week from September 21-27, aimed at raising awareness and reaffirming efforts to preserve and promote Tibetan identity, language, culture, religion and traditions.

On September 23, Sang-sol (incense offering) was organised at the Pagode de Vincenne, in the presence of monks and local communities. Around 400 people gathered to celebrate Lhakar by eating Tibetan food, wearing traditional Tibetan attire, and taking part in games, including tug-of-war, traditional fold games and Gorshey, according to a statement released by the Central Tibetan Administration.

Various subjects like Tibetan culture and Buddhism, and the life story of Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama were introduced to the students of the weekend schools on Saturdays and Sundays of the fourth week of September.

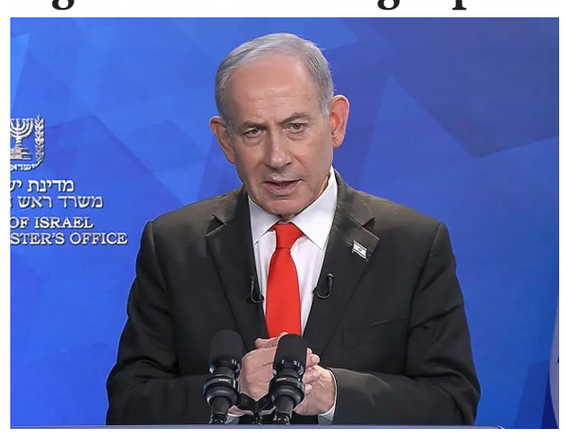


A peace and cultural awareness march was carried out from Place Pasdeloup to Place de la Bastille in Paris on September 27. Over 1,000 people wearing the traditional dress of their respective regions of Tibet participated in the march jointly organised by the six Tibetan organisations in Paris. After the conclusion of the march, Tibetan Community in France President Pema Rinchen addressed the gathering and spoke about the objectives of the march. While addressing the gathering, Thupten Tsering, Coordinator of the Bureau du Tibet in Paris, read out a message from Central Tibetan Administration President Penpa Tsering and spoke about the importance of observing the fourth week of September as Tibetan Identity Preservation Week.

The programme also included a cultural exhibition and prayer session. During the week, Tibetan communities, local organisations and schools held several awareness and cultural programmes, which witnessed the participation of local Tibetans and supporters. The initiatives were aimed at strengthening efforts to preserve and promote the Tibetan language, culture, traditions and national identity among present and future generations, according to the statement released by the Central Tibetan Administration.

The 'Office of Tibet' in Paris urged Tibetans in France to use the Tibetan language, consume traditional Tibetan food and wear traditional Tibetan clothes when attending work, school and other activities. It also urged Tibetans to use social media and other platforms to share information regarding Tibetan culture, identity and traditions with people around the world to contribute to greater awareness and understanding of Tibet's cultural heritage.

Israeli PM says pilot tried to crash Dubai-Tel Aviv flight after stabbing captain



JERUSALEM/DUBAI

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Wednesday that a pilot aboard a Flydubai flight carrying mostly Israeli passengers stabbed the other pilot and apparently tried to crash the plane before passengers and crew subdued him. The aircraft landed safely in Tabuk, Saudi Arabia.

In a video statement, Netanyahu said the suspected attacker had been arrested and was being questioned by Saudi authorities, Xinhua news agency reported. He said that Israel was in continuous contact with "the relevant authorities".

Describing the incident as "extremely serious", the Israeli Prime Minister noted that the aircraft went into a spin and began plunging as it approached Israel. He said an Israeli passenger and a crew member broke into the cockpit and subdued the attacking pilot as he tried "to sabotage" the aircraft's systems, while flight crew members took control of the plane.

Tzvika Mens, who said he helped overpower the attacker, told Israeli state-owned Kan TV news from aboard the plane that he and two others restrained the attacker using the cords from complimentary headphones provided to passengers on the flight.

A replacement Flydubai aircraft was preparing to depart for Israel, but the flight was delayed because some passengers were refusing to board out of fear, according to Mens.

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz described the incident as a "jihadist terror attack" in a statement. Israeli security agencies were on high alert and instructed to prepare for "possible additional threats", according to Netanyahu's office.

Flydubai flight FZ1073 had plunged nearly 14,000 feet in less than 30 seconds before transmitting emergency signals, according to flight-tracking data. Israeli officials earlier said the co-pilot was believed to have stabbed the Captain in a possible attempted "terror attack". Both pilots were hospitalised after the plane landed, Tabuk Airport said.

A flydubai spokesperson confirmed that the flight "experienced an incident" while en route. The aircraft later landed at Tabuk Airport, and all passengers are "safe and accounted for," according to the spokesperson.

Intelligence agencies uncover Jamaat-led plot to topple BNP government: Report

DHAKA

Intelligence agencies in India and Bangladesh have uncovered a "sinister move" by the radical Islamist party Jamaat-e-Islami-led coalition to overthrow the BNP government through a violent movement planned for November, a report has stated.

It noted that the aim of the coalition is to establish a "revolutionary government" based on the July Charter, which envisages a Shariat-driven Islamic state in Bangladesh.

The National Citizens Party (NCP), formed by youth leaders considered close to former Bangladesh interim government's chief advisor Muhammad Yunus, will lead the agitation, which aims to remove current President Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and install Yunus in his place, according to a report in 'The Federal'.

The Islamist coalition leaders, along with a group of retired Bangladeshi army officers including Abdullahil Aman Azmi, involved in their strategic planning, are reportedly frustrated with the ruling BNP government's refusal to implement the July Charter and pave the way for a new Islamist Constitution. The plan is allegedly backed by Pakistan, Turkey and some elements within the US Deep State, the report mentioned.



"So the Islamic strategic planners, led by former Brigadier Abdullahil Aman Azmi, have worked out a two-phase plan for capturing state power. The first phase of Azmi's plan is 'Operation Domon' (suppression), which aims to decimate the Awami League, which is threatening to stage a comeback centering around the return of ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. In this design, the Azmi team has elicited the BNP government's support to decimate the Awami League," Subir Bhaumik wrote in The Federal.

The report highlighted that while Azmi and his associates were working on "Operation Domon", another key member of the cabal, former Bangladesh Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) chief Rezzakul Haider Chowdhury, spent an extended period in Turkey to procure weapons for the proposed Islamist militia now being organised under the cover of an Armed Reserve.

"8,800 radicalised Muslim youths have already been handpicked and are now undergoing month-long combat training, which contains a long module on law and order operations. Clearly, the armed reserve is not for deployment against foreign invaders but actually meant to tackle 'internal enemies'," it stated.

Citing a top Bangladesh military intelligence official, the report said the strategic planning for "Operation Domon" was initiated in July by Brigadier Azmi and his associates, who operate from a Defence Officers Housing Society in Dhaka's Banani. It stated that Pakistani and Turkish intelligence officials serving under diplomatic cover were regular visitors to Azmi's office.

According to the report, Pakistan's envoy in Dhaka, Imran Haider, has frequently visited Islamic orphanages in recent months, where he has been identifying "bright students" for higher studies in Pakistan.

It cited a top Bangladesh National Security & Intelligence (NSI) official who said that the agency flagged the activity as an effort aimed at building squads of suicide bombers for use in Bangladesh and adjoining Indian states. Warning of the possible consequences, the report said, "Failure to stop this Islamist power grab will mean India in future will have to deal with a 'Bengali Pakistan' in the East, which will be part of the US-backed Mecca Alliance."

NEP 2020 brings meaningful changes in India's education landscape

COLOMBO

India's National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has moved from policy vision to tangible changes across the country's education sector in six years since its introduction, a report has stated.

It noted that from strengthening foundational literacy and competency-based learning to promoting multidisciplinary higher education, research, digital inclusion and internationalisation, the policy is steadily transforming India's education system and approach to human capital development.

"Six years after its launch, the National Education Policy 2020 is beginning to move from policy architecture to change at the institutional and classroom levels. Its biggest achievement is fundamentally altering how India thinks about education, shifting from rote learning and rigid disciplines to foundational learning, multidisciplinary education, research, technology, and global integration," a report in the Sri Lankan newspaper 'Daily Mirror' detailed.

According to the report, the trajectory is increasingly positive, with several reforms reaching substantial scale even as some of the more ambitious institutional changes are still underway.



Overhauling an education system serving hundreds of millions of students and involving millions of teachers across the Union and State governments is inherently a long-term endeavour. What stands out, however, is the decisive shift in India's educational policy direction, it mentioned.

"One of NEP 2020's most visible departures from the past is replacing the traditional 10+2 structure with the 5+3+3+4 curricular and pedagogical framework. The reform brings children aged three to eight into the foundational stage, giving early childhood care and education a much more central role. This represents more than an administrative restructuring. It recognises that the foundations of cognitive, linguistic and social development are laid well before a child enters conventional primary school," the report stated.

"The NIPUN Bharat Mission, which aims to ensure foundational literacy and numeracy for every child by 2026–27, has become a central pillar of this transformation. According to government data released in July 2025, NIPUN Bharat and the Vidya Pravesh initiative together reached more than 4.2 crore students across 8.9 lakh schools," it added.

Highlighting that the emphasis towards a more inclusive education system is another visible outcome of NEP, the report said, government programmes supporting the policy have opened up greater educational opportunities for children from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds and girls.

NEP-linked programmes have reportedly enabled over 1.15 lakh children from disadvantaged groups to enrol in residential schools, alongside 7.58 lakh girls.

"Technology is increasingly integral to this inclusion agenda. The PRASHAST application has enabled disability screening, and digital infrastructure has expanded substantially. Government estimates place school internet connectivity at around 72 per cent in 2025. Teacher capacity remains equally important. More than four lakh teachers have undergone training through NISHTHA, reflecting recognition that no education reform can succeed without transforming teachers' capabilities," the report noted.

Net claims of non-residents on India rise to USD 220.3 bn in June: RBI data

MUMBAI: (SEP 30)

Net claims of non-residents on India increased USD 16.5 billion during the April-June quarter of the fiscal year to USD 220.3 billion, mainly due to increase in external liabilities and a decline in foreign-owned assets, according to RBI data.

Accordingly, the ratio of India's international assets to international liabilities moderated to 84.6 per cent in June 2026 from 85.7 per cent a quarter ago, said data on 'India's International Investment Position (IIP), June 2026' released on Wednesday.

"Rise in foreign liabilities of Indian residents was mainly on account of increased direct investment (USD 15.7 billion) and other investment (USD 4.2 billion) compensating for the decline in portfolio equity investments (USD 14 billion)," the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said.

Sensex ends marginally lower, Nifty falls 0.4% as crude, FII selling weigh

Benchmark indices ended Wednesday on a mixed note, with the Sensex closing marginally lower while the Nifty slipped 0.42%. A recovery in several large-cap stocks and the broader market was offset by weakness in healthcare, pharma, metals and consumer stocks, while elevated crude prices and continued foreign investor selling kept sentiment cautious.



The Sensex closed at 72,480.29, down 48.78 points or 0.07%, while the Nifty 50 ended at 22,620.45, lower by 95.75 points or 0.42%. he market had opened higher, with the Sensex gaining around 185 points in early trade, but the gains faded as the session progressed.

The broader market was relatively resilient. The Nifty Midcap 100 ended almost flat, while the Smallcap 100 gained 0.27%. The Nifty Midcap 50 was down just 0.01%, while the Nifty 500 fell 0.13%. India VIX, the market's volatility gauge, rose 0.61%. Among sectoral indices, Nifty Media was the top gainer, rising 2.74%, while Nifty Realty gained 1.62%. Nifty PSU Bank rose 0.54%, Private Bank gained 0.95% and Oil & Gas advanced 0.44%. However, healthcare stocks remained under pressure. Nifty Healthcare fell 2.57%, while Nifty Pharma declined 1.84%. Nifty Metal fell 1.50% and Consumer Durables dropped 1.35%.

BANKING AND IT STOCKS SUPPORT SENSEX

Several large-cap stocks gained during the session, helping limit the decline in the benchmarks. Kotak Mahindra Bank rose 2.86%, ICICI Bank gained 2.31%, IndiGo advanced 2.05% and Axis Bank rose 1.41%. Tech Mahindra, Hindustan Unilever, BEL and TCS were also among the gainers. However, selling was seen in several heavyweight stocks. Eternal fell 2.31%, Sun Pharma declined 2.15%, Titan dropped 2.01%, Tata Steel and Adani Ports fell 1.76% each, while HDFC Bank declined 1.43%.

CRUDE OIL AND FII SELLING REMAIN KEY RISKS

Brent crude rose 0.82% to $103.43 a barrel, while WTI crude gained 0.37% to $89.71. Higher oil prices remain a concern for India because of its dependence on crude imports and the potential impact on inflation, the rupee and corporate margins.

Foreign investor selling also continued to weigh on sentiment. FIIs sold Rs 9,980 crore worth of Indian shares on Tuesday, their biggest outflow in around four months. They have sold around $2.7 billion from Indian equities in September so far.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said the relief rally lost momentum as investors booked profits at higher levels and oil prices rebounded.

"The relief rally loses its steam with profit booking at the higher levels, followed by a rebound in oil prices. The elevated global bond yields continue to remain a key overhang, limiting the scope for sustained risk-taking," Nair said. He added that large-cap stocks, particularly in banking and IT, gained as investors looked for relatively attractive valuations and a higher margin of safety amid macroeconomic uncertainty. "The overall market tone remains cautious; investors continue to monitor the trajectory of crude oil prices, bond yields, inflation expectations, and the potential implications for global monetary policy," Nair said.

SEPTEMBER SET TO BE WORST MONTH SINCE MARCH

The Sensex and Nifty have now logged their steepest monthly decline since March, with foreign investors stepping up selling amid elevated oil prices, high global bond yields and concerns over inflation. The rupee, however, gained 0.17% against the US dollar to 95.82. Despite Wednesday's recovery, the currency remains among the weaker-performing Asian currencies over the past month and quarter, with elevated crude prices adding pressure. For the market, the next major triggers remain crude oil prices, FII flows, US bond yields and developments around the US-Iran conflict.

Coca-Cola Bottling Unit May File IPO Papers in December

Coca-Cola is looking at a valuation of around $10 billion for the bottling business, according to report.

Coca-Cola is considering filing a draft prospectus in December for the proposed initial public offering (IPO) of its Indian bottling business, Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages Pvt, Bloomberg reported, citing people familiar with the matter. The Atlanta-based drinks company has also added Axis Capital and IIFL Capital Services to the group of banks working on the IPO, the people said. They asked not to be identified as the discussions are private.

COCA-COLA EYES $10 BILLION VALUATION

The IPO is expected to largely involve existing investors selling their shares, according to the people cited in the report. Coca-Cola is looking at a valuation of around $10 billion for the bottling business.

Bloomberg News had earlier reported that the IPO could raise around $1 billion.

However, discussions are still ongoing and details such as the timing, valuation and structure of the IPO could change. Coca-Cola is also working with Kotak Mahindra Capital, Citigroup, JPMorgan Chase and Morgan Stanley on the proposed IPO, local media reports have said. A listing would help Coca-Cola tap strong investor demand for new offerings in India and unlock value from one of the country's largest bottling operations. India's IPO market has seen strong activity in recent months. IPO proceeds reached almost $10 billion between July and September, the highest amount raised in any quarter, according to Bloomberg data. The strong fundraising was helped by blockbuster offerings from the National Stock Exchange of India and SBI Funds Management.

More than $13 billion has already been raised through nearly 250 IPOs in India, the report mentioned, putting the country on track for one of its strongest years for IPO fundraising.

Jio Anniversary Offer on JioBharat: Celebrating 10 Years of Connecting Bharat

Mumbai , Sep 30: Celebrating 10 years of connecting India, Jio has launched the special Jio Anniversary Offer on JioBharat, making it easier and more affordable than ever for millions of feature phone users to upgrade to digital life. Marking a decade of transforming India's digital landscape, Jio has launched a special Jio Anniversary Offer on JioBharat. Launched to add special celebrations this festive season, the limited-period offer combines affordability and connectivity to help more Indians experience the benefits of digital life. Under the offer, eligible JioBharat 4G phones are available for ₹1,499 along with six months of complimentary recharge benefits, including 14GB of data every month and unlimited HD voice calling, subject to applicable terms and conditions.

Bringing more Indians online

Festivals bring families and communities together. Through the Jio Anniversary Offer, Jio extends that spirit of togetherness into the digital world by making connectivity more accessible and affordable for millions across Bharat. The offer reinforces Jio's commitment to expanding digital inclusion by bringing more Indians into the country's digital growth story.

A smarter upgrade for 2G users

For many 2G users, staying connected typically requires monthly recharges of around ₹199, resulting in an expenditure of nearly ₹1,200 over six months on connectivity alone.

With the Jio Anniversary Offer, customers receive a 4G-enabled JioBharat phone plus six months of connectivity benefits for ₹1,499. This effectively brings down the cost of upgrading from a 2G device to a feature-rich 4G digital phone to just ₹299. For little more than the cost of six months of basic connectivity, users can step into a richer digital experience powered by Jio's nationwide 4G network.

More than just a Phone

Unlike traditional 2G feature phones that primarily offer calling and messaging, JioBharat opens the door to a complete digital ecosystem:

• Entertainment: Including access to 500+ TV channels through JioTV; live cricket, movies and entertainment on JioHotstar; and millions of songs and music content.

NLCIL aims to build an energy enterprise that is resilient

NEYVELI, SEP 30

diversified and capable of contributing to India's evolving energy needs says NLCIL CMD at the 70th Annual General Meeting Of Company - Announces 38.5% Dividend For Fy 2025-26



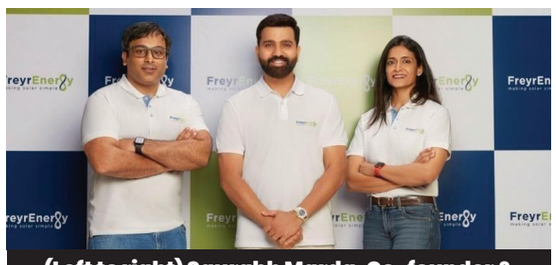
The 70th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of NLC India Limited, Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the administrative control of the Ministry of Coal, Government of India, was held on 29.09.2026 at the Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Hall through Video Conferencing (VC).

The meeting was presided over by Dr. Prasanna Kumar Acharya, Chairman-cum-Managing Director & Director (Finance) Addl. Charge. Board Members including Dr. Suresh Chandra Suman, Director (Mines) (through VC), Shri Samir Swarup, Director (Human Resource) & (Power) Addl.Charge, Shri Rajesh Pratap Singh Sisodia, Director (Planning & Projects), Shri Anil Meshram, Government Nominee Director (through VC), Shri Gopal Singh, Government Nominee Director (through VC), Shri Pradeep Nayan, Presidential Nominee (Ministry of Coal),(through VC) Shri Poonam Chandrakar and Shri Sushanta Kumar Panda, Company Secretary, participated. Dr. Prasanna Kumar Acharya, CMD, shared the Company's financial and operational performance, sectoral outlook, expansion initiatives, Safety, Environmental and Social commitments and opportunities ahead under the theme "From Resources to Resilience." He stated that NLCIL had reported a consolidated Profit Before Tax (PBT) of ₹3,875 Crore and an all-time high Profit After Tax (PAT) of ₹3,769 Crore, marking a growth of 4.84% and 38.91% respectively over the previous year. He also said that the revenue from operations reached ₹17,490 Crore, while EBITDA touched an all-time high of ₹7,475 Crore, reflecting a growth of 14.44% and 14.78% respectively. Capital expenditure for the year reached a record ₹9,131 Crore, with net worth expanding by 14.96% to ₹21,525 Crore. He announced a total dividend payout of 38.5% (₹533.86 Crore) for FY 2025-26, including the interim dividend of 36%. Highlighting physical milestones, he reported an all-time high annual coal production of 19.14 MT and dispatch of 17.69 MT from Talabira-II & III OCP, alongside generating a record 2.26 Billion Units of green energy.

He noted key operational achievements including the commencement of coal production at Pachwara South Coal Mine, full commercial operation of all three 660 MW units at NUPPL Ghatampur, and the expansion of the Group's renewable portfolio to 1,785 MW. Outlining NLCIL's transformation into a diversified energy enterprise as it enters its 70th year, he highlighted the roadmap toward achieving 20 GW power capacity and over 100 MTPA mining capacity under Vision 2047, driven by renewable expansion, battery energy storage systems (BESS), green hydrogen pilot projects, overburden-to-M-sand plants, and strategic diversification into critical minerals.

Later, CMD, NLCIL interacted with shareholders through VC and answered all queries to their satisfaction.

The AGM served as a platform to engage with Shareholders, highlight the Company's strong performance, outline growth strategies and reaffirm its commitment to sustainable value creation for all stakeholders.



(Left to right) Saurabh Marda, Co-founder & Managing Director, Freyr Energy; Rohit Sharma; and Radhika Choudary, Co-founder & Director, Freyr Energy. Picture 2: Rohit Sharma joins Freyr Energy as Brand Ambassador

Rohit Sharma Joins Freyr Energy as its First Brand Ambassador

Launches 'Solar Ho, Toh Freyr Ho!' Campaign India's World Cup-winning captain fronts a nationwide campaign urging families to choose a rooftop solar partner they can count on for the next 30 years

Hyderabad, September 30, 2026: Freyr Energy, India's second-largest residential rooftop solar company under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, today announced Rohit Sharma, India's World Cup-winning captain, as its first-ever brand ambassador. The association launches with 'Solar Ho, Toh Freyr Ho!', a nationwide campaign built on a simple idea: rooftop solar is a 30-year decision, and it deserves a company that delivers year after year.

The partnership brings together two records of consistency and benchmark-setting. Rohit Sharma has spent nearly two decades delivering at the highest level of international cricket, setting standards others now measure themselves against. Freyr Energy has done the same on India's rooftops for more than a decade, designing, financing, installing and servicing 20,000+ solar systems across 40+ cities, and introducing industry firsts such as its customer app, self-cleaning solar systems and solar experience centres. The launch comes at a turning point for the category, with the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana bringing millions of Indian families to rooftop solar for the first time. Eligible households can access government subsidy support of up to ₹78,000, while financing options at low and competitive interest rates can further reduce the upfront financial burden of making the switch. A solar system is meant to perform for decades, long after installation day, so the real risk for a family is not whether to go solar, but whom to trust with it. 'Solar Ho, Toh Freyr Ho!' is built to answer that question.

Saurabh Marda, Co-founder & Managing Director, Freyr Energy, said,* "Our aim has always been to raise the bar for what Indian homeowners can expect from rooftop solar, not just on installation day but across the 30-year life of their system. Rohit has spent his career doing exactly that in cricket, which made him the natural choice as our first brand ambassador."

Radhika Choudary, Co-founder & Director, Freyr Energy, said,* "When a family puts solar on its roof, they are trusting a company for the next 30 years. That company has to show up every time and stand behind the family's decision long after the system is switched on. 'Solar Ho, Toh Freyr Ho!' says that in five words, and no one says it better than Rohit."

Speaking about the association, Rohit Sharma, exclusively managed by RISE Worldwide, said,* "Protecting the environment has been close to my heart for years. Rooftop solar gives families a chance to do their bit for the planet, and it's important to have a partner you can trust for the journey. That's what drew me to Freyr Energy. I'm happy to be part of their campaign, encouraging more families to embrace solar and choose a cleaner, more sustainable future."

Rajan Mahalingam, Marketing Head, Freyr Energy, said,* "'Solar Ho, Toh Freyr Ho!' is built to make Freyr the first name families think of when they consider rooftop solar. Rohit's reputation for consistency and trust mirrors what we promise every customer, and that gives the campaign an authenticity audiences will connect with. We look forward to taking this message to millions of homes across India."

The 'Solar Ho, Toh Freyr Ho!' campaign, is led by a series of creatives and ad films from 30th September 2026.

About Freyr Energy

Founded in 2014 by Saurabh Marda and Radhika Choudary, Freyr Energy is India's second-largest residential rooftop solar company under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, with 20,000+ installations for homes and businesses across 40+ cities. The company brings system design, installation, financing assistance and technology-enabled customer support under one roof to make the switch to rooftop solar simple and dependable.



ASK Investment Managers to acquire SageOne for Rs 1,500-2,000 crore

MUMBAI: (SEP 30)

Blackstone-backed ASK Investment Managers on Wednesday said it has entered into definitive agreements to acquire asset manager SageOne Investment Managers to strengthen its equity investments.

While the official statement did not disclose the acquisition amount, people in the know pegged the consideration between Rs 1,500 and 2,000 crore.

SageOne founder and chief investment officer Samit Vartak will reinvest an undisclosed amount in ASK and become chief investment officer (equities) of the combined asset management business, the release said.

Mayura Hospitals Receives Digital Health Innovation Award for Data-Driven Diabetes Care

Telangana Governor Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla presents the honour to Founder & CEO Dr. Hanu Yedluri at the National AYUSH Festival 2026

HYDERABAD, SEPTEMBER 30, 2026



Mayura Hospitals, the Hyderabad-based integrated Ayurveda and Allopathy hospital network, has won the Digital Health Innovation Award at the National AYUSH Festival 2026 – Ayur Mahotsava, in recognition of its technology-led approach to diabetes and metabolic health. Dr. Hanu Yedluri, Founder & CEO of Mayura Hospitals, received the award from Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla, Hon'ble Governor of Telangana. The festival ran from September 25 to 27, 2026, at the International Trade Expo Centre, Noida. It was organised by the Ayur Vaidya Foundation with the support of the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, in association with the AYUSH Export Promotion Council (AYUSHEXCIL). The award recognises Mayura's "Reversal, Remission, Restoration" approach. The programme combines genomic information, clinical biomarkers, continuous wearable data, personal and family medical history, diet and Ayurvedic constitution (Prakruthi) to build personalised care plans for patients with diabetes and metabolic disorders. Rather than relying mainly on periodic blood sugar readings and medication adjustments, the model builds a fuller picture of each patient's health and uses it to guide nutrition, fitness, medical care and ongoing monitoring. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Yedluri said: "According to ICMR-INDIAB 2023 estimates, India has around 101 million people living with diabetes and another 136 million with prediabetes. At this scale, diabetes care must move beyond simply adding more medication over time. We need to understand each individual's biology, lifestyle and environment far more comprehensively. "At Mayura, we look at a person's genetic information, blood biomarkers, heart rate, sleep, family history, lifestyle and diet, and bring these insights together into a personalised care plan. Our objective is not merely to manage diabetes, but to explore the possibility of reversal wherever clinically appropriate. This award recognises the work of our doctors, healthcare teams and the patients who have placed their trust in this approach."

He added: "Being recognised on a national AYUSH platform is an important milestone. It shows the growing relevance of combining traditional systems of medicine with modern healthcare, data and digital technologies. Our next objective is to take this integrated model to more districts across Telangana and then to other parts of the country." Integrating Ayurveda, Allopathy and Digital Health Mayura combines Allopathy, Ayurveda and Panchakarma with its 3F Protocol, which covers low-GI nutrition, structured fitness and supervised fasting. Each programme is designed and monitored by a multidisciplinary team of Allopathy and Ayurveda physicians according to the patient's needs.

The hospital's wider ecosystem includes:

- Genareva, a health-tech platform
- Fight Against Diabetes, a public health initiative
- NadiIQ Smart Ring, for continuous monitoring of selected health parameters
- InstaEMI.com, offering healthcare financing solutions
- Together, these bring DNA and laboratory testing, personalised nutrition, clinical care, fitness and continuous monitoring under one coordinated system.

About Mayura Hospitals

Mayura Hospitals is an integrated Ayurveda and Allopathy hospital network headquartered in Hyderabad, with centres in Miyapur, Sri Nagar Colony, Dilsukh Nagar and IDPL Colony. Guided by its "Reversal, Remission, Restoration" philosophy, it combines modern medicine, Ayurveda, Panchakarma, low-GI nutrition, structured fitness and continuous monitoring in the care of diabetes and other chronic metabolic disorders.



Modern Science

Exploring New Frontiers

Science has become one of the strongest forces shaping everyday life. From artificial intelligence and advanced medicine to space exploration, clean energy and climate research, scientific progress is changing the way people work, communicate, travel, grow food and understand the world around them. What was once considered distant or experimental is increasingly becoming part of ordinary life.

The present scientific era is different from earlier periods because progress is taking place across several fields at the same time. Computing is accelerating scientific research, biotechnology is opening new possibilities in medicine, space missions are expanding knowledge beyond Earth, while climate science is helping societies understand environmental risks. At the same time, scientists are working on technologies that could transform energy, transportation, agriculture and manufacturing.

Science today is therefore not limited to laboratories or universities. It is closely connected with economies, public health, education, industry and daily life.

Artificial Intelligence Becomes a Scientific Tool

Artificial intelligence has emerged as one of the most visible technologies of the present scientific era. While AI is widely associated with chatbots and digital assistants, its importance to science extends much further. Researchers are increasingly using machine-learning systems to examine enormous quantities of data, identify patterns and accelerate experiments. In medicine, AI can assist researchers in studying medical images, analysing biological information and identifying potential drug candidates. In astronomy, algorithms help scientists process observations from telescopes and identify objects that would be difficult to detect manually. In climate research, computational models are being used to analyse weather patterns, ocean behaviour and changes in the Earth's environment. One of the major advantages of AI is its ability to process information at a scale that would be difficult for humans alone. However, scientists also recognise that AI-generated results need careful testing and validation. Scientific research still depends on reliable data, reproducible methods and human judgment. The relationship between science and AI is therefore becoming increasingly collaborative, with machines helping researchers handle complexity while scientists remain responsible for interpreting results.

Medicine Moves Towards More Precise Treatment

Medical science is also entering a period of rapid change. Traditional medicine often relies on treatments that work across large groups of patients, but advances in genetics and molecular biology are making more personalised approaches possible. Researchers are studying how genetic differences influence disease and how individual patients respond to particular treatments. This is contributing to the development of precision medicine, in which therapies can increasingly be selected according to the biological characteristics of a patient or disease. Gene-based technologies have also become an important area of research. Scientists are investigating ways to correct, replace or modify genetic material associated with certain diseases. Gene-editing techniques have opened new avenues for research into inherited disorders, cancer and other medical conditions. Another major area is the development of new vaccines and biological therapies. The experience of the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated how quickly scientific research can move when laboratories, governments, universities and pharmaceutical companies work on a common challenge. At the same time, medical scientists continue to study ageing, neurological disorders, antimicrobial resistance and chronic diseases. The future of healthcare will increasingly depend on combining biology, computing, engineering and data science.

The Human Brain Remains a Major Frontier

Despite advances in medicine and technology, the human brain remains one of science's greatest mysteries. Scientists continue to investigate how billions of neurons communicate, how memories are formed and how consciousness emerges. Neuroscience has benefited from improved imaging techniques and computational tools. Researchers can now study brain activity in greater detail and investigate connections between different regions of the brain. The growing connection between neuroscience and computer science has also led to research into brain-computer interfaces. These systems aim to establish communication between neural activity and external devices. Although the technology remains under development, researchers are investigating its potential to help people with certain neurological disabilities interact with computers or assistive technologies. Understanding the brain could eventually improve approaches to neurological and psychiatric disorders, but scientists emphasise that many fundamental questions remain unanswered.

Space Science Enters a New Era

Space exploration continues to expand humanity's understanding of the universe. Governments and private companies are investing in rockets, satellites, planetary missions and space-based observatories. Modern space telescopes are allowing scientists to study distant galaxies, stars and planets with unprecedented detail. Researchers are particularly interested in exoplanets, which are planets outside our solar system. Thousands have been identified, and scientists are examining their atmospheres and physical characteristics to understand how planets form and whether some environments could potentially support life. The Moon and Mars remain important destinations for scientific research. Lunar missions are helping scientists investigate the Moon's surface, resources and geological history, while Mars missions continue to study its rocks, atmosphere and evidence of ancient water. Space science also has practical importance. Satellites support weather forecasting, communications, navigation, agriculture, disaster management and environmental monitoring. As space technology develops, the boundary between space research and everyday life is becoming increasingly important.

Climate Science Gains Greater Importance

Few scientific fields have such a direct connection with human society as climate science. Researchers are studying changes in temperature, rainfall, oceans, glaciers, forests and atmospheric conditions to understand how Earth's climate is changing. Modern climate research combines observations from satellites, ground stations, ocean systems and computer models. Scientists use these sources to study both long-term trends and short-term events. Climate science is also closely connected with energy research. Governments and industries are exploring ways to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions while meeting growing energy demand. This has increased interest in solar power, wind energy, batteries, green hydrogen, carbon-management technologies and other approaches. The scientific challenge is not simply developing cleaner technologies. Researchers must also examine their efficiency, cost, environmental impact and ability to operate at large scale.

The Race for Better Energy

Energy science is undergoing significant transformation. Solar and wind technologies have become increasingly important components of electricity systems, while battery research is attempting to improve energy storage. Energy storage is particularly important because renewable sources such as solar and wind do not produce electricity at exactly the same time that consumers need it. Better batteries and other storage systems could help balance electricity supply and demand. Scientists are also researching next-generation nuclear technologies and fusion energy. Nuclear fusion attempts to reproduce the process that powers the Sun, potentially offering a new source of energy if the considerable scientific and engineering challenges can be overcome. At present, fusion remains an area of research rather than a widely deployed commercial energy source. Nevertheless, continuing progress illustrates the long-term nature of scientific development.

Quantum Science Opens a New Frontier

Quantum science is another area attracting growing attention. At very small scales, particles behave according to principles that are very different from everyday experience. Researchers are learning to control some of these properties for computing, communication and sensing.

Quantum computers are designed to perform certain types of calculations using quantum mechanical principles. They are not expected to simply replace conventional computers, but scientists believe they could eventually provide advantages for specialised problems. Quantum sensors could also offer highly precise measurements, while quantum communication research is exploring new approaches to secure information transfer. The field remains technically challenging, but investment by governments, universities and technology companies is increasing. Its eventual impact may depend on how successfully researchers overcome problems involving stability, error correction and large-scale engineering.

Agriculture Becomes More Scientific

Agriculture is also being transformed by science. With growing populations, changing weather patterns and pressure on land and water resources, farmers increasingly need technologies that improve productivity while reducing waste. Precision agriculture uses sensors, satellite imagery, drones and data analysis to monitor crops and soil. Farmers can use this information to make more targeted decisions about irrigation, fertilisers and pest management. Hydroponics, vertical farming, protected cultivation and controlled-environment agriculture are also attracting attention, particularly in areas where land or water is limited. Biotechnology is contributing to crop improvement, while research into soil health and biological pest control is helping scientists develop more sustainable agricultural practices. The future of farming is therefore likely to combine traditional agricultural knowledge with digital tools, biological science and improved resource management.

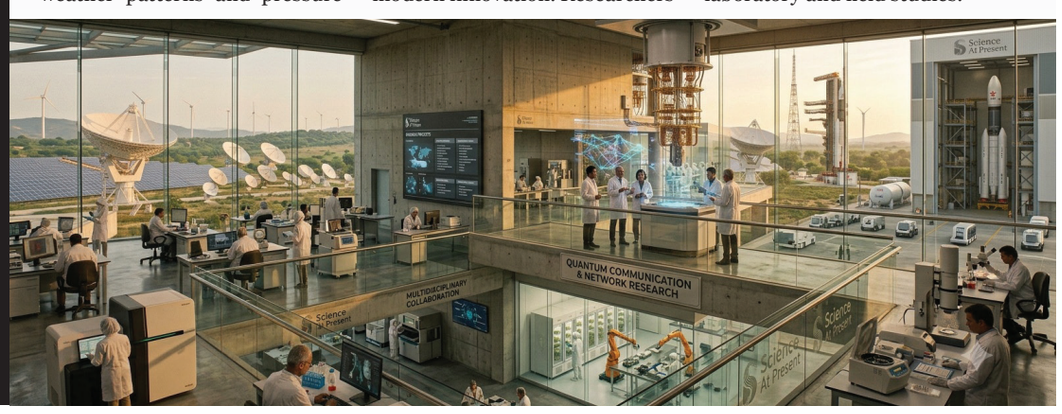
Materials Science Changes Industry

Many technological advances depend on materials that did not exist or could not previously be produced at the required performance levels. Materials science is therefore an important but often less visible part of modern innovation. Researchers are developing stronger, lighter and more efficient materials for transportation, construction, electronics and energy systems. Nanotechnology allows scientists to manipulate materials at extremely small scales, potentially producing new electrical, optical, chemical or mechanical properties.

New materials are also important for batteries, solar cells, semiconductors and medical devices. As industries demand smaller electronic components and more efficient energy systems, materials research becomes increasingly central to technological progress.Modern science depends heavily on computing. Researchers working in fields ranging from particle physics to biology generate enormous datasets that cannot be analysed using traditional methods alone. High-performance computing allows scientists to simulate complex systems, model physical processes and analyse large datasets. Cloud computing has expanded access to computational resources, while AI is adding another layer of analytical capability. This has changed the nature of scientific research. Experiments remain essential, but simulations and data analysis increasingly work alongside laboratory and field studies.

The Future of Science

The future of science is likely to be increasingly interdisciplinary. Problems such as climate change, ageing, energy security, food production and space exploration cannot be solved by a single scientific field. Biologists will work with computer scientists, engineers with physicists, medical researchers with data specialists and environmental scientists with economists and policymakers. Such collaboration is already visible in many research programmes. The next generation of scientific breakthroughs may therefore emerge at the intersection of different disciplines rather than within isolated fields. Science at present is ultimately about more than technological achievement. It is about expanding knowledge while finding practical ways to improve human life and protect the planet. Artificial intelligence, biotechnology, space science, climate research, quantum technology, advanced materials and clean energy are all developing simultaneously, creating a period of remarkable scientific activity. The most important feature of modern science may be the speed at which discoveries move from research laboratories into society. A scientific idea can now influence healthcare, agriculture, communications, transportation or industry within a relatively short period. Yet progress also brings responsibility. New technologies need careful testing, ethical consideration and responsible use. Scientific advancement is most valuable when it is guided by evidence, transparency and concern for society. As humanity confronts challenges that cross national and disciplinary boundaries, science will remain one of the principal tools for understanding those challenges and developing possible solutions. The story of science today is therefore not simply about discovering what exists. It is increasingly about understanding how knowledge can be used to build a more capable, sustainable and informed future.



SHORT NEWS

Irani Cup

We are ready to go, says JKCA as high-profile cricket returns to Srinagar after decades



SRINAGAR: The Sher-i-Kashmir Stadium, a venue that has witnessed both the highs and disruptions of cricket in the Valley, is set to turn a new page when it hosts Thursday's Irani Cup clash between Jammu and Kashmir and the Rest of India. The beautiful venue has been cleared to host the prestigious red-ball fixture, with the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) racing in time to complete the required arrangements for broadcasting, spectators and other match-day operations. For JKCA, preparing the stadium for a fixture of this stature meant creating facilities that were not previously available at the ground, particularly for live broadcasting.

Asian Games

President Murmu congratulates Kapil Pokhariya, Sunil Kumar



NEW DELHI: President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday congratulated Indian boxers Kapil Pokhariya and wrestler Sunil Kumar after they secured bronze medals at the Asian Games 2026. Kapil claimed the bronze medal in the men's 90 kg boxing event after losing 1-4 to reigning world champion Turabek Khabibullaev of Uzbekistan in the semifinal. Kapil made a bright start and found success with combinations during the opening round, but Turabek's speed, physicality and accuracy gradually shifted the contest in his favour. The Uzbek boxer was awarded the first round unanimously.

2nd ODI: Gill's unbeaten 223, Rohit's century set up India's record chase in run-fest

GUWAHATI



Skippers usually ask for the heavy roller after enduring 50 overs of absolute leather-hunting in humid conditions as a matter of routine, but Shubman Gill asked for it and clearly knew what was coming. What followed over the next three-and-a-half hours at the ACA Stadium in Guwahati was an absolute, unmitigated carnage of historical proportions.

Driven by a record-shattering unbeaten 223 off 133 balls by skipper Gill and a vintage 75-ball 101 from his opening partner Rohit Sharma, India pulled off their highest successful men's ODI run-chase by hunting down a monumental 406-run target set by the West Indies to seal an eight-wicket win with 39 balls to spare. It also marked the second-highest successful run-chase of all time in 50-over cricket, after South Africa hunted down 438 against Australia in 2006, as India made a daunting multi-hundred target look like effortless work.

Earlier, the West Indies had posted a mammoth 405/7 after being sent in to bat, riding on sensational centuries from Amir Jangoo (114), captain Shai Hope (104) and John Campbell (101). On any other day, a 400-plus total would have comfortably guaranteed victory. But on a humid night in Guwahati, Gill ensured the match would belong entirely to India.

Coming into the chase requiring a steep 8.12 runs per over, the dynamic Indian duo extinguished the threat within the first powerplay itself. Rohit and Gill launched a furious, synchronised assault of boundaries that left Shamar Joseph, Jayden Seales, and Alzarri Joseph utterly bewildered.

India motored to its fifty in seven overs before sprinting to 100 inside 12 overs. Rohit got to his half-century off 32 balls, while Gill was even more ruthless – after getting his fifty in 39 balls, he registered his hundred off just 62 deliveries.

By the time India reached 200 in 21.1 overs, their fastest team double-hundred in 50-over cricket, the West Indies attack was visually demoralised. Keacy Carty dropping Rohit on 84 off wrist-spinner Vitel Lawes only compounded their misery.

The masterclass opening stand finally came to an end at 255 runs, the highest opening partnership for India in an ODI chase, when Jayden Seales trapped Rohit lbw with an off-cutter as Rohit's stunning hundred also saw him cross the monumental milestone of 12,000 ODI runs.

Virat Kohli made a brief, breezy 29 off 19 balls, including three fours and a six, before holing out to a brilliant boundary-line relay catch by Sherfane Rutherford off Shamar Joseph. But by then, India had reduced the remainder of a chase to a mere formality.

He may not have hit the winning runs at the end, but this historic night unequivocally belonged to Gill, who played an absolute epic in Guwahati. Battling severe leg cramps in the extreme humidity during the closing stage of the chase, Gill continued to pull, drive, and loft with supreme elegance and disdain to hit 26 boundaries and eight sixes at a monstrous strike rate of 167.67.

Gill reached his 150 off a staggering 89 balls before bringing up his double century off just 117 deliveries with a single off Lawes in the 39th over. In doing so, he broke Ishan Kishan's record (126 balls) for the fastest ODI double-century in world cricket.

It was also Gill's second career ODI double century, making him the only captain in cricket history to score double tons in both Tests and ODIs while leading the side. His unbeaten 223 also surpassed Glenn Maxwell's 201 not out against Afghanistan in 2023 to become the highest individual score in an ODI run-chase.

Fittingly, Ruturaj Gaikwad provided calm support at the end with an unbeaten 31 off 37 balls and got the winning single to complete a legendary victory and spark wild celebrations in the Indian dressing room and across the stands.

Previously, a pin-drop silence settled over a packed Guwahati crowd as West Indies stunned the hosts into morgue-like quiet, powering to their first-ever 400-plus ODI total. In just the sixth instance in ODI history of three centurions in a single innings, Campbell blitzed the fifth-fastest hundred for West Indies off 65 balls, while Hope surpassed Brian Lara with his 20th ODI century, and Jangoo matched the tempo with a blazing 114 off 77 balls.

Filling in for the injured Justin Greaves, Campbell set the early tempo with a 29-ball fifty, and reached 69 off 39 inside the powerplay. Hope provided class and stability to prevent a collapse similar to Trivandrum, while Jangoo was arguably the pick of the trio, dominating the middle overs and ensuring the off-colour Indian attack got no respite.

Prasidh Krishna started with a maiden, but the innings turned quickly once Campbell found his range. Auqib Nabi, making his ODI debut, was taken for 17 runs in the fourth over by Campbell. Keacy Carty fell for nine in the fifth over when Naman Dhir held a diving catch at cover point off Prasidh, after the third umpire confirmed the fingers were under the ball.

Shai Hope walked in, and Campbell kept going as Prasidh conceded 22 in the seventh over, with the latter hitting a six and three fours, as the West Indies reached 50 in 6.1 overs. Campbell brought up his fifty in 29 balls, the fastest for West Indies against India in ODIs, and added another six off Gurnoor Brar in the following over, apart from carting Dhir for boundaries.

After the West Indies closed the power-play at 96/1, Campbell then took only 65 balls to reach his hundred, the second fastest by a West Indian in ODIs, but was out for 101 when he top-edged a pull off Brar to deep square leg. Hope, meanwhile, was dropped on 15 by Kuldeep off his own bowling and on 27 by Virat Kohli at mid-wicket.

He reached his fifty in 53 balls and then got his fourth ODI century against India off 89 deliveries. He fell for 104 when Kuldeep, who had gone wicketless until then, forced a slog and Nabi took a simple catch at third man. Jangoo was steady in his strokeplay and went from 59 off 54 balls to 100 off 70 deliveries. He cut Naman, Kuldeep Yadav and Ravindra Jadeja square on the off side repeatedly.

Though Sherfane Rutherford skied Brar to substitute Yashasvi Jaiswal for a golden duck, and Jangoo fell after cutting Jadeja to Ruturaj Gaikwad at backward point. By that stage, the West Indies had three centurions in one ODI innings, only the sixth such instance in the format's history.

Kuldeep had Keemo Paul caught at long-on, and got his 200th ODI wicket in 123 games - only Mohammed Shami (104) has reached the mark in fewer matches among Indians. Jadeja removed Alzarri Joseph by having him caught at deep mid-wicket, but Roston Chase (29 not out off 25) and Shamar Joseph (14 not out off 8) ensured a big finish by adding 36 runs from the last five overs to take the West Indies past 400.

India's attack took a heavy beating. Nabi conceded 84 runs, the most by an Indian bowler on ODI debut, going past Karsan Ghavri's 83 against England at Lord's in 1975. Brar, Jadeja and Kuldeep took two scalps each, but had high economy rates.

Though India will be hugely worried over the lack of penetration and impact created by their pacers in consecutive games, they will be pleased with Gill, the top-ranked ODI batter, and Rohit sharing an epic stand and helping them get over the line with ridiculous ease.

Brief Scores:
West Indies 405/7 in 50 overs (Amir Jangoo 114, Shai Hope 104, John Campbell 101; Kuldeep Yadav 2-65, Ravindra Jadeja 2-75) lost to India 406/2 in 43.3 overs (Shubman Gill 223 not out, Rohit Sharma 101; Shamar Joseph 1-52, Jayden Seales 1-78) by eight wickets.

Nigar Sultana to lead Bangladesh women in historic Australia ODI series

DHAKA



Bangladesh have announced a 16-member squad for their upcoming three-match women's ODI series against Australia, with regular captain Nigar Sultana Joty set to lead the side in what will be a historic tour for the team. Spinner Nahida Akter has been named vice-captain, while the squad retains much of the core group that represented Bangladesh at the Women's Asia Cup and the Asian Games in Japan earlier this month.

The pace attack will be led by Marufa Akter, who has established herself as one of Bangladesh's key bowling options. Seventeen-year-old Habiba Islam Pinky has also been included among the pace bowlers.

The squad features a blend of experience and emerging talent, with experienced batter Farzana Haque returning to the ODI setup. Murshida Khatun has also earned a recall after last representing Bangladesh in January 2025. Young all-rounder Disha Biswas, who has recently featured for the Bangladesh Emerging side, has been rewarded with a place in the senior squad. There are a few notable omissions from the group that travelled to the Asian Games. Top-order batter Juairiya Ferdous, experienced spinner Fahima Khatun and all-rounder Shorna Akter are among those not included in the squad for the Australia tour.

The three-match series will be played at Allan Border Field in Brisbane, beginning on October 9, with the second ODI scheduled for October 11 and the final match on October 14. The series will also carry significance in the ICC Women's Championship, with Bangladesh currently occupying eighth place in the standings. The tour will also provide Bangladesh with an opportunity to test their skills in unfamiliar conditions against one of the leading teams in women's cricket.

Asian Games: India's men's and women's squash teams storm into SF, assure medals

NAGOYA



India's squash campaign at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games gathered further momentum on Wednesday as both the men's and women's teams advanced to the semifinals, guaranteeing the country another set of medals in the team events.

The top-seeded Indian men, also the defending champions, overcame Kuwait 2-0 in their quarterfinal at the Nagoya Kinjo Futo Arena to secure a place in the last four. The women followed with an equally assured 2-0 victory over Singapore, ensuring that both Indian teams remain in contention for gold.

India's men's campaign began with a commanding 3-0 win over China in Pool A, with Suraj Kumar Chand, Veer Chotrani and Velavan Senthilkumar all winning their respective matches. Against Kuwait, Chotrani was given a stern examination by Bader Almogghrebi in the opening rubber. The Indian recovered after dropping the second game to complete a 12-10, 8-11, 11-0, 11-5 victory in 34 minutes. Abhay Singh then took the court with India one win away from the semifinals and produced a clinical performance against Ammar Altamimi. The Indian, ranked highest among the country's players, closed out an 11-3, 11-4, 11-8 victory to seal the tie without the need for a deciding rubber. Abhay has already been one of India's leading performers in Nagoya. He reached the men's singles final and secured silver after defeating Pakistan's Muhammad Irfan in the semifinal. The Indian women's team defeated Singapore 2-0 in their quarterfinal earlier in the day to progress further.

Tanvi Khanna gave India the perfect start against Au Yeong Wai Iynn in the opening singles. The contest went the distance through the first three games before Tanvi pulled away in the fourth to register an 11-6, 4-11, 15-13, 11-1 victory in 32 minutes.

Anahat Singh then completed the job for India in the second rubber, securing the team's passage to the semifinals.

The results add two more assured medals to an already productive squash campaign.

"Khelo Telangana" Programme Launched





* A Statewide Fitness Movement for a Healthy and Active Telangana

HYDERABAD

The Government of Telangana, through the Department of Sports and the Telangana Sports Authority (SATG), has launched the "Khelo Telangana" programme with the aim of promoting fitness and a healthy lifestyle among citizens.

The programme seeks to make Telangana a healthier, more active and vibrant state by encouraging citizens to make physical exercise an integral part of their daily lives. The campaign encourages people to regularly participate in walking, running, yoga, sports and other fitness activities.

State Sports Minister Sri Vakiti Srihari called upon people to dedicate at least 30 minutes every day to physical exercise. He participated in the "Khelo Telangana" programme held today at LB Stadium.

He stated that public health is the foundation of a developed and prosperous Telangana and urged citizens to make fitness a lifelong habit.

The Minister appealed to students, youth, women, employees, businesspeople, senior citizens and people from all sections of society to actively participate in the movement and inspire their families and communities to adopt a healthy lifestyle.

Khelo Telangana Fitness Challenge to the Chief Minister

As part of the programme, the Minister issued a fitness challenge to Chief Minister Sri A. Revanth Reddy, former Indian cricket captain Mohammad Azharuddin, Special Chief Secretary Sri Jayesh Ranjan, IAS, SATG Chairman Sri K. Shiv Sena Reddy, SATG Vice-Chairperson &

Managing Director Dr. A. Sonibala Devi, IFS, DGP Sri C. V. Anand, badminton player P. V. Sindhu, boxing champion Nikhat Zareen, para-athlete Deepthi Jeevanji, shooter Esha Singh, and other prominent personalities. Participants were encouraged to nominate nine more people, thereby helping spread the message of health and fitness across the state.

To increase public participation, citizens were asked to create a 27-second video reel showcasing their fitness activities and challenge nine more people to join the movement.

The Telangana Sports Authority will identify and promote the best videos that effectively raise awareness about fitness.

Quoting Swami Vivekananda's inspirational message, "Arise, awake, and do not stop until the goal is reached," the Minister called upon every household, village and town to embrace the spirit of "Jaago Telangana – Bhaago Telangana – Khelo Telangana."

Deputy Director of Sports Ashok Kumar, PRO Kaleru Suresh, Gachibowli Stadium Administrator Kannam Madhu, coaches, athletes and a large number of others participated in the programme.

Asian Games: These four or five days can't shake me, says Neeru Dhanda on her illness, resilience and golden run

NAGOYA



Neeru Dhanda's Asian Games campaign had been in doubt barely days before she arrived in Aichi-Nagoya, but the Indian trap shooter overcame an illness, won individual gold, added a team silver and then partnered Kynan Chenai to mixed team gold on Wednesday.

Looking back at the journey, Neeru said the biggest memory would not be a particular shot or medal ceremony, but the preparation and recovery that made it possible for her to compete at all.

Neeru and Kynan entered the mixed team medal round in fourth place before fighting their way to the gold medal, defeating Qatar in the title contest. The victory completed a remarkable medal haul for Neeru and made her one of the standout Indian performers in the shooting competition.

Despite the significance of becoming the first Indian woman to win an individual Asian Games gold in trap and then adding two more medals, Neeru said she has not yet had the opportunity to fully process the achievement.

"No, it doesn't feel like just another competition, but yet, I haven't really had that moment where it has sunk in that I've won the elusive gold. I haven't had the time to sit alone and truly take it in, to feel that I've achieved what I had imagined. So far, that feeling hasn't really come to me, either physically or mentally. I haven't had much time to sit and think about the win," told IANS in an exclusive conversation.

That reaction becomes more striking in the context of what Neeru had been dealing with before the Games. She had spent days recovering from illness, with her participation itself uncertain, before eventually making it to the competition.

"At that time, I had to keep myself motivated. Firstly, I needed to focus on improving my health. After that, I would think about what came next. But my coach pushed me, kept me motivated, and told me about his experiences in the competition and the difficulties he faced. He said that after an illness, once you recover, you feel fresh again. He told me to take care of myself, eat well, and remind myself that I had trained for a whole year and had been training continuously for the past five or six years for a purpose, for a reason. So, these four or five days can't shake me. It wasn't that I couldn't concentrate. That was what motivated me, and my coach played a big part in it at the time," the double gold-medallist said.

Her mixed team gold came after a contest in which the Indian pair had to recover from a modest qualification showing. With communication restricted while they were shooting, Neeru said Kynan's gestures and a brief conversation during a technical interruption helped reinforce the message to remain patient and focus on execution.

"When we're out there, we're unable to talk, but he constantly gestured to push me; he said I have to fight, I have to fight till the last shot. I got a little gap when there was a technical fault; we talked a little about how I have to fight, and I don't have to think too much; I think of one shot at a time. So, we were discussing the process and how to do it," Neeru expressed. The mixed team gold completed a medal sequence that began with Neeru's individual triumph, followed by silver in the team event alongside Aashima Ahlawat and Manisha Keer.

Nabha Makes Waves



Nabha Natesh has turned up the temperature on social media with a fresh set of vacation pictures, and fans are calling it sizzling. The actress is holidaying at a stunning water villa, where she poses in the golden sunlight wearing a nude-brown twisted halter bikini top teamed with textured high-waist trousers. Her wavy auburn hair, closed eyes and dreamy sun-kissed pose make the frame look straight out of a travel magazine. In another shots, Nabha stands as a silhouette against the turquoise sea, wearing a wide-brim hat and leaning on the balcony railing, with the clear blue sky framed perfectly by the thatched roof. Effortless, bold and full of holiday vibes, Nabha's pictures have set the timeline on fire, and fans simply cannot stop hitting the like button right now.

Nora's 'Bindass' Dance Steals the Jailer 2 Song



The initial songs from Jailer 2 received a dull response, but there was a lot of expectation for the latest song, One Name. Well, the song has finally been released, and Anirudh has delivered what many fans were waiting for a decent number. One Name may not be an out-and-out mass anthem like Hukum from Jailer, but it works well as a celebration of Superstar Rajinikanth. Anirudh's love and admiration for Rajinikanth can be clearly felt in the song, making it look like a proper fanboy tribute. The song has also arrived at an important time for Jailer 2. The film has a huge theatrical target, and the makers need to create strong pre-release hype before the film hits the screens. With the initial songs getting only average response, One Name gives the team a much-needed boost. Anirudh is expected to play a key role in building the film's hype through his music and background score. His combination with Rajinikanth worked extremely well in the first Jailer, and expectations are naturally high for the sequel. Now, all eyes are on Nora Fatehi's special song and the theatrical trailer. If both manage to create strong buzz, Jailer 2 could enter the final promotional phase with much better momentum. Superstar Rajinikanth's highly anticipated sequel Jailer 2 is creating fresh buzz with the release of its fourth song, 'Bindass.' Directed by Nelson Dilipkumar, the film is the sequel to the blockbuster Jailer and has been one of the most awaited projects among fans.The newly released track features a high-energy special appearance by Bollywood actress and dancer Nora Fatehi, who impresses with her energetic dance moves. The song has been choreographed by Jani Master, adding a vibrant and stylish touch to the special number. Music director Anirudh Ravichander has composed the track, delivering an upbeat tune that perfectly complements Nora's energetic performance. With its catchy beats, striking choreography, and lively visuals, 'Bindass' is already adding to the excitement surrounding Jailer 2.

NTR's Happy Mood Steals the Show



NTR has attended a Public event after a long time. He was the Chief Guest for Don't Trouble The Trouble Pre-release event. He just recovered from an injury and was out of sight for fans for a very long and they are expectedly delighted.

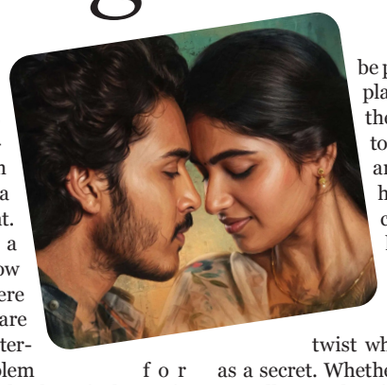
What makes the event more special is that the actor looks comfortable and in good mood after a very long time. Usually a live wire, NTR used to be serious and angry in the previous events he attended. He used to even yell at fans which was so unlike of NTR. War-2 Pre-release event was easily the worst in terms of that. But then, the star looks jovial and composed in DTTT Event. Naturally, the fans are delighted. Speaking at the event, NTR announced that he almost recovered from the injury and will resume the shoot of Dragon very soon. Much to the relief of fans, he also announced that the movie will release as planned (June 11th, 2027).

Karan Johar Bids arewell to Koffee



One of India's most talked-about celebrity chat shows is coming to an end. Karan Johar has officially announced that Koffee With Karan, the legendary and controversial talk show, will conclude with its upcoming ninth season. The show began in 2004, and now its final season is set to stream on JioHotstar from October 14. In an emotional message, Karan Johar said the decision to end the show was personal and recalled how he discussed hosting the show with his late father, Yash Johar. Over the last 22 years, the show was known for its candid conversations, rapid-fire rounds, coffee hampers, and headline-making controversies from the stars. Since its launch, Koffee With Karan has completed eight seasons and 161 episodes. The show was quite controversial, and Karan Johar was always trolled for promoting nepotism and inviting only A-listers and close friends on the show. This year, the likes of Rashmika, Vijay Deverakonda, and Allu Arjun are expected to grace the show. With one final season left, fans are preparing to say goodbye to a show that entertained millions across the globe. One needs to see if the last season ends up controversial or becomes an emotional goodbye.

One Leak Sparks Thella Kagitham Buzz



Harsh Roshan's Thella Kagitham is suddenly getting attention ahead of its release, thanks to an unexpected controversy. The leaked content from the film has created discussions on social media and brought this film into the limelight. The film has normal buzz initially, but a leaked bold scene from the film has now made headlines. Movie lovers who were not aware of the project in the first place are now trying to find out more about it. Interestingly, piracy is usually a serious problem for filmmakers, as leaked content can affect the theatrical experience. However, in the case of Thella Kagitham, the controversy has increased curiosity around the film. There is also some discussion online about whether the controversy itself could be part of the promotional strategy planned by the makers. However, there is no confirmation or evidence to support such claims. The makers are now doing everything to keep this hype alive in the next few days and continue promoting the film, which has Nakshatra as the female lead. Directed by Ramesh Badreddy, the film is a youthful romance centered around a special twist which the makers have kept as a secret. Whether this extra publicity will actually translate into audiences at theatres remains to be seen. For now, a film that was relatively quiet before release has managed to get people talking. Stay tuned for more.

Priyanka Jawalkar's Pink Power

Priyanka Jawalkar may have appeared only in cameos over the last couple of years, but she knows exactly how to keep her fans hooked. The actress has now shared a fresh set of pictures on social media, and they are winning hearts online. In the latest photos, Priyanka is draped in a sheer hot-pink saree paired with a sleeveless ikat-style blouse featuring thin straps. She struck a graceful pose by the window, with soft natural light adding a dreamy glow to the frame. Her styling stayed simple yet striking. Colourful glass bangles in teal, mustard and pink added a traditional touch, while a small black bindi, subtle eye makeup, nude lips and loose, soft waves completed the look.

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