



BUZZ POINTS



CENTRE APPROVES 868 CRORE FOR 34 ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECTS IN TELANGANA

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WELFARE OF JOURNALISTS WILL BE TAKEN CARE: MINISTER

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NEW DISCOM AND UNDERGROUND CABLE IN HYDERABAD

PN Bureau, Hyderabad, Sept 16: Revanth Reddy, the Chief Minister of , conducted a comprehensive review meeting with senior officials of the State Energy Department to discuss key proposals and reforms aimed at strengthening the power infrastructure across the state, particularly in the region. The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister, Principal Secretary of Energy, CM's Special Secretary, (GENCO) CMD, (SPDCL) CMD, (NPDCL) CMD, (REDCO) Chairman and other top officials.

During the review, officials briefed the Chief Minister on several proposals regarding the implementation of underground power cabling in Greater Hyderabad. They explained the key aspects to be included in the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the underground cabling system. Emphasizing the need for a reliable power supply system, the Chief Minister directed that, along with underground cabling, priority should be given to upgrading existing power substations in the Core Urban Region. He stressed that load replacement measures must be undertaken to prevent overloading



and instructed officials to ensure that no power connection should exceed the designed capacity of a substation. He also advised enhancing the capacity of substations wherever necessary to meet the growing demand.

The Chief Minister further ordered officials to identify areas in the Core Urban Region where new power substations are required and to incorporate advanced technologies in urban substations to improve efficiency and safety. He also suggested that the underground cabling system should be designed in a way that it can accommodate not just electricity cables but also other utility cables, enabling better infrastructure coordination. To ensure the state adopts the best practices, he directed the Energy Department to study

similar underground cabling projects implemented in and other states. He instructed that a comprehensive plan for the underground cabling project should be prepared by December and that the entire project in the Core Urban Region should be completed within the next two and a half years.

In addition to underground cabling, the meeting also discussed the proposal to establish a new power distribution company (DISCOM) in the state, apart from the existing SPDCL and NPDCL. Officials informed the Chief Minister that the Energy Department had prepared a preliminary plan for this new DISCOM. They explained that electricity consumption related to agriculture, major and minor lift irrigation projects, rural drinking water supply, and

drinking water supply within the (GHMC) limits could be brought under the purview of the new DISCOM.

The Chief Minister suggested reorganizing the existing two DISCOMs into three by creating this new one and gave key directions on the allocation of Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs), division of staff, sharing of assets, settlement of dues, and other related issues. He stated that the government would proceed with the formation of the new DISCOM only after obtaining Cabinet approval. Revanth Reddy directed officials to prepare a comprehensive and time-bound plan for setting up the new DISCOM at the earliest, marking a major step towards strengthening the state's power sector and ensuring reliable electricity supply to all sectors.



ACB FOUND Rs.2 Cr CASH IN ADE's HOME

According to an official press release issued by the ACB, searches were conducted at ten different locations linked to Erugu, including properties owned by his relatives and suspected benamis. The searches led to the discovery of several high-value properties and assets. These include a flat in , a ground-plus-five-storey commercial building in , and a private company named Amthar Chemicals spread over 10 acres of land. Additionally, six residential plots in , agricultural farmland, two cars, significant quantities of gold ornaments, and multiple bank deposits were also identified as part of the seized properties.

During the searches, officials also discovered unaccounted cash amounting to 2.18 crore at the residence of a suspected benami associated with the engineer. Investigators suspect that these assets were acquired by Erugu by misusing his official position and engaging in

ARRESTED IN DA CASE

In a major crackdown on corruption, the (ACB) has arrested , Assistant Divisional Engineer (Operations) with the (TGSPDCL) at Ibrahimbagh, on charges of possessing assets disproportionate to his known sources of income. Following extensive searches, ACB officials uncovered a staggering amount of wealth allegedly amassed through corrupt practices.

corrupt practices during his tenure at TGSPDCL. ACB officials noted that while the official values of the properties are listed at certain amounts, their actual market value is believed to be substantially higher, indicating the scale of alleged illicit gains. "The searches have clearly revealed that the officer amassed these movable and immovable properties disproportionate to his known sources of income by abusing his official position. The searches are still continuing to trace further assets," an ACB official stated.

Following his arrest, Ambedkar Erugu was produced before a local court and has since been

remanded to judicial custody. The ACB is continuing its investigation to identify other potential benamis and to ascertain the full extent of the wealth accumulated by the accused. Officials said they are also examining the flow of funds related to the company and properties discovered during the raids.

The arrest has sent shockwaves through the power utility sector, highlighting the persistent issue of corruption within certain sections of the bureaucracy. The ACB has reiterated its commitment to rooting out corruption and stated that strict action would continue against officials found to be

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KAVITHA MAY IMPACT RESULT OF JUBILEE HILLS BY=POLLS

A heated debate has erupted within the (BRS) over the possible impact of former party leader on the upcoming by-election in the constituency. Kavitha, who was recently suspended from the party, has been openly acting against BRS and distancing herself from its leadership, creating ripples in the party's internal circles. The by-poll was necessitated by the sudden demise of sitting BRS MLA , and BRS has fielded his wife as its candidate, hoping to gain public sympathy. However, the political atmosphere appears far from one-sided.

Unlike earlier elections where BRS enjoyed a clear edge, the party is now facing a tough contest as both (Congress) and (BJP) are making aggressive moves to wrest control of the seat. Political observers believe that the sympathy factor surrounding Gopinath's death is not resonating as strongly with the public as BRS had anticipated. This has raised concerns among BRS strategists about potential cracks in their traditional vote base.

In this tense backdrop, Kavitha's role has become a focal point of discussion. Several political analysts are suggesting that Kavitha still holds

influence in certain pockets of Jubilee Hills, and her actions could sway the outcome. While she has not announced support for any specific candidate, there is growing speculation that if she indirectly or openly backs a rival candidate, it could lead to a split in the BRS vote bank. Such a scenario could tip the balance in favor of either Congress or BJP, both of whom are eyeing an upset victory in the



constituency. BRS insiders are reportedly worried that even a small shift of loyal BRS supporters towards another candidate because of Kavitha's influence could prove costly in a closely contested by-poll. Analysts also point out that Kavitha's fallout with the party has been very public, and her recent statements have been interpreted as attempts to undermine the current leadership. This has led to further uncertainty among local cadre and voters who were once

aligned with her faction within the party.

The BRS leadership is trying to project unity and rally behind Gopinath's wife, but the shadow of Kavitha's possible interference looms large. As campaigning intensifies, Congress and BJP are closely watching the situation, reportedly ready to capitalize on any anti-BRS sentiment Kavitha may indirectly fuel.

With voting day approaching, the central

question being debated in political circles is whether Kavitha will actively intervene in the Jubilee Hills by-poll or remain on the sidelines. If she chooses to play an active role, even subtly, it could dramatically reshape the contest and pose a serious threat to BRS's chances of retaining the seat. Either way, her mere presence as a political wildcard has already added a new layer of unpredictability to the by-election, making it one of the most closely watched contests in the state.

KOTHAGUDEM IS GOING TO GET GREEN FIELD AIRPORT SOON

Kothagudem is set to get a major infrastructure boost, with plans for establishing a Greenfield Airport taking shape after discussions between , Telangana's Minister for Agriculture, and , Union Minister for Civil Aviation, in . The meeting, held recently, has paved the way for a broad agreement between the and the to move ahead with setting up the airport in the industrial town.

According to sources familiar with the discussions, Mr. Nageswara Rao made a strong pitch highlighting the strategic importance of Kothagudem, which is well known for its extensive coal mines and a cluster of power generation units and heavy industries. He underscored that the region has seen significant industrial growth, but lacks direct



air connectivity, which has been hampering business and investment opportunities.

Responding positively to the appeal, Mr. Ram-mohan Naidu reportedly conveyed his acceptance in principle to the proposal, assuring the state government of the Centre's support for the project. The Union Minister is said to have acknowledged the growing economic activity in and around Kothagudem and the potential benefits

that improved air connectivity could bring for trade, commerce, and employment.

Officials said both governments have reached a preliminary understanding to establish a Greenfield Airport, which will be designed and built from scratch rather than upgrading any existing airstrip. Such an airport would cater to both passenger and cargo needs, providing a significant logistical advantage to the coal belt and sur-

rounding industrial hubs.

The ministers are also understood to have reviewed the technical and economic feasibility of the project during their talks. They reportedly discussed land availability, environmental clearances, and the need to ensure compliance with aviation safety and infrastructure norms. Early assessments suggest that the project could give a major boost to the local economy, improving connectivity for industries as well as opening up new opportunities in tourism and services in the eastern part of .

Government sources indicated that further formalities, including a detailed project report (DPR) and clearances from the (DGCA) and other concerned departments, will follow soon. Once all approvals are in

place, the airport is expected to be developed under the public-private partnership (PPP) model to attract investment and ensure timely completion.

The proposal has generated excitement among local business circles and residents, who have long demanded better transport infrastructure to match the area's economic profile. The establishment of a Greenfield Airport in Kothagudem is seen as a transformative step that could integrate the industrial town more closely with national and international markets.

If the plans progress as expected, Kothagudem could soon join the growing list of regional cities across India witnessing rapid infrastructural development through enhanced aviation connectivity.

WE ARE LEAVING ARMS, STOP THE OPERATION: MAOISTS

A letter purportedly sent by (Maoists) has stirred speculation in national security circles after it was addressed to , the Prime Minister of India, and , the Union Minister for Home Affairs. The letter, sent in the name of a Maoist leader identified as , claims that the group is

prepared to abandon armed struggle and requested the government to halt its ongoing anti-Maoist operations for at least one month as a confidence-building measure.

The development comes in the backdrop of a series of heavy setbacks suffered by Maoist cadres in recent

months, particularly due to coordinated operations carried out by central paramilitary forces with the backing and strategic oversight of the Ministry of Home Affairs. According to security officials, several Maoist leaders and cadres have been killed in these intensified operations, which



have significantly weakened the outfit's operational strength and morale.

Sources indicate that the current offensive, which has been openly endorsed and supervised by Amit Shah, has

driven the Maoist organization into a state of deep crisis. Once considered a formidable insurgent network across several states, the Maoists are now reportedly struggling for

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WELFARE OF JOURNALISTS WILL BE TAKEN CARE: MINISTER

Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, Minister for Information and Public Relations (I&PR), has reaffirmed the state government's commitment to safeguarding the welfare and rights of journalists under the leadership of Chief Minister .

At a review meeting held at the on Monday, the Minister instructed officials to ensure that all eligible journalists are issued accreditation cards through a transparent and fair process. He emphasised that the government values the role of the media in democracy and will extend full support to their professional and personal welfare.

The meeting was attended by senior officials including , Special Chief Secretary (Home), , Chairman of the , I&PR Special Commissioner, and, CPRO. Several critical issues were discussed during the review, including accreditation policy reforms, the provision of health benefits for journalists, the revival of journalism awards, and the functioning of the high-power committee responsible for addressing attacks on journalists.

Minister Srinivasa Reddy announced that the high-power committee would be reconstituted to strengthen its effectiveness. He pointed out that a government order issued in 2008 by the then Congress government in undivided—which governs the committee's structure and functions—has not been revoked or revised even after the formation of



Telangana, and now requires an update.

He further revealed that the tripartite committee on journalists' salaries and allowances would also be restructured to better address the current needs of media professionals. On the issue of health insurance, the Minister instructed officials to work closely with the to conduct a detailed study and design a suitable health policy tailored for journalists.

Additionally, he directed the creation of a dedicated online portal for receiving and processing accreditation applications, which he said would make the process more accessible and transparent. He also welcomed the proposal by Press Academy Chair-

man K. Srinivasa Reddy to restore the long-discontinued awards for excellence in journalism, stating that such recognitions would encourage quality reporting and acknowledge the hard work of media professionals.

The meeting was also attended by , CEO of the Aarogyasri Health Care Trust, , Additional Commissioner of Labour, and several other senior officials. According to an official statement, the government is expected to issue formal orders on the proposed measures soon, marking a significant step towards strengthening institutional support and welfare mechanisms for journalists across Telangana.

Centre Approves 868 Crore for 34 Road and Bridge Projects in Telangana

TPN Bureau, Hyderabad, Sept 16: The Central Government has approved a major infrastructure initiative in , with Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways announcing the sanction of 34 road and bridge projects under the (CRIF). The total investment for these projects has been pegged at 868 crore, covering a combined length of 422.36 kilometres across the state. The announcement was made by the minister through a post on the social media platform .

According to Gadkari, the projects are expected to significantly enhance connectivity within Telangana, improving transportation networks between urban centres, industrial hubs, and rural areas. "These initiatives are aimed at significantly enhancing connectivity and strengthening the State's transport network. The Central Government remains resolute in its commitment to advancing road infrastructure in Telangana, thereby fostering inclusive growth and balanced regional development," the minister noted in his post.

Officials from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) said that the sanctioned projects include both road widening and construc-



tion of new bridges, addressing critical bottlenecks in the state's transport corridors. Many of the roads slated for development are vital links connecting districts, industrial zones, and agricultural markets, ensuring smoother flow of goods and people. The bridge projects will not only reduce travel time but also strengthen resilience against floods and other natural disruptions that have occasionally hampered connectivity in rural and

semi-urban areas.

The CRIF, under which these projects are being funded, is part of the Union Government's broader plan to enhance road and infrastructure networks across India. It aims to provide targeted support to states for improving road quality, building new linkages, and facilitating safer and more efficient transport networks. The fund has been instrumental in enabling states to implement large-scale projects that

boost regional development and economic activity.

Analysts believe that the sanctioned projects in Telangana will also have a direct impact on economic growth by facilitating the movement of goods from industrial hubs, mining areas, and agricultural belts to urban centres and markets. Improved road infrastructure is expected to attract more investment, particularly in logistics, manufacturing, and agro-based industries.

It is also likely to boost employment opportunities during the construction phase and in ancillary sectors.

State officials welcomed the Centre's announcement, highlighting that these projects align with Telangana's ongoing efforts to modernise its transport network. By reducing travel time and improving road safety, the projects are expected to benefit commuters, transporters, and businesses alike.

The Union Ministry has indicated that detailed project reports (DPRs) and tendering processes for the 34 projects will commence soon, with an emphasis on timely completion, quality construction, and adherence to environmental and safety standards. Once completed, the initiatives are expected to create a modern, efficient, and resilient road network in Telangana, further integrating the state's economic and social infrastructure with national development objectives.

With this significant funding and project rollout, the Central Government and the state of Telangana are moving closer to achieving a well-connected, sustainable, and inclusive transport ecosystem that supports long-term growth and regional development.

VEENA KUMARI, NEW CHIEF POSTMASTER GENERAL OF TELANGANA NOW

TPN Bureau, Hyderabad, Sept 16: Veena Kumari a 1998-batch officer of the (IPoS), has taken charge as the new Chief Postmaster General of the . She assumed office on September 8, marking the beginning of what officials described as a new phase of modernisation and citizen-centric reforms in the state's postal network.

According to a release issued on Tuesday by Assistant Director of Postal Services , Dermal brings with her over 27 years of distinguished service spanning administration, technology deployment, policy reforms and international engagements. Known for her expertise in driving technology-led transformations and institutional reforms, she is expected to lead the

Telangana Circle with a focus on enhancing efficiency, digital integration, and service delivery.

Dermal has previously held several key roles within the postal framework, combining high-level policy-making responsibilities with field-level operational experience. Her tenure has been marked by initiatives aimed at improving the reach and reliability of postal services, streamlining human resource development, and introducing innovations in service delivery models.

Most recently, she served as Deputy Director General (PMU) at the between 2024 and 2025. In that role, she spearheaded the nationwide rollout of Advanced Postal Technology (APT) 2.0 across more than 1.5

lakh post offices, a move hailed as a major leap forward in the digital transformation of postal services. The APT 2.0 project has been credited with enhancing operational efficiency, improving customer experience, and integrating postal networks with emerging digital platforms.

Officials said her appointment comes at a crucial juncture, as the postal network in is undergoing rapid technological upgrades and aligning itself with the expanding demands of e-commerce, financial inclusion, and last-mile delivery. Dermal is expected to bring strategic leadership in these areas, leveraging her experience in policy reforms and technology deployment to strengthen the operational capabilities of the circle.

Under her leadership, the Telangana Postal Circle is likely to accelerate its efforts to modernise infrastructure, expand digital services, and enhance citizen engagement through improved accessibility and reliability. The department also aims to strengthen its workforce capacity through targeted HR development measures, an area where Dermal has had extensive experience.

Her assumption of charge has been welcomed within the postal fraternity, with many officials expressing confidence that her leadership will usher in a new era of efficiency, innovation, and customer-oriented growth for the state's postal services.



CM LAUNCHED A SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED STUDENTS

TPN Burea, Hyderabad, Sept 16: In a heartening initiative, the has launched a special programme to train visually impaired students in music, aiming to empower them through artistic expression and skill development. The effort has drawn appreciation from the top echelons of the , with Chief Minister personally commending the project.

As part of the programme, a formal event was held where the Chief Minister, accompanied by , Minister for Transport and BC Welfare, and, Minister for Minorities Welfare, distributed musical instruments to the visually impaired students. The gesture marked a symbolic push for inclu-

sive development, highlighting the government's commitment to supporting the aspirations of differently abled children.

During the event, the students showcased their musical talent by performing a series of songs for the dignitaries. Their performances won praise from the ministers, who lauded the students' determination and enthusiasm. A specially recorded CD of these songs was also released on the occasion by the ministers, marking a milestone for the budding musicians.

Officials from the Welfare Department said the initiative is aimed at nurturing hidden talents among visually impaired children, building their confidence, and open-

ing up new opportunities in cultural and creative fields. They added that music training not only offers a potential career path but also provides a therapeutic outlet for emotional expression and social inclusion.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy applauded the Karimnagar administration for conceptualising and executing such a unique programme. He stressed that the government is committed to ensuring that differently abled children are given equal opportunities to pursue their interests and develop their skills. The ministers also assured continued support for similar initiatives across the state, stating that such programmes reflect the government's broader

vision of inclusive welfare.

Parents and teachers present at the event expressed happiness over the initiative, noting that it had already sparked a newfound confidence in the participating students. They said the support from the district administration and the personal encouragement from the Chief Minister would go a long way in motivating the children to pursue their passion for music.

The event concluded with a collective pledge from the ministers and officials to expand such inclusive programmes to other parts of , ensuring that differently abled children across the state can access platforms to showcase their talents and realise their potential.



ACB FOUND Rs.2 Cr CASH IN ADE's HOME

amassing wealth illegally. The Bureau has also appealed to the public to come forward with credible information about any such suspi-

cious accumulation of wealth by public servants.

As the investigation progresses, further revelations are expected in

the case, which could potentially uncover a larger network of financial irregularities. The arrest of Ambedkar Eru-gu stands as a signifi-

cant development in the ACB's ongoing drive to enforce accountability and transparency within government departments in Telangana.

KTR says By-Elections are inevitable

TPN Bureau, Hyderabad, Sept 16: The political heat in intensified on Tuesday as (KTR), working president of the (BRS), launched a scathing attack on the ruling, predicting inevitable by-elections in the state and asserting that the Congress government's "honeymoon period" was over.

Speaking at a meeting of constituency leaders and activists at , KTR accused the Congress of surviving on lies, defections, and fear of elections, while asserting that BRS would soon witness a political resurgence under the leadership of (KCR).

In a direct challenge, KTR asked the Congress to openly admit the defected BRS MLAs into its

party and face the people in by-elections.

"If the Congress truly believes in democracy, let them say these MLAs are theirs and go for by-elections. Their defeat is certain," he said, adding that the Congress's hesitation to acknowledge the defectors publicly exposed its lack of confidence and moral weakness.

KTR remarked that defections from BRS to Congress had weakened the ruling party rather than strengthening it, as it had failed to own them up and seek public mandate.

Calling the Congress a party "built on lies," the BRS leader said that the ruling party had come to power on false promises and misinformation, and



warned that people's patience was wearing thin. He alleged that the Congress was scared of facing elections at any level, whether they were panchayat polls or by-polls, and was trying to cling to power through

backdoor tactics and blame games.

KTR admitted that BRS failed to effectively counter the Congress narrative during the last Assembly elections.

"Our focus was solely on development and welfare. That was our mistake. We did not expose the Congress's lies effectively,"

he acknowledged.

However, he stressed that the honeymoon period for the government was over, and said that the public no longer trusts a government surviving only by blaming the previous administration instead of delivering on its promises.

In a pointed attack on , a state minister, KTR questioned his political integrity in light of pre-

vious (ED) raids on his residence.

He demanded clarity on the outcome of the raids, asking why both the ED and the Minister remained silent.

"Has he colluded with the (BJP)? Or is he working at the behest of Revanth Reddy, who himself is working in tandem with the BJP?"

KTR questioned, adding that he doubted Srinivas Reddy's chances of being re-elected from in the next polls.

Despite what he described as conspiracies by both the Congress and the BJP, KTR exuded confidence that BRS would make a strong comeback. He hailed KCR as the architect of Telangana and one of the longest-serving regional leaders after the

late , and compared his potential return to power to the coronation of Lord Rama after exile.

"Like Lord Rama's crowning after returning from exile, BRS will return to power under KCR's leadership," KTR declared, drawing applause from party cadres.

KTR's remarks come at a time when political battlelines are sharpening in Telangana, with defections, party infighting, and leadership challenges dominating the headlines. His statements indicate that BRS is preparing to take an aggressive stance against the Congress, aiming to reclaim lost ground and position itself as the primary challenger in the state's political arena.



Minister Slams False Propaganda Against Free Bus Scheme

Minister has strongly condemned the false propaganda and baseless criticism being spread about the free bus travel scheme for women in . Addressing a felicitation event organized to congratulate the newly elected members of the Secretariat Women Employees' Welfare Association, Seethakka lashed out at those attempting to portray the scheme as unnecessary and discredit it through misleading content on social media.

The Minister expressed serious concern that certain individuals were posting videos and comments online to undermine the significance of the scheme, which was launched with the aim of empowering women and reducing their financial burden. She stated that some were trying to portray the scheme as wasteful, without understanding its positive impact on millions of women across the state. "Such comments and videos are not just misleading but are deeply insulting and derogatory towards women," Seethakka



said, adding that these attempts reflect the deep-rooted male chauvinistic mindset of those indulging in such acts.

Seethakka urged people to be vigilant and not fall prey to such false propaganda. She called upon society to recognise and support women's empowerment initiatives instead of trying to belittle them. "When women are supported, they can create wonders. Instead of mocking schemes meant for their welfare, we should encourage and celebrate their progress," she asserted.

Highlighting the transformative impact of the free bus travel scheme, Seethakka said it had brought signifi-

spread false information or make derogatory remarks about women-centric welfare schemes. She stressed that undermining women's welfare initiatives would not be tolerated, and those trying to malign such schemes would be held accountable.

Minister also participated in the felicitation programme and joined Seethakka in congratulating the newly elected members of the Secretariat Women Employees' Welfare Association. Both ministers emphasized that the government is committed to creating an enabling environment where women can thrive, and that any attempt to discredit such welfare schemes would be dealt with seriously.

Concluding her remarks, Seethakka called on everyone to join hands in building a society that values and uplifts women. She said the success of welfare schemes depends on the collective efforts of the government, civil society, and citizens to ensure they reach the intended beneficiaries without stigma or misinformation.

TELANGANA LOST Rs.5000 Cr DUE TO GST REVISION

TPN Bureau, Hyderabad, Sept 16: Mr. Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, the Deputy Chief Minister of Telangana Government, has said that the state government is prepared to forgo revenue of nearly 5,000 crore annually following the recent revision of (GST) rates. Speaking at an interaction with the business community at the on Tuesday, September 16, Bhatti said the decision to rationalise GST was taken by Chief Minister and the state cabinet as part of a broader policy aimed at benefiting poor, middle-class, and farming families.

Bhatti explained that although the state would incur a significant revenue loss, the government had actively supported the policy changes to promote economic growth among common and middle-class people. The programme was organised by the to engage with traders and explain the rationale behind the GST revisions. He noted that the new GST struc-



ture would benefit crores of people as many essential and widely used goods would become cheaper, thereby easing the financial burden on households.

"The revised GST rates will ensure that a large number of goods are available at lower prices. It is the responsibility of both the government and the trading community to make sure these benefits actually reach the public," Bhatti said, as per a press release from his office. He emphasised that the success of this reform depended on honest and transparent implementation by traders, urging them to clearly display the revised prices of

goods after the rate changes.

Bhatti revealed that detailed discussions were held in to simplify GST procedures and reduce complexities for businesses. He asked traders to communicate the impact of GST changes without hesitation and to place boards in front of their shops listing how the prices of different goods have changed after the rationalisation. This, he said, would help the public understand the benefits they are entitled to and create trust between consumers and the trading community.

Highlighting the economic impact of one major revision, Bhatti said

that the GST slab on cement has been reduced from 28% to 18%, which will directly bring down cement prices. He said this would boost the construction sector and create new avenues for growth and employment. He also remarked that is rapidly evolving into a "city state" as urbanisation accelerates across Telangana, and the state needs a robust construction and infrastructure ecosystem to support this growth.

Reassuring the business community, Bhatti said that the Telangana government is always open to discussing and resolving their concerns to make doing business easier in the state. "The government's doors are always open. Any issues raised by traders will be discussed and resolved," he assured, adding that co-operation between the government and business community was essential to ensure that the benefits of GST reforms are effectively passed on to the people.

WE ARE LEAVING ARMS, STOP THE OPERATION: MAOISTS

their survival, facing depleting manpower, disrupted supply chains, and declining public support in their former strongholds.

While Maoist influence still lingers in certain remote forested zones and pockets where their sympathizers remain, intelligence inputs suggest that their ability to mount retaliatory strikes has drastically diminished. Local cadres, fearing further losses, have reportedly refrained from engaging in any significant counterattacks against security forces, a marked shift from their earlier strategy of ag-

gressive resistance.

This letter, if genuine, could signal a rare expression of willingness from the Maoists to explore a cessation of hostilities—at least temporarily. However, the authenticity of the communication remains under question. Neither the Government of India nor the Maoist leadership has officially confirmed whether the letter is genuine. Security analysts caution that the possibility of the letter being a tactical ploy by a weakened group cannot be ruled out, aimed at buying time to regroup and recover from the recent

onslaught.

Experts also note that the Maoist movement has been on a steady decline since the launch of over a decade ago, which marked the beginning of sustained and coordinated counter-insurgency efforts by central and state forces. The recent string of successful encounters and surrenders has further eroded their cadre strength and disrupted their command structure.

Until an official statement is issued either by the government or by the Maoist leadership confirming or denying the authenticity

of the letter, authorities are treating it with caution. If verified, it could open the door to a possible cessation of hostilities and dialogue, but if it proves false, it would underscore the Maoists' desperation and continued use of psychological tactics to ease the pressure of security operations.

For now, the letter remains an intriguing development in the long-running conflict, and its implications will depend entirely on whether it represents a genuine shift in the Maoist approach or merely a strategic maneuver born out of crisis.



Teenmaar Mallanna Set to Launch New Political Party

TPN Bureau, Hyderabad, Sept 16: In a move that could reshape the political landscape of , noted journalist-turned-politician , popularly known as , is preparing to launch a new political party. The formal announcement is expected to be made on the eve of Telangana's merger with India anniversary, a symbolic date chosen to underline his vision for the state's political future.

Currently serving as an MLC and a key figure in the (Congress) in Telangana, Mallanna has been under disciplinary action by the party

leadership. Over the years, he has emerged as a vocal advocate for the rights of Backward Classes (BCs), often reiterating his demand for BC reservations and championing the slogan of "BC CM for Telangana."

RIFT WITH CONGRESS

Mallanna's fallout with Congress stems from his strong criticism of a government survey on BCs, which he publicly alleged to be flawed and misleading. His remarks created a stir within the party, leading to his suspen-

sion from Congress pending disciplinary proceedings.

Before joining Congress, Mallanna had also been associated with the (BJP) for a brief period. His decision to now float a separate party marks a significant shift in his political trajectory, raising questions on whether he can build an independent support base strong enough to influence Telangana politics.

CAN HE MAKE AN IMPACT?

Political analysts are closely watching to see

whether Teenmaar Mallanna can convert his personal popularity into electoral success. His strong stance on BC rights may help him attract support from backward communities, but building a full-fledged political organisation from scratch remains a formidable challenge.

As Telangana's political scene continues to evolve, Mallanna's new venture could emerge as a wildcard in upcoming electoral battles, potentially altering vote dynamics among backward classes and disenfranchised sections of the electorate.

A JOURNEY FROM MEDIA TO POLITICS

Chintapandu Naveen's rise has been anything but conventional. Starting as a small-time employee in a media house, he gained popularity through his satirical television programme "", which earned him the nickname Teenmaar Mallanna. His witty and bold commentary on contemporary issues struck a chord with the public, particularly among youth and rural audiences.

Riding on his popularity, Mallanna made a determined entry into active politics, often facing setbacks and resistance, but gradually carving out a space for himself. His eventual election as Member of Legislative Council (MLC) is seen as the culmination of his persistent efforts in public life.

While his detractors dismiss the move as personal ambition, his supporters believe this could be the beginning of a BC-centric political force in Telangana.

Heavy Rainfall Likely in Hyderabad, Surrounding Districts on Wednesday

TPN Bureau, Hyderabad, Sept. 16 — Weather experts have issued a warning for heavy to very heavy rainfall in Hyderabad and adjoining districts starting Tuesday evening and continuing through the early hours of Wednesday. Both the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and independent weather analysts have cautioned residents to remain alert for potentially intense weather conditions.

According to the IMD-Hyderabad's one-day forecast issued Tuesday morning, the city will experience a generally cloudy sky with light to moderate rain or thundershowers, accompanied by gusty winds. Misty or hazy conditions are also expected

during the early morning and night hours. The IMD has predicted maximum and minimum temperatures of around 29°C and 22°C, respectively.

Independent weather analyst T. Balaji, popularly known on social media for his accurate forecasts, echoed the IMD's warnings, predicting significant rainfall across Hyderabad and neighboring districts. Posting on X (formerly Twitter), Balaji stated, "Today (Tuesday), a massive trough line is expected to pass through the Hyderabad region. Therefore, Hyderabad and surrounding districts like Medak, Sangareddy, Kamareddy, Siddipet, Rangareddy, Vikarabad, Yadadri-Bhongir, Nizamabad, Jagtial, and Rajanna-Sircilla will receive



heavy to very heavy rainfall during the evening to overnight hours." He added that while Hyderabad would experience dry conditions

until Tuesday afternoon, widespread showers are likely to begin by evening and continue through the night. The rainfall could bring

temporary flooding in low-lying areas and traffic disruptions across the city, similar to the spells seen in previous weeks.

The weather system responsible for the incoming rain is attributed to a trough line—a type of low-pressure area in the atmos-

phere—which is likely to intensify as it passes over the central parts of Telangana, including Hyderabad.

In light of these warnings, authorities have advised citizens to take precautions, especially during evening and night hours. Commuters are urged to plan their travel in advance and avoid routes prone to waterlogging. Motorists, in particular, are advised to drive cautiously as visibility may be reduced due to mist or heavy showers.

Urban flooding has been a recurring issue for Hyderabad during monsoon spells, and officials from the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) are reportedly on alert. Emergency teams and disaster response units have been kept on stand-

by to deal with any rain-related incidents.

While this bout of rain brings some relief from the recent hot and humid conditions, the IMD has not ruled out the possibility of further rainfall in the coming days, depending on the development of additional weather systems.

Residents are encouraged to monitor updates from official channels and stay indoors during periods of intense rainfall. The public can also follow real-time weather alerts from IMD and trusted meteorologists like Balaji for accurate and timely information.

As always, caution remains key as the city prepares for another wet night under the influence of changing monsoon dynamics.

Telangana Cracks Down on Illegal Sale of Abortion Kits: 165 Medical Licences Suspended

TPN Bureau, Hyderabad, Sept. 16 — In a sweeping statewide operation, the Drugs Control Administration (DCA) of Telangana has intensified its efforts to combat the illegal sale of abortion kits. Between August 22 and September 15, DCA officials conducted raids on 809 medical shops across the state. The inspections uncovered violations at 234 locations, leading to the suspension of 165 medical store licences and the cancellation of seven others.

The crackdown focused on the unauthorized sale and distribution of Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) kits, which contain drugs such as Mifepristone and Misoprostol. These medications are used to medically terminate pregnancies and are classified under Schedule H of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945. As such, they cannot be sold over the counter and must only be dispensed with a valid prescription from a registered medical practitioner.

During the raids, DCA teams also identified quacks and unlicensed individuals who were found illegally stocking and selling these abortion kits without proper authorization. Officials reported a range of violations including dispensing medication without a doctor's prescription, absence or incom-



pleteness of bill records, selling drugs in the absence of a licensed pharmacist, and operating medical stores without valid documents.

Authorities emphasized that these violations pose a serious threat to public health. The misuse of MTP kits, especially without proper medical supervision, can lead to life-threatening complications. According to the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 2002, abortion kits should only be used under the supervision of a qualified gynaecologist. Inappropriate use of these drugs can cause severe adverse effects such as excessive uterine bleeding, incomplete abortion, and failure to detect ectopic pregnancies. Ectopic pregnancies, if not diagnosed and treated in time, can

rupture and lead to internal bleeding or even death.

Speaking to the media, senior DCA officials reiterated the department's commitment to ensuring safe medical practices and upholding the law. They warned that strict legal action would be taken against violators, including cancellation of drug licences and prosecution under relevant provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

The DCA has also appealed to the public not to purchase abortion pills from unauthorized sources or without consulting a registered medical practitioner. "Self-medication with MTP kits is dangerous and can result in irreversible health complications. We urge people to approach licensed medical profes-

sionals for any reproductive health-related issues," an official stated.

This large-scale operation highlights the state's determination to tackle the rising concerns over the misuse of abortion drugs and ensure that such sensitive medical treatments are administered safely and legally. The DCA has indicated that more such inspections will continue in the coming months to monitor compliance and curb unlawful practices in the pharmaceutical retail sector.

In addition to enforcement actions, the DCA also plans to increase awareness among pharmacists and the public about the legal and medical implications of handling and using Schedule H drugs, especially those related to abortion and reproductive health.

Foundation Stone for 17.93-Crore Storm water Drain Project

TPN Bureau, Hyderabad, September 16:

In a major step towards resolving the perennial flooding issues in the heart of the city, Hyderabad In-charge Minister, along with , Mayor of (GHMC), on Tuesday laid the foundation stone for a comprehensive stormwater drain (SWD) project from Lakdikapool to Nampally Exhibition Ground.

The project, undertaken by GHMC, is being implemented at an estimated cost of 17.93 crore and is expected to provide a lasting solution to waterlogging and flooding during monsoons in several densely populated localities.

Speaking at the event, Minister Prabhakar emphasised the government's commitment to improving civic infrastructure and urban resilience under the leadership of , Chief Minister of .

"A substantial amount of funds is being allocated for developing roads and canals across the city. These efforts are part of a broader strategy to enhance civic amenities and improve the brand image of Hyderabad," he said.

The ceremony was also attended by , Mem-



ber of , MLA from Nampally, , MLC, and , Zonal Commissioner, among other officials and public representatives.

Project Details

According to GHMC officials, the stormwater drain will be constructed using Reinforced Cement Concrete (RCC) box technology to ensure durability and long-term sustainability. The total length of the drain will be 2,720 metres, strategically designed to channel rainwater from several low-lying areas and prevent urban flooding.

The project has been divided into two major stretches:

- New Pragathi Press to Nampally Exhibition Grounds — covering

about 2,150 metres

- Chirag Ali Lane to Bombay Bazaar via Nampally Station Road — covering 570 metres

The drain will cater to a catchment area of approximately 175.13 hectares, covering several critical and flood-prone localities including FTCCI Marg, Red Hills, Devaiah Bagh, Ek Minar Masjid Road, Netaji Nagar, and Nampally Station Road.

By creating a dedicated channel for stormwater, the project aims to reduce surface runoff, prevent water stagnation, and improve road safety during the rainy season.

Officials added that once completed, the RCC box drain will significantly reduce the burden on existing sewer and drainage networks, allowing rainwater to be quickly discharged into natural

outfalls. The project is also expected to improve sanitation and minimise damage to roads and public property caused by seasonal flooding.

Part of Broader Urban Development Push

The GHMC has been prioritising stormwater drain development in several parts of the city as part of its climate resilience and infrastructure strengthening plan. Similar projects are already underway in other vulnerable zones.

With this new project, the government hopes to address one of the long-standing civic challenges in central Hyderabad, bringing relief to thousands of residents and commuters.

Telangana Govt Reshuffles Key IAS Officers

TPN Bureau, Hyderabad, September 16:

In a major bureaucratic reshuffle, the government has issued Government Order (GO) No. 1241, transferring and assigning new responsibilities to several senior IAS officers. The shake-up is aimed at strengthening governance, accelerating project implementation, and bringing renewed administrative focus to crucial sectors including transport, urban planning, and social welfare.

As part of the reshuffle, , IAS, assumed charge on Tuesday as the Managing Director (MD) of (HMRL). He has been given full addition-

al responsibilities of the post, officially relieving long-time MD from his duties.

HMRL, one of the largest metro rail projects in the country, is currently preparing for network expansion and service upgrades. The government is understood to be banking on Sarfaraz Ahmad's administrative experience to infuse new momentum into the city's rapid transit operations and to push forward with pending infrastructure projects.

Apart from this key appointment, three other IAS officers have been transferred or given additional charges:

IAS, who was serving as the Director of

(WCD), has been relieved from her position.

She has been replaced by , IAS, who has now been posted as the Director of WCD. The department is responsible for implementing a range of schemes and policies aimed at women's safety, empowerment, and the protection of child rights across Telangana. Officials expect Ojha's appointment to strengthen ongoing programmes and improve outreach efforts.

IAS, has been given full additional charge as Secretary of (TGSWREIS), relieving from the post. TGSWREIS manages hundreds of residential schools and col-

leges for students from marginalised communities, and Krishna Aditya's appointment is being viewed as a move to inject fresh leadership into the organisation's educational initiatives.

IAS, has been appointed as the Joint Metropolitan Commissioner (General) of (HMDA) and also given full additional charge as HMDA Secretary, replacing , who has been transferred. HMDA oversees planning, infrastructure development, and regulation in the rapidly expanding Hyderabad metropolitan region. The government hopes that Sreevatsa's appointment will accelerate planning approvals and strength-

en inter-agency coordination.

Senior officials said the reshuffle is part of a broader effort by the state government to optimise administration, fill key vacancies, and place experienced officers in critical roles. The changes come at a time when Telangana is focusing on urban infrastructure growth, social welfare reforms, and improving public service delivery across departments.

The latest transfers reflect the government's intent to bring in dynamic leadership and enhance operational efficiency across departments handling crucial development programmes.



Telangana Tourism and Culture Minister Reviews Preparations for Bathukamma Festival

TPN Bureau, Hyderabad, Sept 16: Telangana Tourism and Culture Minister Jupalli Krishna Rao has conducted a comprehensive review of preparations for the upcoming Bathukamma festival, emphasizing that the celebrations should seamlessly blend tradition with modernity while highlighting the state's rich cultural heritage, natural beauty, and tourism potential. The review meeting was held at the Tourism Plaza in Begumpet.

Speaking at the meeting, Minister Krishna Rao stated that arrangements are being made to ensure that the Bathukamma festivities are celebrated in a grand and vibrant manner, engaging people from all walks of life. He stressed the need for the festival to reflect Telangana's culture and traditions, in line with the directives of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao.

The Minister instructed officials to ensure that celebrations are conducted not only in villages but also in



Hyderabad with equal grandeur. He highlighted the importance of involving famous pilgrimage sites, historical locations, and key tourist destinations across the state in the festivities. Special emphasis was laid on organizing cultural programs at these locations to showcase Telangana's unique traditions and heritage.

Minister Krishna Rao also directed the officials to design Bathukamma-themed songs, visuals, and events that capture the essence of the state's culture and traditions, while pro-

moting environmental awareness and tourism. He encouraged citizens to share these cultural expressions on social media, such as in color tunes and status updates, to enhance public engagement and global visibility.

In terms of sustainability, the Minister stressed that flowers and other materials used during the festival should not be discarded carelessly. Officials were asked to ensure eco-friendly arrangements and avoid the use of non-biodegradable items in festival preparations.

The festival is scheduled to be celebrated from September 21 to 30, and the Minister emphasized that the opening ceremony on September 21 at the historic Veerabhadra Temple in Warangal should be executed in a grand manner. In Hyderabad, Bathukamma idols will be installed at selected junctions, tourism hotels, railway stations, bus terminals, airports, and universities to encourage widespread participation.

Minister Krishna Rao also requested educational institutions to involve students in Bathu-

kamma celebrations, ensuring that the younger generation actively participates in the festival. District Collectors were instructed to oversee arrangements in their respective districts to guarantee smooth and vibrant celebrations. Additionally, cultural experts and professionals are to be engaged for the organization of programs to ensure the authenticity and grandeur of the festivities.

The review meeting was attended by Special Chief Secretary of the Tourism Department Jayesh Ranjan, Member of the Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Commission Bhavani Reddy, Chairperson of the Vaishya Corporation Kalva Sujata, State Art Gallery Director Lakshmi, and other senior officials.

Through these meticulous preparations, Telangana aims to showcase Bathukamma as a festival that not only preserves tradition but also promotes tourism, environmental awareness, and cultural pride on a global platform.

Hydra Continues Search for Three Missing Persons

TPN Bureau, Hyderabad, Sept16: The search operation for three individuals who went missing after falling into drains on Sunday is ongoing, with Hydra authorities conducting extensive surveys across multiple locations. Despite intensive efforts, the missing persons have not yet been located.

On Tuesday, Hydra officials carried out a detailed inspection of the drains and extended the search to the Musi River. The operation involved the use of drones to scan the entire river stretch, though no significant leads were found.

During the search, Hydra personnel recovered a two-wheeler belonging to Dinesh, also known as Sunny, which had fallen into a canal in Vinobha Colony, Musheerabad. The bike was found approximately 150 meters from the incident site and was retrieved by officials on Tuesday. Following this, Hydra teams opened every catch pit between the location where the vehicle was found and the site of the accident,



but Sunny's trail remained elusive.

The search operation also continues for Arjun and Ramulu, who went missing after falling into the Afzal Sagar drain in Asifnagar. Similar to Sunny's case, drones were deployed over the Musi River on Tuesday, but the operation did not yield any results.

Additional Hydra personnel, including Sri Varlapappayya, confirmed that the teams had also ventured into underground drainage channels to locate the missing individuals, despite the high risks involved. They noted that DRF personnel conducted searches in the subterranean drainage network with extreme caution, highlighting the challenges posed by such operations.

Hydra officials, including Sri Jayaprakash, Sri Gautam, and Sri Yajnana-rayana, are leading the

search operations, coordinating the teams and monitoring progress closely. The authorities have assured that efforts will continue relentlessly until the missing persons are traced.

The ongoing search underscores the dangers associated with urban drains and water bodies during the monsoon season. Authorities have advised residents to exercise caution near open drains and rivers, particularly during heavy rainfall, to prevent such incidents.

Despite the exhaustive search using both drones and on-ground inspections, the missing individuals remain unlocated, leaving families anxious and officials vigilant. Hydra authorities have stated that every possible measure is being undertaken to trace the missing persons safely.

Telangana Minister Konda Surekha Assures Support to Forest Officials

TPN Bureau, Hyderabad, Sept16: Telangana Forest, Environment, and Endowments Minister Konda Surekha has assured forest officials of her full support, emphasizing that any attack on them will be met with strict action under the PD Acts. The minister made the remarks during a review meeting with representatives of the State Forest Department Officers' Association at the Telangana Secretariat on Monday.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary Ahmed Nadeem, PCCF Dr. Suvarna, Sunita Bhagwat, and other senior officials. During the session, leaders of the forest officers' associations highlighted their concerns and challenges faced in the field.

Speaking at the meeting, Minister Surekha said she would always stand as a "big sister" to forest personnel and would remain accessible to listen to their grievances. She assured that minor issues could be resolved within the department itself, while more critical matters would be escalated to the Chief Minister for speedy resolution. "We are all part of one family," the minister said, underlining the importance of forest officials as the frontline personnel protecting the state's natural resources. She described it as her responsibility to ensure their welfare.

Minister Surekha also pledged to work toward granting forest officials allowances equivalent to those provided to police personnel. Her assurances were welcomed by all the association leaders present at the meeting. She recalled that in the unified Andhra Pradesh, forest officers used to re-



ceive awards, which were discontinued after the formation of Telangana. She added that the Chief Minister has responded positively to issues brought to his attention during a recent departmental review, marking the first time such support was extended to forest officials in Telangana.

The association leaders presented a list of demands and suggestions to the minister, including:

- Strict action against encroachers of forest land, similar to measures in Maharashtra.
- Immediate appointments of forest beat officers and recruitment for nearly 2,000 vacant posts.
- Upgrading Section Officer posts from zone-level to district-level positions.

- Provision of two-wheelers to beat officers, Section Officers, and DROs for field inspections.
- Reorganization of sections and beats at the state level.
- Implementation of a three-year rotation policy for field officials to ensure 100% transfers.
- Establishment of two to three forest stations in every district.
- Provision of arms for officials as part of forest protection.
- Allocation of rent-free quarters for officials posted in rural forest areas, in place of HRA.
- Regular promotion-based recruitment to replace conversion quotas, similar to excise department practices.
- Admission priority

for forest officials' children in schools, similar to provisions for police personnel.

- Granting gazetted status to Deputy Rangers.
- Prompt resolution of vigilance, enforcement, and disciplinary cases to ensure justice.
- Equal pay and allowances for forest officials as received by police personnel.

Minister Surekha assured the officers that all feasible measures would be taken to address their demands and improve working conditions. She reiterated the government's commitment to the safety, welfare, and professional recognition of forest personnel, highlighting their crucial role in protecting Telangana's forests and environment.



Manakondur MLA Directs Immediate Repairs of Roads Damaged by Recent Rains

TPN Bureau, Karimnagar, Sept 16: The recent heavy rains have severely damaged roads across Manakondur constituency, prompting urgent action from the local administration. Manakondur MLA Dr. Kavvampalli Satyanarayana has directed Panchayati Raj officials to ensure that repair work is carried out immediately, emphasizing that public inconvenience due to damaged roads must be minimized.

On Tuesday, the MLA convened a review meeting at the Prajabbhavan in LMD Colony to assess the condition of roads in the constituency, along with the progress of various ongoing development works. During the meeting, Dr. Satyanarayana closely examined the impact of heavy rains and floods on local infrastructure, particularly focusing on the potholes and damaged stretches that have disrupted daily commut-

ing for residents.

Dr. Satyanarayana questioned the officials about any proposals that may have been submitted to the government regarding the repair of these roads. He stressed the importance of creating an actionable plan that identifies damaged roads on a mandal-wise basis, so that repair work can commence without delay. "The heavy rainfall and floods have left many roads in poor condition, causing severe inconvenience to the public. It is imperative that repair work begins immediately," the MLA said.

The review meeting was attended by key Panchayati Raj engineering officials, including Assistant Executive Engineer Rahman, Deputy EEs Manjula Bhargavi and Ravi Prasad, as well as AEs Surender Reddy, Praveen, Mallesh, and Venkateshwar. Officials briefed the MLA on the status of each affected road and out-

lined the technical and financial resources required to undertake repairs efficiently.

Dr. Satyanarayana instructed the officials to prioritize roads that are crucial for connectivity and daily commuting. He emphasized that all necessary coordination should be established between state government departments and Panchayati Raj officials to ensure seamless execution of repair projects. The MLA also highlighted that citizens should not face prolonged hardships due to infrastructural damage and that transparency in planning and execution is essential.

The meeting concluded with the MLA directing the officials to prepare a detailed action plan mandal by mandal. This plan will focus on identifying the worst-hit roads and implementing repair and maintenance works immediately. Officials assured the MLA that they would

expedite the repair process and report progress regularly to ensure accountability and timely completion.

The urgent review comes at a time when residents of Manakondur constituency have faced significant difficulties due to damaged roads, which have affected daily travel, access to essential services, and local transportation. By prioritizing repair work, the MLA aims to restore normalcy and ensure that public mobility is not compromised.

With these directives in place, it is expected that the repair and maintenance of roads in Manakondur will be carried out swiftly, mitigating the impact of recent heavy rains and floods. Residents are hopeful that the proactive measures by the MLA and Panchayati Raj officials will lead to safer and more accessible roads across the constituency.

From Degrees to Skills: Why Indian Education Needs Urgent Reinvention



For years now, I've watched thousands of students pass through the traditional education system - bright, capable, and full of poten-

tial, only to land in a job market that barely recognizes their degrees. As someone who works at the intersection of education, employability, and industry-readiness, I can say this with conviction: our current education model is outdated. And in today's fast paced world, outdated is dangerous. When Education Became a Checklist In many parts of India, education is no longer about learning — it's about checking boxes. Get a degree. Get a job. Get a salary. That's the loop. And in the process, we're producing graduates who are not job-

ready — just job-hoping. Over time, I've seen students enter colleges without clarity, study without curiosity, and graduate without confidence. They come to us, not because they failed their exams, but because their degrees failed to prepare them for the real world. The intent was noble. The result, however, is disheartening. The Problem Isn't the Students. It's the System. Students today are hungry, restless, and exposed to more global competition than any previous generation. But the system they're being trained in was built for a

world that no longer exists. And it shows. Across the country, I've spoken to HR's and employers who don't even glance at degrees anymore. They ask: • Can they work on real data? • Can they communicate effectively? • Do they understand the tools we use? • Can they solve problems without waiting for a supervisor? And unfortunately, the answer — more often than not — is “no.” This isn't limited to commerce or finance. It cuts across engineering, law, media, and even business schools. The symptoms are everywhere: underemploy-

ment, confusion, lack of confidence, and an obsession with “degree and certifications” that offer no practical value. The Illusion of a Guaranteed Future What concerns me even more is the debt trap. Inspired by flashy promises and global logos, parents are now willing to take massive loans to send their children to courses that offer little more than inflated hope. Zoho's founder, Sridhar Vembu, has rightly questioned this model. “I urge students and parents to be cautious in borrowing heavily to pursue degrees abroad. Borrowing

heavily to pursue degrees in India is unwise too. I strongly believe we should not trap young people in debt in the name of education. The only smart course is for prospective employers to fund training programs and for the industry to broadly accept such alternative credentials rather than ask for formal degrees. The best investment we make as a company is in training and skill development. I hope companies do this widely so we don't strand young people in debt.” This is not just an opinion. They're signals from the world we are step-

ping into. What the Future Demands The truth is this: A degree is no longer a differentiator. A skill is. And the sooner we accept that, the faster we can build a generation that's future-ready. The Shift Is Not Optional. It's Inevitable. Colleges and universities need to evolve. We need fewer lectures and more labs. Fewer PDFs and more projects. Fewer rigid degrees and more flexible pathways. The world no longer asks, “Where did you study?” It asks: • What can you do? • Can you learn fast? • Can you adapt when things change? The day our

education system starts answering those questions, we'll stop worrying about placements. In Conclusion As a founder, a mentor, and most importantly, a concerned citizen — I believe this change is not just necessary, it's non-negotiable. Because education should be about unlocking potential — not adding pressure. And because our students don't just deserve jobs — they deserve futures. Let's build an education system that respects talent, nurtures skill, and prepares for the world we actually live in — not the one we left behind.

The Life of yarn threads

When the primitive couple Perhaps might enjoyed fruit where God didn't sign And the thoughts opened the eyes Probably concealed the shy beauty with leaves

Having born

And conceived from my people The life shaped in silk yarn By the touch of my ancestors fingertips Maybe, adapted, initial syllable, for civilisation!

With breathe yarns my grand, grang grand fathers weaved on weft and wrapt tool The grandure and glory in handloom cloth is A singasia of Indian culture

The secrecy of aesthetic beauty of The sky touching young queens Lies in the the dressed up silk sarees is Of that glitters mirage!

The kudos of great kings That mirrored the colours That are imprinted Is of the sway Of the spindle in the loom!

In the early hours flattered at the hopes of Independence In the sunset Is of the projectile National flag!

However this day.. That I nit the thread of yarn Is not just a cloth The pages of wetted tears of the life struggle are to begot again Me is the Brahma, the Creator At the tip of fingers born inb The dreams of colourful atrs are Vanished, in the palms,dark clouds The starving pains, that hide, in the broken threads

Its not just a piece of cloth, The towering industry of weavers

In midst od the scream of powerlooms The weavers slender artistic sound, Of miserable thready pain Is the symbol of erstwhile.

Involved fully in work of craft The days are not conscious of time With meagre perks The struggle in life is Hunger noise of bloom and gloom

In struggling life of weavers The sweat thread of starving The silky colours drenched in pain rain In the sound of weaving tool its a fateline

However... Life among the sorrowful tides Fought out for hopes Me is the weaver That weaves the dreams on the loom psyche



On the journey path In search of summary of life While nitting the threads The rainbow, VIBGYOR A blend of colours Was glittering before my eyes

Just a thread it is A ray of hope That's a life tie

The work that I do Is a tear droplet And a novel melodious song



Translation: Dr.T.Radhakrishnamacharyulu Source: A Telugu poem “Noolupogula Bathuku” by Wilson Rao Kommavaram.



India's Bond Yields Rise Despite Rate Cuts, Inflation at Record Low

Mumbai: India's inflation is at an eight-year low, and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cut policy rates three times since February. Yet, in a counter-intuitive trend, the 10-year government bond yields have climbed over 20 basis points since June, closing at 6.47 percent on Wednesday.

Why Yields Are Rising

Bond yields typically fall when interest rates are reduced, but experts cite several concerns driving the unexpected surge. Lower-than-expected tax collections, fiscal deficit worries, and global uncertainties, including US tariffs on Indian exports, have unnerved investors. RBI's shift in stance from 'accommodative' to 'neutral' has also signaled a pause in further cuts, contributing to the rise.

Impact of GST Cuts

The government's de-

Market Reactions and Fiscal Concerns

Independent analyst Ajay Bodke explained that while GDP growth in Q1 is encouraging, fears of fiscal slippage remain high. Weak tax receipts, slowing global demand, and geopolitical tensions have heightened risks. Investors are also worried about higher government borrowing if revenues fall short, which would push yields further upward. Former Federal Bank director Ashutosh Khajuria noted that the market read RBI's neutral stance as the end of rate cuts. The bond market, he said, “sees the future” and expects inflation to bottom out. He added that yields breached the normal 60–80 basis points spread with the repo rate, influenced heavily by global movements and US trade policies.

Outsourcing Worries

Experts warn that punitive US tariffs are already hurting sectors like textiles, gems and jewellery, and chemicals. Services exports may also suffer if the US proceeds with the proposed outsourcing tax under the HIRE bill. Bodke said replacing US markets with alternatives will be “a long-drawn, low-margin

Looking Ahead

SBI Research has cautioned that yields may not moderate until the impact of tariffs becomes clear. With inflation low but global headwinds rising, the Indian bond market remains jittery. For now, the government faces the challenge of managing fiscal stability while navigating trade shocks and market anxieties.

US threats of more tariffs on India will backfire

The White House has signaled plans to impose tariffs of up to 100 per cent on China and India, the two largest buyers of Russian energy, in an attempt to weaken President Vladimir Putin's war machine in Ukraine. However, the success of this strategy depends on support from the European Union and the Group of Seven, where consensus remains unlikely.

EU Resistance and Global Dilemmas

The European Union faces hurdles, particularly from Hungary's pro-Kremlin leadership, which is expected to block any secondary sanctions. Similarly, Japan and the UK may

avoid fully aligning with Washington, wary of jeopardizing their strategic interests in Asia. For many advanced economies, the tariffs present a difficult balance between security priorities and economic pragmatism.

China's Leverage on Raw Materials

China, now a major competitor to Western manufacturers, could face a surge of redirected exports to Europe if the US tariffs take effect. European producers might welcome temporary protection from Chinese goods like cars, furniture, and appliances, but the move remains anti-consumer and risky. Beijing controls critical resources like rare

earths and has previously weaponized this advantage in trade disputes. Analysts warn that it could easily retaliate again if faced with a broader coalition.

India in the Crossfire

India's inclusion in the tariff plan has raised eyebrows. Unlike China, India is neither a strategic rival nor a manufacturing threat. On the contrary, it has been building deeper trade ties, recently signing a free-trade pact with the UK while negotiating one with the EU. Japanese companies such as Suzuki and Honda have invested heavily in India, and financial giants like Sumitomo Mitsui and Mizuho are expanding

Pressure on Modi Government

President Donald Trump, while threatening tariffs beyond the current 50 per cent, has also expressed optimism about securing a bilateral trade deal with India. Yet Washington's demands go beyond energy, pressing New Delhi to end Russian oil purchases and open its agriculture market to genetically modified US corn and soybeans. For Prime Minister Narendra Modi, conceding on agriculture could spark fresh protests from farmers who have already resisted reforms in the past decade.

Strategic Risks Ahead



If pushed too hard, India may lean toward a Eurasian bloc where Chinese manufacturing

dominates and Russia supplies commodities, a shift that would undermine US goals. Modi's

challenge is to balance domestic political pressures with external trade demands, avoiding

both agricultural concessions at home and strategic isolation abroad.

Kerala Drafts 25-Year Urban Policy Following Landmark Urban Conclave

TPN Correspondent | Kerala

Kerala has unveiled plans for its first comprehensive urban policy, setting a 25-year vision for the state's cities, following the Kerala Urban Conclave 2025 held in Kochi. The two-day event attracted over 3,000 delegates, including international experts and mayors from eight Indian cities, and focused on shaping sustainable, inclusive, and

economically vibrant urban futures. The conclave generated 300 actionable recommendations designed to enhance livability, equity, and economic growth across urban areas. Key proposals include conducting social audits for urban local bodies, establishing city-level business development councils, creating five economic growth hubs, setting up urban observatories in every city, and mobilising revenue through digital tax sys-

tems, green bonds, and diaspora contributions. Local Self-Government Minister MB Rajesh described the conclave as "a historic step towards building cities of the future," emphasizing that the 25-year vision transcends political divides and actively involves citizens, experts, and elected representatives. "These 300 recommendations will guide us in drafting a modern, inclusive, and climate-resilient urban policy that can serve as

a model for the entire country," he said. In a move to elevate the policy on the global stage, Kerala also signed Letters of Intent with UN-Habitat and the United Nations University's Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies (UNU-CRIS). These collaborations are expected to facilitate the showcasing of Kerala's urban initiatives at platforms such as the World Urban Forum and create opportunities for international knowledge exchange

and technical support. The state government aims for the policy to balance rapid urbanisation with sustainability, ensuring that cities remain economically dynamic, socially equitable, and environmentally resilient over the next quarter-century. With the combined expertise of local stakeholders and international partners, Kerala's urban policy is positioned to set benchmarks for inclusive urban governance in India and beyond.



PM to Inaugurate PM MITRA Park, Launch Seva Pakhwada in Madhya Pradesh

TPN Bureau | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone for India's first PM MITRA Park and inaugurate the fortnight-long 'Seva Pakhwada' during his visit to Dhar district in Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday (September 17, 2025), Chief Minister Mohan Yadav announced. The PM will also launch the Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan at Bhainsola village in the district. The health campaign will include state-wide camps for screening and testing of diabetes, high blood pressure, anaemia, and tuberculosis at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs and Community Health Centers. Prenatal checkups, nu-

trition counseling, and training sessions on menstrual hygiene and nutrition for adolescent girls will also be conducted. Voluntary blood donation will be encouraged as part of the initiative. CM Yadav highlighted that the fortnight-long drive aligns with the Prime Minister's vision of a healthy society contributing to a strong nation. "Women's health and empowerment are the basis of progress. Madhya Pradesh has to play an important role in the Developed India 2047 mission," he said. The PM MITRA Park in Dhar has already attracted investment proposals exceeding 23,000 crore from 114 leading textile companies. Once fully developed, the park is expected to generate employment

for three lakh people. The project follows the 5F vision — Farm-to-Fibre-to-Factory-to-Fashion-to-Foreign — and spans a total of 2,158 acres, with 1,300 acres already allotted and the remaining land to be provided in phases. The inauguration of Seva Pakhwada, scheduled from September 17 to October 2, will see the Prime Minister addressing the people of Madhya Pradesh and reinforcing the government's commitment to public service, women's empowerment, and health. The PM MITRA Park is expected to bring transformative socio-economic benefits to the region, providing livelihoods for thousands of families and boosting India's textile and apparel industry.

Congress Forms Pradesh Election Committee Ahead of Bihar Assembly Polls

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Ahead of the Bihar Assembly elections, the Congress on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, announced the formation of its Pradesh Election Committee to prepare the party for the upcoming electoral battle. The move comes as part of the party's strategy to strengthen its organisation and ensure coordinated efforts across the state. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has approved the constitution of the Pradesh Election Committee of the Bihar Pradesh Congress Committee (BPCC) with immediate effect. The committee will serve as the central decision-making body for poll-re-



lated planning, campaign strategies, and candidate coordination in Bihar. The newly formed committee comprises 39 members, including prominent leaders such as Bihar unit chief Rajesh Ram, Shakeel Ahmed Khan, and Madan Mohan Jha. Other notable members include Rajesh Rathore, Motilal Sharma, Anshul Avijit, Qaiser Ali Khan, Ramesh Prasad Yadav, Shashi Ranjan, Subodh Mandal, Fauzia Rana,

and Khushboo Kumari. In addition to its members, the committee will have all Members of Parliament (MPs), Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), Members of the Legislative Council (MLCs), AICC secretaries, Congress Working Committee (CWC) members from Bihar, and heads of frontal organisations as permanent invitees. This structure is aimed at ensuring inclusivity and leveraging the experience of senior leaders for effective

election management. Bihar is expected to go to polls around November 2025, and the Congress is keen on mounting a strong challenge to its rivals in the state. The formation of the Pradesh Election Committee is seen as a step to streamline campaign efforts, identify strong candidates, and address local issues effectively, with a focus on boosting the party's prospects in the elections. Party sources indicated that the committee will meet regularly in the coming weeks to finalise campaign strategies, coordinate with district-level units, and monitor poll preparations, underscoring Congress's intent to be fully battle-ready for the Bihar Assembly elections.

Sonia, Rahul Gandhi meet Mauritius PM Navinchandra in Delhi

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi and Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday held a meeting with Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, in Delhi. Dr Ramgoolam, who carries the distinguished honours of GCSK and FRCP, is on an official visit to India aimed at strengthening bilateral relations between Port Louis and New Delhi. While the specifics of the discussions were not officially disclosed, party sources indicated that the talks highlighted India's historic and cultural connections with Mauritius. The meeting



focused on enhancing people-to-people ties, fostering cooperation across various sectors, and reinforcing the long-standing friendship between the two nations. The leaders reportedly discussed avenues to promote cultural exchanges, economic partnerships, and collaborative initiatives that would benefit citizens of both countries. Dr Ramgoolam's visit, scheduled from September 9 to 16, has involved extensive engagements

with Indian leaders and visits to significant cultural and economic hubs. During his trip, he toured Mumbai, Varanasi, Ayodhya, and Tirupati, gaining insights into India's rich heritage, spiritual landmarks, and economic landscapes. The Prime Minister of Mauritius has expressed interest in deepening collaboration in areas such as trade, tourism, education, and technology, building on the strong historical ties between

the two nations. The meeting with Sonia and Rahul Gandhi underscores the importance Mauritius places on its relationship with India, reflecting shared values, mutual respect, and the aim of strengthening bilateral engagement at multiple levels. Both sides highlighted the significance of continuing dialogue and expanding cooperative efforts to enhance economic, cultural, and social linkages. Dr Ramgoolam's visit is seen as part of a broader initiative to consolidate diplomatic relations, promote cultural diplomacy, and explore new opportunities for collaboration, ensuring that the longstanding bond between India and Mauritius continues to flourish in the years ahead.

“Against Federalism”: Vijay’s TVK Criticises Amit Shah’s Hindi Day Remarks

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Actor Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) has strongly criticised Union Home Minister Amit Shah's remarks on Hindi, terming them an attempt to impose the language on non-Hindi-speaking states. The party described the comments as discriminatory towards non-BJP-ruled states and a threat to India's federal structure. "The Union government, even after failing to impose Hindi, is constantly trying to enforce it," said TVK propaganda and policy general

secretary Arunraj in a statement. He added that prioritising one language over others goes against federalism and called on Shah to withdraw his statement made on Hindi Day, in which he said Hindi will play an important role in a self-reliant India. The TVK urged the Union government to embrace all states, languages, and religions, noting that such inclusivity would ensure holistic growth for the country. TVK chief Vijay, who has announced political opposition to both the ruling DMK and the BJP in Tamil Nadu, has previously criticised the alleged imposition of

Hindi through the three-language policy. The party also expressed concern over Shah's comments on the English language, calling them a "direct" assault on Tamil Nadu's two-language education policy. On September 14, Shah had addressed Hindi Diwas, stating that Hindi should not be seen as a rival to other Indian languages but as a companion. "I always say that Hindi is not a competition to Indian languages. Hindi is a friend of Indian languages. There are no conflicts between them," he had said. Resistance to teaching Hindi in southern

schools, led by Tamil Nadu and the ruling DMK, remains strong. The state follows a two-language policy and faces Central pressure to introduce a third language. The DMK has warned that the National Education Policy could enforce cultural homogenisation, threatening India's linguistic diversity and the distinct cultural identity of southern states. TVK's statement reflects the growing debate over language policy and federal rights in India, highlighting the tension between regional language preservation and Central government initiatives.



“Most Degenerate Newspaper”: Trump Sues New York Times For \$15 Billion

TPN Bureau |
Washington

US President Donald Trump announced on Monday that he is filing a \$15 billion defamation lawsuit against The New York Times, accusing the newspaper of waging a decades-long “campaign of lies” against him. Trump labelled the publication a “virtual mouthpiece for the Radical Left Democrat Party” and criticised its coverage of him, his family, his business, and the MAGA and America First movements.

Trump, in a post on X, claimed that the Times’ endorsement of Vice President Kamala Harris during the presidential race, prominently placed on the newspaper’s front page, amounted to “the single largest illegal campaign contribution, ever.” He argued that the publication has long practised a pattern of abuse, comparing its coverage to other liberal media



outlets such as ABC and CBS.

The lawsuit, which will be filed in Florida, accuses the Times of spreading falsehoods about Trump and engaging in illegal and unacceptable defamation. Trump also referenced past legal victo-

ries against other media organizations, citing settlements with ABC and CBS for alleged false reporting. He described the Times as a “once respected rag” that has been allowed to smear him for too long.

Trump has consist-

ently taken legal action against media outlets he claims have misrepresented him. Earlier lawsuits included ABC News, which settled for a \$15 million donation to the future Trump Library, and CBS’ 60 Minutes, both of which involved claims of false reporting and defamation.

The president framed the new legal action as a continuation of his effort to hold media organizations accountable for what he described as malicious reporting. “The New York Times has been allowed to freely lie, smear, and defame me for far too long, and that stops now,” Trump said, reiterating his commitment to fight the media in court and protect his public and political image.

The case adds to Trump’s ongoing high-profile media battles, highlighting the president’s continued focus on litigation as a tool against perceived adversaries in the press.

Shehbaz Sharif To Meet Trump Next Week, Asim Munir To Tag Along

TPN Correspondent | Islamabad

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff, Field Marshal Asim Munir, are expected to meet US President Donald Trump on September 25 on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly, according to Khyber News, citing sources. The high-level meeting is likely to cover Pakistan’s devastating floods, the fallout of the Israeli strike on Qatar, and the ongoing diplomatic tensions with India.

No official confirmation has come from Pakistan’s Inter-Services Public Relations or its embassy in Washington. However, the report follows Munir’s two recent visits to the US. In June, Trump hosted Munir at the White House, discussing trade, economic development, and cryptocurrency. This visit was followed in July by a US-Pakistan trade deal announcement and Washington’s pledge to assist Pakistan in devel-



oping its oil reserves.

The recent thaw in US-Pakistan relations comes after Islamabad credited Trump for mediating a truce during the May military conflict with India, a claim strongly rejected by New Delhi. Initially, Pakistan stated that its Director General of Military Operations had proposed the ceasefire to India, but later acknowledged Washington’s role in the breakthrough.

Munir returned to Washington in August to

attend the retirement ceremony of outgoing Centcom Commander General Michael E. Kurilla and the change of command for Admiral Brad Cooper. During the trip, he also met US Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Dan Caine.

The upcoming dialogue with Trump is expected to further shape the US-Pakistan relationship, which had been strained in previous years. Analysts suggest that the talks could focus

on economic, strategic, and regional security issues, including developments in Afghanistan and South Asia.

The meeting will be closely watched as Pakistan seeks to strengthen ties with the US amid regional challenges and economic pressures. Observers note that the engagement could influence Islamabad’s diplomatic stance on ongoing disputes with New Delhi and its broader foreign policy agenda.



Arab-Islamic Summit Condemns Israel, But Takes Minimal

TPN Correspondent | Gaza

Leaders from across the Muslim world convened in Qatar for the highly anticipated Arab and Islamic Summit amid rising outrage over Israel’s war on Gaza. While the summit delivered strong rhetoric condemning Israeli ac-

tions, it fell short of imposing any significant punitive measures, leaving many Muslim capitals disappointed.

The final statement urged states to “take all possible legal and effective measures to prevent Israel from continuing its actions against the Palestinian people.” The communique included

formal condemnations and calls for international investigations, but stopped short of sanctions, oil embargoes, or downgrading diplomatic ties, a notable omission given the scale of destruction in Gaza.

Significantly, UAE, Bahrain, and Morocco—key signatories to the Abraham Accords—re-

mained silent on Israel, raising eyebrows as Monday marked the fifth anniversary of their formal recognition of the country. Their muted stance highlighted the delicate balance these states maintain in their diplomatic engagements.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) attended the sum-

mit but did not address the gathering, surprising observers given Riyadh’s regional influence and the growing calls for decisive action. Analysts suggest his silence signals caution, possibly influenced by geopolitical considerations.

Dr. Rashad Mohammed Al-Alimi, Chairman of Yemen’s Presidential

Leadership Council, called for a comprehensive Arab and Islamic approach to counter Israeli expansionist policies. He also criticised the Houthis, stating, “The geopolitical challenges we face today prove that the expansionist regional states and armed groups in the region are two sides of the same coin.”

The summit’s outcome reflects a familiar pattern in regional diplomacy, where fiery statements often fail to translate into tangible action. While leaders united in condemnation, concrete measures against Israel remained absent, underscoring the challenges of achieving consensus among diverse

member states with differing strategic priorities and alliances.

The summit demonstrated the limits of collective Arab and Islamic influence, as nations continue to weigh political pragmatism against moral and public pressure to support Palestinians in Gaza.

Zelenskyy calls for European air defence system

TPN Correspondent | Kyiv

Russian forces struck the southern Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia overnight, wounding 13 people, including two children, officials said Tuesday. The bombardment damaged over 20 apartment buildings and sparked fires, compounding recovery efforts from previous attacks, regional head Ivan Fedorov noted.

In response, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called on European leaders to create a robust, multilayered air defence system to protect the continent’s skies. “All the technologies for this are available. We need investments and decisions from all our



partners,” he said on Telegram, emphasizing the urgency amid ongoing Russian aggression.

The strike in Zaporizhzhia comes more than three and a half years after Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine, with no ceasefire or peace settlement in sight. Despite months of US-led diplomatic efforts, fighting continues along the roughly 1,000-kilometre front line.

Zelenskyy highlighted the scale of recent Russian attacks, noting that

in just the past two weeks, Moscow launched over 3,500 drones, more than 2,500 glide bombs, and nearly 200 missiles across Ukraine. Glide bombs, typically deployed from jets at high altitudes behind the front lines, create large craters and remain largely uncountable by Ukrainian defences.

The ongoing drone and glide bomb threat has also reached neighboring countries, with recent Russian drones landing in Poland. NATO

has responded by reinforcing European air defences, signaling growing concern over Moscow’s long-range capabilities.

Fedorov described the human and logistical toll of the latest strike, saying municipal workers are once again repairing windows and buildings damaged in previous attacks, adding strain on local resources.

Zelenskyy’s appeal underscores Ukraine’s continued reliance on international support to counter Russian military advances and protect civilian populations. The call for a coordinated European air defence system reflects broader fears over regional security as Russia continues its aerial assaults and drone campaigns across Ukrainian territory.

South Korea-U.S. Trade Talks Face Delays

TPN Correspondent | New York

South Korea’s tariff negotiations with the United States have hit a stall, with Seoul emphasizing the need to protect domestic companies from potential losses, officials said Tuesday. President Lee Jae Myung is determined not to rush a trade deal at the expense of national interests, even as both countries aim to finalise an agreement following the broad framework announced in July.

The two nations continue to work through details of the proposed deal, particularly surrounding a \$350 billion investment fund. “We cannot do everything the U.S. wants... Although President Lee aims to reach a deal as soon as possible, he is determined not to give up his role concerning the national interest in order to meet a deadline,” a Presidential official told



reporters.

South Korea’s top trade envoy, Yoo Hunkoo, is in the United States for follow-up negotiations, engaging intensively with American officials to resolve outstanding issues. Yoo noted that while both sides are committed to finalising a deal, the “devil is in the details,” highlighting the complexity of the remaining discussions.

The stalled talks come amid broader economic pressures, with South Korea seeking to balance

commitments under the trade agreement with the need to safeguard its industries from potential disadvantages. Officials stressed that the country would not compromise on critical points merely to meet a timeline.

Analysts note that the negotiations are crucial for both sides, as the deal could significantly enhance investment flows and strengthen economic cooperation. However, careful navigation is required to ensure that Korean companies do not bear disproportionate

costs.

The discussions mark the latest round in ongoing efforts to enhance bilateral trade relations between South Korea and the U.S., which have faced hurdles due to differing economic priorities and regulatory concerns. Both nations remain committed to finalising the agreement, but sources indicate that achieving a mutually acceptable resolution may take additional time, reflecting the intricate balance between economic growth and domestic protection.

India’s Exports Rise 6.7% In August, Trade Deficit Narrows

India's exports grew by 6.7% to \$35.1 billion in August 2025, while imports fell sharply by 10.12% to \$61.59 billion, according to official trade data released on Monday. In the same month last year, exports had stood at \$32.89 billion, and imports were at \$68.53 billion, indicating a significant improvement in the trade balance.

The trade deficit for August narrowed to \$26.49 billion, compared to \$35.64 billion recorded during the corresponding period in 2024.

This comes as a relief for the government, which has been closely monitoring external trade pressures amid global economic uncertainties.

Cumulatively, during April-August of the 2025-26 fiscal year, exports touched \$184.13 billion, while imports reached \$306.52 billion. The data suggests a gradual strengthening of India's export momentum despite challenging international conditions.

Commerce secretary Sunil Barthwal, while briefing the media, said

Indian exporters have performed commendably despite uncertainties in global trade policies and volatile demand. He highlighted that services exports also played a crucial role in cutting India's trade deficit by 9.4% during the first quarter of the current fiscal year.

The government remains optimistic about overall performance in the current fiscal. Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal recently said that India's combined goods and services exports are

expected to cross \$900 billion in 2025, signaling resilience in external trade.

With imports declining and exports on an upward trajectory, India's trade outlook appears relatively stable, although risks from geopolitical tensions, fluctuating commodity prices, and slowing global growth remain. The narrowing deficit in August provides a positive signal as the country looks to strengthen its manufacturing and services exports in the coming months.



Passenger Vehicle Dispatches Dip 9% , Two-Wheelers Rise

New Delhi: Passenger vehicle dispatches from companies to dealers fell 9% year-on-year in August to 3,21,840 units, compared to 3,52,921 units in the same month last year. According to the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), the decline was mainly due to manufacturers recalibrating supplies in response to low market demand.

SIAM Director General Rajesh Menon said sales were impacted as customers deferred purchases in anticipation of a GST rate cut and potential price reductions. The wait-and-watch approach by buyers weighed heavily on passenger vehicle sales during the month.

In contrast, the two-wheeler segment recorded growth, with dispatches rising 7% year-on-year to 18,33,921 units in August, up from 17,11,662 units in August 2024. Scooter sales jumped 13% to 6,83,397 units, while motorcycle dispatches rose 4% to 11,06,638 units, showing resilience in the entry-level and commuter segments.

The three-wheeler category posted its highest-ever dispatch figures for August, growing 8% to 75,759 units compared to 69,962 units in the previous year. This growth highlights sustained demand in urban and semi-urban mobility markets, supported by rising adoption of shared mobility solutions.

Looking ahead, industry leaders expect the government's decision to reduce GST rates on vehicles to provide a much-needed boost. From September 22, petrol and diesel cars with engine capacities up to 1,200 cc and 1,500 cc will attract 18% GST, while larger vehicles will continue to face the highest 40% slab. Electric vehicles will remain at the lowest 5% GST rate, ensuring continued policy support for clean mobility.

The automotive sector anticipates renewed demand during the upcoming festive season, with the revised GST structure expected to make vehicles more affordable and accessible to a broader customer base.

Sensex, Nifty Rebound Ahead Of India-U.S. Trade Talks

Mumbai: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty staged a rebound in early trade on Tuesday (September 16, 2025), buoyed by optimism over the India-U.S. bilateral trade talks and positive cues from global markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex advanced 201.69 points to 81,987.43 in early trade, while the NSE Nifty rose 52.8 points to 25,122. Market sentiment was lifted ahead of the day-long India-U.S. bilateral trade discussions, with hopes of progress in securing a favorable deal.

Investor mood was further supported by gains in global peers ahead of the U.S. Federal Reserve policy meeting later this week. In

Asia, South Korea's KOSPI, Japan's Nikkei 225 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng traded in positive territory, though Shanghai's SSE Composite index was marginally lower. On Wall Street, U.S. markets had closed higher on Monday.

Among Sensex constituents, Mahindra & Mahindra, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Axis Bank, Larsen & Toubro, UltraTech Cement and NTPC emerged as major gainers. On the downside, Titan, Asian Paints, HDFC Bank and State Bank of India were among the prominent laggards.

Meanwhile, global oil benchmark Brent crude edged up 0.19% to \$67.57 a barrel, offering some stability to commodity markets.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs), however, continued to show caution. They offloaded equities worth 1,268.59 crore on Monday (September 15, 2025), according to exchange data, highlighting the persistent volatility in foreign fund flows.

On Monday, the Sensex had snapped a five-day rally, shedding 118.96 points or 0.15% to settle at 81,785.74. The Nifty also ended its eight-day winning streak, closing 44.80 points lower or 0.18% at 25,069.20.

Market participants are now closely tracking both the India-U.S. talks and the outcome of the U.S. Federal Reserve meeting, which are expected to set the near-term direction for equities.



Rupee Gains 12 Paise Ahead Of India-U.S. Trade Talks

Mumbai: The rupee appreciated 12 paise to 88.04 against the U.S. dollar in early trade on Tuesday (September 16, 2025), as investors awaited cues from the India-U.S. trade talks in New Delhi. American negotiator Brendan Lynch is set to meet Indian officials for the day-long discussions, raising hopes of progress in resolving trade tensions.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the domestic unit opened at 88.05 and touched 88.04 against the greenback, marking a gain of 12 paise from its previous close. In initial trade, the rupee also slipped briefly to 88.16. On Monday, it had settled higher by 10 paise at 88.16.

Forex traders said the rupee continues to face pressure from uneven fund flows and tariff shocks triggered by U.S. President Donald Trump's protectionist measures. To curb volatility, the Reserve Bank of India has stepped up interventions in the offshore non-deliverable forward (NDF) market.

"The key catalyst this week will be the U.S.-India trade talks," CR Forex Advisors MD Amit Pabari said, adding that progress in discussions could provide

the rupee with much-needed support, especially with India's fundamentals showing resilience.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against six major currencies, was trading at 97.22, down 0.08%. Brent crude futures rose 0.25% to \$67.61 per barrel, adding a layer of caution for import-reliant India.

On the domestic equity front, markets opened higher, with Sensex climbing 201.69 points to 81,987.43 and Nifty rising 52.8 points to 25,122. However, foreign institutional investors continued to pare exposure, offloading equities worth 1,268.59 crore on Monday.

The trade negotiations come against the backdrop of recent U.S. tariffs of 50% on Indian goods, which have dented exports. Five rounds of talks have already taken place, while the sixth round, scheduled in late August, was postponed due to escalating tensions.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently welcomed Trump's positive remarks on bilateral talks, expressing confidence that the negotiations could unlock greater opportunities in the partnership.

Tata Technologies Shares Rise After ES-Tec Acquisition

Tata Technologies Limited shares rose 2% intraday on Monday, September 15, following the company's acquisition of Germany-based ES-Tec GmbH and its subsidiaries in a deal valued at up to 75 million. The transaction, to be executed through Tata Technologies' Singapore subsidiary, is expected to close by December 31, 2025, subject to regulatory approvals in Germany and Morocco.

Founded in 2006 and headquartered in Wolfsburg, ES-Tec Group is a premium automotive



engineering services provider specializing in advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS), connected driving, and digital engineering. The firm reported revenues of 36 million in 2024 and employs over 300 professionals.

Tata Technologies said the acquisition will significantly enhance its engineering, research, and development (ER&D) capabilities, particularly in embedded systems and systems engineering. The company expects

the deal to be earnings-per-share (EPS) accretive from the first full year of operations.

"The acquisition of ES-Tec Group is a strategic leap that enhances our ability to deliver end-to-end product engineering solutions

across the automotive value chain," said Warren Harris, MD & CEO of Tata Technologies. "ES-Tec's technical depth, customer-centricity, and regional strength align perfectly with our vision to be the first partner choice for global OEMs navigating the shift towards intelligent, connected, and sustainable mobility."

Marc Wille, MD & CEO of ES-Tec, added that the partnership will allow the German firm to broaden its international presence and tackle future automotive challenges. "Together, we are ready to drive the global automo-

tive industry forward—delivering real value through competitive pricing, outstanding quality, and faster development cycles," Wille said.

The acquisition will give Tata Technologies a stronger foothold in Europe's automotive hub, a key market as OEMs ramp up R&D investments in electrification, ADAS, and software-defined vehicle platforms. The European engineering services market is projected to grow from 4.5 billion in 2020 to 11.7 billion by 2030, offering significant growth opportunities for the company.



AI vs Media: Yomiuri Sues for ¥2.2B in Damages

Japan's largest newspaper, Yomiuri Shimbun, has filed a lawsuit against U.S.-based artificial intelligence company Perplexity AI, accusing it of unauthorized use of more than 120,000 news articles. The suit, filed Thursday in a Tokyo court, seeks 2.2 billion yen (approximately \$14.7 million) in damages.

This marks the first legal action by a major Japanese media house against an AI firm for content scraping and re-use, adding to a growing wave of lawsuits globally as media companies push back against what they call exploitative AI practices.

The complaint alleges that Perplexity's search engine accessed and re-produced Yomiuri content without permission between February and June 2025. The newspaper said this constitutes "free-riding on the results of the activities of news organisations, which have invested a great deal of effort and expense."

Yomiuri also claims financial damages from lost ad revenue, arguing that users are reading AI-generated summaries instead of visiting its website. "This undermines accurate journalism and could shake the foundations of democracy," said a spokesperson from the newspaper.

With a daily circulation of around six million and a newsroom of roughly 2,500 reporters, Yomiuri Shimbun is a dominant media force in Japan, although its readership has declined from over 10 million in 2010.

Perplexity has not issued an official response to the latest lawsuit. However, in previous legal disputes — including one with The Wall Street Journal and New York Post in 2024 — the company criticized media lawsuits as "shortsighted" and claimed they restrict access to publicly available information.

"This adversarial posture stifles innovation," Perplexity said at the time, arguing for collaboration between media and AI companies to build mutually beneficial tools.

The case could set a significant precedent for content ownership and AI's role in the global media landscape.



'Alien' Diamond Created on Earth, Harder Than Natural Diamonds



In a groundbreaking development, Chinese scientists have successfully created a rare form of diamond—known as hexagonal diamond or lonsdaleite—in a laboratory setting, marking a major leap in material science. This ultra-hard crystal is naturally found only in meteorites and is believed to be significantly harder than conventional diamonds.

Published in Nature, the study was led by researchers from the Centre for High-Pressure Science & Technology Advanced Research. They achieved the feat by transforming high-purity graphite into hexagonal diamond under carefully controlled high-pressure, high-temperature, and quasi-hydrostatic conditions. The result: highly ordered, micrometre-sized diamond samples that could outperform traditional diamonds in industrial and electronic applications.

Unlike standard cubic diamonds, which can fracture along specific planes, hexagonal diamonds have a more robust atomic structure. Until now, attempts to synthesize them in labs had mostly produced ordinary diamonds due to structural instability during formation.

Lead researcher Yang Liuxiang attributed the success to two key innovations. First, the use of ultra-pure natural graphite as the starting material ensured minimal defects. Second, real-time X-ray imaging allowed researchers to monitor and control the transformation process, avoiding common synthesis errors.

"This sets a new methodological foundation for future material breakthroughs," said Yang.

Ho-kwang Mao, a high-pressure science expert and foreign member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, called the breakthrough a "new pathway" to next-generation superhard materials and advanced electronics.

With its exceptional hardness and thermal properties, the synthetic hexagonal diamond—produced at the hundred-micron scale—could revolutionize industries requiring ultra-durable materials, from cutting tools to high-performance semiconductors.

The achievement not only advances diamond synthesis but also opens doors to engineering other rare materials found only in extreme cosmic environments.

Indian Engineer Sparks Debate Over 100-Hour Work Weeks



An Indian software engineer at AI startup Mercor has ignited online debate after revealing he works 72 to 100 hours a week. Pranav Mehta, a former Microsoft employee, described the intense schedule as a "worthwhile trade-off" for rapid personal and professional growth.

Mehta's comments followed a post by Mercor CEO Brendan Foody, who announced the company had grown from a \$1 million to a \$500 million revenue run rate in just 17 months, calling it the "fastest growing company of all time."

Mercor is now aiming for a \$10 billion valuation.

Acknowledging that such long hours may appear "daunting," Mehta highlighted the unmatched learning opportunities at the firm. "A comfy 40-hour week won't offer the same upside," he wrote on X (formerly Twitter), defending the demanding work schedule as part of the startup's high-growth culture.

His remarks, however, quickly sparked backlash. Many social media users criticised the glorification of extreme work hours, raising concerns about burnout, mental health, and toxic workplace culture.

One user questioned the mindset behind such schedules, asking, "Why do you guys try to flaunt toxic work culture as hustle culture?"

Another sarcastically noted, "Dada, you don't have mental issues," pointing to the potential mental toll of such intense routines.

Some offered a more optimistic perspective. A user suggested that the "working environment must be lit and hyped up all the time," implying that the energetic atmosphere might justify the high level of commitment.

The discussion reflects ongoing tensions in India's tech sector, where startups often push employees to extreme limits for rapid growth, sparking debates over the balance between ambition and employee well-being.

Pranav Mehta's post has reignited conversations about whether the drive for professional advancement is worth the personal cost, highlighting the growing scrutiny of "hustle culture" in the country's booming tech industry.

Eritrea: The Only Country With No Mobile Internet Access

In a world where even the remotest regions are becoming digitally connected, the East African nation of Eritrea stands out as a rare exception—one where mobile internet is virtually non-existent.

Located in the Horn of Africa and bordered by Djibouti, Sudan, and Ethiopia, Eritrea remains one of the most isolated and secretive countries on the planet. Despite technological advancements globally, the vast majority of Eritreans have never used mobile data, accessed social media, or made a digital transaction.

Asmara, the capital city, reflects the country's limited digital infrastructure. There are no functional ATMs, and only a few select locations—such as hotels and government buildings—have access to fixed-line internet. Even that is heavily monitored and unreliable. For ordinary citizens, connecting to the internet on mobile phones is simply not an option.

Eritrea's extreme digital disconnect is closely tied to its political structure. Often referred to as the "North Korea of Africa," Eritrea has been under authoritarian rule since gaining independence from Ethiopia in 1993. The government tightly controls information, restricts freedom of expression, and mandates indefinite national service for its citizens.

International organizations and human rights groups have long criticized the regime for its lack of transparency and suppression of basic freedoms. The country ranks among the lowest globally in terms of press freedom and internet accessibility.

While the rest of Africa sees growing digital economies and social media revolutions, Eritrea remains cut off—its citizens deprived of the connectivity that powers modern life. For many young Eritreans, the idea of streaming a video, checking messages, or browsing the web is not a daily habit—it's an unimaginable luxury.

In an age defined by digital transformation, Eritrea remains one of the few countries still living largely offline.



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International organizations and human rights groups have long criticized the regime for its lack of transparency and suppression of basic freedoms. The country ranks among the lowest globally in terms of press freedom and internet accessibility.

While the rest of Africa sees growing digital economies and social media revolutions, Eritrea remains cut off—its citizens deprived of the connectivity that powers modern life. For many young Eritreans, the idea of streaming a video, checking messages, or browsing the web is not a daily habit—it's an unimaginable luxury.

In an age defined by digital transformation, Eritrea remains one of the few countries still living largely offline.

1,000-Year-Old Ceremonial Heads, Ancient Structures Found In Peru

Lima, In a major archaeological breakthrough, researchers in Peru's Amazon region have unearthed 1,000-year-old ceremonial stone club heads, nearly 200 ancient structures, and a unique zigzag frieze at the Ollape site in La Jalca district. The area was once home to the Chachapoyas civilization, also known as the "Warriors of the Clouds," who thrived between 900 and 1450 AD.

According to lead archaeologist Pablo Solís, the intricately carved club heads are believed to have held ceremonial or symbolic importance, shedding light on the ritual practices of a civilization that remains largely understudied. "These artifacts offer a rare glimpse into the ceremonial life of the Chachapoyas people," Solís said.

The site also features a zigzag frieze, a decorative pattern never before found in the region. Archaeologists believe this discovery could represent a unique architectural style or symbolic motif used by the Chachapoyas. The sheer number of structures discovered at Ollape suggests that it may have served as a major ceremonial and residential center.

The Chachapoyas civilization, known for its distinct cliffside tombs and cloud-forest architecture, has long fascinated historians but remains relatively mysterious compared to other ancient Andean cultures like the Incas.

Peru continues to be a global hotspot for archaeological discoveries. With landmarks like Machu Picchu and the Nazca Lines, the country's vast and varied geography remains rich in historical secrets. The latest discoveries in Ollape add to a growing body of evidence highlighting the complexity and cultural richness of pre-Columbian societies in the Amazon region.

Further excavations and studies are expected to reveal more about the Chachapoyas' social structure, religious beliefs, and daily life.



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PV Sindhu Cruises Into Pre-Quarterfinals At China Masters

Shenzhen: Star Indian shuttler PV Sindhu began her China Masters Super 750 campaign on a commanding note, defeating Denmark's Julie Dawall Jakobsen in straight games to move into the women's singles pre-quarterfinals on Wednesday. The two-time Olympic medallist needed just 27 minutes to seal the contest 21-4, 21-10, displaying her trademark aggression and tactical superiority.

Dominant Performance

Sindhu, who has faced six first-round exits on the BWF World Tour this season, looked determined to avoid another early exit. She started the opening game with sharp smashes and quick footwork, racing to a double-digit lead in no time. The Indian



wrapped up the game in slightly over 10 minutes, leaving her opponent with little room to respond.

The second game saw a brief fightback from Jakobsen, who leveled at 4-4 after Sindhu's early 4-1 lead. However, the Indian quickly regained control, mixing her strokes to perfection. A six-point burst from 11-8 to 17-8 sealed Jakobsen's fate as Sindhu closed out the match with ease.

Head-to-Head Edge

This is not the first time Sindhu has bested Jakobsen. The Indian had defeated the Dane in their two previous encounters, including their meeting in March at the Yonex Swiss Open, where Jakobsen had stretched her to a close contest. On this occasion, however, Sindhu's dominance was absolute, with her superior experience and shot selection prov-

ing decisive.

Return To Form

The emphatic win is significant for Sindhu, who had crashed out of the Hong Kong Open in the opening round less than two weeks ago, losing to another Dane, Line Christophersen. At 30, Sindhu has endured a challenging season but Wednesday's display suggests a return to form and renewed confidence as she chases her first major title of the year.

Indian Challenge Continues

Later in the day, young Indian shuttler Ayush Shetty will face a tough test against sixth-seeded Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei in men's singles. Shetty, who stunned Japan's Kodai Naraoka last week, will be eager to build on that breakthrough performance.

Apollo Tyres Becomes Team India's New Jersey Sponsor

New Delhi: Apollo Tyres has replaced Dream11 as the official jersey sponsor of the Indian cricket team, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) confirmed on Tuesday. The development comes after Dream11 exited following the government's ban on real-money gaming platforms under new legislation.

Deal Value And Duration

According to sources, Apollo Tyres will pay approximately 4.5 crore per game as part of the sponsorship deal, a significant increase from the 4 crore per game that Dream11 was paying earlier. The contract, which runs until 2027, is expected to bring in nearly 600 crore for the BCCI.

Bidding Battle

The competition for India's jersey sponsorship reportedly involved Canva and JK Tyre, both of



whom lost out to Apollo Tyres in the bidding process. Birla Optus Paints had also shown interest but opted not to enter the bidding race.

BCCI's Eligibility Rules

Following Dream11's exit, the BCCI tightened its sponsorship eligibility criteria. Companies from sectors such as gaming, betting, crypto, and tobacco were barred from bidding. The board

also restricted brands in categories like athleisure, sportswear, financial services, insurance, soft drinks, home appliances, and safety locks, ensuring only select industries could compete.

Official Confirmation Pending

Though an official public announcement is expected soon, a senior BCCI official confirmed that the deal has been fi-

nalized with Apollo Tyres. The Indian team is currently playing the Asia Cup in Dubai without a title sponsor on their jerseys, but the Apollo Tyres logo is set to debut shortly.

Big Boost For BCCI The agreement ensures that BCCI not only secures a replacement sponsor quickly after Dream11's exit but also gains a more lucrative deal, further boosting its commercial strength in global cricket.



Smriti Mandhana Reclaims No.1 Spot In ICC ODI Rankings

New Delhi: Star India opener Smriti Mandhana has reclaimed the No.1 position in the latest ICC ODI batting rankings released on Tuesday (September 16, 2025). Her return to the top comes on the back of a fine half-century against Australia in the first ODI of the ongoing three-match series in Mullanpur.

Mandhana Back At The Top

Mandhana scored a 63-ball 58 in India's opening game, though her effort went in vain as Australia chased down the target with ease to go 1-0 up. The knock helped her gain seven rating points, taking her tally to 735, four points clear of England's Nat Sciver-Brunt, who slipped to second with 731. This is Mandhana's second stint as the top-ranked ODI batter in 2025, having first reached the summit in 2019.

Boost Ahead Of World Cup

The No.1 spot is expected to boost Mandhana's confidence ahead of

the Women's Cricket World Cup, starting September 30. India will be banking heavily on her consistent performances at the top of the order.

Other Indian Gains

Young opener Pratika Rawal climbed four places to 42nd after her solid 64, while Harleen Deol moved to 43rd following a composed 54. Spinner Sneha Rana also gained five spots, reaching 13th in the bowling rankings. Australian Players Rise

Australia's Beth Mooney jumped three places to fifth after her unbeaten 77 in the first ODI. Anna-Beth Sutherland and Phoebe Litchfield, both among the runs, shared the 25th spot after big jumps in the rankings. Among bowlers, pacer Kim Garth rose to fourth and spinner Alana King to fifth, both reaching their career-best positions.

Bowling Chart

England's Sophie Ecclestone continues to dominate the ODI bowling rankings, holding on firmly to the No.1 spot.

Manchester City Dominates Derby as United Struggles Continue

Manchester City returned to winning ways with a commanding 3-0 victory over Manchester United in the 197th Manchester derby at the Etihad Stadium on Sunday. Phil Foden opened the scoring in the 18th minute with a precise header, and Erling Haaland added two more goals in the second half, also hitting the post. Haaland has been in exceptional form, scoring seven goals in just a week after netting five for Norway against Moldova. Guardiola praised the Norwegian striker as a "special player," while Foden described City's performance as "complete."

For Manchester United, the result marked another difficult day under coach Ruben Amorim. United has managed just one win in five games across all competitions this season and has collected only four points from four Premier League matches — their worst start since 1992. Amorim, who has won eight of 31 league games



since taking charge, admitted the record is unacceptable but insisted he would stick to his footballing philosophy, saying, "When I want to change my philosophy, I will change. If not, you have to change the man."

Elsewhere, Liverpool secured a dramatic 1-0 victory against Burnley to reclaim the top spot in the Premier League. Mohamed Salah scored a stoppage-time penalty in the fifth minute of added time after Hannibal Me-

bri's handball. The goal also elevated Salah to fourth place on the Premier League's all-time scorers list with 188 goals. This marked the fourth consecutive game in which Liverpool scored a winning goal in

the final 10 minutes or later, underscoring their resilience and flair for dramatic finishes.

With City ending a two-game losing streak and Liverpool maintaining a perfect start, the Premier League season

is already shaping up to be highly competitive. Meanwhile, Manchester United faces mounting pressure to turn its campaign around as early setbacks continue to weigh heavily on the team.

Neeraj Chopra Begins Title Defence At World Championships In Tokyo

Tokyo: Indian javelin ace Neeraj Chopra will begin his World Championships title defence in Tokyo on Wednesday with the qualification round, facing one of the most competitive fields in recent memory. Chopra, who won gold in Budapest in 2023, will aim to become only the third male javelin thrower in history to defend the world title after his coach Jan Zelezny and Grenada's Anderson Peters.

The event has added intrigue as Chopra returns to action against a star-studded lineup featuring Olympic champion Arshad Nadeem, Germany's Dia-

mond League winner Julian Weber, Czech veteran Jakub Vadlejch, and 2012 Olympic gold medallist Keshorn Walcott. Nadeem, who denied Chopra gold at the Paris Olympics with a throw of 92.97m, has been placed in a separate group for the qualifiers, with a potential clash set for Thursday's final.

Chopra enters the competition with a wild card as defending champion, while India fields its biggest-ever contingent with Sachin Yadav, Yashvir Singh, and Rohit Yadav also in contention. Chopra will be in Group A alongside Weber, Walcott, Vadlejch, and Sachin, while Group B features Nadeem, Pe-



ters, Yego, Da Silva, Rohit, and Yashvir. Athletes achieving the

automatic qualifying mark of 84.50m or ranking among the top

12 will progress to the final.

The 27-year-old

Chopra, who made history by winning Olympic gold in Tokyo in 2021, has crossed the 90m mark once this year with a 90.23m effort in Doha. However, his season has been inconsistent with mixed results, including sub-85m throws. In contrast, Weber has been the most consistent this season, registering multiple 90m-plus efforts and leading the charts with 91.51m.

The men's javelin will be closely watched by Indian fans, especially after Chopra, Kishore Jena, and DP Manu all made the final in 2023, delivering one of India's strongest ever shows at the World Championships.

No Premieres for Pawan Kalyan's 'OG'



Power Star Pawan Kalyan's much-awaited film 'OG' is set to hit theaters on September 25, but fans have expressed disappointment over the absence of premiere shows. Directed by Sujith and produced by Danayya under the DVV banner, the film comes with huge expectations and is expected to make a big impact at the box office. Typically, blockbuster films hold premiere shows a day before the official release, giving fans an early chance to watch their favorite stars on the big screen. However, for 'OG', no such shows will be held, news that has gone viral on social media. Fans had hoped to attend premieres, but the situation is different this time due to government restrictions. After the recent Pushpa 2 incident, authorities have tightened rules around premiere shows. As a result, the government has not granted permission for early screenings, and audiences will have to wait until the official release day to watch the film. In Telangana, in particular, it has been confirmed that no premiere shows will take place. The film will start screening from 6 am on its release date, allowing fans to catch the first shows early in the morning. Despite the disappointment, excitement around Pawan Kalyan's performance and the film's high production values remains high. Social media reactions show mixed feelings, with fans expressing both eagerness and frustration over missing the chance for an exclusive premiere experience. The 'OG' team is yet to comment on the premiere situation, but anticipation continues to build for the film's official release. With Pawan Kalyan in the lead and a strong production backing, 'OG' is expected to attract massive crowds in theaters, making September 25 a significant day for his fans.

Mohanlal's 'Vrishabha' First Look Released

Malayalam superstar Mohanlal is set to thrill audiences in the big-budget Pan India film 'Vrishabha'. The first look of the film has been officially released, giving fans a glimpse of Mohanlal in his new avatar as a fierce warrior. Directed by Nanda Kishore, the film is being produced by a consortium of top production houses, including Connect Media, Balaji Telefilms, Abhishek S. Vyas Studios, and Aashirvad Cinemas. Producers Shobha Kapoor, Ekta R. Kapoor, C.K. Padmakumar, Varun Mathur, Saurabh Mishra, Abhishek S. Vyas, Praveer Singh, Vishal Gurnani, and Juhi Parekh Mehta are jointly backing the project, signaling a strong Pan India appeal. The makers have confirmed that the film will release simultaneously in Telugu and Malayalam, further expanding its reach. Alongside the first look, they have shared an update about the teaser, which is scheduled to release on September 18. Fans are eagerly waiting to see more about the storyline and the visual style of the film. 'Vrishabha' is reportedly set in a mythological backdrop and revolves around an emotional battle between a father and son. Mohanlal's character as a warrior is expected to be central to this intense narrative, blending action with deep family emotions. The film's production values and star-studded backing indicate a major cinematic experience, with expectations high for both visual effects and storytelling. Industry insiders suggest that the Pan India strategy, along with Mohanlal's widespread popularity, could make 'Vrishabha' a major hit across multiple languages. With the teaser release just around the corner, excitement among fans is building rapidly. The first look has already sparked social media buzz, with many praising Mohanlal's powerful presence and the film's epic feel. Audiences can expect a blend of mythology, action, and emotional drama when 'Vrishabha' hits screens in the coming months.



Mythological Spectacle 'Jatadhara' Release Date Locked

'Jatadhara', the highly anticipated mythological thriller starring Sudheer Babu, has officially confirmed its release date. The film, which has already created strong buzz with its motion poster, will hit theaters on November 7, 2025. Directed by Abhishek Jaiswal and Venkat Kalyan, the movie blends mythology with high-concept storytelling. Sudheer Babu's striking first look, paired with a spiritual connection to Lord Shiva, has set high expectations. Bollywood star Sonakshi Sinha is making her Telugu debut in this film, essaying the role of a dangerous dark queen, a character that is expected to bring intensity and depth to the narrative. Producers have described 'Jatadhara' as a grand cinematic spectacle rooted in Indian culture and traditions. The story promises a dramatic clash between divine forces and dark powers, drawing inspiration from ancient folk tales of India. With themes of spirituality, conflict, and transformation, the film is aiming to deliver both emotional resonance and larger-than-life visuals. Umesh Kumar Bansal is producing the project and has called it "a rare, emotionally powerful, and visually unforgettable experience." With a focus on authenticity and scale, the team is preparing to present audiences with a visual treat that goes beyond regular commercial cinema. The makers are confident that 'Jatadhara' will appeal not only to Telugu audiences but also resonate with viewers across India, given its mythological themes and universal storytelling. The combination of Sudheer Babu's intense performance and Sonakshi Sinha's debut as a fierce antagonist has further raised anticipation. As the release date approaches, fans are eagerly waiting for the teaser and trailer, which are expected to showcase the grandeur and dark intensity of the film. With its mix of divine energy and cinematic scale, 'Jatadhara' is shaping up to be one of the most awaited mythological films of the year.



Madhav Bhupathi Raju Shines in 'Maremma' First Look

Another star heir from the Ravi Teja family is gearing up for his debut in Tollywood. Madhav Bhupathi Raju, son of Mass Maharaja Ravi Teja's brother, is set to make his mark as a hero with the rural action drama 'Maremma'. The film is directed by Macharla Nagaraju and produced by Mayur Reddy Bandaru. On Madhav's birthday, September 15, the film team released a glimpse video that has grabbed attention. In the video, Madhav is seen sporting a bushy beard, rugged look, and a complete mass style. A standout scene shows him walking into a kabaddi ground wearing a lungi, highlighting his powerful character. Fans are praising his screen presence, body language, and mass dialogue delivery, setting high expectations for the film. 'Maremma' is being shaped as an action-emotional drama rooted in a village setting. The shooting is taking place in rural locations to maintain authenticity. Madhav's portrayal reflects a full mass avatar, aiming to establish him as a strong hero in Tollywood. Industry watchers are noting his hard work and dedication, evident from the intensity and energy in the glimpse video. The film's team has hinted that the first look, teaser, and audio updates will be unveiled soon. Alongside Madhav, Deepa Balu plays the heroine, while actors Vikas Vashishtha, Vinod Kumar, Dayanand Reddy, and Rupa Lakshmi play key roles. Prashanth Vi-hari is composing the music, adding further excitement to the project. With shooting progressing rapidly, anticipation is building around Madhav Bhupathi Raju's debut. Fans are eager to see how Ravi Teja's nephew will carve his place in Tollywood and whether 'Maremma' will establish him as a promising new hero in the industry. The glimpse has already sparked discussions and heightened curiosity among audiences.



Kantara Makers Go To Court Against Karnataka Govt

As State Caps Ticket Prices At Rs 200

Days after the Karnataka government capped movie ticket prices at Rs 200 across all theatres, including multiplexes, Hombale Films has filed four Public Interest Litigations (PILs) in the Karnataka High Court challenging the move. The production house, known for the blockbuster Kantara franchise, is joined by the Multiplex Association of India, Keystone Entertainment, and VK Films as petitioners. The petitions argue that fixing ticket prices at Rs 200 will significantly impact the revenue potential of films, particularly high-budget productions. With Kantara: Chapter 1, a prequel to the 2022 hit, scheduled for release on October 2, producers and multiplex owners fear heavy losses at the box office. "Ahead of some big movie releases in Karnataka, four PILs have been filed in the High Court over the government's decision to cap movie tickets at Rs 200," a press note confirmed. "Multiplex owners and producers argue that uniform pricing, especially for multiplexes, will reduce income and cause financial strain on the industry."

The Karnataka government introduced the rule under the newly amended Karnataka Cinemas (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2025, stating that Rs 200 will be the maximum price for movie tickets statewide, exclusive of taxes. However, the rule exempts multi-screen cinemas with premium facilities of 75 seats or fewer. The decision is part of broader amendments under the Karnataka Cinema (Control) Act, 1964. Draft rules were first issued in July, with the final notification declaring that the Rs 200 ticket price will take effect upon publication in the Official Gazette. While the government maintains the move ensures affordable entertainment, filmmakers and multiplex associations insist that the cap undermines profitability, particularly for films requiring higher production and distribution costs. The High Court is expected to hear the matter soon, with industry stakeholders closely watching the outcome.

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