



BUZZ POINTS



IS EFLU UNDER SCANNER?

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MPCHAMALA COUNTERS KTR'S STATEMENT

MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy on Wednesday raised strong criticisms against BRS working president KT Rama Rao (KTR), questioning his intentions regarding governance in Telangana and expressing concern over ongoing controversies affecting the youth and state administration.

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REVANTH REDDY VOWS TO ELEVATE FILM INDUSTRY TO GLOBAL STANDARDS

TPN Bureau, Hyderabad, Sept 17: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy held a crucial meeting with prominent figures from the film industry on Wednesday, assuring them of the government's commitment to strengthen the sector and address long-pending issues of film workers. The meeting, attended by senior producers, technicians, and industry representatives, aimed at building a collaborative roadmap to transform Hyderabad into a world-class film

production hub comparable to . Speaking at the meeting, the Chief Minister said the government is making determined efforts to elevate Hyderabad's standing in the global entertainment map. He invited film industry representatives to submit a comprehensive list of their requirements, particularly for the welfare of film workers who are often overlooked in policy decisions. Revanth Reddy stated that he had already urged producers not to neglect film work-

ers and to extend support for enhancing their skills. Highlighting the need to build human resources, the Chief Minister announced that the government would offer specialised training for film workers through the . He emphasised that film workers must also focus on improving their own skills to stay relevant in an evolving industry. Revanth Reddy said the government would facilitate permissions and infrastructure so that films from all languages could be shot

in Telangana, turning the state into a preferred filming destination. He also called on producers to encourage small-budget filmmakers and ensure that they receive the necessary logistical support to sustain their projects. Stressing on maintaining a healthy workplace environment, he cautioned all stakeholders not to disrupt the ecosystem of the industry through conflicts or internal disputes. "If strikes occur, losses will be faced by both sides,"

he warned. Clarifying his approach, the Chief Minister said he would treat any issue as a professional problem rather than through personal relationships. He assured that the government would mediate discussions between producers and film workers to resolve disputes in an amicable manner. "This government belongs to you. Solving your problems is my responsibility. I stand by the workers, while also safeguarding the interests of the

state," he asserted. Revanth Reddy said that the government cannot remain a mere spectator during strikes as they impact both livelihoods and the state's economy. To ensure social security, he promised to work towards providing health insurance coverage for film workers. He added that the government had recently introduced the to recognise and honour the contributions of film artistes, pointing out that no state awards were given to the industry in the last ten years.

Industry representatives attending the meeting lauded the Chief Minister for directly engaging with them and acknowledging the concerns of film workers. They remarked that it was unprecedented for a Chief Minister to invite film workers' associations for an open dialogue on their issues. They expressed hope that this new collaborative approach would usher in a more inclusive and progressive era for the Telugu film industry in Telangana.



TEENMAAR MALLANNA NEW PARTY TRP

TPN Bureau, Hyderabad, Sept 17: Teenmaar Mallanna, the suspended MLC from the , has announced the launch of a new political party called the (TRP) on Wednesday, September 17. The announcement marks a significant development in the political landscape of , as Mallanna seeks to carve out a new space in state politics by appealing to the

Backward Classes (BCs) and other marginalised communities. Speaking at the launch event, Mallanna stated that the TRP has been formed to provide a strong political platform for the Backward Classes, who constitute a majority of Telangana's population but, according to him, continue to remain politically underrepresented. He emphasised that the new

party's mission is to bring the voice of these communities to the forefront of state politics and ensure they play a decisive role in governance and policymaking. According to the party's official website, the TRP's vision is to achieve what it calls a "Samajika Telangana" or "People's Telangana" — a state free from fear, hunger,

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EDUCATION IS A WEAPON TO ERADICATE POVERTY: CM

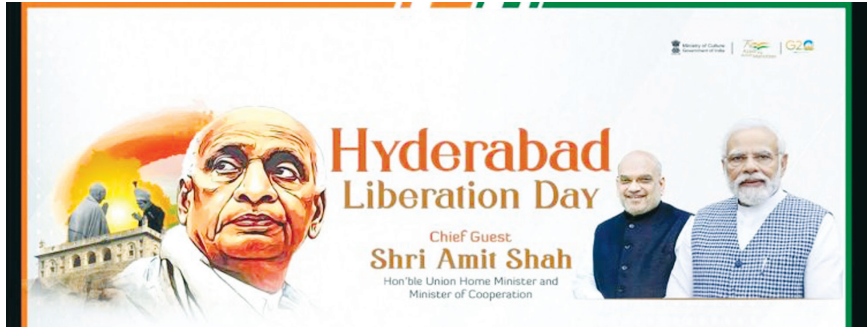


TPN Bureau, Hyderabad, Sept 17: Mr. Revanth Reddy, the Chief Minister of , on Wednesday announced an ambitious plan to revamp the state's education system, aiming to ensure that students receive quality education and acquire skills that enhance their employability. Speaking during an interaction with retired bureaucrats, academics, and educationists in Hyderabad, Reddy said the state urgently needs a new education policy that could serve as a model for the entire country. Expressing concern over the current state of

higher education, Reddy lamented that while lakhs of engineering graduates pass out of colleges across Telangana every year, fewer than 10 percent secure meaningful employment. He attributed this alarming trend to a lack of requisite industry-ready skills among graduates. Reddy said the education system needs a fundamental shift and that the state is producing graduates without preparing them for the demands of the real world. This has to change, he emphasised, if Telangana wants to remain competitive and if the youth are to lead in

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ONE BIG DAY - THREE NARRATIVES AT CELEBRATION



TPN Bureau, Hyderabad, Sept 17: Telangana witnessed a striking display of political divergence on September 17, as three major political parties marked the day of in 1948 with their own distinct narratives and symbolism. The day, which carries historical and emotional weight in the region, was observed in parallel ceremonies — the ruling (Congress) celebrated it as Praja Palana Dinotsavam (People's Governance Day), the (BRS) termed it National Integration Day, and the (BJP) commemorated it as Liberation Day.

The Congress-led state government sought to present the occasion as a tribute to democratic values and people-centric governance. Chief Minister hoisted the national flag at the in , underscoring that the merger of Hyderabad State with the Indian Union marked the foundation of a governance system rooted in people's aspirations. He described Praja Palana Dinotsavam as a celebration of the democratic ethos and citizen empowerment that emerged from the merger, pledging that his government would continue to strengthen grassroots

governance in the state. However, within the Congress itself, there remained a noticeable duality in terminology. While the state government officially framed the day as Praja Palana Dinotsavam, the party organisation continued to refer to it as Telangana Integration Day. At the party headquarters , the (TPCC) president, unfurled the national flag and referred to the occasion as Integration Day. Several district Congress units also adhered to this nomenclature, highlighting a subtle yet clear distinction between

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HYDERABAD WITNESSED HEAVY RAIN ONCE AGAIN

TPN Bureau, Hyderabad, Sept 17: Hyderabad experienced intense rainfall on the night of Wednesday, September 17, 2025, leading to widespread flooding across the city. Areas such as Mettuguda recorded approximately 10 cm of rain, with several other localities reporting over 9 cm. The heavy downpour resulted in water-

logging in low-lying areas, including around metro stations, causing significant disruptions to daily life. The Mettuguda metro station, along with other stations in the city, was surrounded by rainwater, affecting the movement of commuters. Waterlogging on major roads led to traffic snarls, with vehicles moving at a crawl during peak

hours. Residents reported difficulties in commuting, and several areas experienced power outages due to water entering electrical substations. The heavy rainfall was not confined to Hyderabad alone. Nearby districts, including Medak, also experienced significant downpours. In Medak district, areas like Sardhana village re-



corded unprecedented rainfall, with some loca-

tions receiving over 300 mm in 24 hours. This led

to overflowing streams and rising water levels in dams, prompting officials to evacuate residents from vulnerable areas. In response to the flooding, the Telangana State Disaster Response and Fire Services (TSDR&FS) deployed teams to affected areas to assist with rescue operations and provide relief to stranded residents.

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) initiated water drainage operations to alleviate waterlogging and clear blocked roads. Authorities have advised residents to stay indoors and avoid unnecessary travel, especially in low-lying areas prone to flooding. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a Yellow alert

for Hyderabad and surrounding districts, forecasting continued rainfall over the next 24 hours. Residents are urged to remain cautious and stay updated with weather advisories. The IMD has also warned of possible thunderstorms and gusty winds in certain regions. The heavy rainfall on

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TEENMAAR MALLANNA NEW PARTY TRP EDUCATION IS A WEAPON TO ERADICATE POVERTY: CM

corruption, and prejudice. The party declares that its goal is to empower the marginalised majority communities, including BCs, Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), minorities, and economically disadvantaged groups, by ensuring they gain political power for holistic and inclusive development under a framework of transparent and responsible governance. The vision statement underscores the TRP's intent to shift the political discourse from elite-driven politics to one rooted in the aspirations of grassroots communities.

Mallanna's move comes months after his suspension from the Congress on March 1 this year for what the party termed as "anti-party activities." The disciplinary action was taken after he publicly criticised and symbolically burned the caste survey report released by the in February, calling it "flawed" and "politically motivated." The act sparked controversy within the Congress, with senior party lead-

ers condemning his behaviour as indiscipline. Despite his suspension, Mallanna continues to hold his seat in the Telangana Legislative Council, as the Congress has not filed any formal petition to disqualify him from his post.

Mallanna is widely known in Telangana as a prominent Telugu journalist who rose to fame in the early 2000s for his satirical takes on socio-political issues. His sharp commentary and unique presentation style earned him a strong following, particularly among the youth and rural audiences. He joined the Congress in November 2023, just ahead of the , in a move that was seen as part of the party's strategy to tap into his popularity and expand its outreach.

Political analysts believe the formation of the TRP could potentially alter the political dynamics in Telangana, especially if Mallanna succeeds in consolidating the support of the BC communities, who constitute a significant vote bank. However,

they also caution that building a new party from the ground up will require extensive organisational efforts, grassroots mobilisation, and resources to compete with established political forces like the (BRS), the (BJP), and the Congress.

Mallanna, however, struck an optimistic tone, declaring that the TRP would focus on people-centric politics and be a voice for the voiceless. He urged people, especially the youth and marginalised groups, to join hands with him in building a new Telangana that truly represents all sections of society.

With the official launch of the TRP, Telangana's political arena now has another player seeking to challenge the existing status quo. It remains to be seen how much traction Mallanna's new party will gain in the coming months, but his entry into the political fray with a platform centred on social justice and empowerment has already stirred discussions across the state's political circles.

dia into the future. He underscored the importance of reorienting curricula and pedagogy to make students not just degree holders, but also job creators and innovators. It is no longer enough to give certificates, he noted, and stressed the need to equip students with practical skills that enable them to seize opportunities in emerging sectors like technology, green energy, advanced manufacturing, and artificial intelligence.

Highlighting some steps already taken by the government, Reddy said that as soon as his administration assumed office, it undertook long-pending teachers' recruitment drives and implemented long-overdue transfers and promotions of teachers to strengthen the schooling system. In addition, Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) across Telangana are being transformed into Advanced Technology Centres to provide cutting-edge vocational training. The state has also established the to impart in-



dustry-aligned skill development programmes. "These initiatives are aimed at creating a workforce that is ready for tomorrow's challenges," Reddy explained. "We want our students to be able to walk out of educational institutions

and walk straight into good jobs, or even better, start their own enterprises."

Reddy drew a contrast between traditional poverty alleviation measures and the present economic realities. He noted that earlier, govern-

ments distributed land and funds to uplift economically weaker sections, but such resources are now scarce. "Today, the only real weapon we have to eradicate poverty is education," he said. "It is education that can give our children the power to break the cycle of poverty, empower their families, and transform our society."

He called for a collective approach in reshaping the sector, urging the retired bureaucrats, academics, and education experts present at the meeting to actively contribute their expertise. Looking ahead, the Chief Minister revealed that education will form a core pillar of the state government's forthcoming long-term vision document titled . This strategic blueprint aims to map out Telangana's developmental trajectory for the next two decades, with education and skill-building as critical cornerstones.

Reddy appealed to educationists to form specialised sub-committees based on their areas of interest and make evi-

dence-based recommendations for inclusion in the vision document. "We want the best minds to come together and shape a bold, forward-looking education policy for Telangana," he said.

The Chief Minister's remarks mark the beginning of what could be one of the most far-reaching education reforms in the state's history. By aligning academic curricula with industry needs, investing in teacher quality, modernising vocational training infrastructure, and positioning education as the central tool of social mobility, the government hopes to create a generation of skilled, confident, and employable youth.

As Telangana eyes 2047—the centenary year of India's independence—Reddy's message was clear: the future of the state will depend on how well it educates and empowers its young people today. "Education is not just another department for us," he concluded. "It is the foundation on which Telangana's tomorrow will stand."

AAROGYASRI SERVICES STALLED IN TELANGANA

T PN Bureau, Hyderabad, Sept 17: (TANHA) has suspended health services in all its empanelled private hospitals from mid-night of Tuesday, September 16, plunging healthcare access for lakhs of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families into uncertainty. The decision came after repeated appeals to clear pending reimbursements amounting to nearly 1,400 crore reportedly went unanswered by the government.

The abrupt suspension is expected to severely affect rural areas, where a majority of the population depends on Aarogyasri health cards for tertiary healthcare. Members of 323 empanelled private hospitals under TANHA had convened on Sunday and unanimously resolved to halt services, citing failure of discussions with the to address their long-standing grievances regarding delayed payments.

TANHA president Dr. told the media that, according to the protocol, funds should be reim-



bursed to hospitals every 40 days. However, payments have been delayed by over 400 days in many cases, leaving hospitals struggling to sustain services. He said the uncertainty in reimbursements has disrupted cash flow, burdened hospitals with operational debts, and threatened their ability to continue treating patients under the scheme.

The association's primary demands include immediate clearance of all pending dues, establishment of a predictable and timely payment schedule, and revision of package rates to match the rising cost of medical services. TANHA has also sought the creation of a formal grievance redressal mechanism and an updated Memorandum of

Understanding (MoU) with the to streamline the partnership between private hospitals and the government.

This marks the third time in 2024 that TANHA has resorted to the threat of halting services. In January this year, empanelled hospitals went on strike for 10 days before calling it off following assurances from the then Health Minister. Again, in late August, the association warned of suspending services from August 31, but the plan was withdrawn after government assurances, which members now say were not fulfilled.

Meanwhile, Rajiv Aarogyasri Health Care Trust CEO on Tuesday appealed to the empanelled hospitals to resume services, stressing that Aarogyasri

serves as the backbone of healthcare security for over 99 lakh BPL families in Telangana. He warned that the sudden suspension would directly jeopardise critical care access for millions who cannot afford private healthcare outside the scheme.

Kumar highlighted that the new state government has expanded the scheme significantly by adding 163 high-cost medical procedures and revising rates for 1,375 procedures at an additional cost of 487.29 crore. He added that the insurance coverage per family under Aarogyasri has been doubled from 5 lakh to 10 lakh.

Defending the government's record on payments, Kumar said that in the financial year 2024-25, the Trust

has released record-high payments averaging 95 crore per month, with total claim settlements amounting to 1,779 crore during the same period. He also stated that pending claims are currently being cleared through phase-wise monthly payments of 75 crore for the period between December 2023 and December 2024.

According to him, this marks a substantial improvement compared to the earlier average of 57 crore released per month between 2014 and November 2023. He further revealed that, based on repeated representations from private hospitals, their monthly payments have recently been increased to 100 crore.

Despite these assurances, TANHA members maintain that without immediate disbursement of the 1,400 crore dues, continuing services is financially unsustainable. As the standoff continues, healthcare access for nearly one crore BPL families hangs in the balance, with both the government and private hospitals yet to arrive at a resolution.

ONE BIG DAY - THREE NARRATIVES AT CELEBRATION

tween the government's and the party's messaging.

Meanwhile, the BRS observed the day as National Integration Day, a term it had used while in power as well. The party's leaders sought to emphasise the peaceful assimilation of the erstwhile princely state into the Indian Union. Through local events and statements, they underscored the need to remember the sacrifices of those who advocated unity, while cautioning against what they termed attempts to sow divisiveness over history. Party leaders criticised the Congress and the BJP for politicising a day that, they argued, should symbolise unity and collective progress.

In contrast, the BJP marked the day as Liberation Day, a terminology rooted in its long-standing narrative that the integration of Hyderabad State into India was a liberation from the autocratic rule of the led and the associated paramilitary resistance

from the . BJP leaders held commemorative events across the state, paying homage to the martyrs who fought against the Razakars during the operation. They asserted that the day must be remembered as a liberation from oppression, positioning their narrative as one that honours the sacrifices of those who fought for freedom from feudal rule.

This tripartite framing of the same historical event underlines the deep political contestation surrounding September 17 in Telangana. While for Congress it symbolises the beginning of democratic governance, for the BRS it represents national integration, and for the BJP it signifies liberation from tyranny. The contrasting interpretations have become an annual flashpoint in the state's political discourse, each party using the day to assert its ideological stance and mobilise its base.

Political observers note that these compet-

ing commemorations reflect not only different readings of history but also strategic positioning in contemporary politics. The Congress, which returned to power in the state after a decade, appears keen on projecting itself as the custodian of people's governance, while subtly accommodating the Integration Day sentiment that resonates with sections of its cadre. The BRS, seeking to reclaim its relevance after losing power, has attempted to frame itself as the unifying force above divisive narratives. The BJP, aiming to expand its footprint in the state, continues to emphasise its nationalistic credentials by portraying the merger as a liberation struggle.

As the ceremonies concluded, the day once again underscored how Telangana's past continues to shape its political present, with September 17 serving as a symbolic battleground where history, identity, and electoral calculations intersect.

HYDERABAD WITNESSED HEAVY RAIN ONCE AGAIN

September 17, 2025, has once again highlighted the vulnerability of urban infrastructure to extreme weather events. While the government has taken immediate steps to address the situation, the recurring nature of such incidents underscores the need for long-term urban planning and investment in flood management systems to mitigate future risks.

1700 JOBS IN TSRTC; NOTIFICATION RELEASED

T PN Bureau, Hyderabad, Sept 17: The (TSLPRB) on Wednesday, September 17, issued a notification inviting applications to fill vacancies for the posts of drivers and shramiks in the (TG-SRTC). The announcement has created a buzz among job seekers across the state, as it opens up over 1,700 government job opportunities in the public transport sector.

According to the notification, a total of 1,743 posts are available. Of these, 1,000 vacancies have been earmarked for

the post of drivers, carrying a pay scale ranging from 20,960 to 60,080. Additionally, 743 vacancies are available for the post of shramiks, which come with a pay scale of 16,550 to 45,030. Officials said this recruitment drive is aimed at strengthening the TGSRTC workforce to improve service delivery and operational efficiency across Telangana.

The recruitment board has stated that the application process will be conducted entirely online. Eligible and interested candidates can ap-



ply through the official TGSRTC recruitment portal. The online application window will open at 8:00 am on October 8 and will close at 5:00 pm

on October 28. Applicants are advised to submit their forms well before the deadline to avoid last-minute technical issues.

The TSLPRB has released detailed information regarding the recruitment process on the official TGSRTC website. This includes eligibility criteria, educational qualifications, age limits, reservation guidelines, the procedure for submitting applications, the distribution of vacancies, and the selection process. Candidates have been urged to carefully go through the notification and ensure they meet all requirements before applying.

For the post of drivers, candidates are expected

to possess a valid driving licence and meet the prescribed physical standards. They will also have to undergo driving skill tests as part of the selection process. For shramik posts, the selection will be based on physical efficiency tests, trade-related assessments, and document verification. The recruitment board has assured that the selection will be conducted in a fair and transparent manner.

Applicants have been cautioned that incomplete applications or those submitted after the

deadline will not be considered. They are also advised not to submit multiple applications for the same post, as this could lead to disqualification. Candidates should keep essential documents, such as educational certificates, proof of age, identity proof, and category certificates (if applicable), ready in advance for easy uploading during the online application process.

The TSLPRB has also warned applicants to rely only on the official website for all updates, application submissions, and

hall ticket downloads, and not to fall prey to fake recruitment agents or unofficial websites.

This large-scale recruitment is expected to provide a significant employment boost, particularly in the state's transport sector, while also addressing staff shortages in the TGSRTC. The state government hopes the recruitment of new drivers and shramiks will help improve the efficiency and reliability of public transport services that cater to lakhs of passengers daily across Telangana.

IS EFLU UNDER SCANNER? MPCHAMALA COUNTERS KTR's STATEMENT



TPN Bureau, Hyderabad, Sept 17: Students of the (EFLU) in have alleged that the university administration forcibly stopped them from organising a programme meant to highlight the plight of anti-(CAA) protestors currently lodged as political prisoners under the stringent (UAPA) in various jails across .

The event, planned as a collaboration between the (PRC) and the , was scheduled to be held on Monday, September 15, to mark Martyrdom Day and Political Prisoners Day. However, the programme was called off after the administration allegedly labelled it "anti-governmental," described those featured in it as "rioters," and warned the organisers of possible disciplinary action if they went ahead with it.

"When we released the posters for the programme, the administration summoned us to the proctor's office, called it 'anti-governmental,' and asked us to route the request through the student union," one of the organisers from the Fraternity Movement told . He added that on the day

of the event, they were again called to the proctor's office, where senior university officials were present and clearly told them the event could not be held.

Students said they pointed out that similar programmes had been organised at (JNU) and (HCU), but the EFLU administration refused to grant permission. They alleged that they were threatened with disciplinary action through a show-cause notice under the university's ordinance and were closely monitored to ensure the event did not take place.

The poster for the cancelled programme had featured several individuals currently imprisoned under the UAPA, including anti-CAA activists , , and ; case accused and human rights activist ; and activists and , among others.

According to an organiser from the PRC, democratic spaces in central universities are shrinking and are being "enforced by the administration under state guidance." He said any form of student dissent was being "systematically suppressed," particularly when it involved raising politically

or socially sensitive issues or expressing solidarity with oppressed communities. He stressed that it was time for students to "intensify the struggle" to safeguard these spaces.

The PRC, Fraternity Movement EFLU, (MSF) EFLU Hyderabad, and (NSUI) EFLU jointly issued a statement condemning the university's move, saying it exposed the "undemocratic nature" of the administration and raised concerns over the "rapidly shrinking space" for democratic dialogue on political issues. "While we celebrate revolutionaries like Jatin Das and their fight against injustice, we consider it equally important to discuss today's activists who are imprisoned for daring to question or expose the workings of the state machinery," the statement said.

The groups argued that such discussions were crucial to "save the space for democratic engagement," especially when democratic dissent was increasingly being branded illegal. They urged fellow students to oppose what they described as "arbi-

trary and authoritarian actions" by the EFLU administration and to defend the university's role as a platform for critical debate and free expression.

Students also drew attention to a similar incident last year when the administration allegedly denied permission for an event titled "Sumud," which was planned to express solidarity with . They claimed they were threatened with disciplinary measures even then.

Further, some students alleged that only the (ABVP) is allowed to operate without restrictions on campus, while other student groups are subjected to constant intimidation and threats. One student alleged that this selective treatment was part of an ongoing attempt to "safronise" campuses by discouraging dissent and imposing ideological conformity.

The controversy has reignited debates on academic freedom, the role of universities as spaces for political discourse, and the rising tensions between student organisations and university administrations across Indian campuses.

TPN Bureau, Hyderabad, Sept 17: MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy on Wednesday raised strong criticisms against BRS working president KT Rama Rao (KTR), questioning his intentions regarding governance in Telangana and expressing concern over ongoing controversies affecting the youth and state administration.

Addressing the media, Reddy asked pointedly whether KTR's aim was to deliberately harm the interests of Telangana's people. He particularly highlighted the Group-1 exam controversy, stating that KTR's remarks alleging that parents of aspirants paid Rs 3 crore per post were baseless and insulting to the 533 students who appeared for the exams. Reddy urged Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to take

strict action in this regard.

Recalling his political experience, Reddy alleged that during the previous tenure, KCR had claimed, "You did not vote for us, now experience it," indicating a governance style that allegedly harmed the state. Reddy added that even when in power, KCR's administration damaged Telangana's institutions, and now similar patterns seemed to continue across different political parties.

Criticizing KTR further, Reddy questioned the working president's accountability, asking where the Chief Minister was during key administrative challenges and asserting that KTR made baseless allegations against eight MPs. He dismissed claims made by KTR's aides as irrational, but stressed that the working president's own statements should not be ignored.

Reddy also spoke about the delays in local body elections, attributing them to KCR's imposition of a 42% reservation cap. He raised concerns over pending dues of 1,200 crore for colleges, as well as losses incurred by L&T during metro projects, pointing out that the Hyderabad Metro's performance had fallen from 2nd rank in 2010 to 20th after 2014 due to mismanagement.

On law and order, Reddy alleged that under the previous administration, cases related to drugs worth 12,000 crore increased, whereas his tenure is focused on strict enforcement. He also remarked that KTR accused Revanth Reddy of authoritarian governance while the BRS leadership itself had a history of mismanagement and nepotism.

Reddy further highlighted the political history of the BRS party, noting its three-year tenure and its leadership comprising prominent film personalities. He questioned the credibility of KTR's statements and urged transparency and accountability in governance, emphasizing the need to protect Telangana's youth and institutions from political vendettas.

The MP's comments come amid ongoing political tension in the state, as parties continue to debate the Group-1 exam controversy, metro project losses, and other administrative issues. Reddy's remarks underline the growing divide between the ruling Congress leadership and the BRS, especially in the context of upcoming elections and public scrutiny of governance in Telangana.

TPCC Chief Emphasises Women Empowerment and Welfare Initiatives

TPN Bureau, Hyderabad, Sept 17: Mr. Mahesh Kumar Goud, the President of the (TPCC) and MLC, addressed a gathering at Prakasam Hall in Gandhi Bhavan on Tuesday, highlighting the state government's strong commitment towards women's empowerment and inclusive development in.

Goud asserted that the led state government is sincerely working to empower women and uplift their socio-economic status. He stated that the government is driven by the vision of transforming one crore women in the state into millionaires, showcasing its determination to create financial independence and entrepreneurship among women.

He added that he would soon discuss with the

Deputy Chief Minister about allocating budgetary support from BC, SC, and ST corporations for providing sewing machines to women, which would help them gain livelihood opportunities and enhance self-reliance. Appreciating the efforts of the in spreading awareness about government schemes, he said such initiatives play a vital role in empowering women at the grassroots. "Running such an organisation is not an easy task, and organising such an event on the Telangana Integration Day makes it even more commendable," he remarked.

Goud further pointed out that apart from, only Telangana provides free bus travel for women, which has greatly benefited women from economically weaker sec-

tions. Recalling his experience during the , he said he could see the joy in the eyes of women beneficiaries who had received houses under the Indiramma Housing Scheme. "Their happiness was beyond words," he said.

Concluding his speech, Goud drew a metaphor, saying, "The life of an educated person is like a colour television, while the life of an illiterate person is like a black-and-white television," underscoring the transformative power of education. He called on people to educate girls and support government schemes aimed at uplifting women, affirming that the Congress government would continue to prioritise women's welfare and empowerment as part of its core agenda.



KTR LASHES OUT AT CM REVANTH REDDY

TPN Bureau, Hyderabad, Sept 17: In a scathing broadside against the Congress government, (BRS) working president K. T. Rama Rao on Wednesday accused Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy of running Telangana with "dictatorial arrogance, corrupt intent and no vision," alleging that the state had slipped into chaos under his watch. Speaking informally to the media at , Rama Rao said the Congress regime was "surviving on media management" rather than governance. He mocked that the party should replace its 'Hand' symbol with a bulldozer, claiming the government was "demolishing institutions, hopes, and people's faith." He warned that the people would soon deliver their verdict against the "corrupt and dictatorial" regime.



Rama Rao cited mounting protests from youth, farmers, ASHA workers, ration dealers, and private educational institutions on the brink of closure over delayed fee reimbursements. He said hospitals had stopped services under due to pending bills. "Name one

achievement of this Chief Minister since taking office. There is none," he asserted. Criticising the handling of the prestigious Group-1 recruitment exams, Rama Rao alleged the government had trampled on democratic rights by stopping even peaceful round-table meetings of job aspirants. He said aspirants accused officials of selling posts for 3 crore each and questioned why the (BJP), which earlier demanded probes into paper leaks under the BRS regime, was now silent.

Rama Rao accused the Congress government of altering the alignment to protect

the lands of Revanth Reddy and late 's families, jeopardising thousands of farmers. He said the government, which claimed lack of funds for welfare schemes, was splurging on land acquisition while cancelling the Airport Expressway project that required none — a move he said had derailed IT expansion. He also alleged nepotism in awarding contracts worth crores to Revanth Reddy's relatives and , and charged that the CM's "only job appears to be collecting commissions and sending them to."

Citing the reported exit of from the project, Rama Rao blamed alleged harassment and

threats from the CM, claiming this had destroyed Telangana's investment climate. He also accused the government of planning to sell controversial assets and of abandoning repairs to the . Rama Rao alleged Telangana had become the country's second-largest drugs hub, slamming the CM's silence on the seizure of drugs worth 12,000 crore and on the murders of two girls in . He dismissed the government's special task forces like and as gimmicks, claiming "law and order has collapsed" and the city still floods every monsoon.

On the defection of MLAs to Congress, KTR

challenged the government to hold immediate by-elections, predicting that upcoming local body, (GHMC) and by-polls would expose its weakness. He welcomed the entry of new parties, calling it a democratic right. He also accused the CM of personally targeting BRS leaders in , crippling its famed handloom industry, and slammed the Congress for promising BC reservations only after becoming Prime Minister, terming it a post-poll deception. Rama Rao concluded that Revanth Reddy's "dictatorial and corrupt" approach was alienating every section of society and would lead to his downfall.



HEAVY RAINS TILL SEPT 22 FOR TELANGANA

TPN Bureau, Hyderabad, Sept 17: Heavy rains lashed several parts of on Tuesday evening, disrupting normal life and causing widespread waterlogging across many localities. The downpour led to traffic snarls, stranded vehicles, and overflowing drains, compounding the woes of residents and commuters during peak evening hours. According to local weather enthusiast, intense rain bands swept through districts such as Sangareddy and parts of Rangareddy and are expected to gradually extend towards the city's central and northern corridors over the coming hours. Several major urban zones witnessed heavy showers that resulted in severe waterlogging on arterial roads and internal lanes. Traffic move-

ment slowed to a crawl on key stretches like the Outer Ring Road service lanes and the , as rain-water accumulated on the carriageways. Visuals shared on social media showed cars partially submerged and two-wheelers struggling through knee-deep water in several localities, while emergency teams were deployed to clear clogged stormwater drains and restore normalcy. Commuters have been advised to remain cautious and avoid waterlogged stretches, as the possibility of further downpours remains high. Authorities have also requested residents to plan their travel carefully and not venture out unless necessary, especially in the late evening hours when visibility is reduced and roads are slippery. Power outages

were reported in scattered pockets due to the rains, with utility crews working to restore supply at the earliest. The (IMD), Hyderabad, has forecasted light to moderate rains accompanied by thunderstorms across several districts of Telangana over the next two to three hours. Districts likely to experience light rain and thunderstorms. At the same time, moderate rain and thunderstorms are also very likely to occur in Hyderabad and districts in the coming hours. Officials from the (GHMC) said that emergency monsoon teams were on high alert and working to remove fallen trees, clear choked drains, and pump out stagnant water from low-lying zones. Disaster response personnel have been stationed at flood-

prone locations, while traffic police are coordinating to manage vehicle movement and prevent congestion in inundated stretches. The GHMC has urged citizens to report any incidents of water stagnation, uprooted trees, or open manholes through its helpline and mobile app for immediate action. Authorities have advised residents to stay indoors during heavy spells of rain, avoid parking vehicles under trees, and keep electrical appliances switched off if water enters premises. Citizens living in low-lying and flood-prone areas have been asked to remain especially vigilant and move to safer places if needed. Officials have also warned against attempting to cross overflowing nalas or flooded roads on foot

or in vehicles, stressing that swift currents could be dangerous. With unstable weather conditions expected to continue, the IMD has said it will keep issuing real-time weather alerts and radar updates to help the public stay informed. Commuters are advised to follow traffic advisories, check weather updates before heading out, and carry rain gear as a precaution. The civic administration has reassured that it is fully prepared to tackle any rain-related emergencies and ensure the safety of residents. As the city braces for more rain in the coming hours, the focus remains on preventing accidents, maintaining essential services, and minimizing disruption to daily life until the monsoon activity subsides.

76 YEAR OLD RETIRED DOCTOR DIED DUE TO DIGITAL ARREST HUNGAMA



TPN Bureau, Hyderabad, Sept 17: A shocking case of organised cybercrime has come to light in , where a 76-year-old retired doctor reportedly died of cardiac arrest on September 8 after enduring nearly 70 hours of psychological torture in what is being described as a “digital arrest” by fraudsters. The cybercriminals allegedly extorted 6.6 lakh from the elderly woman by falsely implicating her in a fabricated human trafficking case and subjecting her to relentless intimidation through forged documents and video calls.

According to the complaint lodged by the victim's family, the ordeal began on September 6 when the doctor received a video call displaying the logo of the . The caller accused her of being involved in a fabricated “” and presented forged documents showing her details. The fraudsters claimed that her identity had been misused for criminal activities, threatening her with arrest and imprisonment unless she cooperated fully with their so-called investigation. As the psychological harassment escalated, the scammers presented additional forged documents bearing the logos of the , the (ED) and the (RBI). These were used to convince the doctor that

she was under surveillance and subject to legal action. Under intense fear and coercion, she was forced to transfer 6.6 lakh from her pension account to a shell account based in . The victim was reportedly kept isolated through continuous video calls, instructed not to contact her family or anyone else, and warned that her phone was being tracked by investigating agencies. Even after she transferred the money, the harassment continued, with the fraudsters sending fake court notices and threatening further action. The sustained intimidation left the elderly woman deeply traumatised. On September 7, she complained of chest pain and collapsed. She was rushed to a hospital but succumbed to cardiac arrest the next day, September 8.

In a disturbing revelation, the family stated that the fraudsters continued to send threatening messages and fake legal notices even after her death, apparently unaware that their victim had passed away. Following the family's complaint, the have registered a case under relevant provisions of the and sections related to culpable homicide not amounting to murder under the (IPC). Investigators are reportedly tracking the money trail

to the Maharashtra-based account and attempting to trace the digital footprints of the fraudsters involved. Cybercrime experts have described the incident as an alarming example of “digital arrest” scams — a new modus operandi where fraudsters impersonate law enforcement or regulatory authorities, fabricate legal cases, and mentally trap victims through sustained intimidation. These scams often target vulnerable individuals, especially senior citizens, using official-looking forged documents and symbols to instill fear and extract money. Authorities have urged the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious calls or messages impersonating law enforcement or judiciary immediately to the at 1930 or the (cybercrime.gov.in). They have stressed that no genuine police or court official ever conducts investigations over video calls or demands money transfers to settle cases. The death of the retired doctor has sparked widespread concern and outrage, highlighting the urgent need for stronger awareness drives on cyber safety and stricter action against organised digital fraud networks targeting vulnerable citizens.

DECADES LONG DEMAND FULFILLED BY MAYOR

TPN Bureau, Hyderabad, Sept 17: Residents of Sriram Nagar Colony in Banjara Hills, home to over 7,000 people, are set to get a government school after decades of unmet demand. Until now, the densely populated colony had no local school, forcing children to travel long distances for education or enroll in costly private institutions. The issue was brought to the attention of Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi several times by residents. Acting on the concerns, the Mayor engaged with officials from the education department, recalling Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's statement that education is the key to eradicating poverty. Multiple rounds of dis-



cussions were held with government authorities to identify suitable land for the school. Finally, a government land parcel valued at Rs 4 crore and measuring 240 square yards in the colony was earmarked for the construction of a school building. On Wednesday, in the presence of Sriram Nagar

residents, the land was formally handed over to the education department by Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi, with the participation of Shakepeta revenue officials. Proposals for the establishment of a primary school were also submitted to the government. The education depart-

ment will now begin construction of the school building using collectorate funds, marking a significant step toward improving educational facilities in the area. Residents of the colony expressed their delight at the development. “For decades, we have met several public representatives and officials regard-

ing the school, but nothing materialized. Our children had to travel long distances to study, and private school fees were a burden. Some children even dropped out. Once the Mayor was informed, she immediately acted and gave special attention to identifying land for the school. Soon, our dream will come true. We will always be grateful to Mayor Vijayalakshmi,” said representatives of Sriram Nagar Colony. The move is being seen as a milestone in providing accessible education in densely populated urban colonies and reflects the local administration's efforts to respond to citizen demands effectively. The new school is expected to serve hundreds of children in the area, ensuring that education is available within the community and reducing reliance on private schools.

GHMC Mayor Inspects Flood-Affected Areas in Hyderabad

TPN Bureau, Hyderabad, Sept 17: Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi personally inspected the Masab Tank area amid heavy rainfall that has been causing severe inconvenience to residents across the city. The mayor visited the site to assess the impact of the ongoing

rains and issued directions to officials for immediate action. During her field visit, Mayor Vijayalakshmi surveyed waterlogging, traffic disruptions, and other rain-related issues in Masab Tank. She instructed the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRA), GHMC, and the Water Works De-

partment to remain on high alert and undertake swift remedial measures. Officials were asked to focus on clearing accumulated water, ensuring clean and safe roads, and providing relief and assistance to affected residents. Hyderabad has experienced heavy downpours over the past few days, with several localities



including Masab Tank, Lakdikapool, and Khairatabad witnessing traffic congestion and waterlogging. The mayor emphasised the im-

portance of coordinated efforts between city departments to mitigate the impact of the rains and safeguard public convenience and safety. Mayor Vijayalakshmi also urged citizens to exercise caution during the monsoon, advising them to avoid waterlogged areas and follow safety instructions issued by authorities. Known for her hands-on

approach, the mayor has consistently been present in the field to monitor civic issues and coordinate with officials for rapid responses during emergencies. Her visit to Masab Tank highlights the GHMC's proactive approach in managing urban flooding and ensuring timely interventions to reduce disruption for Hyderabad residents.



Through this visit, Bhatti Vikramarka reinforced the government's commitment to education, nutrition, and welfare for tribal girls, underlining that initiatives like the Gurukul are critical for achieving social inclusion and empowerment in Telangana.

A crowd of people, many wearing blue and white uniforms, are gathered outdoors. Several individuals have their hands raised in the air, suggesting a protest, celebration, or a moment of collective action. The background shows green trees and a clear sky.

The protest by the DRF has highlighted the growing frustration among frontline disaster response workers over pay and working conditions, and officials fear that prolonged disruption of their services could leave vulnerable to flood-related crises during the peak of the monsoon season.



No handshake: Indian cricket team makes a strong statement

The much-anticipated India-Pakistan cricket clash in Dubai on Sunday carried more than just the weight of sport. The shadow of the recent Pahalgam terror attack loomed large, influencing both the atmosphere and the conduct of the match. India, led by stand-in skipper Suryakumar Yadav, not only registered an emphatic victory but also sent a strong political message on and off the field.

Tense Start at the Toss

The tension was visible right from the toss. Unlike usual practice, Yadav and Pakistan captain Salman Ali Agha avoided eye contact and refrained from shaking hands. Instead of exchanging team sheets, they handed

them directly to the match referee, breaking with long-standing cricketing tradition. This frosty start set the tone for a contest overshadowed by political and emotional undertones.

India Refuses Handshake Post-Match

After the match, the Indian players again departed from custom. Following their victory, the team lined up but refused to shake hands with the Pakistani side, a gesture widely interpreted as a mark of solidarity with the victims of the Pahalgam attack. The move drew mixed reactions across the cricketing world, but for the Indian players, it was a statement of unity and resolve in the face of terrorism.

Yadav's Political

Statement

Captain Suryakumar Yadav was unequivocal in his post-match remarks. He dedicated the victory to the armed forces involved in Operation Sindoor, who responded to the terror strike, and to the civilians who lost their lives. "This win is for our soldiers and for the families affected by Pahalgam. Cricket is important, but some things are bigger than the game," he said, underlining the national sentiment.

Symbolism Beyond Cricket

The match, usually seen as one of the fiercest rivalries in world cricket, became an arena for political symbolism. For India, the refusal to adhere to traditional gestures of sportsmanship was

meant to emphasize that the wounds of the terror attack were still raw. For Pakistan, the gestures underscored the widening gulf in sporting relations amid political and security tensions.

Global Reactions

Internationally, reactions were divided. Some former players criticized the move as mixing politics with sport, while others argued that given the gravity of the terror attack, India's actions were understandable. Social media in India was largely supportive, with fans lauding the players' stand. The Dubai encounter, though won convincingly by India, will be remembered less for runs and wickets and more for the powerful political statement that accompanied the triumph.

From Degrees to Skills: Why Indian Education Needs Urgent Reinvention

Nepal Gen Z Revolt: What Should India Do?

Nepal is witnessing a wave of political upheaval following the resignation of Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and youth-led protests triggered by the government's controversial social media ban. While the protests appeared to be about online restrictions, they quickly transformed into a larger movement against corruption, nepotism, and chronic instability that has plagued Nepal for decades.

Youth Anger Boils Over

The immediate spark came from a hit-and-run incident involving a Minister's car, which killed an 11-year-old schoolgirl. But the anger runs deeper—high unemployment, low incomes, and widespread misgovernance have driven frustration among Nepal's youth. Many see the political

class as discredited and are demanding the dissolution of parliament. The army imposed curfews during the unrest, but questions have been raised about the President's absence during the crisis.

Regional Parallels and Risks for India

The turmoil mirrors recent unrest in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, highlighting a broader regional pattern of instability. For India, this is not just an internal Nepali affair: The open 1,700-kilometre border can quickly become a security concern, with risks of smuggling, trafficking, and exploitation by anti-India elements. The brief closure of the border and heightened surveillance reflect these fears.

China's growing influence adds another layer of concern. Beijing has expanded its

footprint through infrastructure projects under the Belt and Road Initiative, while young Nepali protesters are wary of both Indian and Chinese interference.

Rejecting Conspiracy Theories

Speculation about "foreign hands" in the protests has circulated, but the appointment of Sushila Karki as the new Prime Minister undermines such theories. A veteran anti-corruption crusader with strong ties to India, Karki was chosen by protesters via a gaming chat app, reflecting the organic and chaotic nature of the movement.

India's Options

For New Delhi, heavy-handed intervention is not advisable. Past actions, such as the 2015 blockade, damaged relations and pushed Nepal closer to China. In-

stead, India must adopt a strategy of respectful non-interference while reinforcing cultural ties, completing development projects, and opening dialogue with Nepal's emerging generation of leaders.

Securing the Border

Meanwhile, India must stay vigilant on border security to prevent infiltration and cross-border crime, especially after the release of 33,000 prisoners during the unrest.

Nepal stands at a crossroads. For India, the challenge is to balance non-interference with proactive support—building goodwill through development, fostering people-to-people ties, and ensuring security. Supporting Nepal's stability without overreach is critical to maintaining India's influence and safeguarding regional peace.



Bharat Under Modi: A Civilisation's Journey Towards Prosperity

A Leader Who Placed Nation Above Self

One of the most striking contrasts between Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Narendra Modi lies in their political identities. Vajpayee, despite his stature, was often seen as the right man in the wrong party, a perception that reflected his occasional differences with both the BJP and the RSS. While Vajpayee remained loyal to the party, many in Delhi's political circles viewed him as distinct from the BJP stereotype. This ambiguity, however, has never existed with Narendra Modi.

From critics labeling him a hardliner to supporters hailing him as a 'Hindu Hridayamrat', Modi's identity as a staunch BJP leader has never been in doubt. Even during his brief sidelining in the 1990s, his party credentials were unquestioned. Since taking charge in 2014, Modi has maintained a smooth and trusting relationship with RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, ensuring potential discord is resolved through quiet consultation. His inclusive approach of accommodating both BJP veterans and RSS pracharakas in key roles has further solidified internal



harmony.

A hallmark of Modi's leadership has been his ability to use the party as a complementary force to government initiatives. The BJP understands well that the decisive edge in elections often comes from Modi's personal popularity, and its machinery is effectively aligned to convert that goodwill into votes.

This synergy has fueled the BJP's remarkable growth. In 2014, the party was seen as geographically limited, yet under Modi's

leadership and Amit Shah's organizational push, it expanded nationally. By 2019, the BJP had made inroads into the Northeast, strengthened its presence in Odisha and West Bengal, and established footholds across southern India.

As Modi turns 75, the BJP celebrates not just his leadership but the successful blend of Modi's mass appeal and the Hindutva-driven party apparatus, a combination that has transformed the BJP into the world's largest political party.

Europe's Oval Office Moment: Lessons for India in a Trumpian World



An image now etched into history captures European leaders and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy seated before Donald Trump in the Oval Office, like obedient schoolchildren before a stern headmaster. For many, the picture evoked amusement, pity, or schadenfreude—but for Russian President Vladimir Putin, it symbolized victory. To him, the world's richest and most powerful nations had reduced themselves to jesters before the only leader who mattered in the Western alliance.

For Putin, this scene validated his war strategy. Despite heavy losses, Russia holds about 20 percent of Ukraine, including Crimea and Donbas, with NATO's eastward expansion seemingly halted. Trump's repeated assertions that he won't back Europe's maximalist demands have only strengthened Moscow's hand. With peace, sanctions may lift, enabling Putin to rebuild his economy and claim victory, however defined.

Ukraine's resilience remains extraordinary. With drone warfare innovations, covert operations, and sheer grit, it has denied Putin his maximalist goals of regime change. Yet Europe's un-

willingness to bear economic or military pain—and Trump's return—has left Kyiv short of its desired outcome.

The Oval Office tableau also reflects Europe's deeper crisis: decades of outsourcing its security to the US. Post-World War II pacifism and complacency after the Cold War created overdependence on Washington. Trump has now leveraged this weakness, extracting one-sided deals, including control over hundreds of billions in European investments—protection money under the guise of alliance.

Compounding this vulnerability is Eu-

rope's economic reliance on Chinese manufacturing and Russian energy. The jolt has forced realism: accept the least worst bargain, preserve the alliance, and wait for a post-Trump America. This pragmatism, not defiance, now defines Europe's approach.

For India, there are clear lessons. First, strengthen the military on a genuine war footing, prioritizing deterrence against Pakistan and preparing for long-term challenges. Second, deepen ties with Russia while resisting entanglement in rigid blocs. Third, maintain stability with China where possible, recog-

nizing its use of Pakistan as a proxy. Fourth, calm the periphery, avoiding needless hostilities with neighbors beyond Pakistan. Finally, manage US ties with patience and foresight—Trump's era will pass, but American power will remain central.

The Oval Office picture underscores that national interest demands cynicism over emotion. Europe's decision to bend without breaking illustrates pragmatism over pride. India must heed the same lesson: navigate turbulence wisely, safeguard core interests, and prepare for the day after Trump.



Global Leaders, BJP Dignitaries Wish PM Modi on 75th Birthday

TPN Bureau | New

Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi received warm wishes from leaders across the globe on his 75th birthday on Wednesday, with many praising his leadership, vision, and contributions to India's rise on the international stage. Heads of state, former leaders, and prominent personalities lauded Modi's efforts in strengthening ties with developing nations and amplifying the voice of the Global South.

Myanmar's President Min Aung Hlaing highlighted the deep-rooted bond between India and Myanmar, extending heartfelt wishes for Modi's health and continued success. "India and Myanmar are not only neighbours but also nations with a shared history spanning thousands of years. May you enjoy good health and happiness for over a hundred years to come," he said.

Kenya's former Prime Minister Raila Odinga

recalled his first meeting with Modi nearly 15 years ago in Gujarat, noting the Prime Minister's sincerity, sense of duty, and humour. "I am delighted to hear that my good friend Narendra Modi is turning 75," Odinga said.

At home, President Droupadi Murmu commended Modi for inspiring a culture of setting and achieving great goals. Vice President CP Radhakrishnan and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla also praised Modi's vision and dedication to making India a developed nation.

Union ministers and BJP leaders joined in the birthday greetings. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh highlighted Modi's global stature and commitment to the welfare of the people, while Home Minister Amit Shah described him as a symbol of sacrifice and an inspiration for millions. BJP president JP Nadda and Union Minister Nitin Gadkari hailed Modi's transformative leadership, emphasizing steps toward building a self-reliant and devel-

oped India.

The BJP has launched a fortnight-long "Sewa Pakhwada" across the country, featuring health camps, cleanliness drives, fairs promoting indigenous products, and programmes focused on women, children, and tribal communities. Modi himself will inaugurate several development initiatives in Dhar, Madhya Pradesh, emphasizing health, nutrition, and welfare.

Actor-turned-politician Hema Malini also extended birthday greetings, recalling Modi's support during her performances and campaigns in Gujarat, highlighting the Prime Minister's vision of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' as empowering citizens nationwide.

The outpouring of wishes reflects Modi's influence both domestically and internationally, celebrating a leader credited with enhancing India's global presence and championing development and welfare initiatives across the country.

PM Modi Lays Foundation of First PM MITRA Park

Launches Health Campaigns in MP



TPN Correspondent

| Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday laid the foundation stone for the country's first Pradhan Mantri Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Park in Dhar district, Madhya Pradesh. On his 75th birthday, PM Modi also launched the 'Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar' and 'Rashtriya Poshan Maah' campaigns, emphasizing women's health and nutrition across the country.

The PM MITRA Park in Bhainsola village will span 2,158 acres and aims to establish a world-class textile hub under the Centre's initiative, with similar parks planned in Telangana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra. The park will feature modern infrastructure, including 81 plug-and-play units, a 20 Mega Liters per Day (MLD) common effluent treatment plant, a 10 MVA solar power plant, continuous water and electricity supply, and modern roads. Housing and social facilities for workers and women employees are also planned, creating an ideal industrial township. Leading textile companies have already proposed investments of Rs 23,146 crore.

The 'Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar' campaign, running till October 2 at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, focuses on women's health, mental well-being, gender equity, adolescent anaemia management, and active lifestyles. NHM MP Director Dr Saloni Sidana stressed the importance of self-care for women, while Dr Rachana Dubey highlighted adolescent screening for conditions like PCOS.

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday asserted that India will not take "dictation" or "bow" to any country, emphasizing that the nation will "write its own script." Speaking at the Telangana/Hyderabad Liberation Day celebrations at Parade Grounds, Secunderabad, he reiterated that Operation Sindoor — launched in response to the Pahalgam terror attack — was only paused and would resume if similar threats emerge.

Drawing parallels with the Telangana armed struggle against the Nizam's Razakars, Mr. Singh said India's armed forces target terror bases based on actions, not religion, unlike terrorists from Pakistan who targeted innocent civilians in Pahalgam. He also noted that the family of Masood Azhar reportedly faced consequences in the missile strikes.

The Defence Minister highlighted the historical context of Hyderabad's integration, observing that earlier acceptance of the 'Standstill Agreement' by the Nizam could have avoided bloodshed. He paid tribute to martyrs of the armed struggle and lauded Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's pivotal role in unifying India, recalling recognition from leaders like Mahatma Gandhi,

India Will "Write Its Own Script"

Rajnath on Telangana Liberation Day

TPN Correspondent |

Secunderabad



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Jawaharlal Nehru, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, and Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

The event included hoisting of the national flag, a march past by central armed forces, and the unveiling of a statue of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee at Secunderabad Cantonment Park. Rajnath Singh praised the Modi government for commemorating the day and honoring freedom fighters, criticizing previous governments for ignoring it due to "appeasement politics."

Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy urged Telangana to officially celebrate the day like Karnataka and Maha-

rashtira and promised village-level celebrations under BJP governance. Ministers Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Bandi Sanjay Kumar, along with Telangana BJP leaders N. Ramchander Rao and Eatala Rajender, addressed the gathering, also extending birthday greetings to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The celebration marked Telangana/Hyderabad Liberation Day, commemorating 'Operation Polo' in September 1948, when India's first Home Minister Sardar Patel led efforts to integrate Hyderabad into the nation, strengthening India's unity and social harmony.

Owaisi Slams INDIA Bloc, Alleges Bihar Snub

TPN Correspondent |

New Delhi



AIMIM chief and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi on Tuesday criticized the INDIA bloc, led by the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), for sidelining his party in the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections, despite repeated efforts to forge an alliance. Owaisi said his party was ready to contest six seats and requested the establishment of a Seemanchal development board, without demanding any ministerial positions, but claims the RJD ignored their proposals.

Owaisi highlighted that AIMIM had won five seats in the politically sensitive Seemanchal region in the 2020 Bihar elections, though four of its MLAs later switched allegiance to the RJD. "They say we are the BJP's B-team. When our four MLAs

Prasad Yadav's residence with drums and posters, but received no positive response. Party leader Akhtarul Iman said they even sent letters through RJD MLAs, yet the advice given was that AIMIM should not contest this time. "Despite our repeated outreach, they still cannot hear us," he said.

Owaisi also questioned the India-Pakistan Asia Cup cricket match, linking it to broader concerns about nationalism and security. Referring to the Pahalgam terror attack, he said, "The Prime Minister had said, 'Blood and water cannot flow together.' But a

cricket match can happen? What message does this send to Pakistan? Whoever thinks this is a fool," highlighting his opposition to sporting engagement with Pakistan amid ongoing security concerns.

The AIMIM leader emphasized the party's responsibility toward the people of Seemanchal, pointing to local anger and outrage over perceived neglect. With elections approaching, Owaisi confirmed AIMIM will contest independently if no seat-sharing arrangement is finalized, signaling continued political assertion in Bihar's volatile Seemanchal region.

Gourangalal Das Appointed India's Ambassador to South Korea

TPN Correspondent |

Delhi

Senior diplomat Gourangalal Das has been appointed as India's next Ambassador to South Korea, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced on Wednesday, September 16, 2025. A 1999 batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, Das currently heads the East Asia division at the MEA headquarters in New Delhi.

In his present role as Joint Secretary, Das has been instrumental in handling India's diplomatic engagements in East

Asia, particularly playing a key part in rebuilding ties with China following the four-year-long eastern Ladakh border standoff. His efforts were pivotal in facilitating dialogue and restoring bilateral relations between the two nations after a period of heightened tensions.

The MEA, in a brief statement, confirmed the appointment, adding that Das is expected to assume his new responsibilities in Seoul shortly. His posting to South Korea comes at a time when India seeks to strengthen economic, strategic, and cultural relations with key

partners in East Asia.

As Ambassador to South Korea, Das will be responsible for advancing India's interests in a country that is a vital player in the region, particularly in technology, trade, and defense collaborations. The appointment also highlights India's focus on strengthening bilateral ties with countries in East Asia, amid shifting geopolitical dynamics.

Observers note that Das' experience in managing complex negotiations and his in-depth understanding of regional dynamics make him a fitting choice for the strategic post. His

tenure in South Korea is expected to further deepen India's engagement in the region, including boosting cooperation in technology, trade, and cultural exchange programs.

The MEA described the posting as part of India's broader diplomatic strategy to consolidate its presence and influence in East Asia. Gourangalal Das' appointment reflects the government's emphasis on placing seasoned diplomats in key positions to navigate complex international relations and promote India's foreign policy objectives effectively.



FBI Director Kash Patel Clashes With Senate Democrats

TPN Correspondent | Washington

FBI Director Kash Patel engaged in a heated confrontation with Senate Democrats during a Judiciary Committee hearing on Tuesday, amid questions over his handling of the Jeffrey Epstein files. The exchange grew tense when Senator Adam Schiff pressed Patel on the transfer of Epstein associate Ghislaine Maxwell to a lower-security prison.

Patel, in a forceful response, accused Schiff of attempting to weaponize intelligence for political gain. “My role is to protect the weaponization of intelligence from the likes of you,” Patel said, adding, “You are the biggest fraud to ever sit in the United States Senate, a disgrace to this institution, and an utter



coward.”

The confrontation escalated as both sides shouted over each other, prompting Committee Chair Chuck Grassley to repeatedly bang the gavel and call for order.

Ranking member Dick Durbin also urged Grassley to regain control. Schiff later criticized Patel, stating on X that the FBI Director “came to the Senate today not to do his job, but to save his

job,” emphasizing that Americans deserve leadership committed to justice rather than political performances.

Patel defended his stance by highlighting prior administrations’

handling of Epstein-related cases, accusing them of inaction. The clash reflects broader tensions between Patel and Democrats, particularly Schiff, a frequent target of former President Donald Trump.

The hearing also saw Senator Cory Booker question Patel’s fitness to lead the bureau. “Because of your failures of leadership, I don’t think you’re fit to lead the bureau... this may be your last full oversight hearing,” Booker remarked, citing Patel’s alignment with Trump rather than the Constitution.

The confrontation underscores the ongoing politicization surrounding the FBI’s top leadership, with lawmakers scrutinizing Patel’s decisions amid sensitive investigations and high-profile federal cases.

My Friend Narendra: Decoding Trump’s Midnight Birthday Wish For PM



TPN Bureau | Washington

US President Donald Trump’s late-night phone call to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his 75th birthday has injected new momentum into strained India-US relations, which have been weighed down by tariff disputes, trade deadlock, and disagreements over Russian oil imports. The call is widely seen as an attempt by Mr. Trump to reset ties after months of tension, including his disputed claims over brokering the Op Sindoor ceasefire and his push for a Nobel Peace Prize endorsement from India. Significantly, PM Modi was the first to

post about the call on social media, beating Mr. Trump by 37 minutes. Observers say the timing unsettled the US President, who is known for capitalising on first-mover advantage online. In his post, Mr. Trump unusually addressed Mr. Modi by his first name, a practice he reserves for leaders like Vladimir Putin and Benjamin Netanyahu. Mr. Modi, in contrast, stuck to formal protocol, avoiding his earlier use of the word “friend.”

On Ukraine, both sides exchanged carefully crafted words. Mr. Modi expressed “support” for Mr. Trump’s efforts to end the war but stopped short of committing India to reduce oil imports from Russia, a point of contention

that had earlier triggered additional US tariffs.

The phone call also offered a boost to long-stalled trade talks. A sixth round of discussions in New Delhi this week was described as “positive,” with Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal hinting that an initial deal could be finalised by November.

The outreach comes after months of frosty silence, during which Mr. Modi reportedly declined multiple calls from Mr. Trump and pivoted towards closer engagement with China and Russia. Tuesday night’s exchange suggests a thaw, with both leaders signalling readiness to stabilise one of the most consequential partnerships in the Indo-Pacific.

Pakistan FM Says India Rejects Mediation, Calls for Dialogue

TPN Correspondent | Islamabad

Pakistan’s Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar has said that India has rejected any third-party mediation on bilateral issues, reiterating Islamabad’s desire for friendly relations with all its neighbours, including India. Speaking to Al Jazeera on the sidelines of the Arab-Islamic emergency summit in Doha, Mr. Dar underlined that negotiations remained the best way forward if pursued with sincerity and



seriousness.

When asked about third-party involvement, Mr. Dar said, “We don’t mind, but India has categorically been stating it’s a bilateral matter.” He recalled his July 25 meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who told him that India maintains dialogue with Pa-

kistan is strictly bilateral.

Tensions escalated after terrorists killed 26 civilians in Jammu and Kashmir’s Pahalgam on April 22. India responded with Operation Sindoor on May 7, targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Hostilities ended on May 10

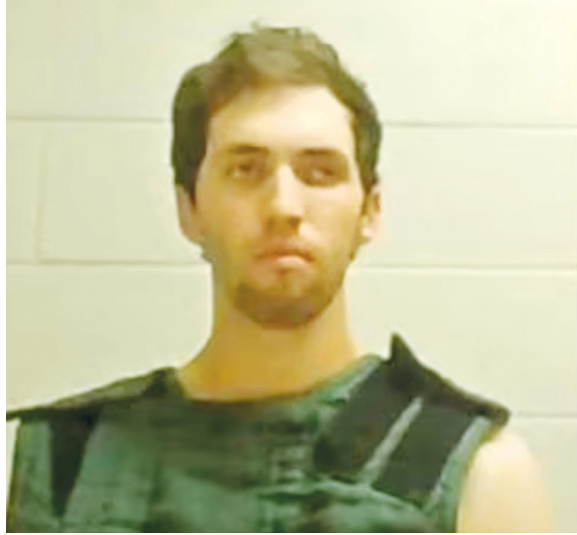
after intense drone and missile strikes, with U.S. President Donald Trump claiming he brokered the ceasefire. India, however, insists no external mediation is acceptable.

Mr. Dar reaffirmed Pakistan’s commitment to fighting terrorism, calling it “surprising” that the country most affected by terrorism is still blamed by India. On water disputes, he warned that any unilateral attempt by India to halt flow under the Indus Waters Treaty would be treated as a declaration of war. India had earlier put the treaty “in abey-

ance” after the Pahalgam attack.

On nuclear weapons, Mr. Dar said Pakistan’s arsenal is defensive and will only be used if sovereignty is directly threatened. He also termed Kashmir an internationally recognised dispute requiring resolution under U.N. resolutions.

Mr. Dar further condemned Israel’s recent strike on Qatar, urging the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation to go beyond statements and consider measures such as sanctions, legal action, or a regional security force.



Tyler Robinson Charged in Charlie Kirk Killing

TPN Correspondent | Utah

Tyler Robinson, 22, has been charged with aggravated murder for allegedly killing conservative activist Charlie Kirk at Utah Valley University on September 10. Robinson made his first virtual court appearance on September 16 and will remain in custody until his next hearing on September 29, by which time he is expected to have legal representation. Prosecutors plan to seek the death penalty.

Instead of an indictment, Utah authorities

used an information document, allowing a probable cause hearing to determine if there is sufficient evidence to proceed. Court filings detail multiple pieces of evidence against Robinson, including DNA on the gun, texted confessions, and messages sent to his roommate.

Robinson allegedly confessed in a series of text messages to his transgender partner, Lance Twigg, less than three hours after the shooting. In the messages, he described the rifle he used—a scoped .30-06 inherited from his grandfather—and admitted hiding it in nearby

bushes. He expressed concern about his father’s reaction if he did not return the rifle.

Investigators suggest Robinson targeted Kirk due to his political views. In messages and conversations with family and his roommate, Robinson said he “had enough of [Kirk’s] hatred” and accused him of spreading “too much hate.” On the day of the shooting, he instructed his roommate to check under his keyboard, where a note revealed he had planned the attack for over a week.

Robinson was arrested on September 11 after his father recognized him in

news photos. Discord messages from Robinson two hours before his arrest included an admission: “Hey guys, I have bad news for you all...It was me at UVU yesterday. I’m sorry for all of this.”

FBI Director Kash Patel confirmed that the bureau is investigating all individuals connected to Robinson’s Discord group chats, as authorities probe potential co-conspirators. Robinson’s political views, including support for LGBTQ+ rights, were noted by family members, but prosecutors have not clarified whether this influenced his motive.

Khalistani Outfit Threatens ‘Siege’ of Indian Consulate in Vancouver

TPN Correspondent | Ottawa

As India and Canada move to restore diplomatic ties, tensions resurfaced after Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), a US-based pro-Khalistan outfit, threatened to “siege” the Indian Consulate in Vancouver on Thursday. The group has urged Indo-Canadians to avoid visiting the consulate on that day, claiming it will take control of the premises.

In its announcement, SFJ circulated a poster depicting India’s new High Commissioner to

Canada, Dinesh Patnaik, with a target mark on his face. The group alleged that Indian consulates are operating “spy networks” and carrying out surveillance on Khalistan activists. “Two years ago — on September 18, 2023 — Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told Parliament that Indian agents’ role was under investigation in the assassination of Hardeep Singh Nijjar,” the SFJ statement read. “Two years on, Indian Consulates continue to run surveillance targeting Khalistan Referendum campaigners,” it added.

SFJ further claimed that threats against its members were so serious that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) had placedINDERJEET SINGH GOSAL, who assumed leadership of the Khalistan Referendum campaign after Nijjar’s death, under witness protection. The group said the planned “siege” is aimed at seeking “accountability” for alleged espionage and intimidation on Canadian soil.

At the time of filing this report, there was no immediate response from India’s Ministry of External Affairs or

the Indian Consulate in Vancouver.

Khalistani Extremism in Canada

Earlier this month, an internal Canadian government report acknowledged that extremist Khalistani outfits continue to receive financial support from individuals and networks within Canada. Groups such as Babbar Khalsa International and International SYF, both banned as terrorist organisations under Canada’s Criminal Code, are believed to be operating through smaller networks of supporters backing the Khalistan cause.



Gold and Silver prices hit record high, driven by global uncertainty

Gold and silver prices surged to fresh record highs this week, supported by safe-haven demand amid rising global uncertainty, tariff concerns, and geopolitical tensions. Analysts expect the bullish momentum in bullion to continue in the near term as investors turn to precious metals for security during volatile times

According to the Indian Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA), 24-carat gold closed at 1,09,707 per 10 grams on Friday, registering a sharp gain of 1,670 compared to Monday's 1,08,037. Gold has remained above the 1 lakh mark throughout September, having

started the month at 1,04,075. Prices of 22-carat gold followed suit, ending the week at 1,00,492 per 10 grams, up from 98,962 earlier in the week

Silver prices also maintained a strong rally. The metal ended the week at 1,28,008 per kilogram, higher by 3,595 from Monday's 1,24,413. With silver holding firm above 1.20 lakh levels, investor appetite remains robust.

On the futures market, October gold contracts settled at 1,09,356 per 10 grams, up 0.34 per cent, reflecting sustained optimism. Globally, Comex gold traded at \$3,680.7 per ounce, extending gains as traders sought refuge from economic and po-

litical uncertainties

Analysts believe the upward trend will remain intact, citing geopolitical risks, a fragile economic outlook, and ongoing tariff issues. Jateen Trivedi of LKP Securities noted that gold gained 0.35 per cent at 1,09,350, with Comex prices factoring in expectations of a possible U.S. Fed rate cut to support economic growth.

Despite being in over-bought territory, bullion continues to attract premium buying. Market watchers see gold trading within a range of 1,07,000–1,12,000 in the coming weeks, reinforcing its role as a safe-haven asset during global uncertainty



US tariffs to hit 8% of India's auto component output

The Indian auto component industry is facing significant headwinds as high US tariffs are expected to impact nearly 8% of the sector's total production, according to ratings agency Icria. Auto component exports contribute almost 30% to the industry's revenues, with the United States alone accounting for 27% of this share. However, the recent imposition of a 50% tariff on Indian goods has placed Indian exporters at a relative disadvantage compared to several Asian peers

While China, Japan, Vietnam, and Indonesia face tariffs in the 15-30% range, India's much higher tariff burden makes its products less competitive. Adding to the challenge, manufacturers in Mexico and Canada enjoy exemptions under the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), further intensifying competition in the American market. This disparity underscores the growing need for India to accelerate trade talks with Washington to protect its export interests

Despite the hurdles,

Indian auto component exports to the US have witnessed steady growth in recent years. Shipments rose from USD 4.1 billion in FY2021 to USD 6 billion in FY2022, followed by USD 6.5 billion in FY2023, and USD 6.8 billion in FY2024. For FY2025, exports are projected to touch USD 7.3 billion, reflecting the strong demand for Indian-made components. However, experts caution that the escalating tariff regime could slow this momentum in the near future

Geographically, Eu-

rope remains India's largest export market with a 30% share, followed closely by the US at 27%, Asia at 26%, Latin America at 3%, and other regions contributing 13%. Domestic sales account for 56% of the industry's revenues, while replacement demand makes up the remaining 15%. With exports under pressure, industry stakeholders are calling for urgent policy interventions to safeguard market access and sustain the sector's growth trajectory

Urban Company Shares Soar Over 10% After Strong Market Debut



Urban Company shares made a bumper debut on the Indian stock exchanges on Wednesday (September 17), listing with a stellar premium and continuing their rally through the trading session. The stock opened at 162.25 apiece on the NSE, reflecting a 64.77% jump over the issue price of 103. On the BSE, it listed at 161.00, marking a 56.31% premium. Soon after listing, Urban Company surged further to hit an intraday high of 179.00 apiece, nearly 74% above its IPO

price and more than 10% higher than its listing price

The 1,900 crore IPO, open between September 10 and 12, received overwhelming investor response, being subscribed 103.63 times. The grey market premium (GMP) had already hinted at a strong debut, indicating nearly 50% gains over the issue price. Urban Company, a tech-enabled marketplace for home and beauty services, operates in 51 cities across India, UAE, and Singapore. The successful listing is being viewed as a boost

for India's startup IPO market, which has seen cautious momentum in recent years

Post listing, analysts largely advised investors to hold the stock for long-term gains. Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities, said the company offers a compelling structural growth story in the expanding home services segment. He recommended allotted investors to hold, while non-allotted investors should adopt a wait-and-watch strategy for a possible price dip. Shivani Nyati of Swastika In-

vestmart suggested partial profit booking while holding the rest with a stop loss at 120. Meanwhile, Harshal Dasani of INVAsset PMS highlighted that the stock's opening market capitalization of nearly 25,300 crore reflects investor conviction but also raises expectations on profitability and execution

At 2:05 PM, Urban Company was trading at 163.30 apiece on the BSE, up 58.54% from its issue price, underscoring strong investor confidence in the company's long-term growth prospects.

GST Cut on Renewables to 5% Aims to Power India's Green Future

The government's decision to rationalize GST rates across the renewable energy value chain from 12% to 5% is set to bring down the cost of clean energy projects, making electricity more affordable for households, farmers, industries, and developers. According to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, the move will significantly reduce capital costs for utility-scale projects, rooftop solar systems, and solar pumps, while strengthening India's clean energy ecosystem

For large-scale solar projects, where the cost typically stands at 3.5-4 crore per MW, the revised GST is expected to generate savings of 20-25 lakh per MW. A 500 MW solar park, for instance, could see project costs cut by over 100 crore, improving tariff competitiveness and lowering the financial burden on distribution companies



(DISCOMs). Nationwide, annual savings of 2,000-3,000 crore in power procurement costs are anticipated. Households will also benefit as rooftop solar systems become cheaper. A 3 kW system will now cost 9,000-10,500 less, accelerating adoption under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana. Farmers under the PM-KUSUM scheme are expected to save nearly 17,500 on a 5 HP solar pump, translating into a collective saving of 1,750 crore across 10 lakh pumps, making irrigation more sustainable and cost-effective

The reform is also set to enhance competitiveness of Indian-made so-

lar equipment, reducing module and component costs by 3-4%. With India targeting 300 GW of renewable capacity by 2030, a modest 2-3% cost reduction could free up investments worth 1-1.5 lakh crore, while creating 5-7 lakh jobs in the next decade. Faster renewable deployment will also help India avoid 50-70 million tonnes of CO2 emissions annually by 2030

Effective from September 22, 2025, the GST cut is being hailed as a landmark step to advance India's green growth, energy independence, and Paris Agreement commitments

GST 2.0 Reforms To Put 2 Lakh Crore In People's Hands: Sitharaman

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday announced sweeping GST reforms under "GST 2.0," aimed at simplifying the tax system and boosting affordability for the common man. Speaking at an outreach programme in Visakhapatnam, she said the reforms will leave an additional 2 lakh crore in the hands of consumers by easing their tax burden and improving liquidity in the economy

The revamped system, effective from September 22, will replace the existing five tax slabs (0%, 5%, 12%, 18% and 28%) with just two — 5% for essential goods and 18% for others. Sitharaman highlighted that daily necessities such as soaps, toothpaste and



household essentials will now fall under the 5% or nil tax category, while life-saving medicines will see their rates cut from 12% to 5% or

nil. Big-ticket items including two-wheelers, cars, televisions, and cement will move from 28% to 18%, offering significant relief to the

middle class

"Nearly 99% of goods that were taxed at 12% earlier have been shifted into the 5% slab under the new GST 2.0 sys-

tem," Sitharaman said, underscoring the direct benefits to poor and middle-class families. She credited GST revenues for enabling infrastructure projects like airports, expressways, and Vande Bharat trains. Revenues have grown from 7.19 lakh crore in 2018 to 22.08 lakh crore in 2025, with taxpayers increasing from 65 lakh to 1.51 crore over the same period

Calling it the biggest reform since the introduction of "One Nation, One Tax" in 2017, Sitharaman said GST 2.0 is designed with the common man at its core. The government hopes the simplified structure will encourage greater spending and drive economic growth by making goods more affordable across the country

Broccoli also has These Side Effects

Broccoli is widely regarded as one of the healthiest vegetables, packed with essential nutrients. Yet, health experts caution that excessive consumption can lead to a variety of health issues.

While its high fiber content is beneficial in moderate quantities, eating too much broccoli can overload the digestive system, resulting in bloating, gas, and constipation. Individu-

als with sensitive stomachs are particularly advised to limit its intake.

Broccoli also contains compounds known as goitrogens, which can hinder thyroid function. These compounds block iodine absorption, potentially reducing the production of thyroid hormones. For people with existing thyroid conditions, overconsumption of broccoli may worsen their symptoms.

Another concern is broccoli's rich vitamin K content, which plays a crucial role in blood clotting. For individuals on blood-thinning medications for heart conditions or other reasons, consuming large amounts of broccoli could interfere with the drugs' effectiveness and increase the risk of clot formation.

Some people may also experience allergic reactions to broccoli, including symptoms

such as skin rashes, itching, or swelling. In such cases, immediate medical attention is advised.

In conclusion, while broccoli remains a valuable part of a healthy diet, experts strongly recommend moderation. People with thyroid issues, heart conditions, or digestive sensitivity should consult a healthcare provider before making broccoli a regular part of their meals.



Asus Laptops Now on Swiggy Instamart in 6 Cities

In a first-of-its-kind move in the Indian tech retail space, Taiwanese electronics giant Asus has partnered with Swiggy Instamart to deliver laptops in just 10 minutes. Starting at 33,990, these laptops will now be available for instant delivery in six major Indian cities: Delhi NCR, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai, Pune, and Kolkata.

This strategic partnership aims to tap into the booming quick commerce market, which now accounts for over 30% of urban tech purchases in India. Asus is targeting this segment by offering a rapid, convenient way for customers to buy laptops without visiting a store or wait-

ing for traditional delivery timelines.

The current lineup available through Swiggy Instamart includes two consumer notebook models and one gaming laptop — the Asus TUF Gaming F16, priced at 74,990. The company previously offered accessories on quick commerce platforms and is now expanding to include its full range of laptops and peripherals. Customers purchasing a laptop can also add compatible accessories like keyboards, mice, and more during checkout.

“As the demand for convenience and speed rises in urban India, quick commerce is becoming a decisive factor in tech buying deci-

sions,” an Asus spokesperson said. “We want to meet consumers where they are — which today is just a few taps away on their phones.”

This new delivery option adds another layer of convenience for students, gamers, and working professionals looking for immediate access to computing power, especially in emergency or time-sensitive situations.

With this innovative rollout, Asus becomes the first major laptop brand in India to offer 10-minute delivery, blending high-end tech with the speed of quick commerce — and reshaping how urban India shops for devices.

114-Year-Old Shigeko Becomes Japan’s Oldest Living Person

Shigeko Kagawa, a 114-year-old retired physician from Japan’s Nara Prefecture, has officially become the oldest living person in the country, according to Japan’s Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. The announcement follows the death of Miyoko Hiroyasu, who was also 114.

Kagawa, an obstetrician and gynaecologist by profession, served as a wartime physician at a hospital in Osaka during the Second World War. After a long career in medicine, she retired at the age of 86 from her family-run clinic.

Despite her age, Kagawa remains a symbol of Japan’s famed longevity. She drew global attention in 2021 when, at 109, she took part in the Tokyo Olympics torch relay—becoming one of the oldest Olympic torchbearers in

history.

Speaking to local media in 2023, Kagawa credited her long life to a carefree and active lifestyle. “I don’t have any [secret]... I just play every day. My energy is my greatest asset. I go where I want, eat what I want and do what I want. I’m free and independent,” she told TOS News.

Before her, the title was held by Miyoko Hiroyasu, born in 1911, who passed away in a nursing home in Oita Prefecture. A former art student, Hiroyasu spent her final days reading, sketching, and playing card games. She raised three children and remained mentally and physically active until her passing.

Both women are celebrated as reflections of Japan’s aging yet resilient population, where longevity continues to break global records.



20 Peacocks Found Dead Near Stream in Karnataka



In a shocking incident from Hanumanthapura village in Karnataka, twenty peacocks — India’s national bird — were found dead under mysterious circumstances near a stream. According to reports, local farmers discovered the carcasses of 17 female and 3 male peacocks, prompting immediate concern and investigation by the Forest Department.

Forest officials who reached the spot collected evidence and dispatched the carcasses to the Forensic Science Laboratory. Officials stated that the cause of death would be confirmed after scientific examination, with poisoning being one of the suspected causes.

This mass death comes at a time when Karnataka is already grappling with a series of unexplained wildlife fatalities.

Just a month earlier, 20 monkeys were found dead in the Chamara-janagar district, where forest and police officials also suspected poisoning.

In another alarming case, five tigers — a tigress and her four cubs — died on June 27 in the Male Mahadeshwara Hills Wildlife Sanctuary. Initial investigation revealed that the tigress had preyed on a cow that was allegedly poisoned by villagers in retaliation. The meat was laced with poison, leading to the tragic deaths. Three individuals — Konappa, Madaraja, and Nagaraj — from Koppa village were arrested in that case.

Both the peacock and tiger incidents have raised serious questions about wildlife protection and human-animal conflict in Karnataka. While the forest department

does offer compensation for livestock killed by wild animals, the benefit is not extended when such killings occur within the core areas of sanctuaries or national parks — where cattle grazing is illegal.

The recent peacock deaths are particularly disturbing given the state’s commitment to preserving the species. Karnataka is home to two prominent peacock sanctuaries — Adichunchanagiri and Bankapura — both established to protect and conserve the national bird.

With multiple wildlife deaths being reported in short succession, activists and environmentalists are urging stricter enforcement of wildlife laws and better coordination between forest officials and local communities to prevent further incidents.



Lost ‘Ghost Ship’ F.J. King Found After Nearly 140 Years in Lake Michigan

The long-lost schooner F.J. King, which vanished in a storm in 1886 while carrying iron ore, has finally been discovered off Wisconsin’s coast, ending nearly 140 years of uncertainty. The discovery was confirmed by underwater archaeologists working

with the Wisconsin Historical Society and the Wisconsin Underwater Archaeology Association, as reported by NDTV.

Built in 1867 in Toledo, Ohio, the 144-foot, three-masted cargo schooner was transporting iron ore from Escanaba, Michigan, to

Chicago when disaster struck on September 15, 1886. Fierce gales and waves as high as 10 feet battered the vessel, opening its seams. Despite hours of desperate pumping, the schooner sank around 2 am. Fortunately, Captain William Griffin and his crew were rescued by a

passing ship, but the exact location of the wreck remained a mystery for generations.

Researcher Brendon Bailod spearheaded the latest effort to track down the wreck. Guided by an eyewitness account from a lighthouse keeper, his team scanned a two-square-

mile area off Bailey’s Harbour on Wisconsin’s Door Peninsula. On June 28, 2025, side-scan sonar revealed the ship resting half a mile from the reported site. To their surprise, the hull was largely intact, though coated with invasive quagga mussels and marine growth.

“A few of us had to pinch each other,” Bailod said. “After all the previous searches, we couldn’t believe we had actually found it, and so quickly.” The discovery is particularly remarkable given the heavy iron ore cargo that many believed would have shattered the ves-

sel upon impact with the lakebed.

The find adds to a growing list of historic wrecks located by the Wisconsin Underwater Archaeology Association. Earlier this year, the group identified the steamer LW Crane in the Fox River at Oshkosh and the tugboat

John Evenson along with the schooner Margaret A. Muir off Algoma. Bailod also located the schooner Trinidad in 2023.

This rediscovery not only solves a maritime mystery but also deepens understanding of the Great Lakes’ rich shipwreck history.

Neeraj Chopra Storms Into Javelin Final

Tokyo: Defending world champion Neeraj Chopra made a commanding statement at the World Athletics Championships on Wednesday, qualifying for the men's javelin throw final with ease. The 27-year-old Olympic medallist soared past the automatic qualification mark of 84.50 metres on his very first attempt, registering an impressive 84.85m in Group A.

Chopra, the first thrower of the session, packed up after his initial throw, confident of his place in Thursday's (September 18) final. The qualification criteria state that athletes who clear 84.50m or finish among the top 12 advance to the final round. Chopra's performance set the tone for the day, drawing attention from fans and competitors alike.

Group A featured strong competition, including Germany's Julian Weber, who qualified with a massive 87.21m throw, as well as seasoned athletes Keshorn Walcott, Jakub Vadlejch, and Sachin Yadav. Meanwhile, Group B, which will compete later, boasts Olympic champion Arshad Nadeem, Anderson Peters, Julius Yego, Luiz Da Silva, Rohit Yadav, Yashvir Singh, and rising Sri Lankan talent Rumesh Tharanga Pathirage.

Chopra enters the final aiming to become only the third male javelin thrower in history to defend the World Champi-



Mayor's New World T20 Set for Houston in November



The Prairie View Cricket Complex, located in Houston, boasts six top-class grounds and is considered one of the premier cricketing facilities in the region. Cricket enthusiasts can look forward to an exciting 11 days of action, with 60 players participating. The player lineup will feature a mix of seasoned international stars, USA National Team cricketers, and promising local talent eager to make their mark.

Four franchises will battle it out in the tournament, with representation from cricketing giants like India, England, South Africa, the West Indies, and the USA. The league promises to deliver high-intensity cricket in the fast-paced T20 format, with each match spanning 180 minutes filled with boundaries, wick-

Houston is all set to host a major cricketing spectacle as the Mayor's New World T20 Cricket League will be played from November 5 to 15, 2025, at the Prairie View Cricket Complex (PVCC). The announcement was made through an official release from the league's organisers, marking a significant step for the sport's growth in the USA.

ets, and nail-biting finishes.

League Commissioner and Chairman Brijesh Mathur expressed his excitement over the launch. "We are thrilled to bring the Mayor's New World T20 to Houston. The venue offers world-class infrastructure and a perfect setting for players and fans. November will be a true festival of cricket in the USA," he said. Mathur also highlighted the league's vision of giving local players a platform to compete alongside international cricketers, which he believes will significantly boost the sport's reach and popularity in the region.

The Mayor's New World T20 aims not only to provide top-tier entertainment for cricket fans but also to introduce the sport to new audiences in America. With the global spotlight on Houston this November, the league is set to make a bold statement about cricket's future in the USA.

Kipyegon Wins Historic Fourth World 1,500m Title

Kenya's Faith Kipyegon etched her name deeper into athletics history by clinching her fourth world title in the women's 1,500 metres at the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo on Tuesday (September 16). The 31-year-old clocked 3 minutes 52.15 seconds, finishing nearly three seconds ahead of compatriot Dorcus Ewoi, while Australia's Jessica Hull secured bronze.

Kipyegon, already regarded as the greatest female middle-distance runner, joined Moroccan legend Hicham El Guerrouj as only the second athlete to win four world titles at 1,500m. Her dominance was clear as she widened her lead in the final lap, flashing four fingers at the finish line to mark her triumphs. "This was my dream, just to defend my title in the 1,500 for the fourth



time — and keep making history," she said.

Her victory comes just months after narrowly missing the four-minute barrier in the mile, a feat she continues to pursue. Despite that disappointment, she broke her own 1,500m world record in June, clocking 3:48.68. In Tokyo, while a record was never in sight, her composure and strength were unmatched.

Beyond medals, Kipyegon's story of balancing

motherhood and elite athletics has inspired a generation of women. She revealed her daughter Alyn had called her before the race, asking, "When are you going to get a medal?" — a promise she duly fulfilled.

Elsewhere, American Cordell Tinch won gold in the men's 110m hurdles, giving the U.S. its sixth title of the championships. New Zealand celebrated back-to-back golds as Olympic champion Hamish Kerr triumphed in high jump, following Gordie Beamish's steeplechase win. Canada too shone, with Ethan Katzberg claiming men's hammer throw gold after teammate Camryn Rogers' victory in the women's event a day earlier.

The night belonged, however, to Faith Kipyegon — the undisputed queen of the 1,500 metres.

Bangladesh stay in contention with 8-run win over Afghanistan

Bangladesh kept their Asia Cup 2025 hopes alive with a narrow eight-run win over Afghanistan in a thrilling group league clash at Abu Dhabi on Tuesday (September 16). The victory ensured that the Tigers remain in contention for a Super Four spot in the tournament.

Batting first, Bangladesh got off to a blazing start thanks to opener Tanzid Hasan Tamin, who smashed a 31-ball 52. Partner Saif Hassan chipped in with a steady 30 off 28 deliveries as the duo added 63 runs for the opening wicket in quick time. The solid foundation had Bangladesh look-

ing set for a big total, but Afghanistan pulled things back strongly through their spinners. Skipper Rashid Khan and left-arm spinner Noor Ahmad grabbed two wickets each, applying the brakes on the scoring rate. Eventually, Bangladesh finished at 154 for five in their 20 overs.

In response, Afghanistan's chase got off to a steady but slow start. Rahmanullah Gurbaz top-scored with 35 from 31 balls, while Azmatullah Omarzai provided a late spark with a 16-ball 30. However, regular breakthroughs by Bangladesh bowlers kept the Afghans under constant pressure.

Mustafizur Rahman

once again proved his value with the ball, returning figures of 3 for 28. He was well supported by Rishad Hossain (2/18) and Nasum Ahmed (2/11), who spun a web around Afghanistan's middle order. Despite some resistance, Afghanistan were eventually bowled out for 146, falling just short of the target.

The result means Bangladesh stay in the hunt for a place in the Super Four, while Afghanistan face an uphill battle to advance. For Bangladesh, the win not only boosted their confidence but also showcased their bowling depth, which proved decisive in defending a modest total.



PCB Threatens Exit, India's Skipper Rejects Trophy Protocol

The Asia Cup has been thrown into turmoil following an escalating dispute between the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), the International Cricket Council (ICC), and the Asian Cricket Council (ACC). What began as a "no-handshake" incident between India and Pakistan on Sunday has spiraled into a diplomatic and political standoff, raising questions over the tourna-

ment's immediate future.

According to sources, Pakistan had raised multiple objections with the ICC and ACC. One of PCB's key demands was the removal of match referee Andy Pycroft. In response, the ICC has agreed to assign Ritchie Richardson as the referee for Pakistan's upcoming clash against the UAE. However, Pycroft's involvement in Pakistan's matches during

the later stages of the tournament remains undecided.

PCB chief Mohsin Naqvi is expected to make a formal announcement soon regarding Pakistan's continued participation. While he is likely to confirm that the team will remain in the competition, he is also expected to reiterate his board's grievances. Sources indicate Naqvi was angered by the sudden "no-hand-

shake" decision, stressing he would have accepted the protocol had it been communicated in advance.

Adding to the controversy, India captain Suryakumar Yadav has reportedly expressed reservations of his own. He has conveyed to the ACC that he does not want Naqvi — who also serves as ACC chairman — to present the Asia Cup trophy to India should his side

win the final.

With both boards airing grievances and tournament organizers scrambling to manage tensions, the Asia Cup has entered uncharted territory. While temporary compromises have been reached, uncertainty looms large over how the remainder of the competition will unfold, making this one of the most politically fraught editions in recent memory.



Court Pair is Back Again!!!!



Blockbuster writer Kona Venkat is producing a new film under his prestigious Kona Film Corporation banner, with Kavya and Shrvaya serving as producers. Titled Band Melam, the project has already captured attention with its creatively unveiled title glimpse, First Beat, which promises a soulful cinematic experience.

The title glimpse introduces audiences to a vibrant musical journey, highlighting the ro-

mantic tale of Harsh Roshan and Sridevi Apalla. Set against the colorful backdrop of Telangana, the glimpse begins with a melodious, regionally rooted tune that sets the tone for the film's musical and emotional narrative. The story weaves together music, culture, and connection, offering audiences an immersive cinematic experience.

Harsh and Sridevi's on-screen chemistry shines through, enhanced by their witty, affectionate exchanges in the local dialect. Their performances reflect a grounded storytelling approach, blending romance and authenticity. The musical compositions by Vijai Bulganin have been widely appreciated for their ability to touch hearts, with the title glimpse closing on a magical note that leaves a lasting impression.

The film's crew brings together talented professionals to ensure a high-quality production. Satish Javvaji directs the film, while cinematographer Satish Mutyala captures the vibrant visuals that complement the story. Mango Mass Media is presenting the film, with Sivvaraju Pranav co-producing, creating a strong foundation for this musical romance.

Band Melam aims to celebrate the essence of love through music and soul, promising to be both entertaining and emotionally resonant. With its combination of talented actors, engaging storytelling, and captivating music, the film is poised to make a significant impact in regional cinema.

The launch of First Beat has already generated excitement among audiences, setting high expectations for the film's complete musical journey. Kona Venkat's production, along with the collaborative efforts of the cast and crew, positions Band Melam as one of the most anticipated releases in the coming months.

Junior OTT Release Confirmed on Aha

The romantic action drama Junior, marking the acting debut of Kireeti Reddy, son of mining baron Gaali Janardhan Reddy, is set to make its digital debut soon. The film, featuring dancing sensation Sreeleela as the female lead and directed by Radha Krishna Reddy, has generated significant curiosity among audiences ahead of its streaming release.

While Junior opened with decent numbers at the box office, it struggled to sustain momentum over the following weeks. Industry insiders suggest that the film's OTT release could give it a fresh lease of life, reaching a wider audience and drawing attention to its vibrant performances and high-energy musical numbers. Aha has officially confirmed the digital premiere, with reports indicating a tentative release date of Friday, September 19, 2025. Additionally, there are rumors that Amazon Prime Video may stream the film in multiple languages, although no official confirmation has been issued yet.

The film also features seasoned actors such as

Genelia Deshmukh in a crucial role, along with Rao Ramesh, Ravichandran, Sudha Rani, Satya, and Harsha Chemudu, who add depth and experience to the ensemble cast. The music, composed by Devi Sri Prasad, is a highlight of the film, infusing it with high-energy songs and dance sequences that complement the commercial romantic action drama genre.

Produced by Sai Korrapati, Junior combines youthful romance, action, and musical entertainment, aiming to appeal to a broad spectrum of viewers. With the OTT release, fans who missed the theatrical run will now have the chance to experience Kireeti Reddy's debut performance and the film's overall spectacle from the comfort of their homes.

As anticipation builds for its digital launch, Junior is poised to find a new audience and revive discussions about the film's engaging storyline, energetic soundtrack, and charismatic performances, making it a notable entry in the Telugu OTT space this year.



MIRAI Breaks Records in North America

Telugu cinema's latest visual extravaganza, MIRAI, is making waves across North America, setting new benchmarks for regional films overseas. The film collected over \$500,000 on its second day alone, marking the highest single-day gross for a Telugu film in 2025. With this momentum, MIRAI is on track to cross the \$3 million milestone, a remarkable feat for Indian cinema abroad. The film has been widely released across North America by Shloka Entertainments and People Cinemas, drawing enthusiastic audiences.

Directed by Karthik Ghattamaneni, MIRAI blends mythology, state-of-the-art VFX, and a grand cinematic vision, offering a larger-than-life experience that redefines the glob-

al reach of Indian films. The movie's visual grandeur and storytelling finesse have captivated viewers, making it a must-watch international spectacle.

Teja Sajja delivers a career-defining performance, portraying the journey of a vulnerable boy transforming into a powerful warrior. His compelling screen presence and high-octane action sequences have garnered widespread acclaim. Equally striking is Manchu Manoj, who brings depth and intensity to his role as the formidable Black Sword Villain, creating one of the film's most memorable highlights. Supporting performances by Ritika Nayak, Shriya Saran, Jagapathi Babu, and Jayaram add further layers to the narrative, enhancing the overall

cinematic experience. Produced under the prestigious People Media Factory banner and backed by TG Vishwa Prasad and Krithi Prasad, MIRAI benefits from top-tier production values and visionary storytelling. Shloka Entertainments expressed gratitude to the producers for enabling such an ambitious project, which has resonated with audiences across languages and cultures.

With its universal appeal, breathtaking scale, and unforgettable performances, MIRAI is more than a film—it is an epic cinematic journey that continues to enthrall viewers worldwide. Fans are urged to catch this spectacular visual feast on the big screen while it continues its record-breaking run across North America.



PM Modi's Biopic "Maa Vande" First Look Released

Silver Cast Creations has officially announced a biopic on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, titled Maa Vande, coinciding with his birthday celebrations. The film, set to portray Modi's journey from a young, determined boy to the leader of the world's largest democracy, will feature actor Unni Mukundan in the lead role.

Directed by Kranthi Kumar C.H., the film promises to blend realism with cinematic flair, capturing the pivotal moments that shaped Modi's life and career. A central focus of the narrative is Modi's close relationship with his mother, Heeraben, whose guidance and influence played a significant role in shaping his values and ambitions.

Maa Vande brings together some of the finest talents in Indian cinema. Renowned cinematographer K.K. Senthil Kumar will helm the camera, while Ravi Basrur will compose the music, aiming to create a soundtrack that resonates with the emotional and dramatic depth of the story. Veteran editor Sreekar Prasad will oversee the film's editing, ensuring a seamless narrative flow, while Sabu Cyril is tasked with designing intricate sets that reflect the various phases of Modi's life. Action sequences will be choreographed by King Solomon, promising dynamic visuals that complement the film's storytelling.

The production team has emphasized that the film will focus on authenticity, with events

and experiences depicted based on real-life incidents, aiming to offer audiences an insightful look into the personal and political journey of one of India's most influential leaders.

Maa Vande is expected to generate considerable anticipation among audiences, given its subject matter and the star-studded crew behind it. The film seeks not only to entertain but also to inspire viewers by highlighting Modi's determination, leadership, and the values instilled in him from childhood.

With the announcement on Modi's birthday, Maa Vande sets the stage for what promises to be a significant addition to Indian biographical cinema, honoring the life and achievements of the Prime Minister.

Rajini, Kamal Haasan Reunite After 46 Years

In a historic moment for Tamil cinema, superstar Rajinikanth has confirmed that he will share screen space with Kamal Haasan after more than four decades. The two legends, who last acted together in Allaudinum Albhutha Vilakkum (1979), are finally set for a reunion that has sent waves of excitement through Kollywood and among fans worldwide.

Speaking to the media in Chennai on Wednesday, Rajinikanth said, "Yes, we are working on a project, which will be produced jointly by Raaj Kamal Films International (RKFI) and Red Giant Movies." However, when pressed about the director, the actor remained tight-lipped. "The final decision has not been made yet," he clarified, leaving fans guessing.

The announcement follows Kamal Haasan's confirmation at the recently concluded SIIMA 2025 awards, where he revealed that both stars



would be seen together again. Since then, speculation about the project has been at fever pitch.

Reports had suggested that hit filmmaker Lokesh Kanagaraj, known for redefining Tamil cinema with his Lokesh Cinematic Universe, might helm the film. Sources claimed that script discussions were already underway. But with Rajinikanth choosing not to disclose any names, it remains unclear whether Lokesh is indeed directing or if another surprise announcement is in store.

For fans, the collaboration brings back memories of the 1970s, when

Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan shared the screen in several iconic films before embarking on separate superstar journeys. Their reunion after 46 years is being hailed as a once-in-a-lifetime cinematic event.

Social media erupted soon after Rajinikanth's comments, with hashtags like #RajiniKamal, #ThalaivarUlaga-nayagan, and #KollywoodHistory trending within minutes. With production houses RKFI and Red Giant backing the film, industry insiders say the project is poised to be one of the biggest in Tamil cinema's history.