



Ponguleti Hits Back at KTR, Predicts BRS Defeat

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BUZZ POINTS

UREA SHORTAGE CONTINUES TO TROUBLE TELANGANA FARMERS

The persistent scarcity of continues to haunt farmers across , triggering frustration and protests in several parts of the state. Farmers have been seen queuing up at agricultural supply centers, with tensions escalating into heated arguments and scuffles in some locations as they struggle to secure the critical fertiliser needed for their crops.



MINISTER VIVEK UNDERTAKES FOOT WALK IN JUBILEE HILLS CONSTITUENCY AHEAD OF BY-POLLS

In the backdrop of the upcoming Jubilee Hills by-polls, Minister Vivek has embarked on a foot walk across the constituency to connect with residents and understand their issues firsthand. The initiative, launched on Thursday, aims to provide a platform for citizens to voice their concerns directly to the minister and seek timely solutions.



Komatireddy Rajagopal ReddyA Addresses Rumors and Political Future

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 18: Congress MLA Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy has spoken out against what he calls a malicious campaign aimed at damaging his reputation through social media. He urged party members and the public to disregard these rumors. The MLA's comments came during a media interaction after he had lunch with party workers in Peddakaparthi, Chityala mandal, while on his way to Guntur. Rajagopal Reddy expressed frustration over the spread of misinformation, including claims that he is resigning from the party, switching allegiances, or forming a new political party. He defended his right to voice his opinions for the betterment of the Congress

party, stating, "What is wrong in saying that?" He pointed to a specific instance where his trip to Guntur for a personal engagement was twisted into a rumor that he was going to meet former Chief Minister Jaganmohan Reddy. The MLA clarified that he would hold a press conference in the near future to discuss his political plans and future. Until then, he appealed to the people of Telangana to not believe the false reports circulating about him. He emphasized that these rumors are baseless and part of a concerted effort by "unscrupulous people" to discredit him. Rajagopal Reddy's statement highlights the growing issue of political disinformation spread through social media channels and its impact on public perception and political careers.

CM SEEKS SUPPORT OF UK FOR MUSI AND FUTURE CITY PROJECTS

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 18: In a high-level meeting held at the Secretariat on Thursday, the Chief Minister interacted with a British delegation led by , the British High Commissioner to India. He highlighted the State government's commitment to transforming the Musi riverfront into a sustainable and vibrant economic corridor, stressing that participation from British companies would accelerate the project's progress and bring in world-class expertise.

Revanth Reddy emphasised that Telangana has emerged as a hub for the life sciences and pharmaceutical industries, with a strong ecosystem for manufacturing and innovation. He urged British firms to explore collaboration opportunities in these sectors, citing the availability of skilled manpower, progressive industrial policies, and robust infrastructure support. He also underscored the potential of the EV sector, stating that the government is actively promoting electric mobility and would provide necessary

Mr. Revanth Reddy, the Chief Minister of , has urged companies from the to invest in key development projects across the State, including the ambitious rejuvenation initiative, the rapidly growing pharmaceutical and electric vehicle (EV) sectors, and the futuristic urban development plans under the Future City project.



policy and logistical support to British companies looking to invest in EV manufacturing and allied services in the State. The Chief Minister further invited British participation in the Future City development plan, which envisions building smart, technology-driven urban clusters in Telangana. He

said the initiative aims to integrate green mobility, clean energy, digital infrastructure, and sustainable urban planning, and could benefit greatly from the experience of British companies in modern city development and climate-resilient infrastructure. Responding positively, Lindy Cameron expressed the UK govern-

ment's interest in strengthening its engagement with Telangana across various sectors. She assured that the UK was prepared to collaborate in the fields of education and technology, offering support for teacher and professor training programmes in government institutions. Cameron also announced that the UK

would work with the Telangana government to provide prestigious opportunities to meritorious students from the State on a co-funding basis, enabling more young talent to pursue higher education in the United Kingdom. The meeting concluded with both sides agreeing to explore the formation of joint working groups to identify priority areas and draw up concrete proposals for partnership. Telangana officials stated that the State government will soon organise sector-specific investor roadshows in collaboration with the British High Commission to attract investments and facilitate business tie-ups. This outreach is part of the State's broader strategy to strengthen international partnerships and attract foreign investments to accelerate economic growth. The Chief Minister noted that collaborations with reputed British firms could not only boost job creation and innovation but also help Telangana achieve its vision of becoming a global hub for sustainable industries and smart urban development.



Telangana Assembly Secretary Seeks BRS Stand on Defected MLAs' Explanations

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 18: In a new development in the ongoing political tussle in , the Secretary of the has sent a letter to the leaders of the (BRS), asking them to clarify their position on the responses submitted by the eight allegedly defected MLAs. According to official sources, the letter seeks to know whether the

BRS leadership is satisfied with the explanations given by these MLAs. If they are not satisfied, the Assembly Secretary has asked them to specify what further clarifications or evidence they require from the legislators. This communication comes as part of the disqualification proceedings being conducted as per the directions of the , which had ordered that the process be com-

pleted within three months. Acting on these directions, the has already issued notices to the eight MLAs accused of defecting from the BRS to the (Congress) and sought their explanations. In their written responses, the MLAs reportedly stated that they have not formally joined the Congress party and claimed that their meetings with Congress leaders were

purely coincidental and accidental. The BRS, however, has remained firm on its stand that the eight MLAs have defected and should be disqualified under the anti-defection law. The party has been pressing for their immediate disqualification and is reportedly expecting that by-elections (by-polls) will be held to fill their seats once they are disqualified.

Meanwhile, the ruling Congress is said to be handling the matter very tactically, ensuring that the process moves strictly according to legal procedure. Political observers note that this approach could allow the Congress to delay any disqualification and prevent the immediate conduct of by-polls, which could be risky for the party so soon after forming the government.

The ball is now back in the court of the BRS leadership, which must submit its response to the Assembly Secretary's letter. Their reply is expected to significantly influence the Speaker's next steps in the disqualification proceedings. With the Supreme Court's deadline looming, the political stakes remain high for both the ruling Congress and the opposition BRS.

AP Liquor Scam ED Raids Five States

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 18: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has launched a multi-state operation, conducting searches in five states as part of an ongoing investigation into the Andhra Pradesh (AP) Liquor Scam. This case, which involves an alleged fraud of Rs. 3,500 crore, saw coordinated raids in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Delhi. The searches were carried out at 20 locations, targeting the offices and companies of individuals and entities accused in the case. The raids represent a significant escalation in the investigation, bringing a central agency like the ED into the fold. The AP government has been grappling with the fallout of this scam, and the ED's involvement signals that the case has



now taken on a wider, more serious dimension, likely involving money laundering and financial irregularities across state lines. Meanwhile, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) continues its parallel investigation. The SIT has officially named 29 individuals and 19 companies as accused in the scam. So far, the SIT has made 12 arrests in connection with the case. Of those arrested, four indi-

viduals—Dhanunjaya Reddy (A-31), Krishnamohan Reddy (A-32), Balaji Govindappa (A-33), and Paila Dilip (A-30)—have been granted bail. However, eight others, including Chevireddy Bhaskara Reddy and Venkatesh Naidu, remain in custody. The ED's action follows the SIT's groundwork, and the coordinated raids across multiple states suggest that the

financial trail of the scam extends far beyond Andhra Pradesh. The involvement of companies and individuals in other states indicates a sophisticated network that allegedly facilitated the illegal liquor trade and associated financial transactions. The recent developments, particularly the ED's widespread searches, are expected to provide new evidence and insights into the money trail, which could lead to further arrests and a deeper understanding of the scam's magnitude. The authorities are focused on uncovering how the illicit profits were generated and where they were funneled, aiming to hold all those responsible accountable for their roles in the scam. The public awaits further details from the ongoing investigation, as the case continues to unravel.

REASON BEHIND THE ACTION AGAINST iAS

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 18: The Government of Telangana has taken a serious view of the actions of , the District Collector of Rajanna Sircilla, for allegedly violating official protocol during the celebrations held on Wednesday. According to officials, the Collector failed to attend the flag-hoisting ceremony on time and also did not formally receive the chief guest of the event, Government Whip . Government sources said that Aadi Srinivas submitted a formal complaint to the Chief Secretary and the (CMO) about the incident. The complaint alleged that the Collector's conduct reflected negligence and a lack of respect for established protocol at an official government programme. In response, the State government has issued notices to Collector Jha, directing him to provide a written explanation for his actions. The government is said to be displeased not



only with this incident but also with what it perceives as Jha's increasingly controversial conduct in recent times. Officials noted that during an official event, adherence to protocol is mandatory and any breach will be viewed seriously. The government has reportedly taken strong exception to Jha's behaviour, particularly as it undermines the decorum expected from a senior administrative officer. In addition to the protocol issue, legal troubles have also surfaced for Jha. On Wednesday, a court issued a warrant against him in connec-

tion with a case involving a displaced landowner. This has further fuelled the government's dissatisfaction with the Collector's conduct. Senior officials are said to be closely watching the developments surrounding him. Meanwhile, on Thursday, several leaders from BC community organisations across Rajanna Sircilla district held protests in support of Aadi Srinivas, condemning the Collector's actions. They demanded accountability from the district administration and called for appropriate disciplinary measures. Following these devel-

opments, the has served formal notices to Collector Sandeep Kumar Jha. He has been asked to submit a detailed written explanation by 3 p.m. on Monday. The government has indicated that it will review his response and decide on further action based on the explanation provided. Officials emphasised that all public servants, particularly those holding senior administrative posts, are expected to maintain the highest standards of conduct and strictly adhere to official protocols during government ceremonies. Any deviation, they said, undermines the authority of the government and the integrity of the administration. As the deadline for his response approaches, all eyes are now on how Collector Jha will explain his actions. The outcome of this inquiry could determine his future in the district administration and may also serve as a precedent for how the government handles similar breaches of protocol by senior officials.





# SPECIAL BATUKAMMA THIS TIME



TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 18: Bathukamma celebrations in are set to be organised on an unprecedented scale this year, with the state government planning to make them eligible for entry into the . Announcing this, , Minister for Culture and Tourism, said that elaborate preparations were being made to present the state's rich cultural heritage to the world through these festivities. Speaking to the media at on Thursday, the minister said the Bathukamma festival symbolises Telangana's deep-rooted reverence for nature and its traditions, and emphasised that protecting nature is everyone's responsibility. He urged people from all walks of life to participate on a large scale to showcase Telanga-

na's culture and collective spirit globally. The celebrations will be held across the state from September 21 to September 31 this year, he announced. The minister said the festivities would begin on September 21 at the iconic in , marking the grand start of the state-wide celebrations. He reiterated that the state government's aim is to organise the festival in a way that could secure a place in the Guinness World Records. To make the celebrations more vibrant and culturally enriching, the government will invite new poets and writers to compose and perform special Bathukamma songs, he added. Jupally Krishna Rao said extensive arrangements would be made at all Bathukamma venues to ensure that the celebrations are colourful and well-organised. Spe-

cial decorations and cultural programmes are planned to reflect Telangana's identity and heritage. He also mentioned that steps are being taken to showcase the state's culture at the in so that visitors from across the world can experience the spirit of Bathukamma upon their arrival. Highlighting the festival's traditional practice, the minister said that after the celebrations, the Bathukammas (flower stacks) will be immersed in local water bodies, and arrangements are being made to facilitate smooth and eco-friendly immersion. He said awareness campaigns will also be conducted to educate the public about the significance of the festival and the importance of following traditional customs responsibly. Jupally Krishna Rao

underlined that the Bathukamma festival historically emerged as a celebration born out of hardships faced by women, and over time has grown into a symbol of resilience, unity, and cultural pride for Telangana. He stressed that Bathukamma is not an individual event but a collective celebration of the people, and its true essence lies in everyone coming together to celebrate it with warmth and solidarity. He appealed to people across the state to actively participate and make the celebrations a resounding success. "Bathukamma is our festival, a celebration of our identity and our nature-loving traditions. Let us all come together and show the world the spirit of Telangana," the minister said, expressing confidence that this year's festivities would stand out in history.

## PATIENTS SUFFERING DUE TO STALLING AAROgyASRI SERVICES

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 18: Aarogyasri services across remained suspended for the second consecutive day as private hospitals continued their protest over pending dues amounting to nearly 1,500 crore. Despite repeated appeals from Aarogyasri officials, the has not yet opened dialogue with the (TANHA), which is spearheading the strike. The suspension of services has left thousands of patients in the lurch, particularly those from economically weaker sections who rely heavily on the Aarogyasri health insurance scheme for critical treatments. According to TANHA representatives, most small and medium-sized private hospitals have completely stopped offering medical care to beneficiaries of Aarogyasri, as well as to government employees covered under the (EHS) and journalists under the (JHS). Hospital managements have said that the strike was forced upon them due to the government's prolonged delay in clearing the arrears, which has severely affected their operational sustainability. They pointed out that the dues have been pending for months, creating a financial crunch and leaving many hospitals struggling to pay staff salaries and procure medicines. Despite the disruption to patient care, the state



government and the health department have so far made no move to initiate negotiations with the striking hospitals. Aarogyasri officials reportedly urged the government to intervene and prevent further damage to public health services, but these requests have gone unanswered. Patients, meanwhile, are bearing the brunt of the standoff, as they are being turned away from hospitals or asked to pay out of pocket for treatments that would otherwise be covered under the scheme. Several patient advocacy groups have raised concerns about the denial of life-saving treatments, urging both the government and TANHA to resolve the deadlock at the earliest. TANHA has stated that they are willing to resume services immediately if the government

releases at least a substantial portion of the pending dues and gives a concrete timeline for clearing the remaining payments. However, without any response from the government side, they said the protest would continue indefinitely. The impasse has sparked widespread criticism of the government's handling of the crisis, with health experts warning that prolonged suspension of services under Aarogyasri could overwhelm public hospitals and push low-income families into financial distress. As the standoff enters its third day, pressure is mounting on the state government to break its silence and initiate talks with TANHA to restore health services and ensure that patients do not continue to suffer.

## Prioritize Slums to Save Hyderabad's Image

Union Minister Kishan Reddy has called for the effective use of available funds to develop Hyderabad, emphasizing the need to focus on its marginalized areas. Speaking at a review meeting on central government schemes and projects under the GHMC, he highlighted that the city's true character lies not just in its affluent neighborhoods like Jubilee Hills and Banjara Hills, but in its slums. Kishan Reddy expressed serious concern over the recent flooding and its tragic consequences, including the loss of life in Nampally and Santoshnagar, where individuals were swept away in drains. He stressed that preserving Hyderabad's brand image requires a collective effort from MPs, MLAs, and government officials to prioritize the city's overall well-being. The minister pointed out that even minor rainfall leads to waterlogging and severe hardships for residents, especially in slum areas. He noted that damaged

drainage systems in many localities have resulted in a dangerous mix of sewage and drinking water, posing a major health risk. To address these critical issues, Kishan Reddy urged for a comprehensive plan to restore and clean the city's infrastructure. He specifically called for special attention to be given to schools, community halls, Anganwadi centers, and hostels to ensure the problems faced by the most vulnerable are resolved. He emphasized that without addressing these fundamental issues in the city's core, the brand image of Hyderabad is at risk. He stated that the city's reputation is built on its resilience and ability to provide a safe and healthy environment for all its residents, not just a select few. The minister's remarks serve as a reminder that development should be inclusive and that the foundational problems of the city must be fixed to ensure sustainable growth and public safety.



## CLAP BY TELANGANA GOVT AND UNICEF IN HYDERABAD

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 18: In a significant step to enhance child protection, the government on Thursday, September 18, launched in collaboration with UNICEF and the the initiative aims to ensure that every child in the city grows up safe, healthy, and supported, while building a comprehensive framework for safeguarding children's rights and well-being. The launch event was attended by , the state's Transport Minister, and , Minister for Women and Child Welfare, along with senior officials from multiple government departments. The ministers collectively vowed to make a national model for a "Child Safe City." A key component of the CLAP for Children initiative is the strengthening of legal mechanisms and frontline services to provide timely protection for children. This will include coordinated efforts from various departments such as Women and Child Development, Police, Health, Education,

the (GHMC), and Disaster Management authorities. Officials stated that better inter-departmental coordination would enable swift responses to issues of child abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The plan also emphasises the importance of preventing everyday risks to children, such as bullying, unsafe transport, and drug abuse, through proactive community engagement. The initiative proposes the establishment of Child Protection Cells and Vigilance Committees to oversee implementation, ensure accountability, and provide regular monitoring of child safety measures. These bodies will work closely with local communities to report violations, address grievances, and create safer environments in schools, neighbourhoods, and public spaces. Additionally, the plan includes training and deployment of experienced frontline workers who are equipped to deliver child-friendly care, legal assistance, counselling, and emergency response. Addressing the gather-

ing, Minister Seethakka said that ensuring the safety of children was a shared responsibility that required active participation from families, schools, local communities, and government agencies. Transport Minister Poonam Prabhakar stressed that the city must adopt a zero-tolerance approach to child exploitation and unsafe environments, calling for "systematic, coordinated and compassionate" efforts to protect young lives. Officials noted that CLAP for Children will serve as a model for similar child safety initiatives across other districts in Telangana, and could potentially be replicated nationwide. By creating a holistic framework for child protection, the government hopes to build a secure environment where children can thrive without fear or risk. The initiative's launch marks the beginning of a comprehensive campaign to transform Hyderabad into a safer, more nurturing city for its youngest citizens.

# HIGH COURT ASKED POLICE REPLY IN YADADRI ISSUE

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 18: The on Thursday directed the to submit an explanation in connection with a case registered against , a senior (BRS) leader and MLA from , over an alleged violation of temple norms during a ritual at the . The Court has also issued notices to the temple's Executive Officer (EO) seeking a response on the matter. The case pertains to a ritual conducted by Harish Rao in August last year within the temple premises. As part of the event, he performed a

paapa parihara puja (atonement ritual) with the assistance of private priests he had brought to the temple. The ritual drew criticism from certain quarters, who alleged that it violated the temple's established procedures and norms by bypassing the designated temple priests and protocols. The controversy escalated when Harish Rao used the occasion to criticise , the Chief Minister of , accusing him of deceiving farmers by failing to deliver on his promise to waive agricultural loans by August 15. The remarks, made

in the sacred premises, further fuelled the debate about whether political activities were being mixed with religious practices. Following complaints, the Yadagirigutta police registered a case and began preliminary inquiries. Petitioners argued that conducting religious rituals in violation of the temple's set norms undermines its sanctity and could set a problematic precedent. They sought accountability from both Harish Rao and the temple administration for permitting the ritual to take place in that manner.

Acting on the petition, the High Court has now asked the police to submit a detailed explanation regarding the steps they have taken so far in the investigation and the legal provisions being invoked. The Court also sought a report from the temple EO clarifying under what circumstances permission was granted for the ritual and whether any internal rules or religious protocols were bypassed. The Court's directives mark a significant development in the case, as they place both the local police and the tem-

ple authorities under judicial scrutiny. Legal experts note that the Court's observations could have wider implications on how religious rituals are regulated in state-managed temples and whether political figures can be held accountable for violating such protocols. The matter is expected to come up for further hearing after the police and the temple authorities file their responses. The Court is likely to decide on the future course of action based on the explanations submitted by both parties.





# Urea Shortage Continues to Trouble Telangana Farmers

The persistent scarcity of continues to haunt farmers across , triggering frustration and protests in several parts of the state. Farmers have been seen queuing up at agricultural supply centers, with tensions escalating into heated arguments and scuffles in some locations as they struggle to secure the critical fertiliser needed for their crops.

While the crisis deepens at the ground level, the -led state government has been attempting to allay concerns. Ministers and senior Congress leaders have assured that steps are being taken to resolve the shortage. They have maintained that the pri-

mary cause of the crisis lies with the , accusing the Centre of failing to allocate and supply adequate quantities of urea to Telangana despite repeated requests from the state.

Officials from the state agriculture department said they have been making continuous representations to the Centre, seeking additional urea allocations, especially during the peak agricultural season when demand is at its highest. They argued that delayed or insufficient dispatches from central warehouses have disrupted the supply chain and pushed farmers into distress.

However, leaders of the (BRS) have sharply

criticised the state government, accusing it of mishandling the distribution and failing to anticipate the demand surge. They alleged that the government's poor planning and mismanagement have worsened the crisis, leaving farmers helpless in the middle of the agricultural season.

BRS leaders have also demanded that the government take immediate corrective measures, including transparent distribution of available stocks, stringent action against hoarding, and real-time monitoring of supply at mandal-level centers to ensure that small and marginal farmers get priority access to urea.

Meanwhile, farmers' unions have warned that if the shortage persists, it could lead to significant crop losses and threaten the livelihoods of lakhs of farmers across the state. They have urged both the state and central governments to set aside political blame games and act swiftly to restore normal supplies.

As the standoff continues, the acute shortage of urea has become a flashpoint between the state and central governments, with farmers caught in the crossfire. Observers note that if the crisis is not resolved soon, it could snowball into a major political issue in the agrarian state.



## Minister Vivek Undertakes Foot Walk in Jubilee Hills Constituency Ahead of By-Polls

HYDERABAD: In the backdrop of the upcoming Jubilee Hills by-polls, Minister Vivek has embarked on a foot walk across the constituency to connect with residents and understand their issues firsthand. The initiative, launched on Thursday, aims to provide a platform for citizens to voice their concerns directly to the minister and seek timely solutions.

Speaking to the media during the walk, Minister Vivek said, "I will personally walk through the constituency to meet people in their localities. I want to understand their problems and ensure that every issue is addressed promptly. My goal is to bridge the gap between the government and the people at the grassroots level."

On Thursday, the minister visited five to six colonies across Jubilee Hills, interacting with residents and listening to their concerns. In a casual engagement with the community, he stopped at a roadside eatery and had dosa with the locals, highlighting his approachability and



willingness to connect with people from all walks of life.

During the foot walk, Minister Vivek also inaugurated a bore pump in one of the colonies, a project aimed at improving access to clean water for residents. This move was welcomed by locals, who expressed appreciation for the government's efforts to address essential civic needs.

The foot walk was ac-

companied by several Congress leaders and party cadre, who joined the minister in his interactions with the community. Their presence underscored the party's active involvement in engaging with voters ahead of the by-elections and highlighted efforts to reinforce public trust in local governance.

Residents of Jubilee Hills expressed optimism that such initia-

tives would lead to tangible improvements in infrastructure and civic amenities. Many appreciated the minister's direct engagement, saying it gave them an opportunity to convey issues ranging from water supply and road maintenance to waste management and public safety.

Minister Vivek's initiative comes at a crucial time as the constituency prepares for

by-elections, with political parties intensifying outreach efforts to connect with voters. By personally walking through the streets, visiting colonies, and engaging with residents in informal settings, the minister seeks to gain insights into local challenges and build rapport with constituents.

Officials accompanying the minister emphasized that the foot walk is part of a broader strategy to strengthen community engagement and ensure that government schemes and services reach every household. The initiative also reflects an emphasis on transparency, accountability, and participatory governance.

With the foot walk continuing over the coming days, Minister Vivek has pledged to address each concern raised by the residents and ensure that Jubilee Hills witnesses sustained development. His on-ground approach aims to demonstrate responsiveness and a commitment to improving the quality of life for all constituents.

## Objection Raised Against Daljeet Singh's Nomination

A member of the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) has formally raised objections regarding the nomination of Daljeet Singh as HCA's representative for the upcoming Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) elections. The objection, submitted in writing to A.K. Joti, the Electoral Officer for the BCCI General Elections 2025, cites a lack of proper authorisation and an alleged violation of judicial directives.

In the letter, the member expressed serious concerns over Singh's nomination as the association's representative. "We, the members, and also the commoners hereby lodge this formal objection under the provisions of the Election Schedule with respect to the Draft Electoral Roll (dated 13th September 2025). The said Roll has shown Sardar Daljeet Singh as the nominated representative of the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA)," the correspondence stated.

The objection points to procedural and legal irregularities, questioning whether Singh's nomination adheres to the association's constitution and the

judicial guidelines governing HCA. While Daljeet Singh is currently serving as the in-charge president of HCA, the member argues that his nomination does not reflect proper authorisation from the governing body and may be inconsistent with directives issued by courts overseeing HCA matters.



The BCCI Electoral Officer, A.K. Joti, is expected to review the objection as per the provisions of the Election Schedule, which allows members to submit challenges against nominations listed in the Draft Electoral Roll. Such objections are typically scrutinised to ensure transparency and compliance with the regulations laid down by both BCCI and judicial authorities.

This development comes at a critical time for HCA, which is gearing up for the

BCCI elections later this year. The association has been under judicial supervision in recent years due to governance and administrative disputes, making the adherence to procedural guidelines crucial for all electoral processes.

Stakeholders in Hyderabad's cricketing community have closely monitored these proceedings, emphasizing the need for fair representation and strict compliance with both the HCA constitution and court-mandated reforms. Any decision regarding the objection could have wider implications on the association's participation in the BCCI electoral process and may influence future nominations.

As the BCCI elections approach, all concerned parties, including HCA members, legal authorities, and electoral officers, are expected to closely observe the resolution of this objection. The final decision on Daljeet Singh's nomination will likely set a precedent for ensuring transparency, accountability, and adherence to legal and procedural norms in cricket administration at both the state and national levels.

## Ponguleti Hits Back at KTR, Predicts BRS Defeat



Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, Minister in the government, strongly criticised (KTR) for his recent remarks against the state government and Chief Minister . Addressing the media, Ponguleti said that KTR would be forced to go abroad after the upcoming General Elections once he witnesses the humiliating defeat of the (BRS).

Ponguleti reminded that KTR had earlier challenged him by claiming that BRS would defeat him in his own

constituency. Responding sharply, Ponguleti said that before talking about defeating him, KTR should first focus on saving his party's position in the upcoming bypolls for the constituency, where BRS is already facing an uphill battle.

"Let them first win Jubilee Hills before boasting about defeating me in Paleru. People are rejecting BRS everywhere, and they are clearly staring at a major defeat. After the next elections, KTR will be nowhere to be seen here—he might

prefer to leave the country," Ponguleti said in a scathing attack.

He also defended the policies and governance of the current-led state government, stating that under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, the government has been working sincerely to fulfil its promises and address people's issues. He alleged that BRS leaders, especially KTR, are trying to mislead people with false propaganda because they are frustrated by their declining popularity.

Ponguleti asserted that people have already given their verdict in the recent elections and that the Congress government will continue to win their trust through development and welfare initiatives. He added that BRS is fast losing its ground and even its own cadre are reportedly unhappy with its leadership.

The war of words between leaders of the ruling Congress and the opposition BRS has intensified in recent days, with both parties preparing for upcoming electoral battles. Ponguleti's remarks are seen as a strong rebuttal to KTR's attempts to target the government and the Chief Minister personally.

Political analysts say this exchange reflects the high-stakes political atmosphere in Telangana, where BRS is trying to regain lost ground, while Congress is determined to consolidate its hold on power. With the Jubilee Hills bypolls approaching, the political rivalry between these two leaders has added more heat to the campaign narrative.

## Urea Distribution Underway to Support Farmers in Padtanpalli and Naspur

MANDAL & NASPUR: Farmers in the region have been assured that sufficient urea is being provided for their crops, officials said, following concerns raised by villagers over availability. District In-Charge Agriculture Officer Surekha emphasized that there is no need for farmers to worry, as the government is ensuring urea reaches all areas in a timely manner.

On Wednesday, the distribution of urea at the Padtanpalli PACS was inspected by Mandal officials, including Manchiryal Rural CI Akula Ashok. During the inspection, some villagers expressed concerns that urea was not sufficient for their needs and requested that the supplies be restricted only to Padtanpalli village, excluding neighboring areas. The officials addressed their concerns and reassured them that adequate provisions would be made for all villages in the mandal. Additional officers, including ADA Krishna, SI Swaroopraj, and AO Krishna, also participated in



the inspection.

In Naspur, urea distribution was carried out under the supervision of the Manchiryal Primary Agricultural Cooperative Society at the Farmers' Forum in Seetharampalli. A total of 266 urea bags were provided to 120 farmers, according to Agriculture Department Officer Mahender.

The event was attended by several dignitaries, including former Municipal Chairman Surimilli Venu, PACS Officer Satyanarayana, former Director Dharani Madhukar, and Agriculture

Extension Officer Tirupati, along with a large number of farmers. Officials highlighted that the initiative aims to ensure that farmers receive adequate fertilizer supplies to support crop production and maintain agricultural productivity in the region.

The Agriculture Department has reiterated that proactive measures are being taken to monitor urea stocks and distribution, ensuring that all eligible farmers benefit from the scheme. Authorities also urged villagers to cooperate

during the distribution process and avoid unnecessary agitation, assuring them that resources will be allocated equitably across all areas.

The ongoing urea distribution program underscores the government's commitment to supporting the agricultural community and addressing their requirements promptly. Officials confirmed that similar initiatives will continue across other mandals in the district to safeguard crop health and support farmers' livelihoods.



# TGRTC Announces 7,754 Special Buses for and Festivities



In a major move to facilitate hassle-free festive travel, the (TGSRTC) has announced the operation of 7,754 special buses between September 20 and October 2, ahead of the upcoming Bathukamma and Dasara celebrations across . The announcement was made on Thursday, September 18, through an official press release.

This year, Bathukamma will be celebrated on September 30, followed by Dasara on October 2. To accommodate the massive surge in passenger traffic during this festive period, TGSRTC has planned extensive arrangements to ensure safe, comfortable, and timely travel. Of the total special services, 377 buses will be equipped with advance reservation facilities to allow passengers to plan their journeys ahead.

The corporation has also planned return services on October 5 and 6, depending on demand and passenger load.

According to the release, the special buses will originate from major bus terminals and high-density points in and , including (MGBS), (JBS), (CBS), KPHB Colony, Uppal Cross Roads, Uppal Bus Stand, Dilsukhnagar, LB Nagar, Aramghar, and Santosh Nagar. These buses will cover all districts within Telangana as well as extend services to neighboring states such as , and .

TGSRTC officials further informed that there will be a temporary hike in fares—up to 50 percent—on special buses during the peak festive days, in accordance with Government Order (GO) 16 issued by the . This fare revision is aimed at off-

setting the operational costs, especially the diesel expenses for buses returning empty. The revised fares will apply only on the special services operating between September 20-27 and on October 1, 5, and 6. Regular services running during these days will not see any change in their fare structure, officials clarified.

Speaking about the elaborate plans, TG-SRTC Managing Director said, “In view of the Bathukamma and Dasara festivals, the organisation is fully geared up to provide safe and comfortable travel to the people. This time, we are operating 617 more special buses compared to last Dasara. Special camps will be set up at congested boarding points, and all facilities will be arranged for the passengers.”

Sajjanar also de-

tailed several passenger-friendly measures being put in place. Public address systems will be installed at key boarding points, while temporary shamianas, benches, and drinking water facilities will be arranged at busy locations such as LB Nagar, Uppal, Aramghar, KPHB, and Santosh Nagar. In addition, supervisory officers will be deployed to manage passenger rush and co-ordinate with the police, transport, and municipal departments to ensure smooth operations. If needed, additional special buses will be arranged on the spot to clear any unexpected passenger load.

With these proactive measures, TGSRTC aims to provide a seamless travel experience to millions of passengers travelling to their hometowns for the festive season.

# Muslim-Ambedkarite-Marxist-Leninist Alliance Ahead of Student Electionsa

In a historic development on the campus of the (UoH), cries of “Jai Bheem,” “Lal Salaam,” and “Intifada Inquilab” echoed across the grounds on Saturday evening, September 14, as four student organisations came together to form an unprecedented coalition ahead of the upcoming student union elections.

For the first time in the university's history, the (ASA), the (AISA), the (MSF), and the have joined forces, forging what they call a Muslim-Ambedkarite-Marxist-Leninist front. This move comes on the heels of heightened tensions on campus and the premature dissolution of the Students' Union earlier this month — a decision many student groups attributed to increasing Hindutva influence within the administration.

A Muslim-Majority Panel for the First Time

The alliance has fielded a Muslim-majority panel, marking another first for the university. Leading the panel is Presidential candidate , a PhD scholar in Hindi and an ASA cadre from the Pasmanda community, which belongs to the historically marginalised lower-caste Muslim groups.

Joining him on the panel are from MSF, from the Fraternity Movement (MA Sociology), and , an Integrated MA student from Kerala's Malabari Muslim



community, also fielded by the Fraternity Movement. The coalition has declared its mission to represent and fight for the rights of Dalits, Adivasis, Muslims, and other marginalised groups on campus.

Vowing to Challenge “Brahminical Nexus”

Speaking during the campaign launch, Umar made a fiery address to a large gathering of supporters. “Our alliance is for the Dalits, for the Adivasis, for the Muslims — for those who have so long been repressed under the weight of our campus' machinery,” he said. “We stand against the Brahminical nexus of the administration

and its enquiries against the voiceless who dare to raise their voice.”

Umar began his speech with lines from revolutionary Urdu poet , setting a defiant tone for the coalition's campaign: “Yun hi hamesha ulajhti rahi hai zulm se khalq, Na unki rasm nayi hai, na apni reet nayi.”

(“Thus has the people's struggle always been entangled with tyranny; neither their customs are new, nor our way unfamiliar.”)

A Turning Point in Campus Politics

Campus observers say the formation of this coalition signals a turning point in UoH's student

politics, which have long been marked by clashes between left-leaning and right-leaning groups. By bringing together Ambedkarite, Marxist-Leninist, and Muslim student organisations under one banner, the alliance is attempting to build a counterforce to the right-wing blocs that have grown increasingly influential on campus.

The student union elections are expected to be held later this month, with campaigning set to intensify in the coming days. Many see this coalition as a bold experiment that could reshape the political dynamics of the university.

# Heavy Rains Hit Hyderabad, Weather Alert Issued for Telangana

Heavy rains lashed several parts of Hyderabad on Thursday evening, causing significant disruption across the city. The downpour led to widespread waterlogging, particularly in key areas such as Jubilee Hills, Banjara Hills, Panjagutta, Film Nagar, Erragadda, Yousafguda, Ameerpet, Borabanda, and Charminar. The flooded roads created major difficulties for motorists and commuters, with traffic coming to a standstill in many places.

The sudden intense rain highlights the city's persistent challenges with its drainage infrastructure, as even a short period of heavy rainfall can bring daily life to a halt. Local authorities are working to manage the situation and clear the waterlogged streets.

The Hyderabad Meteorological Centre has provided a forecast, indi-



cating that more rain is on the way. According to their announcement, light to moderate rains are expected to continue for the next three days across Telangana. This is attributed to the influence of a surface circulation and a trough.

In addition to the general forecast, the department has issued a specific warning for several districts. Heavy rains accompanied by thunder and lightning are likely to occur today in Kamareddy, Medak, Sangareddy, Siddipet, Vikarabad, Suryapet, and Nagarkurnool districts. A yellow warning has been issued for these areas, advising residents to be cautious of the weath-

er conditions. Furthermore, the forecast includes gusty winds, expected to blow at speeds of 30 to 40 kilometers per hour, which could further exacerbate the situation.

The public is advised to take necessary precautions, especially those residing in the districts under the yellow warning. The weather department's continuous monitoring and timely alerts are crucial for public safety as the region enters a period of heightened rainfall activity. Residents are encouraged to stay updated with local weather reports and avoid unnecessary travel during heavy downpours.

# Man Dies After Being Swept Away in Water at Balkampet Railway Underbridge

A 27-year-old man, Mohd Shareef, a resident of Mush-eerabad, tragically lost his life after being swept away by heavy water flow at the Balkampet railway underbridge on Wednesday night. The incident has raised concerns over the safety of commuters in waterlogged areas, particularly during the ongoing heavy rains in the city.

According to local police, Shareef was riding his scooter from Balkampet towards Begumpet when he reached the railway underbridge. “Due to the significant accumulation of water at the underbridge, the man lost control of his vehicle and fell into the strong water current. He was washed away immediately,” said a police officer present at the scene. Residents in the area



acted quickly, forming a group to search for the young man. After some time, they managed to retrieve his body from the water. The swift response of locals was praised by the police, although authorities noted that the incident underscores the risks posed by flooding in low-lying areas of the city.

The scooter driven by

Shareef was later removed from the site by traffic police and taken to the local police station as part of the ongoing investigation. Authorities are examining the circumstances leading to the incident, including whether warning signs or barricades were in place at the underbridge.

Shareef's body has been transported to Gan-

dhi Hospital mortuary, where a postmortem examination is scheduled to be conducted later today. The police have registered a case and are investigating the incident under relevant sections, while also appealing to citizens to exercise caution while traveling through waterlogged areas.

Incidents like this have become increasingly common in Hyderabad during the monsoon season, with heavy rainfall causing waterlogging at several underbridges and low-lying roads. Authorities have repeatedly urged commuters to avoid traveling through submerged areas, especially after dark, to prevent accidents.

Local residents and city officials have called for improved drainage and better monitoring of

areas prone to flooding. Many underbridges, including the one at Balkampet, have been identified as high-risk zones due to inadequate drainage and the sudden accumulation of rainwater. City authorities are reportedly working on long-term solutions, including enhanced water drainage systems and regular maintenance of roads prone to waterlogging.

The tragic death of Mohd Shareef is a grim reminder of the dangers posed by urban flooding and the urgent need for both infrastructural improvements and increased public awareness. Authorities continue to monitor the situation in flood-prone areas and have urged commuters to exercise extreme caution during heavy rains.

# Mega Job Fair in Hyderabad on September 22

In a bid to create employment opportunities for job seekers across multiple sectors, Leonine Consulting Services, in collaboration with Galaxy Group of Institutions, has announced a large-scale job fair to be held on Monday, September 22. The event will take place at the Galaxy Campus located at Shah Ali Banda X-roads in Hyderabad, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

According to the organisers, the job fair aims to connect candidates from diverse educational backgrounds with leading companies from various industries. Around 30 companies are expected to participate in this recruitment



drive, offering positions in information technology, software engineering, BPO/ITES, retail, finance, insurance,

FMCG, engineering services, sales and marketing, teaching, paramedical sciences, and gig economy roles.

**Wide Range of Job Roles on Offer**

Organisers stated that the job fair will feature

openings in IT and software development, BPO and customer support (voice and non-voice), technical support, back office operations, sales and marketing, finance, accounts, insurance, retail, and FMCG sectors. Additionally, teaching and academic roles, as well as paramedical positions such as lab technicians, nurses, pharmacists, and emergency medical technicians (EMTs), will also be available. The gig economy segment will offer roles like delivery executives, driver partners, and warehouse associates.

**Open to Candidates from**

**Various Educational Backgrounds**

The fair is open to candidates with educational qualifications ranging from SSC (10th pass) and Intermediate (12th pass) to graduates and post-graduates from any field. This inclusive approach is expected to draw a large pool of job seekers looking for both entry-level and experienced positions.

**Preparation Guidelines for Participants**

To make the most of the opportunity, organisers have advised candidates to carry 10-15 copies of their updated

resumes and dress in formal attire. They are also encouraged to prepare a brief self-introduction highlighting their skills and career aspirations. In addition, applicants must bring along their educational certificates, valid photo ID proof, and passport-size photographs.

**An Opportunity to Bridge the Employment Gap**

Representatives from Leonine Consulting Services said the event is aimed at bridging the gap between employers and job seekers, especially at a time when several sectors are witnessing rapid hiring. “This fair is designed to

give equal opportunities to freshers and experienced candidates, and to help companies discover talent from diverse backgrounds,” an organiser said.

The organisers also highlighted that career counselling and on-the-spot interviews will be part of the event, giving candidates a chance to directly interact with recruiters and potentially receive immediate job offers.

With participation from multiple reputed firms and opportunities spanning numerous industries, the job fair at Galaxy Campus is expected to draw hundreds of aspirants seeking to advance their careers.



# CBI STARTED PROBE IN VAMANARAO COUPLE’S MURDER CASE



The long-awaited probe into the sensational murder of lawyer couple and has finally commenced, with the (CBI) officially beginning its investigation in of . The development comes nearly four years after the double murder shocked the state and drew widespread outrage from legal circles and civil society.

The CBI launched the probe following directions from the , which had last month ordered a CBI investigation into the case. This order was issued in response to a petition filed by Vaman Rao’s father , who alleged that justice had not been served in the case so far and that several influential individuals may have been involved in the conspiracy behind the killing.

On Thursday, a three-member CBI team led by arrived in Peddapalli district and began its first round of on-ground investigation. The team initially visited the Police Commissionerate, where they held discussions with senior officers and examined the records related to the murder. They reportedly reviewed the case files, witness statements, forensic reports, and other evidence that had been collected during the initial investigation by

local authorities.

Later in the day, the CBI officials proceeded to , where they were joined by , the Assistant Commissioner of Police. From there, they visited the native village of the slain couple — in — and went to their family residence.

At the house, the officers questioned the couple’s family members, including Vaman Rao’s parents, Kishan Rao and , and his brother . The interaction lasted for about ten minutes, during which the CBI is understood to have sought information on the couple’s movements and activities on the day of the incident, as well as any possible threats they had been facing.

The team then took the family members along to the premises, where the lawyer couple had reportedly attended proceedings shortly before their murder. The officials sought to reconstruct the sequence of events, enquiring about where the couple had stood, whom they had spoken to, where their car was parked, and whether anyone had been conducting surveillance on them. This reconstruction is expected to help the investigators identify possible lapses or overlooked leads in the earlier probe.

Following this, the CBI officers visited the actual crime scene

where the lawyer couple were brutally hacked to death in February 2021. They inspected the area carefully and gathered more details from Kishan Rao, who was present during the visit. The officers reportedly sought to understand the positioning of the vehicles, the escape route of the assailants, and the presence of any CCTV cameras in the vicinity.

The CBI team later returned to Ramagundam and is expected to continue its investigation from there. Sources said the officers are likely to stay in the district for the next four to five days to carry out a detailed probe. They have requested the Ramagundam Police Commissionerate to allocate a separate room to function as their temporary office during the inquiry, and arrangements are reportedly underway.

The initiation of the CBI probe into the Gattu Vaman Rao-Nagamani murder case has become a major talking point in the region. Locals, legal professionals, and activists have expressed hope that the central agency’s involvement will bring to light the full conspiracy behind the killings and ensure that all those involved are brought to justice, ending the long wait for accountability in this high-profile case.



# Mahbubnagar Man Dies in America

A resident of Mahbubnagar, identified as Ameruddin, has tragically lost his life in an accident in America. The incident occurred after a dispute between two of his friends escalated. According to the details provided, Ameruddin, who moved to the U.S. in 2016, had completed his MS from the University of Florida and was working for a company. His job contract had ended six months ago, and he was staying with friends in a room without an extension.

The accident happened during a heated argument between two of Ameruddin’s friends. When the fight did not subside, one of the friends called the police. Upon their arrival, the confrontation continued, prompting the police to open fire. A bullet, fired by the police, accidentally struck Ameruddin, causing his death.

Following the incident, his friends immediately informed his parents in Mahbubnagar. His uncle, who resides in Chicago, rushed to the scene. It is reported that Ameruddin had spoken to his family just eight days prior to the tragedy. The exact time of the incident has not been officially confirmed.

Gold Worth 3.36 Crore Seized at Shamshabad Airport

Customs officials at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) in Hyderabad have seized gold worth approximately 3.36 crore in a major anti-smuggling operation. The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), acting on specific intelligence, foiled two separate smuggling attempts involving passengers arriving from Kuwait.

In the first incident, officers found a suspicious piece of unclaimed baggage. Upon examining CCTV footage, they confirmed it was deliberately abandoned by a passenger. The bag contained 1.26 kg of gold. Investigators traced the person to the Anamayya district of Andhra Pradesh and arrested him. He confessed that a handler in Kuwait had given him the bag with instructions to leave it at the airport. The handler was also traced and arrested.

In the second case, officers found 2.11 kg of gold concealed inside an iron box within a passenger’s luggage. The individual involved was traced and arrested from the YSR Kadapa district.

A total of three individuals were arrested and remanded to judicial custody under the Customs Act. The investigation is ongoing to uncover any wider smuggling networks.

# ADULTRATED ICE CREAM UNIT SEIZED BY THE POLICE

Rachakonda Police on Thursday busted an illegal ice-cream manufacturing unit operating in a residential area and arrested its owner for allegedly using harmful substances in production, posing a serious threat to public health.

According to officials, the raid was carried out by the Special Operations Team (SOT) of Rachakonda Police at Sharada Nagar in Ramanthapur. The accused, identified as , had been running the unit without proper authorization and producing ice-creams of various flavours using adulterated ingredients and unsafe chemicals.

Police said the use of these substances posed a grave risk, especially to children, who are the primary consumers of such products. The unit was operating in complete violation of safety and hygiene norms, officials added.

During the raid, the police seized adulterated ice-cream stock, artificial colours, flavours, and other raw materials worth nearly 8 lakh from the premises. Samples of the seized items have been sent for laboratory analysis to confirm the nature of the substances used.

Authorities are also probing whether the accused possessed any valid licences or clearances from the food safety department to operate the unit. Preliminary checks have revealed that the unit was functioning without mandatory permissions, further indicating deliberate violations of food safety regulations.

Officials warned that the consumption of ice-creams produced under such unhygienic conditions with harmful chemicals could lead to severe health issues, including food poisoning and long-term complications.

The police have registered a case against the accused under relevant sections of the law related to food adulteration and endangering public health. They said further legal action would be initiated once the lab reports are received and the investigation is completed.

The Rachakonda Police urged the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious food manufacturing or storage units operating in their localities. They said strict enforcement drives would continue to curb the production and sale of adulterated food items to ensure the safety of consumers, especially children.



# Six Maoists from Chhattisgarh Surrender in Bhadradri Kothagudem

KOTHAGUDEM: In a significant development, six Maoist operatives from Bijapur district in Chhattisgarh surrendered to police on Thursday, marking a notable step in ongoing efforts to integrate insurgents into mainstream society. The group, which included members of the Bastar South Area Committee, chose to lay down arms in response to government welfare initiatives aimed at improving tribal livelihoods.

According to the Bhadradri Kothagudem Superintendent of Police, Rohith Raju, the surrendering Maoists comprised well-known cadres, including Madakam Deva, alias Dinesh, who has been associated with the Bastar South Area Committee, party member Joga Madivi, and several militia members. The police official confirmed that the group voluntarily approached law enforcement authorities, signaling a desire to dis-



engage from insurgency activities and participate in development programs.

SP Rohith Raju highlighted that the Maoists were drawn to the state’s flagship tribal welfare scheme, ‘Operation Cheyutha,’ which has been instrumental in enhancing the socio-economic conditions of tribal communities across the region. The program provides financial support, livelihood opportunities, and educational initiatives to indigenous populations, aiming to reduce the appeal of extremist activities among vulnerable groups. The surrendering Maoists reportedly recognized the potential benefits of such initiatives and expressed their willingness to reintegrate into society.

As part of the immediate assistance under government rehabilitation measures, each of

The surrender underscores the growing impact of welfare-focused counter-insurgency measures in areas historically affected by left-wing extremism. By emphasizing development and social inclusion rather than solely relying on security operations, the state administration has sought to address the underlying socio-economic grievances that often fuel extremist movements. Experts suggest that such initiatives not only provide immediate relief to individuals who surrender but also help foster long-term stability in conflict-affected regions.

Authorities have reiterated their commitment to ensuring the safety and rehabilitation of surrendered Maoists. Measures include skill development programs, financial assistance, and community support to facilitate their integration. SP Rohith Raju also urged other insurgents still active in the region to consider similar steps, emphasizing that the government is prepared to provide opportunities for a peaceful and productive future.

The development comes at a time when Telangana has been intensifying efforts to counter left-wing extremism while promoting inclusive growth, particularly among tribal populations in border districts. By combining law enforcement vigilance with socio-economic incentives, officials hope to reduce the influence of Maoist groups and strengthen local communities.

This incident is expected to have a positive ripple effect, encouraging dialogue and fostering trust between security forces and local populations. Authorities remain focused on sustaining the momentum, with ongoing programs designed to attract more insurgents to abandon violence and participate in nation-building efforts.

The investigation revealed that the gang had targeted a total of 44 CMRF cheques. Out of these, 38 cheques had already been withdrawn illegally, while plans were underway to withdraw an additional six before police intervention. Authorities have seized 9.3 lakh in cash and six mobile phones from the accused, which are now under examination as part of ongoing investigations.

The SP further explained that political figures from the Kodad constituency were allegedly involved in the formation of this gang. Multiple leaders reportedly collaborated, creating a network to exploit the CMRF, which is intended to provide financial relief to individuals facing medical emergencies. Police believe that the scam represents a coordinated effort to defraud genuine beneficiaries while siphoning public funds for personal gain.

Authorities have as-

ured that strict action will be taken against all individuals involved, including political figures linked to the gang. “This incident undermines the very purpose of the Chief Minister’s Relief Fund, which is to assist those in urgent need of medical aid,” SP Narasimha said. He added that the police are committed to tracing every irregular transaction and ensuring the recovery of misappropriated funds.

The Kodad CMRF cheque scam highlights ongoing challenges in monitoring and safeguarding relief programs, particularly in areas where large sums are distributed for urgent health needs. Officials emphasized the importance of digital record-keeping, regular audits, and stringent verification procedures to prevent similar scams in the future.

Community leaders have expressed concern over the incident, calling for stricter oversight and transparency in the administration of public welfare funds. Authorities noted that timely detection of the fraud was possible due to vigilant monitoring by CCS personnel, who continue to scrutinize accounts and track any irregularities in fund distribution.

Police investigations are ongoing, with further interrogations planned to uncover any additional accomplices. Authorities have also appealed to the public to report any suspicious activities related to government relief funds. The successful bust of the gang serves as a warning to potential fraudsters that misappropriation of public welfare funds will not be tolerated.

With the arrests, Kodad authorities hope to restore trust in the CMRF system and ensure that financial assistance reaches the genuine beneficiaries who need it the most, reinforcing the government’s commitment to social welfare and transparency.



# BRS Party, A Closed Chapter In The State Politics



Satthu Mallesh,  
District Library  
Committee  
Chairmar,  
Karimnagar.

Once hailed as the pride of Telangana, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), formerly Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), now finds itself at the brink of political extinction. Under the leadership of K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR), the party was built on lofty promises—unshakable dominance in the state and growing influence at the national level. KCR’s ambition knew no bounds; he envisioned reshaping the political landscape of the country and even positioned himself as a potential contender for the Prime Minister’s post. Today, those grandiose claims lie in ruins.

The irony could not be sharper. A party that once dreamt of ruling the nation now holds no representation in the Lok Sabha and only four seats in the Rajya Sabha. Worse, it has chosen to boycott pivotal elections, such as the Vice Presidential contest, effectively sidelining

itself from the national conversation. The leadership that once aspired to shape Delhi’s corridors of power is now absent from even routine parliamentary processes.

BRS’s boycott of the Vice Presidential election has sparked widespread criticism. Political analysts and observers across parties believe the move indirectly benefits the BJP, underscoring how far the party has fallen from its earlier relevance. In stark contrast, regional parties like the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)—despite being a direct rival to Congress in multiple states—chose to participate in the democratic process by backing the INDIA bloc candidate. This act of political maturity further highlights BRS’s isolation and declining stature.

The seeds of this downfall were sown years ago when BRS succumbed to arrogance. In the aftermath

of Telangana’s formation in 2014, the party secured 11 out of 17 Lok Sabha seats, creating an illusion of invincibility. The 2019 elections were still tolerable with nine seats, but by 2024, BRS lost every seat it contested. Even its representation in the Rajya Sabha fell drastically from seven to four members. A once-powerful force is now barely visible in national politics.

The turning point, however, came with the 2023 Telangana Assembly elections. After nearly a decade in power, the party’s strength plummeted from 88 seats in 2018 to just 39. Congress, capitalizing on public frustration, surged ahead and formed the government. KCR’s autocratic leadership style—marked by family favoritism, intolerance toward dissent, and allegations of corruption—alienated the electorate. His son K.T. Rama Rao and nephew T. Harish Rao were elevated at the expense

of experienced party workers, reinforcing perceptions of nepotism.

Scandals such as the Kaleshwaram irrigation project and phone-tapping allegations compounded the party’s troubles. Rather than addressing public concerns, KCR retreated into seclusion at his farmhouse in Gajwel. His silence on pressing issues, refusal to engage with commissions of inquiry, and reluctance to counter corruption charges painted him as evasive and weak. This absence of leadership further eroded trust in the party.

Internal discord has only added to the party’s woes. KCR’s authoritarian grip has demoralized his own cadre. His daughter Kavitha’s open defiance of the leadership—and subsequent suspension—revealed the fragility of his control. Party workers and the public began questioning how a leader incapable of managing

family disputes could govern a political organization.

Though KCR continues to hold the title of Leader of Opposition, his presence in legislative sessions is rare, and his contribution to debates negligible. Congress now openly mocks him as an “absent opposition leader,” pointing to his irrelevance. Even after vowing to stage a comeback at the party’s silver jubilee celebrations in Warangal earlier this year, KCR remains out of touch, raising serious doubts about his political resilience.

The insult to Telangana’s dignity reached a new low when BRS chose to boycott the Vice Presidential election instead of backing Justice Sudarshan Reddy—a respected son of the soil from a humble farmer’s family. His nomination was a source of pride for Telangana, yet BRS chose indifference over solidarity. Critics argue

that this move was orchestrated to deny a Telangana leader the recognition he deserved, further exposing KCR’s narrow-mindedness and political opportunism.

While other opposition parties, including AAP, set aside rivalries to support the INDIA bloc candidate, BRS’s refusal to engage in national politics reinforced its image as a party more interested in self-preservation than in serving the people. Congress leaders accused the party of clandestine coordination with the BJP to undermine Telangana’s representation at the national level.

The rise of Justice Sudarshan Reddy was celebrated across parties, with leaders calling for unity to bolster Telugu pride on the national stage. BRS’s absence from this historic moment only deepened the perception that it had long abandoned the aspirations of the

people it once claimed to represent.

The final truth is undeniable: BRS’s reliance on family over merit, intolerance toward criticism, and reluctance to embrace democratic values have steadily driven it toward irrelevance. The party’s collapse is a cautionary tale for political outfits everywhere—arrogance and nepotism may bring short-term gains, but they cannot sustain trust or long-term leadership.

What was once Telangana’s voice has been reduced to whispers. BRS’s journey from prominence to political obscurity stands as a stark reminder that leadership must be inclusive, accountable, and rooted in service—not personal ambition or dynastic control. Without course correction, the party risks becoming a footnote in the state’s political history rather than a force to reckon with.



## Kerala CPM Bets on Ayyappa Sangamam to Counter BJP Outreach

Thiruvananthapuram: The CPM-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) government’s decision to organise the Global Ayyappa Sangamam on September 20 at Pamba, near the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple, has sparked heated debate across Kerala. Though the event is officially being held under the Travancore Devaswom Board as part of its platinum jubilee celebrations, political observers view it as a carefully calculated move by the CPM to counter BJP’s growing influence among Hindu voters.

The stated objective of the Sangamam is to discuss development plans for the hill shrine and attract more

pilgrims. Yet, critics see a political agenda—an attempt to pre-empt Hindutva forces from monopolising the cultural and spiritual symbolism of Sabarimala. With Assembly and local body elections on the horizon, the timing has further fuelled speculation about the government’s motives.

For the CPM, the stakes are high. The Hindu-Ezhava community, forming nearly 23% of Kerala’s population, has long been the backbone of Communist support. However, recent elections saw BJP making inroads into Ezhava-dominated regions, aided by a strong campaign against what they termed “minority

appeasement” by both the LDF and the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF). After the 2024 Lok Sabha setback, the CPM leadership openly admitted concern over this shift, prompting new outreach efforts.

Major Hindu organisations such as the Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam (SNDP) and the Nair Service Society (NSS) have extended support to the Sangamam. Neither Congress nor BJP wants to be seen opposing “development” at Sabarimala, especially when the event aligns with the interests of lakhs of devotees. Instead, they have invoked memories of the bitter 2018-2019 Sabarimala conflict, when the state govern-

ment enforced the Supreme Court’s ruling permitting women of menstruating age to enter the shrine, sparking mass protests. Both parties now question the CPM’s ideological shift and accuse it of political opportunism.

The LDF, meanwhile, has hinted at organising similar outreach events with other social groups, including minorities, to address grievances. Supporters argue that this reflects inclusive governance, while detractors call it vote-bank engineering. Whatever the framing, the Ayyappa Sangamam is set to be more than a spiritual congregation—it is fast becoming a political litmus test for Kerala’s shifting electoral landscape.

# Japan’s Ambassador to India writes

A new golden chapter for India-Japan ties Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s recent visit to Japan has reaffirmed the deep-rooted partnership between the two nations, elevating it to a level of enduring strategic cooperation. The visit comes at a crucial moment in global geopolitics, where both India and Japan find themselves navigating shared challenges and opportunities in the Indo-Pacific and beyond. PM Modi emphasized that the relationship is not only about economic and security interests but also about shared

values, culture, and a long history of collaboration. A glimpse of this vision was already visible in Gujarat on August 26, when the Prime Minister inaugurated Maruti Suzuki’s first Made-in-India global strategic Battery Electric Vehicle production line at Hansalpur. Hailing Maruti Suzuki as a “brand ambassador of Make in India,” Modi underlined how companies rooted in Indo-Japanese cooperation continue to strengthen the broader foundation of “Viksit Bharat 2047.”

During his Japan visit, Modi’s discussions covered wide-

ranging sectors — from trade, investment, and technology to defense, energy, and climate change. The two nations agreed that their “Special Strategic and Global Partnership” must evolve into one with greater substance, where cooperation has no limitations. Both leaders highlighted the need to expand collaboration in advanced technologies, critical minerals, clean energy, and resilient supply chains to reduce vulnerabilities in an increasingly uncertain global environment.

The partnership is also seen as a pillar of

stability in the Indo-Pacific, where India and Japan have aligned interests in ensuring a free, open, and rules-based order. With Japan being one of the biggest investors in India and India emerging as a key economic growth hub, the collaboration is expected to bring mutual economic resilience and long-term security benefits.

Modi’s visit has thus set the stage for a deeper, more comprehensive alliance — one that seeks not only to address present challenges but also to lay down a roadmap for decades of shared growth and global leadership.







# India, Venezuela to Launch Pilot Projects in Key Sectors

TPN Correspondent |  
Delhi

India has agreed to initiate pilot projects in Venezuela focusing on priority sectors such as agriculture, pharmaceuticals, and digital public infrastructure, officials in New Delhi said. The an-

nouncement followed a four-day visit by Raul Hernandez, Venezuela's Vice-Minister for the Development of Information and Communication Technologies, from September 14 to 17. During the visit, both sides discussed training and capacity-building initiatives in artificial intelligence and related

technologies. Venezuela expressed interest in sending technical personnel to India for specialized courses, underscoring the commitment to strengthening bilateral cooperation in technology and innovation. Discussions also covered other areas of mutual interest, including space, tourism, and

pharmaceuticals. Hernandez met Secretary (East) P. Kumaran of India's Ministry of External Affairs and visited key institutions such as the National Institute of Smart Governance (NISG), UIDAI for the Aadhaar digital identity system, NeGD for DigiLocker, and AI BHASHINI. The meet-

ings focused on implementing digital solutions and capacity-building programs to enhance Venezuela's public sector capabilities. The visit coincided with consultations between Indian ambassador P.K. Ashok Babu and Venezuela's Minister of People's Power for Agri-

culture and Lands, Julio Leon Heredia, where cooperation in agriculture and livestock development was discussed. Officials highlighted that these projects aim to strengthen technological and institutional collaboration, benefiting both nations amid global challenges. The engagement

comes amid rising tensions between the U.S. and Venezuela, following former President Donald Trump's accusations regarding narcotics trafficking. Despite geopolitical strains, India and Venezuela are prioritizing cooperation in technology, agriculture, and infrastructure to foster long-term de-

velopment and mutual growth. The pilot initiatives are expected to lay the groundwork for broader India-Venezuela collaboration, combining technological expertise, training programs, and strategic partnerships to address key national priorities and strengthen bilateral ties.



## MK Stalin Declares 'No Entry for BJP' in Tamil Nadu at DMK Fest

TPN Correspondent |  
New Delhi

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK president MK Stalin took a strong political stance against the BJP during the DMK's annual Muppurem Vizha celebrations in Karur, marking the party's founding day and the birth anniversaries of Periyar and Anna. Addressing a large gathering, Stalin vowed that the BJP would have "no entry" in Tamil Nadu, warning that attempts at central overreach threatened the state's language, culture, and federal rights. Stalin accused the Centre of imposing Hindi, withholding education funding, and undermining states' powers through interventions such as delimitation. "If we do not stop the BJP now, next it will move to a state-less country," he cautioned, urging a mass mobilisation across Tamil Nadu. He contrasted Tamil Nadu's political resilience with other states, insisting that protecting linguistic and cultural rights was a generational duty. The DMK leader also highlighted his govern-

ment's achievements, including double-digit economic growth and successful welfare schemes. He outlined the party's organisational roadmap, describing the "Oraniyil Tamil Nadu" campaign aimed at reaching every village and household, claiming over one crore families had already joined the party's fold. "We have won every election since 2019, and with your work the victory journey will continue in 2026," he said. Stalin targeted AIADMK leader Edappadi K. Palanisami, accusing him of compromising the party's independence to align with the BJP. He called the AIADMK's current posture a betrayal of Annadurai's principles, coining the term "Adimaiism" to describe its alleged surrender. While projecting confidence, Stalin faces challenges as opposition parties criticise his government over rising crimes against women, drug abuse, and declining law and order. These issues could influence public perception ahead of the 2026 polls, even as the DMK consolidates its support through welfare and cultural messaging.

## Rahul Gandhi Exposes Alleged Centralised Voter Manipulation

**Calls Out CEC for Protecting 'Destroyers of Democracy'**

TPN Bureau | New  
Delhi

Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Thursday (September 18, 2025) launched a sharp attack on Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, alleging that the CEC is shielding those "destroying" Indian democracy. Gandhi raised concerns over alleged large-scale voter deletions and manipulations in Karnataka and Maharashtra, claiming the irregularities are undermining electoral integrity. He cited the Aland constituency in Karnataka, where 6,018 votes were reportedly sought to be deleted using centralized software and phones outside the state. Similarly, in Rajura, Maharashtra, 6,850 applications were submitted online to add names to the electoral rolls, which Gandhi described as a "Vote Chori factory." The Karnataka



CID had previously investigated the removal of 5,994 voters' names in Aland ahead of the 2023 Assembly election, allegedly through forged forms. Rahul Gandhi criticized the Election Commission for withholding crucial information from the Karnataka CID despite 18 letters sent over 18 months. He brought forward a voter whose vote was attempted to be deleted and another whose identity was misused in the process. Both denied any knowl-

edge of the irregularities. Gandhi asserted that the deletions were carried out using specialized software, and the ECI is aware of the perpetrators but is failing to act. Gandhi framed these revelations as a warning to India's youth about the systematic rigging of elections. While he said these were not yet the "hydrogen bomb" disclosures he had promised, he suggested more significant revelations are forthcoming. He reiterated that vote manipulations, like those reported in Mahadevapura Assembly segment in Karnataka during the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, amount to an "atom bomb on our democracy."

The allegations come amid recent electoral shifts, with Congress winning Aland in 2023 and BJP holding Rajura in 2024, highlighting the political stakes and the ongoing debate over the integrity and transparency of India's election processes.

## Nitish Kumar Launches Rs 1,000 Allowance for Unemployed Graduates

TPN Correspondent |  
Delhi

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Thursday unveiled a Rs 1,000 monthly allowance for unemployed graduates aged 20-25, who are neither studying, employed, nor self-employed. The benefit, part of the Chief Minister's Self-Help Allowance Scheme under the flagship 7 Nischay programme, will be provided for up to two years and is aimed at empowering youth ahead of the Assembly elections. Previously, the scheme covered only intermediate pass candidates. CM Kumar highlighted that the initiative seeks to help young people pursue skill training and prepare for competitive examinations, fostering self-reliance, employability, and active participation in Bihar's development. The Chief Minister reaffirmed his government's target of creating jobs for one crore youth over the next five years, spanning



both government and private sectors. In a separate move, Kumar on Wednesday provided Rs 5,000 each to 16.04 lakh construction workers across the state as direct financial aid, coinciding with Vishwakarma Puja and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday. The total assistance, Rs 802.46 crore, was distributed under the Annual Clothing Assistance Scheme, with the Chief Minister also launching the Pratigya web portal for contractual workers in Patna. These initiatives are being viewed as strategic efforts to strengthen outreach to young voters and workers ahead of the upcoming elections, while simultaneously reinforcing the state government's commitment to social welfare, skill development, and economic support for Bihar's workforce.

## "Reaffirmed Steadfast Support": PM Modi On Talks With Nepal Interim PM

TPN Correspondent |  
Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Nepal's newly-appointed interim Prime Minister Sushila Karki on Thursday, expressing India's steadfast support for efforts to restore peace and stability in the Himalayan nation. Modi conveyed condolences over recent tragic losses of lives during widespread youth-led protests and extended warm greetings to Karki and the people of Nepal on their National



Day. Ms. Karki assumed office on Friday, three days after former Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli resigned amid the largest unrest Nepal



has witnessed in decades. Her appointment followed consultations between President Ramchandra Paudel, the country's top military officials, and youth

protesters who led the anti-government demonstrations. The protests, initiated by students under the banner of "Gen Z," began in response to a

government-imposed social media ban but quickly expanded into a broader movement highlighting alleged corruption and extravagance among Nepal's political elite. While the social media ban was lifted on September 8, public anger intensified, eventually forcing Oli to step down. In his resignation, Oli cited "extraordinary circumstances" and expressed his hope for a constitutional and political solution. During the call, PM Modi reaffirmed India's commitment to supporting Nepal in navigating

the ongoing political transition and maintaining stability. The Indian Prime Minister's outreach underscores the close diplomatic and cultural ties between the two nations, reflecting India's role as a steady partner during Nepal's period of political uncertainty. The interim government led by Ms. Karki now faces the challenge of addressing the protesters' demands while ensuring continuity of governance, as both India and Nepal emphasize cooperation to maintain peace and regional stability.



# France Braces for Nationwide Strikes Over Budget Cuts

TPN Bureau | Washington

France is set to witness widespread strikes and street demonstrations on Thursday as all major trade unions unite to protest proposed budget cuts. The industrial action comes amid tense discussions between Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu and political opponents over measures aimed at curbing the country's mounting deficit and national debt.

The unions are calling on Lecornu to scrap draft budget proposals introduced by his predecessor, which include freezes on social welfare benefits and a range of austerity measures. Critics argue these steps would further strain the purchasing power of low- and middle-income workers, sparking fears of worsening economic inequality and public discontent.

The planned protests are expected to affect public transportation, schools, and other essential services, with union leaders warning of mass participation from workers across sectors. Demonstrations are being organised in major cities, including Paris, Lyon, and Marseille, highlighting

growing frustration over government economic policies. Prime Minister Lecornu has stressed the importance of balancing fiscal responsibility with social stability. In meetings with opposition parties, he is exploring alternatives to manage the deficit without imposing excessive burdens on ordinary citizens. However, union leaders remain sceptical, insisting that the proposed cuts are unfair and could deepen social unrest.

Economists note that France faces significant fiscal challenges, with debt levels among the highest in the European

Union. While the government argues that austerity measures are necessary to stabilise the economy, the public backlash underscores the political risks associated with tightening spending in an already strained economic environment.

Thursday's protests mark a critical test for Lecornu's leadership, as he navigates between managing the national budget and addressing widespread dissatisfaction among workers and citizens. The outcome of these strikes could shape France's political and economic trajectory in the coming months.



## Sheikh Hasina, Family Barred From Voting In Bangladesh Elections

TPN Correspondent | Dhaka

Bangladesh's Election Commission has confirmed that former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and several of her family members will not be eligible to vote in the upcoming national elections scheduled for February 2026. According to local reports, the commission blocked their National Identity (NID) cards earlier this year, making online registration impossible.

Akhtar Ahmed, Senior Secretary of the Election Commission, said both in-country and out-of-country Bangladeshis will be allowed to vote, provided they register online using their NID numbers. "Those with a blocked NID will be unable to complete online registration. Only those who can register with their NID will have the opportunity to vote," he clarified. He added that Sheikh Hasina's NID, along with those of 10 close relatives, was suspended on February 16.

The list includes her son Sajib Wazed Joy, daughter Saima Wazed Putul, sister Sheikh Rehana, nieces Tulip Rezwana Siddique and Azmina Siddique, and nephew Radwan Mujib Siddique. Hasina fled Bangladesh on August 5, 2024, during a student-led uprising and has since taken refuge in India. Following her departure, an interim government led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus was formed. Yunus has announced that parliamentary elections will take place before Ramadan in February 2026. Preparations are underway after the Office of the Chief Adviser formally requested the Election Commission to ensure the elections are free, fair, peaceful, and festive.

The disqualification of Hasina and her family from voting underscores the dramatic political shift in Bangladesh since the uprising. With her absence and blocked participation, the February elections are set to mark a new chapter in the country's leadership

## We Did More Good For Humanity Than: Trump At UK State Dinner

TPN Correspondent | UK

US President Donald Trump began his second UK state visit on Wednesday with royal pageantry at Windsor Castle, hosted by King Charles III. The elaborate welcome featured the largest guard of honour in living memory with 120 horses and 1,300 troops, carriage rides, an air show, and a formal state dinner. During the banquet, Trump raised a toast praising the historic alliance, declaring, "Together we've done more good for humanity than any two countries in all of history." He urged both nations to continue standing for the values of the English-speaking world.

Trump is the only US president to receive a second UK state visit, a fact he noted with humour during the dinner, calling it "the first and maybe the last time." The event came against the backdrop of trade tensions linked to Trump's America First policies, but also highlighted major investment announcements. Britain revealed that US companies had pledged



£150 billion (\$204 billion) for projects in the UK, with £90 billion (\$122 billion) coming from investment giant Blackstone over the next decade. In return, firms like GSK will invest nearly \$30 billion in the United States.

The visit also set the stage for the signing of a "tech prosperity deal" between Trump and UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer at Chequers. Officials say the agreement will bring thousands of jobs and boost cooperation in artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and nuclear energy. Starmer and his

wife Victoria formally welcomed Trump upon his arrival. Despite the grand ceremony, the visit was met with opposition. Thousands marched through London, carrying banners rejecting Trump's leadership, while in Windsor, protesters projected images linking him to Jeffrey Epstein on a castle tower. Police confirmed four arrests during the demonstrations. The mix of royal celebration, diplomatic deals, and public protests underscored the high-profile nature of Trump's unprecedented second UK state visit.

## Musk Orders xAI Staff To Submit One-Page Work Summaries

TPN Correspondent | Ottawa

Elon Musk, CEO of xAI, has once again directed his employees to provide detailed updates on their recent work and future plans. In an internal email sent on Tuesday afternoon, Musk asked all staff to submit a one-page summary of what they had accomplished in the past four weeks and what they intended to achieve in the next four weeks. The deadline for submission is noon on Thursday, according to a copy of the email obtained by CNN.

The move comes as xAI undergoes a major reorganisation. Last week, the company reportedly laid off more than 500 data annotators, most of whom were part of its generalist AI tutor team, as the firm pivots toward specialised AI instructors in fields such as STEM, finance, medicine, and safety. In a follow-up email, xAI explained that it aimed to scale down generalist roles while expanding specialised AI tutor positions by "10X." Musk also confirmed through a post on X that the company is actively hiring across domains.

This is not the first time Musk has implemented such measures. In August 2024, The Verge reported that employees at X (formerly Twitter) were also instructed to submit one-page briefs of their contributions, which were tied to stock option allocations based on performance and projected impact. At that time, Musk warned that failure to respond would be considered a resignation.

Musk has long been known for his unconventional management style. When he acquired Twitter in 2022, he once asked engineers to print out recent lines of code they had written, only to later instruct them to shred the printouts. His latest directive at xAI reflects a continued push for accountability and performance-based evaluation as the company navigates its strategic shift toward specialised AI development.



## Saudi Arabia, Pakistan Sign Strategic Mutual Defence Pact

TPN Correspondent | Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia and Pakistan have signed a landmark Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement, pledging that any aggression against either nation will be treated as an attack on both. The pact was finalised during Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's state visit to Riyadh on Wednesday, at the invitation of Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman.

In a joint statement, both sides highlighted their "historic partnership extending for nearly eight decades" and reaffirmed bonds

of brotherhood, Islamic solidarity, and shared security interests. The agreement, officials said, aims to deepen defence cooperation, strengthen deterrence, and ensure collective response to external aggression. "Any aggression against either country shall be considered an aggression against both," the statement declared.

During his visit, Sharif conveyed greetings to King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and thanked Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for the warm hospitality extended to him and his delegation. The two leaders met at Al Yamamah Palace, where they reviewed the long-standing ties



between Riyadh and Islamabad and discussed regional security challenges. Pakistan's Deputy PM Ishaq Dar, Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Army Chief Asim Munir, and

other senior officials accompanied Sharif. India reacted cautiously to the develop-

ment, with the Ministry of External Affairs stating it would closely study the agreement's implications. "The Government remains committed to protecting India's national interests and ensuring comprehensive national security in all domains," the MEA said, noting that the pact formalises a long-discussed arrangement between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

The agreement signals a deepening strategic alignment between Riyadh and Islamabad, with both nations positioning themselves as partners in maintaining regional stability while strengthening their mutual defence frameworks.





# Sensex, Nifty Rise on US Fed Rate Cut; IT Stocks Lead Gains

Indian equity markets extended their positive run on Thursday following global cues after the US Federal Reserve cut interest rates by 25 basis points, bringing the benchmark rate to 4-4.25%. The S&P BSE Sensex surged over 350 points to trade above 83,000, while the NSE Nifty50 crossed 25,400 in early trade. Broader market indices also recorded gains, with volatility remaining stable.

Dr. VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Investments, described the Fed's 25 bp rate cut as a "risk management cut," highlighting uncertainties around economic activity, unemployment, and inflation. He added that with the US labor market cooling and GDP growth projected at 1.6% for 2025, further rate cuts are possible, creating a favourable environment for global and domestic markets. Despite this, Indian stocks are largely driven by expectations of corporate earnings revival and positive developments, described the Fed's 25 bp rate cut as a "risk management cut," highlighting uncertainties around economic activity, unemployment, and inflation. He added that with the US labor market cooling and GDP growth projected at 1.6% for 2025, further rate cuts are possible, creating a favourable environment for global and domestic markets. Despite this, Indian stocks are largely driven by expectations of corporate earnings revival and positive developments,

opments in India-US trade negotiations. On the domestic front, Nifty50 closed Wednesday at 25,330, marking gains in 11 of the last 13 sessions and recovering over 900 points from its recent low of 24,404 on August 29. Analysts noted that the Nifty remains in an uptrend, with support near 25,150 and resistance levels at 25,550 and 25,670. IT stocks led the gains, with Infosys and Wipro seeing notable increases, while investor activity included major insider purchases in Jindal Steel (Rs 997 crore), Indus Towers (Rs 708 crore), Jindal Stainless (Rs 352 crore), Tourism Finance Corporation (Rs 161 crore), and Paisalo Digital (Rs 126 crore).

With both global and domestic factors providing momentum, market analysts expect Indian equities to maintain their bullish trajectory in the near term, driven by earnings optimism, policy support, and sustained foreign investor interest.

# GST Inversion Eases, But Input-Output Rate Gaps Worry Industry



The recent GST rate rationalisation in India has eased the inverted duty structure (IDS) across many sectors, but wide gaps between input and output tax rates continue to raise concerns for industry, particularly regarding working capital and refund processes. The removal of the 12 per cent slab and consolidation into two main rates of 5 per cent and 18 per cent has addressed most anomalies, yet items such as bicycles, tractors, fertilisers, and certain textiles still face inversion. For example, steel inputs

attract 18 per cent GST, while final products like bicycles and e-bicycles are taxed at 5 per cent, creating potential capital blockage. In the textile sector, GST cuts on manmade fibres and yarn have largely corrected inversion, with about 80 per cent of the value chain now aligned. However, minor inversions remain in polyester fibre raw materials and textile machinery, where input tax at 18 per cent exceeds the final product's 5 per cent rate. A textile industry executive noted that the wide rate difference, though smaller than before,

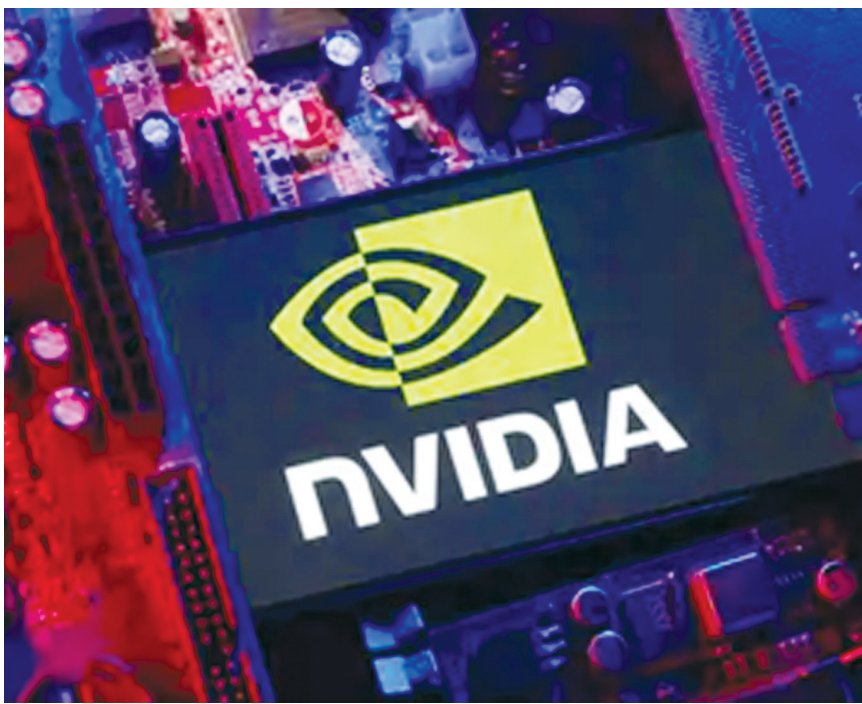
continues to pose working capital challenges and highlighted the importance of a smooth refund mechanism. Similarly, in the fertiliser sector, GST on key inputs such as sulphuric acid, nitric acid, and ammonia has been reduced from 18 per cent to 5 per cent. Yet packaging costs and government subsidies can still result in inversion, as final product prices may fall below input costs. Officials involved in GST rationalisation acknowledged these transitional issues but emphasized that majority of IDS cases have

been corrected, with expected savings for the fertiliser sector reaching Rs 5,000 crore annually due to lower refund outgo. Industry experts caution that while progress has been made, residual inversions could incentivize evasion if refunds are delayed or capital remains blocked, underscoring the need for efficient implementation and monitoring. The government continues to refine rates and streamline processes to minimise such bottlenecks and support industrial liquidity.

# Nvidia Invests \$5 Billion in Intel to Boost AI Infrastructure and PCs

Leading chipmaker Nvidia announced on Thursday that it will invest \$5 billion in Intel to develop AI infrastructure and personal computing solutions. The investment involves purchasing Intel common stock at \$23.28 per share, slightly below Intel's Wednesday closing price of \$24.90. Upon completion, Nvidia will become one of Intel's largest shareholders, holding roughly 4% or more of the company. The transaction is subject to customary regulatory approvals.

This move follows increased interest in Intel from major investors, including the US government, which acquired a roughly 10% stake in August, and Japan's SoftBank, which invested \$2 billion. Intel has also been raising funds by selling assets to support heavy investments required for advanced semiconductor development amid declining market share. The collaboration will integrate Nvidia's AI infrastructure and accelerated computing with Intel's leading CPU technologies and x86 ecosystem. Intel will develop Nvidia-custom x86 CPUs for data centers, which will be incorporated into Nvidia's AI platforms. For personal computing, Intel will create x86 system-on-chips (SOCs) integrating Nvidia RTX GPU chiplets, enabling high-performance PCs combining top-tier CPUs and GPUs.



Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang highlighted the significance of the collaboration, stating, "AI is powering a new industrial revolution and re-inventing every layer of the computing stack — from silicon to systems to software. This historic collaboration tightly couples Nvidia's AI and accelerated computing

stack with Intel's CPUs and the vast x86 ecosystem — a fusion of two world-class platforms. Together, we will expand our ecosystems and lay the foundation for the next era of computing."

The partnership is seen as a major step in advancing AI capabilities, bridging Nvidia's GPU leadership with Intel's CPU expertise, and strengthening the overall AI and PC ecosystem, signaling a new era of integrated high-performance computing solutions.

# Maruti Suzuki Cuts Car Prices by Up to Rs 1.3 Lakh After GST Reduction

Maruti Suzuki India on Thursday announced a price reduction across its entire model range by up to Rs 1,29,600, effective from September 22, to pass on the benefit of the recent GST rate cut to customers. The country's largest car-maker said the move is aimed at making vehicles more affordable and encouraging two-wheeler users to upgrade to cars. Entry-level models will see significant price drops, with S-Presso reduced by up to Rs 1,29,600, Alto K10 by Rs 1,07,600, Celerio by Rs 94,100, Wag-on-R by Rs 79,600, and Ignis by Rs 71,300. Premium hatchbacks and sedans are also included, with Swift down by Rs 84,600, Baleno by Rs 86,100, Dzire by Rs 87,700, Fronx and Brezza by over Rs 1.1 lakh, Grand Vitara by Rs 1.07 lakh, Jimny by



Rs 51,900, Ertiga by Rs 46,400, and XL6 by Rs 52,000. Commercial vehicles like Invicto, Eeco, and Super Carry LCV will see reductions of up to Rs 68,000. Partho Banerjee, Senior Executive Officer (Marketing & Sales) at Maruti Suzuki India, said the company is reducing prices of small cars over and above the 8.5% GST cut to boost motorisation in India, noting the low car penetration of 34 vehicles per 1,000 people. He added that the move would stabilise the entry-level segment after years of volume decline and that GST rate cuts on car

parts will also reduce overall maintenance costs. The company will compensate its channel partners for this "strategic pricing" initiative. Banerjee projected that the passenger vehicle market is expected to rebound to a CAGR of 6-7% in the next financial year. Maruti Suzuki shares closed almost flat at Rs 15,802 per share on the BSE following the announcement. This initiative underscores Maruti Suzuki's commitment to making cars more accessible while stimulating growth in India's passenger vehicle market.

# SEBI Mulls Allowing FPIs in Non-Cash, Non-Agri Commodity Derivatives

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is reviewing a proposal to allow foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to trade in non-cash settled, non-agricultural commodity derivative contracts, SEBI Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey said on Wednesday. The move is aimed at strengthening India's domestic commodity markets and attracting greater foreign participation. Speaking at the MCX Metals and Energy Summit 2025 in Mumbai, Pandey highlighted that SEBI has already set up a committee to suggest measures for

deepening the agricultural commodities segment. "We are actively looking at ways to develop the non-agricultural commodity space, including metals, and a dedicated working group will be constituted for this purpose," he added. The proposed change would enable FPIs to participate in derivative contracts beyond cash-settled agricultural commodities, potentially enhancing market liquidity and offering international investors broader avenues in India's commodities market. Currently, FPI participation in commodity deriva-

tives is largely restricted, limiting foreign inflows and investment opportunities. Pandey emphasized that expanding FPI access to non-agri commodity derivatives aligns with SEBI's broader goal of deepening financial markets while maintaining robust regulatory oversight. The regulator is also exploring other measures to improve transparency, risk management, and market participation across commodity segments. Market participants expect the potential approval to provide a boost to metals and en-

ergy derivatives trading, attracting foreign capital and increasing competitiveness. Analysts say this could also help Indian commodity markets integrate better with global commodity flows, while giving domestic investors more hedging and investment options. The SEBI chairman reiterated that the proposals are under review and would be implemented with appropriate safeguards to protect market integrity, risk management, and investor interests, signaling SEBI's ongoing efforts to modernize India's commodity derivatives ecosystem.





# Internet Calls AI Modi Birthday Video ‘Cutest’



Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 75th birthday on September 17 sparked global wishes, but what stole the spotlight online was an AI-generated video reimagining his celebration as a "Modi Ji Birthday Bash" with world leaders depicted as adorable babies. The video, which has gone viral, features baby versions of Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, Russian President Vladimir Putin, US President Donald Trump, Chinese President Xi Jinping, and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, alongside Indian politicians like Rahul Gandhi, Yogi Adityanath, and Mamata Banerjee.

The clip begins with Meloni gifting Modi a giant toffee labelled "Melody," a playful nod to the popular candy and their much-talked-about camaraderie, often tagged online as "#Melodi." Other scenes show baby Trump presenting tariffs, Putin gifting a toy version of the S-400 missile, and leaders exchanging oversized laddoos and cheerful hugs, creating a light-hearted, giggly spectacle.

The video, shared widely on Instagram and X, quickly drew millions of views and reactions. One user commented, "Okay, this is genuinely wonderful and sweet. Major credit to the creative mind behind this—you made my day!" Another wrote, "I saw it 10 times already, fantas-



## Kerala Expat Wins \$1 Million In Dubai Duty Free Draw

A 37-year-old Indian expatriate based in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has won USD 1 million (8.77 crore) in the Dubai Duty Free Millennium Millionaire Draw. The lucky winner, Abdul Rahman K, hailing from Kerala and working as a sales assistant in Sharjah, struck gold in Millennium Millionaire Series 516 with ticket number 4171, purchased online on September 6. The draw was held at Concourse B of Dubai International Airport (DXB) on Wednesday, September 17.

Rahman's win was the result of a group effort. Since 2010, he and nine friends have pooled money to buy tickets, rotating the names on each entry. "It's amazing! Two of my daughters are celebrating their birthdays this month, and now we have even more reason to celebrate. Thank you, Dubai Duty Free," Rahman said. He becomes the 259th Indian national to win USD 1 million through the long-running promotion, which has seen overwhelming participation from Indian expats.

Other Indian winners also shone in the same draw. Amit Saraf, a 51-year-old Dubai resident, won a Mercedes-Benz G500 (Obsidian Black) with ticket number 0482. Saraf is a serial winner, having previously bagged USD 1 million twice (January 2021 and October 2024), a Mercedes-Benz S500 in February 2023, and a Dh 40,000 Duty Free gift card in December 2023.

Two more Indians walked away with luxury motorbikes. Shafeekh Nasarudeen, 41, from Umm Al Quwain, won a BMW F 900 GS Adventure with ticket number 0347, while Olavo Fernandes, 61, from Abu Dhabi, won a Ducati Panigale V2 (Red) with ticket number 0239. Remarkably, Fernandes had already won an Aprilia RSV4 1100 motorbike earlier this month on September 3.

Launched in 1999, the Dubai Duty Free Millennium Millionaire and Finest Surprise promotions remain among the world's most recognisable raffles, with Indian nationals consistently featuring among the biggest winners.

# Google Discover Adds Follow Button For More Personalised Feed



Google has rolled out new personalisation features for its Discover feed, giving users more control over the news, updates, and content they see. Announced on Wednesday, the update introduces a Follow button that appears on the top left of every news card, allowing users to directly follow their favourite news portals and creators from the Discover page. This means platforms like Gadgets 360, YouTube, and X (formerly Twitter) can now be followed with a single tap.

In addition to the Follow button, Google says the Discover feed will soon show more content from social platforms and video streaming services, including YouTube Shorts, Instagram, and X. The aim is to give users a broader mix of updates beyond just traditional news stories, covering weather, sports scores, and stock prices alongside social and video content.

The new update also introduces preview pages for news portals and creators. When users tap on the name of a publication or content creator displayed on the Discover card, they will be taken to a dedicated page that shows the outlet's description, latest articles, videos, and links to social media handles. This provides a quick way to explore a creator's work without leaving the Discover feed.

The feature is now live, and Google says it builds on a recent enhancement that lets users set their preferred news sources in Search. By combining this with Discover's new Follow option, the tech giant aims to make staying updated with trusted content simpler and more personal. The move also reflects Google's push to integrate more diverse formats—blogs, news articles, YouTube clips, and social media posts—into one unified feed.

With this update, Discover becomes not just a place for quick updates but a personalised hub, adapting to users' interests across platforms.

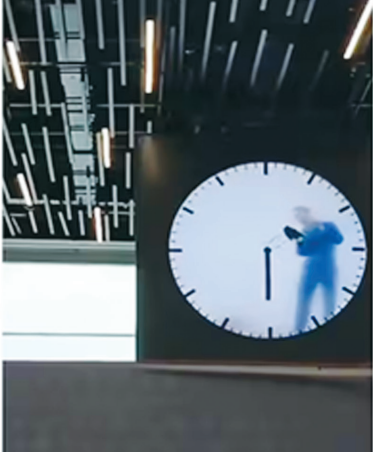
# Amsterdam Airport's 'Human Watch' Fascinates Travellers

Travellers passing through Amsterdam Airport Schiphol are being captivated by a striking art installation known as the "Human Watch". Recently, Indian traveller SK Ali shared his amazement in a viral Instagram video, which has already crossed 1.2 million views. The clip shows a giant transparent clock that appears to feature a man inside, painting and erasing the clock hands every minute to update the time.

In his video, Ali points out the unusual design, capturing the moment when the figure drew 6:10 on the clock and then adjusted it to 6:11. "At Amsterdam Airport



Schiphol, a giant transparent clock fascinates travellers with its unique design. Instead of mechanical hands, a man inside the clock appears to paint and erase the hands every minute, creating



the illusion of real-time updates," read the Instagram caption. The installation, officially called the Schiphol Clock, is the creation of Dutch artist Maarten Baas. While it looks like a

real man working tirelessly inside the massive clock, it is actually a 12-hour video loop of Baas himself dressed in blue overalls. The video cleverly synchronises to always display the correct

time, blending performance art with practical timekeeping. Online viewers have responded with both admiration and humour. One user joked, "Good innovation but getting tired of seeing his hard work every minute," while another clarified, "This is not a real man inside the clock. It's an art installation by Maarten Baas." Positioned prominently at one of the world's busiest airports, the Human Watch has become a landmark that surprises and delights travellers. For many, it turns a routine glance at the clock into an unforgettable artistic experience, merging creativity with everyday functionality.

# Can Eating More Fibre Help You Live Longer?

Gut health is increasingly recognised as central to overall well-being, influencing not just digestion but also immunity, energy, inflammation, and possibly longevity. A recent viral claim suggests that eating more fibre could extend lifespan, and growing scientific evidence lends weight to this idea.

Fibre plays multiple roles in the body. It feeds beneficial gut bacteria, regulates digestion, supports healthy cholesterol and blood sugar levels, and prevents constipation.

These combined effects may explain why people who consume fibre-rich diets tend to live longer and healthier lives. However, experts caution that most findings come from observational studies, meaning they show association rather than definitive proof.

Dr Saurabh Sethi, a gastroenterologist trained at AIIMS, Harvard, and Stanford, recommends eating fibre-rich foods like chia seeds, berries, and oatmeal. He advises aiming for about 30 grams of fibre daily, noting that people who consume more fibre often

experience less acid reflux and constipation, alongside improved long-term health outcomes.

Recent studies reinforce this. A 2024 systematic review covering 64 studies and 3.5 million participants found higher fibre intake linked to 23% lower risk of all-cause mortality, 26% lower risk of cardiovascular death, and 22% lower cancer mortality. Another meta-analysis confirmed fibre's protective effects, especially from cereals and whole grains, with benefits seen above 15 grams per day. For gut

health, experts recommend combining prebiotic foods such as garlic, onions, and asparagus with probiotic-rich foods like yoghurt, kimchi, and idli. Adequate hydration is also essential since fibre works best with water.

The bottom line: higher fibre intake is strongly associated with lower risks of heart disease, cancer, and diabetes, alongside better gut health. While more research is needed, fibre remains one of the simplest, most effective dietary tools for supporting longevity.





# Sindhu Storms Into China Masters Quarterfinals

Shenzhen: Two-time Olympic medalist PV Sindhu entered the quarterfinals of the Li-Ning China Masters 2025 with a commanding victory over Thailand's World No. 6 Pornpawee Chochuwong. Playing at the Shenzhen Arena, Sindhu registered a straight-games win 21-15, 21-15 in just 41 minutes, showcasing her sharp form and intent.

Sindhu began her campaign on a strong note earlier this week, defeating Denmark's Dawall Jakobsen in the first round. She dominated the match 21-5, 21-10 in just 27 minutes, extending her head-to-head lead against Jakobsen. The Indian star



carried the same momentum into the Round of 16, keeping control over Chochuwong throughout both games.

This quarterfinal entry comes at a crucial time for Sindhu, who

has endured a difficult season with six first-round exits in the BWF World Tour. Her best results so far in 2025 have been quarterfinal finishes at the India Open and the World Championships. A deep run in

China could mark a turning point, especially since Sindhu has fond memories of winning the China Open back in 2016.

Meanwhile, Ayush Shetty had a disappointing outing, crash-

ing out in the opening round after a hard-fought battle against sixth-seeded Chou Tien Chen. Despite winning the second game convincingly, Ayush lost 19-21, 21-12, 16-21. The 19-year-old had earlier scripted history by winning the US Open in June, the only BWF World Tour title for India this year.

As the China Masters progresses until September 21, all eyes remain on Sindhu. Fans and experts alike are hopeful that the veteran shuttler can roll back the years, regain her winning rhythm, and push closer to reclaiming her place among the sport's elite.

# Satwik-Chirag Advance, Lakshya Crashes Out of China Masters

India witnessed mixed fortunes at the Li-Ning China Masters 2025 on Wednesday as star doubles pair Satwik-sairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty stormed into the men's doubles pre-quarterfinals while Lakshya Sen suffered a first-round exit in singles.

Satwik and Chirag, fresh from finishing runners-up at the Hong Kong Open, showcased grit in their 42-minute clash against Malaysia's Junaidi Arif and Roy King Yap. The Indians survived a tight first game, saving game points before clinching it 24-22. With momentum on their side, they raced through the second game 21-13, sealing the win and extending their unbeaten head-to-head record against the Malaysian duo. The victory under-



lines Satwik-Chirag's fine run of form as they look to carry their momentum deeper into the tournament.

In contrast, Lakshya Sen endured a tough outing against France's Toma Junior Popov. The Indian shuttler, who had also finished runner-up at last week's Hong Kong Open, failed to find his rhythm and went down 11-21, 10-21 in just 30 minutes. The loss meant an early end to India's men's singles challenge, with Ayush Shetty already bowing out in the opening round.

Adding to India's woes, the mixed doubles pair of Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto exited the competition after a straight-games defeat against second-seeded local favorites Feng Yan Zhe and Huang Dong Ping. The Indian duo fought hard in patches but eventually succumbed 19-21, 13-21.

Despite setbacks in singles and mixed doubles, Satwik and Chirag's progress keeps India's hopes alive in doubles. Their consistent performances in recent weeks highlight their growing stature on the world stage. All eyes will now be on

them as they aim for another deep run in China.



# Sachin Yadav Shines, Neeraj Chopra Misses Medal at Worlds



India's Sachin Yadav produced a sensational performance in the men's javelin throw final at the World Athletics Championships on Thursday, finishing fourth with a personal best throw of 86.27m. The 24-year-old narrowly missed out on the bronze medal, but his effort drew praise as he outshone Olympic champion and India's star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, who endured a rare off day.

Chopra, who has won medals at every major event since the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, could only manage a best

throw of 84.03m—below his qualification mark of 84.85m—and finished outside the medal bracket. The result marks the first time in four years that the ace thrower returned empty-handed from an international competition. Meanwhile, Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem, the reigning Olympic gold medallist, also struggled on the big stage and ended in 10th place.

The javelin final saw fierce competition at the top, with Trinidad and Tobago's Keshorn Walcott clinching the gold medal with a season-best throw of 88.16m. Grenada's Anderson Peters, the two-time world champion, secured silver with 87.38m, while USA's Curtis Thompson grabbed bronze with 86.67m—just 40 centimetres ahead of Yadav. Though Yadav missed the podium by a whisker, his breakthrough performance has put him in the spotlight as India's next big javelin hope. Athletics experts hailed his consistency and composure under pressure, noting that his 86.27m throw would have been good enough for a medal in many past championships. As for Chopra, fans and analysts expect the Olympic champion to bounce back strongly ahead of next season's competitions, including preparations for Paris 2028.

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# Hovland, Lowry To Headline \$4 Million DP World India Championship

Ryder Cup stars Viktor Hovland and Shane Lowry are set to headline the inaugural DP World India Championship, scheduled from October 16 to 19 at the iconic Delhi Golf Club. The \$4 million event will mark the richest DP World Tour competition hosted in India, co-sanctioned with the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI).

The field boasts some of the game's biggest names, with world No. 2 Rory McIlroy, Tommy Fleetwood, and India's home favorite Shubhankar Sharma joining the lineup. The tournament is expected to set a new benchmark for professional golf in the country, bringing global attention to Indian golf.

Major winner Shane



Lowry, who claimed the Claret Jug at the 2019 Open Championship in Royal Portrush, expressed his excitement about returning to Delhi for the first time since the 2010 Avantha Masters. "Having the opportunity to play in front of golf fans all over the world is one of the best parts of my job, so I'm really looking forward to going back to Delhi for the first edition of the DP World India Championship," said Lowry, who will also feature in his third consecutive Ryder Cup appearance next week.

Hovland, the first Norwegian to win on both the DP World Tour and the PGA Tour, will make his India debut. The 27-year-old, who captured his 11th worldwide

title at the Valspar Championship in Florida earlier this year, said, "I've heard a lot about Delhi as a city and I'm excited to tee it up in India for the first time at such a historic golf course. It's shaping up to be a great event."

Organizers highlighted the tournament's significance in expanding golf's footprint in the region. Yuvraj Narayan, Group Deputy CEO and CFO of DP World, stated, "We see huge potential for golf in the region, and this tournament is a key step in our long-term vision to support and grow the game."

With a world-class lineup and record prize purse, the DP World India Championship promises to be a landmark event for Indian golf.

# Guyana Beat Saint Lucia By 14 Runs To Enter CPL Final



Providence: The Guyana Amazon Warriors sealed their spot in the Caribbean Premier League (CPL) 2025 final with a hard-fought 14-run win over table-toppers Saint Lucia Kings in Qualifier 1 at the Providence Stadium. Despite a disciplined bowling display, the Kings' batting faltered under pressure, forcing them into a must-win clash against the Trinbago Knight Riders in Qualifier 2 on September 20.

Winning the toss, Saint Lucia opted to field first, and their decision looked justified as their bowlers kept the Warriors in check. South African spinner Tabraiz Shamsi impressed with a 3/33 spell, while pacers maintained tight lines. Still, Guyana managed to post a fighting total of 157 in 19.5 overs, thanks to steady contributions from Ben McDermott (34) and captain Shai Hope (32).

In reply, the Kings' batting lineup crumbled under scoreboard pressure. Reduced to 48/7, they were staring at a heavy defeat before

Khary Pierre staged a remarkable fightback. His aggressive 50-run knock, well-supported by Tymal Mills' 30, gave the Kings faint hope of pulling off an improbable chase. However, Gudakesh Motie's match-winning spell sealed their fate. The left-arm spinner ripped through the middle order, returning with figures of 4/30 to earn the Player of the Match award.

Saint Lucia eventually folded for 143 in 19.1 overs, falling 14 runs short of the target. The defeat denied them a direct entry into the finals despite finishing the league stage at the top with 12 points from five wins.

Guyana will now await their final opponents, while Saint Lucia will regroup for one last shot at glory in Qualifier 2. The CPL playoff battle is heating up, with both the Kings and Trinbago aiming to grab the remaining final berth.

Brief scores: Guyana Amazon Warriors 157 in 19.5 overs (McDermott 34, Hope 32; Shamsi 3/33) beat Saint Lucia Kings 143 in 19.1 overs (Pierre 50, Mills 30; Motie 4/30) by 14 runs.



## Dhanush’s Idli Kadai Trailer to Release on Sept 20

Actor-director Dhanush is all set to entertain audiences with his upcoming film Idli Kadai, scheduled for release on October 1, 2025. The movie, which will have a simultaneous Telugu release titled Idli Kottu, stars Nitya Menen as the female lead, while Arun Vijay plays the antagonist. Shalini Pandey, known for her role in Arjun Reddy, will appear as Dhanush’s sister.

The makers have announced that the theatrical trailer of Idli Kadai will be unveiled on September 20 at a special event in Coimbatore. This follows a grand audio launch, indicating a full-fledged promotional campaign for the film. Fans have expressed excitement over Dhanush directing and leading the project, especially after the mixed response to his



previous directorial, NEEK.

Produced jointly by Wunderbar Films and Dawn Pictures, the film features music composed by GV Prakash Kumar. The storyline and performances are expected to highlight Dhanush’s versatility both in front of and behind the camera.

With the trailer release just days away, anticipation is building among audiences and critics alike. Industry experts are closely watching to see if Idli Kadai can deliver both commercially and critically, potentially restoring faith in Dhanush’s directorial ventures.

## Pawan Kalyan’s OG Trailer to Release on September 21

Fans of Powerstar Pawan Kalyan can mark their calendars as the much-awaited trailer of his upcoming film OG—also known as They Call Him OG—is set to release on September 21 at 10:08 AM. The gangster action drama, scheduled for a theatrical release on September 25, has been generating excitement through its promotional content, with audiences eagerly anticipating the full glimpse of the film.

Director Sujeeth revealed the trailer launch date through a striking poster of Pawan Kalyan, sending waves of excitement across social media. While there are strong indications that the pre-release event might also take place on the same day, official confirmation from the makers is still awaited.

Produced by DVV Danayya and Kalyan Dasari under the DVV Entertainment banner, OG boasts a star-studded cast. Bolly-

wood actor Emraan Hashmi plays the antagonist, adding a fresh dimension to the film’s high-octane narrative. Priyanka Mohan is cast as Pawan Kalyan’s love interest, while veteran actors Prakash Raj, Sriya Reddy, Arjun Das, Harish Uthaman, and Ajay Ghosh take on pivotal roles. The music is composed by Thaman, promising a powerful soundtrack to complement the film’s action sequences.

OG has already created a strong buzz with its teaser, posters, and promotional videos, giving glimpses of the intense action and dramatic storytelling that audiences can expect. The trailer is expected to further intensify fan excitement and set the tone for the film’s box office performance.

With just a few days to go for its release, anticipation around OG is at an all-time high. Fans are eager to see Pawan Kalyan in his gangster

avatar, and the upcoming trailer promises to provide the first full insight into the film’s gripping narrative and high-stakes action. This release is shaping up to be a major cinematic event for Telugu cinema enthusiasts.

## Deepika Padukone Exits Kalki 2

Bollywood star Deepika Padukone will not be part of the highly anticipated sequel Kalki 2, the makers officially announced on social media on Wednesday. The news comes as a shock to fans, as Deepika played a pivotal role in the first installment, Kalki 2898 AD, which became one of Indian cinema’s biggest blockbusters, grossing over Rs. 1,100 crore.

Director Nag Ashwin had earlier indicated that the sequel would take time to go on floors, citing lead actor Prabhas’ busy sched-

ule. The recent official post on X stated, “This is to officially announce that Deepika Padukone will not be a part of the upcoming sequel of #Kalki-2898AD. After careful consideration, we have decided to part ways. Despite the long journey of making the first film, we were unable to find a partnership. And a film like Kalki 2898 AD deserves that commitment and much more. We wish her the best with her future works.”

Deepika’s exit highlights the high level of commitment expected from actors for a pro-

ject of this scale. The announcement follows reports of her departure from another major project, Sandeep Reddy Vanga’s Spirit, where her proposed eight-hour shifts were reportedly deemed incompatible with the film’s schedule.

Kalki 2 is expected to continue the story from the first film, with Prabhas reprising his role. While the female lead role remains vacant, speculation is already rife about potential replacements. Fans are eagerly awaiting updates on the casting, as the sequel is highly anticipated given the

massive success of the original.

The makers’ decision to part ways with Deepika underscores the challenges of aligning schedules and commitment levels in large-scale cinematic projects. The film’s production team has assured audiences that they are moving forward with full dedication to maintaining the quality and scale that made Kalki 2898 AD a record-breaking success.

## Upendra’s New Avatar As Andhra King



Ram Pothineni’s upcoming film Andhra King Taluka has generated significant excitement, with promotional material creating a strong buzz among fans. Two songs from the film—one penned by Ram himself and another sung by him—have already become chartbusters, adding to the anticipation ahead of its release.

On the occasion of actor Upendra’s birthday, the makers released a special poster showcasing his stylish and sleek look. Upendra plays a key role in the film, and the team has described his character as highly crucial and awe-inspiring. The actor’s presence

is expected to add significant weight to the narrative, complementing Ram Pothineni’s lead performance.

Currently, an important song sequence is being shot in Hyderabad on a specially erected set, featuring Ram and a large ensemble of dancers. The production has emphasized the scale and grandeur of the number, promising a visual treat for audiences. Bhagyashri Borse is playing the female lead, bringing charm and energy to the film’s central narrative.

Directed by Mahesh Babu P, Andhra King Taluka is said to feature a never-before-seen storyline, blending high-o-

tane drama with emotional depth. Mythri Movie Makers, the production house behind the project, has confirmed that the film is on track for its scheduled release on November 28, 2025.

The film’s team expressed jubilation at the positive response from fans and media, noting that the viral promotional content and chart-topping songs have set high expectations. With a mix of star power, music, and an engaging storyline, Andhra King Taluka is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated Telugu films of the year, aiming to make a significant impact at the box office.

## Prakash Raj Joins Pawan Kalyan’s OG; Fans Surprised

Fans of Telugu cinema were taken aback as veteran actor Prakash Raj has been confirmed to play a pivotal role in Pawan Kalyan’s upcoming film OG. The announcement came ahead of the film’s release on September 25, 2025, adding a new layer of excitement and curiosity among audiences.

Directed by Sujith Sain and produced by Danayya under the DVV Entertainments banner, OG has been generating buzz for its high-octane action and star-studded cast. The makers have been gradually revealing key characters, and Prakash Raj’s inclusion as Satyadada was met with shock and surprise, given recent reports of a public spat between the actor and Pawan Kalyan.

Prakash Raj, known for his versatile performances across South Indian cinema, is expected to bring a commanding presence to the role. While details of his character are being kept under wraps, insiders suggest that Satyadada plays a crucial part in the narrative, adding depth and intensity to the storyline.

The revelation has sparked conversations across social media, with fans expressing both surprise and excitement over this unexpected collaboration. The chemistry be-

tween Pawan Kalyan and Prakash Raj, who are both seasoned performers, is anticipated to be a highlight of the film.

With the release date just around the corner, the makers are keeping promotional updates steady, teasing glimpses of characters and key plot points to maintain the momentum. OG promises action, drama, and strong performances, and Prakash Raj’s entry is expected to further elevate expectations.

The film’s release on September 25 marks a major event for fans of Pawan Kalyan, with anticipation peaking due to its ensemble cast and gripping storyline. Audiences now eagerly await to see how Prakash Raj’s Satyadada fits into the world of OG and the dynamics he shares with Pawan Kalyan on screen.

