



**MINISTER
UTTAM KUMAR
REDDY
EMPHASIZES
QUALITY FOR
TELANGANA'S
PROGRESS**

Telangana's Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies, Captain N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, spoke at the 39th Annual Convention of the Quality Circle Forum of India (QCFI), Hyderabad Chapter, emphasizing quality as the cornerstone of effective governance and public welfare.

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**TELANGANA
MINISTER PONNAM
PRABHAKAR
LAUNCHES
"SUSTAINABILITY
ON WHEELS"**

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar recently launched the "Switch Eco Sustainability on Wheels" mobile vehicle at T-Work in Hyderabad, marking a significant step towards environmental conservation. This innovative mobile unit, which was built in Telangana for a global audience, was developed by a collaboration of 18 startup companies with a budget of Rs 67 lakh.

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HYDRA Saves Government Land Worth ₹50,000 Crore, Aims for Flood-Free Hyderabad

The Hyderabad Integrated Drainage and River Authority (HYDRA) has announced a series of strong measures to safeguard government lands, restore water bodies, and ensure effective flood management across the city. HYDRA Commissioner A.V. Ranganath revealed that the authority has so far reclaimed 923.14 acres of government land, valued at nearly ₹50,000 crore, from illegal encroachments.

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 22: Addressing a press conference on Monday, Ranganath said HYDRA's mission was not just about land recovery, but about preserving natural ecosystems and creating a safe, sustainable urban environment for future generations. "The stringent actions being taken now may seem harsh, but they are an invaluable gift to the next generation," he said.

Land Recovery and Anti-Encroachment Drives

According to the Commissioner, HYDRA has conducted 581 major eviction drives, many of them targeting large-scale encroachments by

influential individuals. The recent operations in Gajularamaram and Pragathinagar reclaimed 317 acres of land belonging to the State Finance Corporation, which had been under threat of private occupation. In Gandipet, resorts and recreational areas owned by political leaders were demolished. Similarly, large-scale structures affecting the flow of the Musi river were removed.

Of the total 923.14 acres recovered, 424 acres were prime government land, while the rest included water channels, roads, parks, and lakes. "If we fail to protect lakes, drains, and public spaces, the city's environment will collapse, and citizens

will face repeated floods. Our priority is to ensure Hyderabad remains a flood-free city," Ranganath emphasized.

Disaster Preparedness During Rains

Ranganath explained that HYDRA's work is not limited to demolition drives. With unpredictable climate changes causing intense cloudbursts and urban flooding, the authority has strengthened its disaster preparedness.

At present, 51 Disaster Response Force (DRF) teams with 825 personnel and 150 Monsoon Emergency Teams (MET) with 2,250 staff are on 24/7 duty. In addition, 736 static staff are stationed at 240 flood-prone localities across

the city. A toll-free helpline (1070) has also been set up for public complaints.

Public Participation and Grievance Redressal

Citizen complaints have been central to HYDRA's operations. Through its weekly 'Praja Vani' grievance redressal programme, HYDRA has received over 5,000 complaints so far, of which 75% have already been resolved. Apart from public meetings, complaints through media reports, WhatsApp, and social media platforms like X are also taken up for action.

"Encroachments on lakes, parks, drains, and government land will not

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Bandi Sanjay Targets KCR Family Over Alleged Links to Luxury Car Scam; BRS Hits Back

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Monday launched a sharp attack on Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) supremo and former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR) and his family, alleging their involvement in the luxury car scam. The remarks have triggered a political war of words between the BJP and BRS in Telangana.

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This monsoon season alone, HYDRA has

Cleaned 24,653 catchpits to improve stormwater drainage.	Removed 3,193 nala encroachments to ensure smooth flow of rainwater.	Cleared 7,457 silt from waterlogging points and 689 culverts.
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Responded to **4,625** fallen tree incidents, 319 fire emergencies, and 221 rescue calls.

Ranganath pointed out that flood-prone areas like Ameerpet Metro station, which previously submerged with just 5 cm of rainfall, did not witness waterlogging this year even after 10 cm of heavy showers, thanks to extensive desilting works.

CM Revanth Reddy Orders Expedited Land Acquisition, Compensation for National Highway Projects



TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 22: Chairing a high-level review meeting at the Secretariat on the development of national highways, the Chief Minister emphasized that road infrastructure is critical for economic growth and must not be stalled by minor procedural issues. The meeting was attended by senior officials of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRT&H), Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department, Forest Department, and senior state government functionaries.

Revanth Reddy instructed district Collectors to approach land acquisition from a humane perspective, explaining the benefits of road development to farmers while ensuring timely

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed officials to complete all pending land acquisition and compensation payments for national highway projects by the end of October, warning of stringent action against those who delay the process.

arbitration and compensation. He warned that negligence by Collectors, RDOs, or Tahsildars in this matter would invite removal from service.

The CM expressed displeasure over delays in the Regional Ring Road (RRR) project and asked NHAI to issue simultaneous approvals for the northern and southern alignments. Responding, NHAI officials assured the immediate approval of RRR South. The CM also pressed for quick clearance of the 12-lane Bharat Future City-Amaravati-Machilipatnam Greenfield Highway, which he described as a

"development hub" that will reduce travel distance between Hyderabad and Vijayawada by 70 km, while boosting logistics, dry ports, and industrial hubs.

Revanth Reddy reminded officials that the Greenfield project was assured under the AP Reorganization Act and urged its clearance under PM Gati Shakti or other schemes. He also called for the parallel sanction of a railway line linking Bengaluru-Shamshabad Airport-Amaravati, which he said could support high-speed trains, including Vande Bharat.

On pending proposals, the CM sought immediate approval for the elevated corridor between Raviryal and Mannanur along the Hyderabad-Srisailem route, frequently used by pilgrims and tourists. He ordered Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao to resolve cases pending with the National Green Tribunal regarding banyan tree removal on the Hyderabad-Manneguda road. The state also requested NHAI to approve the proposed Hyderabad-Mancherial-Nagpur highway, expected to attract new industrial parks.

In a video conference with district Collectors, the CM reviewed progress on highways such as Mancherial-Warangal-Khammam-Vijayawada (NH-163G), Armar-Jagityal-Mancherial (NH-63),

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Heavy Rains Bring Hyderabad to a Standstill: Traffic Chaos, Waterlogging Reported Across City

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 22: A spell of heavy rain on Monday afternoon wreaked havoc across Hyderabad, particularly in the northern, western, and central parts of the city. The downpour led to massive traffic jams, severe waterlogging, and left thousands of

commuters stranded for hours during peak evening travel time.

Several arterial roads and junctions in the city were clogged, with vehicles barely moving in long, snaking queues. The worst-affected stretches included Lakdikapul, Ranigunj, Shadan College junction at Khairatabad, KCP junction, Road No.

12 near Virinchi Hospital, Punjagutta to Raj Bhavan road, and the NFCL junction. Traffic moved at a snail's pace, and the congestion spilled over into smaller lanes and byroads as motorists tried to find alternate routes.

The most critical situation unfolded along the Tolichowki-Shaikpet road towards Gachi-

bowli and Mehdiapatnam. Here, waterlogging caused vehicles to remain stuck for over an hour, forcing many commuters to abandon their two-wheelers and wait on the roadside until the water levels receded. "I had to wait nearly 40 minutes with my scooter

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Telangana Jagruti President Kavitha Meets Demolition Victims

Telangana Jagruti President Kavitha visited residents of Gajula Ramaram, Balayya Basti, and Galipochamma Basti who were displaced after the demolition of their homes. These structures, located in survey numbers 307, 329/1, and 342, were part of a demolition drive by Hydra officials.



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Heavy Rains Bring Hyderabad to a Standstill: Traffic Chaos, Waterlogging Reported Across City

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parked on the footpath. It was impossible to ride through knee-deep water,” said Ramesh Kumar, a private employee stranded near Tolichowki.

At Amberpet Polytechnic, heavy flow of rainwater turned the road into a virtual stream, making it extremely difficult for motorists to navigate. Several small vehicles broke down in the middle of waterlogged stretches, adding to the chaos.

Hyderabad Traffic Police personnel were deployed in large numbers to manage the situation, but the intensity of the rain and widespread waterlogging made regulation a daunting task. Traffic officials said that even sub-roads and alternative lanes, usually opened to ease congestion during emergencies,

were themselves clogged due to the heavy flow of vehicles. “We tried diverting traffic to parallel routes, but those stretches were also jam-packed. Our teams were on the ground throughout, but the sheer volume of vehicles slowed down clearance,” a traffic inspector at Punjagutta said.

Commuters expressed frustration over the recurring problem of waterlogging during rains, which has become an annual ordeal for Hyderabad. “Every time it rains heavily, the same roads get flooded, and traffic collapses. It seems no permanent solution has been found to improve drainage or road conditions,” said Shalini, a software professional who was stuck for nearly 90 minutes on her way from Mehdiapatnam to Gachibowli.

Civic officials from the

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) said that emergency monsoon teams were deployed at critical junctions to pump out stagnant water. However, the sudden intensity of rainfall overwhelmed the city’s drainage system. “We are identifying choke points and ensuring that water recedes quickly. Additional teams have been moved to Tolichowki, Mehdiapatnam, and Khairatabad,” a GHMC official said.

Monday’s disruption once again highlighted Hyderabad’s vulnerability to urban flooding, particularly during sudden spells of heavy rain. With the monsoon still active, officials cautioned commuters to plan their travel with care and avoid flood-prone stretches during downpours.

CM Revanth Reddy Orders Expedited Land Acquisition, Compensation for National Highway Projects

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Jagityal-Karimnagar (NH-563), and Mahabubnagar-Marikal-Deosugur (NH-167). Collectors cited pending court cases and delays in fund release as bottlenecks. The CM directed the Chief Secretary to prepare a consolidated report, work with the Advocate General to resolve litigations, and ensure timely uploading of compensation lists for fund release.

On environmental clearances, the CM ex-

pressed frustration over delays, noting that permissions were being withheld even in non-wildlife areas. He assured that the state government would bear the cost of wildlife mitigation plans where required. He also offered alternative land for forest development in cases of forest land diversion and said he was prepared to meet Union Ministers Nitin Gadkari and Bhupender Yadav to resolve outstanding issues.

NHAI officials, mean-

while, requested land in Hyderabad for their regional office. The CM promptly directed officials to identify suitable land and expedite the process, earning appreciation from NHAI representatives.

The meeting was attended by R&B Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao, senior officials of NHAI and MoRT&H, and principal secretaries from various state departments.

CM Revanth Reddy Demands GST Compensation and Announces Bonuses

TPN Bureau,

Hderabad, Sept 22: Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy demanded that the central government compensate Telangana for a projected annual revenue loss of Rs 7000 crore due to the new GST rate rationalization structure.¹ Speaking during the announcement of profit share bonuses for Singareni employees, the Chief Minister said that the new GST system would negatively impact the state’s finances and that the Centre should support states facing such shortfalls.

Announcing a “Dasara bonus” for Singareni employees, CM Revanth Reddy assured that the state government would address their concerns regarding increasing private partnership in Singareni Collieries Company Limited. He stated that the workers had requested the government to take over the coal mines currently run by private agencies, as this private involvement threatens the company’s existence.

The Chief Minister committed the Telanga-

na government to the welfare of Singareni employees and pledged to continue developing the company as a profitable entity. He acknowledged the crucial role of Singareni workers in the Telangana statehood movement, noting that the new government recognizes their services.²

Regarding the company’s performance, he announced that out of a total income of Rs 6394 crore, Rs 4,034 crore would be used for investments. An amount of Rs 819 crore, which constitutes 34% of the profits, was distributed as a bonus to the employees.³ The bonus for contract employees was also increased from Rs 5,000 to Rs 5,500.⁴

Revanth Reddy praised the workers for their efforts in making Singareni a consistently profitable company and stated that the government’s decision to share profits with them every year is a recognition of their hard work.⁵ He also reiterated his government’s commitment to making Singareni a competitive entity on par with corporate companies.



Telangana Excise Department Cracks Down on Illicit Liquor

TPN Bureau,

Hderabad, Sept 22: The Telangana Excise Department has launched a special drive to combat the illegal transportation and sale of non-duty paid liquor (NDPL) and “Natusarah” (illicitly distilled liquor), particularly in anticipation of the upcoming Dussehra festival.¹ This initiative, under the direction of Prohibition and Excise Enforcement Director Shaan Vaz Qasim, runs from September 15th to 30th.

In just one week, the specialized teams—including the STF (State Task Force), DTF (District Task Force), and other enforcement teams—have seized a record-breaking 1704 liq-

uor bottles. The estimated value of the confiscated alcohol is Rs. 68.16 lakh. This amount is particularly significant as it surpasses the total NDPL seizures over the last three years combined. Previously, the state had registered 4516 cases over ten years, leading to the arrest of 3238 people and the seizure of 1,22,222 liters of liquor.³ In 2024 alone, up to August, 381 cases were filed, and 8201 liters were seized.⁴ The recent week’s seizure of 1704 bottles is considered a significant achievement in a short period.

The drive is also targeting Natusarah production and sales in districts like Mahabubabad, Bhupalpally, Mahabubnagar, Nagarkurnool,

Suryapet, Adilabad, and Khammam. According to the department, illegal traders are exploiting the festive season by purchasing cheaper liquor from other states and smuggling it into Telangana via air, rail, and bus, causing substantial revenue losses to the state.

Director Shaan Vaz Qasim commended the teams for their diligent work and urged them to continue their efforts to prevent the influx of illicit liquor from other states. The department’s focus remains on curbing these illegal activities to protect both state revenue and public health.⁶ The raids will continue for another week as part of the ongoing special drive.

BRS Leaders’ Press Conference on MLA Defections and Political Attacks

Former Minister G. Jagadish Reddy, along with MLAs Padi Kausaik Reddy and Dr. K. Sanjay, held a press conference at the Assembly Media Point to address the issue of MLA defections from the BRS to the Congress party.

During the conference, Jagadish Reddy accused the MLAs who switched parties of betraying the public and the BRS. He mentioned that the party had provided all necessary documentation to the Assembly Secretary and was confident that the Speaker would make an impartial decision. He also asserted that the actions of the defecting MLAs were apparent to the people and that by-elections were bound to happen, leading to the loss of their seats.

Reddy broadened his

criticism to both the Congress and BJP, holding them responsible for encouraging political defections. He specifically targeted Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy, calling him “brainless” and blaming the Congress for what he termed “misdeeds” that resulted in a 299% share of Krishna river water for them.

In response to comments made by Bandi Sanjay about KTR purchasing used cars, Reddy dismissed them as trivial, sarcastically questioning if Sanjay had discovered the concept of buying second-hand vehicles. He concluded his remarks by challenging Ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy and Revanth Reddy to a public debate, promising to present evidence to support all his claims

HYDRA Saves Government Land Worth ₹50,000 Crore, Aims for Flood-Free Hyderabad

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be tolerated. However, we are not targeting residential houses or legally permitted buildings. There is unnecessary propaganda on social media suggesting otherwise,” Ranganath clarified.

He cited the case of Vertex Real Estate in Shamshabad, where allegations of a road being removed from private land were raised. “That was purely a private dispute. On the contrary, when the same company encroached upon a nearby lake, we took swift action, cleared the illegal structures, and registered police cases

against the owners,” he said.

Lake Restoration – A Priority

HYDRA has also prioritized lake rejuvenation as a long-term flood prevention strategy. “During Bathukamma celebrations, we successfully restored the Amberpet Bathukamma Lake, which gave us immense satisfaction and inspiration,” Ranganath said.

Currently, six lakes across the city are undergoing revival under HYDRA’s first-phase programme. Originally spread over 105 acres, these lakes now cover



180 acres after encroachments were removed — a gain of 75

acres. The Commissioner assured that these projects would be com-

pleted by January, and many more lakes would be restored in the

future.

“Hyderabad has hundreds of lakes. If just six lakes can expand by 75 acres, one can imagine the scale of impact when all water bodies are rejuvenated. Expanding lakes and strengthening natural drainage systems will significantly reduce the threat of floods,” he explained.

“Criticism Today, Appreciation Tomorrow”

Reflecting on criticism over HYDRA’s demolition drives, Ranganath said such reactions were not new in his career. He recalled

past high-profile investigations like the Ayesha Meera murder case (2007 in Vijayawada) and the Pranay honor killing case in Nalgonda, where initial backlash later turned into public appreciation after justice was delivered.

“In the same way, today’s criticism of HYDRA’s strict actions will eventually be recognized as necessary steps for Hyderabad’s future,” he remarked confidently.

Towards a Safer, Sustainable Hyderabad
Ranganath concluded by stressing HYDRA’s vision: a flood-free, environmentally resilient

Hyderabad. With extensive land recovery, proactive flood management, and long-term lake restoration, HYDRA aims to strike a balance between urban growth and ecological sustainability.

“Saving government land worth ₹50,000 crore is not just about numbers. It is about preserving public assets, protecting the environment, and securing the city’s future,” he said.

The press meet was also attended by HYDRA Additional Commissioner N. Ashok Kumar, Additional Directors Varla Papayya, and Administrative SP R. Sudarshan.

Bandi Sanjay Targets KCR Family Over Alleged Links to Luxury Car Scam; BRS Hits Back

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 22: Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Monday launched a sharp attack on Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) supremo and former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR) and his family, alleging their involvement in the luxury car scam. The remarks have triggered a political war of words between the BJP and BRS in Telangana.

Taking to social media platform 'X', Bandi Sanjay raised questions about the alleged association of the BRS leadership with Basarath Ahmed Khan, a Hyderabad-based luxury car dealer who was arrested by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) in May 2025 for customs duty evasion linked to the import of high-end

vehicles.

"Is Car Party running on smuggled luxury cars?" Bandi Sanjay asked, in a veiled reference to the BRS, whose election symbol is a car.

He particularly targeted BRS working president K. T. Rama Rao (KTR), questioning his association with the accused dealer. "Why is Twitter Tillu seen in land cruisers imported by luxury car scam-accused Basarath Khan, arrested by DRI Ahmedabad?" he asked. The BJP leader often refers to KTR as 'Twitter Tillu', a nickname he uses to mock the former minister's frequent presence on social media.

Bandi Sanjay went further, alleging that the luxury cars were linked to companies associated with KCR's family. "Why are they registered with companies linked to KCR's family? Were these cars



bought at market price or undervalued? How were payments made – benami, masked income, or laundering? Doesn't this make KCR's family direct beneficiaries of the conspiracy? Truth must come out.

We will request concerned departments to investigate," he wrote.

The allegations stem from the DRI probe, which uncovered a racket involving the undervaluation of luxury cars to evade customs

duty. According to the agency, several high-end vehicles were imported by using forged invoices and shell companies, causing huge losses to the exchequer. Basarath Ahmed Khan, who has reportedly dealt with

political and business elites in Hyderabad, remains under investigation.

Reacting strongly to Bandi Sanjay's charges, BRS leader Krishank Manne accused the BJP of selective targeting. In

a counter post on 'X', Krishank asked why Telangana BJP leaders repeatedly attacked KTR while sparing Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy.

"If buying a Car from a Car Dealer is a Crime then MoS Home should arrest all Congress Leaders & BJP leaders who purchased Cars from this Dealer. The Car Dealer is close to your best friend Revanth whom your agencies are protecting," Krishank wrote. He also shared photographs allegedly showing the car dealer with Revanth Reddy and other Congress leaders.

Continuing his counterattack, Krishank questioned why Bandi Sanjay remained silent on the Congress government. "Why don't you question Revanth's involvement? Is it that Revanth is protecting you from your Granite Collections? Bandi garu,

except personal targeting, have you been of any help for Telangana State?" he asked.

The BRS leader further alleged that the BJP's legal cell had been filing caveats in anticipation of defamation suits. "It seems out of fear over Legal Suits your BJP Legal Cell has been filing Caveat. Are they so sure that you are well known for foul mouthing," Krishank added.

The exchange underscores the rising political temperature in Telangana, with the BJP stepping up its attack on the BRS, while the regional party attempts to counter by highlighting the ruling Congress party's alleged links to the same dealer. With the DRI investigation still underway, the allegations and counter-allegations are likely to keep the issue in the political spotlight in the weeks ahead.

KTR Accuses Congress of Betraying Farmers over RRR Realignment

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 22: BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao launched a scathing attack on the Congress government on Monday, accusing it of betraying farmers by altering the alignment of the proposed Regional Ring Road (RRR) to serve vested interests. He urged farmers in the affected villages to boycott the upcoming local body polls as a mark of protest, promising that the BRS would stand firmly by their side until the alignment was corrected in a scientific and fair manner.

Farmers from Nalgonda, Suryapet, Gajwel and Sangareddy constituencies, who claim to be severely impacted by the RRR realignment, met Rama Rao at Telangana Bhavan to voice their concerns. Former Minister G. Jagadish Reddy and other public representatives from the erstwhile Nalgonda district also participated in the meeting.

Speaking on the occasion, Rama Rao alleged that the Congress had blatantly gone back on its election promises. "Before the Assembly elections, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi personally assured that farmers would not be made to suffer because of the RRR alignment in Nalgonda. Based on this promise, people trusted them and voted

them to power. But once in office, the Congress has inflicted irreparable damage by changing the alignment to suit the interests of a few," he said.

Rama Rao accused the ruling party of being more focused on commissions than on public welfare. "After securing seats, Congress leaders abandoned the people and are now busy collecting money bags to send to their Delhi bosses. This selfish realignment is destroying lives and livelihoods. Farmers should resist it with unity," he declared.

He called upon affected villages to pass resolutions, boycott the local body elections, and collectively protest against the move. "If farmers boycott the polls and intensify their struggle, both the State and Central governments will be forced to respond," he said, adding that Telangana Bhavan would serve as a "Janata Garage" where farmers could seek legal, political and organizational support.

Drawing comparisons with the BRS regime, Rama Rao highlighted how land acquisition disputes during projects like the Outer Ring Road were resolved. "When we were in power, we always ensured dialogue with farmers, provided fair rehabilitation and found permanent solutions. The Congress government, on the

other hand, is bulldozing ahead without even consulting the affected families," he said.

The BRS leader also criticized the silence of the Union government on the matter. "Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy has written to the Centre about the State government's realignment of the RRR, but the Centre has not responded. BRS MPs will raise this issue in the Rajya Sabha and we will also corner the Congress in the Assembly. Unfortunately, this government does not even have the courage to convene an Assembly session on such a burning issue," he remarked.

Rama Rao further accused the Congress of repeating past mistakes that once caused immense suffering in Nalgonda. "This district suffered for decades with the fluorosis problem. It was K. Chandrashekar Rao who transformed Nalgonda through Mission Bhagiratha and irrigation projects, bringing water, prosperity and dignity to the people. But the Congress is undoing all that progress by betraying the very farmers who believed in them," he said.

The meeting at Telangana Bhavan ended with BRS leaders reaffirming their commitment to lead a prolonged political and legal fight until the RRR alignment was revisited and justice was delivered to farmers.

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 22: The race among Congress aspirants to secure the ticket for the upcoming Jubilee Hills Assembly by-election has triggered unease within the party's Telangana leadership. Even before the Election Commission issues the formal notification, several hopefuls have hit the streets with aggressive campaigns, leaving the party worried about the growing internal discord.

Flexies, banners, and hoardings of aspirants have mushroomed across colonies such as Rajeevnagar, Yousufguda, and Borabanda. The publicity blitz, intended to project individuals as frontrunners, has created visible factional lines within the Congress cadre. On Saturday, former MP Anjan Kumar Yadav sought to strengthen his presence in Rajeevnagar by organising a free spectacles distribution camp. Meanwhile, other aspirants, including cor-



porator C.N. Reddy, Naveen Yadav, and Kanjarla Vijayalaxmi, have also put up large posters and organised programmes in different localities.

In a video clip widely circulated on social media, Anjan Kumar Yadav is seen declaring, "I am a senior in the Congress and the party has confirmed a ticket for me. That's the reason I am conducting all these programmes in the constituency." His remarks have not only raised eyebrows within the party but also heightened the rivalry among competing aspirants.

Despite the proliferation of flexies and hoardings, neither the GHMC nor the Hyderabad Roads

and Related Amenities Authority (HYDRAA) has acted against the leaders for defacement of public spaces.

The Telangana Congress, however, appears more concerned about the internal wrangling than civic violations. Party strategists fear that unchecked competition could weaken the Congress in a constituency that has already been politically sensitive. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has stressed on multiple occasions that the final decision rests with the All India Congress Committee (AICC). He instructed Ministers Ponnampahad, Vivek Venkatswamy, Tummala Nageswara Rao and others to focus

on development initiatives in Jubilee Hills instead of fuelling internal rivalries.

Yet, differences have continued to spill into the open. Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagender and corporator P. Vijaya Reddy have been at loggerheads, clashing on several occasions. This divide among senior leaders has only compounded the stiff competition at the grassroots, where aspirants are accused of splitting party cadre along caste lines.

"Apart from local versus non-local debates, aspirants are now dividing the cadre on caste basis. Beyond the Reddy versus Yadav rivalry, there are even tensions among Yadav aspirants themselves," a senior leader at Gandhi Bhavan admitted.

Further complicating matters, surveys predicting poor performance by Congress in the by-election have been circulated on social media, causing unrest among party workers. Taking strong exception, TPCC Media

Communications Chairman Sama Rammohan Reddy dismissed the surveys as fake and politically motivated. "Saidulu is in no way connected with the Congress party and his claims that the party hired him to conduct a survey are false. The party has not appointed any psephologist officially," he clarified.

The by-election has emerged as a critical test for the ruling party in Telangana, not just to retain a prestigious urban seat but also to project unity and organizational discipline. For the Congress leadership, balancing caste equations, reigning in overzealous aspirants, and mending rifts among senior leaders will be crucial in preventing internal sabotage.

Until the AICC steps in to announce the official candidate, the scramble for Jubilee Hills is expected to intensify, exposing more fault lines within the Congress and offering rivals an opportunity to capitalise on its disarray.

Harish Rao Slams Revanth Govt Over Singareni Bonus Cut, Demands 34% Share on Net Profit

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 22: Former minister and senior BRS leader T. Harish Rao has strongly criticized the Congress government led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy for allegedly shortchanging workers of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL). He accused the government of betraying labour by reducing the profit-share bonus payable to employees and demanded that a 34% bonus be declared on the entire net profit of ₹6,394 crore.

Speaking to reporters on Monday, Harish Rao charged that instead of bringing festive cheer, the Congress government delivered "bitter news" to workers during Dasara. "Singareni reg-

istered net profits of ₹6,394 crore this year. But instead of calculating the bonus on that figure, the government restricted the distributable base to just ₹2,360 crore and announced a payout on 34% of that amount. This is nothing short of cheating," he said.

According to him, the move has effectively cut the expected bonus by more than half, leaving thousands of miners and their families disappointed. "Congress has played with the hopes of workers who toiled day and night to make Singareni profitable. By manipulating numbers, they have robbed labour of its rightful share," he added.

Harish Rao contrasted this with the approach of the previous BRS government under K. Chandrashekar Rao. "During

the undivided Andhra Pradesh era, Singareni workers used to receive only about 16% of the company's profits. After Telangana was formed, KCR ensured that workers' share increased steadily. By 2022-23, their profit share had reached 32%, recognising their sacrifices for the statehood movement and their contribution to the growth of the company," he said.

The former minister alleged that the Congress government is reversing these hard-won gains. "Instead of honouring workers, the present government has diverted their rightful bonus share under the pretext of future plans and investments. It is unfair and unacceptable," he remarked.

Harish Rao also reminded that KCR's poli-

cies had helped transform Singareni from a loss-making entity into one of the most profitable public sector undertakings in Telangana. "It was only under BRS that Singareni marched ahead with rising profits, better welfare measures and dignity for workers. The Congress government, in contrast, is dragging the company back into an era of neglect and betrayal," he charged.

Warning of protests, the BRS leader said his party would stand shoulder to shoulder with the miners. "If the government does not correct this injustice, we will launch an agitation in support of workers. The bonus must be declared on the full net profit, not on a reduced figure," he said.

On its part, the state

government has defended the decision. Officials have argued that the announced payout is significant, covering both permanent and contract workers. They also pointed out that part of the profits were being channelled into expansion and infrastructure projects meant to secure the company's long-term future.

However, trade unions and worker representatives are not convinced. Many have demanded clarity on why the ₹6,394 crore net profit figure was not fully considered. Questions have been raised over whether statutory deductions and reserves were wrongly excluded, and whether the government's accounting method stands up to scrutiny.





Summary of Malkajgiri MP Etela Rajender’s Statement

Following the demolition of structures on government land in Gajula Ramaram, Malkajgiri MP Etela Rajender visited the site to condemn the actions of the Revanth Reddy government. He criticized the demolition of small homes belonging to the poor, stating that it was unjust and cruel, especially when valuable government land had been previously encroached upon by leaders and used for real estate.

Rajender pointed out that the residents were

not recent illegal occupants, but were generations of workers who had originally lived in huts near gravel quarries and had gradually built more permanent homes. He argued that it was hypocritical for the government to demolish these homes, leaving 300 families on the street, while claiming to be saving vast tracts of land. He compared the government’s actions unfavorably to those of past rulers like the Nizams, questioning how the government could attack its own citizens—

”the beloved children of Mother India”—as if they were foreign enemies. He noted that the demolition was carried out with extreme measures, including cutting off electricity and water supply. Rajender demanded that the government immediately provide justice and relief to the displaced families. He also took a jab at the officials, suggesting that shedding tears for the poor would do them no good. Several local leaders and officials were also present at the event.

MLA Sabita Indra Reddy Visits Flooded Areas



Former minister and MLA, Smt. Sabita Indra Reddy, toured the waterlogged regions of her constituency, specifically visiting Almasguda, Jaishankar Colony, and Sairam Colony within the Badangpet Municipal Corporation.

During her visit, the MLA identified the root cause of the flooding. She stated that the main issue was the failure of municipal staff to clear soil and debris from the drainage systems, despite a 100-day plan being in effect. She strongly criticized this negligence, arguing

that the flooding could have been avoided had the drains been cleaned preemptively instead of officials inspecting them after the downpour. Smt. Sabita Indra Reddy also expressed her frustration that authorities did not heed the warnings issued by

the Meteorological Department. She immediately contacted the Commissioner by phone, issuing directives for a prompt resolution to the problem. The MLA urged BRS party workers to remain accessible to the public and be prepared to assist during emer-

gencies. Accompanying her on the tour were several local public representatives and leaders from the Badangpet Municipal Corporation, including presidents Ramidi Ramireddy and Mutyala Krishna, as well as Enugu Ramireddy Boyapalli Sekhar Reddy.

Minister Sridhar Babu Pitches Telangana to Italian Industrialists

Telangana’s Minister for IT and Industries, Sri Duddilla Sridhar Babu, recently met with a delegation of Italian industrialists at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat to promote investment opportunities in the state’s aerospace and defence sectors. During the meeting, the Minister highlighted Telangana’s rapid growth and its emergence as a major hub for these industries in India.2 He outlined the strategic advantages the state offers to investors, including a robust ecosystem and a favorable business environment.

Minister Sridhar Babu

specifically encouraged the Italian firms to consider investing in various areas within the aerospace and defence sectors.4 He pointed out opportunities in component manufacturing and supply chain management, Maintenance-Repair-Overhaul (MRO) services, avionics, radar and sensor systems, as well as the burgeoning fields of new-space technologies, small satellites, and the production of advanced materials and composites. His presentation was a direct invitation to the Italian delegation to explore and capitalize on the growing potential of Telangana’s aerospace and defence ecosystem.



Telangana Jagruti President Kavitha Meets Demolition Victims

Telangana Jagruti President Kavitha visited residents of Gajula Ramaram, Balayya Basti, and Galipochamma Basti who were displaced after the demolition of their homes. These structures, located in survey numbers 307, 329/1, and 342, were part of a demolition drive by Hydra officials.1 Kavitha criticized the state government’s lack of sincerity, stating that the demolitions were carried out without regard for court orders, specifically on weekends. She accused the government of deliber-

ately causing distress to the poor during festive seasons. She challenged the government to take action against larger land encroachments, such as the 12 acres allegedly occupied by Arikepudi Gandhi. She called the act of demolishing the homes of families, without any prior notice, a “heinous act,” especially with young children present. She warned the government that any further demolitions must be preceded by providing alternative housing for the affected individuals. Kavitha also mentioned that she had previously

given an ultimatum and would personally obstruct future demolition efforts if people were to be thrown onto the streets. She demanded that the government first provide double bedroom houses to the displaced families before attempting to remove their current dwellings. Kavitha vowed to launch a large-scale movement on behalf of the poor through Telangana Jagruti if the government fails to address the issue properly. Her visit saw the participation of various local leaders and community members.

Singareni Workers Receive Dussehra Bonus and New Ventures Announced



TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 22: Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu announced a significant Dussehra bonus for 71,000 Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) employees. Permanent workers will receive a bonus of ₹1,95,610 each, while contract workers will receive ₹5,500 each, a historic first for this category of employees. The total bonus payout amounts to ₹819 crore. The Deputy CM provided a financial overview, stating that out of Singareni’s net profit of ₹6,394 crore after taxes, ₹4,034 crore will be allocated for future expansion projects.1 The remaining profit is ₹2,360

crore, and the government decided to distribute 34% of this amount as a bonus. Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu also outlined the new government’s strategic plans for the company. He noted that during the previous administration, two coal blocks were lost to private firms because the state did not participate in central government auctions. The current government is now actively working to reclaim these lost coal blocks and has already communicated with the central government on this matter. Beyond coal, Singareni is set to diversify its operations by venturing into the mining of critical minerals.4 The Deputy CM explained that the

company has already secured tenders for gold and copper mining in Karnataka.5 Singareni will perform exploration and excavation, and any future entities that acquire these mines will pay a 35% royalty to Singareni for the life of the mine. To support this expansion and transform Singareni into a “shining example of success,” the government has engaged prominent consultancies like PwC and KPMG. The Deputy CM emphasized that Singareni is more than just a company; it is the “soul of Telangana” and must be protected and cherished. The new initiatives are aimed at safeguarding the company’s future and ensuring its continued growth and profitability.

Summary of Maharaja Shri Agrasen’s Birth Anniversary Celebrations

Telangana Chief Minister Shri Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Shri Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu recently participated in the 5149th birth anniversary celebrations of Maharaja Shri Agrasen. The event was marked by a ceremony where they garlanded his statue and paid their respects. During the event, Deputy Chief Minister Shri Bhatti Vikramarka

highlighted the importance of Maharaja Shri Agrasen’s principles. He emphasized that Agrasen’s dedication to social harmony and equality serves as a crucial inspiration for everyone. The Deputy CM stated that it is a collective responsibility to uphold and work towards social justice and peaceful coexistence. He further elaborated that the values and path demonstrated by Maharaja Agrasen are

a guiding force for the progress and development of the nation. The Deputy CM underscored that Agrasen’s teachings promote brotherhood and complete equality among all people, making them highly relevant for contemporary society. The participation of the state’s top leaders in the celebration underscores the government’s respect for and commitment to the ideals espoused by Maharaja Agrasen.





Former Minister Harish Rao on the New Siddipet Palm Oil Factory

Former Minister Harish Rao, along with other BRS party leaders, visited the newly inaugurated palm oil factory in Narmetta village, Siddipet district. Speaking at the event, he described the factory as more than just a plant; he called it an “emotion” that will bring a qualitative change to the lives of thousands of farmers. Rao recalled the history of the area, which was once declared a drought-prone zone. He contrasted this with the present, where groundwater levels have risen significantly due to irrigation projects like Kaleshwaram, Palamuru, and Sitarama. This, he said, has made the

entire Telangana region, including Siddipet, suitable for palm oil cultivation. He claimed that the BRS party planted the seeds for the project, while the Congress government is now taking the credit. He accused Chief Minister Revanth Reddy of being ready with “scissors in his pocket to cut the ribbon,” suggesting he is taking advantage of the BRS’s hard work. Rao shared a personal story about his early days as an MLA in 2004, when boring carts were a common sight in the drought-stricken Nangunur mandal. He said that today, thanks to the vision of KCR and his irrigation projects, these carts have disap-



peared as the area has become fertile. He also mentioned that in 2018, the Indian Institute of Oil Research (IIOR) had initially stated that palm oil could not be cultivated in the region due to low humidity. However, after the completion of projects like Ananthagiri, Ranganayaka Sagar, Mallanna Sagar,

and Kondapochamma Sagar, a 2021 research study showed that the humidity had increased, making the area suitable for palm oil. This, he argued, was a direct result of KCR’s initiatives. He highlighted the benefits of palm oil cultivation, stating that it is more profitable than traditional crops like

paddy and maize. He mentioned an anecdote about an IT professional who left his job to cultivate palm oil due to its high income potential. Rao stated that the BRS government had laid the foundation stone for the factory in April 2022 and brought technology from Malaysia to ensure high efficiency, with a yield of 20 tons of oil for every 100 tons of palm oil processed, which is higher than the national average. He concluded by expressing confidence that KCR will return to power and will set up a palm oil factory in every district, fulfilling his vision to support farmers and create a prosperous Telangana.

Oilseeds Corporation Chairman Janga Raghava Reddy on Narmeta Factory



Telangana Oilseeds Corporation Chairman, Janga Raghava Reddy, held a press conference at Gandhi Bhavan, where he addressed the political controversy surrounding the newly completed oil factory in Narmeta, Siddipet district. Reddy stated that the factory was finalized under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. He criticized former minister Harish Rao’s claim that the BRS party completed the project and that the Congress government’s delays caused it to be finished late. Reddy accused Harish Rao of politicizing the factory for electoral gain and warned

him not to play with the lives of farmers. He also reminded the BRS leader of his party’s past policies, specifically mentioning the “suicide if you sow paddy” comment, and the history of putting farmers in “chains.” Reddy asserted that the BRS government had only laid the foundation for the factory and that the tender agreement and subsequent work were initiated only after Congress came to power in December 2023. Responding to Harish Rao’s statement about promoting palm oil cultivation, Reddy clarified that former minister Tummala Nageswara Rao was the first to sign a docu-

ment to promote oil palm cultivation. He added that Nageswara Rao was the one who suggested Siddipet as a favorable location for the factory. Finally, Reddy raised questions about the BRS government’s alleged corruption, citing their “looting” of thousands of crores in the Kaleshwaram project and even a statement from Kavitha, who, as his own daughter, had spoken about corruption. He also questioned whether Harish Rao was unaware that urea supply is a central government responsibility. Reddy concluded by stating that Tummala Nageswara Rao is working to support the farmers.

Telangana Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Launches “Sustainability on Wheels”



Minister Ponnam Prabhakar recently launched the “Switch Eco Sustainability on Wheels” mobile vehicle at T-Work in Hyderabad, marking a significant step towards environmental conservation. This innovative mobile unit, which was built in Telangana for a global audience, was developed by a collaboration of 18 startup companies with a budget of Rs 67 lakh. The vehicle is designed to address the growing issue of pollution by collecting and recycling various types of waste. It features machines that process papers, plastic waste, e-waste, metal waste, discarded cigarette butts, sanitary pads, and textile and compostable waste. During the launch event, Minister Prabhakar praised the concept, which originated from the idea of Manu Chowdhury, the current Medchal District Collector. The minister emphasized the need to reduce pollution and create a “plastic-free society” by recycling materials that pose health risks, such as those associated with cancer and pregnancy-related diseases. He announced that the vehicle would be deployed for the first time

in Husnabad Municipality. As part of a broader initiative in the region, 284 women’s groups in Husnabad have already received steel banks containing 13 types of items, promoting the use of steel over plastic. The minister also mentioned that steel glasses have been distributed to 300 tea stalls in the constituency to further curb plastic usage. Prabhakar acknowledged the efforts of the 18 startups that built the vehicle and assured them that he would introduce the project to the Chief Minister within two days. He stressed the importance of public cooperation for such government initiatives to succeed. He also called for large-scale tree planting to protect the environment and urged builders to install water harvesting points in all new constructions to conserve water, especially with looming summer difficulties. The minister highlighted the government’s efforts to supply water from multiple sources but stressed the need for community involvement in water conservation. The event was attended by several key officials and leaders, including Siddipet DRDO Jayadev and Swachh Bharat Mission Director Suresh Babu.



MLA Sabita Indra Reddy Visits Flooded Areas

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She stated that the main issue was the failure of municipal staff to clear soil and debris from the drainage systems, despite a 100-day plan being in effect. She strongly criticized this negligence, arguing that the flooding could have been avoided had the drains been cleaned preemptively instead of officials inspecting them after the

downpour. Smt. Sabita Indra Reddy also expressed her frustration that authorities did not heed the warnings issued by the Meteorological Department. She immediately contacted the Commissioner by phone, issuing directives for a prompt resolution to the problem. The MLA urged BRS party workers to remain

accessible to the public and be prepared to assist during emergencies. Accompanying her on the tour were several local public representatives and leaders from the Badangpet Municipal Corporation, including presidents Ramidi Ramireddy and Mutyala Krishna, as well as Enugu Ramireddy Boyapalli Sekhar Reddy.



Telangana Invites Italian Aerospace and Defence Investments

Telangana’s IT and Industries Minister, Duddilla Sridhar Babu, extended an invitation to Italian firms to invest in the state’s burgeoning aerospace and defence sectors. Addressing a meeting at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat, the Minister highlighted Telangana’s position as one of India’s fastest-growing hubs in these industries. Sridhar Babu detailed the state’s robust ecosystem, which he said is ideal for investments in various areas, including component manufacturing, supply chain management, Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul

(MRO), avionics, radar and sensor systems, new-space technologies, small satellites, and advanced materials. He emphasized Telangana’s advantages, such as dedicated aerospace parks, Special Economic Zones (SEZs), a wide network of MSMEs, advanced R&D facilities, world-class infrastructure, and a skilled workforce. The Minister also highlighted the state’s business-friendly policies, noting that the TS-iPASS system guarantees project approvals within 15 days, a speed unmatched in other parts of the country. The minister pointed out that Hyderabad is already home to major na-

tional and international companies, including Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, DRDO, Tata Advanced Systems, Boeing, and Lockheed Martin. He also mentioned the growing presence of local startups like Dhruva Space, Ananth Technologies, and Skyroot Aerospace, which are gaining international recognition. Sridhar Babu identified specific areas for collaboration, suggesting that Italy’s expertise in engine maintenance, avionics, radar, and sensor systems could be highly beneficial to Telangana’s manufacturing and innovation base. He added that partnerships in advanced mate-

rials, such as lightweight, high-strength composites, would also be mutually advantageous and strengthen the bilateral relationship. The meeting was attended by key officials, including Special Chief Secretary Sanjay Kumar, Defence and Aerospace Director Praveen P.A., and Italian representatives like Consul General Gian Domenico Milano and Trade Commissioner Antonietta Baccanari. The presence of leading Italian companies such as Leonardo, Leaf Space, and Vanzetti Engineering underscored the strong interest in potential partnerships.

Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy Emphasizes Quality for Telangana’s Progress

Telangana’s Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies, Captain N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, spoke at the 39th Annual Convention of the Quality Circle Forum of India (QCFI), Hyderabad Chapter, emphasizing quality as the cornerstone of effective governance and public welfare. He highlighted that in government, quality is crucial for two key areas: irrigation and civil supplies. In irrigation projects, the structural quality of canals and reservoirs directly impacts farmers’ livelihoods. He cautioned that poor construction could hinder water delivery for decades. For civil supplies, he stated that maintaining high standards in procurement, storage, and distribution is essential to ensure that food items purchased with taxpayer money reach citizens without spoilage or diversion. To achieve this, the government is investing in digitization and real-time monitoring. Reddy expanded his perspective to a national context, stating that quality is a national necessity. He warned that subpar products not only disappoint customers but also harm “brand India” in the global marketplace. Conversely, delivering world-class quality enhances the country’s credibility and market access. He stressed that India’s goal of self-reliance by 2047 must be built on the pillars of innovation, skill development, and quality excellence to remain globally competitive.

He also addressed the evolving industrial landscape, mentioning that digital technologies, AI, and automation are reshaping quality standards. He urged organizations to integrate sustainability and green practices into their quality systems. The minister acknowledged the vital role of QCFI in promoting quality from the ground up. He noted that the Quality Circle approach empowers employees to solve problems, innovate, and improve productivity. He recognized the Hyderabad Chapter as a leader in this movement and thanked the organizers for the opportunity to inaugurate the convention. Drawing on his personal experience, Reddy revealed his background as a former fighter pilot in the Indian Air Force and an ADC to two former Presidents of India. He mentioned his career in public service, which he described as “almost accidental,” and his seven consecutive election victories. In closing, he reiterated the Telangana government’s commitment to supporting QCFI and its mission. He stated the government is working to make Hyderabad a global investment destination and one of the most livable cities, while simultaneously striving to make Telangana the fastest-growing state in the country. He concluded by calling on all participants to make quality a way of life and a driving force for national development.



India's New Maritime Laws Deliver Ease Of Business Only For A Few



India recently witnessed the passage of three major maritime laws—the Indian Ports Act, 2025; the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025; and the Coastal Shipping Act, 2025—aimed at modernising the country's ports and shipping sector. While these reforms promise improved efficiency and ease of doing business, concerns have emerged about the concentration of authority, ambiguity in implementation, and the marginalisation of small operators and coastal states

The Indian Ports Act, 2025, replaces legislation that had been in place since 1908. On paper, it updates India's maritime framework, promising coherence, sustainability, and modern governance. However, the creation of the Maritime State Development Council, chaired by the Union Minister of Ports, centralises decision-making and allows binding guidelines for states. This structure risks subordinating regional priorities, such as Kerala's port strategies, to centrally dictated projects like Sagarmala and PM Gati

Shakti. Furthermore, Clause 17 bars civil courts from resolving port-related disputes, directing parties to internal committees, which raises questions about transparency and investor confidence

The Merchant Shipping Act, 2025, brings updates to vessel registration, safety, environmental obligations, and offshore operations. While modernisation is welcome, the Act relaxes ownership norms, allowing partial foreign or Overseas Citizen of India ownership, creating ambiguity and potential for misuse. Mandatory registration for all vessels, regardless of size, may also burden small operators, particularly in the fishing sector

The Coastal Shipping Act, 2025, strengthens cabotage rules but grants the Director General of Shipping broad discretion to license foreign vessels under vague conditions, leaving small operators vulnerable. Mandatory reporting requirements and centrally dictated

strategic plans risk sidelining local priorities and coastal communities

While the reforms signal India's intent to modernise its maritime sector, the approach—passed without parliamentary debate or consultation with coastal states and stakeholders—raises concerns about democratic accountability, regulatory clarity, and federal balance. Infrastructure like the Vizhinjam port, operated by Adani Ports, showcases India's ambitions, with local communities benefiting from technology-driven employment. Yet, the success of such initiatives depends on policies and laws that empower states and small operators rather than imposing top-down directives

True reform in India's maritime sector must balance national strategy with regional autonomy, encourage investment, and enhance competitiveness, all while being transparent, inclusive, and responsive to the communities that sustain the maritime economy



The message beyond 'ending' Sri Lanka's elite impunity

In a development that has stirred political debate both domestically and internationally, Sri Lanka's immediate past-President Ranil Wickremesinghe was arrested in August 2025 over allegations of misusing public funds during a personal visit abroad. The incident traces back to September 2023, shortly after the G77+China Summit concluded in Havana, Cuba, when Wickremesinghe, then President of Sri Lanka, made a stopover in the United Kingdom while returning to Colombo

Reports indicate that the former President attended a university event in the UK where his wife, Professor Maithree Wickremesinghe, was being honoured. Allegedly, he used public funds amounting to Sri Lankan rupees 16.2 million—roughly \$50,000—to cover expenses for the trip, funds which he was not entitled to access. The arrest in August 2025 led to Wickremesinghe being remanded in custody for four days before a Sri Lankan court granted him bail, allowing him tempo-

rary freedom pending further proceedings

The case has quickly become a flashpoint in Sri Lankan politics. Critics argue that the arrest could be politically motivated, framing it as an act of revenge by the current administration, led by President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, against his predecessor. Wickremesinghe had contested against Dissanayake in the 2024 Presidential elections, adding a layer of political context to the controversy. His supporters within Sri Lanka

gathered in public demonstrations on August 26, 2025, the date of his court hearing, demanding his release and voicing their opposition to what they perceive as politically charged legal action

International reactions have also been significant. Allies of Wickremesinghe have expressed concern over his arrest, with political figures from neighboring countries, including India and the Maldives, publicly showing consternation. These responses

underscore the geopolitical sensitivities surrounding Sri Lanka's domestic political and judicial developments

The case not only raises questions about the proper use of state resources but also highlights the intersection of politics and accountability in Sri Lanka. As the legal proceedings continue, observers both within and outside the country are closely monitoring the situation, given its potential implications for governance, political rivalry, and the rule of law in the island nation

Food for Elimination? How Nutrition Can Help End Tuberculosis in India

Tuberculosis (TB) continues to be India's leading infectious disease killer, according to the latest Sample Registration System (SRS) report. While public health strategies rightly focus on diagnosis, medicines, and treatment programmes, one crucial factor often remains underemphasized: nutrition. September, celebrated as Poshan Maah, highlights India's ongoing fight against malnutrition, childhood anaemia, and maternal health challenges. Yet, this month also serves as a timely reminder of the critical link between nutrition and infectious disease control, especially TB

Undernutrition silently drives vulnerability to TB. A well-nourished body, supported by adequate proteins, vitamins, and minerals, has a stronger immune system capable of fending off TB infection and recovering more effectively. Conversely, malnourished individuals are far more susceptible—not only to contracting TB but also to experiencing severe outcomes, including higher mortality rates. Nutrition, therefore, is not just a supportive



element but a frontline defense in TB prevention and recovery

Integrating nutrition into TB programmes can significantly enhance outcomes. Strengthening community-based nutrition initiatives, expanding access to differentiated TB care, and providing locally tailored food support can empower at-risk populations to combat the disease. Simple measures, such as fortified meals, protein supplementation, and micronutrient-rich diets, combined with standard medical care, can improve

immunity and treatment efficacy. Ensuring that patients receive adequate nutrition throughout their treatment journey can also reduce relapse rates and accelerate recovery. Government policies and public health programmes must scale up what works. Beyond curative treatment, empowering communities with the tools and knowledge to prioritize nutrition can create a sustainable barrier against TB. Collaboration between health departments, nutrition programmes, and local stakeholders is essential

to ensure that vulnerable groups—especially children, pregnant women, and the undernourished—receive timely interventions

Ending TB in India requires a multi-pronged approach. While medicines and diagnostics remain vital, addressing nutritional deficiencies is equally critical. By placing food and nutrition at the heart of TB elimination strategies, India can move closer to a healthier future where immunity and prevention work hand in hand with medical interventions to eradicate this persistent killer

The Social Justice Myth: How Lalu's Legacy Narrowed Bihar's Politics



For decades, Bihar's political narrative has celebrated Lalu Prasad Yadav as the champion of backward classes, Dalits, and minorities. His rise in the early 1990s, coinciding with the Mandal Commission's recommendations and the socio-political upheaval of the Ram Mandir movement, is often depicted as the defining moment when marginalised communities found representation. However, a closer examination of Bihar's political history reveals that empowerment of disadvantaged groups long predated Lalu. Leaders such as BP Mandal, Karpoori Thakur, Bhola Paswan Shastri, Ram Sundar Das, Daroga Prasad Rai, and Abdul Ghafoor had

already occupied key positions in the state, showcasing that Dalits, OBCs, and Muslims were active participants in governance. Nationally, figures like Jagjivan Ram further highlight that Bihar's marginalized communities were politically vocal and influential before Lalu's era. The 1960s and 1970s saw significant social justice movements, including reservation policies implemented by Karpoori Thakur and groundwork laid by BP Mandal, setting the stage for backward empowerment by the time Lalu became Chief Minister in 1990. What Lalu did differently was consolidate political power around one sub-group—the Yadavs.

With approximately 14% of Bihar's population, Yadavs became the backbone of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), leaving non-Yadav OBCs, Dalits, and Muslims largely excluded from top leadership roles. While the RJD projected itself as a voice for the marginalized, nearly 84% of Bihar's society had limited access to chief ministerial or deputy roles under its structure. Even loyal Muslim communities were largely kept out of executive leadership. In contrast, the NDA alliance, despite its own caste considerations, has experimented with broader representation. Notably, Jitan Ram Manjhi, a Mahadalit, was elevated as Chief Minister in 2014. Nityash Kumar's coalition-

building across Kurmis, EBCs, Mahadalits, and women illustrates a more pluralistic approach to governance and leadership. As Bihar approaches the 2025 assembly elections, the real question is which model the state will embrace. Will it remain tied to the myth of Lalu as the sole champion of marginalized communities, perpetuating Yadav-centric dominance? Or will it move toward genuinely inclusive leadership that reflects Bihar's diverse society? Beyond welfare and development promises, this election is a referendum on whether Bihar's politics will broaden representation or remain constrained within a narrow bloc

PM Modi slams Congress for neglecting northeast, hails GST reforms

TPN Bureau | New

Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday inaugurated and laid the foundation for development projects worth ₹5,100 crore in Arunachal Pradesh, including two hydropower units with a combined capacity of 426 MW. Speaking in Itanagar, he hailed the recent Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms as “pro-people” and criticized the Congress party for neglecting the northeastern region during its tenure.

“The new GST rates effective from the first day of Navaratri will ease household budgets,” Mr. Modi said, highlighting reductions in taxes on essential items such as kitchen supplies, children’s educational materials, clothing, and footwear. He added that simplification to two GST slabs — 5% and 18% — and reduced Income Tax rates would make housing, travel, dining, and vehicle purchases more affordable, terming the initiative a “GST savings festival.”

The Prime Minister slammed the Congress for ignoring the challenging terrain of the northeast, saying it had dismissed border habitations as “last villages,” leading to migration



from tribal and border areas. In contrast, he claimed, the BJP-led government prioritized the region through the “Vibrant Villages Programme” and rebranded these areas as “first villages” and “aspirational” districts, significantly improving infrastructure, connectivity, and quality of life.

Mr. Modi emphasized the State’s growing tourism sector, noting that tourist footfall had doubled over the past decade and would be further enhanced by a modern convention centre in Tawang.

Highlighting

Arunachal Pradesh’s hydropower potential, the Prime Minister inaugurated two major projects by North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited. The 240 MW Heo Hydro Electric Project, with three 80 MW units, will generate 1,000 million units annually, while the 186 MW Tato-I Hydro Electric Project, with three 62 MW units, will produce 803 million units per year. The estimated cost for these projects is ₹3,700 crore, promising a significant boost to the State’s energy capacity and sustainable development.



Congress to Hold Key CWC Meeting in Bihar Ahead of Assembly Polls

TPN Correspondent |

Delhi

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and senior leader Rahul Gandhi will attend the party’s working committee (CWC) meeting in Bihar on September 24, party sources confirmed on Monday. AICC Bihar in-charge Krishna Allavaru said the meeting is being held in the

State as part of what he described as Congress’ “second war of Independence” in Bihar.

“All CWC members have been invited, including Chief Ministers of Congress-ruled States. The presence of Mr. Kharge and Rahul Gandhi underscores the importance of this meeting,” Mr. Allavaru said during a press conference. The gathering is expected to review the party’s strategy ahead

of the upcoming Bihar Assembly polls and discuss alliance dynamics within the INDIA bloc.

Addressing the media, Mr. Allavaru criticized the ruling BJP at the Centre, alleging “vote theft” and accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi of relying on “unfair means” rather than genuine governance. He added that Bihar, where Rahul Gandhi recently undertook a 1,300-km ‘Voter Adhikar Yatra,’ has now become

the “centre of national politics.”

On alliance discussions, Allavaru noted that talks on seat-sharing in the INDIA bloc are progressing positively and a “viable formula” is expected soon. Regarding the chief ministerial candidate for the alliance, he stated, “At an appropriate time, all alliance partners will sit together and decide,” keeping options open for a decision on RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav.

The CWC meeting is a strategic effort by Congress to consolidate its position in Bihar, coordinate with allies, and finalize campaign strategies for the State Assembly elections due later this year. The presence of senior leaders aims to signal unity and strengthen the party’s outreach in the crucial battleground of Bihar, where the outcome is expected to have significant implications for national politics.

Jaishankar Meets US Secretary Rubio Ahead of Trade Talks at UNGA

TPN Correspondent |

New Delhi

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Monday met U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio for high-level bilateral discussions in New York, coinciding with the 80th session of the U.N. General Assembly. The meeting at Lotte New York Palace marked their first in-person interaction since President Donald Trump imposed an additional 25% tariff on India’s purchases of Russian oil, raising total levies to 50%.

Jaishankar and Rubio’s discussion comes ahead of critical trade negotiations between India and the United States, aimed at achieving an early conclusion of a mutually beneficial



Bilateral Trade Agreement. A delegation led by Union Commerce and Industries Minister Piyush Goyal is scheduled to meet the U.S. side on Monday to advance these discussions. Officials noted that during the recent visit of representatives from the U.S. Trade Representative’s office to India on September 16, positive talks were held on various aspects of the trade deal, and both

sides agreed to intensify efforts toward its finalization.

This bilateral meeting follows Jaishankar and Rubio’s previous encounter in July in Washington DC during the Quad Foreign Ministers’ Meeting. The discussions are expected to focus not only on trade but also on broader bilateral and strategic cooperation between the two countries.

Jaishankar, who arrived in New York on Sunday, will participate in a series of bilateral and multilateral meetings on the sidelines of the UNGA session. He is also scheduled to deliver India’s national statement at the General Debate on September 27, 2025, from the iconic green podium at the UNGA, highlighting India’s priorities on global issues, trade, climate action, and multilateral cooperation.

The meeting underscores India’s efforts to maintain strong diplomatic engagement with the United States while navigating challenges posed by new tariffs, and signals both sides’ commitment to enhancing economic and strategic partnership in the midst of evolving global trade dynamics.

TPN Correspondent |

Delhi

The AIADMK is actively seeking to bring actor-turned-politician Vijay and his Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) into its fold ahead of next year’s Tamil Nadu Assembly elections. Former Milk and Dairy Development Minister Rajenthra Bhalaji urged Vijay to join the AIADMK-led alliance to defeat the ruling DMK-Congress coalition, emphasizing that a divided opposition would strengthen the DMK’s hold.

Bhalaji acknowledged Vijay’s immense popularity, citing massive crowds at his rallies in Madurai and other cities, but warned that fan support does not automatically translate into



votes. He pointed to past examples of actor-politicians like Vijayakanth, who succeeded due to a strong party cadre, and stressed that Vijay must accept AIADMK chief Edappadi Palaniswami’s leadership to effectively challenge the DMK.

“If Vijay wants to defeat DMK, he should accept leadership of EPS and join the alliance. Otherwise, DMK will de-

stroy his political journey,” Bhalaji said.

Since announcing his electoral debut, Vijay has maintained independence, refusing to align with either the DMK-Congress or AIADMK-BJP blocs. At a rally in Madurai, he declared, “I am a lion. I’m marking my territory. The TVK is an unstoppable force which is here to dominate.” He has also reject-

ed cooperation with the BJP, calling the party his “ideological enemy.”

The BJP and AIADMK have nevertheless extended overtures, emphasizing a shared goal of removing the DMK from power. BJP state chief Nainar Nagenthiran suggested a strategic alliance, while AIADMK leader EPS welcomed all parties seeking to oust the DMK.

Political analysts note that while Vijay is unlikely to secure a majority alone, his TVK could play a kingmaker role, influencing the formation of the next government by determining which party gains enough support to lead the state. His mass appeal makes him a pivotal factor in Tamil Nadu’s upcoming political contest.

India Plans ‘Bodyguard’ Satellites After Risky Orbital Near-Miss

TPN Correspondent

Delhi

India is developing plans to deploy “bodyguard” satellites to protect its orbiting spacecraft after a close encounter in space highlighted potential national security risks. Sources familiar with the matter said a satellite from a neighboring country came dangerously close to one of India’s ISRO satellites in mid-2024, passing within just one kilometre of an orbiting spacecraft tasked with mapping and monitoring. Although no collision occurred, the near miss underscored the need

for stronger satellite security.

The Modi-led government aims to identify and counter threats in orbit, part of a broader effort to enhance India’s space-based defense capabilities. This initiative complements a ₹27,000 crore (\$3 billion) plan to deploy around 50 surveillance satellites, the first of which is expected to launch next year. Indian satellites have played a key role during conflicts with Pakistan, including the May 2025 standoff, highlighting the strategic importance of secure space assets.

The proposed bodyguard satellites could employ Light Detec-

tion and Ranging (LiDAR) technology to detect threats quickly, giving ground-based teams time to reposition satellites. These satellites would operate as part of a larger integrated system, including ground-based radars and telescopes, providing 24x7 monitoring of potential hazards in orbit.

While Pakistan operates just eight satellites, India has more than 100, and China operates over 930, raising concerns about space security amid longstanding territorial disputes. Officials have warned of growing threats from China’s increasingly sophisticated military

space program.

The government is also collaborating with startups to develop these advanced monitoring solutions. Sudheer Kumar N, former ISRO Capacity Building Program director, noted that India currently lacks continuous in-orbit tracking but is exploring new technologies. ISRO’s role in national security was highlighted during the May 2025 conflict, when over 400 scientists worked round the clock to support Earth observation and communication satellites, demonstrating the strategic value of India’s space capabilities.



Trump Hails Charlie Kirk as “Martyr” for Freedom at Memorial



TPN Bureau | Washington

US President Donald Trump on Sunday paid tribute to right-wing activist Charlie Kirk, calling him “a giant of his generation” and asserting that he was “violently killed because he spoke for freedom and justice” during a packed memorial service. Speaking before tens of thousands at a 63,000-seat stadium, Trump highlighted Kirk’s role as a devoted husband, father, Christian, and patriot, framing his death as an attack on shared American values.

Trump said, “The gun was pointed at him, but the bullet was aimed at all of us... Charlie was killed for expressing the very ideas that virtually everyone in this arena

and most other places throughout our country deeply believed in.” He accused the media and political opponents of attempting to silence Kirk, arguing that they feared his influence on young voters.

The memorial, organized by Turning Point USA—the youth political group founded by Kirk—featured speeches from Vice President JD Vance, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, and right-wing personalities including Tucker Carlson. Kirk’s widow, Erika Kirk, also addressed the crowd, stating she forgave her husband’s alleged killer, 22-year-old Tyler Robinson, who faces murder charges with the death penalty being pursued.

Thousands attended, with many describing Kirk as a “Christ mar-

tyr” and crediting him with giving them the courage to express their political and social beliefs. Kirk, 31, was fatally shot on September 10 while speaking at a Utah university during his public debate series. Authorities said the suspect cited “hatred” stoked by Kirk’s criticism of transgender people, Muslims, and others.

Trump vowed a crackdown on what his administration labels “domestic terrorism” by left-wing groups, designating “Antifa” as a major terrorist organization and promising action against networks responsible for left-wing violence. The event underscored the intense political polarization in the United States following Kirk’s death and spotlighted his influence among young conservative voters.



Nepal PM Sushila Karki Expands Interim Cabinet with Four New Ministers

TPN Correspondent | Kathmandu

Nepal’s newly-appointed Prime Minister Sushila Karki on Monday, September 22, 2025, inducted four new Ministers into her interim Cabinet, raising its strength to eight. President Ramchandra Paudel administered the oath of office at the presidential office, Sheetal Niwas, to former Justice Anil Kumar Sinha, National Innovation Centre founder Mahabir Pun, journalist Jagdish

Kharel, and expert Madan Pariyar. With the new appointments, Karki’s Council of Ministers now totals eight members, though the Prime Minister has retained several key portfolios herself. Anil Kumar Sinha was assigned the Industry, Commerce, and Supplies portfolio, while Jagdish Kharel took charge of Communication and Information Technology. Madan Pariyar assumed responsibility for Agriculture and Livestock Development, and Mahabir Pun was appointed

Minister for Education and Science and Technology. All four Ministers assumed office immediately after taking their oaths. Nepal’s Constitution permits the Council of Ministers to include up to 25 members, including the Prime Minister. However, Karki has indicated that her interim Cabinet might consist of only 11 members. Initially, the President’s Office had announced that five new Ministers would take the oath on Monday, but Sangita Kaushal Mishra was later excluded due to a

controversial background. Sources revealed that the Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA), Nepal’s anti-graft body, is investigating a corruption case involving Mishra.

At 73, Sushila Karki became Prime Minister on September 12, ending days of political uncertainty following the ouster of former Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli. Oli’s removal came after youth-led Gen Z protests demanding action against corruption and opposing a social

media ban. Following her swearing-in, Karki had already appointed Kulma Ghising as Minister for Energy, Water Resources, and Physical Planning; Rameshwar Khanal as Finance Minister; and Om Prakash Aryal as Home Minister.

The interim government will continue to function until the next general elections scheduled for March 5, 2026, as Karki aims to maintain stability and oversee a smooth transition during this politically sensitive period.

Mass Protests in Italy Demand Solidarity with Gaza

TPN Correspondent | LONDON

Thousands of protesters and striking workers took to the streets across Italy on Monday, demonstrating in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza. Italy’s grassroots unions, representing hundreds of thousands of workers from school-teachers to metalworkers, called a 24-hour general strike affecting public and private sectors, including public transport, trains, schools, and ports. The nationwide action disrupted transport services, with long delays for national trains and limited public transport in major cities, including Rome.

In Milan, tensions escalated as dozens of masked protesters dressed in black tried to storm the central train station, hurling smoke bombs, bottles, and



stones at police, who responded with pepper spray. In Bologna, police used water cannons to disperse demonstrators blocking a highway. Workers’ sit-ins and rallies in major ports like Genoa and Livorno partially slowed or blocked the transit of goods. Over 20,000 people gathered at Rome’s central station to highlight the worsening humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

Union leaders and student organizations criticized the “inertia of the Italian and EU governments.” Walter Montag-

noli, national secretary of the CUB union, said, “If we don’t block what Israel is doing, if we don’t block trade, the distribution of weapons, we will not achieve anything.” Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani condemned violent acts against security forces, emphasizing that such actions do not help the Palestinian civilian population.

The Italian government, led by conservative Premier Giorgia Meloni, has maintained a close alliance with Israel while facing domes-

tic pressure over the Gaza war. Italy, unlike some EU nations, will not formally recognize a Palestinian state at this week’s U.N. General Assembly. The conflict, ongoing since Hamas’ October 7, 2023, attack, has caused over 65,100 deaths in Gaza, displaced 90% of its population, and left Gaza City facing famine. The protests reflect widespread concern over the humanitarian crisis and calls for international intervention to support Palestinian civilians.

British Indian Achievers Honoured at UK Awards

TPN Correspondent | Ottawa

London witnessed a grand celebration of British Indian contributions in philanthropy, business, arts, and sports at the annual Asian Achievers Awards, with Prime Minister Keir Starmer issuing a message supporting the nation’s “changemakers.” The ceremony, held last week, highlighted exceptional achievements across diverse sectors, recognising individuals making a lasting impact on society.

India-based philanthropist Neerja Birla was named Woman of the Year for her efforts as founder and chairperson of the Aditya Birla Education Trust, while UK-based businessman Simon Arora received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his decades-long contributions to business and entrepreneurship. Sunny Singh Gill, Britain’s first Pre-



mier League football referee of Indian heritage, earned the Sports Personality of the Year award, and music pioneer Rishi Rich was honoured with a Special Award for his influential work in the Asian-R&B fusion genre.

Prime Minister Starmer praised the British Asian community, stating, “British Asians are a

driving force behind much of the social, cultural, and economic innovation we see in Britain today. It is wonderful to see so many British Asian changemakers being recognised for their contribution to public life, community service, arts, culture, business, technology, and beyond.”

Entrepreneurs of the Year recognition went to

the Solanki family—Jimal, Nishal, and Devik—for their success with the UK’s popular ethnic food brand, Taj Foods. Maulik Darji was awarded Professional of the Year for his leadership in cancer treatments within the NHS, while broadcaster Ravi Sharma received a Special Award marking 50 years in radio broadcasting.

Opposition Conservative Party Leader Kemi Badenoch highlighted the awards’ significance, noting, “This event is a celebration of the contribution you make across every sector of society—from business and public service to science and the arts.” The ceremony was jointly hosted by British Indian actor Nitin Ganatra and broadcaster Anila Dhami and featured a musical performance by Canadian Indian singer Ragh. The awards celebrated the achievements, innovation, and dedication of British Indians across multiple fields, inspiring future generations.

Putin Pledges One-Year Extension of Nuclear Arms Limits

TPN Correspondent | Moscow

Russia’s President Vladimir Putin announced on Monday, September 22, 2025, that Moscow will continue adhering to nuclear arms limits for one more year, despite the looming expiration of the last remaining nuclear pact with the United States in February. Speaking at a Secu-

Amid New START Expiry

rity Council meeting, Putin emphasized that the termination of the 2010 New START treaty could have negative consequences for global stability and urged the U.S. to follow Russia’s lead in observing the treaty’s limits.

The New START agreement, signed in 2010 by then-U.S. President Barack Obama and

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, restricts both countries to no more than 1,550 deployed nuclear warheads and 700 deployed missiles and bombers. It also allows for on-site inspections to verify compliance, though these inspections have been dormant since 2020. Arms control advocates have expressed concern

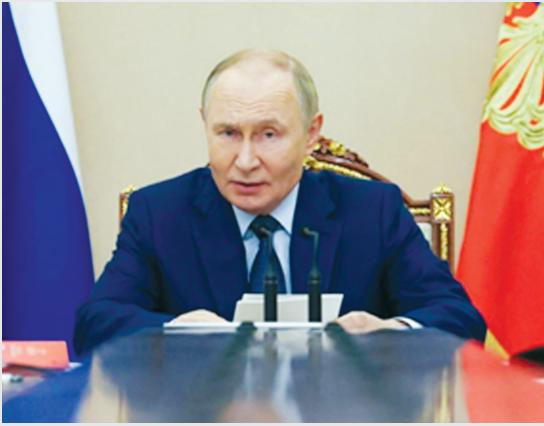
over the pact’s expiration and the absence of negotiations for a successor agreement, raising fears of renewed nuclear competition.

In February 2023, Putin suspended Russia’s participation in New START, citing objections to U.S. inspections of Russian nuclear sites amid escalating tensions over the Ukraine conflict and NATO’s declared objectives against Moscow. Despite this

suspension, Russia has maintained that it has not fully withdrawn from the treaty and continues to respect the nuclear weapon caps established under the agreement.

Putin’s announcement signals a cautious approach by Moscow, maintaining a degree of nuclear restraint while geopolitical tensions persist. Analysts note that adherence to the treaty’s limits for another

year provides a window for potential dialogue on arms control, even as conventional and nuclear military drills by Russia continue to raise concerns among NATO members. The extension reflects Russia’s desire to avoid further destabilization of global security while keeping pressure on the United States to engage in negotiations for a new nuclear framework.





India’s Infrastructure Growth Hits 13-Month High of 6.3% in August

India’s key infrastructure sectors recorded a robust growth of 6.3% in August 2025, marking a 13-month high, driven by strong expansion in coal, steel, and cement production, according to official data released on Monday. This is a significant increase from July’s growth of 3.7% and a sharp recovery from the (-)1.5% contraction recorded in August last year.

The eight core infrastructure sectors—coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement, and electricity—collectively

showed mixed performance. Coal output surged 11.4%, steel production rose 14.2%, and cement output grew 6.1%. Refinery products, fertilisers, and electricity recorded moderate increases of 3%, 4.6%, and 3.1%, respectively. However, crude oil and natural gas production continued to contract, reflecting ongoing challenges in these sectors.

During the April-August period of the current fiscal year, the eight sectors expanded by 2.8%, compared to a 4.6% rise in the same period last year. Analysts attribute August’s high

growth partly to a low base effect, boosting year-on-year comparisons.

Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist at ICRA, noted that the improvement in core output growth is expected, aided by the turnaround in mining performance, which had contracted in every month from April to July 2025. Based on the current data, ICRA expects India’s Index of Industrial Production (IIP) growth to print between 4.5% and 5.5% for August, reflecting a broader industrial recovery.

The growth in infra-

structure sectors, especially coal, steel, and cement, underscores renewed momentum in India’s construction and industrial activity. Analysts highlight that sustaining this growth trajectory will depend on continued demand, stable input supplies, and investment in key sectors to ensure the recovery remains robust.

Overall, August’s data provides a positive signal for India’s core industrial sectors, reinforcing expectations of steady growth in the coming months as infrastructure and industrial output gain traction.

Sensex, Nifty Slide on H-1B Visa Fee Hike Concerns

India’s benchmark equity indices ended lower on Monday, September 22, 2025, as IT stocks came under pressure following U.S. President Donald Trump’s decision to raise H-1B visa fees. The 30-share BSE Sensex fell 466.26 points, or 0.56%, to settle at 82,159.97, while the 50-share NSE Nifty declined 124.70 points, or 0.49%, to close at 25,202.35. During intraday trade, the Sensex touched a low of 81,997.29, down 628.94 points, reflecting heightened selling pressure.

IT heavyweights including Tech Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys, and HCL Tech were among the biggest losers. Other laggards included Tata Motors, Trent, Reliance Industries, and Larsen & Toubro. Reliance Industries faced additional selling, contributing to the broader market decline.

On the other hand, a few stocks bucked the trend, with Eternal, Bajaj Finance, Adani Ports, and UltraTech Cement posting gains.

The market reaction

came after the U.S. government announced that H-1B visa fees for workers, including those from India, would be raised to \$100,000 per applicant. The fee hike applies only to new visa applicants, according to a White House official. Investors fear that the increased cost could impact Indian IT companies’ hiring and business operations in the U.S., a key market for the sector.

In global markets, Asian indices were mixed, with South Korea’s Kospi, Japan’s Nikkei 225, and Shanghai’s

SSE Composite closing higher, while Hong Kong’s Hang Seng ended lower. European markets were trading in negative territory during early hours.

Market analysts noted that IT sector concerns coupled with selling in blue-chip stocks weighed on investor sentiment, triggering a cautious approach in equities. Investors are closely monitoring the impact of U.S. policy changes on Indian firms, while global cues continue to influence domestic trading.



Rupee Slips 15 Paise to 88.31 Amid H-1B Fee Hike Concerns



The Indian rupee depreciated 15 paise to close at 88.31 against the U.S. dollar on Monday, September 22, 2025, as investors reacted to the impact of the recent H-1B visa fee hike by the U.S. government. Market participants noted that the fee increase could affect Indian remittances and potentially trigger equity outflows from the domestic IT sector, adding pressure on the

currency.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 88.20, touched an intra-day low of 88.34, and a high of 88.12 against the greenback before settling at 88.31. On Friday, the rupee had appreciated slightly by four paise to close at 88.16.

Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Mirae Asset ShareKhan, said the currency is expected to remain under pressure due to the

U.S. visa fee hike and risk-averse sentiment in domestic markets. However, the overall weakness in crude oil prices may provide some support at lower levels, with the US-DINR spot likely to trade in the 88.05–88.60 range.

Globally, the dollar index, which measures the greenback’s strength against six major currencies, slipped 0.12% to 97.52, while Brent crude futures traded 0.21%

lower at \$66.54 per barrel.

On the domestic equity front, the Sensex fell 466.26 points to settle at 82,159.97, and the Nifty dropped 124.70 points to 25,202.35. Foreign institutional investors were net buyers of equities worth ₹390.74 crore on Friday.

India’s forex reserves rose \$4.698 billion to \$702.966 billion for the week ended September 12, according to RBI data, up

from \$698.268 billion in the previous week.

Meanwhile, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal is leading an official delegation to the U.S. for trade talks aimed at advancing discussions toward a mutually beneficial trade agreement. The delegation will meet with U.S. officials in New York to explore ways to strengthen bilateral trade relations and conclude negotiations efficiently.



Gold Hits ₹1.11 Lakh/10g as Traders Eye Inflation Data

Gold prices surged past ₹1.11 lakh per 10 grams in domestic futures trade on Monday, September 22, 2025, supported by firm global cues and expectations ahead of key U.S. inflation data and Federal Reserve commentary. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), December gold futures rose ₹799, or 0.72%, to a record ₹1,11,750 per 10 grams. October contracts gained

₹761, or 0.69%, to ₹1,10,608 per 10 grams, building on last week’s peak of ₹1,10,666 per 10 grams.

Silver also climbed to record levels, with March 2026 futures surging ₹2,446, or 1.86%, to ₹1,33,582 per kilogram. December silver futures jumped ₹2,473, or 1.9%, to ₹1,32,311 per kilogram. Traders attributed gains to a weakening rupee, subdued domestic equity markets, and safe-haven demand amid geopoliti-

cal tensions and economic uncertainties.

Globally, gold futures rose \$26.82, or 0.72%, to \$3,732.62 per ounce, after hitting a lifetime high of \$3,744 last week. The U.S. Federal Reserve’s recent rate cut and signals of further reductions amid a softening labor market have fueled expectations of continued monetary easing, boosting bullion demand. “Markets currently imply two more reductions this year, in

October and December, supporting gold’s 40% surge so far in 2025,” said Jigar Trivedi, Senior Research Analyst at Reliance Securities.

Silver’s rally is attributed to strong investment flows and industrial demand for solar panels, electric vehicles, 5G infrastructure, and battery storage, said Riya Singh, Research Analyst at Emkay Global Financial Services. Supply constraints have further

amplified price movements.

Pranav Mer, VP at JM Financial Services, expects domestic silver prices to test ₹1,40,000–1,50,000 per kilogram on the commodities bourse. With both metals benefiting from safe-haven buying, weak rupee, and global policy expectations, traders are closely watching U.S. inflation data and Fed comments for further direction in the bullion market.

India’s GDP Likely Near 7% in FY26 on GST Reforms

India’s economy is poised to grow closer to 7% in fiscal year 2026, driven by the latest indirect tax reforms under “GST 2.0,” Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran said on Monday, September 22, 2025. Speaking at a Network 18 event in New Delhi, Nageswaran noted that high-frequency indicators for July and August suggest that even the second quarter could see growth near 7%, pushing the economy toward the upper end of the government’s projected 6.3–6.8% range.

India’s real GDP had expanded by 6.5% in FY25, its slowest in four years, due to subdued consumption and manufacturing. However, the first quarter of FY26 recorded an impressive 7.8% growth, supported by services, manufacturing, construction, and agriculture. Nageswaran emphasized that the sweeping GST overhaul will deliver substantial gains to households and the broader economy.

“GST 2.0 has three components,” he explained. “First, rate reductions, with many categories moving from 18% to 5%, and 12% be-



coming 5%. Second, the withdrawal of compensation, which is positive for households. Third, a few categories saw rates rise from 28% to 40%.” He estimated that net household tax savings could exceed ₹1 lakh crore, with multiplier effects potentially boosting aggregate economic impact to over ₹2.5 lakh crore.

Nageswaran also reaffirmed the government’s commitment to maintaining the fiscal deficit at 4.4% of GDP in FY26. The GST reforms mark the most significant rationalization since 2017,

collapsing the previous four-tier structure into two slabs—5% for essentials and priority goods, and 18% as the standard rate—while introducing a 40% levy on select luxury and sin items such as pan masala, aerated drinks, and high-end cars.

While uncertainties remain, the combination of tax savings, consumption boosts, and strong sectoral growth is expected to underpin India’s robust economic expansion in FY26, signaling renewed optimism for households and businesses alike.

Flipkart Big Billion Days, iPhone 16 Gets It Delivered in Just 30 Minutes

Flipkart's Big Billion Days 2025 sale is creating a frenzy among shoppers, with irresistible discounts across categories. But one lucky buyer's experience has gone viral after he managed to grab an iPhone 16 at a slashed price and received it in record time—within just half an hour of placing the order.

The sale, which kicked off this festive season, has made Apple's iPhone 16 series one of the most sought-after products. Earlier this month, Apple introduced the all-new iPhone 17 series along with the futuristic iPh-

hone Air, causing prices of the previous iPhone 16 lineup to drop significantly. Flipkart stepped in with eye-catching offers, and the iPhone 16, originally priced at Rs 69,999, is now available for as low as Rs 52,497, making it one of the hottest deals of the sale.

One shopper, who placed his order just after midnight, couldn't believe how fast his purchase reached him. Despite heavy rain in his area, the delivery partner ensured the brand-new iPhone 16 arrived at his doorstep in under 30 minutes. The delighted customer shared his experience online, praising

both Flipkart's efficiency and the dedication of the delivery partner. His post has since sparked conversations about the evolving speed of e-commerce logistics in India.

This incident highlights not only the massive appeal of Apple's discounted devices but also the growing importance of lightning-fast delivery in the competitive online retail space. As shoppers continue to hunt for the best deals this Big Billion Days, Flipkart's mix of deep discounts and rapid service is giving it a clear edge in the festive shopping race.



OM SYSTEM Launches OM-5 Mark II Camera and 50-200mm Lens in India

OM SYSTEM, formerly known as Olympus, has officially launched two new products in India, signaling the brand's renewed focus on the Asia Pacific market. The new offerings include the OM-5 Mark II interchangeable lens camera and the M.ZUIKO DIGITAL ED 50-200mm F2.8 IS PRO telephoto lens, designed to meet the demands of outdoor and professional photographers seeking

mobility, durability, and high performance.

The OM-5 Mark II is built for photographers working in challenging environments, making it ideal for wildlife, macro, birding, landscape, travel, street, and urban photography. It combines portability with reliability, ensuring consistent performance even under harsh conditions. The camera also introduces new OM Cinema modes, allowing creators to capture cinematic 4K movies with enhanced control and visual quality. Additionally, it incorporates the intuitive menu structure from the OM-1, streamlining navigation and offering a familiar user experience for existing OM SYSTEM users.

Alongside the camera, OM SYSTEM has launched the M.ZUIKO DIGITAL ED 50-200mm F2.8 IS PRO lens, a versatile telephoto option for professionals and enthusiasts alike. With its high-quality optics, robust construction, and image stabilization, the lens complements the OM-5 Mark II, enabling photographers to capture sharp, detailed images across a wide range of scenarios.

This launch marks OM SYSTEM's return to India, emphasizing the company's intent to expand its presence and grow its network in the Asia Pacific region. By introducing these advanced imaging tools, OM SYSTEM aims to support creators in exploring new creative possibilities, from immersive wildlife photography to cinematic filmmaking. With cutting-edge technology and durable design, the OM-5 Mark II and the 50-200mm F2.8 IS PRO lens position OM SYSTEM as a strong contender for photographers seeking professional-grade performance in a compact, reliable package.

Mark Zuckerberg agrees with Sam Altman on possible AI bubble

India's education sector has emerged as a prime target for cybercriminals, with new research highlighting an alarming surge in attacks. According to Check Point Research (CPR), education and research organizations in the country have faced an average of 8,487 cyberattacks per week over the past six months—nearly double the global average of 4,368. This makes Indian institutions some of the most heavily targeted

worldwide, underscoring deep vulnerabilities in the system.

The problem stems from a mix of factors: widespread adoption of hybrid learning, connected campuses, and heavy reliance on personal devices—all of which expand the attack surface. Compounding the risk are limited budgets and a shortage of dedicated cybersecurity resources, leaving schools and universities exposed. The fallout goes far beyond IT

downtime. Ransomware incidents have disrupted exams, delayed assessments, and even forced some institutions offline for weeks. A 2023 Sophos report revealed staggering median ransomware payments of \$6.6 million for lower education and \$4.4 million for higher education institutions, with only 30 percent of victims able to restore systems within a week.

The crisis extends to student data, with transcripts, personal re-

ports, and forged certificates now surfacing on the dark web. In extreme cases, the damage has been fatal—Lincoln College in Illinois, a 157-year-old institution, was forced to shut down permanently after a ransomware attack.

The rise of artificial intelligence has intensified the threat. CPR recorded 18,000 new education-related domains in July 2025 alone, with one in 57 flagged as malicious, many mimicking exam portals or fee-

payment systems. Attackers are also deploying AI-driven phishing, credential theft, and rapid malware exploits. Experts are calling for a prevention-first approach with AI-powered defenses, hybrid mesh security, and stronger awareness training. As classrooms become more digital, cybersecurity has become a core necessity to protect academic integrity and the futures of millions of students.



OpenAI Developing Smart Speaker-Like AI Device with Apple Suppliers

OpenAI, the company behind ChatGPT, is reportedly venturing deeper into consumer hardware following its acquisition of Jony Ive-led startup io Products earlier this year. According to a new report from The Information, the AI giant is now exploring the creation of a device that "resembles a smart speaker without a display," marking a bold expansion beyond software and into everyday AI-powered gadgets.

The report, citing people with direct knowl-

edge of the matter, suggests that OpenAI has already secured contracts with Luxshare and Goertek—two leading Apple suppliers that manufacture components for iPhones, AirPods, HomePods, and Apple Watches. Their involvement indicates that OpenAI is aiming for premium-grade build quality and advanced hardware integration for its upcoming device.

While OpenAI has not yet confirmed the specifics, the concept points toward a product designed to bring conversational

AI directly into homes in a seamless, always-available format. A screenless smart speaker could allow users to interact naturally with AI for a range of tasks—from managing schedules, controlling smart devices, and answering questions to offering personalized assistance beyond what current smart speakers provide. By removing the screen, OpenAI may be positioning the product as a pure voice-and-AI experience, setting it apart from existing market leaders like Amazon Echo or Google Nest Hub.

The move comes at a time when OpenAI is heavily investing in expanding the role of AI beyond traditional interfaces. With Jony Ive's design expertise and partnerships with top-tier suppliers, expectations are high that the device could combine sleek aesthetics with cutting-edge AI performance. If successful, OpenAI's smart speaker-style device could redefine how people experience AI in their daily lives, blending design, utility, and intelligence into a single product.



Scientists Create World's First Fully AI-Designed Viral Genome

Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming the field of computational biology, and researchers at Stanford University and the Arc Institute have now taken a historic step. Using the Evo AI genome model, scientists have created the world's first fully AI-generated viral genome, marking a breakthrough in synthetic biology. The virus, designed entirely from scratch, has demonstrated the ability to infect and kill bacteria, opening new avenues for research and medical applications.

While AI has previously been used to design individual proteins and small multi-gene systems, constructing an entire genome is far more complex. A functional genome requires many interacting genes, regulatory elements, and molecular switches that collectively allow an organism to grow, replicate, and survive. Until now, getting all these components to work in harmony posed an enormous challenge to scientists. The successful creation of this AI-designed genome demonstrates that artificial intelli-

gence can handle the intricate orchestration required for life at a genetic level.

The implications of this development are profound. Beyond studying viral biology, AI-designed genomes could accelerate the development of novel antibacterial therapies, synthetic organisms, and new biotechnological tools. By harnessing AI's predictive capabilities, researchers can explore genetic designs that would be nearly impossible to conceive manually, reducing both time and costs in experimen-

tal biology. This milestone also highlights the growing intersection of artificial intelligence and life sciences. By combining machine learning, genomics, and synthetic biology, scientists are beginning to reimagine what is possible in medicine, biotechnology, and genetic engineering. While ethical considerations and safety protocols remain paramount, the creation of a fully functioning AI-designed viral genome represents a remarkable leap toward the future of biology.



HS Prannoy Lead India’s Challenge at Korea Open Super 500

Indian badminton hopes will rest on the shoulders of HS Prannoy and rising star Ayush Shetty as they spearhead the nation's challenge at the USD 475,000 Korea Open Super 500 tournament, starting Tuesday in Suwon, Korea. With Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty skipping the event despite their impressive run to consecutive finals at the Hong Kong and China Masters, the spotlight firmly shifts to Prannoy and Ayush to uphold India's presence on the court



HS Prannoy, the 2023 World Championships bronze medalist, has struggled with consistency this season, suffering a series of early exits. However, he has shown resilience, pushing top opponents to the limit in closely contested matches. Notable victories, including a win

over China's Lu Guang Zu, and narrow defeats to Lakshya Sen and Anders Antonsen, underline Prannoy's capability to challenge the world's elite. The 33-year-old opens his campaign against a qualifier and is projected to meet seasoned veteran Chou Tien

Chen of Chinese Taipei in the second round

Ayush Shetty, the 22-year-old from Mangalore, has emerged as a breakthrough talent this season, being the only Indian to secure a BWF title by clinching the US Open crown. He has strengthened his creden-

tials with wins over top players including Japan's Kodai Naraoka, Chou Tien Chen, Canada's Brian Yang, India's Kidambi Srikanth, former world champion Loh Kean Yew, and Denmark's Rasmus Gemke. Ayush begins his Korea Open campaign against

Su Li Yang of Chinese Taipei, carrying the momentum from his impressive season

Other Indian singles contenders include Kiran George, who faces a challenging opener against Singapore's fifth seed Loh Kean Yew. In women's singles, Anupama Upadhyaya takes on fourth seed Putri Kusuma Wardani of Indonesia, aiming to make her mark in the tournament.

In doubles, India's mixed pair Mohit Jaglan and Lakshita Jaglan will start their campaign against Japan's Yuichi Shimogami and Sayaka Hobara. With the tournament attracting top-tier talent from across the globe, India will rely on the experience of Prannoy and the rising confidence of Ayush Shetty to make deep runs and enhance the country's presence on the international badminton circuit



I don't care: Sahibzada Farhan on gun-firing celebration

Pakistan's opening batter Sahibzada Farhan has addressed the controversy surrounding his gun-firing celebration during the Asia Cup Super 4s match against India, stating that he does not "care about what people think" of the gesture. The incident occurred after Farhan reached his half-century in a high-stakes encounter, in which India eventually won by six wickets, extending their dominance over Pakistan in multilateral tournaments

phasized the importance of aggressive cricket irrespective of the opposition, adding, "It is not necessary that it is India. You should play aggressive cricket against every team, like we played today"

His innings helped Pakistan post a competitive total of 171/5 in 20 overs, highlighted by a six off Axar Patel in the 10th over, after which he held his bat like a gun and fired shots into the air. The act drew criticism on social media for being provocative, but Farhan downplayed the reaction, noting that personal significance of the knock would have been higher had Pakistan won the match. "If I had won this match, it would have been very important for me. And yes, performing against India, people highly rate it. So, I think if we had won, it would have been very good," he said

Farhan expressed confidence in Pakistan's chances against Sri Lanka in their upcoming do-or-die match in Abu Dhabi. He praised the team's preparation and the performance against India, stating, "The way we played, the boys are very confident. And regarding Sri Lanka, we will win the match. Our power-play was very good against India, and we also had 90-something runs in 10 overs. We collapsed in the middle, and God willing, we will do that better against Sri Lanka"

He also emphasized improving execution during the power-play to avoid early wickets and build a stronger platform for the innings. Pakistan will need a win against Sri Lanka to remain in contention for the Asia Cup finals, and Farhan remains optimistic about the team's prospects



Usain Bolt to Star in India Football Exhibition

half of the match, uniting fans from both camps. The event is part of PUMA's two-day celebration, beginning September 30, and will be a ticketed spectacle.

Speaking about the event, PUMA India MD Karthik Balagopalan said, "We believe sport has the power to inspire and unite communities. Football is one of the most popular sports among the youth of India, and bringing Usain Bolt to play here is our way of celebrating that momentum."

Beyond his legendary track career, Bolt has always carried a deep pas-

sion for football. Growing up, he frequently played the sport and dreamt of showcasing his speed and skills on the pitch. Even after retiring from athletics, Bolt actively pursued football, participating in training sessions, trial matches, and scoring goals along the way.

This exhibition match is expected to draw huge crowds and bring a different flavor to the Indian football scene, highlighting the crossover appeal of one of the world's most famous athletes. Fans can look forward to witnessing Bolt's iconic pace and competi-

tive spirit translated onto the football field, blending athletic excellence with entertainment.

The Mumbai event underscores the growing popularity of football in India, offering a platform to celebrate sport, community, and the excitement of seeing a global superstar like Usain Bolt in action outside his usual track arena.

This one-of-a-kind match promises to be an unforgettable experience for fans, combining football, celebrity engagement, and the legendary energy of the fastest man in the world.

Olmo Shines as Barcelona Beat Getafe 3-0; Atletico Madrid Struggles Continue

Barcelona continued their strong start to the Spanish league season with a 3-0 victory over Getafe on Sunday, in a match held at the Estadi Johan Cruyff due to Camp Nou's ongoing renovations. Dani Olmo was the star of the show, notching a goal and setting up one of Ferran Torres' two strikes with a clever backheel flick in the 15th minute. Raphinha's assist to Torres in the 34th further extended Barcelona's first-half lead. Olmo later sealed the win in the 62nd minute with a precise shot from near the penalty spot after a set-up from substitute Marcus Rashford, despite a brief disruption by a fan carrying a Palestinian flag.

Barcelona coach Hansi Flick praised his team's performance, saying, "We had to focus on our own performance. We controlled the match. It's never easy to score three against Getafe." With the win, defending champions Barcelona move within two points of league leaders Real



Madrid. Torres emphasized the importance of the three points for their title defense.

Meanwhile, Atletico Madrid's early-season woes persisted with a 1-1 draw against Mallorca, marking the club's worst start under coach Diego Simeone after five matches. Julián Alvarez missed a first-half penalty, and

Alexander Sorloth was sent off in the 72nd minute after a hard foul. Conor Gallagher had given Atletico a temporary lead in the 79th minute, but Vedat Muriqi's header in the 85th earned Mallorca a draw. Simeone acknowledged the challenges of integrating new players, stating, "We are trying to build a new team.

Several players arrived, and we knew we would have to go through this process."

While Barcelona's title charge remains on track, Atletico faces continued struggles, having won only one of their first five league matches and conceding eight goals in six matches across all competitions.



India Extends T20I Dominance Over Pakistan

India continued their dominance over Pakistan in T20Is with a convincing six-wicket win at the Dubai International Stadium on Sunday, September 22, 2025, in the Super Four phase of the Asia Cup. Chasing 172, the Men in Blue reached the target in 18.5 overs, extending their unbeaten streak against Pakistan in white-ball cricket to seven matches.

Abhishek Sharma and Shubman Gill, childhood friends from Punjab, set the tone with an opening partnership of 105 runs.

Abhishek scored a commanding 74 off 39 balls, including six fours and five sixes, while Gill contributed 47 off 28 balls with eight boundaries. The duo's aggressive strokeplay and fiery verbal exchanges with the Pakistan bowlers reflected the lingering tension from the handshake row last weekend, as players again skipped handshakes before and after the match.

India's chase saw Abhishek start with a six off Shaheen Afridi, followed by impeccable timing against both pace

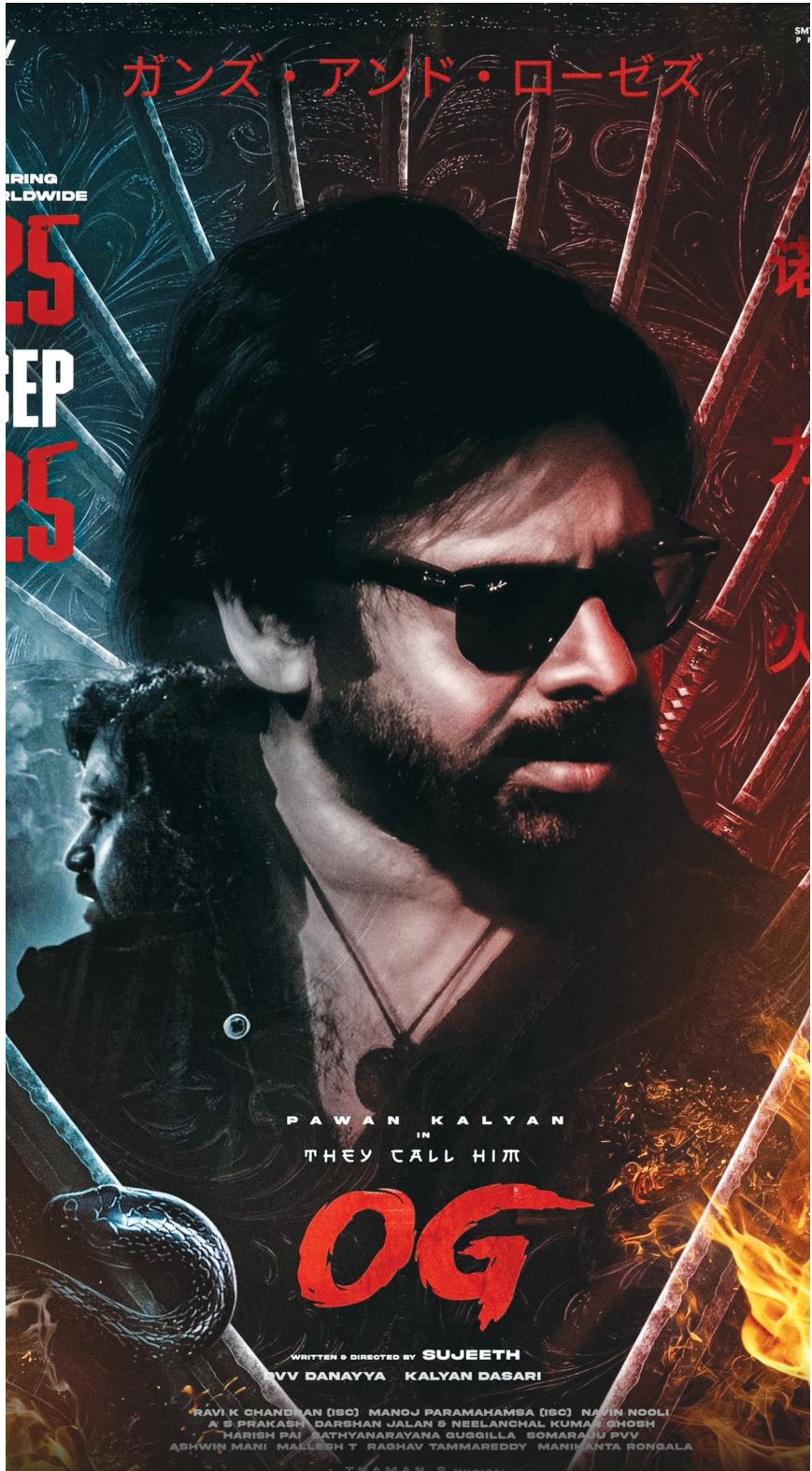
and spin. Gill was dismissed by Faheem Ashraf in the 10th over, but Tilak Varma and Hardik Pandya guided India to victory.

For Pakistan, Sahibzada Farhan top-scored with 58 off 45 balls, helping post 171/5. Shivam Dube was India's standout bowler, taking 2 wickets for 33 runs in 4 overs, while Jasprit Bumrah had an uncharacteristically expensive day, conceding 45 runs. India's fielding was patchy, with drops from Abhishek, Kuldeep Yadav, and Gill allowing Pa-

kistan's batsmen to post competitive totals.

Pakistan's PowerPlay yielded 55 for one, their highest against India in T20Is, with Farhan and Saim Ayub building a 72-run second-wicket partnership. Dube broke the stand in the 11th over, and Farhan was later dismissed by Dube in the 15th over, helping India pull the game back decisively.

The win keeps India on course for the Asia Cup finals, showcasing the lethal combination of Sharma and Gill at the top of the order.



OG Trailer Unleashed And It's Totally worth The Wait

The wait is finally over, and the much-anticipated trailer of OG has set social media ablaze. After a slight delay, the makers launched the trailer through Pawan Kalyan's official X account, and the result is nothing short of spectacular. Packed with fireworks, intensity, and grandeur, OG promises to be a cinematic feast for fans and movie lovers alike. Directed by Sujeeth, the trailer offers a riveting glimpse into the world of Ojas Gambheera, played by Pawan Kalyan. Once the undisputed ruler of Bombay's underworld, Ojas mysteriously abandoned his throne, leaving many questions unanswered. The trailer teases his enigmatic return to Bombay, raising the suspense—why did he leave, what forced him back, and what's his true connection to Omi, the menacing antagonist portrayed by Emraan Hashmi? These burning questions set the stage for an epic gangster drama rooted in revenge and power struggles. Pawan Kalyan shines in every frame, exuding

unmatched charisma, commanding screen presence, and raw intensity. Sujeeth crafts the narrative with grit and grandeur, ensuring that every shot oozes style and substance. Complementing this is Thaman's electrifying background score, which heightens the drama and energy, making the trailer an adrenaline-filled ride. The trailer also showcases stunning production values, stylized action blocks, and powerful face-offs, with Emraan Hashmi delivering a menacing performance. Adding further depth to the ensemble cast are Priyanka Mohan, Sriya Reddy, Prakash Raj, Upendra Limaye, and Arjun Das, each promising to play pivotal roles in the unfolding saga. Backed by powerhouse producers DVV Danayya and Kalyan Dasari, OG positions itself as not just another gangster film but a larger-than-life cinematic experience. With its mix of revenge, action, style, and star power, the countdown to witness Ojas Gambheera's story on the big screen has truly begun.

SJ Suryah Joins Kalyan Dasari in Adhira

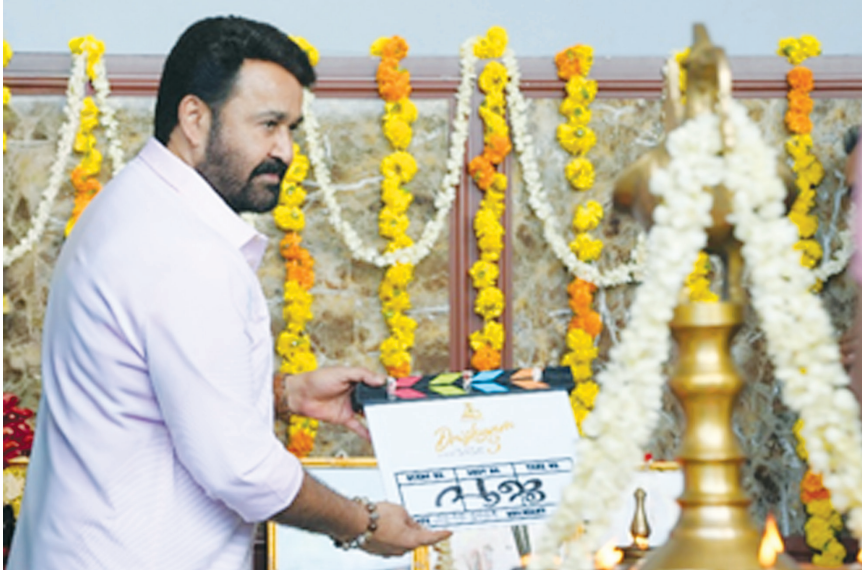
Every grand cinematic tale needs a powerful antagonist, and for the highly anticipated magnum opus Adhira, the makers have unveiled a striking addition. Talented actor SJ Suryah has been roped in to play a formidable asura role, setting the stage for an epic clash with the protagonist, played by Kalyan Dasari. Directed by Sharan Koppisetty and created by Prasanth Varma, Adhira is gearing up to be a landmark film in Indian cinema. Prasanth Varma, who delivered the Pan-India blockbuster HanuMan, has laid the foundation for an ambitious world-building journey through his Prasanth Varma Cinematic Universe. With Adhira as the next chapter, expectations are sky-high. The film promises a breathtaking visual spectacle with imaginative set designs, state-of-the-art pre-visualization, and a script that has

already become the talk of the industry. Early glimpses of Kalyan Dasari's performance have also generated immense buzz, with many hailing his portrayal as powerful and emotionally compelling. The inclusion of SJ Suryah elevates the project further, with the makers teasing a grand showdown between hero and villain. Known for his versatility, Suryah has taken on a completely new avatar for this film. His look as a ruthless demon, complete with terrifying horns and a menacing aura, is unlike anything audiences have seen from him in his illustrious career. This demonic transformation not only highlights his versatility but also promises to deliver spine-chilling intensity to the narrative. Produced on a lavish scale by RKD Studios, Adhira is shaping up to be a cinematic marvel, blending myth,



fantasy, and larger-than-life storytelling. With a powerful hero, a menacing villain, and world-class visuals, the film is all set to redefine the cinematic experience on the big screen.

Mohanlal's Drishyam 3 Officially Launched as Shoot Begins



Malayalam cinema icon Mohanlal is on the verge of receiving the nation's highest cinematic recognition—the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award. Adding to the celebrations, the superstar has now launched his most awaited film, Drishyam 3, just a day before the grand ceremony. The announcement has sent waves of excitement across the film industry and among fans, marking the return of one of Indian cinema's most successful franchises. The Drishyam series has etched its place in cinematic history with its gripping storytelling, layered performances, and unforgettable twists.

Directed once again by Jeethu Joseph, the mastermind behind the franchise, the third chapter is now officially in motion. The launch event, held with much anticipation, also signaled the commencement of the film's shoot. Backed by Antony Perumbavoor under Ashirwad Cinemas, the project promises to carry forward the legacy of its predecessors while introducing fresh intrigue and intensity. Mohanlal will reprise his iconic role as Georgekutty, the intelligent and resourceful family man who has captured the imagination of audiences nationwide. His journey, marked by wit, resilience, and moral dilemmas, continues to draw

viewers eager to know what lies ahead. Actress Meena, who has been an integral part of the series from the very beginning, is also returning to play her pivotal role in the narrative, ensuring continuity and emotional depth to the unfolding story. While the makers are keeping details of the rest of the cast and crew under wraps for now, expectations are sky-high. Fans are already speculating about the new conflicts, characters, and mysteries that will define this chapter. With Jeethu Joseph at the helm and Mohanlal at the center, Drishyam 3 is poised to be one of the most thrilling cinematic events in the coming year.



Kantara: Chapter 1 Trailer Unveiled

The cultural phenomenon of Kantara reshaped Indian cinema with its unique blend of mythology, folklore, and raw emotion. Now, Rishab Shetty returns to expand this universe with Kantara: Chapter 1, serving as the much-anticipated prequel. Once again, Shetty steps into multiple roles as writer, director, and lead actor, and the new trailer promises a grander scale, a richer story, and an even more powerful cinematic experience than the original. Released amid massive buzz, the trailer instantly struck a chord with audiences. In Telugu, it was digitally launched by superstar Prabhas, further amplifying its reach. Every frame radiates grandeur, showcasing Rishab Shetty's ambitious vision brought to life on the big screen. Rooted in myth and folklore, the story explores the struggles of oppressed people living under the harsh rule of a king. Berme, portrayed by Shetty, enters this kingdom, where he not only confronts tyranny but also finds love with

Princess Kanakavathi, played by Rukmini Vasanth. How this tale intertwines with the divine presence of Lord Shiva and Panjurli will unfold with depth and spectacle in cinemas. The visuals and music are among the trailer's biggest highlights. Striking cinematography, atmospheric set designs, and Ajaneesh Loknath's powerful score elevate the storytelling to another level, leaving audiences with goosebumps. The film also boasts a stellar supporting cast including Rukmini Vasanth, Jayaram, Rakesh Poojari, and Gulshan Devaiah, each contributing to the layered narrative. Backed by Hombale Films, Kantara: Chapter 1 is set for a grand release on October 2, 2025, across multiple Indian languages, including Telugu. The film will also premiere in premium formats such as IMAX, 4DX, and D-Box, ensuring a larger-than-life viewing experience. With its scale, vision, and rooted storytelling, Kantara: Chapter 1 promises to be an unforgettable cinematic journey.

47 Years of Chiranjeevi: Megastar Celebrates Legacy, Thanks Fans for Unwavering Love

Hollywood's iconic star, Megastar Chiranjeevi, has reached a remarkable milestone—47 glorious years in the Telugu film industry. His cinematic journey began on this very day in 1978 with the release of Pranam Khareed, and since then, Chiranjeevi has redefined stardom, inspiring generations of fans and actors alike. Today, fans across the world are celebrating

the actor's unparalleled career, showering him with love, wishes, and tributes for nearly five decades of cinematic excellence. Marking the occasion, Chiranjeevi shared a heartfelt message on social media, expressing deep gratitude to his fans. He said it was their "selfless love" that gave him the strength to accomplish an extraordinary body of work, with 155 films to his

credit, alongside numerous awards and recognitions. In his note, the Megastar humbly declared that every honor he has received "belongs to all of you, bestowed upon me by you." He concluded with a promise of keeping the bond of love and admiration between him and his fans alive forever. Chiranjeevi's career is a saga of versatility, from intense dramas and thought-provoking so-

cial films to high-voltage mass entertainers that earned him the title of "Megastar." Beyond cinema, his contributions as a public servant and philanthropist have also left a lasting impression, cementing his legacy both on and off screen. Even as he celebrates 47 years in cinema, Chiranjeevi remains as busy and passionate as ever. On the professional front, he is currently

working on Manu Shankar Vara Prasad Garu with director Anil Ravipudi. He also has the fantasy spectacle Vishwambhara, co-starring Srikanth, along with another major collaboration with director Bobby in the pipeline. With multiple big-ticket projects on the horizon, the Megastar continues to shine brightly, proving that his journey is far from over.