



BUZZ POINTS



MINISTER SEETHAKKA GETS EMOTIONAL AT MEDARAM TEMPLE REVIEW

During a review meeting on the Medaram development plan, which was chaired by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and attended by priests, tribal elders, and officials, Minister Seethakka became visibly emotional.

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VINOD KUMAR CRITICIZES CONGRESS'S CLAIMS ON SAMMAKKA BARRAGE

Former MP B. Vinod Kumar held a press conference at Telangana Bhavan to counter the claims made by Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy regarding the Sammakka Sarakka Barrage.

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Telangana Approves ₹3,745 Crore in New Investments

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 23: The Telangana government's Industrial Promotion Cabinet Sub-Committee has greenlit significant investments from three multinational companies, collectively valued at ₹3,745 crore.1 The projects are projected to create 1,518

jobs.

- Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages: A new plant with a ₹2,398 crore investment, creating 600 jobs.3 The project is expected to boost demand for horticultural crops like mangoes and oranges, benefiting local farmers.
- JSW UAV Limited: A new unit at Mahesh-

waram with a ₹785 crore investment, generating 364 jobs. ■ Toshiba Transmission and Distribution System: A new plant with a ₹562 crore investment, providing employment for 554 people. According to Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu, attracting large-scale in-

vestments is a priority for the government to create jobs for youth and support the agricultural sector.7 The sub-committee also reviewed other potential investments from international companies. The meeting was attended by Ministers Duddilla Sridhar Babu and Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, along with several senior government officials.

CM Revanth Reddy Congratulates Footballer Gugulothu Soumya

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 23: Chief Minister Revanth Reddy extended his congratulations to international footballer Gugulothu Soumya, who was recently honored with the Best Female Player award by the All India Football Federation (AIFF). The meeting was held to recognize Soumya's exceptional talent and significant



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Senior Maoist Leader Mallojula Venu Gopal Expelled, Declared 'Traitor' by Central Committee

-In a dramatic turn of events that has exposed growing fissures within the Maoist movement, the outlawed CPI (Maoist) has expelled senior leader Mallojula Venu Gopal, alias Bhupati, branding him a "traitor" for unilaterally offering to surrender arms and seek peace with the government.

According to a statement issued by the Maoist Central Committee, Venu Gopal had recently written to the Union Government, declaring that the Maoists were willing to give up their weapons and join the mainstream. The committee, however, strongly denied that the letter represented the collective will of the organization. It stressed that the move was his personal decision and not approved by the party leadership.

The statement went further, expelling Venu Gopal from the organization and directing him to immediately hand over all arms in his possession to the Maoist leadership. The committee warned that failure to do so would lead to action through the so-called "people's court", where punishment would be handed down under their internal rules.

This rare public announcement of internal discord has surprised observers and security officials alike. The Maoists, who have traditionally projected an image of strict unity



and discipline, appear to be grappling with internal weaknesses, particularly in the wake of Operation Kagar—a massive security offensive launched by central and state forces across Maoist strongholds.

Operation Kagar has been described as one of the most aggressive counter-insurgency drives in recent years. Security forces have intensified operations in Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Telangana, resulting in heavy losses for the Maoists. Dozens of senior cadre have either been killed or arrested, while several mid-level leaders have reportedly surrendered. Against this backdrop, Venu Gopal's willingness to negotiate and disarm is being seen as a direct fallout of mounting pressure on the movement.

Mallojula Venu Gopal, once considered a key strategist in the Maoist hierarchy, hails from Telangana and has long been associated with shaping guerrilla strategies in the central Indian

belt. Known for his ideological clarity and organizational skills, he commanded respect among cadres and was involved in planning several large-scale operations. His decision to approach the government without party consensus has therefore shaken the Maoist establishment, prompting the harsh reaction from the Central Committee.

Security analysts suggest that the expulsion reflects growing disillusionment within the Maoist ranks. Prolonged military pressure, coupled with shrinking support bases in tribal areas, has reportedly led to internal debates on the viability of continuing the armed struggle. Venu Gopal's open call for surrender, they argue, is symptomatic of this trend.

Officials monitoring Maoist activities say the incident could potentially encourage more defections and surrenders. However, they also warn that the leadership's strong

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Kavitha Slams Congress Over BC Reservations, Demands Release of Caste Census Data

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 23: Addressing the media, Kavitha alleged that the Congress was trying to manipulate the reservation process to benefit its own electoral prospects. "How can you decide on BC reservations without disclosing the actual caste census figures? Without transparency, it will only be an injustice to the backward communities," she said.

Kavitha demanded that the government first release caste census details at the panchayat level before moving forward on reservations. She emphasized that reservations are not just a political tool but a decisive measure that shapes the socio-economic future of marginalized communities. "The government must show accountability by revealing the ground realities through survey data. Only then can just and fair reservations be implemented," she added.

The caste census in Telangana was expected to form the basis for determining future reservation policies. However, despite conducting the survey, the government has not yet disclosed the results, leading to mounting suspicion from opposition parties. Experts say that without accurate data reflecting



The debate over Backward Classes (BC) reservations has once again ignited political tempers in Telangana, with Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader and MLC K. Kavitha launching a sharp attack on the Congress government. She accused the ruling party of attempting to finalize BC reservations without making public the caste census survey results, calling it a conspiracy to suit its political interests.

the socio-economic status of communities, any

reservation policy would be skewed and risk ex-

cluding deserving groups.

Kavitha did not mince words in accusing the Congress government of plotting to tilt the reservation structure in its favor. "They want to selectively hide caste census details and manipulate the process to consolidate their political vote banks. This is not social justice, it is pure politics," she remarked.

The BRS leader's comments reflect her party's larger strategy to corner Congress on sensitive issues ahead of local body elections. With the High Court already keeping a close watch on reservation-related matters, Kavitha's demand is expected to further intensify the debate.

The issue of whether reservations should be based on authentic caste census data or on political convenience is now sparking discussions across rural and urban Telangana. For the BC communities, who constitute a significant vote base, the outcome of this debate will directly impact their educational and political opportunities. Political observers note that mishandling the matter could prove costly for the ruling Congress, which is already battling criticism over governance and welfare delivery.

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Supreme Court Stays Local Elections in 23 Villages of Mulugu District

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 23: The controversy stems from conflicting judicial and administrative interpretations regarding the status of these villages. While the Telangana High Court had earlier ruled that these villages should be treated as tribal villages, non-tribal residents challenged this verdict in the Supreme Court, arguing that such classification was inconsistent with historical records and presidential orders.

The non-tribal petitioners cited Presidential Orders issued in 1950, which, according to them, excluded these 23 villages from being categorized as tribal areas. Based on this, they contended that the High Court's recognition of the villages as tribal settlements was erroneous. On the other hand, tribal associations had

previously approached the High Court, insisting that as per Nizam-era regulations, these villages were indeed tribal villages. The High Court, after examining the matter, accepted their plea and directed that the villages be recognized as tribal habitations.

This ruling prompted non-tribal groups to approach the Supreme Court, arguing that the High Court had erred in relying on outdated records and ignoring the constitutional authority of the Presidential Orders.

Acting on the petitions filed by non-tribal residents, the Supreme Court ordered a stay on the conduct of local elections in these villages. The apex court observed that until the legal status of the villages is conclusively determined, it would not be appropriate to proceed with elections, as the classification directly affects elec-

toral rolls, reservation quotas, and the rights of both tribal and non-tribal communities.

The stay order has temporarily halted the election process in these villages, creating uncertainty among local residents. Tribal organizations, which had welcomed the High Court's earlier decision, expressed disappointment at the Supreme Court's intervention, stating that it undermines their long-standing struggle for recognition and political representation.

Non-tribal groups, however, have welcomed the stay, arguing that it restores fairness and prevents what they consider to be a misinterpretation of law. They maintain that recognizing these villages as tribal habitations would unjustly exclude them from contesting or participating in

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Minister Seethakka Gets Emotional at Medaram Temple Review

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 23: During a review meeting on the Medaram development plan, which was chaired by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and attended by priests, tribal elders, and officials, Minister Seethakka became visibly emotional. She expressed her gratitude to the Chief Minister, stating that she was blessed to have the opportunity to contribute to the development of the Sammak-

ka Saralamma temple, which she referred to as the temple of the “forest gods.” The Minister praised CM Revanth Reddy for his commitment to developing the sacred site in a way that will ensure its longevity for another thousand years. The meeting’s focus was on a comprehensive plan to enhance the infrastructure and facilities at the temple, ensuring that the ancient site is preserved while meeting the needs of pilgrims for generations to come.

Telangana Demands 70% Share of Krishna Waters

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 23: Telangana’s Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies, Captain N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, announced that the state is demanding a 70% share of Krishna river waters, which amounts to 763 TMC of the total 1050 TMC, as part of its final arguments before the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal-II (KWDT-II).1 He spoke to

the media after attending the tribunal hearings in Delhi, emphasizing the Congress government’s serious commitment to rectifying the historical injustice faced by Telangana. Uttam Kumar Reddy outlined that Telangana’s claim is based on scientific and internationally accepted parameters, including the basin’s catchment area, population, drought-prone regions, and cul-

tivated land.3 He noted that the previous KWDT-II allocation had awarded 1050 TMC to the combined Andhra Pradesh. Based on the new parameters, Telangana is now arguing for its rightful share, which includes 555 TMC from the 75% dependable flows, and the full 45 TMC from Godavari diversions. The Minister criticized Andhra Pradesh for diverting a large portion of its water out-

side the basin and urged the tribunal to prevent this practice.5 He also came down heavily on the previous BRS government, accusing it of betraying the state’s farmers by accepting a share of only 299 TMC for nearly a decade.6 Utam clarified that the current government has formally rejected this past agreement and is fighting for the full, justified share. He asserted that Telangana would not com-

promise on its water rights, regardless of the political party in power in neighboring states like Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, or Maharashtra.8 He also confirmed that the state government is taking the issue of Karnataka’s plan to increase the height of the Almatti Dam very seriously and will make strong arguments in the Supreme Court to block the move, warning that it would severely harm Telangana’s interests.

Expressing confidence in the tribunal, Uttam stated that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has personally reviewed the case and given clear instructions to ensure an uncompromising legal and political fight for the state’s rights.10 He concluded by assuring the public that the government would not back down and would secure justice for the farmers and drought-affected regions of Telangana.

Revanth Reddy’s Address on Medaram Maha Jatara

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 23: Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy addressed a public meeting in Mulugu district, focusing on the development and recognition of the Medaram Maha Jatara. He called on the Central Government to allocate funds and grant National Festival status to the biennial tribal festival, which is considered one of the largest tribal gatherings in the world. He questioned why the Centre provides thousands of crores of funds to the Kumbh Mela but shows “indifference” towards the Medaram Jatara. Revanth Reddy also criticized the previous BRS government for allegedly discriminating against the Sammakka Saralamma temple during its 10-year tenure. He stated that his administration would prioritize the temple’s development, referring to it as an “emotion” and a “responsibility.” The Chief Minister mentioned his personal connection to the temple, having started his padayatra (foot march) from there in February 2023, which he believes led to the change in government.

The state government has committed to organizing the upcoming Jatara in January 2026 on a grand scale. To this end, CM Revanth Reddy instructed officials to construct new stone structures for the temple, ensuring the work is completed before the festival to avoid inconveniencing the millions of devotees expected to attend. He emphasized the government’s commitment to the welfare of the tribal community, citing the sanction of additional Indiramma houses in Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) areas. He also invited local tribal people and priests to be partners in the temple’s development, highlighting that the government considers the community the “original inhabitants” of the country. The Chief Minister urged officials to carry out the development work with a sense of “devotion,” likening it to the spiritual practice of Sammakka Sarakka ‘mala dharana.’ He expressed confidence that the combined efforts of the government and the community would make the upcoming Maha Jatara a great success.



CM Revanth Reddy’s Review of Medaram Temple Development

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 23: Chief Minister Revanth Reddy convened a meeting to review the development of the Sammakka Saralamma Temple in Medaram, emphasizing a swift and culturally sensitive approach.1 He announced the government’s readiness to release sufficient funds and instructed authorities to form a “Dedicated Official Team” to expedite the works.2 The team has been given a deadline of 100 days to complete the planned developments. The Chief Minister stressed the importance of integrating tribal cul-

ture, traditions, and beliefs into the temple’s reconstruction. He suggested the use of stone structures to ensure the temple’s resilience against natural disasters, given its location.4 Additionally, he instructed irrigation officials to construct check dams and conserve the Jampanna Vagu (rivulet) to secure water resources for the temple. During the meeting with temple officials, priests, and local representatives, the CM sought their opinions on the development plans, including designs and other proposed works.6 The local community welcomed the government’s decision

to expand the temple. Revanth Reddy also addressed concerns raised by tribal groups regarding their culture and traditions, assuring them that their customs would be given “utmost importance” in the project. Reaffirming his personal connection to the temple, he recalled starting his padayatra from the holy site on February 6, 2023, and stated that the new government was formed with the deities’ blessings.8 He framed the temple’s development not just as a construction project but as a “divine blessing” and a responsibility to preserve the history of tribal

struggle for future generations.9 He urged everyone involved to work with devotion and without expecting personal returns. The Chief Minister’s instructions aim to transform the temple while honoring its cultural significance and ensuring its longevity. The focus on local consultation, cultural preservation, and a clear timeline for completion highlights the new government’s commitment to the project.10 The proposed use of stone structures and water conservation measures demonstrates a long-term vision for the temple’s infrastructure.

Supreme Court Stays Local Elections in 23 Villages of Mulugu District

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local elections. The case has once again highlighted the sensitive nature of tribal rights, land status, and electoral representation in Telangana’s tribal-dominated regions. Legal experts note that the final judgment of the Supreme Court will have far-reaching consequences, not only for these 23 villages but also for similar disputes across the state. The Telangana government is now under pressure to provide clarity and assist the court with comprehensive records

to help settle the matter. Political analysts also believe the verdict could influence local political dynamics, as tribal and non-tribal communities remain deeply divided on the issue. With the Supreme Court’s stay in place, local elections in the 23 villages of Mangapet mandal will remain on hold until further orders. The final outcome of the case will determine whether these villages are officially recognized as tribal habitations—a decision that will shape the future of political participation and rights in the region.

Senior Maoist Leader Mallojula Venu Gopal Expelled, Declared ‘Traitor’ by Central Committee

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language and threat of “people’s court” punishment could provoke retaliatory violence as a show of strength, in order to deter others from following Venu Gopal’s example. As things stand, Venu Gopal’s next move remains uncertain. Whether he formally surrenders to the authorities or

becomes a target of his former comrades, the episode marks a significant moment in the decades-long Maoist insurgency. It has not only revealed the internal turmoil of the movement but also underscored the impact of sustained counter-insurgency operations on the once-formidable organization.

Kavitha Slams Congress Over BC Reservations, Demands Release of Caste Census Data

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Kavitha’s demand to release caste census data before finalizing BC reservations has thrown a fresh challenge at the Congress government. While the ruling party is keen on completing the reservation process before the upcoming local body polls, the opposition BRS is determined to build pressure and project the government

as being manipulative and non-transparent. As the political war of words intensifies, all eyes are now on the Congress leadership’s response. Its decision on whether to release caste census data or push ahead with its reservation plan will have a lasting impact not only on the backward communities but also on Telangana’s political landscape.

CM Revanth Reddy Congratulates Footballer Gugulothu Soumya

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achievement in the sport. Soumya, a native of Nizamabad, Telangana, is the first player from the state to win this prestigious award. She was recognized for her outstanding performance in the 2024-25 season, where she was the top scorer for East Bengal FC in the Indian Women’s League (IWL), netting nine goals and helping her team secure the title. The meeting was at-

tended by a number of senior sports officials, including Sports Minister Vakiti Srihari, Sports Authority Chairman Shivsena Reddy, Sports Authority MD Soni Baladevi, Telangana Football Association President Dr. Mohammed Ali Rafat, and General Secretary Palguna. The presence of these officials alongside the Chief Minister highlights the government’s recognition of Soumya’s talent and its commitment to promoting sports in the state.

Hyderabad Commissioner Inspects Bathukamma Kunta

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 23: Hyderabad Commissioner Shri AV Ranganath visited Bathukamma Kunta on Tuesday night to review preparations for the upcoming Bathukamma festival on September 26. Following Chief Minister Revanth Reddy’s instructions, the Commissioner ordered officials to beautify Bathukamma Kunta and its surroundings by the deadline. Senior Congress leader and former MP Shri V. Hanumantha Rao also visited the site and praised the work of the Hyderabad Develop-

ment Authority (Hydra). Locals expressed their astonishment at the transformation, saying the area was unrecognizable. They lauded the government’s decision to entrust the project to Hydra, which successfully completed the work. The Commissioner, accompanied by Hydra Admin S. P. Shri R. Sudarshan and Shri V. Hanumantha Rao, took a boat ride on Bathukamma Kunta to personally assess the completed work. This visit highlights the government’s commitment to preparing the city’s public spaces for major cultural events.



BRS and BJP Accused of Obstructing Jobs for Unemployed Youth

A joint press note from Riyaz, the Rashtra Granthalaya Chairman, and Chana-gani Dayakar, the TPCC General Secretary, accused the BRS and BJP of conspiring against unemployed youth. They claimed that both parties have a history of cheating job seekers, with the BRS's previous admin-istration being held responsible for the plight of the unem-ployed, which led to suicides due to numer-ous administrative failures. The officials criti-cized former Minister Jagadish Reddy for his alleged silence on un-employment for a de-cade, stating that he only became political-

ly active after losing power. They also al-leged a conspiracy be-tween the BRS and an individual named Ashok, suggesting that a recent protest was a politically moti-vated "drama." Fur-thermore, the press note targeted the BJP, questioning its moral right to speak on the issue of unemploy-ment. It pointed to the BJP's promise of cre-ating two crore jobs nationwide and its al-leged failure to deliver on that promise. The officials stated that leaders from both the BRS and BJP, includ-ing RS Praveen Kumar, Rakesh Reddy, Ramachandra Rao, and MLC Anji Reddy, are using public fo-rums like libraries for

political purposes in- stead of genuinely helping the unemployed. In contrast, the TPCC leaders high- lighted the current government's commit- ment to job creation. They announced that the government has already begun the pro- cess of filling vacan- cies and will soon re- lease a job calendar, demonstrating its fo- cus on providing em- ployment opportuni- ties for the state's youth. They urged un- employed individuals to be wary of the po- litical maneuvers of the BRS and BJP, which they claim are designed to create ob- stacles and impede the new government's ef- forts to secure jobs.



BJP Criticizes Telangana Government on Job Promises

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 23: BJP state presi- dent N. Ramchan- dra Rao met with unemployed youth at the Ashoknagar and City Central libraries in

Hyderabad to discuss their issues. Following the meeting, he spoke to the media, expressing strong criticism of the Congress-led govern- ment under Chief Min- ister Revanth Reddy. Ramchandra Rao ac-

cused the government of cheating the state's youth by failing to de- liver on its promise to fill one lakh jobs. He highlighted that two years have passed since the Congress party came to power, yet no

job notifications have been issued. The BJP leader further criticized the government for its "negligence," citing a situation where the Group-1 exam had to be re-conducted, which he called an act of "playing

with the lives of the youth." He assured the unem- ployed youth that the BJP would continue its fight on their behalf un- til all promised jobs are filled and justice is served.

AICC Deploys Senior Leaders for Telangana DCC Appointments

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 23: The All India Congress Committee (AICC) has taken the appointment of District Congress

Committees (DCCs) in Telangana with great seriousness, assigning a team of senior national leaders to the task.1 These leaders, who in- clude former Chief Ministers, CWC mem-

bers, former Union Ministers, and former Speakers, have been ap- pointed as in-charges to ensure the process is conducted without any political pressure.2 The AICC's decision

to entrust this responsi- bility to such high-pro- file figures reflects its commitment to making the DCC appointments transparent and pres- tigious. The move also signals the growing im-

portance of DCCs with- in the party, as they are expected to be given top priority in future party affairs, which has, in turn, led to an increase in demand for these positions.

Prabhakar Criticizes BJP's GST Policies

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 23: Minister Ponnamm Prabhakar, speak- ing at Gandhi Bhavan, accused the BJP-led central gov- ernment of exploiting the public for eight years through GST, which he termed "Gabbar Singh

Tax."1 He argued that the tax has burdened the poor by doubling the prices of essential goods and unfairly taxing small businesses more than luxury establishments.2 Prabhakar called the recent GST rate reduc- tions an "election drama" and demanded that

the central government compensate Telangana for the estimated annual revenue loss of 7,000 crores caused by the new tax structure.3 He urged Telangana's Union Min- isters, G. Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay, to ad- vocate for the state's fi- nancial interests in Delhi.4

He concluded by accus- ing the central govern- ment of favoring certain states while ignoring Telangana and punish- ing states by imposing additional cesses. He also criticized their failure to include petrol and diesel under the GST framework, despite re- peated requests.



Ramchandra Rao Warns Against Almatti Dam Height Increase

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 23: BJP Telangana State President N. Ramchandra Rao has expressed strong concerns that the Karnataka govern- ment's plan to increase the height of the Almat- ti Dam could devastate South Telangana.1 Speaking at a press con- ference, he stated that raising the dam's height from 519 to 524 meters would cause serious damage to farmers in the Palamuru, Nalgon- da, and Rangareddy dis-

tricts, potentially turn- ing the region into a desert.2 This would also severely impact major projects that rely on the Krishna River, such as Jurala, Nagarjunasagar, and alamuru- Ran gareddy. Ramchandra Rao highlighted that the Su- preme Court has a stay order on the height in- crease, making the Kar- nataka government's land acquisition efforts an unfair and premature move.4 He questioned the silence of Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, arguing that

since both Telangana and Karnataka have Congress-led govern- ments, Reddy should use his influence with the party's central leader- ship, including Sonia, Rahul, and Priyanka Gandhi, to protect the state's water rights.5 The BJP president also criticized the previ- ous BRS government for its past actions, stating that its alleged agree- ment to limit Telanga- na's Krishna water share to just 299 TMC has deprived it of the "moral right" to speak on the issue.6 Ramchan-

dra Rao's remarks un- derscore the political nature of the interstate water dispute, with both the current and previ- ous state governments facing accusations of neglecting Telangana's interests for political or financial gain.7 He con- cluded by urging the Tel- angana government to immediately take action to prevent the Almatti Dam's height from being increased, warning of catastrophic conse- quences for the state's agricultural sector if the project is not stopped.

Harish Rao Demands Payment for Ration Dealers

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 23: Former Minister Harish Rao has ex- pressed strong dis- satisfaction with both the central (BJP) and state (Congress) gov- ernments over the de- layed payment of com- missions to ration dealers.1 Following a meeting with a group of dealers at his Hyderabad residence, Harish Rao accused the govern- ments of playing with the lives of those who distribute essential food to the poor. He stated that ration dealers are facing severe financial hardship, with some commission pay- ments pending for up to six months.3 He speci- fically highlighted that the



Congress party, in its "Abhayahastam" elec- tion manifesto, had promised an honorari- um of Rs 5,000 and an in- crease in commission, a promise that has not been fulfilled in the 22 months since they came to power. Harish Rao contrasted the current situation with the actions of the

previous BRS govern- ment.5 He noted that the BRS administration had increased the commis- sion per metric ton from Rs 900 to Rs 1400, adding a Rs 139 crore burden on the state to ensure the welfare of over 17,000 dealers.6 He also men- tioned that the BRS had granted compassionate appointments and in-

creased the age limit for dealerships. The former minister demanded the immedi- ate release of the pend- ing commission from both the central and state governments.8 He also called on the Con- gress party to fulfill its election promise of a higher honorarium and commission.

Vinod Kumar Criticizes Congress's Claims on Sammakka Barrage

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 23: Former MP B. Vi- nod Kumar held a press conference at Telangana Bhavan to counter the claims made by Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy regarding the Sammakka Sarakka Barrage. Vinod Kumar stated that Uttam Kumar Red- dy's assertion of having secured new approvals for the project is a mis- representation of the facts. According to Vinod Kumar, the BRS govern- ment, led by KCR, had already completed the construction of the bar-

rage, which was built to strengthen the Devadu- la project.3 He pointed out that the previous Congress government in Chhattisgarh had ob- structed the project by withholding permis- sions from the Central Water Commission (CWC). The current agreement with Chhat- tigarh regarding the submergence of 50 acres, which is now being celebrated by Minis- ter Uttam, is an achieve- ment that KCR was prevented from secur- ing due to political pressure from Congress leaders during the 2023 elections. Vinod Kumar also

criticized the Congress government's historical handling of the Devadu- la project.5 He recalled that while the project's foundation was laid by Chandrababu Naidu in 2001, it remained incom- plete even after the Con- gress came to power.6 The Congress govern- ment, despite spending a significant amount, failed to properly pump water from the project. In contrast, he credited KCR with fixing the pro- ject's design flaws and constructing ten reser- voirs to ensure water storage. In his address, Vinod Kumar urged the Con- gress government to

complete the pending works on the Devadula project and focus on pro- viding water to its en- tire ayacut.8 He also ad- dressed the recent issues with the Medi- gadda Barrage, stating that repairs should be started promptly.9 He defended the Medigadda structure, claiming that it did not move "even a millimeter" despite lakhs of cusecs of water flowing through it. He concluded by advising the Congress govern- ment to stop spreading negative news about KCR and instead work sincerely on completing the state's irrigation projects.





Enforcement Efforts Target Illicit Liquor and Jaggery

The ongoing enforcement campaign against illegal liquor and contraband has led to several significant seizures in Hyderabad. In Shamshabad, the Rangareddy Enforcement Team, led by CIs Subhash Chander and Balaraju, confiscated 125 premium liquor bottles, primarily from the Goa region, valued at approximately Rs. 7.50 lakhs. Notices were issued to 16 individuals involved in this case. Separately, the HDFS Team CI Nagaraju seized six bottles of Johnnie Walker from a



residence in Mush-eerabad. The campaign also targeted the supply of materials used for producing illicit liquor. An STF B team, led by SI Balaraju, intercepted a vehicle transporting 2010 kg of black jaggery and 50 kg of alum from Hyderabad to Nagarkurnool.

The jaggery, valued at Rs. 1 lakh, is a key ingredient for producing “Natu Sara” or country liquor. The total value of the seized items, including a DCM vehicle and two cellphones, is estimated at Rs. 4.56 lakh. The operation resulted in the arrest of Mahesh, Maharshi, and Qasim.



Hyderabad’s Drainage and Flooding Issues

The Hydra Prajavani initiative has received numerous complaints regarding drainage and flooding problems. On Tuesday, 49 complaints were filed, with over 30 directly related to drain encroachments and flooding. Residents reported that floodwater was not flowing smoothly, leading to the submergence of residential areas. Specific complaints

included issues in Aminpur, Yusufguda, Miyapur, Kukatpally, Abdullahpur Met Mandal, and Hayatnagar Mandal, all highlighting a common theme of water stagnation and encroachment on water bodies. The Hydra Commissioner acknowledged the complaints, delegating them to the relevant authorities and promising to personally inspect some of the sites

GHMC Commissioner Pushes for Faster Project Completion



GHMC Commissioner R.V. Karnan held a meeting to express his dissatisfaction with the slow progress of key infrastructure projects, including the Strategic Road Development Program (SRDP), Strategic Nala Development Program (SNDP), and H-City projects. He ordered engineering officials to accelerate their efforts, warning of disciplinary action for continued negligence. During the review, Karnan expressed frustration that only 25 lake development projects have been initiated across six zones, with

many progressing slowly. He specifically criticized irrigation engineers for their performance and instructed Zonal Commissioners to submit a field report on lake development within a week. He emphasized the need to complete walking tracks, beautification efforts, and sewerage diversion around the lakes promptly. The Commissioner directed officials to operate in a “mission mode” to quickly complete all projects aimed at alleviating Hyderabad’s traffic problems. He assured them that a lack of funds was not an issue and pledged to help resolve any pending

government clearances. Karnan also instructed engineers to collaborate with traffic police to manage traffic flow around construction sites and to prepare the Falaknuma ROB for its inauguration by September 25. The meeting was attended by various officials, including Zonal Commissioners, Chief Engineers, and other departmental heads, who gave a PowerPoint presentation on the projects’ status and challenges. The Commissioner’s firm stance signals a renewed push to expedite infrastructure development in the city.



Sabita Indra Reddy Reviews Water Supply

Maheshwaram MLA and former minister Smt. Sabita Indra Reddy held a review meeting with officials from the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWS) to address complaints about contaminated drinking water. She instructed HMWS

officials to immediately remove old pipelines and install new ones to ensure the public receives clean drinking water. The MLA emphasized that providing clean drinking water is a top priority for the government. HMWS officials and local public representatives attended the meeting.

Hyderabad Railway Police Apprehends Murder Suspect



The Hyderabad Railway Police have arrested Pathlavath Ravi, a 35-year-old man, in connection with a murder case (Cr. no: 148/2025) at the Hitech City Railway Station. The suspect was apprehended on September 23, 2025, at the Pathanagar Railway Station by a police team conducting routine checks for criminals. The arrest was made based on the accused’s suspicious appearance, including injuries on his nose and eye. During the police interrogation, the accused

confessed to the murder of a man identified as Neelam Rajesh. According to his statement, the incident occurred on September 18, 2025. Pathlavath Ravi and the deceased, Neelam Rajesh, initially met to discuss job prospects. After failing to find work, they consumed alcohol and toddy. The situation escalated when the deceased allegedly harassed a couple and extorted money from them. The confrontation that led to the murder began after the two men consumed liquor and the ac-

cused decided to leave. The deceased followed him, verbally abused him, and physically assaulted him with a helmet and a brick. The accused claimed that the harassment was “unbearable” and he decided to kill the deceased. He then picked up a cement brick and hit Neelam Rajesh, causing him to fall. The accused then used a larger brick to strike the victim on the head, which was the fatal blow. He then fled the scene on an MMTS local train. The police recovered a

Jio keypad mobile phone and a blood-stained kerchief from the accused’s residence. The arrest was carried out by a team led by B. Praveen Kumar, IRP, and Ravi, IPF/LPI, under the supervision of senior police officials, including Smt. Chandana Deepti, IPS, Supdt. of Police, Railways, Secunderabad. The Inspector General of Police, Railways and Road Safety, K. Ramesh Naidu, IPS, has appreciated the police team for their efforts and announced that they will be suitably rewarded.



Actor Venkata Teja’s Visit to Marakata Shiva Temple

Kishkindapuri movie hero Venkata Teja visited the Sri Someswara Brahmasutra Marakata Shiva Temple in Chandippa village, Shankarpalli mandal, to offer special prayers and express gratitude for his movie’s success. The temple, believed to be installed by Lord Rama, is a significant spiritual site. Accompanied by Julakanti Venugopal Reddy and Bollaram Praveen Kumar Reddy, the actor performed pujas and an abhishekam under the guidance of chief priests Sai Shiva, Pramod, and Veeresham. Following the rituals, temple hon-

orary president Sadanandam Goud and chairman Gopal Reddy honored the actor, presenting him with relics and a portrait of the deity. Venkata Teja stated that he made the visit specifically to seek the blessings of Lord Shiva after the film’s positive reception. The visit highlights the intersection of public life and religious devotion, with celebrities often visiting temples to mark personal or professional milestones. The temple’s historical and spiritual significance draws devotees and public figures alike, reinforcing its cultural importance in the region.

Black Jaggery and Illicit Liquor Seized

The Special Task Force (STF) B team, led by SI Balaraju, successfully intercepted an auto trolley transporting a large quantity of black jaggery and “Natusara,” an illicit liquor. The operation, which took place on the route from Hyderabad to Nagarkurnool district, resulted in the seizure of 900 kg of jaggery and 10 liters of Natusara. The police arrested one individual,



identified as Harish, who was associated with BJ Transport. The seized jaggery is a key

ingredient in the production of country liquor, highlighting a targeted effort by law

enforcement to disrupt the supply chain for illicit alcoholic beverages. This action is part of a broader crackdown on illegal liquor manufacturing and distribution, aiming to curb the production and sale of unregulated spirits that pose a health risk to consumers. The quick action by the STF B team underscores the vigilance of local authorities in combating such illegal activities.

Cyberabad Police Honored with Seva Pathakam Medals

The Cyberabad Police Commissionerate hosted a Seva Pathakam Ceremony to recognize and honor 122 of its personnel for their exemplary service. The awards, presented by Commissioner of Police Avinash Mohanty, IPS, were given for exceptional contributions throughout the past year. The recipients were awarded 35 Seva Pathakam medals for their work on New Year’s Day and 87 for their efforts during Telangana Formation Day celebrations. During the ceremony, Commissioner Mohanty congratulated the recipients and praised their dedication to public safety and their commitment to duty. He emphasized that these medals are a



testament to the hard work and professionalism of the entire Cyberabad Police force. The Commissioner urged the awardees to view this recognition not as a culmination, but as an encouragement to continue their outstanding performance and to aspire for even greater achievements in the future. The Seva Pathakam medals are conferred by the Telangana Government to acknowledge the commenda-

ble contributions of police personnel. The event, held at the Commissionerate Auditorium, was attended by several high-ranking officials, including Joint CP Traffic Dr. Gajarao Bhupal, IPS, Admin ADCP F. Rehman, ADCP CAR Headquarters SK Shamer, along with other ADCPs, ACPs, and Inspectors. The gathering served as a significant occasion to recognize individual excellence and to

boost the morale of the entire force. The police force is entrusted with the critical responsibility of maintaining law and order, and such awards are crucial in motivating personnel to perform their duties with integrity and courage. The ceremony underscored the police department’s commitment to recognizing merit and promoting a culture of excellence within its ranks.

Demolition of Illegal Construction in Secunderabad Cantonment

Cantonment officials in Secunderabad, with the support of a police presence, demolished an unauthorized building under construction in Picket Erukala Basti. According to the officials, they had previously issued

notices regarding the illegal construction on land belonging to the Defense Department. The family that owns the demolished structure claimed to have lived in the area for 90 years. They expressed anger that the demolition was carried out

without providing them enough time to seek legal recourse in court. Other residents, who identified themselves as part of the Erukala social group, stated they had lived there for 50 years. Some victims alleged that the demolition was an act

of harassment, implying that they were being targeted for not paying a bribe. The incident highlights the ongoing conflict between residents and authorities over land ownership and illegal construction in the Cantonment area.



QCFI Hyderabad Chapter's Annual Conference

The Quality Circle Forum of India (QCFI) Hyderabad Chapter held its 39th Annual Conference at Hotel Marigold, focusing on the theme “Atma Nirbhar Vikasit Bharat” (Self-Reliant Developed India). Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar was the chief guest and delivered a keynote address on the importance of quality, innovation, and skill development.

In his speech, Minister Prabhakar emphasized that self-reliance is not merely about domestic production but about achieving world-class quality, innovation, and sustainability. He highlighted Telangana's significant role as a hub for IT, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, and manufacturing, stressing the need for every product and service to meet the highest



global standards to ensure global competitiveness. The Minister discussed the Telangana government's commitment to fostering a favorable environment for quality and innovation. He mentioned government investments in industrial infrastructure, skill development, and digital initiatives to attract investments. He noted the special emphasis on sectors like agriculture, irrigation, and public welfare schemes, where quality and efficiency directly improve citizens' lives. He also advised students to embed quality as a habit in every process and to collaborate across industries to share best practices.

The conference, which brought together 1200 participants from 70 industries, featured case studies on innovative solutions for productivity improvement, waste reduction, energy conservation, workplace safety, and cost efficiency. Minister Prabhakar praised the QCFI for its successful organization of the event and its role in promoting a culture of quality. He urged the participants to take full responsibility for their work and to strive for professional excellence. He also touched upon civic issues, such as traffic congestion in Hyderabad during rain

and the importance of water harvesting to combat water scarcity, noting that every inch of rainwater should be saved. He also spoke about pollution control efforts, including the promotion of electric vehicles through the EV policy and large-scale plantation programs.

The Minister concluded by congratulating the award recipients and wishing all involved in QCFI's future endeavors great success, stating that their efforts would contribute to building a strong, self-reliant, and developed India. Other dignitaries present at the event included Telangana Educational Infrastructure Director Ganapathi Reddy, Balakishan, Shyam Mohan, and other QCFI representatives.

Partnership to Enhance Agricultural Education in Telangana

A significant meeting was held at the Secretariat, chaired by BC Welfare Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar, to formalize a key partnership between the Mahatma Jyotirao Phule (MJP) Gurukula Society and Professor Jayashankar Agricultural University. The collaboration aims to elevate the quality of technical education offered at the Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Agricultural Degree Colleges in Karimnagar and Wanaparthy.

The meeting was attended by prominent officials, including BC Welfare Department In-charge Secretary Buddha Prakash, Agriculture Department Secretary Raghunandan, Professor Jayashankar Agricultural University Vice Chancellor Professor Janaiah, and MJP Gurukula Secretary Saidulu. The core of the discussion centered on an agreement that will allow the two agricultural colleges to provide enhanced education to their second, third, and final-year students.

Under the new arrangement, students will receive instruction from faculty members of Professor Jayashankar Agricultural University. This collaboration is designed to provide students with more comprehensive and practical knowledge, preparing them for the agricultural sector. The partnership will also involve field visits, access to advanced lab facilities, and exposure to the infrastructure of both the main university campus in Rajendra Nagar and its affiliated colleges.

The officials confirmed that the admission process for students entering the Karimnagar and Wanaparthy colleges this year will be conducted under the supervision of Professor Jayashankar Agricultural University. This alignment ensures that students will receive a high standard of education right from the beginning of their academic journey. The initiative underscores the government's commitment to improving educational opportunities for students from the Backward Classes and other marginalized communities, with a focus on providing them with the necessary skills and resources to succeed in the field of agriculture. The integration of technical expertise from the university into the gurukula system is a strategic move to bridge the gap between academic theory and practical application.

GHMC to Host Bathukamma Festival

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) is set to organize the Bathukamma festival on a grand scale, with competitions to be held across its various circles. GHMC Deputy Mayor Mothe Srilatha Shobhan Reddy has instructed officials to ensure all necessary arrangements are in place for the event.

The Deputy Mayor held a meeting with Secunderabad Circle DPO Shri Srinath to prepare for the festival,



which will be celebrated in the Sitaphalmandi Multipurpose Function Hall. She directed officials to provide essential facilities for attendees, including drinking water, electricity, security, and medical services at the venue.

Mothe Srilatha Shobhan Reddy urged women and young girls to participate in large numbers to make the program a success, emphasizing the festival's significance as a reflection of Telangana's tradition and culture. She affirmed that the state government is providing full support to ensure a grand and successful celebration.

Sabita Indra Reddy's Visit to Flooded Areas

Former Minister and MLA Sabita Indra Reddy visited several flooded colonies within the Badangpet Municipal Corporation, including the 1st, 4th, and 5th divisions, to assess the damage caused by recent heavy rains. She interacted with residents to understand the challenges they are facing due to the inundation. Speaking to the media afterward, Sabita Indra Reddy criticized the current government's response to the

situation, accusing it of being passive during a time of disaster. She contrasted the present administration's actions with those of the previous BRS government. She recalled that during the BRS tenure, she had brought the issue of flooding in Mithila Nagar to the attention of then-Chief Minister KCR, who subsequently sanctioned 1250 crores from SNDP funds for the installation of drains via a trunk line to provide a permanent solution. She

credited this initiative with having alleviated the problem to a certain extent. The MLA also expressed her dismay at the current government's alleged mismanagement, citing the failure to locate the bodies of individuals who fell into a canal during the recent downpour as a sign of administrative failure. She accused the Congress government of wasting time under the pretext of “public governance” and highlighted the irony that despite the Chief Minister holding the municipal portfolio, there has been a lack of development.

The visit was attended by several BRS leaders and former corporators, including Badangpet Municipal Corporation BRS President Ramidi Ramireddy and others, underscoring the political nature of the visit and the ongoing criticism of the government's handling of the crisis.



Etala Rajender Visits Jammikunta for Bathukamma Festival

MP Etala Rajender visited the Jammikunta Housing Board Colony in the Hujarabad constituency to participate in the Bathukamma festival. During his visit, he performed special pujas and praised the community for their nine-year tradition of celebrating the goddess.

Speaking at the event, Rajender highlighted that Bathukamma is a unique festival in the world that honors nature. He also underscored the country's tradition of respecting and worshipping women. He credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi with preserving India's culture, traditions, festivals, and temples. He concluded by expressing his wish for India to become a peaceful and prosperous nation. The event was attended by several local leaders and community members.

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Former Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav Intervenes in Bansilalpet Land Dispute

Former Minister and Sanath Nagar MLA Talasani Srinivas Yadav addressed a land dispute in Bansilalpet, clarifying that a specific parcel of land is the designated burial ground for the Kurma community. This comes after the Kurma Sangh and other agitators staged protests against the construction of a multi-story building on the site, alleging that the developer had obtained

permissions illegally. The protestors, who were supported by Marwari activists, have been fighting to preserve the land. In response to the public outcry, Talasani Srinivas Yadav visited the location accompanied by officials from the Revenue Department and the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC). Following his inspection, he confirmed that the land is indeed a burial ground. He has since instructed GHMC officials to take control of the property.

Yadav revealed that the plan is to provide all necessary facilities for the burial ground once a pending court dispute is resolved. He also issued a strong warning against any individuals attempting to misuse his name or engage in illegal activities related to the land. The MLA's intervention is a significant development in the ongoing conflict, signaling a formal government acknowledgment of the Kurma Sangh's claim and a commitment to preserving the land for its intended purpose. The community's long-standing protest against alleged encroachment has now received high-level political support, with the MLA promising to ensure that the land is protected and developed for the community's use.

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CM Relief Fund Cheques Distributed in Sangareddy

Telangana Industries Infrastructure Development Chairman Nirmala Jaggarreddy distributed cheques worth Rs. 55 lakhs

from the CM Relief Fund to 109 beneficiaries in Sangareddy town. She expressed her gratitude to the government for providing financial assistance

to the people of the constituency. The event was attended by Sangareddy Constituency Convener Julakanti Anjaneyulu, CDC Chairman Ram

Reddy, Block President Raghu Goud, Kandi Mandal Adekshu Mothilal, Sadashivapet Mandal Adekshu Siddanna, and other local leaders.





Swadeshi Movement 2.0: The Strategic Path to India’s Self-Reliance

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has reignited the call for a modern Swadeshi movement, emphasizing that today’s version is not about rejecting globalization, but about strategic self-reliance. Amid rising US tariffs on Indian goods and H-1B visa fee hikes, the government is urging citizens and industries to focus on building domestic capabilities under initiatives like ‘Make in India 2.0’ and ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’.

With the US tariffs creating both short-term challenges and long-term opportunities, India must pivot from overdependence on a single market to building resilient, diversified trade networks. The crisis provides a chance to restructure trade, upgrade domestic industries, and position India as a reliable alternative manufacturing hub for global companies.

Strengthening local demand reduces vulnerability to tariffs while enhancing bargaining power in international trade negotiations. Sectors such as electronics, pharmaceuticals, textiles, auto components, and green technology present opportunities for India to attract foreign direct investment and co-manufacturing partnerships with allies of the US, creating new value-chain alliances.

India to move up the value chain beyond low-cost labor competition. Digital Swadeshi initiatives, including homegrown fintech, social media, AI, and quantum platforms, can reduce reliance on foreign technology while fostering a robust tech ecosystem. Green Swadeshi efforts in solar, hydrogen, and EV technologies further strengthen self-reliance.

and fostering innovation, leveraging India’s demographic advantage of a youthful workforce. The modern Swadeshi movement is a strategic response to uncertainty in global trade. It is not merely a policy direction but a national necessity, ensuring that India remains resilient, self-reliant, and positioned to convert challenges like US tariffs into long-term economic strength and global influence.

A Leader With Vision & Organisation, Mahesh Kumar Goud

President of the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) and Member of Legislative Council (MLC), Bomma Mahesh Kumar Goud has emerged as a guiding light for the people of Telangana. A true leader, he has placed the interests of the people above all else, demonstrating that leadership is not just about holding a position but about service, sacrifice, and being the voice of the voiceless. In the past year, as TPCC Chief, Shri Mahesh Kumar Goud has revitalized the Congress Party, steering it with renewed energy and vision. His leadership has focused on ensuring the welfare of all sections of society, with a special emphasis on inclusive growth and social justice. His commitment to the people is evident through several key initiatives that have made a real impact in the state.

the Rythu Runa Maafi program, and the empowerment of marginalized communities with 42% reservations for backward classes. He has also championed the cause of affordable housing with the Indiramma Illu scheme, and introduced the Mahalakshmi Scheme, which provides free bus travel for women across Telangana. Additionally, the Gruha Jyothi initiative has ensured free household electricity up to 200 units, and the release of the Job Calendar along with regular job notifications has created hope and employment opportunities for the youth. Beyond his work within the state, Mahesh Kumar Goud is a loyal ally to Congress leaders at the national level. He works closely with Congress President Rahul Gandhi, Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Smt. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, and AICC General Secretary K.C. Venugopal, strengthening the party’s vision for a united India. Within Telangana, he has built a strong partnership with Chief Minister Shri A. Revanth Reddy and Deputy CM Shri Mallu Bhatti Vikra-

marka, playing a key role in shaping the state’s political landscape. His approachability and unwavering support for the party cadre have earned him the respect and admiration of Congress workers, who see him as not just a leader but a big brother. Mahesh Kumar Goud’s leadership continues to light the path of progress in Telangana. Whether advocating for farmers’ rights, women’s empowerment, or youth employment, his mission is clear: to transform Telangana into a state of justice, equality, and opportunity for all. His journey as TPCC Chief and MLC is a testament to his tireless service and commitment to the people, making him a true people’s champion and a leader for all seasons.



IT Giants Prioritising Short-Term Gains Over Long-Term Innovation?

The Indian IT services sector faces a critical crossroads. Just days ago, US President Donald Trump signed a decree imposing a \$1,00,000 fee for each H-1B visa used for onshore work, raising costs and threatening the traditional labour arbitrage model that has long powered India’s IT giants. Meanwhile, Infosys announced an unprecedented Rs 18,000 crore share buyback, signalling a preference for rewarding shareholders rather than investing in long-term innovation. Buybacks and high dividends can indicate a lack of profitable growth opportunities, undervaluation of shares, or a strategy to boost earnings per share. For promoter-led companies like TCS, Wipro, and HCL Technologies, dividends largely benefit promoters rather than minority shareholders, underscoring the short-term orientation.

landscape is shifting. Global capability centres (GCCs) are expanding rapidly, growing at 40 percent in FY24, compared with just 5 percent growth among India’s top five IT firms. These GCCs retain intellectual property rights in-house, compete for talent, and threaten margins of traditional IT services. TCS’s recent announcement to cut 12,000 jobs illustrates the sector’s need to manage costs while sustaining investor confidence. This raises a crucial question: Are India’s IT services companies over-reliant on labour arbitrage, at the expense of products, platforms, and intellectual property (IPR)? While buybacks, dividends, and cost-cutting satisfy shareholders in the short term, they do little to future-proof businesses in the age of AI. Surplus cash could be better deployed in developing platforms, investing in AI-driven language models, or making strategic

acquisitions—areas that generate sustainable revenues without a proportional increase in labour costs. India’s IT giants must also confront five key challenges: geographic concentration risk, overemphasis on margins over volume, dependency on software services, risk-aversion in cash deployment, and short-term shareholder focus. Companies like Berkshire Hathaway demonstrate that long-term value creation often outperforms dividend-centric strategies. Ultimately, India’s IT firms must pivot toward creating enduring value for shareholders, employees, customers, and the broader ecosystem. By investing in innovation, IPR, and homegrown platforms, they can reduce reliance on labour arbitrage, compete globally, and secure sustainable growth—transforming from service providers to product and technology leaders in the AI era.

India Attracts Record Foreign Investment Despite Rupee Weakness

Global central banks are no longer moving in unison, creating a fragmented monetary landscape. The United States Federal Reserve recently cut its policy rate by 25 basis points, bringing it to a range of 4-4.25 per cent. In contrast, the European Central Bank (ECB) remains cautious, holding rates steady as it balances inflation concerns with sluggish growth. Japan continues its ultra-loose monetary policy with near-zero rates and extensive bond purchases, while China is aggressively easing policy rates to support its slowing economy. This divergence marks a clear departure from the post-pandemic trend when most central banks tightened policies collectively to combat inflation. Liquidity is now being injected in some regions while withdrawn in others, creating yield differentials that scatter capital flows rather than channeling them uniformly.

tum is expected to accelerate with India’s inclusion in JPMorgan’s Emerging Market Bond Index, which began in June 2024 and will reach full weight by March 2025, potentially attracting \$20-25 billion in debt inflows. Why do investors remain bullish despite the rupee depreciation? Three key factors stand out. First, India’s relative growth advantage is unmatched, with projected GDP growth of 6.5 per cent in FY2025, compared with 0.7 per cent in the eurozone and 0.9 per cent in the United States. Second, macro-economic credibility matters: August 2025 inflation moderated to 4.9 per cent, within the Reserve Bank of India’s target range, reflecting steady and credible policy management. Third, index-driven and structural flows provide stability, as pension funds and sovereign wealth funds allocate resources to India due to benchmark mandates rather than speculative motives.



Free Speech: The Lifeblood of Public Reason and Democracy

One of the most vulnerable domains of public life today is free speech. As US Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis famously stated, public discussion is a political duty: the remedy to falsehood and harm is more speech, not enforced silence. Free speech is essential because it makes the Public, enabling citizens to participate in shaping ideas, policies, and societal norms. Yet, both totalitarian and democratic regimes increasingly curtail this freedom, revealing a worrying convergence in practice. The principle of Public Reason asserts that laws harming communities, driven by prejudice, sectarianism, or ideological motives, are illegitimate. Restrictions are justified only when speech produces actual harm, such as hate speech inciting violence. What is unacceptable is viewpoint-based suppression—proscribing speech simply because it challenges the state’s official stance. Legal

scholar Geoffrey Stone emphasized: “The government may not restrict expression simply because it disagrees with the speaker’s views.” Similarly, Justice Thurgood Marshall insisted that governments cannot limit speech based on its content or ideas, for doing so undermines democratic debate. Yet, governments often justify curbs on speech citing “national interest” or “national good,” ironically undermining the very public whose participation defines these concepts. Paternalistic regulation privileges certain majority interests over the broader public, skewing discourse and shaping citizens to conform to ideological lines. Historical examples are stark: Nazi Germany’s propaganda machinery and Rwanda’s radio-fueled ethnic mobilization show how viewpoint suppression and orchestrated hate speech paved the way for genocide. Countering harmful speech is central to

preserving Public Reason. As political scientist Katherine Gelber observes, citizens must respond to disagreeable or harmful speech, engaging in reasoned rebuttal to prevent the public from being manipulated. In Habermasian terms, the Public emerges not only through debate but through active counters to misinformation, bias, and hate speech. Silence, or non-engagement, enables manipulation and diminishes democratic life. Nobel laureate Toni Morrison reminded us: “There is no time for despair, no place for self-pity, no need for silence, no room for fear. We speak, we write, we do language. That is how civilizations heal.” Speaking back—continually, logically, and purposefully—is not just a civic duty; it is what sustains Public Reason and qualifies our life within a democracy. Free speech, therefore, is not merely a right—it is the lifeblood of an informed, resilient, and participatory society.



Unemployment, corruption will rise as long as vote chori exists: Rahul Gandhi

TPN Bureau | New Delhi

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday claimed that as long as elections are “stolen”, unemployment and corruption will continue to rise, asserting that young people will no longer tolerate “job theft” and “vote theft”.

In a post on X in Hindi, the Leader of Oppo-

sition in the Lok Sabha said unemployment is the biggest problem facing India’s youth and is directly linked to “vote chori”. He stressed that when a government wins public trust, its primary duty is to provide employment and opportunities for young citizens.

Gandhi alleged that the BJP does not win elections honestly and stays in power by stealing votes and controlling institutions, which

has led to unemployment reaching a 45-year high.

“That’s why jobs are declining, recruitment processes have collapsed, and the future of youth is being jeopardized. Every exam paper leak and recruitment scandal is linked to corruption,” he said.

He further criticized the government’s priorities, saying, “The country’s youth work hard, dream, and fight for their future. But Prime

Minister Narendra Modi is focused solely on PR, getting celebrities to sing praises, and billionaire profits. The government has made it its identity to shatter the hopes of the youth and leave them frustrated.”

Rahul Gandhi emphasized that the situation is changing, asserting that India’s youth now understand the real fight isn’t just for jobs but against vote theft. He warned that as long

as elections remain compromised, the issues of unemployment and corruption will persist, and youth frustration will continue to grow.

Gandhi’s remarks come amid growing concerns over job scarcity, exam paper leaks, and recruitment irregularities, fueling debates on governance, electoral integrity, and youth employment across the country.



‘I Love Muhammad’ Banner Sparks Protests Across India



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The “I Love Muhammad” controversy, originating in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, has triggered protests and processions across several states, including Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Telangana, and Maharashtra. Cities such as Unnao, Bareilly, Kaushambi, Lucknow, Maharajganj, Kashi- pur, and Hyderabad have witnessed rallies and street demonstrations, some resulting in clashes with police.

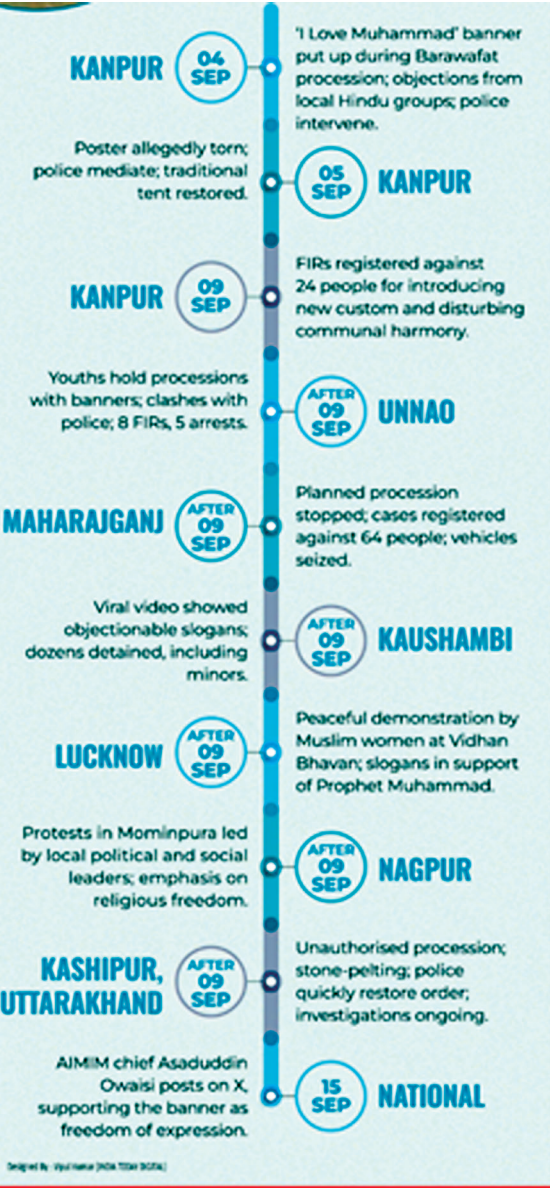
The issue began on September 4 during the Barawafat (Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi) procession in Rawatpur, Kanpur, when a group placed an “I Love Muhammad” banner along the route. Local Hindu groups objected, claiming a “new tradition” was being introduced in a space traditionally used for Barawafat celebrations. Police intervened, restoring the traditional tent and signage. DCP Dinesh Tripathi clarified

that no FIR was filed specifically for the banner. However, both communities accused each other of tearing posters, escalating tensions.

On September 9, Kanpur police registered cases against 24 people for allegedly introducing a new custom during the procession and disturbing communal harmony. The controversy gained national attention after AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi tweeted that expressing love for Prophet Muhammad was not a crime, criticizing police action.

The protests spread to other districts: in Unnao, youths held processions, leading to stone-pelting and 5 arrests; in Maharajganj, police registered cases against 64 individuals and seized vehicles to prevent escalation; in Kaushambi, youths were detained for chanting of- fensive slogans in response to the Kanpur FIR.

In Lucknow, Muslim women held a peaceful demonstration at Vidhan Bhavan, supporting the Prophet and constitu-



tional freedoms. Social activist Sumaiya Rana criticized the FIR, calling it an attempt to intimidate people from expressing religious

Shashi Tharoor Criticizes Trump’s \$100K H-1B Visa Fee Hike

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Congress leader and Member of Parliament Shashi Tharoor has criticized the recent decision by U.S. President Donald Trump to impose a \$100,000 fee for every new H-1B visa petition filed after September 21, calling it a move aimed at appeasing the President’s so-called MAGA supporters.

Speaking to ANI, Mr. Tharoor said the sudden hike in H-1B visa fees is primarily motivated by U.S. domestic politics, as Trump seeks to gain support from his anti-immigration voter base ahead of the November legislative elections. According



to Tharoor, Trump and his advisors believe that Indian professionals, who accept lower salaries, are undercutting American workers. “An Indian techie who works for \$60,000 a year is seen as taking jobs from Americans who would not work for less than \$85,000 to \$90,000,” Tharoor explained.

He added that the new

visa fee is designed to make low- and mid-level jobs unviable for Indian tech workers, leaving only the high-end, indispensable professionals able to afford the cost. Tharoor warned that this may backfire on the U.S. economy, as companies may choose to out-source work to India or Europe, rather than hire Indian workers under

the new fee regime.

The Congress MP emphasized the impact on Indian IT companies, noting that contracts for low-end roles may now become financially unviable due to the \$100,000 per-person fee. “We cannot pay such a fee for contracts that are actually low-end,” he said, highlighting the potential disruption to India’s IT and Big Tech business models.

Mr. Tharoor’s remarks come amid broader concerns about the political motivations behind U.S. immigration policies and the economic consequences for both Indian professionals and American firms reliant on skilled talent from abroad.

India Extends Airspace Closure for Pakistan Till October 24

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India has extended the closure of its airspace for all Pakistani civilian and military aircraft until October 24, 2025, in continuation of restrictions imposed after the Pahalgam terror attack in April. Pakistan has reciprocated by keeping its airspace closed for Indian aircraft till the same date, maintaining the mutual suspension of flights that has been in place since April.

Both countries have is-

sued separate Notices to Airmen (NOTAMs) formalizing the extension. According to the Indian NOTAM, airspace will remain unavailable for Pakistan-registered aircraft, as well as planes operated, owned, or leased by Pakistani airlines and operators, including military flights. The closure is effective until 2359 hours UTC on October 23, translating to 0530 hours IST on October 24.

The initial closure was announced following the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, 2025, which

claimed the lives of 26 people. India had subsequently barred Pakistani aircraft from operating within its airspace starting April 30, 2025, citing security concerns. Since then, the airspace restrictions have been periodically extended.

A Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) is an official notification issued to provide essential information regarding airspace restrictions, hazards, or changes that could affect flight operations. These notices are critical for ensuring the safety and security of aviation opera-

tions and alert airlines and pilots to avoid restricted zones.

The continued airspace closure is part of ongoing security measures between the two countries amid rising tensions. Aviation authorities and airlines on both sides are required to adjust flight plans and reroute aircraft to comply with these restrictions, impacting both civilian travel and military operations. The situation highlights the intersection of geopolitical developments and aviation safety protocols in the region.

Rohit Godara Accuses Lawrence Bishnoi, Police Kill Two Accused in Bareilly Firing Case

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a dramatic turn in India’s underworld scene, Rohit Godara has publicly accused Lawrence Bishnoi of being a traitor, claiming he colluded with an American agency to reveal sensitive information. In an unverified social media post, Godara alleged that Bishnoi joined forces with the agency to protect his brother Anmol and now provides them with intelligence, including plans to harm actor Salman Khan for personal fame. Godara also urged the media not to associate him or his associates with Bishnoi.

Both Goldy Brar and

Rohit Godara remain wanted by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and multiple state police units, with Brar reportedly in the U.S. and Godara in the U.K.

The accusations come shortly after a shocking incident on September 12, when gunshots were fired outside Bollywood actress Disha Patani’s residence in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh, around 3:45 am, allegedly by Godara and Brar. The attack caused widespread fear in the community.

Following the firing, law enforcement conducted a joint operation involving the Delhi Police and Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force (UP STF). On September 17, two ac-

cused involved in the firing, Ravinda alias Kullu and Arun, were injured during the encounter near Tronica City, Ghaziabad. Both later succumbed to their injuries.

The deceased, both residents of Rohtak, Haryana, were reportedly affiliated with Godara and Brar. The police confirmed their deaths and reiterated ongoing investigations into the larger gang network.

This incident highlights the continuing tension between rival gangs, the cross-border dimension of criminal networks, and the law enforcement efforts to curb gang-related violence targeting civilians and celebrities alike.



Trump rejects Palestinian recognition, signals pressure on China

TPN Bureau | Washington

The White House on Monday (September 22, 2025) said U.S. President Donald Trump “disagrees” with Western nations that have formally recognised a Palestinian state, warning that such moves effectively reward Hamas. Speaking to reporters, Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt stressed that the president views recognition as counter-productive at a time when hostages remain captive in Gaza and the war shows no sign of ending. “He feels this does not do anything to release the hostages, which is the primary goal right now, does nothing to end this conflict and bring this war to a close, and frankly, he believes it’s a reward to Hamas,” Ms. Leavitt said, adding that Mr. Trump will expand on this stance in his upcoming address to the United Nations General Assembly. France and several European governments have recently recognised Palestinian statehood, framing it as part of renewed peace efforts. However, the Trump ad-



ministration argues that such recognition prioritises symbolism over concrete action. The briefing also turned to domestic concerns, with reporters pressing the White House about falling crop prices and mounting anxiety among American farmers as trade negotiations with China remain unresolved. Ms. Leavitt acknowledged the unease, noting the issue has been central in talks with Beijing. “We very much understand the anxiety of farmers. The National Economic Council and Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins

have been deeply engaged on this,” she said, while offering no new measures. On foreign policy, Ms. Leavitt confirmed that Mr. Trump is reviewing Russian President Vladimir Putin’s offer of a one-year extension to the nuclear arms treaty, describing it as sounding “pretty good,” though she deferred further details to the president. She also dismissed a letter from Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro as “filled with lies,” reiterating Washington’s view that his regime is illegitimate and linked to drug trafficking.

China closes schools, cancels flights as it braces for Ragasa

TPN Correspondent | Moscow

Southern Chinese cities scaled back daily life on Tuesday, September 23, 2025, as Super Typhoon Ragasa approached, prompting school and business closures and flight cancellations. Ragasa, packing a maximum sustained winds of around 230 kph, is expected to move west-northwest across the northern South China Sea and edge closer to Guangdong province, China’s economic hub. China’s National Meteorological Centre forecasts landfall between Shenzhen city and Xunwen county on Wednesday, September 24, 2025. Hong Kong’s observatory, already hoisting strong wind signals, plans to issue storm warning No. 8, the third-highest alert, while monitoring the potential need to upgrade it by Wednesday morning. The city anticipates water levels to rise around 2 metres along coastal areas, with some spots possibly reaching 4 to 5 metres, comparable to the devastation from Typhoon Hato in 2017 and Typhoon Mangkhut in 2018, which caused economic losses exceeding \$154 million and \$590 million, respectively. Residents in flood-prone areas reinforced doors with sandbags and taped windows, while many stocked up on food and essential supplies. Schools were closed



One of the strongest typhoons in years

in Hong Kong and Macao, while cities such as Shenzhen, Foshan, and Haikou suspended classes and gradually halted businesses and transport. Hundreds of flights were cancelled in Hong Kong, and Shenzhen airport will stop operations from Tuesday night. Macao activated its emergency response,

anticipating Ragasa to pass within 100 km south of the city. The typhoon has already caused casualties and damage in other regions. In Taiwan, six people were injured, over 7,000 were evacuated, and 8,000 households faced power outages. In the Philippines, Ragasa claimed three lives, left

five missing, and displaced over 17,500 people due to floods and landslides. Victims included a 74-year-old man pinned under vehicles in Benguet province and villagers in Calayan town. The Philippine government closed schools, offices, and suspended domestic flights and sea travel in affected regions to mitigate the impact of this powerful storm.

“False Hindu God”: Republican Leader’s Remark On Hanuman Statue

TPN Correspondent | Kathmandu

A Texas Republican leader has drawn sharp criticism for his remarks targeting a 90-foot statue of Lord Hanuman, known as the ‘Statue of Union,’ located at the Shri Ashtalakshmi Temple in Sugar Land, Texas. Alexander Duncan, a Senate candidate from President Donald Trump’s party, questioned the presence of the statue in the US, calling America a “Christian nation.” On X, Duncan wrote, “Why are we allowing a false statue of a false Hindu God to be here in Texas? We are a CHRISTIAN nation,” while sharing a video of the statue. In another post, he quoted verses from the Bible’s Book of Exodus, emphasizing prohibitions against worshipping idols or images, suggesting that the Hindu deity violated Christian doctrine. The remarks quickly



sparked backlash. The Hindu American Foundation (HAF) condemned Duncan’s statement, calling it “anti-Hindu and inflammatory.” The group formally reported the comments to the Texas Republican Party, urging disciplinary action. “Hello @TexasGOP, will you be disciplining your senate candidate who openly contravenes your own guidelines against discrimination—displaying anti-Hindu hate—not to mention disrespect for the 1st

Amendment’s Establishment Clause?” HAF posted. Social media users also criticized Duncan, reminding him that the US Constitution guarantees freedom of religion and prohibits the establishment of any one faith as dominant. Many called his remarks discriminatory and divisive. One X user, Jordan Crowder, pointed out that Hinduism predates Christianity by centuries and has deeply influenced global spiritual traditions, writ-

ing, “Just because you’re not Hindu doesn’t make it false. The Vedas were written almost 2000 years before Jesus and are extraordinary texts. It would be wise to honor and research the religion that predates and influences you.” The controversy has reignited discussions around religious freedom, diversity, and respect in the United States, highlighting ongoing challenges in balancing faith, politics, and inclusivity.

Pakistan Airstrikes Kill 30 Civilians in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Outrage Grows

TPN Correspondent | Ottawa

At least 30 civilians, most of them women and children, were killed early Monday when Pakistan Air Force jets bombed the village of Matre Dara in the Tirah Valley of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, according to intelligence sources. The strikes, carried out around 2 am, reportedly involved JF-17 fighter jets dropping at least eight China-made precision-guided bombs on the remote settlement. Eyewitnesses described horrific scenes, with families buried under rubble and survivors desperately searching for loved ones. “Entire families have been wiped out. Most victims had no chance to es-



cape,” a source said. The Tirah Valley, close to the Afghanistan border, is a region where Pakistani forces often target Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) militants. However, human rights groups have repeatedly criticised such operations for heavy civilian tolls. There was no official statement from Pakistan’s government or military, and local media remained silent. A police

officer, speaking anonymously, confirmed that at least four houses suspected of harbouring militants were destroyed. But locals say the dead were innocent villagers. Sohail Afridi, a provincial assembly member, accused the military of “carnage” and shared videos of children killed in the attack. “The killing of children and innocents has become routine for the oppressors

occupying this state,” he posted. This incident follows similar tragedies in recent months. Just last week, four children were killed in a drone strike, while in May, 22 civilians, including children, were injured in another air raid. Tribal elders from the Afridi community have vowed protests and even threatened a siege of a nearby air force base in Peshawar. Meanwhile, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) demanded an impartial investigation, stating that those responsible must be held accountable. The silence of the state has only intensified anger, with critics warning that such actions fuel distrust and deepen unrest in the troubled region.

Kamala Harris Regrets Not Stopping Joe Biden’s 2024 Presidential Run

TPN Correspondent | LONDON

Former US Vice President Kamala Harris has expressed regret for not speaking up against President Joe Biden’s decision to run for a second term, despite widespread concerns about his age. In her first live television interview since the election, Harris told MSNBC’s Rachel Maddow on Monday evening, “I have and had a certain responsibility that I should have followed through on.” Her remarks expand on themes from her new book 107 Days, which reflects on her experience stepping in as the 2024 Democratic presidential nominee after

Biden eventually withdrew. Harris later lost the election to Republican candidate Donald Trump. In the book, she noted that within the White House, the common refrain was “it’s Joe and Jill’s decision” when it came to reelection. Looking back, she questioned that approach: “Was it grace, or was it recklessness? In retrospect, I think it was recklessness. The stakes were simply too high.” Harris admitted that the “recklessness” also applied to herself. She explained that although she had misgivings about Biden running, she hesitated to voice them publicly, fearing it would seem “completely self-serving.” Having once competed against Biden in

the 2020 Democratic primaries and later serving as his vice president, Harris acknowledged she was uniquely positioned to raise concerns but chose silence instead. Her candid reflections shed light on the internal dynamics of the Democratic Party during a pivotal election cycle. They also highlight the tension between loyalty to a sitting president and the responsibility of party leaders to act in the broader political interest. Harris’s admission is likely to reignite debate over whether Biden should have sought a second term at all — a decision she now believes was shaped more by personal ambition than collective judgment.





PhonePe Narrows Losses, Reports ₹7,115 Crore Revenue in FY25

Fin-tech giant PhonePe has showcased a strong financial turnaround in FY25, significantly narrowing its consolidated losses to ₹1,727.4 crore, compared to ₹1,996.1 crore in FY24. The results highlight the company's improving fundamentals as it prepares to file its Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) later this year, marking its next big step toward a public listing.

According to data sourced from Tofler, PhonePe's revenue from operations jumped 40.5%, rising from ₹5,064 crore in FY24 to ₹7,115 crore in FY25. This robust growth underlines the company's dominant position in India's digital payments and fin-tech ecosystem, which continues to expand at a rapid pace.

A key highlight of the fiscal was the three-fold surge in adjusted Profit After Tax (PAT), which stood at ₹630 crore in FY25, compared to ₹197 crore in the previous year. This growth reflects improved operational efficiency, higher adop-

tion of value-added services, and better cost management across verticals. Notably, PhonePe also achieved a major milestone by turning free cash flow positive for the first time. The company reported net cash flow from operations at ₹1,202 crore for the year ending March 31, 2025. This achievement is expected to enhance investor confidence as it signals sustainable financial health.

While overall expenses rose 21% year-on-year to ₹9,394 crore, the proportion of revenue growth outpaced expenditure, contributing to healthier margins. Backed by U.S. retail giant Walmart, PhonePe has been aggressively diversifying into insurance, wealth management, and lending segments, further strengthening its fin-tech footprint. With IPO plans on the horizon, FY25's performance puts the company in a strong position to attract investors looking to ride India's booming digital economy.

Stock Markets Slip for Third Consecutive Day Amid FII Outflows and H-1B Concerns

Indian equity markets closed lower for the third straight session on Tuesday, dragged by foreign fund outflows and concerns over a steep hike in U.S. H-1B visa fees. The benchmark BSE Sensex settled at 82,102.10, down 57.87 points or 0.07%, while the NSE Nifty 50 slipped 32.85 points or 0.13% to 25,169.50.

During the session, Sensex oscillated between a high of 82,370.38 and a low of 81,776.53, reflecting volatile trading. Analysts attributed the decline to selling pressure in IT stocks and blue-chip private banking shares, while buying in auto stocks and select public sector banks cushioned losses.

Among Sensex constituents, Trent, Tech Mahindra, Hindustan Unilever, UltraTech Cement, Asian Paints, Eternal, and ITC were the major laggards. HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank also dragged the indices lower. On the upside, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finance, Maruti, and State Bank of India were key gainers.

"The domestic equity market traded range-bound and ended flat, indicating ongoing consolidation. Broader sentiment remained cautious, with small- and mid-cap stocks lagging benchmarks," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Ltd. Sector-wise, autos, metals, and financials gained on robust festive demand post-GST cuts, while FMCG and realty faced pressure from profit booking.



S&P Maintains India's GDP Growth at 6.5%, Expects RBI Rate Cut



Global rating agency S&P has retained India's GDP growth forecast at 6.5% for the current fiscal year, citing robust domestic demand supported by a largely benign monsoon. The agency noted that India's economy grew at 7.8% in the April-June quarter, highlighting resilience amid global uncertainties.

In its statement, S&P said, "We forecast India's GDP growth to hold steady at 6.5% this fiscal year, ending March 31, 2026. Domestic demand is expected to remain strong, driven by favorable monsoon conditions, income and GST cuts, and accelerating government investment."

The agency emphasized that these factors will continue to underpin economic expansion despite external challenges. S&P also revised India's inflation forecast down to 3.2% for the fiscal year, noting that a sharper-than-expected decline in food inflation will help keep overall price pressures low. This moderation in in-

flation provides the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) room to ease monetary policy, and S&P anticipates a 25 basis points rate cut during the fiscal year. In its Economic Outlook Asia-Pacific Q4 2025 report, S&P highlighted that resilient domestic demand across the region may cushion economies from the impact of stronger external headwinds, including US import tariffs and slower global growth. The agency noted that while China has fared relatively better under these conditions, South-east Asian emerging markets and India have faced more significant challenges than initially expected.

Crude Oil Futures Slip on Weak Spot Market Demand

Crude oil futures on the Multi-Commodity Exchange (MCX) declined on Tuesday, as traders trimmed positions amid weak demand in the spot market. October delivery crude fell Rs 16 or 0.29%, settling at Rs 5,506 per barrel across 12,933 lots.

Analysts noted that the drop in futures prices reflected profit-booking and cautious trading, as market participants responded to soft spot market activity. Weak physical demand for crude prompted sellers to offload their holdings, weighing on prices during the session.

On the global front, oil benchmarks also witnessed mild declines. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude traded 0.33% lower at USD 61.95 per barrel, while Brent crude slipped 0.56% to USD 66.20 per barrel in New York, reflecting a broader cautious sentiment in the energy markets.

Coca-Cola bottler SLMG beverages targets Rs 9,000 cr revenue

SLMG Beverages, India's largest Coca-Cola bottler, expects high single-digit sales growth in FY26 despite facing headwinds in the June quarter due to unseasonal rains and geopolitical concerns, said Joint Managing Director Paritosh Ladhani on Monday. The company anticipates its gross revenue to cross Rs 9,000 crore, aided by festivals and GST concessions on its non-aerated drinks portfolio, which contributes around 30% of total sales.

"The June quarter was below expectations, with 35-40% higher rainfall affecting sales. However, we anticipate strong growth in the December quarter and may even achieve double-digit growth," Ladhani told PTI. He added that fizzy-based drinks will also see a rise as consumers have discretionary spending power.

SLMG Beverages plans to invest around Rs 8,000 crore over the next six years for expansion, funded through internal accruals and debt, including greenfield plants in Buxer, Bihar and Gorakhpur, UP. The company's current bottling capacity of 22,000 BPM is expected to increase to 27,000 BPM by year-end. Ladhani highlighted that 65-70% of the investment will go into plant capacity, while the remainder will support market development, warehousing, fleet, and new product launches.

On a mid-term outlook, Ladhani stated the company aims to cross Rs 20,000 crore in gross turnover over the next five to six years. Regarding an IPO, he emphasized the focus will remain on strengthening operations before considering public listing.

SLMG Beverages is part of the Rs 10,000-crore Ladhani Group, which has interests in hospitality, real estate, and energy, with 70% of its revenue coming from the bottling business. In hospitality, the group plans to invest around Rs 3,000 crore, expanding from 550 to 700 keys with the upcoming Taj Gateway project, aiming for 1,500 rooms in the next five to six years.





Bengaluru Woman Goes Viral Walking 28 Golden Retrievers, Wins Hearts

A heartwarming video from Bengaluru has captured social media’s attention, showing a woman taking a peaceful stroll with 28 golden retrievers in the RT Nagar area of the city. Titled “28 dogs, 1 big heart. Meet the dog lover aunty of RT Nagar, Bangalore!”, the clip highlights the calm and disciplined demeanor of the dogs as they accompany their owner on her walk. The sight of so many well-behaved furry companions has left viewers both amazed and delighted.

The video’s voiceover explains, “We saw a lady in RT Nagar, Bengaluru, walking with 28 golden retrievers, all matching, all happy. She looked so peaceful, smiling with her furry family. In to-

day’s life, loyal friends are rare, but sometimes love and loyalty comes on four legs.” The footage has since gone viral, garnering over 7.2 lakh views and sparking hundreds of comments praising her dedication and love for the animals.

Many social media users shared their personal experiences with the woman and her dogs. One viewer wrote, “She has customised her Innova car for the dogs. I love her,” while another recalled, “I’ve been seeing these dogs and this lady since I was a kid, she’s such a nice person.” Others reminisced about earlier days when the number of retrievers was smaller, highlighting her long-standing commitment to caring

for them. Humorous comments also emerged, including one that jokingly read, “HR: Where do you see yourself in the next 5 years? Me be like: Wooffff.”

The viral moment comes in the wake of a Supreme Court directive last month modifying its earlier order on the management of stray dogs. The court clarified that dogs could be released from shelters after sterilisation, except in cases of aggressive behaviour or rabies infections.

This Bengaluru woman’s dedication to her furry friends has struck a chord with viewers nationwide, proving that love, patience, and loyalty often come on four legs, leaving the internet collectively saying, “We love her.”

Delhi Metro’s Airport-to-Railway Station Ride Wows Passenger: “Built Differently”

A Delhi Metro commuter has gone viral for sharing their seamless journey from the airport to New Delhi Railway Station (NDLS) in under an hour, praising the city’s public transport network. The post, titled “Delhi Metro is just built differently”, detailed the passenger’s experience of travelling from the airport after arriving from Mumbai.

According to the passenger, they landed in Delhi at 2:14 PM and collected their luggage by 2:24 PM. By 2:30 PM, they were already on the airport metro platform, and by 2:54 PM, they had reached NDLS. Boarding their train by 3:10

PM, the total travel time from landing to getting on the railway train clocked in at just under an hour.

In the viral post shared on X (formerly Twitter), the user wrote, “Less than 1 hour from airport to railway station. This is how public transport should work!! @OfficialDMRC”, highlighting the efficiency and convenience of the Delhi Metro system. The journey impressed many online, who lauded the capital city’s ability to connect key transport hubs swiftly.

Delhi Metro, the life-line of India’s capital, caters to millions of commuters daily, providing quick and hassle-free connectivity not just within the city but also to neighbour-



ing states. Its extensive network, combined with efficient train schedules, allows passengers to reach major locations like railway stations, airports, and business districts in record time.

The viral post reflects a growing appreciation for well-planned urban

transport solutions, particularly in cities where traffic congestion can otherwise delay travel. Many users echoed the sentiment, praising Delhi Metro for its reliability, speed, and overall user experience, calling it a benchmark for how public transportation should operate in mod-

ern cities.

This passenger’s story serves as a reminder of how strategic infrastructure and timely execution can make urban commuting both fast and convenient, leaving travelers impressed and the internet celebrating Delhi Metro’s efficiency.

Zomato, Swiggy Users Face ‘Rain Fee’ Hike Under GST 2.0

Online food delivery users are feeling the pinch as platforms like Zomato and Swiggy now come under 18% Goods and Services Tax (GST) on their delivery fees, effective September 22, 2025. The move, part of the latest GST Council reforms, applies Section 9(5) of the Central GST Act to local e-commerce delivery services, making even small charges like the “rain fee” taxable.

The change has already started reflecting in bills, with users noticing higher costs for orders during adverse weather conditions. For instance, a delivery rain fee of Rs 25 now attracts an 18% GST, bringing the total to Rs 29.50, adding an unexpected extra burden on customers.

Restaurant GST is also separately applied, as seen in typical bills showing charges such as Rs 14.75 for the meal itself.

Social media users quickly reacted to the new tax rules with humor and satire. One post on X (formerly Twitter) jokingly remarked, “After historic GST reforms, even Lord Indra

has been brought under the tax net. Now when it rains, you get Rs 25 Rain Fee + 18% GST = Rs 29.50. Next up: Sunlight Convenience Fee, Oxygen Maintenance Charge GST on Breathing, Pay as you inhale.” The witty post resonated widely, highlighting public frustration while keeping the tone lighthearted.

Industry experts note that the 18% GST on delivery charges is part of a broader effort to simplify and rationalize the tax structure under GST 2.0, ensuring all e-commerce services are brought under a uniform tax net. While this ensures compliance and transparency, it also means consumers need to adjust to slightly higher bills for routine food deliveries.

As the new rules settle in, users are exploring workarounds, apps, and loyalty discounts to offset the additional cost. Meanwhile, the humorous takes on social media continue to lighten the mood around a tax change that has everyone talking, proving that even small policy shifts can spark nationwide conversations online.



Thinnest Yet Strongest? iPhone Air Survives JerryRig Everything Durability Test

Apple recently unveiled the iPhone 17 series along with the iPhone Air, its slimmest smartphone yet. At the launch, the company highlighted the Air’s durability, claiming it is the most robust iPhone to date. With tech enthusiasts eager to see how it performs in real-world stress tests, YouTube’s JerryRigEverything put the device through his signature durability assessment.

The iPhone Air measures just 5.6mm in thickness, making it remarkably slim, yet it features a titanium frame designed to enhance structural strength. The 6.5-inch OLED display is safeguarded by Corning’s Ceramic Shield 2, which Apple says is three times more

scratch-resistant than the previous generation. This combination of lightweight design and reinforced materials has made it a point of curiosity for fans and reviewers alike.

During the test, the iPhone Air faced standard scratch, burn, and bend assessments. The screen resisted scratches up to higher levels on the Mohs scale, confirming Apple’s claims about Ceramic Shield 2. Its titanium frame provided significant rigidity, minimizing bending even under extreme pressure, and demonstrating an impressive balance between thinness and structural integrity.

The device also fared well in drop and burn tests, with minimal cosmetic damage to the

screen and body. This suggests that Apple’s engineering approach—using premium materials like titanium while keeping the device ultra-thin—successfully delivers both aesthetics and durability.

For users who prioritize sleek design without compromising toughness, the iPhone Air appears to be a compelling option. While ultra-thin devices often face criticism for fragility, this test indicates that Apple has managed to push the boundaries of smartphone engineering, creating a device that is as strong as it is slender. The iPhone Air may well redefine expectations for premium smartphones, balancing portability, elegance, and resilience in one package.

Google Tests New Gboard Features: AI Writing Tools, Flick Keys, and More

Google is rolling out new experimental features for Gboard, the default keyboard on most Android devices, aiming to enhance user experience and boost productivity. One of the most notable additions is the AI-powered Writing Tools, designed to help users improve, refine, and polish their text messages across apps. The feature can suggest edits, provide alternative phrasing, and even help craft more professional or engaging messages, making typing faster and more efficient.

Another interesting feature being tested is “flick keys to enter symbols.” When enabled, users can quickly access a symbol associated with a key by touching it and swiping downwards. This functionality is similar to the Apple keyboard experience on iPads, offering a faster way to type symbols without switching keyboard modes. While it may take some time for users to get accustomed to the gesture, it promises to streamline text input once mastered.

The latest Gboard beta is also reportedly

testing other small enhancements, such as improved emoji suggestions, smarter autocorrect options, and better multilingual support. Google appears focused on integrating AI and intuitive gestures into the keyboard, aiming to make it more than just a typing tool—it becomes an assistant capable of anticipating and refining user input in real time.

These features are currently in beta testing, meaning they are being evaluated by select users before a wider rollout. Google often uses beta releases to gather feedback

and tweak functionalities for performance, ease of use, and reliability. Users interested in trying these new features can join the Gboard beta program through the Google Play Store.

With AI-driven writing assistance and gesture-based input, Gboard is moving beyond traditional keyboard functions, reflecting Google’s push to combine smart technology with everyday tools, ultimately making typing faster, more accurate, and more intuitive for millions of Android users worldwide.



Indian Junior Men’s Hockey Team Announced for Sultan of Johor Cup 2025

Hockey India on Monday announced the 18-member Indian Junior Men’s Hockey Team set to participate in the upcoming Sultan of Johor Cup in Malaysia. Defender Rohit has been named as the team’s captain, according to the Hockey India website.

The squad includes goalkeepers Bikramjit Singh and Princedeep Singh; defenders Rohit, Talem Priyobarta, Anmol Ekka, Amir Ali, Sunil P B, and Ravneet Singh; midfielders Ankit Pal, Thounaojam Ingalemba Luwang, Adrohit Ekka, Araijeet Singh Hundal, Rosan Kujur, and Manmeet Singh;

and forwards Arshdeep Singh, Sourabh Anand Kushwaha, Ajeet Yadav, and Gurjot Singh. Speaking about the team, India Junior Men’s Hockey Team coach PR Sreejesh said, “The team has been preparing well for the Sultan of Johor Cup. With the Junior World Cup coming up, this tournament will serve as a valuable platform for players to test themselves against strong opponents and gain international experience. We are looking forward to putting up a good performance in Malaysia.”

India will look to build on their bronze medal finish from the previous edition. The

team will begin its campaign against Great Britain on 11th October, followed by New Zealand on 12th October, Pakistan on 14th October, Australia on 15th October, and conclude the round-robin stage against hosts Malaysia on 17th October. The top two teams in the standings will advance to the final scheduled for 18th October, where India aims to challenge for the top spot. With a balanced squad of experienced players and emerging talent, the Indian Junior Men’s Hockey Team hopes to deliver a strong performance and continue its legacy on the international stage.



Novak Djokovic’s Mentor Nikola Pilic Dies at 87, Leaves Lasting Legacy in Tennis

Croatian tennis legend Nikola Pilic, famously known as Novak Djokovic’s “tennis dad,” passed away at the age of 87, the Croatian Tennis Association announced on Tuesday. Pilic died on Monday in the western Croatian town of Opatija, leaving behind a rich legacy as both a player and a coach.

Pilic began his tennis journey in Split in 1953, and by 1957, he was representing the Yugoslav youth national team. Over his career, he won the Yugoslav Championship five times in singles (1962, 1963, 1964, 1966, 1967), seven times in doubles, and once in mixed doubles. His greatest individual achievement came in 1973, reaching the French Open final, where he lost to Ilie Nastase. Three years earlier, he had won the US Open doubles title with Pierre Barthès.



After retiring from professional play, Pilic enjoyed a distinguished coaching career, mentoring tennis stars such as Goran Ivanisevic, Michael Stich, and Boris Becker. His profound influence extended to Novak Djokovic, who trained at Pilic’s academy in Munich in 1999 under the guidance of Djokovic’s first coach Jelena Gencic, helping shape the future 24-time Grand Slam champion.

Pilic made history as the only captain to lead three different nations to Davis Cup titles—Germany in 1988, 1989, and 1993; Croatia in 2005; and Serbia in 2010. His contributions were widely recognized: the Croatian Tennis Association honoured him with a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2019, and in 2020, Serbia awarded him the Gold Medal of Merit for his outstanding impact on sport.

The Croatian Tennis Association lauded Pilic as “one of the greatest players and coaches Croatian tennis has ever had.” Beyond titles and medals, Pilic will be remembered for his mentorship, dedication, and enduring influence on generations of tennis champions, leaving an indelible mark on the global tennis community.

Argentina football team likely to play Australia in Kerala between Nov 12-18

Football fans in Kerala are in for a treat as the Argentina national football team, led by superstar Lionel Messi, is expected to play a friendly match against Australia in Kochi this November. Official sources from the Sports Department confirmed the visit, though the exact date for the match is yet to be finalized. The game is likely to take place between November 12 and November 18, coinciding with the Argentina squad’s stay in Kerala. The South American team, fresh off their 2022 FIFA World Cup victory, is planning the match as part of their India tour. Messi, widely regarded as one of the greatest footballers of all time, will be the highlight of the fixture, drawing massive attention from fans across the state and the country. The visit comes after some earlier controversies regarding the Argentina team’s plans to travel to Kerala. Initial reports in August had suggested that Messi and his teammates would not be visiting the state. However, later that month, Kerala State Sports Minister V Abdurahiman confirmed that the team would indeed arrive in November, putting fans’ concerns to rest.



While the opponent is expected to be Australia, official confirmation is awaited. Organizers are likely coordinating logistics, including stadium arrangements, security, and ticketing, to accommodate the huge influx of football enthusiasts expected to attend. This friendly match is anticipated to boost football’s popularity in Kerala and provide fans with a rare opportunity to witness Messi and Argentina in action on Indian soil. Authorities are working to ensure that the event is conducted smoothly, and further announcements regarding ticket sales and match timings are expected soon.

With Messi leading the lineup, the Kochi crowd can look forward to witnessing world-class football and electrifying moments this November, marking a historic event in India’s sporting calendar.

Shreyas Iyer Quits India A Captaincy Hours Before Australia A Match

In a sudden turn of events, Shreyas Iyer withdrew from the India A captaincy just hours before the team’s second First-Class match against Australia A. The unexpected exit prompted team management to appoint Dhruv Jurel as the new India A captain for the game. Iyer reportedly cited personal reasons for his withdrawal and returned to Mumbai ahead of the match. While neither Iyer nor team officials disclosed the exact reasons for his last-minute decision, sources confirmed that the batter informed selectors he would not participate in the second four-day game. However, he remains under consideration for the West Indies series, where the selectors are expected to pick the squad soon.

Shreyas Iyer had played in the first India A match against Australia A, scoring 8 and 13 runs in two innings. His first outing also saw him affected by a questionable umpiring decision against spinner Corey Rocchiccioli, which was widely discussed post-match. Despite Iyer’s limited contributions, India A performed well, posting 531 runs in reply to Australia A’s 532. Iyer’s recent form has been under scrutiny as he was not part of the Indian team during the tour of England nor selected for the Asia Cup 2025 T20I squad. While he remains a key member of India’s ODI setup, including playing a central role in last year’s Champions Trophy triumph, he has struggled to cement his place in Test and T20I formats.



India Extends T20I Dominance Over Pakistan

India Fined for Slow Over-Rate in Third ODI Against Australia



The Indian women’s cricket team has been fined 10 per cent of their match fee for maintaining a slow over-rate in the third ODI against Australia held in New Delhi. The match concluded with India losing the series 1-2 to the reigning World Champions. The sanction was imposed by Match Referee G.S. Lakshmi of the Emirates ICC International Panel after India were found to be two overs short of the required rate, even after taking into account time allowances for legitimate interruptions. According to Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of

Conduct, which addresses minimum over-rate offences, players are fined 5 per cent of their match fee for each over not completed within the allotted time. Consequently, the two-over shortfall resulted in the 10 per cent penalty for the Indian team. India captain Harmanpreet Kaur accepted the charge and agreed to the proposed fine, thereby avoiding the need for a formal hearing. The slow over-rate was reported by on-field umpires Lauren Agenbag and Janani Narayanan, with assistance from third umpire Gayathri Venugopalan and fourth umpire Vrinda Rathi. This penalty comes

amid growing scrutiny over over-rate compliance in international cricket, emphasizing the importance of maintaining the pace of play while balancing strategic decisions on the field. Despite the fine, the Indian team remains focused on upcoming fixtures and aims to improve discipline in match management. While the series loss was a setback for India, the team is expected to regroup and address over-rate concerns ahead of future international engagements, ensuring compliance with ICC regulations and avoiding similar penalties.

Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal Announce Pregnancy

After months of speculation, Bollywood's beloved couple Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal have officially shared their pregnancy news through a heartfelt and elegant photoshoot. The couple's announcement delighted fans across social media, marking the beginning of a new chapter in their lives.

In the stunning images, Katrina appears in her last trimester, gracefully donning a flowing white sleeveless gown that highlights her baby bump. Her radiant glow and poised demeanor captured the essence of maternal elegance. Vicky Kaushal complemented her look with a simple casual T-shirt, gently cradling Katrina's bump, symbolizing their shared excitement and joy.

The couple chose to shoot with a Fuji film camera, giving the pictures a timeless and intimate feel. Alongside the photographs, Katrina and Vicky shared a caption that resonated with emotion and gratitude: "On our way to start the best chapter of our lives with hearts full of joy and gratitude." The post quickly garnered an outpouring of love from fans and celebrities alike, who congratulated the couple on this beautiful milestone.

Vicky Kaushal, who recently impressed audiences with the box office hit Chhaava, is currently busy with his next project, Love and War, co-starring Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor. Meanwhile, Katrina Kaif continues to balance her personal joy with professional commitments, leaving fans eagerly anticipating her upcoming film ventures.

This announcement not only celebrates the couple's impending parenthood but also highlights their signature style and grace, leaving a lasting impression on fans. The elegant reveal reinforces Katrina and Vicky's place as one of Bollywood's most admired power couples, combining glamour with heartfelt authenticity. As they embark on this new journey, the nation joins in celebrating the joy, love, and anticipation surrounding their growing family.



Balakrishna Confirms Akhanda Release, Fans Gear Up for Pan-India Spectacle

Nandamuri Balakrishna, fondly called Balayya by fans, has finally confirmed the release date of his much-awaited film Akhanda 2: Tandavam. Directed by Boyapati Srinu, the film marks the fourth collaboration between the actor-director duo, who previously delivered blockbusters like Simha, Legend, and Akhanda. Their successful combination has already created massive hype around this sequel, which promises to be bigger and grander than its predecessor.

Produced by Ram Achant and Gopi Achant under the 14 Reels Plus banner, Akhanda 2 is being presented by Balakrishna's younger daughter, M. Tejaswini Nandamuri. Recently, the makers filmed a high-voltage mass song featuring over 600 dancers on a specially erected set in Hyderabad. With Bhanu master handling the choreography and Thaman composing the track, the team is confident that the song will electrify audiences in theaters, especially with Balayya's unmatched screen presence.

The teaser released earlier received a thunderous response, further raising expectations. The film stars Samyuktha Menon as the female lead, while Aadhi Pinisetty plays a crucial role. Reports suggest that the main talkie portions and major action sequences have been wrapped up.

Initially, the makers planned to release the film on September 25 as a Dussehra gift. However, due to shooting delays, the date was postponed. In a recent informal chat with MLAs and ministers in the Assembly lobby, Balakrishna revealed that Akhanda 2 will now hit screens worldwide on December 5, 2025. He emphasized that the film will be released as a pan-India project in multiple languages, with Boyapati Srinu ensuring even the Hindi dubbing has been top-notch.

Promotions are set to roll out soon across different regions. With fans eagerly awaiting, Akhanda 2 is poised to create another storm at the box office.



Karthi's Sardar 2 Eyes Theatrical Release in April 2026

Kollywood fans have reason to be excited as actor Karthi's much-anticipated Sardar 2, the official sequel to the 2022 superhit spy action thriller Sardar, is reportedly targeting a theatrical release in April 2026. While Karthi's other film, Vaa Vaathiyar, is scheduled for a December 2025 release, the timeline for Sardar 2 had remained unconfirmed until recent buzz suggested the next summer as the ideal launch window.

Directed by P.S. Mithran, Sardar 2 promises to continue the adrenaline-fueled narrative of the first installment while introducing new dynamics. Karthi takes on dual roles this time, portraying both a father and a son, adding depth and intrigue to the story. The sequel also brings fresh faces to the screen, with Malavika Mohanan and Ashika Ranganathan cast as the leading ladies. SJ Suryah plays a pivotal character, further strengthening the ensemble.

Produced jointly by Lakshman Kumar and Ishan Saksena under the banners of Prince Pictures and IVY Entertainment, the film has already created buzz in the industry due to its high-octane action sequences and engaging storyline. Music for the movie is composed by Sam C.S., whose tracks are expected to complement the thrilling espionage plot and elevate the cinematic experience.

Fans of the original Sardar have been eagerly awaiting the sequel, and the combination of Karthi's dual roles, P.S. Mithran's direction, and a strong supporting cast is generating significant anticipation. As the film progresses through post-production alongside Vaa Vaathiyar, expectations are high for Sardar 2 to replicate—and perhaps surpass—the success of its predecessor. With the proposed April 2026 release, audiences can look forward to a summer filled with action, suspense, and captivating performances from one of Kollywood's most bankable stars.

71st National Film Awards: Shah Rukh Khan Honoured as Best Actor

Bollywood Badshah Shah Rukh Khan added another glorious feather to his crown as he received the prestigious National Best Actor Award at the 71st National Film Awards. The grand ceremony took place at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on Tuesday, September 23, 2025. President Droupadi Murmu, who attended as the chief guest, presented the awards to all the winners. The highlight of the evening was Shah Rukh Khan receiving the honour directly from the President for his stellar performance in the blockbuster film Jawan. The moment drew thunderous applause from the audience, and videos of the award presentation have since gone viral on social media, with fans celebrating their favourite star's proud achievement.

The jury unanimously selected Shah Rukh for the Best Actor award, citing his commanding screen presence and emotionally layered performance in Jawan. Expressing gratitude, Shah Rukh dedicated the award to his fans and the entire team behind the film, calling it a recognition of collective hard work.

The 71st National Film Awards also honoured several other remarkable talents. In the Telugu film industry, Bhagavanth Kesari was declared the Best Telugu Film, while Balagam, produced by Kasarla Shyam, also secured national recognition. In the Non-Feature category, God Vulture and Human won Best Documentary, while Piyush Thakur's The First Film bagged Best Direction and Best Music Director. Other awards went to Little Wings for Best Cinematography, Moving Focus for Best Editing, and Dundagiri Ke Pool for Best Sound Design. Special mentions included Nekal – Chronicle of the Paddy Man (Malayalam) and The Sea and Seven Villages (Odia).

The ceremony once again highlighted the diversity and depth of Indian cinema, with Shah Rukh Khan's win standing out as the defining moment of the night.



Kantara Trailer Creates History with 107 Million Views

Rishab Shetty's much-anticipated epic, Kantara: Chapter 1, is off to a sensational start ahead of its worldwide release on October 2, 2025. The makers unveiled the trailer yesterday, and within just 24 hours, it has created history by crossing a staggering 107 million views across digital platforms, including YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, and X.

The phenomenal response does not end with views alone. The trailer has also garnered an impressive 3.5 million likes across all its versions, showcasing the massive excitement and emotional connect the film has generated among audiences. Notably, the Hindi version of the trailer has seen the strongest traction, highlighting the pan-India appeal of this devotional saga. This success sets the stage for an aggressive nationwide promotion strategy, particularly in North India, where anticipation is at an all-time high.

Chapter 1, written and directed by Rishab Shetty, promises to take audiences deeper into the myth, culture, and folklore introduced in the first Kantara. Known for his unique storytelling and spiritual cinematic experience, Shetty seems to have struck the right chord once again, as fans across the country are calling the trailer "goosebumps-inducing" and "a visual spectacle."

The film stars Rukmini Vasanth as the female lead and is backed by the prestigious Hom bale Films, the production house behind blockbusters like KGF and Salaar. Music maestro Ajaneesh Loknath, who delivered a memorable score in the original, is back to elevate the devotional intensity and grandeur of this prequel.

With record-breaking trailer numbers, Kantara: Chapter 1 has already announced itself as a cinematic event. All eyes are now set on October 2, when audiences across the globe will finally witness Rishab Shetty's spiritual masterpiece on the big screen.

