



BUZZ POINTS



MGBS RESUMES SERVICES AFTER UNPRECEDENTED FLOOD DISRUPTION

The Mahatma Gandhi Bus Station (MGBS), one of the largest bus stations in Asia and a crucial hub for passenger transport in Telangana, has resumed its operations this afternoon after being forced to shut down due to unprecedented floods. The resumption of services marks the end of a tense period for both staff and passengers, who had witnessed scenes never before experienced at the iconic bus station.

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PROMOTE TOURISM IN TELANGANA: MINISTER JUPALLI

As part of the Bathukamma festival celebrations, Minister Jupalli Krishna Rao on Saturday inaugurated a vibrant rally featuring bikes, cycles, and skaters at the LB Stadium in Hyderabad. The minister personally flagged off the rally, which attracted participants from across the city, highlighting a fusion of traditional culture and modern recreational activities.

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FUTURE LIES WITH FUTURE CITY: DEPUTY CM BHATTI

Rangareddy District, Mir Khanpet: Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Sunday highlighted the transformative potential of Bharat Future City during the foundation stone ceremony of the Future City Development Authority building and associated Greenfield Radial Road - 1.



Addressing the gathering, the Deputy CM stated that the city is being designed to serve

as a benchmark not only for India but for the world. "The entire future lies in Bharat Future City. This city is poised to become a jewel on the global map," he said. He emphasized that the city will integrate IT, pharmaceutical, and agricultural industries along with international-standard stadiums, making it a

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FUTURE CITY IS FOR REAL ESTATE: KTR



TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 28: BRS working president and former minister K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) launched a sharp attack on Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Sunday, alleging that the Congress leadership has repeatedly made false promises while betraying public trust.

KTR visited Shakepet Samatha Colony in the

Jubilee Hills constituency as part of a BRS outreach program. During the visit, BRS leaders and activists distributed dues cards to every household, ensuring residents are aware of the party's initiatives and support programs. A large number of party workers actively participated in the event, underscoring the party's strong organizational presence in the area.

Speaking to the me-

dia, KTR criticized the Congress government for failing to deliver on key election promises. "What happened to the promise of giving Rs. 2,500 per month to girl children? The Congress has betrayed all sections of society," KTR said. He emphasized that the promises made to women, youth, and marginalized groups remain unfulfilled, questioning the govern-

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MP Etela Rajender Inaugurates Uni Planet - Overseas Studies Center in Kompally

TPN Bureau,

Kompally, Sept 28: Union MP Etela Rajender, along with MLAs Lakshma Reddy and K.P. Vivekanand, inaugurated the Uni Planet - Overseas Studies organization in Kompally, aimed at providing comprehensive guidance and facilities for students aspiring to pursue education abroad.

During the inaugural

event, MP Etela Rajender highlighted the dramatic changes in global education and the opportunities now available to Indian students. "Earlier, students had to travel to Hyderabad for higher education, which itself felt like going to a foreign country. Over the past forty years, the world has truly become a global village. Today, one can have breakfast in one country, lunch in

another, and dinner somewhere else," he remarked.

He added that the demand among Indian students to study abroad has grown significantly, with popular destinations including the United States, the United Kingdom, and several European countries. In response to this growing demand, many organizations are emerging to facilitate overseas education. Uni Planet,

established under the leadership of Bharath Reddy, Rekha Reddy, Ajit, and Nikhita Reddy, aims to provide such services to students in the Kompally region.

MLAs Lakshma Reddy and K.P. Vivekanand praised the initiative, noting that Kompally is developing rapidly as an educational and residential hub. "Thousands of students from this area have the potential to study abroad, and

organizations like Uni Planet will provide them with guidance, mentorship, and confidence to achieve their dreams," they said.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by prominent community members and education advocates, including B. Reddy Siddharth Reddy, Girivardhan Reddy, Rajireddy, Satish Sagar, Shivaji, and Mahendra,

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BJP to Decide Jubilee Hills By-Election Candidate: Bandaru Vijayalakshmi



With the Jubilee Hills constituency by-election scheduled in the coming days, political parties have intensified preparations to field their candidates. While the BRS party has already announced its candidate for the high-profile seat, questions remain regarding the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) nominee. Addressing the media on Sunday, former Governor Bandaru Dattatreya's daughter and Alay Bala program chairperson, Bandaru Vijayalakshmi, clarified the party's position on the upcoming by-election.

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GIVE ME 10 YEARS, WILL MAKE CITY LIKE NEWYORK: CM



TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 28: During the event, CM Revanth Reddy expressed strong disapproval over attempts to politicize the project. "Some people are criticizing Future City merely for real estate gains. They are spreading baseless rumors about my personal land holdings here. This city is being built for future generations," the CM clarified. He stressed that the vision of Future City is long-term, intended to serve the next generations rather than personal or political interests.

Highlighting the importance of long-term planning, CM Reddy recalled how visionary leaders such as N. Chandrababu Naidu and Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy had laid the foundations for high-tech and infrastructure projects like Hi-Tech City, Shamshabad Airport, and Outer Ring Road. "We must learn from the past and build for the future," he said, urging citizens to focus on constructive participation rather than political criticism. He challenged detractors,

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao's successor, CM A. Revanth Reddy, on Sunday inaugurated the foundation works for the Bharat Future City Development Authority (FCDA) building and Greenfield Radial Road-1 in Rangareddy district's Meerkhanpet area. The ceremony marks the beginning of a large-scale urban development project aimed at creating a world-class city for future generations.

asking, "How long will we keep talking about foreign cities? Give us ten years, and we will create a city that can rival New York."

The CM elaborated on the comprehensive development plans for Bharat Future City. The city will feature an underground power distribution network, a dry port connected to Machilipatnam via a Greenfield Highway, and a bullet train link to Amravati, with approval from the central government. He stated, "In the next ten years, our goal is to attract Fortune 500 companies to Bharat Future City, making it a hub of global business and innovation."

CM Reddy also encouraged residents and stakeholders to actively participate in the

development process. "Small problems will arise, but we will address them promptly. The government is ready to support everyone generously. I am personally ready to sit with citizens and resolve issues. Don't waste time in court or political squabbles—justice and efficiency are our priorities," he added.

The Chief Minister announced that by December, the FCDA headquarters and the Skill University will be completed, enabling him to conduct regular activities and oversee operations directly from the site. Additionally, he instructed officials to allot ten acres for the Singareni Corporate Office, with construction to be

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FUTURE LIES WITH FUTURE CITY: DEPUTY CM BHATTI

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model for future urban development. “I feel that the future of this nation will revolve around Bharat Future City,” he added.

Speaking about infrastructure, Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka highlighted the construction of elevated corridors and wide roads, integrated with metro rail systems, which, he noted, are unprecedented in any other Indian city. He praised the connectivity plans linking the city to Hyderabad International Airport and the Greenfield highway extending towards Amaravati and the Bandar port. He further mentioned discussions with Union Ministers in Delhi to secure approvals for these projects, noting the satisfaction in seeing tangible progress through photographs and initial groundwork.

The Deputy CM also reflected on Hyderabad’s historical planning, referencing the 436-year legacy of Kuli Kutub Shah. “Kuli Kutub Shah



laid the foundations of Hyderabad in a region suitable for development along the Musi River. He prayed to the deities to fill the city with life, ensuring it became a prominent city in the world map. Today, under CM Revanth Reddy’s leadership, our government is continuing this tradition by laying the foundations of Bharat Future City,” he said.

Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka emphasized that the city will be built us-

ing cutting-edge artificial intelligence technologies to streamline urban planning, governance, and service delivery. He urged citizens to participate in the development process, highlighting that the project will provide world-class education and healthcare facilities to the surrounding regions.

The Deputy CM also praised CM Revanth Reddy’s vision and the government’s commitment

to timely and efficient project execution. “It is heartening to participate in the ground-breaking ceremony for a city that will not only serve Telangana but also stand as a global exemplar. I pray that the government completes this ambitious project swiftly,” he said.

He concluded by underlining the city’s potential to leave a lasting legacy, calling on residents and stakeholders to actively engage in the planning and development process. “Bharat Future City is destined to be a city that history will remember, serving as a pride not just for India but for the world,” he asserted.

The event was attended by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu, senior officials, MLAs, MLCs, and local representatives. The ceremony marked the official launch of a city envisioned as a hub for sustainable urban living, international investment, and modern infrastructure.

Telangana CM Revanth Reddy Inaugurates Batukamma Kunta

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ernment to integrate cultural preservation with urban development, making the city more inclusive and community-oriented.

A Step Towards Preserving Tradition

The Batukamma Kunta is expected to host thousands of visitors annually during the festival season, providing them a secure and organized environment for celebrations. The government’s focus on blending traditional aesthetics with modern facilities demonstrates a commitment to safeguarding Telangana’s heritage while adapting to contemporary urban needs.

With this initiative, Hyderabad takes a significant step in promoting cultural tourism, community engagement, and sustainable urban planning, positioning the Batukamma Kunta as a model for similar projects across the state.

GIVE ME 10 YEARS, WILL MAKE CITY LIKE NEWYORK: CM

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completed by December 2026.

The event was attended by Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Ministers Sridhar Babu and Aduri Lakshman, Chief Minister’s advisor Vem Narender Reddy, MLAs, MLCs, Corporation Chairpersons, and senior government officials.

CM Revanth Reddy concluded by stressing that Bharat Future City will stand as a global model, showcasing India’s capability to create



sustainable, world-class urban infrastructure. “We have all the qualities to develop a city that

the world will talk about. Let us work together to build a city for generations to come,” he said.

MP Etela Rajender Inaugurates Uni Planet - Overseas Studies Center in Kompally

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among others. They lauded the initiative for creating a platform that will bridge local students with global educational opportunities.

MP Etela Rajender expressed optimism that the launch of Uni Planet in Kompally will not only provide students with access to international education counseling but also boost the region’s repu-

tation as a center for academic advancement. He wished the founders and the team success in their efforts to mentor and assist aspiring students.

The newly inaugurated center is expected to offer a range of services, including overseas admission guidance, test preparation support, visa counseling, and career mentoring, catering specifically to the grow-

ing demand for global education among Telangana students.

With the establishment of Uni Planet, Kompally students now have a dedicated resource close to home to help them navigate the complex pathways to higher education abroad, making global dreams more attainable and inspiring confidence among students and parents alike.

FUTURE CITY IS FOR REAL ESTATE: KTR

CONTINUED FROM >>P1

ment’s account ability.

The former minister also took aim at CM Revanth Reddy’s recent foundation stone laying ceremony for the proposed Fourth City. KTR argued that the Chief Minister’s attention is misdirected, focusing on new projects rather than addressing pressing issues in the existing city. He highlighted

the ongoing hardships faced by citizens, including flood-related damage, and accused the government of neglecting immediate urban concerns.

KTR further criticized the cancellation of Hyderabad Metro projects and claimed that the Fourth City initiative is being promoted primarily for real estate gains rather than public welfare. “The people are

suffering due to neglect in infrastructure and flood management, yet the government is busy branding a Fourth City for real estate purposes,” he remarked.

The BRS leader also appealed to the residents of Jubilee Hills to support the party in the upcoming by-elections. He urged voters to ensure the victory of BRS candidate Maganti Sunitha, reiterating that

the people of Telangana desire the leadership of former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) once again.

“This is a critical moment for Jubilee Hills,” KTR said. “The citizens deserve a government that prioritizes their welfare over vanity projects and political symbolism.” He stressed that BRS remains committed to addressing the real issues affecting the

public, from urban infrastructure to education and social welfare.

The visit to Shakepet Samatha Colony also provided BRS leaders an opportunity to interact with residents directly, understand their grievances, and convey the party’s ongoing initiatives aimed at public welfare. KTR’s comments are expected to intensify political debate in the run-up to the

Jubilee Hills by-election, highlighting the growing contrast between the Congress government’s promises and the BRS’s developmental agenda.

The party’s strategic outreach and media engagement underline its determination to consolidate support in urban constituencies while keeping a close eye on government accountability.



TGRTC IS READY FOR FESTIVAL TRAVELS: MINISTER ASSURED

Hyderabad, Sept 28: Telangana Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar convened a comprehensive teleconference with senior officials of the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGRTC) to review and strengthen passenger transport arrangements ahead of the Bathukamma and Dussehra festivities. The minister underscored the need to ensure that festival travelers heading to their native towns and villages experience no inconvenience due to overcrowding, delays, or logistical issues.

Minister Prabhakar instructed TGRTC authorities to focus on major congestion points across Hyderabad, including Uppal, LB Nagar, and Arangur, ensuring smooth passenger flow and efficient deployment of buses. Each bus station, he stressed, should have a dedicated officer responsible for managing operations, monitoring crowding, and making additional buses available as required.

“RMLs, Deputy RMLs, and senior officials must be deployed on the ground at all depots and bus stations. Coordination across all 97 depots and 340 bus stations is critical to ensure that passengers reach their destinations safely, on time, and without unnecessary stress,” the minister directed.

During the teleconference, TGRTC officials informed the minister that a total of 7,754 special buses have been arranged statewide to meet the surge in passenger traffic anticipated during the festival period. Bathukamma is scheduled for September 30, while Dussehra falls on October 2. Officials highlighted that the highest passenger movement is expected to begin this Saturday, and the deployment of special buses has been strategically planned to manage peak demand.

Officials assured the minister that all depots and bus stations are fully prepared to handle the high volume of travelers. Measures include efficient coordination between depots, bus stations, and traffic authorities to minimize congestion and delays. Special buses will operate on high-demand routes to and from Hyderabad, facilitating a seamless journey for passengers traveling to different districts of Telangana.

Minister Prabhakar also emphasized passenger safety, advising TGRTC staff to provide timely updates on bus schedules, routes, and availability of services. He urged officials to remain vigilant and proactive in addressing any unexpected issues that might arise during the festival travel period. The minister further highlighted that

on-ground supervision by senior officials would ensure adherence to safety protocols and smooth functioning at all stations.

In addition, TGRTC was directed to maintain constant communication with travelers, particularly at major bus stations and junctions, to inform them about waiting times and alternative travel options. The minister reiterated that citizen convenience is a top priority and that festival travelers should experience stress-free transportation without facing overcrowding or long delays.

The TGRTC, under the guidance of Minister Prabhakar, is taking a multi-pronged approach to manage the festival travel rush. With the deployment of additional buses, dedicated on-site supervision, and close coordination between depots and stations, the corporation aims to provide efficient and safe transport services throughout the festive period.

Passengers traveling for Bathukamma and Dussehra can expect enhanced services, improved facilities, and proactive assistance across all major routes in Telangana. The government’s detailed preparations reflect its commitment to public welfare and ensuring a smooth and enjoyable festival experience for citizens statewide.

Political Reservation Controversy Intensifies

TPN Bureau,

Hyderabad, Sept 28: The Telangana Congress government’s recent push for 42% reservation for Backward Classes (BCs) in local body elections has sparked heated debates over the legitimacy and timing of the move. The political row comes on the heels of the government issuing government orders (GOs) to implement the higher BC quota in panchayati raj institutions, municipal councils, and other local bodies.

Congress, in its election manifesto, had promised education and employment benefits through political reservations for BCs. However, critics argue that the current push is less about fulfilling constitutional mandates and

more about delaying elections for political advantage. Constitutional experts and political analysts have flagged the move as potentially manipulative, cautioning that elections cannot be postponed under the guise of implementing new reservation policies.

Legal precedents are clear. The Supreme Court has repeatedly emphasized transparent implementation of reservation policies and adherence to constitutional provisions. Critics argue that issuing GOs without a detailed, comprehensive report on beneficiaries undermines the rule of law. “The system is not a drama company,” remarked one political observer, noting that courts will examine the legality of such decisions carefully.

The controversy also highlights the administrative challenges of implementing 42% BC reservation. While the intent may be to provide equitable representation in elected bodies, the process requires a meticulous survey of eligible candidates across all categories, including sarpanches, MPTCs, ZPTCs, MPPs, and ZP chairpersons. Observers suggest that a piecemeal approach or rushed notifications could lead to legal setbacks.

Opposition leaders have criticized Chief Minister Revanth Reddy’s handling of the situation. Questions have been raised on why the government, if genuinely committed to BC reservations, failed to implement similar measures earlier through ministerial ac-

tion or policy frameworks. Critics assert that conducting elections with integrity and following the law is entirely possible, pointing to Tamil Nadu as an example. There, 69% reservation in various sectors was implemented after a comprehensive study conducted by a panel of 25 retired IAS officers, covering education, employment, and social sectors. Courts were subsequently convinced by the robust methodology, enabling legal implementation without controversy.

The ongoing debate underscores a broader concern: ensuring social justice while maintaining electoral fairness. Experts emphasize the importance of detailed data, transparent procedures, and constitutional compliance before issu-

ing reservations that affect millions of voters. “Elections must be conducted promptly, and the law should not be treated as a tool for political gain,” political analysts note.

As Telangana gears up for local body elections, the government faces pressure from all sides—legal, political, and social—to clarify its intentions. Analysts argue that a careful, study-based approach, similar to Tamil Nadu’s model, could ensure fair BC representation without delaying elections or inviting judicial scrutiny. Until then, the controversy surrounding the 42% BC quota continues to dominate public discourse, reflecting the complex intersection of politics, law, and social equity in the state.

Minister Sridhar Babu Highlights Vision for Bharat Future City

Rangareddy District, Mir Khanpet: Telangana IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu on Sunday addressed the gathering at the foundation stone laying ceremony of the Bharat Future City Development Authority (FCDA) building and Greenfield Radial Road – 1, underscoring the state government’s ambitious vision for the project.

Minister Sridhar Babu emphasized that the government is committed to developing Bharat Future City as a global bench-

mark for urban planning and development. “Our government is determined to develop Bharat Future City in a way that attracts global giants and stands as a role model for cities across the world,” he stated.

He pointed out that, historically, cities like Chandigarh have been synonymous with planned urban development, but he envisions Bharat Future City becoming the new reference point for excellence in city planning. “Until now, whenever people spoke of a planned city,

they remembered Chandigarh. In the days ahead, the world will recall Bharat Future City as the new benchmark for planned urban development,” he added.

The Minister elaborated on the city’s design, which follows the “Live – Learn – Work – Play” concept. Bharat Future City will integrate residential spaces, schools, hospitals, shopping malls, and industries, all developed to international standards. This holistic approach, he said, ensures that the city will meet the aspirations

of citizens and provide a high quality of life while promoting economic growth.

Highlighting the long-term impact of the project, Sridhar Babu said, “The foundation we lay together today is not just for a city, but for the bright golden future of our children and the generations to come.” He further stressed the government’s commitment to sustainability, assuring that Bharat Future City will be developed as a “Net Zero Carbon City,” maintaining greenery, clean air,

and a pollution-free environment. “Industries will thrive here, but never at the cost of the environment,” he affirmed.

Concluding his address, the Minister appealed to the people of Telangana to support the government’s vision and participate in the city-building process. “I appeal to the people to walk with this people’s government that is working tirelessly with sincerity for Telangana’s tomorrow. Bless us, join hands in building Bharat Future City, and be partners in the progress of our State,”

BJP to Decide Jubilee Hills By-Election Candidate: Bandaru Vijayalakshmi

Hyderabad, Sept 28: With the Jubilee Hills constituency by-election scheduled in the coming days, political parties have intensified preparations to field their candidates. While the BRS party has already announced its candidate for the high-profile seat, questions remain regarding the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) nominee. Addressing the media on Sunday, former Governor Bandaru Dattatreya's daughter and Alay Balay program chairperson, Bandaru Vijayalakshmi, clarified the party's position on the upcoming by-election.

Speaking to reporters in Hyderabad, Vijayalakshmi emphasized that the decision regarding the BJP candidate for Jubilee Hills will be finalized strictly according to the party's internal process. "The party will decide the candidate as per its deliberations, and the announcement will follow accordingly," she stated, addressing growing speculation about potential contenders.

In addition to discussing political matters, Vijayalakshmi highlighted the upcoming Alay Balay program, scheduled for October 3 at the Exhibition Grounds in Nampally. She recalled that the program was first launched in 2005 at the Jaygarden venue and has since grown into a significant cultural event, attracting large audiences from across Telangana.



Vijayalakshmi noted that Alay Balay has the distinction of being the first program attended by two Chief Ministers together, underlining its importance in the state's cultural landscape. The event also recognizes outstanding artists, with some participants having received Padma Awards for their contributions to arts and culture.

"This program serves as a central platform to celebrate Telangana's rich heritage and artistic traditions," she said. Additionally, she mentioned that the upcoming event will include a special felicitation ceremony honoring participants of Operation Sindoor, recognizing their contributions and achievements.

Bandaru Vijayalakshmi's remarks come at a critical time as political

parties in Hyderabad gear up for intense campaigning ahead of the Jubilee Hills by-election. While the BRS has moved quickly to announce its candidate, the BJP is carefully reviewing potential contenders before making a public declaration. Her statement reiterates that the party remains committed to an organized, internal selection process for its nominee.

The Jubilee Hills by-election is expected to attract considerable attention from voters and political observers alike, given the constituency's strategic significance in the Hyderabad metropolitan area. With campaigning already underway and key leaders engaging with constituents, the coming weeks are likely to shape the political landscape in the city.



BJP Leaders in Telangana Celebrate PM Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat' Broadcast

Hyderabad, Sept 28: BJP State President N. Ramchander Rao emphasized the inspirational value of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's monthly radio program, Mann Ki Baat, during a special gathering held on Sunday in Telangana. According to Rao, the program serves as a beacon for citizens across the country, motivating them through reflections on India's cultural heritage, social values, and developmental achievements.

The event took place at Booth No. 204 in the Tarnaka Division of the Secunderabad Assembly Constituency, where local party leaders and

workers convened to collectively listen to the Prime Minister's broadcast. Booth Presidents, Division Presidents, senior party functionaries, and grassroots workers actively participated, tuning in to hear the PM's insights firsthand.

Speaking on the occasion, Ramchander Rao said, "Mann Ki Baat is an inspiration for every citizen of our country. Prime Minister Modi addresses the nation with thought-provoking reflections, urging all of us to contribute positively to society and cherish India's rich cultural traditions."

The Telangana BJP chief also highlighted a notable portion of the broadcast in which the

Prime Minister referenced Telangana Liberation Day, observed annually on September 17. Rao noted that such mentions of regional milestones in national programs reinforce the connection between local achievements and national development.

Participants at the gathering praised the program for its ability to inspire citizens from all walks of life, motivating them to engage in civic and community-oriented initiatives. By bringing attention to the state's contributions and progress, the broadcast strengthened a sense of pride among Telangana residents.

Rao added that Mann Ki Baat is not only a communication tool

but also a source of moral guidance, urging citizens to uphold social harmony, environmental responsibility, and participatory development. "Through this program, millions are reminded of India's journey of progress and the importance of individual and collective action," he said.

The BJP leadership in Telangana plans to continue organizing such listening sessions across divisions, ensuring that party workers and the public remain engaged with the Prime Minister's messages. These gatherings also serve as platforms for discussions on implementing developmental initiatives at the local level, inspired

by the ideas shared in the broadcast.

The event concluded with Ramchander Rao encouraging attendees to act on the insights shared in Mann Ki Baat, stressing that such initiatives strengthen the bond between citizens and the nation while fostering a spirit of constructive participation.

By celebrating the Prime Minister's radio program, the BJP in Telangana aims to highlight the importance of leadership, cultural pride, and civic responsibility, reinforcing its commitment to engage citizens in the state's social and developmental discourse.

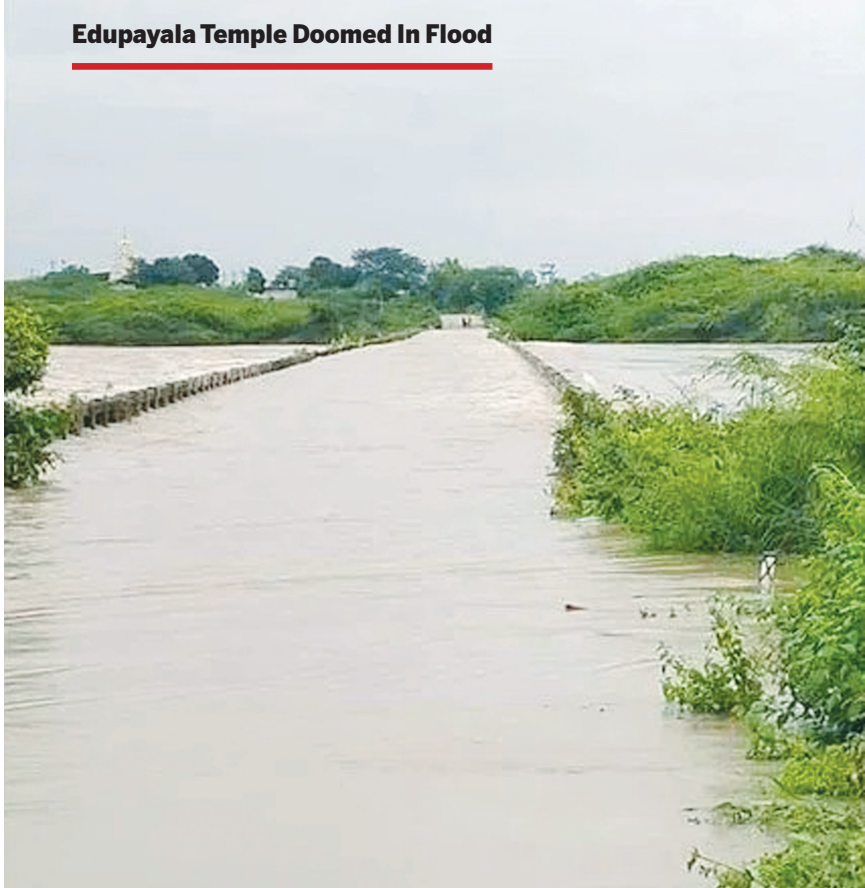
Heavy Rains Cause Manjeera River to Overflow in Medak

Medak: The Manjeera River has overflowed at the Yellapur bridge in Medak district, creating significant disruptions on the Hyderabad-Medak road near the famous Edupayala temple. Authorities have temporarily closed traffic on the bridge as a precautionary measure, following continuous heavy rainfall in the region and large water releases from the Singur reservoir.

According to officials, the river has been receiving over 1.5 lakh cusecs of water, with irrigation authorities releasing 90,000 cusecs from the Singur reservoir by lifting 10 crest gates. The steady inflow, combined with incessant rains in Sangareddy and Medak districts, has caused the river to swell beyond its banks, threatening nearby bridges and low-lying areas.

The Yellapur bridge, which serves as a vital link between the Hyderabad-Medak road and Edupayala temple, has seen water levels rise dangerously. In addition to Yellapur, three other nearby bridges have also been submerged, causing further disruption to vehicular and pedestrian movement in the area.

The rising waters have swept away prasadam counters and temporary sheds set up for devotees at Edupayala temple, affecting the local religious activities. Authorities have urged residents and visitors to stay away from the riverbanks and



Edupayala Temple Doomed In Flood

avoid traveling through affected areas until the water recedes.

Apart from the Manjeera, several streams, lakes, and minor water bodies across the district are overflowing due to continuous rainfall over the past few days. Local administration has activated disaster response teams to monitor water levels and assist affected residents in low-lying villages.

The irrigation and flood control departments are keeping a close watch on the Singur reservoir and other key water bodies in the

region to manage further releases safely. Officials have also set up warning signals and barricades at vulnerable points along the river to prevent accidents and ensure public safety.

District authorities have appealed to devotees planning to visit the Edupayala temple to postpone their trips until the river subsides. Temporary shelters and relief measures are being readied for residents in flood-prone areas, ensuring immediate assistance in case of emergencies.

Meteorologists have predicted that heavy

rainfall is likely to continue over the coming days in Medak and Sangareddy districts, raising concerns over the water levels in rivers, streams, and reservoirs. Residents have been advised to remain vigilant, avoid venturing near overflowing water bodies, and follow official advisories issued by the district administration.

With the Manjeera River in spate and the heavy inflows from Singur reservoir, authorities continue to closely monitor the situation to prevent any casualties and minimize damage to property.

Speaker to Hear Disqualification Petitions Against Turncoat MLAs

Hyderabad, Sept 28: Telangana Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar is set to commence hearings on the disqualification petitions filed against MLAs who defected from the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS). The proceedings, scheduled for Monday and Wednesday, mark a significant step in addressing the political turmoil triggered by the recent wave of defections.

The Supreme Court had earlier directed the Speaker to take action on the defection petitions, prompting the initiation of hearings. In compliance with this directive, both the petitioners and the MLAs who switched loyalties have been summoned to present their cases.

The hearings on Monday are expected to be conducted in four sessions, running from 11 am to 4 pm. As part of the process, the Speaker will oversee the cross-examination of both the petitioners and the respondents. This comprehensive approach aims to ensure that all sides are heard before any decision is taken regarding the disqualification of the turncoat MLAs.

Among those slated to appear for the hearing are T. Prakash Goud (Rajendranagar), Kale Yadaiah (Chevella), Gudem Mahipal Reddy (Patancheru), and Bandla Krishnamohan Reddy (Jogulamba Gadwal). These MLAs have drawn

attention due to their defection from the ruling BRS, which has raised questions about party loyalty and legislative stability in the state.

The disqualification petitions were filed amid political upheaval following the shift of several MLAs from the BRS to other parties. The move has intensified political debate in Telangana, as both supporters and opponents of the turncoat legislators await the Speaker's decision.

The Speaker's hearings are expected to involve detailed scrutiny of the circumstances surrounding the defections. Each MLA will have an opportunity to present their version, while the petitioners will provide evidence and arguments in support of the disqualification requests. The cross-examination process will help clarify conflicting accounts and provide the Speaker with a thorough understanding of the situation.

Political observers note that the hearings carry significant implications for Telangana's legislative landscape. A decision on the disqualification of these MLAs could alter the balance of power in the Assembly, impacting both governance and political strategies ahead of future elections.

The BRS has expressed confidence in the Speaker's handling of the petitions, emphasizing adherence to legal procedures and trans-



parency in the process. Meanwhile, the turncoat MLAs have maintained that their actions were within the bounds of the law and that they would present their case fully during the hearings.

The proceedings scheduled on Wednesday are expected to continue with similar scrutiny, ensuring that all parties receive a fair hearing. The outcomes of these hearings could set a prece-

dent for how defection and disqualification issues are managed in the Telangana Assembly, reinforcing the role of the Speaker in upholding legislative norms.

As the political drama unfolds, all eyes remain on Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar to deliver a balanced decision that respects both legal mandates and the interests of the state's electorate.



MGBS Resumes Services After Unprecedented Flood Disruption

Hyderabad, September 28: The Mahatma Gandhi Bus Station (MGBS), one of the largest bus stations in Asia and a crucial hub for passenger transport in Telangana, has resumed its operations this afternoon after being forced to shut down due to unprecedented floods. The resumption of services marks the end of a tense period for both staff and passengers, who had witnessed scenes never before experienced at the iconic bus station.

In the aftermath of the heavy downpour that lashed Hyderabad earlier this week, the premises of MGBS were inundated with floodwaters. What shocked many was not just the accumulation of water, but the volume of mud and debris that swept into the station. Three major plat-

forms, essential for inter-district and interstate bus services, were completely buried under layers of thick mud. Before resuming operations, staff undertook a massive cleanup drive to restore the station. Workers rolled up their sleeves, manually clearing the sludge that had rendered bus bays unusable. Their swift action ensured that services could be restarted within days, minimizing disruption to thousands of commuters who depend on the facility daily.

For many employees, the incident was unlike anything they had seen in their careers. Sharing his reaction, Mr. Srinivasa Rao, a senior staff member at MGBS, said, "Really, we are shocked with the flood. We have only seen rainwater being stocked in

the premises earlier, but nothing like this has ever happened. This was a completely new experience for us. However, all our staff participated actively in the rescue and restoration work. The management too was with us every step of the way. They did not limit themselves to giving instructions, but personally came down to the ground and worked shoulder to shoulder with us. This experience has truly shown our collective commitment to this institution."

His words reflect the sense of unity and resilience displayed by the MGBS team during the crisis. Employees, many of whom had themselves been affected by the rains in their neighborhoods, still reported for duty and worked long hours to bring the bus station back to normalcy. The management of the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC), which oversees MGBS, also acknowledged the extraordinary efforts of the staff. Senior officials made frequent visits to the premises during the cleanup operation and coordinated with ground staff to expedite the restoration process. According to insiders, their presence not only boosted morale but also ensured that critical decisions were implemented without delay.

Commuters expressed relief at the reopening of the bus station. Many passengers who rely on MGBS for travel to districts across Telangana and neighboring states had been forced to reschedule or cancel their journeys due to the disruption. With buses resuming

service from Saturday afternoon, passenger flow is gradually returning to normal. The incident has sparked conversations around the need for improved flood preparedness and infrastructure upgrades at major public transport hubs in the city. While Hyderabad has faced instances of heavy rains and waterlogging in the past, the scale of flooding inside MGBS has highlighted new vulnerabilities. For now, however, staff and management take pride in having overcome the crisis together. As operations return to routine, the resilience shown during the disaster stands as a reminder of the dedication of those who keep one of India's busiest bus stations running, even in the face of unprecedented challenges.

Authorities Shut Down Musarambagh Road After Flood Damage

Hyderabad, September 28: Heavy rains that lashed the city in recent days have left the Musarambagh stretch severely damaged, forcing authorities to completely halt vehicular movement in the area. The service road built temporarily alongside the Musarambagh bridge, which was already under construction, has been battered by floodwaters, leaving it unsafe for travel. According to officials, the rains brought heavy floodwater that swept through the service road, peeling off the road surface, creating deep potholes, and leaving behind piles of debris. With the condition of the road worsening and accidents becoming imminent, authorities had no option but to shut it down completely.

The Musarambagh bridge has been under construction for several months, with one side already closed for flyover works. To ease traffic congestion, officials had

permitted movement of vehicles on a temporary service road adjacent to the bridge. However, after the recent rains, that road too has become impassable. Speaking on the situation, Amberpet Circle DMC Maruthi Divakar and Traffic Inspector Veera Kaushik appealed to citizens not to use the route until the bridge construction is completed. "The road has become extremely dangerous after the floods. For the safety of the public, we have closed the route entirely. We request everyone to cooperate and avoid using this stretch," they said. Police have set up barricades on both sides of the bridge to completely restrict the movement of vehicles. Security personnel have also been deployed to ensure that commuters do not attempt to bypass the closure. The shutdown has caused inconvenience to regular commuters who use the Musarambagh route daily, but officials



Hyderabad Police Chief Inaugurates New HCSC Office at TGICCC

Hyderabad, Sept 28: Sri C.V. Anand, IPS, Director General & Commissioner of Police, Hyderabad City, and Chairman of the Hyderabad City Security Council (HCSC), inaugurated the new HCSC office at the Telangana Integrated Command and Control Centre (TGICCC) building on Saturday. Commissioner Anand said the council's activities have grown significantly over the past few years, with more staff being inducted to strengthen operations. A bigger facility was therefore needed to accommodate the expanding team and support its programs. He stressed that the new office will act as a hub for coordination and planning of safety initiatives across multiple domains.

Sri C. Shekar Reddy, Secretary General of HCSC, thanked the Commissioner for allotting the office space and urged members to actively engage with the council's initiatives. "The new office is not just an infrastructure upgrade; it is a space for collaboration and collective action. We encourage all members to use the facilities and contribute to the mission of making Hyderabad safer," he said. Several HCSC representatives were present at the inauguration, including Shri V. Rajashekar Reddy, Joint Secretary of the Traffic Forum; Lt. Col. Srinivas Rao, Joint Secretary of the Physical Security Forum; Shri Praveen T, Joint Secretary of the Cyber Security Forum; Shri Prashanth, Joint Secretary of the CSR Forum; Smt. Geeta Goti, EC member; and Shri Saiteesh, EC member.

The inauguration was also attended by senior police officials, among them Shri Vikram Singh Mann, Additional CP (Law & Order); Shri Joel Davis, IPS, Joint Commissioner (Traffic); Smt. Pushpa, DCP (SMIT); Smt. Kavita, DCP (Cyber Crimes); and Smt. Lavanya, DCP (Women's Safety Wing). Their presence highlighted the strong collaboration between the city police and HCSC. About HCSC The Hyderabad City Security Council is a not-for-profit body that works in partnership with the Hyderabad City Police Commissionerate, private organizations, government departments, and citizens. Its goal is to create a secure urban environment by addressing safety concerns in areas such as women's protection, traffic management, anti-narcotics, infrastructure safety, and cybersecurity. Through awareness campaigns, training programs, and collaborative strategies, HCSC engages citizens and institutions to build a culture of safety. With the opening of its new office, the council expects to expand its reach and provide a stronger platform for community-driven security initiatives in Hyderabad.

Hyderabad Sees 17% Decline in Crime

Hyderabad, Sept 28: The Hyderabad City Police have reported a notable 17 percent reduction in crime since August 2024, marking what officials describe as a significant improvement in the city's law and order situation. The figures were released on Sunday during a review meeting chaired by Police Commissioner C.V. Anand, who praised the collective efforts of the police force in achieving these results. Overall Decline in Major Crimes According to the report, murder cases saw a sharp fall. Between September 2023 and August 2024, the city registered 85 cases of murder, whereas during the same period this year, only 73 cases were recorded—a decline of 14 percent. Attempt-to-murder cases showed an even more encouraging trend, dropping from 259 last year to 185 this year; a fall of 29 percent. Cases involving intentional harm also declined, with 2,049 cases reported last year compared to 2,037 this year. Kidnapping cases, another major concern for the city police, fell by 12 percent, from 698 in the previous year to 616 in the current reporting period. Cybercrime, which has been a growing challenge across Indian cities, also showed improvement in Hyderabad. A total of 3,745 cases were registered this year, compared to 4,348 in the previous year—a 14 percent drop. The detection rate also improved, rising from 40 percent to 42 percent,

which the commissioner described as a "commendable performance" by specialized cybercrime teams. Property Offences and Detection Rates Property-related offences showed a significant decline. In the previous year, 5,484 such cases were reported. This year, the number dropped to 4,082, representing a 26 percent reduction. The recovery rate of stolen property improved slightly from 54 percent to 55 percent. Murder-for-gain cases also decreased by 40 percent, with only three incidents reported this year, compared to five last year. Notably, two of the three were detected, raising the recovery rate dramatically from 2 percent to 83 percent. Robbery cases fell sharply, from 251 in the previous year to 135 this year—a reduction of 46 percent. Out of these, 128 cases were detected. Burglary cases showed only a marginal decline, from 450 to 443, but the recovery rate improved significantly, rising from 61 percent to 80 percent. Theft cases dropped by 27 percent, from 4,778 to 3,501, with the detection rate inching up from 50 percent to 51 percent. Crimes Against Women The report also shed light on crimes against

Heavy Dasara Rush at Jubilee Bus Station, Secunderabad

Secunderabad, Sept 28: The Jubilee Bus Station (JBS) in Secunderabad experienced a surge of passengers ahead of the Dasara festival, as students and families traveled in large numbers to their hometowns. The festive season, coupled with school and college vacations, contributed to the heavy rush at the station. TSRTC officials said that special Dasara services were arranged from JBS to various districts to accommodate the high demand. With buses from North Telangana temporarily diverted from Mahatma Gandhi Bus Station (MGBS) due to the recent heavy rains, the passenger load at JBS increased further, making it one of the busiest transport hubs in the city. Commuters were seen queuing for tickets and waiting for buses to destinations such as Karimnagar, Nizamabad, Warangal, and Adilabad. RTC staff were deployed in large numbers to manage the crowd, regulate services, and provide assistance to passengers.

An RTC official said, "Every year Dasara brings in a rush. This time, with buses being rerouted from MGBS, the load has increased significantly. We have deployed additional buses and will operate more depending on demand to ensure smooth travel for passengers." Despite the crowd, commuters appreciated the arrangements. "There is a lot of rush, but the staff are guiding passengers well and extra buses are being arranged. It helps us reach home on time," said one passenger waiting for a bus to Karimnagar. Authorities also urged passengers to use online booking facilities to avoid long queues at the ticket counters. Traffic police were coordinating with RTC officials to manage congestion outside the bus station. With the Dasara festival approaching, the rush at JBS is expected to continue for the next few days. Officials anticipate a similar surge during the return journey after the celebrations, as thousands head back to Hyderabad.



KTR DON'T KNOW FLOOD MANAGEMENT: MINISTER PONNAM

Miryalaguda, Sept 28: Minister Ponnam Prabhakar conducted a surprise inspection of the RTC bus stand in Miryalaguda on Saturday, accompanied by local MLA B.L.R. and MLC Shankar Naik. During the visit, the minister interacted with passengers and assessed facilities to ensure smooth operations during the Dasara festival. He directed officials to make all arrangements so that commuters face no inconvenience during the festive season and assured that he would work toward further development of the bus stand.

Following the inspection, Minister Prabhakar held a media brief-

ing at the local MLA camp office. He elaborated on the government's flood preparedness measures and emphasized the importance of proactive monitoring of the Musi River and twin reservoirs to manage water release safely. He pointed out that flood gates are opened only after all safety measures are in place and after informing affected residents. The minister criticized the former municipal minister, K.T. Rama Rao, claiming there is limited understanding of flood management policies and procedures, emphasizing that government decisions prioritize public safety.

Minister Prabhakar

highlighted the government's disaster response initiatives, stating that under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's guidance, 12 relief and rehabilitation centers were established, and thousands of residents were safely relocated. He urged opposition parties, including BRS and BJP, to refrain from politicizing natural disasters, stressing that collective cooperation is essential to safeguard lives and property.

In addition to flood preparedness, the minister discussed arrangements for smooth festival travel. Special buses were deployed from JBS, Uppal, LB Nagar, and Arangur, along with dedicated staff to

manage traffic and assist passengers traveling to districts. He stated that these measures aim to ensure commuters face minimal disruptions during the Dasara holidays.

On the issue of BC reservation, Minister Prabhakar clarified that a comprehensive social survey was conducted, assigning one observer for every 150 households. Based on the survey, the government proposed a 42% reservation for Backward Classes, which was passed unanimously in the state legislature and sent to the Governor for approval. He emphasized that the process is fully constitutional and legally compliant, citing Ta-

mil Nadu as an example where similar measures exist. The minister refuted misinformation and clarified that the rights of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are fully protected under the new reservation scheme.

"We have ensured the process is transparent, legal, and in line with the Constitution. Any doubts or misconceptions are false," he said. He added that notifications regarding the implementation of BC reservations are expected in the coming days.

Minister Prabhakar concluded by urging all political parties and citizens to support the government during



natural disasters and respect judicial decisions. He reaffirmed that the Telangana government, under Chief

Minister Revanth Reddy, remains committed to public welfare, inclusive development, and ensuring a secure and

well-managed environment for all residents, particularly during festivals and adverse conditions.

“Mera Desh Pahale – The Untold Story of Shri Narendra Modi Ji” in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, Sept 28: A grand preparatory meeting was held today in Hyderabad for the upcoming event, “Mera Desh Pahale – The Untold Story of Shri Narendra Modi Ji”, scheduled to take place on September 30 at HITEX, Kondapur. The meeting brought together senior party leaders and key stakeholders to finalize arrangements for the high-profile program.

BJP Telangana State President, Mr. Ramchandar Rao, attended the meeting and addressed the gathering. Speaking on the occasion, he highlighted the transformative initiatives undertaken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi that have contributed to India's growth and development. He emphasized the need to showcase these achievements to the youth, inspiring them to actively participate in nation-building and leadership activities.

“Through this event, we aim to share the untold story of Prime Minister Modi's vision and the progressive decisions he has implement-



ed for the country. These initiatives have positively impacted millions of citizens, and we hope the youth will draw motivation and inspiration from his journey,” Mr. Rao said.

The preparatory meeting also included participation from several corporators and civic leaders from Hyderabad. Discussions focused on urban development issues, infrastructure challenges, and opportunities for promoting government schemes and programs. Special attention was given to the po-

tential benefits of GST reductions and how such measures have aided business growth and public welfare.

Organizers outlined plans for the event, including logistical arrangements, security protocols, and public engagement strategies, ensuring that attendees have a smooth and enriching experience. The meeting underscored the importance of highlighting Prime Minister Modi's policy measures and their impact on various sectors, ranging from economic reforms

to social welfare programs.

The program at HITEX is expected to attract a large audience, including students, youth leaders, entrepreneurs, and members of the political community. It aims to provide insights into the Prime Minister's vision for India and create awareness of initiatives that have transformed governance and development in recent years.

The event, organized by the BJP Telangana unit, seeks to combine informative presentations, interactive ses-

sions, and motivational speeches, emphasizing leadership, innovation, and public service. Senior officials and corporators stressed that such gatherings play a crucial role in engaging citizens and promoting awareness about government initiatives.

The Telangana BJP leadership reaffirmed their commitment to making the event successful and ensuring that the message of progressive governance and nation-building reaches a wide audience across the state.

Deputy Mayor Visits Paru Ammai Mandapams During Navaratri Celebrations

Hyderabad, Sept 28: As part of the Navaratri festivities, Greater Hyderabad Deputy Mayor Smt.

Mothe Srilatha Sobhan Reddy, accompanied by TITUCS State President Shri Mothe Sobhan Reddy, visited several Paru Ammai mandapams in the Tarnaka division on Saturday. The Deputy Mayor participated in special rituals and offered prayers at the mandapams, marking the auspicious occasion with devotion and reverence.

Following the worship, Smt. Srilatha Sobhan Reddy joined devotees in an annadanam (food donation) program, serving meals to attendees and reinforcing the spirit of community and service during the festival.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Mayor said, “Participating in the Navaratri pujas and annadanam is a joyful experience. I sincerely pray that the blessings of



the goddess bring health, happiness, and prosperity to all citizens.” She emphasized the importance of cultural and spiritual traditions in fostering community harmony and expressed her delight at seeing active participation from locals.

Smt. Sobhan Reddy also highlighted the state government's efforts in preserving and

promoting spiritual and cultural traditions. “The Telangana government ensures that all festivals are celebrated with grandeur and provides the necessary infrastructure and facilities for religious events. Development of temples and support for cultural festivities remain a priority for the administration,” she added.

The event witnessed participation from a large number of senior Congress leaders, local representatives, and devotees from the Tarnaka division, reflecting widespread public enthusiasm for the Navaratri celebrations. The Deputy Mayor interacted with attendees, encouraging them to actively participate in cultural events and uphold Telangana's

rich spiritual heritage.

Officials noted that the government has been making consistent efforts to maintain the safety and convenience of devotees during festival periods, including providing proper arrangements at mandapams and temples. The Navaratri celebrations in Hyderabad continue to combine religious devotion with social welfare initiatives such as annadanam, showcasing the city's vibrant cultural fabric.

The Deputy Mayor concluded her visit by extending her greetings to the public, urging citizens to celebrate the festival with devotion while adhering to safety protocols. Her participation in both the pujas and community service initiatives highlighted the role of public officials in promoting cultural traditions and supporting festive activities across the city.



PROMOTE TOURISM IN TELANGANA: MINISTER JUPALLI

Hyderabad, Sept 28: As part of the Bathukamma festival celebrations, Minister Jupalli Krishna Rao on Saturday inaugurated a vibrant rally featuring bikes, cycles, and skaters at the LB Stadium in Hyderabad. The minister personally flagged off the rally, which attracted participants from across the city, highlighting a fusion of traditional culture and modern recreational activities.

Minister Krishna Rao joined cyclists in the rally, which started at LB Stadium and proceeded to NTR Stadium, covering key city roads while promoting community participation and tourism awareness. The event featured riders in traditional attire, and several women bikers, including members of the Hyderabad Women Bikers group, participated in a colorful Bullet bike rally, drawing enthusiastic attention from onlookers.

Addressing participants, Minister Krishna Rao encouraged citizens to explore Telangana's tourist destinations and contribute to the promotion of tourism across the state. “Our state is rich in culture, heritage, and scenic beauty. I urge everyone to visit Telangana's tourist spots and participate actively in promoting our tourism initiatives,” he said.

The rally concluded at NTR Stadium, where Minister Krishna Rao distributed certificates of appreciation to the riders in recognition of their participation and enthusiasm. The minister praised the efforts of



women riders and other participants for showcasing both tradition and modernity, making the event a lively and inclusive celebration of the festival.

The program was organized in association with the Tourism Development Corporation of Telangana (TDCT), with MD Kranti Valluru and other officials in attendance. The corporation highlighted that such events are part of a broader effort to attract domestic and international tourists to the state, combining cultural celebrations with active community engagement.

Participants described the event as a unique experience, blending festive spirit with adventure sports and cycling. Many expressed that it

was an opportunity to celebrate Bathukamma in a contemporary format while staying connected to tradition.

Minister Krishna Rao concluded by reiterating the state government's commitment to promoting tourism, especially through events that highlight Telangana's heritage and recreational facilities. He also expressed his intention to organize similar rallies in other parts of the state to engage citizens and tourists alike.

The Bathukamma festival celebrations, along with innovative initiatives such as this rally, are expected to boost tourism, encourage healthy lifestyles, and showcase Telangana's rich cultural heritage in a modern and vibrant format.

After MiG-21: India’s Urgent Call for Next-Gen Jets

The MiG-21’s final flight on September 26 over Chandigarh marked more than just the retirement of an aircraft; it symbolized a critical shift in India’s approach to air power. The Soviet-era fighter, which served the Indian Air Force (IAF) for over five decades, was a testament to India’s determination to protect its skies with limited resources. However, its prolonged use exposed significant vulnerabilities that now demand urgent attention.

The MiG-21 was once a reliable workhorse, representing India’s strategic intent and growing defense capabilities in the post-independence era. But as the years passed, the aircraft became synonymous with risk. Over 300 crashes, frequent technical malfunctions, and aging airframes earned the MiG-21 the unfortunate nickname of the “flying coffin.” While pilot training and operational challenges contributed to these issues, the deeper problem was the overreliance on an aging, imported platform with minimal investment in domestic alternatives.

This legacy of dependence on foreign technology and the delays in modernizing the fleet have put the Indian Air Force in a precarious position. The MiG-21’s long service life, while showcasing resilience, has also highlighted the urgent need to accelerate the development and induction of indigenous fighter jets that can meet the demands of modern aerial warfare.

India’s next-generation aircraft projects—Tejas Mk-2, Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), and Twin Engine Deck Based Fighter (TED-BF)—hold considerable promise. These programs aim to bring advanced avionics, better weapon systems, and enhanced operational capabilities to the IAF and Indian Navy, while reducing dependency on imports. Each project is envisioned as a leap toward technological self-reliance and strategic autonomy.

However, challenges remain. Delays due to supply chain disruptions, technological complexities, and foreign dependencies have slowed progress. Without a concerted push from policymakers, manufacturers, and the defense establishment, these projects risk falling behind schedule, leaving critical gaps in India’s air defense capabilities.

The MiG-21’s retirement is a poignant reminder that India must no longer delay its modernization. Investing decisively in next-generation jets is crucial—not just to replace an aging fleet but to ensure that the country’s air power remains robust, reliable, and ready for future challenges.

India’s future in the skies depends on learning from the past and embracing indigenous innovation today.





Bond Yields Defy RBI Rate Cuts Amid Fiscal, Global Concerns

Despite India’s inflation hitting an eight-year low and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cutting interest rates since February, government bond yields are moving in the opposite direction—rising sharply when they would typically fall.

India’s 10-year benchmark bond yield has climbed over 20 basis points since the RBI’s last rate cut in June, closing at 6.47% on Wednesday. This unusual rise is driven by concerns over weak tax collections, a potential fiscal deficit overshoot, and geopolitical risks—especially the impact of U.S. tariffs on Indian exports.

Traditionally, lower interest rates and inflation lead to higher bond prices and lower yields. But recent market behavior has defied this logic. Experts point to the RBI’s shift in policy stance—from ‘accommodative’ to ‘neutral’—as a key trigger. While the repo rate was cut by a cumulative 100 basis points this year, markets interpreted the policy shift as a signal that further rate cuts may not follow.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has acknowledged the rise in yields is “not affordable,” though she maintained it doesn’t currently affect the government’s fiscal calculations.

Independent analyst Ajay Bodke noted that fiscal slippage fears—especially with underperforming direct and indirect tax collections—are keeping bond investors wary. A recent report by Axis Bank estimates a possible ₹1.4 trillion shortfall in direct taxes for FY26, adding pressure to government borrowing.

The new GST rate rationalisation announced in early September—cutting slabs to 5% and 18%—aims to boost demand but may reduce revenue by ₹48,000 crore. Bond yields briefly softened following the GST announcement, but broader worries continue.

Adding to market jitters is the potential fallout from U.S. trade policy. Trump’s new 100% tariffs on branded pharmaceuticals and the proposed HIRE

outsourcing bill have raised red flags for Indian exporters. Experts warn that substitution to other markets won’t match U.S. profit margins and could lead to reduced earnings across labour-intensive sectors.

Until there is clarity on fiscal trends and external pressures, experts suggest bond yields may remain elevated—even as inflation and interest rates stay low. For now, market sentiment is clearly being driven more by future risks than present data.

Pharma Tariffs: Trump Keeps Indian Drug-Makers on Edge

In the midst of ongoing negotiations between India and the United States over a long-pending trade agreement, President Donald Trump has announced a sweeping new tariff policy targeting the pharmaceutical sector. The US administration has imposed a 100% tariff on branded and patented pharmaceutical products imported into the country unless the manufacturing companies establish production facilities on American soil. This policy shift has sent ripples through India’s pharmaceutical industry, which is a major player in the global market.

India, often hailed as the “pharmacy of the world,” exports over \$30 billion worth of pharmaceutical products globally, with the US accounting for roughly \$10 billion of that figure. The country predominantly supplies low-cost generic drugs to the American market, which, importantly, remain exempt from the new tariff regime. This exemption provides some relief to Indian drug-makers, safeguarding a significant portion of their exports.



However, concerns persist over the status of active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs), the core components used in drug production. The tariff policy has not clearly addressed whether APIs will fall under the new tariffs, leaving Indian manufacturers uncertain about potential impacts on this crucial segment.

Additionally, the industry is witnessing a strategic shift as major Indian pharmaceutical firms increasingly focus on complex generics—advanced formulations that are more difficult to develop than traditional generic drugs. These include inhalers, injectables, and ophthalmic solutions, which often fall within the branded or patented categories and thus might be subject to the new tariffs. Complex generics are commercially valuable as they enable companies to enter higher-value markets and diversify beyond conventional generics.

This evolving landscape creates a delicate balance for Indian drug manufacturers. While the exemption of standard generics offers some protection, the new tariff rules pose challenges for growth in specialized drug segments. Setting up manufacturing bases in the US, as demanded by the policy, would require substantial investments and strategic decisions by Indian companies.

As trade talks between the two nations continue, clarity on tariff implications, especially concerning APIs and complex generics, remains crucial. The outcome will determine how India’s pharmaceutical exporters navigate this new regime while sustaining their vital role in global healthcare.

Trump’s \$100,000 H-1B Visa Fee May Boost India’s \$65 Billion GCC Sector

President Donald Trump’s latest move to impose a \$100,000 fee on all new H-1B visa petitions filed after September 21, 2025, has sent shockwaves through the global tech industry—particularly in India, which receives about 70% of all H-1B visas issued each year.

The steep visa petition fee, payable by the employer regardless of whether the petition is approved, is part of Trump’s push to encourage domestic hiring in the U.S. The intention, as stated by the administration, is to reduce reliance on foreign labor—especially



ly perceived low-cost outsourcing talent—and create more jobs for American citizens.

While this policy may hurt Indian IT companies with U.S. operations in the short term, it could accelerate the growth of Global Capability Centres (GCCs) in India. With on-site postings becoming significantly more expensive, many global firms are expected to ramp up their offshore operations, bringing more high-value work back to India.

India currently hosts approximately 1,700 GCCs, which collectively generated \$65 billion in revenue in FY2024. Industry experts believe this number

could rise sharply if companies shift hiring and project execution to India to avoid the H-1B cost burden.

“This move makes offshore delivery even more attractive. Instead of paying \$100,000 just to file a visa, companies can expand their Indian GCC teams and save costs while maintaining productivity,” said a senior executive at a top Indian IT firm.

The Trump administration’s stance stems from long-standing criticisms that the H-1B program has been misused by outsourcing firms to place low-cost, low-skilled labor in the U.S., rather than attracting the highly skilled technologists the visa was originally designed for. This has fueled perceptions that Indian IT workers are “stealing American jobs,” a view that has gained political traction.

For India, the move presents both a challenge and an opportunity. While it restricts access to U.S.-based employment for Indian tech talent, it also strengthens India’s position as a global tech and innovation hub. As companies rethink their global workforce strategies, India’s GCC ecosystem could see a significant boost in investment, hiring, and upskilling.

The coming months will reveal whether this visa fee acts more as a deterrent or a trigger for a new phase of growth in India’s tech sector.

Rahul Gandhi Accuses BJP of Attacking Ladakh’s Culture, Seeks Sixth Schedule Status

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday (September 28, 2025) alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) are endangering Ladakh’s unique cultural identity, calling for the region’s immediate inclusion under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution to safeguard its people, land, and traditions.

His remarks come days after violent clashes in Leh left four people dead and several others injured following firing by security forces. The unrest, sparked by growing resentment over land rights and cultural protection, has led to the arrest of over 50 individuals allegedly involved in the rioting.

Speaking to reporters during a visit to the region, Gandhi said, “The people of Ladakh, their culture and their traditions are under attack. The BJP and RSS are trying to erase what makes Ladakh special. We stand

with the people and demand constitutional safeguards.”

The Sixth Schedule provides for autonomy and protection of tribal populations through elected councils with legislative and judicial powers over land, culture, and resource use. Currently, it applies to certain areas in the northeast but not to Ladakh.

Local leaders and civil society groups have long demanded the extension of the Sixth Schedule to Ladakh, especially after the revocation of Article 370 in 2019, which re-

moved the region’s previous special status.

Violence last week marked the worst unrest in the region since its bifurcation from Jammu and Kashmir and declaration as a Union Territory.

Gandhi’s statement adds pressure on the central government, which has so far resisted granting Sixth Schedule status, citing administrative complexities. Meanwhile, protests continue in Leh and Kargil, with local groups warning of a larger agitation if their demands are not met.



Mann ki Baat: PM Modi urges Indians to buy Swadeshi

TPN Bureau | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his monthly Mann ki Baat address on Sunday (September 28, 2025), renewed his appeal to citizens to support local artisans and entrepreneurs by purchasing khadi and Swadeshi products during the ongoing festive season.

Extending greetings ahead of Diwali, the Prime Minister linked self-reliance to national prosperity. “I extend to

you good wishes on the upcoming Diwali, but I also reiterate: we have to become self-reliant, we have to make the country self-reliant; and the path to that lies only through Swadeshi,” he said.

Mr. Modi emphasized that every purchase of a locally made product not only uplifts small businesses but also strengthens India’s domestic economy. “This is the season of festivals. Let us celebrate it with the spirit of vocal for local,” he said.

This call aligns with the government’s larger

Aatmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) campaign, aimed at reducing dependence on imported goods and empowering home-grown industries. Over the past few years, the Prime Minister has consistently highlighted the cultural and economic importance of khadi and handloom sectors, encouraging youth and urban consumers to embrace them.

In a related announcement, the Prime Minister revealed that the government is actively working to get Chhath Puja included in UNE-

SCO’s list of intangible cultural heritage, recognizing its deep roots in Indian tradition and its significance to millions.

The appeal to buy local also comes at a time when the government is ramping up efforts to boost rural employment and support MSMEs, especially in the aftermath of global economic uncertainty.

With Diwali and other major festivals around the corner, Modi’s message seeks to instill a sense of economic patriotism among consumers.



Tamil Nadu Stampede: 38 Dead as 27,000 Attend Actor Vijay’s Rally

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

A tragic stampede at actor-turned-politician Vijay’s public rally in Karur, Tamil Nadu, has claimed 38 lives, including 12 men, 16 women, and 10 children, according to state DGP G. Venkataraman. The rally, organised by Vijay’s party, Tamilaga Vetti Kazhagam (TVK), was initially expected to draw 10,000 people but saw an overwhelming turnout

of over 27,000.

Addressing reporters on Sunday, the DGP said the massive crowd surge occurred due to confusion over the actor’s arrival time and a lack of basic amenities. “Permission was sought for a meeting between 3 pm and 10 pm. But the party’s official Twitter account said Vijay would arrive at noon, prompting people to gather from 11 am. He eventually arrived at 7:40 pm,” the DGP said.

The crowd, waiting for hours in scorching heat

without adequate food or water, became restless, leading to a deadly stampede. The DGP confirmed that police had prepared for a turnout of 20,000, but the actual crowd far exceeded expectations.

Responding to questions about possible security lapses, Venkataraman said, “Our intention is not to blame anyone. The facts are being stated. A Commission of Inquiry has already been announced to investigate the incident.”

He also clarified that the venue was on a public road, making it challenging to deploy additional police without restricting movement. Reports that only 500 personnel were on duty were denied, with the DGP stating that 2,000 police personnel, including senior officers, are now stationed in Karur.

The incident casts a shadow over Vijay’s political debut and raises serious questions about crowd management and public safety at political rallies in India.



3 Maoists With 14 Lakh Bounty Killed in Chhattisgarh Encounter

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Three Maoists carrying a combined reward of 14 lakh on their heads were killed in an encounter with security forces on Sunday (September 28, 2025) in Kanker district, police confirmed.

The gunfight occurred in a dense forested hill near Chhindkhadak village, along the border of Kanker and Gariaband districts, said Indira Kalyan Elesela, Superintendent of Police, Kanker.

The encounter broke out when a joint team of security personnel—comprising District Reserve Guards (DRG), Special Task Force (STF), and Border Security Force (BSF)—was conducting a search operation as part of an intensified anti-Maoist drive in the region. The team was acting on intelligence inputs about Maoist movement in the area.

“During the operation, Maoists opened fire on

the approaching security personnel. The forces retaliated, leading to a fierce exchange of fire,” SP Elesela told PTI. Once the guns fell silent, three bodies of Maoists were recovered along with weapons and Maoist literature.

Initial identification revealed that all three deceased Maoists were carrying bounties—one of 5 lakh and two others of 4.5 lakh each—announced by the state government for their alleged involvement in violent attacks and am-

bushes on security forces and civilians.

This is the latest in a series of successful anti-Naxal operations in Chhattisgarh this year, where security forces have intensified efforts in Maoist-affected regions. Over 30 Maoists have reportedly been gunned down in separate encounters across the state in 2025 so far.

Search operations in the region are continuing, as authorities believe more Maoists may be hiding in the surrounding forests.

AAP Launches ‘Goa Doesn’t Want BJP’s Gundaraj’ Campaign

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Sunday launched a sharp statewide campaign titled “Goa Doesn’t Want BJP’s Gundaraj”, accusing the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of fostering lawlessness, corruption, and a climate of fear in the state.

AAP leaders said the campaign aims to mobilise Goans against what they called the “steady erosion” of the state’s

peace, safety, and cultural identity under BJP rule. “Goa, once a symbol of harmony, has been reduced to a place where crime thrives and public land is sold off behind closed doors,” said AAP’s Goa convenor Rahul Mhambre.

Citing official police records, AAP claimed that serious crimes in Goa have surged by 38% in the last six years—from 2,900 reported cases in 2017 to over 4,050 in 2024. Crimes against women saw a 40% rise, including more than 120 cases of murder or at-

tempted murder, 350 assaults, and 800 incidents of theft and robbery last year alone.

The party also accused the BJP government of enabling illegal land grabs. Over 3,200 acres of public and community land were allegedly transferred to private firms without public consent. “This is not just about land. It’s about identity, culture, and the rights of Goans being sold off,” AAP said.

Attacks on activists and political workers have also intensified, with over 250 such inci-

dents reported in two years, further fuelling what AAP calls a “breakdown of law and order.”

Infrastructure woes were another focus. 72% of Goa’s roads are in urgent need of repair, and repeated flooding exposes poor planning. AAP claimed its earlier citizen-led road condition campaign drew over 50,000 signatures.

AAP framed the upcoming election as a choice between BJP’s “Gundaraj” and an AAP-led governance model based on law, peace, and accountability.





US Shares 21-Point Plan to End Gaza War, Pave Way for Palestinian State

TPN Bureau | Washington

The United States has proposed a detailed 21-point plan to end the ongoing war in Gaza and create a pathway toward a future Palestinian state. The proposal, shared with Arab and Muslim nations during the UN General Assembly, marks a significant shift in US policy compared to the Trump-era stance which opposed a two-state solution and once suggested relocating Gaza's population.

The new initiative includes provisions for an immediate ceasefire, return of all hostages, large-scale humanitarian aid, and the eventual withdrawal of Israeli forces. In return, Hamas must disarm and surrender military infrastructure, with peaceful members granted amnesty or safe passage. Gaza would be governed by a technocratic Palestinian administration under international supervision, led by the US and regional partners. A temporary international stabilisation force would ensure security and train local police. The proposal rejects

any permanent Israeli occupation of Gaza and commits to a structured de-radicalisation effort, including interfaith initiatives. Crucially, the plan proposes a future path to Palestinian statehood, pending reforms in the Palestinian Authority. While not setting a timeline, the document acknowledges statehood as the legitimate aspiration of the Palestinian people. Despite opposition from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who compared the idea of a Palestinian state to giving "Al-Qaeda

a state one mile from New York," Trump's envoy Steve Witkoff described the discussions as "very productive," expressing optimism about a breakthrough. Under the plan, no resident will be forced to leave Gaza, and returning Palestinians will have full rights. Aid will be managed by neutral international bodies like the UN and Red Crescent, without interference. The plan also calls on all regional actors to provide security guarantees and urges Hamas to accept or risk isolation in terror-free zones.

"Terror Hubs Operate On Industrial Scale": Jaishankar Shreds Pakistan At UN

TPN Correspondent | Moscow

In a blistering address at the 80th United Nations General Assembly, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar launched a scathing attack on Pakistan, calling it the "epicentre of global terrorism" and urging the global community to unequivocally condemn states that use terrorism as a policy tool. Citing the recent Pahalgam terror attack that claimed the lives of 26 tourists, Jaishankar

stated, "When nations openly declare terrorism a state policy, when terror hubs operate on an industrial scale, when terrorists are publicly glorified, then such actions must be unequivocally condemned." While not naming Pakistan directly at first, his remarks left little ambiguity. He accused Pakistan of being the origin of major international terror attacks for decades and reminded world leaders that many individuals on the UN's terror sanction list are Pakistani nationals. "India has confronted

this challenge since its independence. For decades, major international terrorist attacks have been traced back to one country," Jaishankar said. Referencing Operation Sindoor, India's recent counter-terror operation, he asserted India's right to defend its people and vowed to bring the perpetrators of terrorism to justice. He called for cutting off terror financing and applying relentless pressure on the "terrorism ecosystem." He warned that nations which "condone

or support terror-sponsoring states will ultimately pay the price. "The financing of terrorism must be choked... Those who condone nations that sponsor terror will find it comes back to bite them," he said. His remarks came shortly after India's UN representative, Petal Gahlot, rebuked Pakistani PM Shehbaz Sharif for "glorifying terrorism." She countered Sharif's claims of military success by stating, "It was their military which pleaded with us for a cessation to the fighting."



Vietnam Evacuates Thousands as Typhoon Bualoi Nears Landfall

TPN Correspondent | Karachi

Vietnam has evacuated thousands of residents from central and northern provinces as Typhoon Bualoi, the 10th storm to impact the country this year, approaches with increasing speed and intensity. The storm is expected to make landfall around 7:00 p.m. local time (1200 GMT) on Sunday, according to Vi-

etnam's meteorology agency. Bualoi, currently over the South China Sea, is packing winds of up to 130 km per hour. Authorities have shut down several airports, suspended ferry operations, and ordered all vessels to remain docked as a precaution. Coastal communities, particularly in provinces like Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, and Quang Binh, have been placed on high alert. The storm has al-

ready left a trail of destruction in the central Philippines, where it caused at least 20 fatalities—mostly due to drownings and falling trees. Over 23,000 families were evacuated in the Philippines to more than 1,400 emergency shelters, and several towns experienced widespread power outages and infrastructural damage. In Vietnam, local disaster response teams and the military are being mobilized for emer-

gency support. Officials have warned of possible landslides, flash floods, and storm surges in low-lying areas and urged residents to stay indoors. Images from Biliran province in the Philippines showed rescue teams carrying body bags after landslides triggered by Bualoi buried homes and roads. Vietnamese officials are monitoring similar risks in mountainous and coastal regions. Prime Minister Pham

Minh Chinh has instructed local authorities to prioritise the safety of citizens, ensure emergency supplies are in place, and maintain communication lines with national disaster management units. With Vietnam frequently in the path of Pacific typhoons, Bualoi underscores the region's vulnerability to climate-related disasters and the urgent need for improved infrastructure resilience.

Imran Khan's GHQ Protest Trial Continues Amid Legal Dispute Over Video Link

TPN Correspondent | Jerusalem

An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) in Rawalpindi on Saturday recorded testimonies from three more prosecution witnesses in the May 9 GHQ protest case against former Prime Minister Imran Khan, despite objections from his legal team. The case stems from violent protests outside Pakistan's army headquarters following Khan's arrest in May 2023. Khan, who has been incarcerated in Adiala Jail since August 2023, is attending the trial via video link—a format his defence team is fiercely contesting. Defence lawyers again submitted an application requesting Khan's personal appearance in court, arguing the video link system is



flawed and unjust. However, ATC Judge Amjad Ali Shah rejected the request, stating he could not halt proceedings without directions from an appellate court. The prosecution, led by Raja Ikram Ameen Minhas, argued that a similar application had already been dismissed and was not challenged in the Lahore High Court. He accused the defence of attempting to "disrupt the court proceeding."

Despite defence objections and their eventual walkout from the courtroom, testimonies were recorded from three witnesses — Tehzeebul Hassan, Asmat Kamal, and Akbar. With their statements, 44 of 50 prosecution witnesses have now testified, and three more are expected at the next hearing on September 30. The trial has been marked by ongoing disputes over procedure. While Judge Shah had

earlier ruled that the trial would be held at the ATC premises, Khan's presence would continue via video link due to security concerns, as per a Punjab government directive. Imran Khan was indicted in December 2023 and formally arrested in January 2024 for his alleged role in inciting the May 9 protests. The prosecution aims to complete its evidence phase next week, after which cross-examination will begin

UN Sanctions Snap Back on Iran After Nuclear Talks Collapse

TPN Correspondent | UN

Widespread UN sanctions against Iran officially came back into force late Saturday, marking the first time in a decade that Tehran faces such global restrictions. The move follows the collapse of last-ditch nuclear talks between Iran and Western powers and

comes three months after Israeli and US strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities. The renewed sanctions — frozen since the 2015 nuclear deal — target Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programs and are expected to further damage its already fragile economy. They also prohibit arms-related transactions and restrict Iran's access to financial markets. The "snapback" mech-

anism was triggered by Germany, France, and the UK, citing Iran's non-compliance with its nuclear commitments. German Foreign Minister Johann Wadepuhl told the UN General Assembly, "Iran must never acquire a nuclear weapon... but we remain open to diplomacy." US Secretary of State Marco Rubio urged Iran to accept "direct talks held in good faith" and called on UN members

to "immediately" enforce the sanctions. Meanwhile, a last-minute push by Russia and China to delay the sanctions until April failed at the UN Security Council. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian condemned the sanctions, rejecting a US proposal that required Iran to surrender its enriched uranium in exchange for temporary sanctions relief





India’s Power Tools Market Set to Cross \$3.8 Billion by 2035

India’s power tools segment is projected to more than double, reaching \$3.8 billion by 2035, growing at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 7.8%, according to industry experts and a recent study by IMARC Group.

The growth is being driven by massive government capital expenditure in infrastructure sectors such as roads, railways, airports, and housing, alongside increasing demand from furniture manufacturing, the automotive aftermarket, and a rising

Do-It-Yourself (DIY) culture.

To reduce reliance on imports and tap into the growing demand, the Union Government is actively encouraging domestic manufacturing, which is beginning to show results. Local manufacturers are gradually scaling up production capacity in line with the "Make in India" initiative.

The broader hand tools, power tools, and fasteners market in India is also on an upward trajectory. The domestic hand tools market, currently

valued at \$826 million (2024), is expected to reach \$1.22 billion by 2033, reflecting a CAGR of 4.1%, the IMARC study noted.

This surge is being attributed to the modernisation of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), increasing industrialisation, and strong aftermarket demand. Moreover, with India’s booming construction and home improvement sectors, the need for efficient and cost-effective tools is only expected to grow.

Industry officials said

that the DIY trend among urban consumers, especially in metro cities, is also expanding the market for portable and battery-operated tools. E-commerce platforms have further simplified access to such products, making them popular among younger, tech-savvy users.

Experts believe that sustained policy support, coupled with infrastructure and industrial growth, will transform India into a manufacturing and export hub for power tools over the next decade.



Plastic Pipes Industry Faces FY25 Challenges, Eyes 10–12% Growth Ahead

India’s plastic pipes industry has faced significant turbulence in FY25, struggling with subdued infrastructure investments, tight liquidity, and volatile raw material prices, according to a report released by JM Financial. However, the industry remains optimistic about its medium-term outlook, supported by stabilising input costs and sustained demand from key sectors.

Navigating a Tough Year

FY25 proved to be a challenging year for the sector. Plastic pipe manufacturers—especially those reliant on PVC (polyvinyl chloride)—had to deal with erratic pricing patterns. Global factors, such as sluggish construction activity in major markets like China and developed economies, combined with a supply glut from large exporters like China, South Korea, and Taiwan, led to aggressive undercutting of prices in the Indian market.

PVC, which constitutes a major input cost for the industry, dropped significantly over FY20–25, declining at a 4% CAGR, compared to its long-term growth trend of 2% CAGR over the last 25 years. After a prolonged downtrend, prices began to recover, rising by 7/kg over the last 4–5 months to reach 79/kg in September 2025. While this remains below the FY22 peak, it marks a potential turning point for the sector.

Market Evolution and Future Drivers

Traditionally fragmented and focused heavily on agriculture, India’s plastic piping sector has evolved into a more organised ecosystem, addressing critical needs in water supply, plumbing, sanitation, and industrial applications.

Despite current hurdles, long-term structural drivers remain intact. Government-backed programs like the Jal Jeevan Mission, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, and Housing

for All are expected to boost demand significantly, alongside growing agricultural and replacement requirements.

JM Financial estimates the Indian plastic piping market at 600–650 billion, and forecasts a 10–12% CAGR growth between FY25 and FY30.

Policy and Regulatory Tailwinds

Industry experts believe upcoming policy measures may offer additional support. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is expected to implement quality control norms for PVC imports by December 2025, which would restrict the influx of substandard foreign products and offer a competitive edge to domestic manufacturers.

“Stabilising PVC prices should restore distributor confidence, reduce inventory risks, and aid margin recovery for organised players,” the report concluded, projecting a more stable and profitable path ahead for the sector.

SBI Bats for 25 bps Rate Cut Ahead of RBI Policy Meet

Ahead of the Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI) bi-monthly monetary policy announcement on October 1, a State Bank of India (SBI) research report has recommended a 25 basis point (bps) rate cut, calling it the “best possible option” in the current economic climate.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), chaired by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra, will begin its three-day meeting on Monday, September 30, amid global economic uncertainty, rising geopolitical tensions, and the recent 50% tariffs imposed by the US on Indian exports.

The SBI report argues that a modest rate cut would support domestic growth without stoking inflation, especially as headline CPI inflation remains within the RBI’s comfort range. “A 25 bps cut would signal proactive policy support to insulate the economy from external shocks,” the report said.

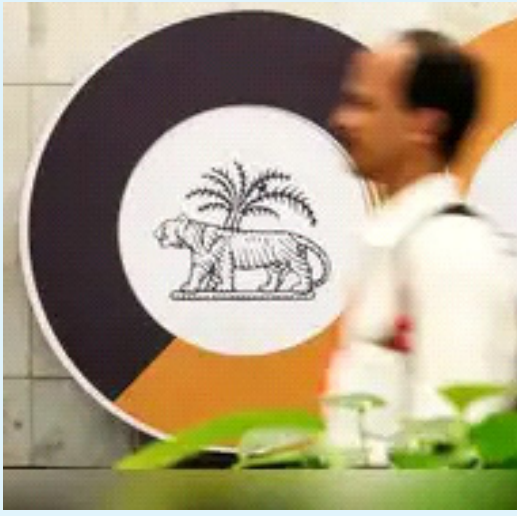
However, several other economists and

analysts expect the RBI to maintain status quo on the repo rate, citing concerns about volatile crude prices, geopolitical risks, and the weak rupee. Many believe the central bank will prefer to wait and watch, especially as the US Federal Reserve remains hawkish.

India’s repo rate currently stands at 6.50%, unchanged since February 2023. The central bank has maintained a “withdrawal of accommodation” stance, balancing inflation control with the need to support growth.

A rate cut now, according to SBI, would also help ease borrowing costs for businesses and consumers, just ahead of the festive season, potentially boosting consumption and credit demand.

The final decision will be announced by RBI on Wednesday, October 1, and will be closely watched by markets, banks, and industry stakeholders for its signal on the direction of monetary policy amid global uncertainty.



India Becomes Top Expansion Market for APAC 3PL Firms

India has emerged as the most-preferred expansion destination for third-party logistics (3PL) companies in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region, according to a new report released by CBRE on Sunday (September 28, 2025).

The study reveals that nearly 70% of APAC-based 3PL occupiers are planning to expand their footprint in India over the next two years. This marks the highest intent for expansion among all markets surveyed in the region.

CBRE attributed this

growing interest to India’s rapidly developing infrastructure, digital transformation in supply chains, and the booming e-commerce sector. Other contributing factors include favourable government policies under initiatives such as PM Gati Shakti and National Logistics Policy, aimed at enhancing logistics efficiency and reducing operational costs.

“India’s position as a key supply chain hub is strengthening, driven by robust demand from retail, e-commerce, manu-

facturing, and FMCG sectors,” said a senior CBRE analyst. “The country is now seen not only as a consumption market but also as a strategic distribution and logistics hub.”

The report also highlighted a rise in Grade-A warehousing demand, especially in Tier-1 cities like Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Chennai. Tier-2 cities such as Lucknow, Coimbatore, and Indore are also gaining traction due to lower costs and improving connectivity.

India’s 3PL segment

has seen double-digit annual growth in recent years, supported by increasing outsourcing of logistics operations by major industries. With rising investments in automation, cold chain facilities, and multi-modal logistics parks, the sector is poised for sustained expansion.

CBRE expects the Indian logistics real estate market to outperform its regional counterparts in the medium term, reinforcing the country’s status as the logistics growth engine of APAC.



Govt to Borrow 6.77 Lakh Crore in H2, Holds Near FY26 Target

New Delhi: The central government plans to borrow 6.77 lakh crore through dated securities in the second half (H2) of fiscal year 2025–26, aiming to stay close to its full-year borrowing goal.

Having already borrowed 7.95 lakh crore in H1, the Centre will revise the total gross market borrowing for FY26 to 14.72 lakh crore, narrowly lower than the original budgeted 14.82 lakh crore.

The shift is designed to balance fiscal discipline with market stability, despite increasing defence spending

pressures.

Officials say that the H2 borrowing will be conducted over 22 weekly tranches, each totaling 28,000–33,000 crore, and is scheduled to conclude by March 6, 2026. Of the total, 10,000 crore is planned via sovereign green bonds.

In terms of maturity composition, the share of shorter-term papers (3–5 years) will be increased to 19.9% (from 15.9%), while the share of longer-term papers (15–50 years) will fall from 51.8% to 43.7%. Medium-term securities (7–10 years) will also see a rise to 36.5% from

32.4%.

The Centre reaffirmed its commitment to keeping the fiscal deficit at 4.4% of GDP, compared to 4.8% in FY25. To manage liquidity mismatches, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set the ways and means advances (WMA) limit for H2 at 50,000 crore.

Officials emphasise that despite uncertainties—like US-imposed tariffs and defence expenditure—the borrowing plan remains predictable, aiming to avoid surprising the bond market and limit crowding out of state and private borrowing.





Festival of Love: Where Men Compete for Beauty and Women Choose Freely

In the heart of Africa’s Sahel region, a unique celebration unfolds each year that turns tradition on its head. Welcome to the Gerewol Festival, where men compete in beauty contests and women hold the power of choice. Here’s a closer look at the Wodaabe people and their extraordinary customs.

The sun-scorched deserts of Chad and Niger are home to the Wodaabe, a nomadic tribe known for cattle herding and rich cultural traditions. But what sets them apart is their most anticipated annual event — the Gerewol Festival.

Each year, Wodaabe men gather in dazzling attire, their faces painted in bold reds, whites, and yellows. Their mission? To win the hearts of women through beauty, charm, and dance.

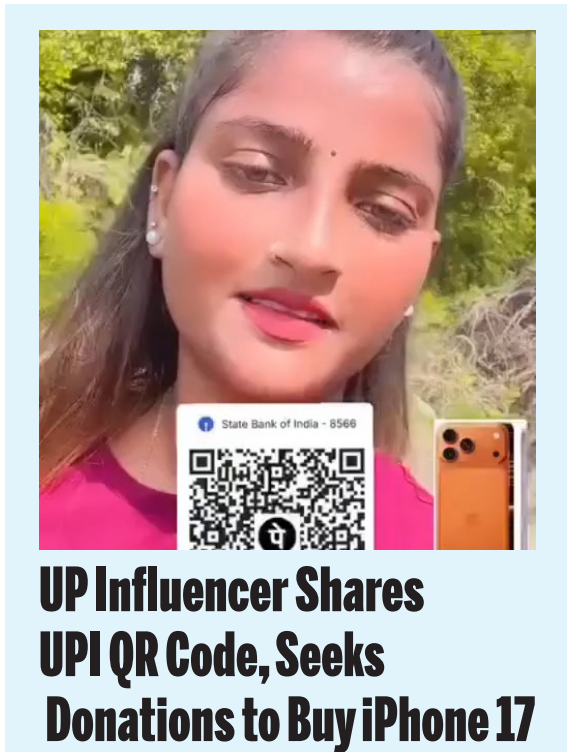
In this cultural role reversal, men become the adorned and evaluated. They spend hours enhancing features prized in Wodaabe aesthetics — tall stature, bright eyes, white teeth, and a sharp jawline. Makeup is used to emphasize these traits, with white lines painted across their faces and elaborate costumes completing the look.

‘Can’t Take It Anymore’: Bank Employee’s Viral Post Exposes Harsh Work Culture

A Reddit post by a 39-year-old Public Sector Unit (PSU) bank employee has gone viral after they shared a raw and emotional account of the “suffocating” realities of their banking job. The post, shared in the r/IndianWorkplace subreddit, has sparked intense online discussions about work-life balance and toxic workplace expectations in government jobs.

The employee revealed they have been working in a government bank for over 15 years—a job they secured after clearing highly competitive all-India exams. While such roles are traditionally seen as secure and respectable, especially in North India, the reality behind the scenes is reportedly very different.

“This job is considered prestigious—it comes with a house, a car, and social respect. But it has also given me high BP, thyroid issues, and a fatty liver,” the post read. The employee described a grueling schedule that often stretches from 10 AM to 10 PM daily, including weekends. They mentioned being forced to sell “useless insurance products” on Sundays just to meet impossible sales targets. Frequent relocations, micromanagement, and pressure from bosses have further added to the toll.



UP Influencer Shares UPI QR Code, Seeks Donations to Buy iPhone 17

The recent launch of the iPhone 17 Pro Max has sparked a wave of excitement among tech lovers, but one social media influencer has taken an unconventional route to get her hands on the device. Mahi Singh, popularly known as ‘Beauty Queen’ on social platforms, hails from Lakhimpur, Uttar Pradesh. In a now-viral video, she is seen requesting her followers to contribute small amounts — “ek-ek, do-do rupaiye” — via a UPI QR code to help her buy the latest iPhone 17 Pro Max.

Mahi already owns an iPhone 16, which was gifted to her by her father just three months ago. However, she claims she fell in love with the iPhone 17 Pro Max, especially its new colour, and wanted it as a birthday gift. When her father declined, she turned to her online followers instead. In the video, she says, “17 Pro abhi launch hua hai, iska colour mujhe bohot pasand hai. Abhi 3 mahine pehle papa ne 16 diya tha. Mera birthday 21 October ko hai, lekin papa yeh phone nahi dila rahe.” Her video has sparked mixed reactions across social media. While some users find her plea humorous and harmless, others have criticized the influencer culture that promotes such public displays of entitlement.

As the v

Japan Turns Parking Lot Into Floating Garden, Wins Internet

In a world where urban spaces are rapidly losing greenery, Japan is setting an inspiring example by turning even the most ordinary spaces into eco-friendly wonders. A viral image recently shared by Indian billionaire Harsh Goenka shows a typical parking lot transformed into a breathtaking floating garden — and the internet can’t stop talking about it.

The image reveals cars parked neatly under a canopy of vibrant plants and flowers. This isn’t just a visual delight — it’s smart design. The overhead greenery provides natural shade, keeping parked vehicles cooler while also reducing heat buildup in the surrounding environment.

Mr. Goenka shared the image on social media platform X (formerly Twitter), calling it a “lovely idea.” His post has since sparked a flurry of admiration, with many users praising Japan’s seamless blend of nature and innovation. One user commented, “This is how electric vehicle charging stations should be — green and relaxing.”

Another added, “Turning parking spaces into floating gardens not only beautifies the city but also improves air quality.” Experts point out that green roofs and plant canopies offer more than just cooling. They absorb heat, reduce urban noise, support biodiversity by attracting bees and butterflies, and improve the overall air quality.



ChatGPT Launches AI Superhero Portraits to Rival Gemini’s 3D Banana Tool

OpenAI has unveiled its latest creative feature — AI Action Portraits — that transforms ordinary photos into comic-book-style superhero images. This move directly challenges Google’s viral Gemini Nano Banana tool, which gained popularity for turning selfies into quirky 3D action figures.

ChatGPT’s new feature takes the idea further, offering hyper-personalized, 3D-style illustrations powered by GPT-4’s image generation capabilities. Users can upload a photo and prompt ChatGPT to morph it into a full-blown superhero — complete with costumes, powers, names, and even sidekicks.

To get started, users simply upload a clear selfie and use a creative prompt like: “Transform my photo into a 3D superhero action figure named Shadow Vortex, clad in obsidian armour with glowing purple runes. Add my dog as a robotic sidekick.” The AI then generates a dynamic action portrait, often styled like a vintage comic book cover or collectible toy packaging. Users can further refine the results with follow-up prompts, such as “Make the cape longer” or “Add a lightning storm background.”



India's Archery Premier League Announces Inaugural Season Schedule

In a symbolic move on Dussehra, India's first-ever Archery Premier League (APL) has revealed the schedule for its inaugural season, set to take place from October 2 to 12 in New Delhi. The league aims to blend India's rich archery heritage with a modern competitive format, showcasing top talent from across the country and the world.

The APL will feature six teams representing different states: Prithviraj Yodhas (Delhi), Mighty Marathas (Ma-

harashtra), Kakatiya Knights (Telangana), Rajputana Royals (Rajasthan), Chero Archers (Jharkhand), and Chola Chiefs (Tamil Nadu). The tournament begins with two round-robin phases from October 2 to 11, where each team will face the others multiple times during late evening matches.

The action will culminate on October 12 with knockout semi-finals and a grand final to decide the first-ever APL champion. Matches will be hosted at the Yamuna Sports Complex, provid-

ing a world-class venue for this historic event.

India's archery stalwarts Deepika Kumari and Jyothi Surekha Vennam will compete alongside international stars like World No. 1s Mike Schloesser and Andrea Becerra, as well as Olympians Brady Ellison and Alejandra Valencia, making the league a global spectacle.

APL Director Anil Kamineni expressed enthusiasm about launching the league on Dussehra, highlighting its cultural significance:

"There couldn't be a more symbolic day than Dussehra to launch the APL, a festival rooted in Indian culture. The Archery Premier League is more than just a league; it's a celebration of India's legacy, aligned with the vision of Olympic glory."

With its unique format combining compound and recurve events, the Archery Premier League promises exciting rivalries, cultural displays, and a new chapter for Indian and international archery.



Mithun Manhas Elected New BCCI President

Amita Sharma to Lead Women's Selection Panel

In a significant development for Indian cricket, former Delhi captain Mithun Manhas has been unanimously elected as the new president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). The announcement came during the BCCI annual general meeting held in Mumbai on Sunday, September 28, 2025.

Manhas succeeds Roger Binny, who stepped down last month upon reaching the age of 70, as per the board's age-related retirement norms.

Manhas becomes the 37th president of the BCCI, taking charge at a crucial time as Indian cricket continues to grow both on and off the field.

Alongside Manhas's election, Amita Sharma was named the new chairperson of the women's selection panel, a role of increasing importance as women's cricket gains prominence nationally and internationally. Sharma, a former Indian women's team captain, brings valuable experience to the posi-

tion, signaling the BCCI's commitment to strengthening women's cricket infrastructure and talent development.

Mithun Manhas, known for his domestic cricket prowess and leadership as Delhi captain, now faces the challenge of steering Indian cricket through a dynamic phase marked by intense competition, expanding leagues, and a growing global footprint.

The unanimous nature of Manhas's election reflects broad support across cricketing bodies and state associations, highlighting confidence in his leadership

abilities.

The BCCI annual general meeting also reviewed ongoing cricket initiatives and discussed future plans, with an emphasis on grassroots development and the promotion of women's cricket.

With Manhas at the helm and Sharma leading the women's selection panel, Indian cricket's administration appears set to embrace a new era focused on growth, inclusivity, and excellence. Fans and stakeholders will be watching closely as the new leadership shapes the future of the sport in the country.



Australia Remains the Team to Beat in Women's ODI World Cup

As the Women's ODI World Cup approaches, the Australian squad continues to hold its place as the team to beat. Known for its star power and depth, Australia enters the tournament with a reputation built on consistent success and a formidable fielding unit.

The team features a strong core of experienced players, with 10 members returning

from the 2022 World Cup-winning squad. Players like skipper Alyssa Healy, Beth Mooney, and young talent Annabel Sutherland provide a solid batting lineup capable of turning matches single-handedly. Their combination of experience and youth gives Australia a dynamic edge.

Selectors face tough decisions on emerging players such as Phoebe Litchfield and Georgia Voll, both of whom have

impressed against top teams like England and India. The versatility of Ellyse Perry, especially her ability to shift gears in the middle overs, adds further balance to the team.

While the gap between Australia and other top nations is narrowing, the team's depth and variety in playing options make them a formidable opponent. Their fielding standards and ability to produce match-winners

under pressure remain unmatched.

Australia's blend of seasoned champions and promising young talent sets a high bar, making them the clear favorites heading into the tournament. Other teams will need to bring their best game to challenge the defending champions, but Australia's track record and squad strength keep them firmly in the driver's seat for World Cup glory.



Messi's Goal Streak Ends as Inter Miami Draw with Toronto FC

Lionel Messi's impressive goal streak came to an end on Saturday as Inter Miami were held to a 1-1 draw by Toronto FC in a Major League Soccer match at BMO Field. After scoring five goals in his previous three games, the Argentine superstar was unable to find the net this time, thanks largely to a standout performance by Toronto's goalkeeper Sean Johnson.

Inter Miami looked set to secure all three points after Tadeo Allende scored a first-half stoppage-time header from a Jordi Alba cross, giving Miami a 1-0 lead. However, Miami's defense faltered in the second half, allowing Djordje Mihailovic to equalize for Toronto with a close-range finish in the 60th minute.

Despite relentless pressure and several chances created by Messi and his teammates, Johnson made several crucial

saves, including two key stops against Messi, to keep Toronto in the game.

Messi remains the top scorer in the MLS with 24 goals in 23 matches, but the stalemate means his goal run will have to pause. Inter Miami coach Javier Mascherano praised Johnson's performance, calling him "the man of the match."

"We deserved to win and had most of the chances," Mascherano said. "There was some confusion for 10-15 minutes in the second half, but overall we controlled the game. Their goalkeeper was the difference."

The draw leaves Inter Miami third in the Eastern Conference with 56 points, four behind leaders Philadelphia, but with a game in hand. With four matches remaining in the regular season, Miami will aim to win them all and improve their standing before the playoffs.



Alcaraz Advances to Japan Open Quarterfinals, Praises Physio for Ankle Care

Top-ranked tennis star Carlos Alcaraz secured his spot in the quarterfinals of the Japan Open with a 6-4, 6-3 win over Zizou Bergs on Saturday. The victory came despite an ankle injury scare that threatened to disrupt his tournament run.

Alcaraz had landed awkwardly on his left ankle during his opening

match on Thursday, leaving doubts about his fitness for the next rounds. However, the young champion showed resilience and said he was able to "play normally" against Bergs. His win sets up a quarterfinal clash with American player Brandon Nakashima.

Reflecting on his recovery, Alcaraz praised his physiotherapist for

the crucial support. "It was tough and it was a really important day and a half I had to recover as good as I could," he said. "I have said it before and I will say it again, I have the best physio in the world, who I trust 100%."

He added, "The work he has done for the ankle has been great. I could play normally, which is great. Sometimes I was worried about some

movements, when I could feel the ankle, but in general I played some great tennis, a great match."

Alcaraz's ability to manage his injury and deliver a strong performance underscores his status as one of the sport's brightest talents. Fans and analysts alike will be watching closely as he aims to continue his winning streak in the Japan Open.





The Raja Saab Trailer Set for September 29 Release

Fans of Prabhas have reason to celebrate as the makers of The Raja Saab have officially announced the trailer release date. The much-awaited trailer will drop on Monday, September 29, at 6 PM, marking a key moment in the film’s promotional campaign. Directed by Maruthi and produced by People Media Factory, The Raja Saab is gearing up for a grand Sankranthi 2026 release. So far, only a teaser has been unveiled, which left fans eager for a deeper look into the film’s storyline and characters. The announcement was made via social media on Sunday morning, along with a new poster featuring Prabhas and Sanjay Dutt. The production house described the trailer as a “royal entry into a world of fun, fear, and majestic experiences,” hinting at the film’s genre-bending narrative. “The wait of millions finally comes to an end.”

Brahmakalasha From ‘Kantara’: A Powerful Celebration of Devotion

Hombale Films has officially kickstarted the musical promotions for Kantara Chapter 1 with the release of its first song, Brahmakalasha — a devotional track that captures the spiritual intensity the franchise is known for.

Directed and headlined by Rishab Shetty, Kantara Chapter 1 is a highly anticipated prequel to the 2022 blockbuster Kantara. The film dives deeper into the mythology and roots of the first part, and the trailer has already generated strong buzz among fans. Adding to the excitement is the musical launch led by composer B Ajaneesh Loknath, who returns with his signature soundscape that defined the soul of the original.

Brahmakalasha, sung by Abby V, stands out as a rich blend of traditional rhythm and divine melody. The track has been praised for its emotional depth and spiritual vibe. Loknath’s intricate arrangements and Abby V’s effortless vocals have together created a stirring devotional anthem that resonates with audiences instantly.

The song is not just a musical release — it sets the tone for the kind of emotional and cultural depth the film aims to deliver. Music had played a critical role in the success of the original Kantara, and this track signals that the prequel will continue that legacy.

Meanwhile, the film’s pre-release event is set to take place today in Hyderabad, adding another layer of excitement. Actor NTR Jr. will be attending as the chief guest, a move that has further boosted anticipation among fans and industry watchers.

With Kantara Chapter 1 shaping up to be another major release from Hombale Films, Brahmakalasha marks a powerful beginning to what promises to be a spiritually rich cinematic experience.



Jatadhara Teases Link to Padmanabhaswamy Temple Legends

Ever since the teaser of Jatadhara dropped, curiosity has surged around its mysterious storyline. Starring Sudheer Babu and Sonakshi Sinha, the film has sparked debate over a possible link to the Padmanabhaswamy Temple in Kerala — particularly the chilling legends surrounding its sealed vaults.

The 2018 temple case drew national attention due to the discovery of immense hidden treasures and the existence of a forbidden sixth vault, rumored to bring catastrophe if opened. Stories of curses, supernatural warnings, and unexplained incidents have turned the temple into a modern myth.

While Jatadhara doesn’t directly claim to be based on the temple’s history, it seems to draw inspiration from its mystical aura and age-old fears. According to the filmmakers, the movie is a spiritual-mythological thriller that blends elements of devotion, greed, and supernatural justice.

Directed by Venkat Kalyan and produced by Zee Studios in association with Prerna Arora, the film promises an atmospheric journey where legend meets imagination. The narrative appears to use the temple’s lore as a launching point rather than a historical retelling, focusing instead on good versus evil and the consequences of human desire.

Set against an eerie backdrop with high spiritual stakes, Jatadhara explores what happens when the sacred is violated for personal gain. The title itself — a reference to Lord Shiva — hints at deeper religious symbolism and divine retribution.

The film is scheduled for a November 2025 release, and with its intriguing mix of myth, mystery, and moral tension, Jatadhara is shaping up to be one of the most talked-about thrillers of the year. Whether or not it fully dives into the Padmanabhaswamy tale, it has already succeeded in reviving its eerie allure.



OG: The First Blood Comic Unveiled Ahead of Film’s Peak Hype

Just days before the release of They Call Him OG, the makers have surprised fans with a unique addition to the cinematic universe — a comic book titled OG: The First Blood. This announcement follows a teaser campaign where fans actively engaged in a mystery game organized by the film’s team.

Released today, the comic explores the untold origin story of Master Orochi Genshin (OG), the intense samurai-like character portrayed by Pawan Kalyan. The story dives into his hidden past, his connection with Ojas Gambheera, and expands on the emotional and spiritual layers that the film only hints at.

The comic is available in digital format and is priced at Rs. 360. A short video glimpse showcasing its artwork and tone has been released online, quickly gaining attention among fans who were already buzzing about the film’s upcoming high-voltage moments.

Titled OG: The First Blood, the comic is not just a promotional tie-in but appears to be a serious attempt to deepen the myths around the character of OG. This cross-medium storytelling aligns with global trends where major characters extend beyond the screen into comics, games, and digital worlds.

Meanwhile, They Call Him OG continues its decent run at the box office, drawing audiences with its blend of action and style. Directed by Sujeth, the film also stars Emraan Hashmi, Priyanka Mohan, Prakash Raj, Arjun Das, and Sriya Reddy. It is produced by DVV Entertainment, with music composed by Thaman S.

The release of OG: The First Blood adds a new dimension to the OG universe, offering fans more reasons to stay connected with the world of Master Genshin even beyond the big screen.



Ram Charan’s Peddi: New Poster Released to Mark 18 Years in Tollywood

Global star Ram Charan is once again in the spotlight with his upcoming film Peddi, directed by Buchi Babu Sana, known for the hit Uppena. The rural sports drama also stars Janhvi Kapoor as the female lead, generating high expectations among fans.

To celebrate Ram Charan’s milestone of completing 18 years in Tollywood, the makers unveiled a striking new poster. The image features Charan exuding swag and confidence, standing on a railway track — a powerful visual that has energized fans and sparked widespread excitement.

The film’s team has promised that Charan’s character in Peddi will be a “true celebration” on the big screen, hinting at a compelling and dynamic role that matches the star’s stature.

Set for release on March 27, 2026, Peddi promises a grand cinematic experience. Alongside Charan and Janhvi Kapoor, the film features a strong supporting cast including Shiva Rajkumar, Divyenndu Sharma, Jagapathi Babu, and others in pivotal roles, adding depth and diversity to the narrative.

Produced by Vriddhi Cinemas on a large scale, the movie is backed by impressive production values. Adding to the film’s appeal is the music by acclaimed composer AR Rahman, whose score is eagerly awaited by fans and critics alike.

Peddi combines elements of rural life, sports drama, and star power, positioning itself as one of the most anticipated releases of 2026. With the fresh poster and ongoing buzz, Ram Charan’s journey in Tollywood continues to reach new heights, promising audiences a memorable cinematic ride.

