



EOS-05 Mission Set for September 4

Hyderabad, August 29 | TPN Bureau

India is preparing to achieve another significant milestone in its space programme with the planned launch of the GSLV-F17 rocket carrying EOS-05, the country's first-ever Earth imaging satellite designed to operate from geosynchronous orbit. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has scheduled the mission for September 4 from the Second Launch Pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.

According to ISRO, GSLV-F17 will be the 19th flight of India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle. The rocket is designed to place EOS-05 into a Sub-Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (Sub-GTO). The mission will use a four-metre-diameter ogive-shaped composite payload fairing to protect the spacecraft during its ascent.

EOS-05 is a state-of-the-art Earth observation satellite and is expected to significantly enhance India's ability to monitor the planet from a geosynchronous orbit. Its advanced imaging capabilities are intended to support regular observation of land and environmental conditions, while also strengthening applications related to disaster monitoring and other strategic requirements. ISRO has described EOS-05 as India's first imaging satellite from geosynchronous orbit.

The mission is particularly important as it follows the unsuccessful GSLV-F10/EOS-03 mission in August 2021. ISRO's official mission records also show that PSLV-C61/EOS-09 in May 2025 and PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 in January 2026 were not accomplished successfully, making the upcoming GSLV mission closely watched by the country's space community.

EOS-05 is expected to expand India's space-based Earth observation capabilities and provide valuable data for applications requiring frequent and detailed monitoring. The mission also represents another step in ISRO's continuing effort to deploy increasingly sophisticated satellite systems for national development and strategic purposes.

With preparations progressing at Sriharikota, the GSLV-F17/EOS-05 launch is expected to be one of ISRO's major missions of 2026.

Revanth Seeks Safeguards in Voter Revision



Hyderabad, August 29 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has urged the Election Commission of India (ECI) to strengthen safeguards in the 2026 electoral-roll revision in Telangana, stressing that no eligible voter should be excluded and no ineligible person included in the final voters' list. In a letter to Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, the Chief Minister sought an extension of the deadline for filing claims and objections and additional assistance for voters who receive verification notices.

Citing ECI data, Revanth Reddy said Telangana had 3.38 crore voters as of June 10, 2026, of whom around 73.39 lakh, or 21.7%, had been placed in the ASDD category covering absent, shifted, deceased and multiple-registration cases. He noted that 45.19 lakh, nearly 62% of the category, were classified as permanently shifted.

The Chief Minister also pointed to discrepancies in digitised electoral records. Of 2.65 crore records, about 60.50 lakh reportedly contained errors, while 32.36 lakh were not linked to the previous electoral roll. As a result, around 92.86 lakh voters may require verification, he said.

Revanth Reddy raised concerns about the treatment of voters who were temporarily away from their homes when enumeration officials visited. He argued that such voters should not automatically be treated in the same manner as people who had permanently relocated. He also sought proper notice procedures before deletion of names and assistance through

Farmers' Commission Seeks Irrigation Reforms



Hyderabad, August 29 | TPN Bureau

A delegation of the Telangana Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Commission met Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and submitted a report containing recommendations for restructuring the State's minor irrigation system and improving water-use efficiency. The delegation, led by Commission Chairman M. Kodanda Reddy, met the Chief Minister at his Jubilee Hills residence. Commission members Ramulu Naik, Ramreddy Gopal Reddy, Gangadhar and M. Bhavani Reddy were also present. The Commission proposed

strengthening the minor irrigation system by introducing specialised technical units aimed at improving the efficient use and management of available water resources. It also recommended developing command-area-based management systems that integrate minor and major irrigation facilities. A key recommendation was the enactment of a dedicated Minor Irrigation Act to provide stronger legal protection to tanks and other traditional water bodies. The Commission suggested that Full Tank Level (FTL) boundaries of tanks be identified immediately, followed by measures to remove

encroachments and safeguard the water bodies from further deterioration. The report emphasised that restoration and protection of tanks would play an important role in strengthening water security, supporting agricultural stability and improving rural livelihoods. Telangana has historically depended heavily on its network of tanks for irrigation and groundwater recharge, making their preservation a significant agricultural priority. During the interaction, the Chief Minister discussed the recommendations with the Commission members and suggested that its future focus should also include crop

diversification, expansion of horticultural cultivation and promotion of Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs). Revanth Reddy stressed the importance of encouraging farmers to move towards diversified and commercially viable agricultural activities while strengthening collective farmer institutions. The delegation also briefed the Chief Minister on the work undertaken by the Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Commission during the past two years and the various recommendations it had submitted to the government. The Chief Minister expressed satisfaction with the Commission's performance and appreciated its efforts to identify policy measures aimed at improving the agricultural sector and addressing farmers' concerns. The Commission said the proposed reforms would help create a more integrated approach to irrigation management by linking water availability, agricultural planning and tank conservation. The recommendations are expected to be examined by the government as part of its broader efforts to strengthen irrigation infrastructure, improve agricultural productivity and ensure sustainable management of water resources across Telangana.

Revanth Reddy Greets Sportspersons

Hyderabad, August 29 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy extended his warm greetings to sportspersons and sports enthusiasts across Telangana on the occasion of National Sports Day on Friday. In his message, the Chief Minister recalled hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand on his birth anniversary and highlighted his contribution to Indian sports. He expressed the hope that athletes across the State would draw inspiration from Dhyan Chand's dedication and strive to achieve excellence through determination, self-confidence and consistent practice. Revanth Reddy said sports play an important role in building discipline, confidence, physical fitness and a competitive spirit among young people. He emphasised the need to create an environment in which talented athletes can pursue their ambitions and represent Telangana and India at national and international competitions. The Chief Minister highlighted several initiatives being undertaken by the State Government to strengthen the sports ecosystem. These include a comprehensive



sports policy, the Young India Physical Education and Sports University and the Telangana Sports Hub. According to the Chief Minister, these initiatives are intended to encourage greater participation in sports, identify emerging talent and provide athletes with better opportunities for professional training and development. He also stressed the importance of modern

sporting infrastructure and advanced training facilities. The government, he said, is working towards creating facilities that can support athletes in preparing for competitions at the highest level. Revanth Reddy assured sportspersons that the government would extend all possible support to those working to bring recognition to Telangana and enhance India's reputation on the global sporting stage. He called upon young people to develop an interest in sports and make physical activity part of their daily lives. The Chief Minister said the achievements of sporting icons such as Major Dhyan Chand should motivate the younger generation to set ambitious goals and pursue them with perseverance. National Sports Day is observed every year on August 29 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand, whose contribution to Indian hockey remains a significant part of the country's sporting history. The Chief Minister's message underlined the government's stated objective of developing Telangana into a strong sporting hub by combining policy support, infrastructure, training and opportunities for young athletes.

Flood-Swept Bank Safe Looted in Nepal, 29 Detained



Kathmandu, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

Amid the devastation caused by catastrophic floods in Nepal, an unusual theft case has emerged after a bank safe swept away by floodwaters was allegedly broken open and its cash taken by locals. According to the District Police Office, Dhading, the safe was carried downstream from the flood-hit Bhotekoshi area of Rasuwa district and was later found near Belkhukhola in Galchhi Rural Municipality-4, Dhading, along the Trishuli River. Police said they received information that some residents had found the safe, broken it open and

removed the money inside. A police team was immediately deployed and began an investigation. During preliminary searches, 29 people were detained, with most reportedly from the Galchhi area. Authorities recovered NPR 9,268,505 from those detained, equivalent to approximately RS.57-58 lakh in Indian currency.



The suspects have been kept at the local police office while further investigation and legal proceedings continue. Police are still determining the original ownership of the safe, the total amount of cash it contained and whether additional people were involved. Officials have not ruled out the possibility that some money remains unaccounted for. The incident comes as Nepal struggles with the aftermath of devastating flash floods and landslides that have killed hundreds and left thousands missing. Rescue teams are simultaneously searching for survivors and recovering bodies, while authorities are increasing security in affected areas to prevent looting and theft. Nepal Police also posted details of the arrests on its official social media account, confirming the recovery of cash from those detained.



Modi Begins Four-Day Diplomatic Visit

Hyderabad, August 29 | TPN Bureau

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday embarked on a four-day visit to Uzbekistan and the Kyrgyz Republic, seeking to strengthen India's strategic, economic and regional engagement with Central Asia. The visit, scheduled from August 29 to September 1, includes a state visit to Tashkent and participation in the 26th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Bishkek. Modi will be in Uzbekistan on August 29 and 30 at the invitation of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. It will be his fourth visit to the country. During his stay in Tashkent, he is scheduled to hold delegation-level discussions with Mirziyoyev to further strengthen the strategic partnership between India and Uzbekistan. The talks are expected to cover trade and investment, defence, digital connectivity, energy, education and people-to-people relations. The two sides will also discuss ways to align India's development vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 with Uzbekistan's Uzbekistan-2030 programme. Modi is also scheduled to visit the Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial and the Mahatma

Gandhi Centre at Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies. From Tashkent, Modi will travel to Bishkek to attend the SCO summit from August 31 to September 1. The summit marks the 25th anniversary of the organisation, of which India has been a full member since 2017. India plans to highlight three broad priorities at the summit - security, connectivity and opportunity. Modi is also expected to hold bilateral meetings with other SCO leaders on the sidelines of the gathering. The Prime Minister has said India will work with fellow members toward a region free from terrorism, separatism and extremism. The visit is being seen as an important diplomatic initiative to deepen India's engagement with Central Asian countries and expand cooperation in strategic and economic sectors. It will also provide an opportunity for India to strengthen regional connectivity and promote greater economic partnerships. Reports have indicated that Modi is also scheduled to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the SCO summit, adding another significant dimension to the visit.

Nepal Floods: Rescue Efforts Intensify as Global Support Pours In



Kathmandu, Aug 29 | TPN Bureau

Nepal continued its desperate search for survivors on Saturday after catastrophic flash floods and landslides struck the Nepal-Tibet border region, leaving hundreds dead, thousands missing and entire communities devastated. Rescue operations resumed after a temporary suspension caused by fears of another flood from an unstable lake formed in the Himalayas. The disaster began on August 26 after a massive collapse of ice, rock and debris unleashed a torrent through Himalayan river systems. Nepal's authorities have reported 669 deaths and 2,426 people missing, while Chinese authorities have reported seven deaths and 554 missing in Tibet, taking the combined missing figure close to 3,000. Rescuers are working through thick layers of mud and debris, while helicopters are being used to reach areas where roads and bridges have been washed away.

Authorities have warned that the casualty figures could rise as teams reach isolated communities. Families across Nepal and other countries continue to wait anxiously for information about missing relatives. Nepal has sought specialised international assistance, particularly for difficult technical operations, tunnel rescues, communications restoration and identification of bodies. Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal said Nepal welcomes international support and that assistance would also be crucial for reconstruction and economic recovery.

World Rallies Behind Nepal

Countries and international organisations have begun sending relief materials, rescue personnel, medical assistance and financial support. India has provided more than 57 tonnes of relief material, while assistance has also arrived from China, Japan, Australia



Seasonal Diseases Under Control: Minister

Hyderabad, August 29 | TPN Bureau

Health, Medical and Family Welfare Minister C. Damodar Raja Narasimha conducted a high-level review meeting on seasonal diseases at the State Secretariat on Saturday and directed officials to intensify surveillance and preventive measures across Telangana. The Minister reviewed the prevalence of dengue, malaria, chikungunya and other seasonal infections with senior Health Department officials. He said the number of dengue, malaria and chikungunya cases had declined and noted that diarrhoea and dysentery cases were also lower compared with the previ-

ous year. However, he pointed out that typhoid cases had registered a slight increase and instructed officials to pay particular attention to districts reporting a rise in infections. Raja Narasimha directed health officials to ensure that every reported fever case is monitored and that patients receive timely testing and treatment. He instructed government hospitals to maintain adequate stocks of medicines, diagnostic kits and other essential supplies. The Minister also directed officials to remain vigilant about Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) and swine flu. ILI cases reported at both government and private hospitals are to be monitored on a daily basis, he said. Officials

informed the Minister that seasonal influenza was currently under control in the State. The Health Minister emphasised that prevention should remain the primary strategy in controlling seasonal diseases. He ordered officials to intensify mosquito-control measures, including elimination of stagnant water, larval control and fogging operations. He directed authorities to strictly implement the "Dry Day" programme every Friday and ensure that preventive activities cover villages, municipalities, schools and hostels. The measures are aimed at reducing mosquito breeding and limiting the spread of vector-borne diseases. The Telangana Health

Department has also previously advised residents to prevent water stagnation, use mosquito protection and seek medical attention for persistent fever and flu-like symptoms during the monsoon season. Raja Narasimha stressed that seasonal infections should not be taken lightly and called for prompt intervention wherever cases show an upward trend. He instructed officials to keep Rapid Response Teams in every district alert so that outbreaks can be addressed without delay. The State Health Department is responsible for implementing public-health programmes and policies across Telangana, with the Minister overseeing the portfolio.



The Minister said coordinated surveillance, adequate medical supplies and sustained preventive measures were essential to protect public health during the ongoing seasonal disease period.

Seethakka Seeks Hospital Upgrades

Mulugu, August 29 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Seethakka met Health Minister Damodara Raja Narasimha and urged the State government to take up comprehensive development of the Mulugu District General Hospital and strengthen medical facilities for people in the predominantly tribal district. During the meeting, Seethakka sought the sanction of special funds for upgrading the district hospital and improving its infrastructure. She stressed the need for expanding specialised healthcare facilities so that patients from remote and tribal areas would not have to travel long distances for advanced treatment. The Minister also requested the establishment of a dedicated research centre

focusing on diseases and health issues prevalent in tribal communities. She said such a centre could contribute to better understanding of region-specific health challenges and help improve preventive and treatment measures. Seethakka highlighted the immediate requirement for a ramp at the Critical Care Block to facilitate the movement of patients, particularly those requiring urgent medical attention. She also sought the establishment of an MRI facility at the hospital to improve diagnostic capabilities. Another key request was the setting up of a dialysis centre with a capacity of five to 10 beds. The facility, she said, would provide considerable relief to patients requiring regular dialysis and reduce the need to travel outside the district for treatment.

Health Minister Damodara Raja Narasimha responded positively to Seethakka's request and assured her of support for the development of the Mulugu District General Hospital. The proposed measures are expected to strengthen healthcare infrastructure and improve access to specialised medical services in Mulugu. The Ministers discussed the importance of prioritising essential facilities and ensuring that public healthcare institutions in remote districts are adequately equipped to meet growing medical needs. Seethakka expressed hope that the requested works would be taken up on priority and completed at the earliest. The proposed upgrades are aimed at making the district hospital a stronger referral centre for people across Mulugu and surrounding tribal areas.



Pattas Distributed Across 15 Villages



Suryapet, August 29 | TPN Bureau

Revenue and Housing Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said wel-

fare and development programmes were continuing despite what he described as the financial difficulties inherited by the Congress government.

He announced the distribution of land pattas covering nearly 3,000 acres across 15 villages in Nutankal and Maddirala mandals of Suryapet dis-

trict. Speaking to the media on Saturday, the Minister said the government was handing over pattadar passbooks to eligible beneficiaries as part of its commitment to resolving long-pending land-related issues. He said several residents had brought to his notice the difficulties caused by their inability to sell or legally transact on their land to meet expenses such as children's education and other essential needs. Ponguleti said the government had taken steps to provide legal recognition to eligible landholders and strengthen the land administration system. He also announced that

70 revenue villages had been selected for a detailed survey to identify irregular or fraudulent pattas. According to the Minister, the survey would eventually cover every inch of land in the State over the next 18 months. He said the exercise was intended to bring greater clarity to land records, identify irregularities and protect the rights of genuine landholders. Ponguleti highlighted several welfare measures implemented by the Congress government. He said women had received zero-interest loans amounting to Rs 63,000 crore and noted that the first phase of the Indiramma housing pro-

gramme had been allocated across Telangana. Taking aim at the opposition, the Minister alleged that political parties were criticising the government because it was providing houses and welfare benefits to poor families. He expressed confidence that the Congress would return to power and asserted that the government would continue implementing its welfare commitments. The distribution of pattas is expected to provide relief to beneficiaries in the 15 villages by strengthening their legal ownership records and enabling them to access land-related services more effectively.

Model Village Development Promised: Ponnampati

Elkathurthy, August 29 | TPN Bureau

State Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnampati Prabhakar has said he will work to transform Indira Nagar village in Elkathurthy mandal of Husnabad constituency into a model village by ensuring that welfare and development programmes reach every eligible family. The Minister made the statement while participating in the "Palle Palaku Ponnampati Anna - Palle Palaku Praja Palana" programme in Indira Nagar on Saturday. He reviewed government schemes and development works with officials in the presence of villagers, received representations on local and individual issues and directed officials to take steps for their resolution. Smart ration cards were also distributed to eligible beneficiaries. Presenting a progress report, Ponnampati said 44 Indiramma houses had

been sanctioned in the village, with most construction works completed, while additional houses would be sanctioned in the second phase. Pensions are being provided to 96 beneficiaries, involving Rs 6.32 lakh. Under Gruha Jyothi, 66 families received free electricity benefits worth Rs 10.08 lakh, while 15 families received Rs 7.27 lakh under the Mahalakshmi gas subsidy. Women's groups received interest-free loans of Rs 10.09 lakh, while 41 groups obtained bank-linkage loans totalling Rs 6.20 crore. The Minister said 300 steel-bank kits containing 13 items had been distributed to three self-help groups to reduce plastic consumption. Farmers also benefited from government programmes, with 52 receiving Rs 37.61 lakh through loan waivers and 235 farmers receiving Rs 93.04 lakh under Rythu Bharosa. A fine-paddy bonus of Rs 10.57 lakh



was also released. Ponnampati assured residents that CC roads and drainage systems would be developed as requested. He stressed coordinated efforts by elected representatives and officials to address pending issues. The Minister encouraged residents to construct soak pits under the Jalasiri scheme, for which Rs 6,500 is provided, while farm ponds receive

Rs 1.30 lakh. He advised farmers to consider less water-intensive crops and oil palm cultivation in view of possible weather-related risks. He urged eligible people, including widows, single women, persons with disabilities, handloom workers and others, to apply for pensions before the deadline. Officials were directed to identify families eligible for welfare schemes but

yet to receive benefits. Ponnampati also emphasised children's health, education and sports, urging parents to increase enrolment in government schools and encouraging youth to participate in volleyball and kabaddi. He said women's economic empowerment remained a priority and noted that loan limits for self-help groups were being raised from Rs 5

lakh to Rs 10 lakh. The Minister also highlighted the Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar scheme, under which rooftop solar installations can receive subsidies of up to Rs 78,000 for a three-kilowatt system. ZP CEO Guravayya, officials, local representatives, farmers, women's groups and villagers participated in the programme.

MLC Malka Meets Governor



Hyderabad, August 29 | TPN Bureau

BJP MLC Malka Komaraiah paid a courtesy call on Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla at Lok Bhavan on Saturday and inquired about his health following his recent treatment for a heart-related ailment. During the meeting, Komaraiah enquired about the Governor's health and the medical treatment he had undergone. He expressed his concern and wished Shiv Pratap Shukla a speedy and complete recovery. Komaraiah said he was pleased to learn about the Governor's progress and expressed hope that he would regain full strength soon. He conveyed his prayers for the Governor's continued good health and well-being. The BJP MLC said that with the blessings of God, the Governor had recovered

considerably from his recent health issues. He expressed confidence that Shiv Pratap Shukla would return to his regular responsibilities with renewed energy and continue serving the people of Telangana. Komaraiah also conveyed his best wishes to the Governor for a healthy and active tenure in the State. The courtesy meeting took place in a cordial atmosphere, with the two leaders exchanging pleasantries and discussing the Governor's health. Komaraiah said the Governor's well-being was important and prayed for his continued recovery. He hoped that Shiv Pratap Shukla would remain in good health and discharge his responsibilities with greater enthusiasm in the service of the people. The BJP leader's visit was primarily intended to convey his personal greetings and wishes for the Governor's recovery.

Rs 157 Crore Push for Development



Dharmapuri, August 29 | TPN Bureau

Welfare Minister Adluri Laxman Kumar has said the Telangana government is taking up extensive development works in Dharmapuri constituency ahead of the Godavari Pushkaralu scheduled for next year, with Rs 117 crore already allocated and another Rs 40 crore proposed for key infrastructure works. The Minister made the announcement while conducting a review meeting with officials on Saturday regarding the development of the Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple and arrangements for the upcoming Pushkaralu. Laxman Kumar said the additional Rs 40 crore would be utilised for works including VIP pushkar ghats, bypass roads and other infrastructure required to accommodate pilgrims and ensure smooth movement during the religious event. He said the government was committed to completing the necessary works within the stipulated timeframe. The Minister stated that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had been taking steps to promote the development of major temples and pilgrim centres from Basara to Bhadrachalam. Funds, he said, had been earmarked for the development of important shrines at Basara, Kalesh waram, Bhadrachalam and Dharmapuri. Special attention is being given to the Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple complex at Dharmapuri, according to the

Minister. He said the Ugra Narasimha Swamy temple would be developed in accordance with the principles of Agama Shastra. Laxman Kumar said Rs 10 crore had been earmarked for renovation and development of the Ugra Narasimha Swamy shrine. He explained that the Yoga Narasimha Swamy temple comes under the purview of the Central government and that the State administration was therefore initially concentrating on works at the Ugra Narasimha Swamy temple. The Minister directed officials to prepare and implement development plans with a focus on preserving the religious and architectural significance of the temple while improving facilities for devotees. The proposed infrastructure works are expected to improve access and provide better amenities for pilgrims visiting Dharmapuri, particularly during the Godavari Pushkaralu. Endowments Department Commissioner M. Hanumantha Rao, Additional Collector B. Raja Goud, RDO P. Madhusudhan, temple Executive Officer Srinivas, District Libraries Chairman Sanganabatta Dinesh and other officials attended the review meeting. The Minister emphasised coordination among departments to ensure that temple development and Pushkaralu-related works progress simultaneously and are completed efficiently.

Ministers Discuss New Areas of Cooperation

Hyderabad, August 29 | TPN Bureau

Mauritius Minister for Public Service and Administrative Reforms Luchman Pethia met Telangana IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat on Saturday to explore opportunities for strengthening cooperation between Mauritius and Telangana. During the meeting, the two ministers discussed potential collaboration in public administration, tourism, information technology, IT-enabled services (ITEs), emerging technologies, skill development and education. The discussions focused on knowledge exchange and building institutional partnerships that could benefit both sides. Pethia described Telangana as a trusted partner and expressed interest in learning from the State's experience in modern governance and administrative practices. He sought Telangana's cooperation in strengthening the capabilities of Mauritius government employees through specialised training, capacity building and knowledge-sharing programmes. The Mauritius minister also expressed interest in establishing links with institutions in Telangana, including the Marri Channa Reddy Human Resource Development Institute (MCRHRD), Young India Skills University and other organisations involved in education and

skill development. Pethia said stronger institutional engagement could provide opportunities for government officials, students and professionals from both sides to exchange expertise and develop new capabilities. Sridhar Babu said Telangana was ready to cooperate with Mauritius across multiple sectors. He highlighted the State government's emphasis on international partnerships, technology-driven development and knowledge exchange, particularly in fields where Telangana has developed considerable expertise. The Minister said Telangana's growth in information technology, emerging technologies, skills and industrial development could provide avenues for mutually beneficial cooperation with Mauritius. Sridhar Babu also invited Pethia to participate in the Telangana Rising Global Summit 2026, which is scheduled to be organised by the State government on December 7 and 8. Both sides indicated interest in taking forward discussions through institutional-level engagement and identifying areas where practical cooperation can be developed. The interaction also highlighted the potential for Telangana's educational and administrative institutions to contribute to capacity-building initiatives in Mauritius through training programmes and exchange of best practices.

BJP Chief Targets Congress Over Minority Politics

Mahabubnagar, August 29 | TPN Bureau

BJP Telangana president N. Ramchander Rao accused the Congress of treating minorities as a vote bank and claimed that the Narendra Modi-led government had focused on welfare and equal opportunities for minority communities. Rao made the remarks while addressing the BJP Minority Morcha State Executive Committee meeting at the Mahabubnagar district headquarters. Mahabubnagar MP D.K. Aruna and other state and district leaders attended the meeting. His comments were also reported by media outlets on

Saturday. Rao said the BJP followed the principle of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas" and claimed that minorities constituted a significant share of beneficiaries under Central welfare schemes such as Mudra, Jan Dhan and Ujjwala. He also referred to scholarships and coaching initiatives aimed at helping minority students pursue higher education and civil services. The BJP leader criticised the Congress over its opposition to the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), arguing that the legislation was intended to provide citizenship to persecuted minorities who migrated



from neighbouring countries. He accused the Congress of spreading what he termed misinformation about the law. Rao also spoke about "Vande Mataram", describing it as a symbol of patriotism rather than a

religious slogan. He urged Minority Morcha workers to explain the BJP's position at the grassroots level. Targeting the Congress and BRS governments in Telangana, Rao alleged that minority welfare had

been neglected and claimed that minority residential schools and hostels continued to face infrastructure deficiencies. He highlighted Central initiatives such as Startup India, Stand-Up India, Make in India and

skill-development programmes as avenues for employment and entrepreneurship. Rao also criticised AIMIM and alleged political understandings between the party and ruling formations in Telangana. He claimed that the Old City Metro project advanced following sustained BJP pressure. Calling on Minority Morcha cadres to strengthen the party organisation, Rao urged them to take Central welfare schemes to every village and mandal. He expressed confidence that the BJP would form the government in Telangana and asked workers to prepare for the upcoming elections.

Harish Rao Seeks Higher Disability Pension



Hyderabad, August 29 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister and BRS leader T. Harish Rao on Friday demanded that the Congress government immediately fulfill the promises made to persons with disabilities, including increasing their monthly pension from RS.4,000 to RS.6,000 and providing free bus travel facilities.

Harish Rao participated in the "Swayam Shankharavam" programme organised in LB Nagar, where persons with disabilities from different parts of Telangana gathered to highlight their concerns and place their demands before political leaders. Addressing the gathering, Harish Rao accused the Congress government of failing to honour assurances given to the differently-abled community after coming to power. He said welfare promises should not remain confined to election campaigns and urged the government to take immediate steps to improve the living conditions of persons with disabilities.

Several participants displayed placards carrying messages demanding dignity, employment opportunities and protection of their rights. One of the messages stressed that they were seeking a mean-

ingful change in their lives rather than mere assurances, while another appealed to the government not to betray the trust placed in it.

The participants also demanded better access to welfare schemes and greater employment opportunities, saying persons with disabilities should be provided adequate support to lead independent and dignified lives.

BRS leaders, including LB Nagar MLA D. Sudheer Reddy, former Ministers Sabitha Indra Reddy and Talasani Srinivas Yadav, and former MLA Kishan Reddy, attended the programme.

A large number of persons with disabilities from various districts participated in the event and shared their grievances with the leaders. They called for immediate government intervention to address long-pending issues affecting their community.

BRS leaders reiterated their demand for increasing the disability pension to RS.6,000 per month and extending free bus travel facilities. They urged the State government to implement its election commitments without further delay and ensure that persons with disabilities receive the welfare support and opportunities promised to them.

Jagadish Reddy Slams Government Over Water Crisis

Suryapet, August 29 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister and BRS MLA G. Jagadish Reddy launched a sharp attack on the Congress government, alleging that Telangana was witnessing "demonic rule" and accusing the administration of failing farmers amid the prevailing water crisis.

Jagadish Reddy made the remarks after holding a meeting with BRS constituency leaders at the Suryapet district headquarters to discuss the party's forthcoming protest programmes. Addressing the media, he alleged that the difficulties faced by farmers could not simply be attributed to seasonal conditions or the El Niño phenomenon, but were the result of the Congress government's policies and decisions.

The BRS leader accused the government of showing little concern for agricultural distress and alleged that farmers were being ignored despite facing serious water-related problems. He claimed that the BRS leadership, including K. T. Rama Rao, had previously highlighted concerns over the utilisation of Krishna and Godavari river waters. Jagadish Reddy alleged that large quantities of Godavari water had been allowed to flow into the sea and claimed that Krishna water was being diverted towards Andhra Pradesh. He further alleged that decisions concerning the release and utilisation of water were being taken without adequately protecting Telangana's interests.

He also criticised the government's handling of water releases from Nagarjuna Sagar. According to Jagadish Reddy, pressure exerted by the BRS had resulted in water being released through the project gates to some extent. He questioned why water was being supplied through



the right canal while the left canal was allegedly not receiving adequate supplies.

The former Minister also referred to the condition of the Sundilla and Annaram barrages, asserting that reports from the Central Water Commission had established their structural stability. He accused the government of failing to effectively utilise the available irrigation infrastructure. Jagadish Reddy said the BRS would continue raising farmers' concerns and organising protests under the leadership of party president K. Chandrashekar Rao. He called upon party workers and public representatives to remain engaged with farmers and highlight their problems.

Former MP Badugu Lingaiah Yadav, BRS State Secretary Y. Venkateswarlu, constituency leaders, public representatives and other party activists attended the meeting. The allegations made by Jagadish Reddy are political claims, and the Congress government's response to the specific accusations was not included in the material provided.

Kishan Reddy to Inspect Works



Hyderabad, August 29 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy will tour parts of the Chevella Parliamentary constituency on Sunday to inspect key development projects being implemented with Central government support, Chevella MP Konda Vishweshwar Reddy said on Saturday.

Addressing a press conference, Vishweshwar Reddy said he would accompany the Union Minister during visits to Chevella, Vikarabad and Tandur. The tour will include field inspections of infrastructure and railway projects and a review of ongoing development works. The MP said more than 90 per cent of road and infrastructure projects in the constituency were being executed with Central funds. He cited schemes and programmes including the Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), MGNREGS and MPLADS, besides National Highway projects. He said construction of the Chevella-Vikarabad-Bijapur highway, which was sanctioned during his first term as MP, had previously faced delays but was now progressing rapidly. According to him,

the project is expected to be completed within the next six months.

During the visit, Kishan Reddy will inspect modernisation works at Vikarabad and Tandur railway stations being undertaken under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. The stations are being upgraded with improved passenger amenities and modern infrastructure. The Union Minister is also scheduled to participate in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Mann Ki Baat" programme and attend development activities undertaken by a local non-governmental organisation with Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) support.

Following the swearing-in ceremony of the new BJP Vikarabad district president, Kishan Reddy is scheduled to proceed towards the erstwhile Mahabubnagar district. Vishweshwar Reddy also highlighted concerns involving farmers, students and unemployed youth. He said BJP MPs, MLAs and other leaders were coordinating efforts to raise public issues. He said the party would focus particularly on polytechnic students, unemployment and agrarian concerns and undertake phased public programmes to highlight these issues in the coming days.

BJP Announces September Protests

Hyderabad, August 29 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana BJP has announced an extensive programme of public agitations in September, focusing on land-related restrictions, student and unemployed youth issues and farmers' concerns. The decisions were taken at a high-level meeting held at the BJP Telangana state office in Hyderabad under the chairmanship of State President N. Ramchander Rao. BJP Legislature Party leader Aleti Maheshwar Reddy, along with MPs, MLAs, MLCs and senior party leaders, participated in the discussions. Addressing a press conference after the meeting, BJP State General Secretary Dr N. Gautam Rao said the party would intensify its campaign on issues it described as affecting large sections of the public. As part of the programme, Aleti Maheshwar Reddy will lead a two-day protest at Indira Park in Hyderabad



on September 5 and 6. The agitation will demand the withdrawal of regulations related to Section 22-A, which the BJP alleges are creating difficulties for landowners and farmers. The party said the protest would focus on protecting property rights. The Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) will organise a "Maha Dharna" at Indira Park on September 7. According to Gautam Rao, the demonstration will highlight the pending fee reimbursement issue and concerns affecting students and unemployed youth. The BJP Kisan Morcha has also decided to conduct a statewide farmers' Yatra after September 7. The proposed campaign

will focus on the release of Rythu Bharosa funds, implementation of crop insurance, completion of the farm loan waiver and broader agricultural distress.

The party said dates and the detailed schedule for the farmers' Yatra would be announced separately. Gautam Rao criticised the Congress government, alleging that it had failed to fulfil several promises made to the people. He said the BJP would continue raising public grievances through sustained grassroots-level movements.

The BJP general secretary asserted that the party would intensify its agitation until what it described as key public issues were addressed by the State government.

Nepal Floods: Rescue Efforts Intensify as Global Support Pours In

Continue

and other countries. Specialist teams from India and China are helping with technically challenging rescue operations.

India has also intensified assistance to its citizens. The Ministry of External Affairs said 88 Indian nationals had been rescued, while 287 Indians and 128 people of Indian origin remained missing. Forensic teams have been deployed to assist in identification efforts. Nepal President Ram Chandra Paudel thanked India for its support and solidarity. The wider international response has included assistance from the United Nations, Red Cross, United States, United Kingdom, South Korea and European partners. UNICEF has warned that thousands of children urgently need humanitarian assistance, while humanitarian agencies estimate that tens of thousands of people require immediate support. Beyond rescue operations, Nepal now faces the enormous task of rebuilding homes, roads, bridges, hydropower facilities and livelihoods. The international community's continued support-through rescue expertise, relief supplies, medical aid, financial assistance and long-term reconstruction-will be vital as Nepal confronts one of its worst natural disasters in recent years.

Revanth Seeks Safeguards in Voter Revision

Continue

mechanisms such as Form-6 for voters who have genuinely shifted residence and need to enrol in a new constituency.

The Chief Minister said Hyderabad, Medchal-Malkajgiri and Ranga Reddy districts account for a substantial share of ASDD cases and verification notices. He called for additional officials and decentralised inquiry centres, particularly in urban constituencies where the workload is high. He requested that the claims and objections period, currently scheduled from August 17 to September 16, be extended by four weeks. He also sought a corresponding revision of the October 19 deadline for publication of the final electoral roll. Revanth Reddy proposed extensive public awareness campaigns, including repeated Gram Sabha and ward-level meetings to read out draft rolls. He said daily wage workers, migrant labourers and elderly voters needed at least three to four weeks to arrange documents and respond to notices.A

The Chief Minister further suggested voter assistance centres at constituency and polling-station levels and expansion of the list of acceptable documents.

He assured the ECI that the State Government would provide administrative support for assistance centres, public meetings and other measures required to make the revision transparent and accessible. The Telangana government's position is that adequate time, clear communication and procedural safeguards are essential to protect the voting rights of every eligible citizen.

Srinivas Goud Slams Irrigation Policy

Mahabubnagar, August 29 | TPN Bureau

BRS leader and former minister V. Srinivas Goud has criticised the Congress government's irrigation policies, alleging that Telangana farmers are suffering because of decisions concerning the sharing and utilisation of river water.

Addressing a press conference at the BRS Mahabubnagar district party office, Srinivas Goud claimed that farmers in Telangana were being pushed towards considering a "crop holiday", while agricultural activity in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh was progressing. He questioned Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's alleged silence over the diversion of Telangana's water to Andhra Pradesh. Srinivas Goud asserted that the Andhra Pradesh government would not have attempted to draw water in the manner alleged had K. Chandrashekar Rao been in power. He also compared the progress of the Veligonda tunnel project with the Srisailem Left Bank Canal (SLBC), claiming that although work on both projects began around the same period, Veligonda progressed while SLBC remained incomplete. The former minister alleged that Andhra Pradesh was seeking to utilise 11 TMC of irriga-



tion water from its net allocation through the Veligonda project, but was drawing more than the claimed quantity. He urged the Telangana government to insist that water for Veligonda be drawn from floodwaters rather than Telangana's share of net allocations. He also criticised Congress leaders over their allegations concerning the Kaleshwaram project. Srinivas Goud claimed that the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) had cleared the project, and accused the ruling party of spreading misleading information for political purposes. The BRS leader further alleged that the government had failed to utilise an opportunity to fill reservoirs in the district to their potential capacity of around 60 TMC. He said inadequate water availability could adversely affect farmers

and agricultural activity in the region. Srinivas Goud announced that the BRS would organise a series of protests to pressure the government to address irrigation-related concerns and fulfil its commitments to the farming community.

Former Library Organisation Chairman Rajeshwar Goud, former MUDA Chairman Venkanna, former Municipal Chairman Narsimhulu, former market committee chairpersons Anjaneyulu and Rahman, former ZPTC member Narendar, former MPP Balaraju and other BRS leaders attended the meeting.

The allegations made by Srinivas Goud represent the BRS's political position; the Congress government's response to the specific claims was not included in the material provided.

MLA Walks Out Over Housing Draw

Khairatabad, August 29 | TPN Bureau

A protocol dispute erupted during the lucky draw for beneficiaries under the Telangana government's housing programme in Khairatabad on Saturday, with local MLA Danam Nagender expressing strong displeasure after officials reportedly began the selection process before his arrival.

The beneficiary selection event was organised at Komaram Bheem Adivasi Bhavan in Banjara Hills for houses under the Gruhalakshmi scheme. Danam Nagender was scheduled to attend the programme and oversee the lucky draw. However, officials reportedly commenced the draw before the MLA reached the venue. The development angered Nagender, who questioned officials over starting the beneficiary selection process without waiting for the elected representative. The MLA reportedly reprimanded the officials and expressed serious dissatisfaction over what he described as a violation of protocol. He warned that action could be taken against those responsible for the lapse.

Following the confrontation, Nagender walked out of the programme in protest, highlighting the disagreement over the conduct of the event. The incident

occurred amid the ongoing allocation of homes under the Telangana government's housing initiatives in Hyderabad. The beneficiary selection process is being carried out through lucky draws intended to ensure transparency in the allotment of houses to eligible applicants. Meanwhile, the lucky draw process for Indiramma housing units is also underway across Hyderabad's core urban areas. The first phase covers beneficiaries from four Assembly constituencies, with the allocation exercise scheduled to continue for four days.

The government has been conducting the selection process to identify eligible beneficiaries through a transparent draw mechanism. The initiative is aimed at providing housing assistance to eligible families in the urban region.

The protocol dispute at the Khairatabad event has drawn attention to the importance of coordination between elected representatives and government officials during public welfare programmes. Officials are expected to follow established procedures while conducting beneficiary selection exercises, particularly those involving major housing schemes. The incident concluded with the MLA leaving the venue, while officials continued with the scheduled beneficiary selection process.

BJP Leaders Meet Governor



Hyderabad, August 29 | TPN Bureau

BJP leaders and activists from the erstwhile Ranga Reddy district paid a courtesy call on Tripura Governor Nallu Indrasena Reddy at the Raj Bhavan in Hyderabad on Friday. During the meeting, the delegation felicitated the Governor by presenting him with a shawl and a bouquet of flowers. The leaders later held a cordial interaction with him and exchanged views on various matters concerning party activities and organisational coordination. According to the leaders, discussions focused on the activities of the Bharatiya Janata Party in the erstwhile Ranga Reddy district and the need for better coordination among party leaders and grassroots workers. The meeting also provided an opportunity for several long-time associates to interact with Indrasena Reddy and recall their association with him. The BJP delegation said the interaction took place in a warm and friendly atmosphere. Leaders expressed happiness over meeting the Governor and conveyed their greetings and best wishes. Several BJP leaders and activists participated in the courtesy visit, including Dr S. Malla Reddy, Kanta Rao, Anjan Kumar Goud, Bosupalli Pratap, Nandanam Diwakar, District General Secretary Vigneshwara Chari, Venkatesh Naik and Papayya Goud. The participants said such interactions help maintain cordial relations and strengthen communication among leaders associated with the party. The delegation thanked Governor Indrasena Reddy for sparing time to meet them and for the friendly interaction at the Raj Bhavan. The visit concluded with the leaders extending their best wishes to the Governor.

Rowdy Sheeter Held in Land Fraud

Quthbullapur, August 29 | TPN Bureau

Suraram police have arrested a 51-year-old real estate trader and alleged rowdy sheeter in connection with a land fraud case involving \$3 lakh, following a complaint lodged by a woman who alleged that she was neither given the promised property nor refunded her money. According to police, the accused, identified as Mazhar Khan, allegedly convinced complainant Rama Tulsi in 2019 that he would sell her an 80-square-yard plot at Kaisernagar. Trusting his assurance, she reportedly paid him \$3 lakh in cash. However, police said the accused allegedly failed to register the land in her name even after receiving the payment. Despite repeated requests from the complainant for either registration of the plot or return of the money, the issue remained unresolved for several years. Unable to recover her money or secure the promised property, Rama Tulsi approached Suraram police and lodged a complaint. Based on the complaint, police registered a case in Crime No. 621/2026 under Sections 318(4) read with 316(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and launched an investigation.



Acting on information received during the probe, Suraram police apprehended Mazhar Khan. He was subsequently produced before a court and remanded to judicial custody. Police said the accused had a criminal history, with nine previous cases reportedly registered against him under the limits of Miyapur, Jeedimetla, Suraram and Dundigal police stations. A rowdy sheet was also reportedly maintained against him at Balanagar Police Station. Suraram police said strict action would be taken against those involved in land grabbing, cheating and illegal property transactions. Station House Officer Balaraju advised prospective land buyers to thoroughly verify ownership documents, title rights and registration details before making payments. Police also cautioned people against handing over large amounts of cash without proper legal verification and documentary safeguards.

Illegal Structures Razed

Quthbullapur, August 29 | TPN Bureau

Officials launched a demolition drive against alleged illegal constructions in Baurampet's Indiramma Colony, taking action against structures reportedly built without permission on government land and in violation of building regulations. As part of the enforcement operation, commercial shutters constructed on vacant government land adjacent to a park were removed using heavy machinery. Officials said the structures had allegedly been erected without obtaining the required permissions. In a separate action in the same locality, another building under construction was identified as allegedly violating prescribed building norms. The structure was subsequently demolished by the authorities. Officials said serious note was taken of the alleged absence of construction permissions and violations of mandatory setback regulations. The operation was carried out as part of efforts to prevent encroachment on government land and curb unauthorised construction at an early stage. Deputy Commissioner Dr



S. Venkata Manikaran supervised the enforcement action. ACP Srinivas and Town Planning officials also participated in the demolition drive. Officials warned that strict action would be initiated against individuals found encroaching upon government land, undertaking construction without approval or violating prescribed building regulations. The demolition drive drew attention in the locality as JCB machinery was used to remove the commercial structures and bring down the building found to be in violation. Authorities reiterated that government land would be protected from encroachment and that construction activity must comply with approved plans and statutory norms. The administration indicated that inspections would continue in other areas and that violations of land and building regulations would invite appropriate legal and enforcement action.

Devotees Offer Prayers at Durga Temple

Quthbullapur, August 29 | TPN Bureau

Special prayers were offered with devotion at the newly constructed Sri Sri Sri Durga Bhavani Temple in Shivalaya Nagar of Suraram Division on Saturday, with a large number of devotees participating in the religious programme. Senior BRS leader and Viswakarma Colony President Kondakalla Srinivas Reddy attended the event and offered special prayers, seeking the blessings of Goddess Durga Bhavani. The temple premises reverberated with the chanting of Vedic mantras as priests performed traditional rituals. Devotees from the surrounding localities

gathered at the temple to take part in the prayers and receive the blessings of the Goddess. The religious programme was conducted in a devotional atmosphere, with local residents expressing happiness over the establishment of the new temple in the locality. Special rituals were performed in accordance with traditional customs, and devotees participated with faith and enthusiasm. Following the prayers, organisers and local residents felicitated Kondakalla Srinivas Reddy in recognition of his participation in the programme. Speaking informally with devotees and local residents, Srinivas Reddy conveyed his



best wishes and prayed for peace, prosperity and well-being in the community. The event also provided an opportunity for residents of the locality to come together

and participate in a spiritual gathering. The organisers said religious programmes of this nature help promote harmony and strengthen bonds among people in the community.

Several local leaders and devotees attended the programme, including Ashok Goud, Venkatesh Goud, Nagaraju and Shiva. The special prayers concluded

peacefully, with devotees expressing satisfaction over the arrangements and the devotional atmosphere at the newly constructed Sri Sri Sri Durga Bhavani Temple.

Robust Plans for Ganesh Immersion

Quthbullapur, August 29 | TPN Bureau

The Dundigal Circle administration has initiated extensive preparations to ensure the peaceful and smooth conduct of Vinayaka Chavithi celebrations and the upcoming Ganesh immersion process, with special emphasis on inter-departmental coordination and public safety. A high-level coordination committee meeting involving officials from various government departments was held at the Dundigal Circle-59 office under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Dr S. Venkata Manikaran. The



meeting reviewed arrangements aimed at ensuring a hassle-free experience for devotees during the festival and immersion. Officials discussed key issues, including adequate lighting at

immersion ghats, repairs to roads along procession routes, traffic regulation, maintenance of law and order, uninterrupted power supply, drinking water facilities, sanitation and medical services.

Deputy Commissioner Venkata Manikaran directed all concerned departments to work in close coordination from the beginning of the festival until the completion of the immersion process. He

stressed that Ganesh immersion should be conducted peacefully without causing inconvenience to devotees or the general public. Disaster management teams and HYDRAA personnel were also instructed to remain on standby to respond immediately to any emergency. Special attention will be given to public safety at immersion ghats and along major procession routes. The meeting brought together representatives from Engineering, Electrical, Lakes, Entomology, Traffic Police, Fire Services, Medical and Health, Water Board, TGSPDCL, Transport, TGSRTC,

HYDRAA, Law and Order, Urban Biodiversity, Roads and Buildings and Revenue departments. Among those present were Solid Waste Management Assistant Engineer Ashok Kumar, AMC Lakshmaiah, HMWSS Manager Srinivas, Irrigation Department Assistant Engineer Ravi, Dundigal PHC In-charge Siraj and Sub-Inspectors from Dundigal Police Station. The administration said coordinated planning and timely execution of responsibilities would be crucial to ensuring safe, orderly and peaceful Ganesh festivities across the Dundigal Circle.

BJP Protests Fee Dues



Suryapet, August 29 | TPN Bureau

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on

Saturday organised a day-long hunger strike in Suryapet, demand-

ing the immediate release of pending student fee reimbursement dues by

the government.

The protest was held at the Vanijya Bhavan Centre from 8 am to 8 pm as part of the party's campaign highlighting the issue of long-pending fee arrears. BJP District President Challa Srilatha Reddy presided over the hunger strike. Several party leaders and activists participated in the protest, including Kadiyam Ramachandraiah, Manma dha Reddy, Bora Narasayya, BJP Kisan Morcha District President Kancharla Narasimha Reddy, Kisan Morcha District General Secretary Chittaluru Somaiah, District Secretary Ramineni Ashok and Garidepally Mandal Vice-President Kukkadapu Lakshmaiah Goud. Addressing the gathering, BJP leaders expressed concern over the delay in clearing fee reimbursement arrears, stating that the issue was affecting students as well as educational institutions. They urged the

government to act without further delay and ensure that the pending amounts were released at the earliest. The leaders said higher education should not become a financial burden for students and their families due to delays in the implementation of welfare commitments. They also stressed the need to protect the interests of colleges that depend on reimbursement payments for their functioning. The BJP leaders warned that continued delays could create uncertainty among students and educational institutions. They demanded a clear timeline from the government for the settlement of all outstanding dues. A large number of BJP workers and supporters joined the day-long hunger strike, with party leaders describing the protest as a successful demonstration of support for students affected by pending fee reimbursement payments.

Students Create Hockey Stick Formation



Quthbullapur, August 29 | TPN Bureau

Students of Suraram Colony Government School marked National Sports Day with a unique and colourful tribute to legendary Indian hockey player Major Dhyan Chand, forming a human chain in the shape of a hockey stick on the school premises. Around 70 students participated in the innovative display, holding the national flag as they assembled in a carefully planned formation resembling a hockey stick. A hockey ball was placed at the centre of the formation, adding a symbolic touch to

the tribute. The creative presentation attracted the attention of teachers, students and others present at the school. The programme was organised to commemorate National Sports Day and remember the immense contribution of Major Dhyan Chand to Indian hockey and the country's sporting legacy. School Physical Director Nagaraju also joined the students in forming the human chain. Addressing the participants, he highlighted the importance of encouraging children to actively participate in sports and physical activities. He said sports play a significant role

in promoting physical fitness, discipline, teamwork and a healthy competitive spirit among students. He encouraged children to develop an interest in different games and make sports an important part of their daily lives. As part of the National Sports Day celebrations, chess competitions were also organised for students. The competitions provided an opportunity for young participants to demonstrate their concentration, strategic thinking and sporting abilities. Teachers said such activities help create awareness about the importance of sports while providing students with opportunities to explore

their talents beyond the classroom. The human chain formation was one of the highlights of the celebrations, with the students' hockey-stick-shaped arrangement serving as a visual tribute to Major Dhyan Chand. The initiative reflected the spirit of National Sports Day and conveyed a message about the importance of nurturing sporting talent, discipline and team spirit among young students. The event concluded with students and staff expressing enthusiasm for greater participation in sports and physical activities throughout the academic year.

Officials Inspect Immersion Sites

Quthbullapur, August 29 | TPN Bureau

Jeedimetla Circle officials have stepped up preparations to ensure the peaceful and safe conduct of the upcoming Vinayaka immersion festivities, with special attention being given to security, traffic management, sanitation and other essential facilities. As part of the advance arrangements, a joint inspection was conducted at Vennelagadda Lake in Jeedimetla Village and at temporary baby ponds being established at the HMT open ground adjacent to the Quthbullapur Zonal Office within the Jeedimetla Circle-55 limits. Officials from various departments examined the facilities and infrastructure required at the immersion locations. Following the inspection, a review meeting was held to discuss measures needed for the smooth conduct of the immersion programme. The meeting focused on providing adequate lighting, barricading, sanitation facilities, traffic regulation, temporary toilets, road maintenance and necessary repairs in and around the immersion areas. Officials were instructed to complete all arrange-



ments well in advance to ensure that devotees do not face inconvenience during the festivities. Special emphasis was placed on preventing overcrowding and avoiding traffic congestion at major immersion points. Officials said proper planning and coordination among departments would be essential to manage the large number of devotees and vehicles expected during the immersion process. It was decided that departments including Police, Traffic, Electrical, Water Works, Fire Services and Irrigation would work in close coordination throughout the festival period. Deputy Commissioner D.

Shankar Singh supervised the inspection and review of the arrangements. Officials were directed to monitor the progress of works regularly and address any shortcomings without delay. Representatives of the concerned government departments and officials from Jeedimetla Circle participated in the inspection and review meeting. The administration said all necessary measures would be taken to ensure a safe, orderly and hassle-free immersion experience for devotees while maintaining public safety and sanitation at the designated locations.

SIR Phase-2 Reviewed

Jubilee Hills, August 29 | TPN Bureau

A review meeting of the newly appointed division in-charges for the second phase of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) was held on Saturday at the office of Jubilee Hills MLA Naveen Yadav. MLA Naveen Yadav attended the meeting as the chief guest and discussed various aspects of the SIR Phase-2 process with party functionaries and division-level representatives. The meeting focused on the planned activities, organisational responsibilities and other matters connected with the implementation of the revision exercise. Gandikota Kumar, Secunderabad DCC General Secretary and SIR in-charge for AG Colony, held detailed discussions with MLA Naveen Yadav on the preparations for the second phase. They reviewed the responsibilities of division in-charges and the activities proposed to be undertaken as part of the process. The meeting stressed the importance of effective coordination among local functionaries to ensure that the activities related to SIR Phase-2 are carried out systematically. Division-level teams were expected to work closely



with residents and local representatives while carrying out their assigned responsibilities. Following the meeting, Gandikota Kumar, accompanied by AG Colony Division President Manoj Yadav, visited various areas within the AG Colony division. During the field visit, they inspected localities and reviewed aspects connected with the SIR process. The meeting and subsequent field inspection formed part of the preparations for SIR Phase-2 in Jubilee Hills and surrounding divisions. Party representatives said continued coordination and field-level monitoring would help ensure the smooth implementation of the planned activities. The programme concluded with leaders reiterating the need for active participation and coordinated efforts at the division level.

Call for Unity at LB Nagar Sabha

LB Nagar, August 29 | TPN Bureau

A public meeting titled "Jago LB Nagar Dharma Rakshana Sabha" was held in LB Nagar with a focus on Hindu unity, cultural preservation and promotion of indigenous products. The programme was organised by Ganesh Sena with the support of the Bhagyanagar Ganesh Utsav Samithi. Bhagyanagar Ganesh Utsav Samithi President Raghava Reddy and General Secretary Ravinuthala Shashidhar attended the programme as chief guests. Ranga Reddy Urban District President Venipalli Srinivas Reddy, former corporators Pawan, Narasimha Reddy and Moddu Lachhi Reddy, along with women leaders and activists, participated in the meeting. Addressing the gathering, Shashidhar said Ganesh celebrations should serve not only as religious festivals but also as platforms for social awareness and community participation. He said the Bhagyanagar Ganesh Utsav Samithi had been conducting the celebra-



tions for several decades, drawing inspiration from the ideals associated with Chhatrapati Shivaji and Bal Gangadhar Tilak. He called upon people to use Ganesh mandaps, temples and family gatherings as platforms to discuss social issues and promote greater unity.

According to him, awareness about challenges facing society should extend from public spaces to individual families. Shashidhar also stressed the importance of purchasing locally made products and supporting traditional artisans. He appealed to devotees and organ-

isers to procure puja materials required for Ganesh celebrations, temples and family functions from local craftsmen and businesses. He said supporting indigenous products could help strengthen traditional occupations and generate employment opportunities within local communities. He further called for temples to become centres of spiritual activity and Ganesh mandaps to serve as platforms for social consciousness. Participants were encouraged to express patriotism through slogans including "Vande Mataram" and "Bharat Mata Ki Jai". The organisers said the programme was intended to encourage cultural awareness and community participation while promoting locally produced goods. A dance performance by children was one of the highlights of the event and drew appreciation from the gathering. The programme concluded with organisers and participants reiterating their emphasis on cultural traditions, community unity and support for indigenous products.

CPM Protests Hospital Negligence



Sircilla, August 29 | TPN Bureau

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) organised a dharna in front of the Sircilla Government General Hospital on Saturday, demanding action against two hospital staff members over alleged negligence in attending to a patient. The protest was organised by the CPM Sircilla Town Committee. Party leaders demanded action against compounders Satyam and Tirupati, alleging that they failed to provide timely first aid and wound dressing to a patient who approached the hospital following an accident. According to the protesters, Sircilla resident Sabbani Chandrakanth suffered injuries and bleeding after his motorcycle reportedly skidded. He subsequently went to the government hospital seeking medical attention and requested the on-duty staff to provide first aid and dress his wounds. CPM leaders alleged that the two compounders did not attend to him promptly and reportedly told him that they did not have time to carry out the dressing. They criticised the alleged response, stating that a government hospital primarily serves people who depend on affordable public healthcare. The protesters further alleged that the issue was

brought to the attention of Hospital Deputy Superintendent Santhosh and the Resident Medical Officer. According to them, the officials directed that the patient be treated immediately, but the staff allegedly failed to comply with the instructions. The CPM leaders claimed that Chandrakanth was left waiting for nearly three hours before receiving appropriate attention. They also alleged that complaints regarding the conduct of the staff had been raised previously but that no action had been taken. The party demanded that authorities investigate the allegations and take appropriate disciplinary action if negligence is established. It appealed to the District Collector, Vemulawada MLA and Government Whip Adi Srinivas to intervene and ensure better medical services for economically weaker sections. CPM leaders warned that larger protests would be organised outside the hospital if action was not taken against the staff members. The allegations made during the protest could not be independently verified, and the hospital authorities' detailed response was not immediately available. Further action is expected based on any official inquiry into the incident.

65-Year-Old Held With Ganja



Bodhan, August 29 | TPN Bureau

Bodhan Rural police apprehended a 65-year-old man for allegedly transporting ganja at the Salura interstate check-post under the jurisdiction of Bodhan Rural Police Station. The operation was conducted under the supervision of Bodhan Rural Circle Inspector Vijaya Babu. Acting on specific information about the alleged transportation of the contraband, police intercepted a person travelling on a TVS XL moped at the interstate check-post. Bodhan Rural Sub-Inspector Rajashekhar said the individual was identified as Gangagiri Laxman, a resident of Dharmabad in Maharashtra. Police questioned him and conducted a search of the vehicle. During the inspection, officers allegedly found four kilograms of ganja in his possession. According to police, Laxman was transporting the contraband from Maharashtra towards Bodhan when he was intercepted. Police seized the alleged contraband and

the vehicle as part of the investigation. A case was subsequently registered against the accused under relevant provisions of the law governing narcotic substances. Officials said the action followed information received regarding the movement of ganja through the interstate route. Police have been maintaining surveillance at check-posts and other strategic locations to prevent the illegal transportation of narcotic substances into the region.-also urged members of the public to provide information about suspicious activities involving narcotics to the police. The seizure of four kilograms of ganja at the Salura check-post highlights the importance of monitoring interstate routes used for the movement of contraband. Police said further details would emerge as the investigation progresses. The authorities are also examining the circumstances under which the alleged contraband was procured and its intended destination.

Land Grab Bid Using Forged Papers

Hyderabad, August 29 | TPN Bureau

Suraram police have arrested and remanded a 57-year-old real estate businessman for allegedly attempting to take over 600 square yards of land using forged documents, signatures and stamps. The accused, identified as Kanneganti Srinivasa Rao of Vivekanandanagar, Kukatpally, was arrested in connection with Crime No. 365/2026 registered at Suraram Police Station under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). According to police, complainant Bethi Srinath alleged that Srinivasa Rao created fake documents relating to around 600 square yards comprising Plot Nos. 103 and 106 in Satish Society, Bowrampet. The accused allegedly attempted to use the fabricated records to facilitate registration of the property by presenting them as genuine. During the investigation, police reportedly found that documents, stamps and signatures purportedly issued or authenticated by the District Registrar's office had also been forged. Investigators further alleged that the property was registered in the name of an acquaintance, identified as Vasundhara. Police said preliminary findings indicated that signatures of the actual property owners, Balakrishnamurthy and Mahalakshmi, had also been forged. The accused allegedly has a history of similar cases. Police said forgery-related cases had earlier been registered at Dundigal Police Station, Narsingi Police



Station and Chevella Police Station. He had reportedly been arrested and remanded in connection with those cases. In view of the repeated allegations involving forged documents, police said action was also initiated under Section 111 of the BNS relating to organised crime. Following his arrest, Srinivasa Rao was produced before a court and remanded to judicial custody. Suraram SHO Balaraju warned that strict action would be taken against those involved in forging documents, signatures or stamps and using them for illegal property registrations. He advised the public to thoroughly verify ownership records and the authenticity of documents before purchasing, selling or registering land.

Drugging Gang Held on Train



Secunderabad, August 29 | TPN Bureau

A gang allegedly involved in drugging and robbing railway passengers has been busted by the Secunderabad Government Railway Police (GRP) and Railway Protection Force (RPF), with two suspects arrested in connection with a recent theft aboard a train. The arrested persons were identified as Batta Prasad Reddy, 39, and Korapati Narasimha Rao, 44. Police reportedly recovered an Oppo mobile phone, 10 sedative tablets and ₹35,400 in cash from their possession. According to railway police, the incident occurred on August 17 aboard the Sabari Superfast Express. The accused allegedly approached a passenger identified as Anil Kumar and struck up a conversation with him during the journey. They reportedly offered him drinking water containing sedatives. After consuming the spiked water, the passenger allegedly lost consciousness. Taking advantage of his condition, the suspects are accused of stealing his luggage bag and fleeing from the scene. Following a complaint, Secunderabad

GRP registered a case and initiated an investigation. Special teams were formed to trace the suspects and monitor their movements. After gathering information about their activities, police reportedly tracked them down and took them into custody. Officials said the recovery of the mobile phone, sedative tablets and cash formed part of the investigation into the alleged robbery. Railway authorities have urged passengers to remain vigilant while travelling, particularly when approached by unknown persons offering food, beverages or other items. Passengers have been advised not to accept food or drinks from strangers, even during long-distance journeys. Police also appealed to passengers to immediately alert the GRP or railway security personnel if they observe suspicious behaviour or activities on trains or at railway stations. The arrest highlights the need for passengers to exercise caution and safeguard their belongings while travelling, especially when interacting with unfamiliar fellow passengers. Railway police said further investigation was underway to determine whether the accused were involved in other similar incidents.

Somayya Goud Gets Kisan Morcha Post

Suryapet, August 29 | TPN Bureau

Chittaluri Somayya Goud of Garidepally Mandal has been appointed as the General Secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Suryapet District Kisan Morcha. The appointment was made under the guidance of BJP State President N. Ramchander Rao and in the presence of Suryapet District BJP President Challa Srilatha Reddy. The new responsibility is expected to strengthen the party's outreach among farmers and agricultural communities in the district. After receiving his appointment letter, Somayya Goud expressed gratitude to BJP State President N. Ramchander Rao, District BJP President Challa Srilatha Reddy and District Kisan Morcha President Kancharla Narasimha Reddy for placing their confidence in him. He also thanked former MLA Shanampudi Saidi Reddy, Bobba Bhagya Reddy and other senior party leaders and workers who supported him. Speaking on the occasion, Somayya Goud said he would work actively at the grassroots level to identify and address issues faced by farmers across Suryapet district.

Student Alleges Harassment, Threats



Yellandu, August 29 | TPN Bureau

A complaint alleging harassment, coercion and threats in connection with an interfaith relationship has been reported in Yellandu of Bhadradi Kothagudem district. A B.Tech second-year student approached the police, alleging that a young man had been pressuring her to marry him and threatening serious consequences if she refused. According to the complaint, the woman alleged that the man had been repeatedly contacting and harassing her under the guise of a romantic relationship. She reportedly told police that he was pressuring her to marry him despite her unwillingness. The woman further alleged that she was being pressured to convert to another religion. She also claimed that the accused threatened to harm her and her family members if she did not agree to his demands. The allegations have been described by some in the locality as a "love jihad" incident. However, police are investigating the specific allegations made in the complaint and are expected to establish the facts based on evidence and statements

gathered during the probe. Following the complaint, Yellandu police registered a case and began an investigation. Officers are collecting details concerning the alleged harassment, threats and claims of coercion made by the student. Police are also examining the circumstances surrounding the relationship and the communications between the two individuals as part of the inquiry. Further action will be taken based on the findings of the investigation. The incident has drawn attention in the area, with concerns being raised over allegations of intimidation and coercion involving a young student. Police officials have advised individuals facing threats or harassment to approach law-enforcement authorities without delay and provide relevant evidence, including messages or other material that may assist the investigation. Authorities have not disclosed further details regarding the identity of the accused or the sections of law invoked in the case. The investigation is continuing, and police are expected to establish the facts before taking further legal action.

Viral Video Triggers Hotel Controversy



Armoor, August 29 | TPN Bureau

A controversy has erupted in Armoor following the circulation of videos on social media allegedly showing former Nizamabad municipal corporator Rai Singh in a hotel room with a woman. The incident reportedly took place on August 17 at PVR Hotel & Restaurant and came to public attention after videos began circulating widely on social media and WhatsApp. According to a report published on August 29, Rai Singh, a resident of Manik Bandar village in Makloor mandal, was allegedly confronted by relatives of the woman at the hotel. The relatives reportedly recorded the incident, following which an argument escalated into a physical confrontation. They subsequently approached the Armoor Town Police Station, the report stated. The circulated footage has generated considerable discussion among local residents and political circles. The report carries allegations that the incident involved prostitution, but these claims have not been independently established through an official police statement or court finding. Questions have also been raised regarding whether any police action was initiated after the alleged inci-

dent was reported. The published report said there was public speculation about the response of the police, particularly because of the political affiliations attributed to the individuals involved. These remain allegations and have not been independently verified. The videos reportedly surfaced publicly several days after the alleged August 17 incident and subsequently spread through social media platforms and WhatsApp statuses, drawing widespread attention in Armoor. The episode has also prompted questions about security and monitoring at hotels and lodges in the town. Residents have called for authorities to verify whether any unlawful activities are taking place at such establishments and to take action wherever violations are established. The report also mentioned alleged political links surrounding the hotel and Rai Singh. However, these political associations could not be independently confirmed from authoritative sources. As of the available reporting, no verified official statement detailing a police case, arrests or charges against Rai Singh in connection with the allegations was found. Any further legal action will depend on the outcome of the police inquiry, if one is undertaken.



Editorial

Redesign Tourism Policy to Put Safety First

The flash floods and natural calamities in Nepal should serve as a serious warning for India to rethink and redesign its tourism policy. Natural disasters cannot always be prevented, but the loss of human lives can certainly be reduced through proper planning, timely warnings and strict safety measures. India, with its vast geographical diversity and numerous tourist and pilgrimage destinations, needs a comprehensive system to identify which places are safe to visit, which areas are vulnerable and which destinations should be avoided during particular seasons. The Tourism Department should issue clear precautionary guidelines to tourists before they begin their journeys. Information about weather conditions, landslide-prone areas, flood risks, road conditions and other possible dangers should be made easily available through official platforms. Tourists should not be left to depend only on private travel agencies or local information.

The licences and permissions granted to private tourism institutions also need to be reviewed periodically. Tourism operators must be made accountable for the safety of their customers. Before granting new licences, authorities should examine whether the institutions have proper safety arrangements, trained personnel, emergency communication systems and disaster-management plans. Regular inspections should also be mandatory.

This becomes even more important in India because a large section of the population is devotional. Pilgrims often have tremendous faith and may be willing to undertake journeys even under difficult or dangerous circumstances. Their devotion should be respected, but it should never be allowed to become a reason for putting their lives at risk. Governments have a responsibility to ensure that faith and tourism go together with safety.

We cannot stop nature from showing its power. But we can certainly prepare ourselves better to face it. A responsible tourism policy should aim not merely at increasing tourist numbers, but at ensuring that every journey is safe, well-informed and properly managed. Tourism should bring happiness and memorable experiences-not tragedy. India must learn from every natural disaster and build a tourism system where safety is given the highest priority.

- Editor

A Shattered Mirror: 'When the Music Changes' and the Harsh Realities of Urban Vulnerability for Women

American - Indian actor and director, Lakshmi Devy's *When the Music Changes* is not merely a cinematic endeavour; it is a brutal, unyielding mirror held up to a society caught in a turbulent, often dangerous transition. As India navigates the influx of globalized, modern lifestyles, the traditional reverence for women-deeply rooted in ancient cultural frameworks that viewed them as the foundation of the household and figures of profound respect-is increasingly colliding with imported urban vulnerabilities. The film captures the horrifying reality faced by countless young women whose lives are abruptly shattered, forced to carry the weight of a trauma they must spend a lifetime trying to navigate.

A scene from the film

To understand the genesis of the violence depicted in the film, one must examine the pervasive visual and media culture surrounding us. Decades spent observing and navigating the mass communication and advertising industries reveal a disturbing, normalized trend: the relentless commodification of women to sell products and narratives. This continuous objectification conditions the collective mind-set, slowly stripping away reverence and replacing it with a sense of consumption and entitlement. When women are consistently framed as commodities on billboards, screens, and in print, the psychological leap for some men to treat them as mere objects of conquest in real life becomes tragically small.

Director and Actor Lakshmi Devy.

This deep-seated conditioning creates fertile ground for the tragedy that unfolds in the film. The assault depicted is not born of isolated passion, but of twisted egos and a desire for dominance. As the group of men descends upon the protagonist, the film chillingly illustrates the darkest aspects of group psychology: Within the pack, individual morality evaporates. Deindividuation takes hold, and the psychological burden of guilt is entirely diffused among the perpetrators. Because the horrific act is shared, no single individual feels



entirely culpable, allowing a dangerous mob mentality to override rational thought or human empathy. In that moment, ordinary individuals transform into absolute monsters, fuelled by the escalating, unchecked energy of the group. The profound tragedy of *When the Music Changes* extends far beyond the physical assault; it lies in the stark, immutable truth of the aftermath. In our current reality, a gendered double standard persists with cruel resilience. If the roles were reversed, a young man might bizarrely find his social standing unaffected, perhaps even perversely enhanced in certain toxic circles. But for a young woman, the incident fractures her world. Despite the pro-

tagonist's powerful, necessary declaration at the end of the film-that her honour, dignity, and self-respect remain untarnished-the reality on the ground is often far less forgiving. Society, regardless of how modern it claims to be, tends to view the survivor through a tinted, permanent "yellow glass." The stigma lingers heavily, making the rebuilding of a life a monumental struggle where the victim is forced to bear the consequences of a crime she did not commit.

This brings us to a critical societal failure highlighted by the very existence of such narratives. Often, public commentators and human rights activists emerge only in the aftermath, holding candlelight vigils in the streets when it is already too late. While they advocate fiercely for ultimate personal freedoms and the right to reclaim the night, they frequently neglect the urgent, practical need to advise young women on the immediate, unvarnished dangers of their environments. Sweet psychological terms, post-incident moral outrage, and even the strictest law and order systems do not turn back the clock on a tragedy.

Therefore, *When the Music Changes* must serve as an urgent cautionary tale, prompting vital conversations within families, especially for young girls stepping into the independence of metropolitan cities and upcoming towns. For those moving away from the safety of home for studies or work, embracing a newfound life must be paired with acute situational awareness.

Advice for Families and Young Women

When *The Music Changes* is a diffi-

Ram Kamal



Social Engineer

cult watch, but a necessary one all families with girl children to watch. It strips away the illusion of safety, reminding us that until society undergoes a fundamental, systemic rewiring in how it

views and values women, vigilance remains the strongest shield we possess.

When the *Music Change* as a mirror to hold in front of the young girls to understand the consequences. As the film rightly said, 'life can change in an instant. Sometimes, all it takes is one moment for everything to be different'.

The film acknowledges the reality. Families must bridge the gap between traditional protective values and the modern urban reality. We must acknowledge that society is still taking baby steps toward genuine civic sense and personal responsibility.

We need vigilance over idealism in this uncertain world. Young women must be advised that while the fight for their absolute freedom is valid, their physical safety must take precedence. The dangers of roaming in the wee hours of the night, or placing blind trust in newly formed, untested groups of friends or friend's friends, are not archaic myths but a present day risks. Test the water before entering into the group. It is must for families to teach their children on situational awareness. Independence requires strategy. Understanding the dynamics of new social circles, recognizing the signs of escalating toxic behaviour (as seen early in the film), and maintaining strong, reliable communication with family or trusted guardians is essential. Also all must aware that the GenZ is less intelligent, pragmatic and less in commonsense than the previous generations and all studies prove this fact too.

Safety and self-preservation must be the first choice for all girls. Protecting oneself from the very real dangers lurking in modern urban environments is not a surrender of rights, it is the most crucial step in protection and prevention.

When the *Music Changes* is a powerful independent feature film in English, perfectly made out of GenZ, that explores love, loss, resilience, and the choices that shape who we become. Through emotionally rich performances and intimate storytelling, the film takes viewers on a deeply human journey that lingers long after the final scene. Written, directed, produced by, and starring Lakshmi Devy presented this film with Executive Producer John Turturro. The director of photography Abhinandan Ramanujam deserves a credit for his natural lighting skills.

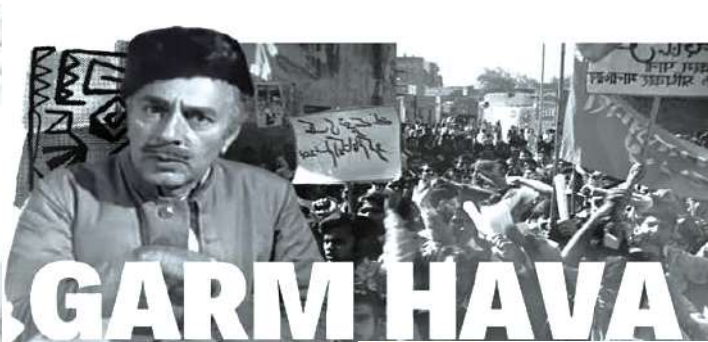
Born in New York, Lakshmi Devy is an Actress, Director, Screenwriter and Producer of Indian descent. She shuttles between New York and India and is well tuned to both cultures. From an early age, Lakshmi expressed an artistic talent and passion for the performing arts. She is a trained classical Bharathanatyam dancer. As the director, Lakshmi Devy also performed the lead character and victim with powerful acting skills with a natural flow.

My only objection was the dialogues and the overuse of the word "**** *G, and a few of the acting expressions are a reflection of how badly India is copying the bad street English, imported careless and emotionless culture. Even though *When the Music Changes* is a celebration of independent cinema and authentic storytelling, a little consideration could have been given to the screenplay and mannerisms.

Watch the movie: <https://youtu.be/qoBzZxMELWc?si=eZqMLkXjBk31Rijh>

How Far Has Cinema Done Justice to the History of Partition?

Garm Hava, Train to Pakistan, Tamas, Pinjar, Main Vaapas Aaunga - History, Wound and Memory



one of the most significant Indian films about Partition. Released in 1973, it does not depend primarily on scenes of bloodshed. Instead, it enters the life of a Muslim family that remains in India after Partition.

Countries may be divided. Borders may be drawn. Maps may be redrawn. But human memory has no borders.

The Partition of India in 1947 was not merely a political decision or a cartographic exercise. It was a human catastrophe that shook millions of lives. Homes, villages, property, relationships, friendships, loves and childhood memories were suddenly divided into "this side" and "the other side" of an invisible line.

That is why Partition has returned again and again to Indian cinema, like a wound that refuses to heal. *Garm Hava*, *Train to Pakistan*, *Tamas* and *Pinjar* have approached that wound from very different directions. *Main Vaapas Aaunga* takes the journey a step further, moving from history into the deeper territory of memory. But an unavoidable question remains: How far have these films really done justice to the history of Partition?

There is no simple answer. These films are not history textbooks. They are works of art that attempt to show how human beings experienced history. Their value, therefore, cannot be measured merely by the number of historical events they contain. What matters is whether they have honestly, sensitively and responsibly conveyed some essential truth of that history. *Garm Hava*: When a Country Changes, Does a Home Change Too?

M. S. Sathya's *Garm Hava* remains



becomes a carrier of the dead. And yet, in the darkness, the love between Juggut Singh and Nooran remains like a small human lamp. *Train to Pakistan* does not attempt to narrate the whole history of Partition. Instead, it shows what happens when a vast political catastrophe enters the lives of ordinary people. Its achievement lies precisely there: it transforms history from an abstract event into a human experience. *Tamas*: Who Creates the Darkness? Govind Nihalani's *Tamas*, based on Bhisham Sahni's novel, examines Partition through a deeper political and social lens. The question here is not merely, "Who killed whom?"

It is: How did human beings reach a point where they were prepared to kill one another? A rumour. A corpse. A religious symbol. A political conspiracy. When such elements converge, communal hatred can spread with terrifying speed. *Tamas* is therefore particularly important for understanding Partition because it does not merely portray victims of violence. It examines the social and political machinery through which vio-



lence is manufactured. In that sense, *Tamas* is among the films that approach Partition with an especially strong sense of historical responsibility. It asks us not only to remember the violence, but to understand how societies can be manipulated into producing it. *Pinjar*: The Border Drawn on a Woman's Body

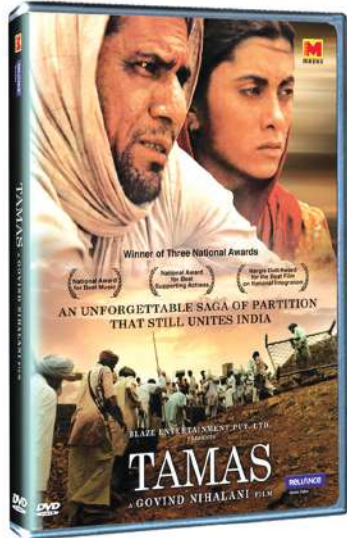
Chandraprakash Dwivedi's *Pinjar*, based on Amrita Pritam's novel, brought another neglected dimension of Partition into the centre of the conversation: the experience of women. When countries were divided, women's bodies, freedom, families and futures were also subjected to violence. Abduction, sexual assault, forced marriage, religious conversion and the rejection of women in the name of family honour formed some of the darkest chapters of Partition. Through Puro's story, *Pinjar* asks an unsettling question: Why did a border drawn in the name of nations become a cage around a woman's life? The film does not claim to tell the entire story of Partition. Instead, it gives a voice to women whose suffering was too often pushed to the margins of historical memory. Its great contribution is to remind us that Partition was not merely a division of territory. It entered the most intimate spaces of human existence. *Main Vaapas Aaunga*: When History Becomes Memory

At this point, *Main Vaapas Aaunga* marks an interesting turn in the cinematic journey through

Varala Anand



Poet, Film Critic & Recipient of Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award for Translation



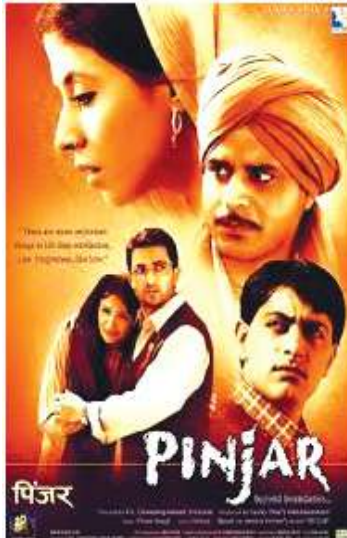
Partition. It does not look at Partition simply as an event that happened in 1947. It explores how that event continued to live inside the memory of a generation that eventually grew old.

The house left behind in Sargodha. Childhood. Love. A familiar street. A world that once seemed permanent.

The country changed. The border changed. But memory did not. Here, "vaapas"-return-is not merely a journey back to a geographical location.

It is a return to childhood. A return to love. A return to home. A return to the person one once was.

That is where the film finds its distinctive emotional territory. The house left behind is no longer merely a property. It becomes a repository of identity. The lost street becomes a landscape of memory. The distant homeland becomes an interior geography that cannot be erased by political borders. But How Much Justice Can Cinema Do to History? Here, a degree of caution is necessary. Partition was not simply the story



of one person losing a home. It was the outcome of colonial rule, political negotiations and conflicts, the Mountbatten Plan, the Radcliffe boundary, the division of Punjab and Bengal, mass migration, communal killings, violence against women, refugee rehabilitation and the long-term consequences for India-Pakistan relations.

No single film can encompass this enormous and complex history. But that is also the inevitable limitation of cinema.

Garm Hava chooses the experience of a family rather than the complete political history of Partition. *Train to Pakistan* chooses the tragedy of a village rather than the history of an entire subcontinent. *Tamas* examines the making of communal hatred. *Pinjar* enters the experience of women and the violence inflicted upon their bodies and identities. *Main Vaapas Aaunga* chooses memory. These films, therefore, are not the complete portrait of Partition. They are different fragments of the same immense historical canvas. And perhaps that is precisely how Partition has to be remembered-not as one finished narrative, but as a collection of millions of unfinished human stories.

Kharge Seeks Clarity On Special Parliament Session



Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking clarity on reports that the Centre may convene a special session of Parliament to introduce legislation related to delimitation. Kharge has described delimitation as an issue of major national importance and urged the government to clearly state its intentions before taking any legislative step. The Congress has also reiterated its demand that the existing strength of the Lok Sabha should remain unchanged for the next 25 years. Delimitation involves redrawing parliamentary constituencies based on population figures. The issue has become politically sensitive because several states, particularly in southern India, fear that population-based delimitation could alter the current balance of representation in Parliament. The Congress argues that states which successfully implemented population-control measures should not be penalised through a reduction in their political representation. Party leaders have repeatedly raised concerns that states with larger populations could gain a greater share of Lok Sabha seats under a new delimitation exercise. Kharge has therefore called for broad consultations involving political parties and state governments before any decision is taken. The Congress wants the Centre to clarify whether a special session is actually being planned and whether new delimitation Bills could be introduced. The issue is also linked to the Census and the constitutional requirement for a fresh delimitation exercise after the first Census conducted following 2026. Any change in the distribution of parliamentary constituencies could have long-term political consequences. The debate has gained further significance because delimitation is closely connected with women's reservation in Parliament. The implementation of the reservation law is expected to be linked to the completion of the delimitation process. Opposition parties have been demanding greater transparency over the government's plans, arguing that such a major constitutional and political exercise should not be undertaken without consensus. With political parties already preparing for future elections, the delimitation issue is likely to become increasingly contentious. Kharge's letter has once again brought the subject into the national spotlight, with the Congress insisting that federal balance and the interests of all states must be protected before any new delimitation exercise is undertaken.

Tharoor Urges Media To Avoid Boasting

Congress MP and former diplomat Shashi Tharoor has welcomed India's swift response to the devastating flash floods in Nepal, while urging Indian media outlets to avoid excessive publicity or "boasting" about the assistance being provided. Speaking at the NDTV World Anviksha Summit in Kathmandu, Tharoor said India had done the right thing by responding quickly to Nepal's crisis. He described the immediate relief assistance as the natural responsibility of a close neighbour and said more help should be provided if required. At the same time, Tharoor recalled India's experience during Nepal's earthquake and warned that the way humanitarian assistance is presented can affect bilateral relations. He said India had provided substantial help at the time, but sections of the Indian media had highlighted the assistance in a manner that created resentment among Nepalis. According to Tharoor, people facing a disaster do not need to be repeatedly reminded that another country is helping them. He argued that the media should show the same sensitivity towards India-Nepal relations as the government does. His remarks come as India has begun sending emergency relief material to flood-hit Nepal. The assistance is aimed at supporting rescue and recovery efforts after devastating floods swept through parts of the Himalayan nation, destroying homes, bridges, roads and other infrastructure. The disaster has also affected a large number of Indian nationals, including pilgrims travelling towards the Kailash Mansarovar region. Families across India are seeking information about relatives who remain missing or stranded. Tharoor stressed that Nepal needs all the assistance it can receive at this critical moment. He also called for a broader change in India's approach towards its Himalayan neighbour, arguing that New Delhi should engage with Nepal as a sovereign and equal country. The former diplomat said strong bilateral relations require sensitivity and mutual respect, particularly during moments of crisis. Humanitarian assistance, he suggested, should strengthen the relationship rather than create a perception of superiority. With rescue operations still underway, India's support is expected to continue. Tharoor's message is that while helping a neighbour during a catastrophe is important, how that help is communicated can be equally significant for long-term India-Nepal ties.

Top Law School Cancels Convocation Amid Row

The National Law School of India University (NLSIU) in Bengaluru has cancelled its 34th annual convocation for the graduating batch of 2026, citing "unavoidable circumstances". The ceremony was earlier scheduled to take place on September 12. The cancellation comes amid growing opposition from students and alumni over the proposed participation of Bar Council of India Chairman Manan Kumar Mishra and Chief Justice of India Surya Kant at the convocation. According to the university, the degrees of graduating students will instead be conferred in absentia, subject to approval from the appropriate governing bodies. Students will be given the option of receiving their certificates by courier or collecting them directly from the campus. The controversy has its roots in a wider dispute involving the BCI and another premier law institution, NALSAR University of Law in Hyderabad. Earlier this month, the BCI had temporarily halted the enrolment of NALSAR's 2026 graduating batch after students objected to the proposed presence of CJI Surya Kant at their convocation. The decision was withdrawn within hours. The episode triggered strong reactions from students and alumni, who accused the BCI of attempting to suppress dissent. At NLSIU too, students and alumni opposed the proposed attendance of the BCI chairman and the CJI. More than 700 students and alumni reportedly signed a statement objecting to the developments and demanding an unconditional apology from the BCI to the student and faculty community of NALSAR. Students at NLSIU described the BCI's earlier actions as an attack on free speech. They also criticised a directive seeking information about students and faculty members involved in the campaign against the proposed participation of the legal officials. Amid the growing tensions, CJI Surya Kant reportedly held an interaction with NLSIU students to understand their concerns. The cancellation of the convocation has now added another dimension to the controversy. Instead of celebrating their graduation together, the 2026 batch will receive their degrees through an alternative process. The development has sparked a wider debate over student dissent, institutional autonomy and the relationship between law students and regulatory bodies.



PM Modi Set For Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan Visit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to undertake a four-day visit to Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan from August 29 to September 1, with the trip expected to strengthen India's engagement with Central Asia and deepen cooperation on regional and global issues. Modi will first visit Uzbekistan on August 29 and 30 for bilateral talks with President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. The visit comes as India seeks to expand its strategic partnership with Uzbekistan in areas including trade, connectivity, defence, technology, energy and regional security. From Uzbekistan, the Prime Minister will travel to Bishkek in Kyrgyzstan to participate in the 26th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit on August 31 and September 1. The summit will bring together leaders of major Eurasian countries to discuss regional security, economic cooperation and development. The SCO meeting is expected to focus on terrorism, connectivity,



trade, energy and broader regional stability. Discussions on strengthening economic cooperation within the grouping are also likely to receive attention, including the proposed SCO Development Bank. Modi's visit is also significant against the backdrop of evolving India-China relations. Recent diplomatic contacts between New

Delhi and Beijing have indicated efforts to stabilise bilateral ties and maintain dialogue on important issues. The SCO summit could provide an opportunity for Modi to engage with Chinese President Xi Jinping and other regional leaders. Russian President Vladimir Putin is also expected to meet Modi on the sidelines of the sum-

mit, adding importance to the gathering for India's engagement with Moscow. India has traditionally viewed Central Asia as strategically important because of its geographical location, natural resources and connectivity potential. However, geographical barriers and the lack of direct land access have complicated New Delhi's efforts to expand economic links with the region. The upcoming visit therefore carries significance beyond routine diplomacy. It reflects India's effort to strengthen its presence in Central Asia, maintain strategic partnerships with Russia and other regional powers, and pursue its broader multi-alignment policy. Modi's engagements in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan are expected to give fresh momentum to India's Central Asia strategy while providing an important platform to discuss regional security, connectivity, trade and economic cooperation.

Nearly 300 Indians Missing In Nepal Floods

Nepal is facing a devastating humanitarian crisis after massive flash floods struck the Rasuwa region near the Nepal-Tibet border, leaving at least 160 people dead and thousands unaccounted for. Nepal Foreign Minister Shishir Khanal said nearly 300 Indian nationals, many of them pilgrims travelling for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, have been reported missing. Around 500 foreign nationals in total are currently out of contact. The disaster struck suddenly, sending huge volumes of muddy water, rocks and debris through settlements along the river system. Entire towns and villages were severely damaged within hours, with homes, roads, bridges and other infrastructure either washed away or buried under mud. Speaking about the situation, Khanal described the scale of the destruction as unprecedented. He said thousands of families had lost their homes and that authorities were still trying to determine the full extent of the disaster.



The large number of missing Indians has raised serious concerns in India, particularly because many were believed to be pilgrims travelling through the region. Families are anxiously waiting for information about their relatives as rescue teams struggle to reach affected areas. Nepal's security forces and emergency agencies have launched extensive search-and-rescue oper-

ations. However, the destruction of roads and bridges has made access to several locations extremely difficult. Communication networks have also been disrupted in some areas, complicating efforts to establish contact with people stranded in remote locations. Nepal's army has rescued more than 100 people from Timure in Rasuwa, while rescue teams continue operations in the worst-hit

areas. Authorities are also assessing the damage and providing emergency assistance to survivors. India is coordinating with Nepal to locate its citizens and assist those affected by the disaster. Indian authorities are closely monitoring the situation and working with Nepalese agencies on rescue and relief operations. The disaster has also affected areas on the Tibetan side of the border, with significant casualties and infrastructure damage reported there. For Nepal, the immediate priorities are rescuing survivors, locating missing people and providing shelter and medical assistance. For India, the focus remains on tracing missing nationals and ensuring the safe return of those stranded. With thousands of people still unaccounted for, the full scale of the tragedy remains unclear. Rescue teams are continuing their efforts amid extremely challenging conditions, while families on both sides of the border wait anxiously for news of their loved ones.

New Myanmar Drug Route Alarms Assam

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has raised serious concerns over the emergence of a new drug trafficking route from Myanmar through Arunachal Pradesh into Assam. Sarma said drug traffickers who previously relied on the Moreh-Manipur corridor are now attempting to use a different route through Changlang district in Arunachal Pradesh before reaching Tinsukia in Assam. The new corridor came to light during investigations into recent drug trafficking cases. Describing the development as a "very worrying signal" for Upper Assam, the Chief Minister said the changing routes showed that drug networks were attempting to evade intensified enforcement measures. He warned that authorities would continue to target traffickers regardless of which route they chose. Assam has significantly intensified its crackdown on narcotics in recent weeks. According to Sarma, authorities



recently seized drugs worth around ₹80 crore that were allegedly being transported towards Punjab. He said the scale of the seizure highlighted the growing challenge posed by organised drug networks operating across state and international borders. The emergence of the new route has also increased concerns because Arunachal Pradesh

shares a long and difficult-to-monitor border with Myanmar. The mountainous terrain and remote locations can make surveillance and enforcement particularly challenging. Officials said drug-producing networks in Myanmar have historically used India's Northeast as a transit corridor. The latest shift indicates that trafficking groups may be constantly chang-

ing their routes to avoid security agencies. Arunachal Pradesh has also stepped up its own anti-drug operations, with authorities arresting several people allegedly involved in narcotics trafficking. Sarma has made the fight against drugs a major priority for his government and has repeatedly called for stronger coordination between law-enforcement agencies across the Northeast. The latest development has therefore triggered concerns not only for Assam but for the wider region. Authorities fear that the new corridor could expand if traffickers are not stopped at an early stage. Sarma has made it clear that changing routes will not weaken the government's crackdown. With increased surveillance, seizures and arrests expected along the Myanmar-Arunachal-Assam corridor, security agencies are now focusing on preventing the emerging route from becoming an established drug-trafficking network.

MP School Education Department Tops Payment Probe

Madhya Pradesh's School Education Department has emerged as the department with the highest number of offices flagged in a statewide investigation into suspected irregularities in government payments. The probe is examining transactions worth around ₹648 crore made through the state's financial management system. The investigation is being conducted by the State Financial Intelligence Cell, which was established to identify suspicious payment patterns through the government treasury system. Officials said the investigation covers transactions suspected to be irregular, fraudulent, duplicated or excessive. Of the 187 Drawing and Disbursing Offices flagged across various government departments, 45 belong to the School Education Department. This is the highest number among all departments. The Revenue Department follows with 43 flagged offices, while the Tribal Affairs Department has 26. The investigation has identified around ₹349 crore in irregular



transfers and another ₹299 crore in payments categorised as suspicious, fraudulent, duplicate or excessive. However, officials have cautioned that these figures represent transactions that triggered alerts and do not automatically mean that the entire amount was misappropriated. Investigators have also identified nearly ₹305 crore across 199 suspicious transactions involving trans-

fers to private bank accounts linked to government officials, employees and their relatives. Another ₹293 crore meant to remain in Treasury Personal Deposit accounts was reportedly transferred to other bank accounts. The probe has uncovered several weaknesses in the government payment system. These include duplicate employee codes, changes

to registered mobile numbers, shared login credentials and mismatches between employee records and bank-account details. Such vulnerabilities could potentially facilitate unauthorised or duplicate payments. Authorities have already recovered around ₹56 crore and reversed irregular transfers worth nearly ₹164 crore, bringing the amount addressed so far to approximately ₹220 crore. Where investigations indicate criminal wrongdoing, cases have been referred for further action, with FIRs reportedly registered against more than 50 officials over the past three years. Following the findings, the Madhya Pradesh government has introduced additional safeguards, including stronger system validation, restrictions on changing registered mobile numbers, payment limits and mandatory two-factor authentication. The investigation is continuing, with officials examining the flagged transactions to determine which cases involve genuine errors and which may point to financial misconduct.



FDA Cancels Cipla Unit's Drug Licence

Mumbai: The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has cancelled the drug sale licences of Cipla Pharma & Life Sciences Ltd's Carry and Forwarding (C&F) unit in Pune, citing serious irregularities in the packaging, storage and recall of Reactin Plus Tablets.

According to an FDA statement issued on Friday, the cancellation took effect on August 27 following inspections of the company's main warehouse at Wadki in Pune district.

The regulator said its inspections uncovered several deficiencies in the unit's drug storage and distribution systems. Medicines were found stored directly on the floor, while arrangements involving pallets and racks were deemed inadequate. The FDA also identified shortcomings in procedures and record-keeping related to expired medicines.

During an inspection conducted around June, officials found that the packaging of Reactin Plus Tablets, a Schedule H prescription medicine, carried an unauthorised claim describing the product as an "analgesic and antipyretic". The FDA said the claim violated provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and the Drugs Rules, 1945.



Following the discovery, the regulator seized stock valued at Rs 11.19 lakh and directed the company to recall the misbranded tablets from the market.

However, the FDA said Cipla Pharma & Life Sciences did not fully comply with the recall directions and other measures required

by the regulator. A subsequent inspection of the C&F unit's sale and distribution system revealed further irregularities.

These included discrepancies between purchase and sale records and the actual computerised stock, as well as differences between physical inventory and computerised records. The FDA also flagged deficiencies in storage arrangements and the procedures

followed for handling expired medicines.

The regulator subsequently issued a show-cause notice to the licence holder, seeking an explanation for the violations. After examining the company's response, the FDA concluded that the deficiencies had not been adequately addressed and that directions relating to the recall of Reactin Plus Tablets had not been properly complied with.

FDA Commissioner Tukaram Mundhe said the department would take a strict approach to violations involving drug safety and public health.

He particularly highlighted the importance of compliance in the advertising, sale, storage and distribution of Schedule H prescription medicines. Mundhe said any violation of rules by entities involved in the manufacture or distribution of medicines would invite action under the law.

The cancellation represents a regulatory setback for Cipla's Pune distribution operations and underlines the increasing scrutiny of pharmaceutical companies over drug labelling, inventory management, storage standards and compliance with recall orders.

Sensex, Nifty Rise on IT Rally



Mumbai: Indian equity benchmarks ended higher on Friday, snapping a two-session losing streak as strong gains in technology stocks helped offset weakness across several key sectors. Investors drew confidence from the overnight rally in US technology shares, with renewed optimism over artificial intelligence spending providing a major boost to domestic IT stocks. The Sensex gained 330.92 points, or 0.43 per cent, to close at 77,264.51. The Nifty 50 advanced 84.80 points, or 0.35 per cent, ending the session at 24,175.65. The Nifty IT index was the standout performer, surging 3.5 per cent as investors returned to technology counters following the recent selloff. The sector tracked gains in global technology stocks after Nvidia reported strong second-quarter results and offered an upbeat revenue outlook, reinforcing expectations of continued spending on AI infrastructure and related technologies. Among individual stocks, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) rose 4.09 per cent, emerging as one of the biggest gainers on the Nifty. Infosys climbed 3.34 per cent, while Tech Mahindra advanced 3.18 per cent and HCL Technologies gained 2.68 per cent. The rally in IT stocks provided crucial support to the benchmark indices despite muted participation from financial stocks. The Bank Nifty ended almost unchanged, slipping 0.02 per cent to 57,496.30. Sector-wise, metal and pharmaceutical stocks also performed strongly, supported by selective buying interest. However, FMCG, energy and automobile stocks remained under pressure as investors booked profits. FMCG companies were particularly affected by concerns over rising raw material costs, which could put pressure on margins. The broader market remained relatively resilient. The Nifty Smallcap 100 gained 0.20 per cent and continued to trade close to its record-high levels. The Nifty Midcap 100 was largely flat, edging up 0.05 per cent, highlighting selective participation rather than a broad-based buying trend. Despite Friday's gains, investors remained cautious because Brent crude oil prices continued to trade above \$85 a barrel. Elevated crude prices remain a concern for India because the country relies heavily on imports to meet its energy requirements and higher oil prices can put pressure on inflation and the trade balance. Market participants will now closely monitor developments from the Jackson Hole symposium over the weekend. Comments from global central bankers, particularly on inflation, interest rates and the future direction of monetary policy, could influence market sentiment in the coming sessions. Overall, the week's final session reflected a recovery led primarily by technology stocks, while investors continued to remain watchful of global interest rate signals, crude prices and domestic sector-specific trends.

NTPC Plans Rs.16.86 Lakh Crore Capex by 2037



New Delhi: State-run power giant NTPC plans to significantly expand its generation and energy infrastructure capacity, targeting 244 GW of operational capacity by 2037, Chairman and Managing Director Gurdeep Singh said.

Addressing the company's 50th Annual General Meeting, Singh said NTPC expects strong growth over the coming decade as India's electricity demand rises alongside economic expansion and improvements in living standards.

NTPC currently has an installed operational capacity of around 91 GW. The company has now set more ambitious long-term capacity targets, aiming to increase its capacity to 149 GW by 2032, including 60 GW from renewable energy sources.

The target is expected to rise further to 244 GW by 2037, reflecting the company's strategy to expand beyond conventional thermal power and build a diversified energy portfolio.

To support this expansion, NTPC plans to undertake capital expenditure of approximately Rs.16.86 lakh crore across multiple segments through the financial year 2036-37. The planned investments will cover thermal power, hydropower, pumped-storage projects, renewable energy, battery storage, mining and nuclear power.

The company expects a growing share of renewable and storage capacity to complement its conventional generation portfolio as India's energy requirements increase and the country continues its transition towards cleaner sources of electricity.

Singh said rising incomes, economic activity and improving living standards would drive higher electricity consumption in the years ahead. NTPC's long-term investment programme is therefore aimed at ensuring adequate generation capacity while supporting India's broader energy-security requirements.

The expansion across thermal, hydro, renewable and storage projects is also expected to provide NTPC with greater flexibility in managing changing patterns of electricity demand. Investments in pumped storage and battery systems could help address the intermittency associated with renewable power generation.

The company's plans to enter or expand its presence in areas such as nuclear energy and mining further underline its ambition to build an integrated energy portfolio.

NTPC's proposed Rs.16.86 lakh crore investment programme represents one of the country's largest long-term power-sector expansion plans. The company is expected to play a key role in meeting India's rising electricity demand while balancing the need for energy security, capacity expansion and a gradual shift towards cleaner energy sources.

With the 2032 and 2037 targets substantially higher than its current capacity, NTPC is preparing for a major expansion phase over the next decade as India seeks to strengthen its power infrastructure and support sustained economic growth.

EV Market May Hit Rs.20 Lakh Crore by 2030

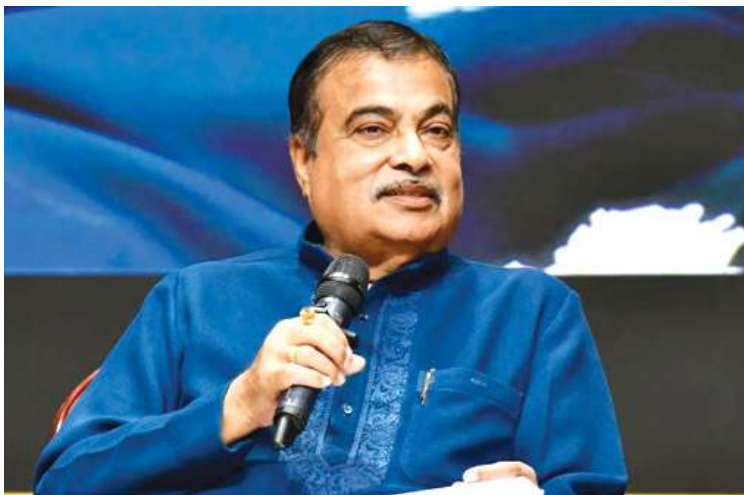
New Delhi: India's electric vehicle (EV) market could expand to around Rs.20 lakh crore by 2030 and generate nearly five crore jobs, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said.

Speaking at a conference organised by the CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development, Gadkari said 5.7 million electric vehicles had been registered in the country so far, accounting for around 7 per cent of the overall vehicle market.

He highlighted the growing potential of India's EV ecosystem and said the sector could become a major source of employment and economic growth over the coming years.

Gadkari said leading two-wheeler manufacturers Bajaj Auto and Hero MotoCorp were already exporting more than half of the vehicles they produce, reflecting the increasing competitiveness of India's automobile industry in global markets.

The minister also pointed to a significant gap between demand and production in the electric bus segment. India has annual demand



for around one lakh electric buses, but manufacturers currently have the capacity to produce only about 50,000-60,000 units, he said. The government, Gadkari added, aims to make India's automobile industry the world's leading vehicle manufacturing sector within the next five years. He attributed India's potential success to the combination of competitive pricing and improving quality of vehicles manufactured domestically.

Gadkari said the size of India's automobile industry had increased substantially since he took charge as the road transport minister. The industry's value, which stood at around Rs.14 lakh crore at the time, has now grown to approximately Rs.23 lakh crore. For comparison, he said the US automobile industry is valued at around Rs.78 lakh crore, while

China's is estimated at approximately Rs.47 lakh crore, indicating significant room for further expansion of India's automotive sector.

The minister also stressed the importance of reducing India's dependence on imported fuel. The country currently imports fuel worth around Rs.22 lakh crore annually, he said, adding that bio-fuels are expected to play an increasingly important role in the transport sector in the future.

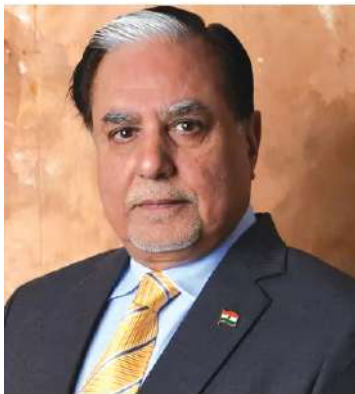
Gadkari further said improvements in the country's road infrastructure had helped bring down logistics costs significantly. Logistics expenses have declined from around 16 per cent to 10 per cent, and the government's target is to reduce them further to 8 per cent. The expansion of EV manufacturing, increased exports, alternative fuels and lower logistics costs are expected to strengthen India's position as a global automobile manufacturing hub. The government is also banking on rising domestic demand and technological development to accelerate the transition towards cleaner mobility.

Subhash Chandra Says Claim Is Rs.3,992 Crore

New Delhi: Essel Group founder Subhash Chandra has clarified that the total claim against him in his personal insolvency proceedings is Rs.3,992 crore, and not Rs.22,006.57 crore as widely reported. He said he was only a personal guarantor for loans taken by companies and was not himself a borrower.

Chandra's clarification comes amid widespread discussion over the National Company Law Tribunal's (NCLT) approval of a resolution plan under which only Rs.6.5 crore would be paid against claims of Rs.22,006.57 crore in his personal insolvency case. The approval had raised concerns among lenders over the extent of recovery.

Responding to the reports on Thursday, Chandra said the total amount claimed against him was Rs.3,992 crore. Of this, claims amounting to Rs.620 crore have already been resolved, while companies that had borrowed the money have agreed to repay another Rs.1,063 crore, he said.



Chandra further claimed that companies that had borrowed funds against his personal guarantees had already repaid around Rs.43,000 crore. He said the concerned companies had also assured lenders that the remaining amounts would be settled. How the Case Began

The insolvency proceedings originated with a Rs.170-crore loan taken by Vivek Infracon, which

subsequently turned into a non-performing asset. Chandra had provided a personal guarantee for the loan.

After the lender approached the NCLT and insolvency proceedings were initiated, other entities with claims against Chandra joined the process. This eventually pushed the aggregate claims submitted in the proceedings to Rs.22,006 crore. The claims included loans taken by companies associated with the Essel and Zee Network groups for which Chandra had provided personal guarantees. Chandra, however, maintains that these figures should not be treated as loans personally borrowed by him.

HDFC Bank to Appeal
HDFC Bank has announced that it will challenge the approval of the resolution plan, joining lenders who had opposed it on the grounds that the recovery was too low.

The lenders, led by LIC Housing Finance, had argued that the plan should not be approved because of the limited recovery. Their objections were rejected by the tribunal.

HDFC Bank said its claim of around Rs.680 crore would result in a recovery of only about 3.2 per cent under the approved plan. The bank also said the loan had been sourced from its parent entity, HDFC.

Vijay Mallya Reacts
Fugitive businessman Vijay Mallya, who is currently in the UK, reacted sarcastically to the development. He congratulated Chandra if the reported resolution was accurate and drew a comparison with his own case.

Mallya said the court-determined amount outstanding against him was Rs.6,203 crore, while banks and the government had acknowledged recovery of Rs.14,100 crore. He also pointed to other borrowers who, according to him, had settled their liabilities by paying substantially smaller amounts.

Mallya described the situation as an example of what he called India's approach to debt-resolution law.

Sandhya Devanathan to Join OpenAI

New Delhi: Sandhya Devanathan, Meta's Vice President and Head for India and Southeast Asia, is stepping down from the social media company after more than a decade to take up a leadership role at OpenAI. Devanathan announced her departure in a social media post on Friday, describing the decision as "bittersweet". She said she would take a short break before sharing details about her next chapter. Devanathan will join OpenAI in October 2026 to lead its operations across Southeast Asia and Australia. In her new role, she will oversee consumer growth, enterprise adoption, partnerships, engagement with authorities and regional operations for the ChatGPT maker. Her move comes at a time when OpenAI is expand-

ing its presence across international markets and focusing on increasing adoption among consumers, businesses and other organisations.

Meta's Asia-Pacific leadership acknowledged Devanathan's contribution to the company. Benjamin Joe, Meta's Vice President for Asia Pacific, thanked her for her work and said Arun Srinivas, Meta's Managing Director and Country Head for India, would join his leadership team and help build on the company's existing foundation in the country. Devanathan joined Meta more than 10 years ago, beginning her journey when the company had around 300 employees in Singapore. During her tenure, she worked across multiple sectors



and markets, including e-commerce and gaming. She became Meta's Vice President for Asia-Pacific Gaming in 2020. In 2023, she was appointed Vice President and head of Meta India, before expanding her responsibilities to Southeast Asia in 2025. Reflecting on her tenure, Devanathan said she had the opportunity to work with startups, businesses, creators and ecosystem partners across India and Southeast Asia. She also

highlighted the evolving role of Meta's platforms in the region.

According to Devanathan, WhatsApp has increasingly been used to support government citizen services in India, while Meta platforms have helped small businesses expand in markets such as Vietnam, Indonesia and Thailand. She said that although Meta's products and teams had evolved considerably during her tenure, its commitment to clients remained consistent. Devanathan also expressed pride in the teams she worked with, particularly as the technology industry underwent rapid changes. She thanked employees, businesses, ecosystem partners, non-profit organisations and creators for their support and collaboration.

Classmates Turn Their Love For Telugu Into A Digital Mission

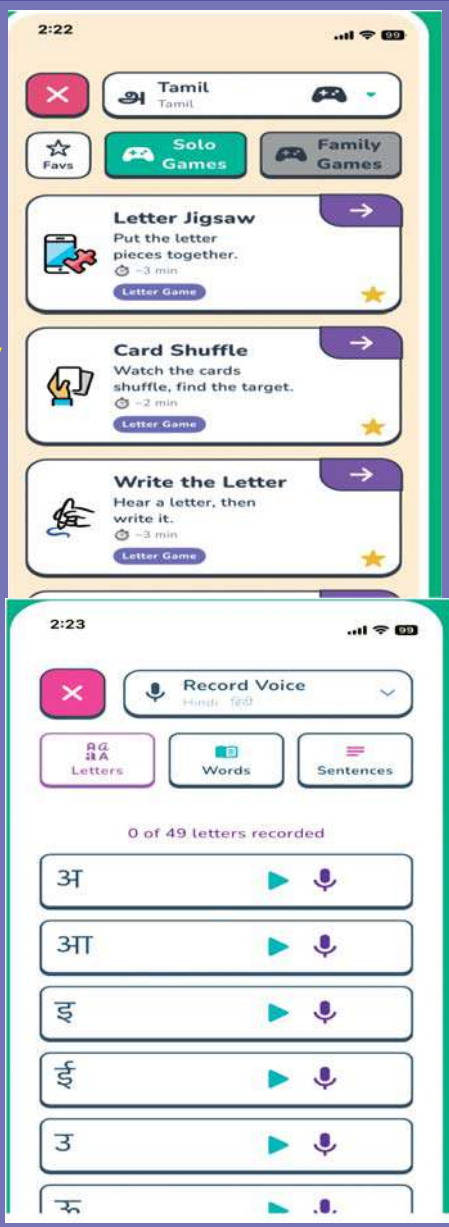
Shivaranjani Cherukupalli
A childhood friendship, a shared love for Telugu and a concern about the changing relationship between children and their mother tongue have culminated in a technology venture after nearly a decade of persistence. Kollu Ranjit, who hails from Vijayawada and is settled in Boston as a Senior Principal Software Engineer, and Venkat Yelleti, who hails from Hyderabad, Telangana, and runs his own company People Dock as CEO, are childhood classmates who decided to turn their concern into action. After observing that many children, particularly those growing up away from their native places, were gradually losing interest in reading and writing Telugu, they chose not to blame society, English or changing lifestyles. Instead, they asked a simple question: could technology make children fall in love with their mother tongue? That thought eventually gave birth to Coolphabets, an AI-powered learning application designed to help children read and write their mother tongue engagingly. "We grew up loving these letters, and we wanted every child to get the same head start in their own language," Ranjit told

True Point. He further stated "Apps have taught children to recognise letters for years. Coolphabets is the first that can sit beside a child, watch them write, and coach them like a teacher would." The journey, however, was not quick. The idea moved at a snail's pace for several years as the founders explored technology capable of understanding the intricacies of Indian scripts. They did not give up when their initial efforts failed to deliver what they wanted. Instead, they waited for technology to catch up with their ambition. After nearly a decade, advances in artificial intelligence, handwriting recognition and on-device processing made their original vision possible. Coolphabets Applications LLC was established in Boston, and the founders began developing an app that could do more than simply display letters and sounds. Coolphabets was launched globally on August 29, World Telugu Language Day. The app initially supports Telugu, Hindi, Marathi, Tamil, Kannada and English and is designed for children aged three to 10. Its key technology, CoolphaSense, analyses how a child writes a letter, including stroke order, direction, shape, propor-



tions and completeness, and provides immediate guidance. The app also offers learning games, native-speaker voices, parent-recorded voices and progress reports. It works offline, uses on-device AI and carries no advertisements. A parent who used the app said Coolphabets makes learning Telugu and other major Indian languages fun and useful. Its tracing, free-hand practice and automatic grading help both children and adults improve their writing skills. The founders now hope to take their idea beyond individual families. They are planning support for more

Indian and international languages and exploring opportunities to make Coolphabets available in schools, including discussions with the Andhra Pradesh Government. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and former Vice-President of India M. Venkaiah Naidu also hailed the launch and appreciated the founders for using technology to promote Telugu and encourage children to learn their mother tongue. What began with two childhood classmates carrying their affection for Telugu into adulthood has now become an attempt to connect a new generation with its linguistic roots. For Ranjit and Venkat, the message is simple: technology need not replace a mother tongue; it can become the bridge that helps children read it, write it and love it.



Keeping Kuchipudi Alive And Moving Across Generations

ARN Mahesh
For Bathina Vikram Goud, Kuchipudi is more than a classical dance form. It is a living inheritance that must be protected, taught, reinvented and carried to audiences beyond its traditional home. Hailing from Visakhapatnam, Vikram Kumar B R, popularly known as Bathina Vikram Goud, has pursued that mission for more than three decades as a dancer, choreographer, educator, researcher, theatre artist and cultural diplomat. His journey began with encouragement from his father, who recognised his early interest in movement and storytelling. Vikram earned a Master of Arts in Kuchipudi from Andhra



combine mythology, spirituality, environmental awareness and youth empowerment. His artistic interests also extend to theatre. Holding Advanced Diplomas in Acting and Direction from Andhra University, Vikram spent more than a decade in the Theatre Arts Department as an actor-director. His productions were witnessed by distinguished personalities, including former President of India Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, besides UGC and NAAC delegates. In 2000, he founded the Nataraj Music & Dance Academy (NMDA) in Visakhapatnam. Conceived as a cultural sanctuary rather than merely a training centre, the ISO 9001:2008-certified institution

University with distinction and contributed to establishing the university's Department of Dance during his postgraduate years. As a soloist and principal performer, he developed a reputation for expressive abhinaya and rhythmic nritya, drawing from the theatrical traditions of Yakshagana. "For me, Kuchipudi is not simply a performance that begins on a stage and ends with applause. It is a responsibility to preserve what our gurus gave us while finding ways to make the art meaningful to younger generations. Tradition becomes stronger when we carry it forward with creativity and discipline," Vikram told True Point. His choreography seeks to connect classical aesthetics with contemporary concerns. His acclaimed Chenchu Lakshmi Narasimha Kalyanam, based on the legend of Lord Narasimha at Simhachalam, blends Kuchipudi with folk traditions and has been presented on more than 150 stages across India. His other productions, including Swachh Ganga - Swachh Bharat, Maha Visakha Vaibhavam, Sri Krishna Leelalu, Society for Future and Youth Never Sleeps,

has trained thousands of young practitioners in classical arts. His contribution to dance also earned him membership in the UNESCO International Dance Council. Beyond his own performances, Vikram has worked to create a wider festival ecosystem, giving classical dancers regular opportunities to perform. He mentors emerging organisers, assists with artist selection and event planning, connects seniors with cultural institutions and introduces senior stalwarts and Padma Awardees to new platforms. His efforts have helped nurture festivals including the Yadagiri National Dance Festival by M. Bharathi, Bhagyanagar Dance Festival by Sajni Vallabhaneni, Jathis Hyderabad National Dance Festival by Hemalatha B., and the Guru Nataraj Ramakrishna National Dance Festival network led by Chandrashekhara, Loka and Kesavaraj Balakrishna. International initiatives include Roopa Kiran's Ilaasyotsav in Hong Kong. "An artist needs more than talent; an artist needs a stage, an audience and an opportunity to grow. Creating platforms for artists gives me the greatest satisfaction," he said.

She Teaches Young Minds And Lifts More Than Weights



Uday Banavath
Some people spend a lifetime mastering one passion. P. V. M. Naga Jyothi chose two and pursued both with extraordinary determination. A teacher who inspires children to dream bigger and an international athlete who has carried India's pride to sporting arenas, her journey proves that passion has no age limit and achievement has no single definition. For the past 28 years, Naga Jyothi, who hails from Anapalli, has served as a School Assistant (English) at PMSHRI ZPHS-Rolugunta, Anapalli District. Teaching, for her, is not merely a profession but a mission to make learning joyful, meaningful and accessible. She uses puppets, 3D models, animation, digital panels, Google Classroom and Kahoot to make English lessons interactive. Her innovative practice, "Blooming English: A Journey of Joyful Communication," reflects her commitment to student-centred education. Her dedication earned her the prestigious Andhra Pradesh State Best Teacher Award-2025. She has also actively contributed to student development, school programmes, community outreach and innovative teaching practices. Her passion for education took her beyond India when she was selected by the Government of

Andhra Pradesh for the International Professional Development Programme in Finland. She visited the University of Turku, Finnish schools and teacher-training institutions, studying student-centred learning, experiential education, teacher autonomy and innovative classroom practices. Her professional contributions earned appreciation from Finnish educators and mentors. But the classroom is only one arena where Naga Jyothi excels. From a young age, she developed a passion for athletics and strength sports. Years of disciplined training transformed her into an international powerlifter and athlete. She has competed at national and international levels and has won around 200 gold medals across various sporting events. Her achievements span Powerlifting, 60m, 100m and Discus. At the SBKF International Games in Bhutan, she won four gold medals in 60m, 100m, Discus and Powerlifting. Her performance at national selection trials also earned her selection for the World Powerlifting Championship. What makes her story remarkable is the connection between her two passions. As

a teacher, she lifts the confidence and dreams of young minds; as a powerlifter, she lifts weights and raises the nation's pride. Speaking to True Point, Naga Jyothi said, "I never see teaching and sports as two separate worlds. Teaching gives me purpose, while athletics gives me energy and discipline. I plan my time carefully, complete my responsibilities at school and dedicate the remaining time to training. There are certainly challenging days, but when you truly love what you do, you learn to manage both with commitment. I believe passion should never be sacrificed because of age or professional responsibilities," Naga Jyothi said. Naga Jyothi's journey is a powerful reminder that age is never a barrier when passion, discipline and determination refuse to give up.



Amit Shah: India Aims to Become Global Sports Destination



India is stepping up preparations to establish itself as a major global sports destination, with the government focusing on hosting several major international sporting events over the coming decade. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi held a review meeting on Thursday to discuss preparations for the 2030 Commonwealth Games and India's proposed bid to host the 2036 Olympic Games. Sharing details of the meeting on social media, Shah said the Narendra Modi government was working with an ambitious objective of positioning India as an international sporting hub. "The Modi government is working with a big goal. Our target is to establish India as a global sports destination," Shah said, adding that all necessary steps would be taken to ensure the country is equipped to host major international events.

The meeting reviewed India's preparations for the 2030 Commonwealth Games, which are scheduled to be hosted in Ahmedabad. Discussions were also held on India's proposed bid for the 2036 Olympics, with Ahmedabad being projected as the potential host city.

Shah also reviewed preparations for the 2029 World Police and Fire Games, which will be held in Ahmedabad. The event is expected to attract more than 10,000 athletes from around 70 countries, making security and logistical arrangements a key priority. The Home Ministry is closely monitoring the security preparations for the major events. Shah has been holding review meetings with the Sports Ministry as India works to strengthen its infrastructure and organisational capabilities.

India last hosted the Commonwealth Games in 2010 in Delhi. Hosting the 2030 edition would therefore mark the country's return as the Games' host after two decades.

The proposed 2036 Olympic bid represents an even larger ambition. The central government has been working towards bringing the world's biggest sporting event to India, with Ahmedabad emerging as the preferred venue. Gujarat officials have also held discussions with the International Olympic Committee regarding the proposal.

The government's broader strategy includes developing infrastructure capable of handling large international competitions while improving India's reputation as a reliable destination for global sporting events.

The 2029 World Police and Fire Games, followed by the 2030 Commonwealth Games, are expected to provide India with opportunities to demonstrate its organisational and logistical capabilities ahead of the proposed Olympic bid.

With preparations for multiple major events now underway, the government is seeking to combine sports infrastructure, security and event management capabilities to strengthen India's case for hosting the world's biggest sporting competitions.

Milan Draw Sunderland, Bournemouth



AC Milan will face two English opponents in the Europa League league phase after being drawn to host Sunderland and travel to Bournemouth, setting up an intriguing campaign for new coach Ruben Amorim. The Italian giants will also welcome Benfica to the San Siro in the eight-game league phase. The fixture carries historical significance, as Milan defeated the Portuguese club in the 1990 European Cup final.

For Amorim, the Europa League campaign will provide an opportunity to move forward from his difficult spell at Manchester United. The Portuguese coach lost the 2025 Europa League final during his largely disappointing 14-month tenure at the English club, which ended in January.

Milan's meeting with Sunderland will be particularly interesting given the contrasting histories and current trajectories of the two clubs, while the trip to Bournemouth will give the Italian side another test against Premier League opposition.

Juventus were handed a challenging draw of their own, with the Italian club set to face Spanish sides Real Sociedad and Celta Vigo. Juventus will also travel to a neutral venue to meet Hapoel Beer-Sheva of Israel. Hapoel Beer-Sheva face an especially demanding schedule, with trips to the Netherlands, Belgium, England and Turkey to take on AZ Alkmaar, Union Saint-Gilloise, Bournemouth and Besiktas.

Crystal Palace will finally make their Europa League appearance after their participation was blocked by UEFA last season because of shared ownership links with Lyon involving American businessman John Textor. Following Textor's departure from Lyon, Palace are now eligible to compete and will travel to France to face Lyon.

Celtic have been drawn against Marseille and will make two trips to Portugal. The Scottish champions will face Benfica and second-tier side Torreeense. The Benfica fixture also carries historical significance, as Celtic famously defeated the Portuguese club in the 1967 European Cup final.

Bayer Leverkusen, who lost the 2024 Europa League final after going unbeaten in both their domestic league and Europa League campaign until that stage, will face French opposition in Marseille and Lyon.

The Europa League league phase will begin on September 16-17, with the eighth and final round scheduled for January 28. The competition's final will be played in May at the stadium of Eintracht Frankfurt.

A total of 36 teams will compete in the league phase, sharing a UEFA prize-money fund of 565 million (\$658 million).

With several high-profile clubs and intriguing matchups in the draw, the revamped league phase promises a demanding schedule for Milan, Juventus, Celtic, Crystal Palace and the rest of the field.

Asian Games Organisers Assure Accommodation for All

Tokyo: Asian Games organisers have assured that all registered participants will have accommodation during next month's event, despite the number of athletes and officials rising to more than 17,000 and concerns over a potential shortage of rooms.

The Asian Games will be held in Nagoya and across Japan's Aichi Prefecture from September 19 to October 4. Organisers had initially expected around 15,000 athletes and officials, already exceeding the number who attended the Olympics. However, the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) recently revised the figure to around 17,000, including approximately 11,000 athletes and 6,000 officials.

Unlike recent Olympic Games, the event will not have a dedicated athletes' village. Organisers are instead using a combination of hotels, temporary accommodation and a cruise ship to house participants.

The accommodation issue became a concern after the OCA added teqball and padel to the sporting programme in March. Earlier this week, organising committee president Hideaki Omura, who is also governor of Aichi Prefecture, said the committee did not have suffi-



cient manpower or budget to make arrangements for additional participants.

However, a joint statement issued by the organising committee and OCA on Friday said accommodation had been secured for all registered athletes and officials.

"All the 17,000+ athletes and officials that are registered for the Asian Games before the closing of Entry by Name in July have been provided with Games-appropriate accommodation," the statement

said. It added that, except in exceptional circumstances, no further registrations would be permitted. The organising committee separately said the exact number of participants was still fluctuating daily but acknowledged that the delegation size was expected to exceed 15,000.

To control costs, organisers have hired the Italian cruise ship Costa Serena as temporary accommodation. Between 4,000 and 5,000 athletes are expected to stay aboard

the ship, while another 2,000 athletes and officials will be housed in temporary wooden, shipping-container-style units.

The remaining participants will stay in hotels, including some in Tokyo, where swimming, diving and equestrian competitions will be held.

Organisers also rejected reports that they were attempting to reduce the number of participants. Instead, they said certain team officials would make their own accommodation arrangements.

There are also concerns about Japan's typhoon season, which is typically active during September and October. However, organisers expressed confidence that the weather would not disrupt the Games. "The final preparations are all on track and progressing smoothly," the joint statement said, describing the event as one that promises to be among the most spectacular Asian Games in generations. With less than a month remaining before the opening ceremony, organisers will now focus on ensuring that the unconventional accommodation arrangements operate smoothly throughout the competition.

Mamatha Madiwala Picked for India A

Hyderabad wicket-keeper Mamatha Madiwala has earned a place in the India 'A' women's squad for the upcoming Australia 'A' tour of India, marking another significant opportunity in her cricketing career.

Mamatha has been selected for the multi-day fixture against Australia 'A', scheduled to be played from September 29 to October at Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh. The Hyderabad player will join a strong India 'A' squad led by Yastika Bhatia.

The tour will feature three T20s, three One-Day matches and a multi-day game. The T20 fixtures are scheduled for September 12, 15 and 17 at New Chandigarh, while the three One-Day matches will be played on September 20, 23 and 25 at the PCA Stadium in Mohali, Punjab.

Mamatha's selection for the multi-day game is particularly notable as she will be one of the wicket-keeping options in the squad. Yastika



Bhatia has been named captain and wicket-keeper, while Mamatha has been included alongside the experienced India player.

The India 'A' multi-day squad includes Anushka Sharma as vice-captain, along with Shubha Satheesh, Priya Punia, Tanisha Singh, Tejal Hasabnis, Nikki Prasad, Sushree Dibyadarshini, Shuchi Upadhyay, Vaishnavi

Sharma, Sayali Satghare, Jintimani Kalita, Shabnam Shakeel and Akshita Bhagat.

The T20 squad will be led by Anushka Sharma, with Sayali Satghare serving as vice-captain. The squad also includes Vrinda Dinesh, Sujata Dey, Tejal Hasabnis, Nikki Prasad, Shipra Giri, Shweta Sehrawat, Uma Chetry, Tanuja Kanwer, Minnu

Mani, Vaishnavi Sharma, Jintimani Kalita, Shabnam Shakeel and Simran Dil Bahadur. For the One-Day matches, Yastika Bhatia will captain the side, with Anushka Sharma as vice-captain. The squad features several players from the multi-day team, including Vrinda Dinesh, Priya Punia, Tanisha Singh, Tejal Hasabnis, Nikki Prasad, Uma Chetry, Minnu Mani, Amandeep Kaur, Vaishnavi Sharma, Sayali Satghare, Jintimani Kalita, Shabnam Shakeel and Akshita Bhagat.

The Australia 'A' series will provide India's emerging players with valuable exposure against international opposition. For Mamatha, the multi-day fixture at Dharamshala represents an important chance to strengthen her credentials at the domestic and national pathway level.

Her inclusion also brings recognition to Hyderabad's women's cricket setup, with the wicket-keeper now set to represent India 'A' on an international development tour.

Praggnanandhaa Makes History

Indian chess prodigy R Praggnanandhaa created history by becoming the first Indian player to win the Grand Chess Tour title, defeating defending champion Fabiano Caruana 15-13 in a thrilling finish.

Praggnanandhaa entered the final day six points behind Caruana and appeared to face a difficult challenge. However, the young Indian produced a stunning comeback, winning two consecutive rapid games to overturn the deficit and take the lead. His victory earned him his maiden Grand Chess Tour title along with prize money of nearly Rs 2 crore. The triumph also secured Praggnanandhaa direct qualification for next year's Grand Chess Tour. Reflecting on his remarkable comeback, Praggnanandhaa admitted that he had not expected to get a chance to win when the final day began. "I did not think I would get a chance to win today. I was six points behind. But I showed how to play in such situations. Against a play-

er like Fabi, winning even one game is difficult. I managed to win two rapid games," he said.

The 19-year-old also credited the changes he had made to his rapid and blitz preparation since last year for the breakthrough performance. "I made changes to my rapid and blitz games from last year. Now the results are visible. I think I have improved in this format," Praggnanandhaa said.

The historic triumph caps an impressive year for the Indian grandmaster. His campaign did not begin particularly well, with a disappointing performance at the Candidates Tournament. However, he quickly bounced back with a victory at Norway Chess.

His Norway Chess triumph was particularly notable as he defeated world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen twice during the event, underlining his ability to compete against the strongest players in the world.

Praggnanandhaa continued his impressive run by winning the St. Louis Rapid & Blitz and the



Sinquefield Cup. His consistency across different formats has strengthened his position among the leading young players in international chess. The Indian star had earlier expressed disappointment about not winning the Candidates Tournament, saying it would have made his year even more special. However, his performances since then have provided a strong response. The Grand Chess Tour victory now adds another major

achievement to his growing list of accomplishments. More importantly, the dramatic comeback against Caruana showcased Praggnanandhaa's composure, fighting spirit and growing mastery of rapid chess. With direct qualification for next year's Grand Chess Tour secured, the Indian youngster will now look to build on his breakthrough and establish himself further among the elite of world chess.

BCCI Raises Asian Games Facility Concerns

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has reportedly raised concerns over the facilities and arrangements being made for cricketers at the upcoming Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.

The BCCI and the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) are not satisfied with the conditions being provided for participating cricketers. The concerns reportedly include temporary dressing rooms being arranged in tents, while wash-room facilities are said to be located around 500 metres away from the playing area.

The Asian Games are scheduled to begin on September 19 in Aichi-Nagoya. Cricket will be among the sports at the continental multi-sport event, with the men's tournament scheduled from September 24 to October 3. The women's competition is scheduled from September 17 to 22.

The board is closely monitoring the situation and may send an observer to Japan to assess the facilities and arrangements in person.

The reported concerns could have implications for India's squad selection. If the facilities are ultimately deemed inadequate, the BCCI could consider sending a 'B' team to the competition instead of its strongest available squad.

India's participation in the Asian Games has attracted considerable attention because cricket has become an important part of the multi-sport event. The tournament provides players with an opportunity to represent the country on a major continental stage while also competing against teams from across Asia.

The BCCI is expected to assess the arrangements before making a final decision on the composition



of India's teams. The board's priority is likely to be ensuring that players have appropriate facilities for training, match preparation, recovery and general comfort during the competition.

The Asian Games cricket tournaments will be played in a condensed schedule, making proper logistical arrangements particu-

larly important. The women's event will conclude before the men's tournament gets underway, giving the cricket competitions a prominent place in the overall Games calendar.

While the reported concerns have not yet resulted in a formal decision to withdraw or alter India's participation, the possibility of sending a second-string squad highlights the seriousness with which the BCCI is viewing the situation.

An on-site assessment by a BCCI representative could provide clarity on whether the reported shortcomings can be addressed before the tournament begins.

With the Asian Games approaching, attention will now remain on the facilities in Japan and the BCCI's eventual decision regarding India's squads for the men's and women's cricket competitions.

Veteran Actor G.V. Narayana Rao Dies at 73

Veteran Telugu actor and producer Gullapalli Venkata Narayana Rao, popularly known as G.V. Narayana Rao, passed away at the age of 73 on Wednesday night. He had been suffering from health issues for some time and breathed his last at his residence in Hyderabad's Srinagar Colony.

Narayana Rao left a lasting mark on Telugu cinema with performances in more than 100 films and several television serials. As a producer, he backed successful films including Yamudiki Mogudu, Devantakudu, Intiko Rudramma and Pelli Neeku Shubham Naaku. Born in Kurumaddali in Krishna district, Narayana Rao grew up in Guntakal after his father, a film distributor, settled there. Growing up in a cinema-oriented environment sparked his interest in the



arts from an early age. He trained in Bharatanatyam under Gidugu Visalakshi, Kuchipudi under Nataraja Ramakrishna and acting

under A.R. Krishna.

He developed an association with theatre during his student years and earned recognition through plays such as Mohammed Bin Tughlaq, Prataparudreeya and Manchutera. Before entering films, he received formal acting training at the Madras Film Institute. Superstar Rajinikanth was reportedly his classmate there.

Narayana Rao made his screen debut with K. Balachander's Antuleni Katha. The film became a major success, opening the doors to several opportunities. He went on to play lead roles in around 50 films before transitioning to character and supporting roles.

His notable films include Muthyala Pallaki, Oka Oori Katha, Guppedu Manasu, Chilakamma

Cheppindi, Seetharamayyagari Manavaralu, Manchu Pallaki, Bahudoorapu Batasari, Chattaniki Kallu Levu, Raja Vikramarka, Gang Leader, Hitler, Sahasam, Tholubommalata and Skylab. His final film, Aalochana, is yet to be released.

Narayana Rao shared a close friendship with Chiranjeevi, who expressed grief over his death. Chiranjeevi recalled their long association and cherished memories. The Movie Artists Association and several film personalities also condoled his demise.

He is survived by his wife Anuradha, son Avinash and daughter Lalitha Yamini. His last rites will be performed at Mahaprasthanam in Jubilee Hills on Friday.

KING 100 Title Reveal on August 29

The much-awaited title of Nagarjuna's 100th film will be unveiled on August 29 at 9 AM, coinciding with the actor's birthday.

The makers have released a teaser announcing the title reveal time. The glimpse features a speeding car moving through a dense night, with a prominent cobra warning sign adding mystery to the visuals.

The cobra imagery has already sparked speculation among fans about a possible connection with the film's title. The mystery is expected to be cleared when the official title is revealed on August 29.

Produced by Nagarjuna and directed by Ra Karthik, the film features Tabu, Sushmita Bhatt and Vijayendra in key roles. Devi Sri Prasad is composing the music.

With Nagarjuna celebrating his birthday and marking the milestone of his 100th film, the title reveal is expected to be a special treat for his fans.



Raashii Khanna Misses Brother on Raksha Bandhan

Actress Raashii Khanna shared an emotional and adorable note for her brother Raunaq Khanna on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan on Friday, revealing that she missed him as he is currently away at sea. Taking to Instagram, Raashii wrote about the special bond she shares with her brother while playfully acknowledging their frequent fights. "Sometimes I love you, most times I love to fight with you," she wrote, adding that she was celebrating Raksha Bandhan alone this year. She concluded her message by wishing her brother and calling him "Captain."

On the work front, Raashii is gearing up for her upcoming Tamil film Dharman, in which she shares the screen with superstar Rajinikanth. Directed by Ashwath Marimuthu, the film has been generating considerable buzz and is among the highly anticipated releases.

Recently, Raashii also revealed a thoughtful gift she received from Rajinikanth while working on the film. The superstar gifted her the spiritual book Living with the Himalayan Masters after the two discussed spirituality during a conversation on the sets.

Raashii said she has been reading the book diligently and was particularly moved by its reflections on self-discovery and human relationships. She revealed that Rajinikanth even told her he would test her on the book, making the gift all the more memorable.

Sharing her key takeaway, the actress said many people feel disconnected because they spend years trying to become someone else rather than remaining connected to their true selves.

Meanwhile, Dharman continues to attract attention with its combination of Rajinikanth, Raashii Khanna and director Ashwath Marimuthu. The film's unique combination of talent has raised expectations among audiences ahead of its release.



Anand Deverakonda's Honest Take on Kingdom Goes Viral

Actor Anand Deverakonda has grabbed attention with his candid comments about his brother Vijay Deverakonda's film Kingdom. His straightforward assessment of the movie has now become a talking point among Telugu cinema fans on social media.

During a recent interaction, Anand revealed that he generally avoids listening to the stories of Vijay's films before their release. However, he watched the edited version of Kingdom and shared his genuine reaction to the movie.

According to Anand, the film became somewhat confusing when the protagonist's journey moved to Sri Lanka. His comments have drawn attention because a section of the audience had also raised similar concerns after watching the film.

Rather than offering unconditional praise for his brother's movie, Anand appeared to share his opinion from the perspective of an ordinary viewer. This honesty has been appreciated by several fans, who believe that his remarks demonstrate that he is willing to acknowledge both the strengths and weaknesses of Vijay's films.

Kingdom, which generated considerable expectations ahead of its release, features Vijay Deverakonda in the lead role. The film's narrative and setting attracted significant attention, while its second-half developments became a subject of discussion among audiences.

Anand's latest comments have once again brought the film into the spotlight. His observation about the Sri Lanka portion, in particular, has sparked conversations online, with fans debating whether the narrative became difficult to follow at that stage.

While Anand's remarks may be unexpected coming from a close family member, they have also added an interesting perspective to the ongoing discussion around the Kingdom. Whether audiences agree with his assessment or not, his candid take has certainly succeeded in generating fresh buzz around the film.

GV Prakash: 'Mandaadi' a Blockbuster

Music composer and actor G. V. Prakash Kumar has expressed strong confidence in the upcoming sports-action drama Mandaadi, calling it a "sure-shot blockbuster" during the film's audio launch event.

Speaking at the event, GV Prakash said 2026 has been an exceptionally successful year for him. He pointed to projects including Youth, Happy Raj, Vishwanath And Sons and Irumudi, which he described as successful outings. He expressed hope that Mandaadi would continue the winning streak and become another major success.

The composer also heaped praise on actor Soori, making a particularly bold prediction about the film. GV Prakash said he believes Mandaadi could turn out to be the best film of Soori's career.

His confident remarks have added to the anticipation surrounding the project, which is being positioned as a sports-action drama with a distinctive coastal setting. The film also features Telugu actor Suhas in a negative lead role, marking an interesting addition to the movie's cast.

The coastal backdrop and sports-oriented storyline are expected to give Mandaadi a different flavour from conventional commercial entertainers. Soori's involvement has also raised expectations, particularly following his growing reputation for taking on challenging and performance-driven roles.

GV Prakash's strong endorsement at the audio launch is likely to further increase curiosity among audiences. However, whether Mandaadi can live up to the "sure-shot blockbuster" prediction and emerge as the biggest film of Soori's career will ultimately be decided by its reception after release.

