



CM Pays Tribute to Kaloji



Hyderabad, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Wednesday paid tribute to renowned poet and Padma Vibhushan awardee Kaloji Narayana Rao on his birth anniversary, recalling his lasting contribution to Telangana's language, culture and social consciousness. The Chief Minister described Kaloji as a "People's Poet" whose writings reflected the lives, aspirations and struggles of ordinary people. He said Kaloji played a significant role in preserving and promoting Telangana's distinctive language, dialect, cultural traditions and way of life through his powerful literary works. Revanth Reddy urged people to remember Kaloji's contributions and draw inspiration from his commitment to society and the Telangana identity. He said Kaloji remained a strong voice for the people and that his literary legacy should be carried forward to future generations. The Chief Minister said the state government was organising special programmes to commemorate Kaloji and spread awareness about his ideals and contribution to literature. He emphasised that the government was committed to encouraging Telangana's language and literary traditions, taking inspiration from Kaloji's lifelong efforts. Revanth Reddy said Kaloji's writings went beyond literary expression and reflected social concerns, public sentiment and the cultural identity of Telangana. His simple yet impactful style helped connect literature with the everyday experiences of people, making his work widely accessible and influential. On the occasion, the Chief Minister paid floral tributes to Kaloji's portrait and recalled his services to Telangana and its people. Kaloji Narayana Rao, who was born on September 9, 1914, is widely remembered for his poetry, writings and public activism. His works, particularly Naa Godava, reflected his concern for social justice and the problems faced by common people. His birth anniversary is observed as Telangana Language Day, recognising his contribution to the promotion of the Telugu language and Telangana's literary heritage.

22 BRS MLAs Suspended From Assembly

Hyderabad, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

As tensions escalated in the Telangana Assembly on Wednesday, Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar suspended 22 BRS MLAs for the remainder of the ongoing session following disruptions by Opposition members. Legislative Affairs Minister D. Sridhar Babu moved a motion seeking the suspension after BRS legislators staged a protest soon after the House assembled. Speaker Prasad Kumar accepted the motion and announced the suspension, following which the Assembly was adjourned for a tea break. The suspended BRS MLAs included senior leaders K. T. Rama Rao, T. Harish Rao and several former ministers and legislators. Others named in the suspension were Jagadish Reddy, Kaushik Reddy, Gangula Kamalakara, Anil Jadhav, Madhavaram Krishna Rao, Kova Lakshmi, Konikanti Manik Rao, Chinta Prabhakar, Kotha Prabhakar Reddy, Vemula Prashanth Reddy, Marri Rajasekhara Reddy, Pallara Rajeshwar Reddy, Sabita Indra Reddy, Sanjay, Talasani Srinivas Yadav, D. Sudheer Reddy, Sunitha Lakshma Reddy, Kaleru Venkatesh, Vijayudu and K. P. Vivekananda. The confrontation began when BRS members raised slogans demanding an apology



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Congress Delegation Urges Governor to Act on Dalit Dignity Row



Hyderabad, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

A delegation of Telangana ministers and Congress legislators on Wednesday met Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla and alleged that the BRS had engaged in conduct that humiliated Dalits and undermined the dignity of constitutional institutions. Led by Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, the delegation included Ministers D. Sridhar Babu, Adhuri Laxman Kumar, Seethakka, Mohamed Azharuddin, Vivek Venkataswamy and Vakiti Srihari, among others. They submitted their concerns to the Governor amid an escalating political confrontation between the Congress government and the BRS during the ongoing Assembly session. UNI reported that the

Congress delegation sought the Governor's intervention to protect the dignity and safety of Dalits and women within and outside the legislature. The Congress leaders reportedly raised the controversy surrounding alleged derogatory remarks made by BRS MLCs T. Madhusudhan, popularly known as Tata Madhu, and N. Naveen Kumar Reddy, against Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar. The two MLCs were suspended from the Legislative Council for the remainder of the session following a resolution moved by Legislative Affairs Minister D. Sridhar Babu. The delegation also highlighted the controversy over a reported "purification" ritual at Erravalli after Congress Dalit activists held a drum-beating protest near the farmhouse of BRS president and

former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhara Rao. Congress leaders condemned the act, alleging that sprinkling turmeric water over the area used by Dalit protesters was insulting and discriminatory. The incident has become a major flashpoint between the ruling Congress and Opposition BRS. Meanwhile, the Telangana Legislative Council's Ethics Committee met to consider the remarks concerning the Assembly Speaker. The committee, chaired by MLC and TPCC president B. Mahesh Kumar Goud, discussed the allegations against the two BRS MLCs. Reports said the panel would proceed further after obtaining legal advice on the matter. The controversy has unfolded alongside separate allegations by BRS members that police acted improperly

against their women legislators during protests outside the Assembly. The issue was raised during the House proceedings, adding to tensions between the Treasury and Opposition benches. The Congress delegation told the Governor that the developments should be viewed seriously in the interest of constitutional values, social dignity and the functioning of democratic institutions. The BRS, however, has disputed the Congress narrative and continued to raise its own allegations concerning the treatment of its legislators. The developments mark another escalation in the political confrontation between the two parties during the Monsoon Session, with disputes over the Speaker, alleged police conduct and the Erravalli incident dominating the proceedings.

Assembly Erupts Over KCR Farmhouse Ritual

Hyderabad, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

A controversy over an alleged "purification" ritual at a site associated with a protest involving Dalit leaders triggered a major confrontation in the Telangana Legislative Assembly, with the ruling Congress accusing the BRS of indulging in caste-based discrimination and attempting to undermine the dignity of the House. Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka strongly condemned the alleged ritual and the conduct of BRS legislators. Addressing the Assembly, he said every member was duty-bound to respect Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar and the institution he represents. He questioned the behaviour of leaders who had held ministerial positions for a decade, saying their experience should have made them more conscious of parliamentary decorum. Bhatti said the alleged purification of a place merely because Dalits had participated in a protest raised serious



questions about social attitudes. He questioned whether turmeric water would similarly be sprinkled on roads simply because members of the Dalit community had walked on them. "What kind of society are we living in?" Bhatti asked, asserting that the government would not be intimidated by threats or political pressure. He said repeated insults could not be allowed to continue and declared that the Congress government stood

firmly behind the Speaker. The controversy comes amid an already tense relationship between the Congress government and the BRS. The Assembly recently witnessed heated scenes over alleged remarks against the Speaker, with the issue escalating into legal and disciplinary action. Two BRS MLCs were arrested following complaints over allegedly derogatory remarks against the Speaker. Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu also questioned the

reported purification ritual. "Do you perform purification rituals if Dalits walk by? What era are we living in?" he asked, criticising the BRS for allegedly attempting to disrupt Assembly proceedings. Sridhar Babu said the BRS should submit its demands in writing rather than obstructing legislative business. He also sought to separate political disagreements from personal hostility, stating that the Congress wished KCR well and hoped he would live for more than 100 years and continue serving society. He accused the BRS of entering the Assembly with an intention to stall proceedings and said threatening or disrespecting the Speaker was unacceptable. The controversy has intensified the political and social tensions surrounding the ongoing Assembly session. The Indian Express reported that 21 BRS MLAs were subsequently suspended for the remainder of the Monsoon Session amid repeated disruptions linked to the purification controversy.



Revanth Orders Probe Into Assembly Incidents

Hyderabad, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday announced a comprehensive inquiry into the controversial incidents surrounding the ongoing Assembly monsoon session and said criminal cases would be registered against those found responsible. The announcement came during a discussion in the Legislative Assembly over alleged derogatory remarks directed at Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar and a separate controversy involving an alleged "purification" ritual at a location where Dalit leaders had held a protest. The developments have sharply intensified the confrontation between the ruling Congress and opposition BRS. Revanth Reddy said the government stood firmly behind the Speaker and would not spare anyone found to have deliberately insulted the office or caused offence. He described the alleged remarks against the Speaker and his mother as particularly serious and said democratic forms of protest had limits. The Chief Minister stressed that the Assembly should remain a forum for discussing issues affecting the people rather than personal attacks and disruptions. He said the government had planned to debate a range of public concerns during the session, including education-related issues, alleged irregularities connected with the Dharani land-records system and problems surrounding Section 22(A) restrictions. The Speaker controversy

began on September 7, when Gaddam Prasad Kumar became emotional in the House following allegations that BRS MLCs had made derogatory remarks against him. Congress leaders subsequently demanded legal action. Police arrested BRS MLCs T. Madhusudan and N. Naveen Kumar Reddy in connection with complaints over the alleged remarks. The two were booked under provisions including the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, while Madhusudan denied making comments targeting the Speaker. The Assembly subsequently passed a resolution calling on BRS leader and Leader of the Opposition K. Chandrashekar Rao to take responsibility for the conduct of party members and tender an unconditional apology to the Speaker. The separate "purification" controversy has also become a major political flashpoint. Congress leaders condemned the reported act as offensive to Dalits, while the BRS rejected the allegations and accused the ruling party of using the controversy for political purposes. The dispute contributed to the suspension of 21 BRS MLAs, including K.T. Rama Rao and T. Harish Rao, for the remainder of the monsoon session. The Chief Minister said the government would ensure that any investigation was conducted properly and that those found guilty would face legal consequences. He also urged legislators to maintain the dignity of the Assembly and focus on substantive public issues.

Kishan Reddy Urges Parliamentary Decorum



New Delhi, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy has called for greater respect for parliamentary values, stressing that democratic principles must take precedence over political party interests. Addressing the 'Sansad Ratna' awards ceremony in New Delhi as chief guest, Kishan Reddy said constructive criticism and questioning are essential functions of the Opposition, but repeatedly disrupting legislative proceedings weakens public faith in democratic institutions. Referring to recent developments in the Telangana Assembly, he criticised the conduct of both the ruling Congress and Opposition BRS. He said political parties should not take pride in incidents involving legislators removing shirts or being forced to do so, describing such behaviour as damaging to democratic traditions. Kishan Reddy said legislators and MPs are closely watched by the public and must maintain dignity inside legislative bodies. He recalled his own journey from a farming family, saying India's democra-

cy enabled him to reach a position he had never imagined. He also recalled being inspired by the speeches of leaders including Atal Bihari Vajpayee, P.V. Narasimha Rao and Morarji Desai. He said disagreements between the government and Opposition are natural, but differences should be expressed through debate, criticism or a walkout rather than by paralysing Parliament or Assemblies. He urged representatives from different parties to unite on issues concerning the nation and uphold India's dignity on international platforms. The Union Minister also appealed to political leaders to respect constitutional institutions, including the Election Commission, and avoid actions that could weaken public confidence in them. The Prime Point Foundation organised the ceremony, where Sansad Ratna awards were presented to 16 MPs from different political parties. Union Minister of State for Education Dr. Sukanta Majumdar, former Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai and former Union Minister Hansraj Gangaram Ahir were among those present.

Modi-Putin Talks to Focus on Strategic Ties

New Delhi, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin are scheduled to hold bilateral talks in New Delhi on September 11, ahead of the 18th BRICS Summit. The meeting is expected to focus on strengthening the India-Russia strategic partnership, with defence, trade, energy, nuclear cooperation and advanced technology likely to figure prominently in the discussions. Defence cooperation is expected to be a major component of the talks. According to recent reports, the two sides are likely to review the delivery of the remaining S-400 air-defence system and dis-

cuss future military requirements. India signed an agreement with Russia for five S-400 systems, and the delivery of the final unit is expected to be addressed during the meeting. Another significant issue on the agenda is Russia's Su-57 fifth-generation stealth fighter. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov has confirmed that the possible sale of the aircraft to India will be discussed. India is also interested in access to production technology, reflecting its broader effort to expand domestic defence manufacturing and move beyond a conventional buyer-seller relationship. The two countries are also expected to discuss the next phase



of BrahMos missile development. Peskov said India and Russia are jointly producing BrahMos and that the missile could be upgraded with additional capabilities to improve its effectiveness and competitiveness in international markets. Beyond defence, economic and energy cooperation will be important. The leaders are expected to review bilateral trade, investment opportunities, nuclear energy projects and cooperation in rare-earth and other critical minerals. Russia has indicated interest in expanding nuclear cooperation in India, building on its involvement in the Kudankulam project. The talks come at a time when both coun-

tries are seeking to broaden their partnership into advanced technology, manufacturing and strategic investments. India and Russia have maintained close engagement despite wider geopolitical uncertainties, with the two governments recently reviewing cooperation in political, economic, defence, energy, space and other areas. The Modi-Putin meeting will take place one day before the BRICS leaders' summit, scheduled in New Delhi on September 12 and 13. The discussions are expected to provide an opportunity for both leaders to review bilateral ties and identify new areas of cooperation while reinforcing their long-standing strategic partnership.

# Rail Expansion Project Gets Cabinet Nod

New Delhi, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

The Union Cabinet has approved the construction of a multi-tracking railway line between Secunderabad and Kazipet, a move expected to ease congestion on one of Telangana's important rail corridors and improve the movement of both passengers and freight. The 110-kilometre project, estimated to cost Rs 2,418 crore, was approved at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The additional rail capacity is expected to improve train punctuality, facilitate faster freight movement and reduce fuel consumption and logistics costs. The project is also aimed at strengthening connectivity towards the Vijaya wada and Mumbai routes. According to the details announced by Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy,

the additional capacity is expected to facilitate the movement of about 9.83 million tonnes of freight annually. This includes around 7.06 million tonnes of coal, 0.73 million tonnes of iron ore, 0.65 million tonnes of food-grains and 0.13 million tonnes of cement. Kishan Reddy welcomed the Cabinet decision and thanked Prime Minister Modi and Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw. He said the project would contribute significantly to the development of Telangana's railway infrastructure and improve connectivity for passengers and industries. The minister said railway allocations for Telangana have increased substantially since the formation of the state, with Rs 36,286 crore allocated over the past 12 years. He said railway projects worth around Rs 50,000 crore are currently under implementation, while



surveys are underway for additional projects of similar value. He also highlighted the modernisation of railway stations under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. Forty-two sta-

tions in Telangana are being upgraded with modern facilities at an estimated cost of nearly Rs 3,000 crore, while six stations where works have been completed

have already been inaugurated. Kishan Reddy said the state's railway network has undergone major transformation in recent years, including progress towards the

long-awaited Kazipet Railway Manufacturing Unit. He reiterated his commitment to further strengthening rail connectivity and passenger facilities across Telangana.

# Jupally Urges Writers to Preserve Kaloji's Legacy

Hyderabad, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

Tourism and Culture Minister Jupally Krishna Rao on Wednesday called upon writers and poets to carry forward the literary legacy of renowned Telangana poet Kaloji Narayana Rao, describing him as a powerful voice of the people and a symbol of Telangana's self-respect. The Minister was speaking at celebrations held at Ravindra Bharati to mark Kaloji's birth anniversary. The event featured the presentation of the Kaloji Narayana Rao Literary Award to acclaimed poet V.R. Vidyarthi, also known as Veluri Ramulu, who is widely recognised as a "Sainika Kavi" and has earned international recognition for his literary contributions. Jupally congratulated Vidyarthi and said writers of his stature should continue the tradition established by Kaloji through literature that reflects the lives, struggles and aspirations of ordinary people. The Minister said Kaloji's writings gave expression to the hardships, hopes, struggles and self-respect of Telangana society. Referring to Kaloji's celebrated work Naa Godava, he said the poet did not treat people's struggles as something separate from his own. Instead, he adopted the concerns of the disadvantaged and

aggrieved as his own, earning an enduring place as a "People's Poet." Jupally also highlighted Kaloji's deep commitment to the Telangana dialect. He said Kaloji firmly believed that writers should use the language spoken by ordinary people rather than distance themselves from it. According to the Minister, Kaloji regarded the language of everyday idioms and expressions as a genuine reflection of people's lives. His decision to convey social concerns through simple poetry helped his works connect directly with the public. Jupally said Kaloji gave the Telangana dialect, its expressions and cultural identity a respected place in literature. He observed that language represents more than communication, reflecting a community's history, culture, lifestyle and self-respect. He noted that Kaloji's birth anniversary is observed as Telangana Language Day to preserve and promote the inspiration provided by the poet. Vennela Gaddar, Chairperson of Telangana Samskrutika Sarathi, Enugu Narasimha Reddy, Director of the Department of Language and Culture, and Venkataramana, Director of NITHM, among others, attended the programme.

# Seethakka Accuses BRS of Misbehaving With Women MLAs

Hyderabad, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Minister Seethakka on Wednesday strongly criticised BRS legislators, alleging that they behaved inappropriately with women members of their own party during recent protests and incidents linked to the ongoing Assembly session. Speaking to the media, Seethakka said the conduct of BRS leaders towards women MLAs was unacceptable and accused them of showing disrespect towards their own female colleagues. She also released video footage that she claimed showed BRS legislators pushing and moving aggressively around women members. According to Seethakka, BRS women MLAs Sabita Indra Reddy, Sunita



Lakshmi Reddy and Kova Lakshmi were allegedly pushed from behind during the incident. She specifically named BRS leaders Gangula Kamalakar and Sudhir Reddy, alleging that they

physically came into contact with the women legislators while attempting to move through the group. Seethakka questioned the need for male legislators to move between two women members who

were standing together. She alleged that the conduct amounted to disrespect towards women leaders and said BRS legislators should explain their behaviour. The minister further alleged that some

BRS members laid hands on Kova Lakshmi and Sabita Indra Reddy during the confrontation. She said such behaviour demonstrated a lack of concern for the dignity and safety of women legislators.

The allegations come amid heightened tensions between the ruling Congress and Opposition BRS during the Telangana Assembly's Monsoon Session. The two parties have been engaged in a series of confrontations over the treatment of legislators, remarks against the Assembly Speaker and protests involving women members. Seethakka said political differences should not justify inappropriate behaviour towards women and called for greater responsibility from elected representatives. The BRS has separately raised allegations concerning the treatment of its women legislators during protests, indicating that the controversy is likely to remain a major point of contention between the ruling and Opposition parties.

# Purification Row Sparks Assembly Clash

Hyderabad, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana Assembly witnessed heated exchanges on Wednesday as the Monsoon Session entered its third day, with the alleged "purification" of an area near BRS president K. Chandrashekar Rao's farmhouse in Erravalli triggering a sharp confrontation between the ruling Congress and Opposition BRS. Minister Adhuri Laxman Kumar strongly objected to the reported purification ritual conducted by BRS supporters at the spot where SC organisations had staged a protest on Tuesday. He alleged that the act was an insult to Dalits and amounted to an attack on their dignity and self-respect. Laxman Kumar demanded that the issue be taken up for discussion in the House. He accused BRS leaders of displaying a casteist mindset and said the incident could not be viewed in isolation amid other controversies involving the Opposition. The Minister also referred to the recent controversy surrounding alleged

remarks against Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar, saying the latest incident had further aggravated concerns over the conduct of BRS leaders. As Laxman Kumar continued his remarks, BRS legislators interrupted the proceedings and staged a protest inside the Assembly. Opposition members raised slogans demanding an apology from the government over what they described as inappropriate police behaviour towards their women legislators during recent protests. The competing allegations led to a noisy atmosphere in the House, with members from both sides trading accusations. The Erravalli incident has consequently emerged as another flashpoint between the ruling Congress and BRS, with both sides seeking to place their respective allegations before the legislature. The confrontation highlights the growing political tensions surrounding issues of social dignity, the conduct of elected representatives and the treatment of legislators during protests.

# Kokapet Land Bid Hits Rs 115 Crore

Hyderabad, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

Prime land parcels in Hyderabad's Kokapet continued to command premium prices, with a 0.70-acre plot at Golden Mile Site-1 fetching a record Rs 115 crore in the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) e-auction held on Wednesday. The parcel was offered at an upset price of Rs 70 crore, but strong bidder interest pushed the final bid substantially higher. The latest auction underscores the sustained demand for premium real estate in Hyderabad's western growth corridor, particularly in locations with proximity to major commercial and residential hubs. The HMDA conducted e-auctions for select government land parcels at Neopolis Layout and Golden Mile Site-1 in Kokapet village, Gandipet mandal of Ranga Reddy district. The auction attracted considerable interest from prospective investors seeking strategically located properties. At Neopolis Layout, Plot No. 17, spread across 4.59 acres, received a single bid at Rs 120 crore per acre. Although the bidding activity for the plot was limited to one offer, the quoted price reflected the

continuing premium attached to large land parcels in the Kokapet region. The Golden Mile parcel, meanwhile, emerged as the highlight of the auction after its 0.70-acre extent attracted a bid of Rs 115 crore. The outcome represents a significant premium over the reserve price and highlights the growing commercial value of the area. HMDA's auction documents identify Kokapet's Neopolis and Golden Mile layouts as strategically located government land parcels. Earlier HMDA notifications had fixed the upset price for Golden Mile land at Rs 70 crore per acre, while Neopolis plots were offered with a reserve price of Rs 99 crore per acre. The parcels benefit from connectivity to the Outer Ring Road and major employment centres, including the Financial District, Gachibowli and HITEC City. HMDA has also identified infrastructure development at Kokapet as one of its major projects. The latest auction results reinforce Kokapet's position as one of Hyderabad's most sought-after real estate destinations, with premium land values continuing to rise amid rapid development across the western part of the metropolitan region.

# Ponnam Condemns Controversial Ritual



Hyderabad, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on

Wednesday strongly condemned the alleged "purification" of an area in Erravalli where Dalit activists had staged a

drum-beating protest, describing the incident as an insult to Dalits and a serious affront to democratic and constitutional

values. Speaking in the Telangana Legislative Council, Ponnam said every citizen has the constitutional right to protest peacefully. He also noted that playing the dappu, or traditional drum, is closely associated with the cultural heritage and traditional livelihood of Dalit communities. His remarks came amid a political controversy over allegations that BRS workers sprinkled turmeric water on roads used by Dalit Congress protesters near K. Chandrashekar Rao's farmhouse. Ponnam said cleansing a public place because members of a particular community had gathered there reflected outdated social attitudes

and could reinforce caste-based discrimination. He warned that such incidents could deepen social divisions and potentially create law-and-order challenges. The minister demanded that the Legislative Council condemn the Erravalli incident and called upon the BRS to express regret. He argued that political differences should not be allowed to undermine the principles of equality, dignity and social justice guaranteed by the Constitution. The controversy followed a protest on Tuesday by Congress SC and ST leaders and supporters, who marched towards the Erravalli farmhouse while beating drums and demanding an apology over alleged remarks by BRS MLC T. Madhu

sudan against Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar. Tensions escalated as rival Congress and BRS supporters confronted each other, prompting a heavy police deployment. The alleged purification ritual subsequently became a major issue in the Telangana Assembly, with Congress leaders condemning it as discriminatory. The Indian Express reported that the controversy contributed to intense disruptions in the House and the suspension of 21 BRS MLAs for the remainder of the Monsoon Session. Ponnam stressed that protecting the self-respect of oppressed communities was not the responsibility of one political party alone but a collective duty of all parties and elected representatives.

# Flu Cases Raise Concern

Hyderabad, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

Cases of Influenza A continue to be reported at government and private hospitals in Hyderabad, with doctors warning that some patients, particularly those with lower immunity and underlying health conditions, may develop serious respiratory complications. Senior pulmonologist Dr Hari Kishan said Influenza A remains the predominant concern, with H1N1 and H3N2 among its subtypes. Patients are presenting with symptoms such as fever, cold and a runny nose. He said a section of vulnerable patients had developed breathing difficulties requiring intensive care and respiratory support. According to the doctor, influenza activity has also increased in cities such as Delhi and Bengaluru. He said the seasonal rise could continue into October as weather patterns vary across regions. Rapid testing is being used where clinically indicated, while antiviral medication may be prescribed during the early stages of infection. Dr Hari Kishan also advised elderly people, particularly those with non-communicable diseases, to consider seasonal influenza vaccination after consulting healthcare professionals. The Union Health Ministry and National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) maintain clinical protocols and surveillance guidance



for seasonal influenza. At Hyderabad's Fever Hospital, Chief of the Virology Laboratory Dr Amatul said rapid test kits were available for suspected influenza cases. She said around 20 suspected patients had recently been tested, but none tested positive. Testing is undertaken when doctors consider it necessary because symptoms of Influenza A and B can overlap with other respiratory infections. Hyderabad District Medical and Health Officer P Srinivas said there were no reported swine flu cases in the district at the time of his remarks. He put the number of dengue cases at around 320 and said upper respiratory infections had

increased over the preceding few days amid changing weather conditions. The DMHO said private hospitals had been instructed to promptly inform health authorities about notifiable diseases. He added that health officials were visiting Urban Primary Health Centres and Primary Health Centres while conducting awareness and monitoring sessions with private hospitals. A recent report from Hyderabad's Fever Hospital also recorded an increase in flu-like illness amid monsoon conditions and changing weather, with doctors advising precautions such as handwashing, covering coughs and avoiding close contact when unwell.

# Five-Day Rain Spell Forecast

Hyderabad, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

Telangana is likely to witness continued rainfall over the next five days, with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasting thunderstorms, lightning and strong surface winds in several parts of the state. The Met Centre Hyderabad has issued weather warnings covering September 9 to 13, including heavy-rain warnings for September 11 and 12. According to the latest forecast, weather conditions are expected to remain unsettled, with generally cloudy skies and intermittent showers in several districts. Residents have been advised to remain cautious, particularly during periods of thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds. The IMD has indicated the possibility of light to moderate rainfall in parts of northern Telangana. Adilabad and Jagtial are among the districts expected to receive rain, while showers are also likely in Nirmal and Jogulamba



Gadwal districts. The forecast comes as monsoon activity continues over the state. The IMD's Telangana warning bulletin shows thunderstorms and strong surface winds for September 9 and 10, followed by heavy-rain warnings on September 11 and 12. Thunderstorms, lightning and strong winds are again forecast for September 13. The weather department

has urged people to take precautions during thunderstorms and avoid exposed locations when lightning activity is reported. Farmers and residents in vulnerable areas have also been advised to monitor local weather updates. The IMD's district-level forecast for Adilabad indicates partly cloudy conditions with spells of rain or thundershowers through the coming days,

with generally cloudy skies and further showers expected later in the forecast period. Authorities are continuing to monitor weather conditions as rainfall activity develops across Telangana. The public has been advised to follow updates issued by the India Meteorological Department and local administration, particularly in districts under weather warnings.

# Southern Telangana: From the Shadows of Drought to the Path of Progress

## The Changing Economic Landscape of the Palamuru Soil

To understand Southern Telangana's narrative, one must first recall Palamuru's past. Once a byword for drought, distress migration, and acute irrigation deficits, the Mahabubnagar region is now charting a transformative course. Irrigation initiatives such as the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme, Kalwakurthy, Nettempadu, Bhima, and Koilsagar have brought fresh life to its agrarian landscape. Alongside Mahabubnagar, districts including Wanaparthy, Nagarkurnool, Narayanpet, and Jogulamba Gadwal have developed distinct regional anchors across agriculture, livestock, forest resources, small-scale enterprises, and commerce. Its proximity to Hyderabad offers a strategic economic edge. Yet, an expansion of resources alone does not define comprehensive development. How far have local employment, farm incomes, industrial footprint, value addition, and planned urbanization advanced? This is the true yardstick to evaluate Southern Telangana's twelve-year trajectory.

## Palamuru: From Arid Drought to Assured Irrigation

The opening chapter of Southern Telangana's turnaround must begin with water. The name Mahabubnagar once evoked stark drought, rainfed farming, crop volatility, and distress out-migration in search of daily bread-realities that long shaped the region's socio-economic fabric. Irrigation projects laid the groundwork to reverse this trend. Ventures like Kalwakurthy, Nettempadu, Bhima, Koilsagar, and Palamuru-Rangareddy should be viewed not merely as hydraulic structures, but as economic drivers transforming the regional landscape. The definitive measure of whether water has arrived lies in the gap between targeted ayacut and actual acreage brought under cultivation. When irrigation reaches an area, it catalyzes more than just farming-it energizes rural markets, freight logistics, agro-allied businesses, livestock husbandry, and local services.

## From Lands of Out-Migration to Hubs of Local Employment

Another critical metric for evaluating the Palamuru region is the rate of distress migration: to what extent has the compulsion for families to seek work in



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Hyderabad, Mumbai, or other distant metros diminished? Comparing historical migrant worker volumes against current local employment reveals the ground reality. How many stable livelihoods are now created within the district across agriculture, livestock, small-scale manufacturing, construction, and tertiary services? Answers to these questions outline Southern Telangana's true developmental status. Irrigation revitalizes agriculture, but transitioning from an out-migration belt into a land of opportunity requires expanding non-farm rural employment opportunities alongside farming.

## Five Districts: Five Distinct Economic Engines

When looking closely at these five districts of Southern Telangana, each reveals its own unique character and diversity. If they are developed systematically based on their distinct strengths, there is no doubt that it would completely eliminate the need to depend on a city like Hyderabad. These are... Mahabubnagar: Rapidly evolving as the primary urban, commercial, and admin-

istrative core. Narayanpet: Distinct for its agrarian output, traditional handlooms, livestock rearing, and micro-enterprises. Wanaparthy: Anchored by strong agricultural yields, educational institutions, and regional service networks. Jogulamba Gadwal: Benefiting from the Krishna-Tungabhadra river systems, commercial farming, and interstate trade corridors. Nagarkurnool: Enriched by expansive forest wealth, livestock capital, agriculture, and emerging ecotourism frontiers. Treating these five districts under a single development framework would be flawed. Balanced, inclusive growth requires recognizing these individual strengths and designing localized economic strategies around them.

## Agriculture: Moving from Raw Produce to Downstream Value

Expanding acreage under cultivation marks a major turnaround for Southern Telangana. However, raising farmers' incomes requires strengthening post-harvest value chains. Developing modern storage facilities, agro-processing plants, livestock-based industries, certi-

fied seed production, food manufacturing, and organized marketing networks ensures agriculture pumps higher margins into the local economy. Value-addition capacity is a far more decisive metric than crop volume alone. When economic value generated on the field circulates locally rather than siphoning off to outside intermediaries, the rural economy builds lasting resilience.

## Proximity to Hyderabad: A Shared Opportunity and Challenge

Southern Telangana possesses a clear geographical asset in its proximity to the state capital. As Hyderabad expands, demand swells across surrounding peripheries for logistics parks, farm-to-fork supply chains, warehousing, construction materials, technical services, and ancillary manufacturing. Regions like Mahabubnagar are well-positioned to capitalize on this boom. However, the objective must be to evolve beyond serving as a mere supplier of raw produce and low-wage manual labor. The focus should be on becoming a high-value supplier of refined goods and skilled services tailored to the Hyderabad market. Despite noticeable strides, growth across Southern Telangana remains uneven. Selected urban hubs are modernizing rapidly, while pockets of the interior remain tied to subsistence farming. Certain blocks have benefited from new irrigation networks, while others still navigate rainfed uncertainties and underemployment. Progress here cannot be summarized with a simplistic slogan of "change has arrived." The essential inquiry remains: how deep has this progress taken root, and how evenly has it reached the marginalized?

## The Ground Covered

Juxtaposing the Southern Telangana of twelve years ago with that of today highlights clear progress. Irrigation networks have expanded, farming has opened up new avenues, administrative reorganization into smaller districts has decentralized governance, towns have grown, and regional connectivity has improved. Proximity to Hyderabad continues to unlock fresh economic possibilities. Easing drought is only the initial milestone. Moving from drought mitigation to permanent, self-sustaining economic self-reliance remains the ultimate objective-and that is where our next report begins.



## BJP Slams Congress-BRS Assembly Conduct



Hyderabad, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

BJP Telangana State President N. Ramchander Rao on Wednesday criticised the Congress and BRS over the proceedings in the Telangana Legislative Assembly and Council, alleging that both parties were using the sessions for political confrontation instead of addressing pressing public issues. Ramchander Rao said people across Telangana had been looking forward to the Assembly sessions with the expectation that issues affecting their daily lives would receive serious discussion. Instead, he alleged that the Congress and BRS were engaged in political arguments and personal attacks, disappointing the public. He said the BJP's legislators and MLAs were receiving thousands of petitions from people across the state concerning issues that require urgent attention. Among the key matters, he listed large-scale fee reimbursement arrears, the confusion surrounding the prohibited '22A' land list, pending Dearness Allowance (DA) payments and implementation of the Pay Revision Commission (PRC). The BJP leader said delays in fee reimbursement were creating uncertainty for thousands of poor students and their families. He also maintained that the 22A land issue was causing considerable hardship and confusion among ordinary citizens. Ramchander Rao accused both the previous BRS government and the present Congress administration of contributing to several problems faced by the people. He alleged that Congress had promised change after the decade-long BRS rule but was now following policies similar to those of its predecessor. He further alleged that the two parties were diverting attention from governance failures and avoiding discussions that could expose shortcomings in their respective administrations. According to him, valuable Assembly time and public money were being wasted on political confrontations and publicity-oriented activities. Ramchander Rao said the BJP had sought discussions through adjournment resolutions on the immediate release of fee reimbursement dues and resolution of the 22A restricted-land issue, but alleged that the matters were not taken up adequately. He appealed to the Congress and BRS to set aside political differences and use the remaining three days of the Assembly session to debate public concerns. Ramchander Rao said the BJP would continue to raise people's issues inside and outside the legislature and fight for their interests. He also predicted that voters would eventually reject what he described as Congress-BRS "collusion politics."

## Srinivas Goud Opposes Rally Restrictions

Hyderabad, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

Former minister V. Srinivas Goud has criticised the reported denial of permission for the "Chalo Hyderabad" programme planned by employee unions on September 10, describing the move as undemocratic. He alleged that the government was attempting to prevent employees from raising long-pending grievances and warned that efforts to intimidate or silence them would not succeed. Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan, Srinivas Goud said government employees had been waiting for several years for the implementation of assurances made by the Congress before and after the elections. He alleged that several commitments under the Six Guarantees remained pending and questioned the government's approach towards employees who were seeking resolution of their service-related issues. The Telangana Employees Joint Action Committee (TGEJAC), representing government employees, teachers, officials and pensioners, has announced the September 10 "Chalo Hyderabad" programme to press for a range of demands. These



include implementation of the second Pay Revision Commission, release of six pending Dearness Allowances, clearance of employee bills, restoration of the Old Pension Scheme and effective implementation of the Employees' Health Scheme. Srinivas Goud questioned why employees should be asked to remain silent when several issues had remained unresolved for years. He particularly criticised the reported lack of permission for the rally and recalled that the previous BRS government had permitted Congress to hold a public meeting at LB Stadium. He alleged that promises concerning abolition of the Contributory Pension Scheme and restoration of the Old Pension Scheme had not been fulfilled. He also demanded

progress on the PRC and payment of pending benefits. The former minister highlighted alleged outstanding dues relating to Dearness Allowance, travelling allowances and risk allowances in the police department. He also raised concerns over the conditions of Home Guards and criticised the alleged harassment of ASHA workers who were seeking resolution of their demands. Srinivas Goud credited the previous BRS government with prioritising employee welfare and cited the 75 per cent total fitment granted during its tenure. Meanwhile, employee unions have maintained that the September 10 programme will go ahead despite the reported absence of government permission. The JAC has said it would seek legal intervention if necessary. Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka had earlier appealed to employees to defer the protest, but union representatives sought written assurances on their demands. Former Corporation Chairman Devi Prasad Rao, former TSPSC member Sumitra Anand, State Teachers' Union leader Bhujanga Rao and others attended the meeting.

## Talasanani Questions BRS Suspensions

Hyderabad, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

Former minister and BRS MLA Talasanani Srinivas Yadav criticised the suspension of BRS legislators from the Telangana Assembly, alleging that the ruling Congress was using the disciplinary action to avoid a discussion on pressing public issues. His remarks came amid intense disruptions in the Assembly and the suspension of more than 20 BRS MLAs for the remainder of the Monsoon Session. Speaking to mediapersons on Wednesday, Talasanani alleged that BRS legislators were forcibly removed from the House and questioned the manner in which the suspensions were carried out. He also pointed to an alleged discrepancy between the names announced by Legislative Affairs Minister D. Sridhar Babu and those subsequently read out by Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar. Talasanani described it as "absurd" that legis-



lators such as Padma Rao, Malla Reddy, Gangula and Gudem Mahipal Reddy were named for suspension despite, according to him, not being present in the House at the time. The BRS leader said his party respected Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar but accused the Congress of repeatedly emphasising his identity as a "Dalit Speaker", arguing that such references could undermine his stature rather than strengthen it. The Telangana government officially identifies Gaddam Prasad Kumar as the Speaker of the Legislative

Assembly. Talasanani also questioned the Congress government over the implementation of the SC/ST Sub-Plan and demanded that Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka explain the status of funds and programmes under it. He further criticised the government for allegedly retaining a Congress MLA who had made controversial remarks concerning BRS president K. Chandrashekar Rao while BRS legislators were suspended from the House. The BRS leader maintained that his party had consistently stood for the welfare and rights of Dalits and said there was no justification for questioning its commitment to social justice. The latest confrontation comes against the backdrop of a prolonged political standoff between the Congress government and the BRS over protests, alleged remarks against the Speaker and the conduct of legislators inside and outside the Assembly.

## 22 BRS MLAs Suspended From Assembly

### Continue

from the government over what they alleged was inappropriate police behaviour towards their women legislators during recent protests. Carrying their protest to the Speaker's podium, the BRS members reportedly disrupted the proceedings while raising slogans including "We want justice". The continued protest led to a sharp exchange between the Treasury and Opposition benches. Sridhar Babu subsequently moved the motion for their suspension for the entire session, arguing that the disruptions were obstructing the functioning of the House. The Speaker endorsed the proposal and ordered the members' suspension. The action further intensified the political confrontation between the Congress government and the BRS during the Monsoon Session. The Opposition has maintained its allegations regarding police treatment of its women legislators, while the ruling party has accused BRS members of repeatedly disrupting Assembly proceedings. Following the suspension announcement, the House was adjourned for a tea break amid continued political tensions.

## Bandi Sanjay Targets Congress in Khammam



Bhadrachalam, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar launched a strong attack on the Congress and BRS at a BJP workers' meeting in Bhadrachalam, alleging that the undivided Khammam district had witnessed little development despite having three ministers representing the region. Sanjay alleged that the ministers had remained focused on internal differences and political ambitions rather than addressing the district's problems. He claimed that Congress would struggle to win even a single Assembly seat in the undivided Khammam district if elections were held immediately. Highlighting Central government initiatives, he said seven Eklavya Model Residential Schools had been sanctioned for Bhadrachalam. He also cited an Rs 8 crore grant for upgrading the Palvancha Industrial Park, around Rs 4,000 crore for a Greenfield Highway project in Khammam and Rs 446 crore for NH-365A. He said the Centre was also favourably considering an airport at Kothagudem. Sanjay said Rs 41 crore had been allocated for the Bhadrachalam Sitarama chandra Swamy Temple under the PRASAD scheme. He also referred to the Centre's approval of Rs 3,592 crore

for a 174-km railway line connecting Bhadrachalam-Pandurangaapuram with Malkangiri. He accused both the previous BRS and present Congress governments of financial mismanagement and alleged widespread corruption. He also criticised the government over the 22-A prohibited land list, pending employee dues, fee reimbursement arrears and unfulfilled election promises. Sanjay urged BJP workers to remain united and intensify their campaign across the district. He said the party would work towards winning all Assembly seats in the undivided Khammam region and strengthening its organisation so that ordinary workers could rise to elected positions. He also promised to raise the concerns of villages merged with Andhra Pradesh, particularly flood-prone settlements whose residents, he said, were facing uncertainty due to inadequate attention from both states. Calling for a "Double Engine" government, Sanjay urged Telangana voters to give the BJP an opportunity to govern. He asserted that the party was preparing for a major electoral expansion in the state and called on its cadre to continue their efforts without being deterred by political or legal challenges.

## KTR Seeks Governor's Intervention



Hyderabad, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

BRS working president and MLA K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) on Wednesday said his party's legislators had apprised Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla of the developments surrounding the ongoing Assembly session, including alleged police misconduct towards women MLAs and the Congress protest outside former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao's residence. KTR, along with former minister T. Harish Rao and other BRS legislators and MLCs, met the Governor at Lok Bhavan and submitted a representation seeking intervention into the incidents. According to reports, the delegation presented evidence, including videos and photographs, concerning the alleged treatment of BRS legislators during protests outside the Assembly. Speaking to the media after the meeting, KTR alleged that BRS legislators were stopped on the main road while attempting to reach the Assembly. He accused the police of behaving inappropriately with women legislators and said videos showing the alleged manhandling of former minister P. Sabitha Indra Reddy were shown to the Governor. KTR also referred to the confrontation involving MLA V. Sunitha Laxma Reddy. He alleged that her saree was pulled during the scuffle and described the incident as a "Dushasana Parvam", terming it a

serious indignity. Reports from the incident said BRS women legislators alleged rough handling by police, while police maintained that the legislators were stopped over protest slogans displayed on their black T-shirts. The allegations of misconduct have not been independently established. The BRS leaders had arrived wearing black T-shirts as part of their protest against the Congress government. KTR said the party had adopted the protest mode while stressing that BRS continued to respect the Speaker and the institution of the Assembly. He also alleged that thousands of Congress workers had gathered outside KCR's residence and conducted a "Chavu Dabbu" protest, which he claimed was carried out at the Chief Minister's instigation. The BRS has described the demonstration as threatening and inappropriate. KTR said the Governor informed the delegation that he could not intervene in matters occurring inside the Assembly but assured them that incidents outside the House would be examined. Another report said the Governor assured the delegation that the issues raised would be investigated and that senior officials could be asked to explain the developments. The meeting comes amid escalating tensions between the Congress government and the BRS following protests, alleged police misconduct and the suspension of more than 20 BRS MLAs from the remainder of the Monsoon Session.

## Usha Rani Takes Charge at Gandhi Hospital

Hyderabad, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

Dr. T. Usha Rani, the newly appointed Superintendent of Gandhi Hospital in Secunderabad, met Health Minister Damodar Rajanarain on Wednesday and discussed her new responsibilities.

The Health Minister congratulated Dr. Usha Rani on her appointment and wished her success in strengthening patient care, hospital administration and healthcare services at the state's major government hospital.

The State government recently transferred Dr. Usha Rani from her position as Superintendent of Nagarkurnool Government General Hospital and appointed her as Superintendent of Gandhi Hospital. The appointment is part of administrative changes within the Health and Medical Education Department.

As part of the same administrative exercise, the government relieved Dr. Ch. Raja Kumari, Additional Director of Medical Education at Gandhi Hospital, from her responsibilities with immediate effect. She has been directed to report to the Director of Medical Education in Hyderabad.



Gandhi Hospital, one of Telangana's largest government teaching hospitals, provides tertiary healthcare services to patients from Hyderabad as well as several neighbouring districts. The hospital also serves as an important centre for medical education and postgraduate training.

Dr. Usha Rani's appointment comes with the responsibility of overseeing clinical services, patient welfare, hospital operations and coordination among medical and administrative staff. The government is expected to focus on improving service delivery and strengthening administrative efficiency at the institution.

The meeting with the Health Minister marked Dr. Usha Rani's formal engagement following her appointment and highlighted the government's emphasis on effective hospital management and accessible public healthcare.

## Panchamukha Anjaneya Celebrations

Hyderabad, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

The grand annual celebrations of Sri Sankata Vimochana Sri Panchamukha Parivara Abhayanjaneya Swamy Temple at Mandalaguda in Gudimalkapur are being held with religious fervour. The three-day festivities began on September 7 and conclude on September 9, coinciding with the auspicious occasion of Shrawana Bahula Ekadashi.

As part of the celebrations, special pujas and a Sudarshana Homam were performed on September 7. Devotees participated in the rituals and sought the blessings of the presiding deity. On September 8, the temple conducted the Kalyanotsavam of Lord Panchamukha Abhayanjaneya Swamy, along with Dikku Aradhana, a traditional ritual involving worship of the cardinal directions.

The concluding day features the Kalyanotsavam of Sri Sita Ramula at 11 am, followed by the Maha Purnahuti, marking the completion of the special religious ceremonies. Throughout the three-day celebrations, priests perform special homams dedicated to Anjaneya,



Sudarsana Narasimha, Garuda, Hayagriva and Varaha. Recitation of the Sundarakanda is also being conducted as part of the festivities. Temple authorities have invited devotees from Hyderabad and surrounding areas to participate in the concluding ceremonies in large numbers. They said devotees can take part in the spiritual programmes and seek the blessings of the deities.

The celebrations have attracted devotees with a series of traditional rituals, prayers and homams. Temple organisers have urged visitors to cooperate with priests, volunteers and temple staff during the programmes.

The temple authorities reiterated their invitation to devotees, stating that everyone is welcome to attend the annual celebrations and participate in the religious observances.

## BRSV Protest Erupts Over Remarks Against KCR



Quthbullapur, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

Political tensions flared in Quthbullapur on Tuesday after Congress MLA Veerlapalli Shankar allegedly made remarks against former Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR). Leaders and activists of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi Vidyarthi Vibhagam (BRSV) staged a protest at the Gandhi Maisamma crossroads, condemning the comments and raising slogans against the Congress leadership.

A large number of BRSV activists participated in the demonstration, expressing strong opposition to what they described as personal and insulting remarks directed at KCR. As part of the protest, activists burned symbolic effigies of MLA Veerlapalli Shankar and Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy.

The protesters said political differences and criticism were a normal part of democracy but maintained

that such criticism should remain within acceptable limits. They argued that personal attacks on political leaders could further intensify tensions between rival parties.

BRSV leaders recalled KCR's role in the Telangana statehood movement and highlighted his contributions to the development of the state. They said people would continue to remember his role in achieving Telangana statehood and shaping its political journey. The protesters warned that if similar remarks against KCR were repeated, they would intensify their agitation through democratic and peaceful means.

Korra Praveen Naik, Raju, Manisha, Kiran, Om, Manish, Kaushik, Ujjwal Prasad, Madhu and Karthik, along with several other BRSV activists, participated in the protest at Gandhi Maisamma.

The incident reflects the continuing political friction between the ruling Congress and the opposition BRS in Telangana.

# Questions Over Alleged Illegal Sheds

Quthbullapur, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

The construction of two sheds in Pragathinagar under the Nizampet Circle has raised questions among local residents over whether the structures have the required permissions and whether town planning authorities are carrying out adequate field-level inspections.

According to local residents, construction activity is underway opposite Chivas Wines and adjacent to Varalakshmi Tiffin Centre. The works are reportedly being carried out behind curtains or temporary coverings, prompting concerns over the nature of the construction and compliance

with applicable building regulations.

Residents have questioned whether the concerned authorities are regularly inspecting the site and verifying the necessary permissions. They say authorities should examine whether the structures have valid building approvals and whether the construction is being carried out in accordance with prescribed rules.

The issue has also renewed concerns about the effectiveness of action against alleged unauthorised constructions. While authorities have repeatedly stated that action is being taken against illegal structures, residents claim that new constructions continue to emerge in the area.



Locals argue that timely inspections at the initial stages

of construction could help authorities address violations

before the structures are completed. Delayed action, they

## Funds Sought for Pending Works

Chilkanagar, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

Former Chilkanagar Division Corporator and former GHMC Standing Committee member Bannala Geetha Praveen Mudiraj has urged authorities to allocate funds immediately and expedite pending development works in the division.

On Wednesday, she submitted a representation to Uppal Deputy Commissioner Anand, seeking funds for several Cement Concrete (CC) roads in Sairam Nagar and Indira Nagar colonies, along with the main approach road to Prashanth Nagar Community Hall.

Geetha also pointed out delays in tendering for roads opposite Chilkanagar Bodrai and Road No. 3 in Kummurikunta, despite sanctions already being approved. She requested the Deputy Commissioner to expedite the tender process and begin construction at the earliest. She further raised concerns over garbage accumulation at GHMC sanitation Garbage Vulnerable Points (GVPs), saying the issue was causing inconvenience to residents. She urged



officials to ensure that garbage is cleared before 9 a.m. and called for special attention to sanitation management. Responding positively, Deputy Commissioner Anand assured her that steps would be taken to complete the pending development works as soon as possible.

DE Vennela Goud, Sanitation DE Neelima, BRS state leader Bannala Praveen Mudiraj, and senior leaders Eddula Kondal Reddy, Jalli Mohan, Kokkonda Jagan and Balakrishna Goud, among others, were present.

# PDI Expands AI Focus

Hyderabad, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

PDI Technologies is strengthening its artificial intelligence capabilities while planning further expansion of its Hyderabad operations, company executives said during an interaction with Engineering and Product teams. PDI Technologies CTO Raghu Bongula and Vice President and Hyderabad Centre Head Ravi Sankar Mocharla outlined the company's AI strategy and broader growth plans. Bongula highlighted the increasing role of AI in product development, engineering, software testing,

business decision-making and customer solutions.

The company is encouraging its teams to adopt emerging technologies to improve productivity, accelerate innovation and deliver greater value to customers globally. PDI is also developing dedicated AI capabilities as part of its technology strategy. PDI's Hyderabad centre was established in 2020 as part of the company's efforts to expand its engineering capabilities in India. The company's official announcement at the time said the Hyderabad office was intended to strengthen regional engineering and customer-

support capabilities.

Under Mocharla's leadership, the Hyderabad operation has grown significantly, with more than 200 employees working across Engineering, Product and AI-focused functions, according to the company. PDI now has a workforce of nearly 600 employees across Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Chennai and is looking to expand its teams further. The company is also exploring the possibility of establishing a Special Economic Zone campus at Bharat Future City. The proposed expansion aligns with Telangana's efforts to develop Bharat Future City as a major hub for technology, AI, data centres and global corporate operations. The state government has identified AI and data centres among the sectors planned for the emerging city. PDI CEO Jimmy Frangis and COO Linnea



Geiss have also supported the Hyderabad centre's development. The company officially lists Frangis as Chief Executive Officer and Geiss as Chief Operating Officer. The company's Hyderabad expansion is expected to further strengthen its engineering and AI capabilities while contributing to Telangana's growing technology ecosystem.

## Police Step Up Vinayaka Festival Vigil

Quthbullapur, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

Police have stepped up preparations to ensure that Vinayaka Chavithi celebrations are conducted peacefully and safely within the Jeedimetla Police Station limits. As part of the arrangements, Quthbullapur Division ACP Bala Gangi Reddy held a coordination meeting with Vinayaka pandal organisers and members of the public. Addressing the organisers, the ACP urged them to strictly follow police guidelines and cooperate with authorities to maintain law and order throughout the festivities. He advised them to avoid high-decibel sound systems and encouraged the use of traditional bands and musical instruments



wherever possible. The ACP also appealed to organisers and devotees to refrain from consuming alcohol and engaging in unlawful or anti-social activities. He asked them to immediately inform the police about any disputes, suspicious activities or other problems that could affect public safety. Special attention was given to idol immersion arrangements.

Bala Gangi Reddy stressed that the safety of devotees should remain a priority at lakes, ponds and other designated immersion points. He urged organisers to coordinate closely with police personnel to manage crowds and traffic and prevent accidents during the immersion process. The ACP called upon devotees and organisers to celebrate the festival

responsibly, peacefully and with devotion. He emphasised that cooperation from the public would be essential for maintaining a safe environment throughout the celebrations. Jeedimetla SHO K. Ravikumar, Sector SIs Prem Sagar, Srinivas, Shyam Babu and Ramachandrababu, along with other police personnel, participated in the meeting.

## E-Cigarette Sales Busted

Hyderabad, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

Cyberabad police detained 26-year-old Aboobacker Siddeeqe M during a raid on a shop in Madhapur for allegedly selling banned electronic cigarettes and vaping products through online orders.

According to police, the accused was operating the illegal business by accepting orders through WhatsApp and online payment platforms and arranging deliveries to customers through delivery services. During the raid, officials seized banned e-cigarettes, vapes, pods, cartridges and nicotine products, along with 17 e-cigarettes and related raw materials. Police also recovered Rs 72,500 in cash and two mobile phones containing transaction details, payment records and WhatsApp conversations allegedly linked to the sale of the prohibited products. Investigators are examining the seized digital evidence to identify customers and deter-



mine the scale of the operation. Police are also checking whether the accused supplied e-cigarettes to minors. The raid was conducted as part of efforts by the Cyberabad police to curb the illegal sale and distribution of electronic cigarettes in the IT corridor. The sale, distribution, storage and advertisement of e-cigarettes are prohibited under the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Act, 2019. The Union Health Ministry operates a dedicated portal for reporting violations of the law. Recent police action in Madhapur has highlighted the

growing use of online channels to distribute banned vaping products. In another operation reported earlier this month, police arrested three people after raids on two outlets and found that orders were being processed through a website and WhatsApp account. Investigators said bank records showed substantial financial transactions linked to the operation. Cyberabad police are continuing their investigation to identify additional persons involved in the supply chain and ascertain whether prohibited products were supplied to underage customers.

# Five Murders Put Police on Alert

Hyderabad, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

A spate of five murders reported in Hyderabad over the past 10 days has raised concerns over the activities of drug peddlers, cellphone snatchers and rowdy-sheeters, prompting senior police officials to intensify surveillance and visible policing across the city and its expanding suburbs. A local report said several recent incidents were suspected to have links to disputes involving ganja sales and monetary transactions.

Police have been particularly concerned about criminal activity in isolated stretches on the city's outskirts, where regular patrolling is more difficult. Senior officials reported-

ly expressed dissatisfaction over gaps in visible policing and directed personnel to conduct vehicle checks daily between 5 pm and 8 pm, while identifying suspicious persons and vehicles.

Authorities are also planning additional patrols in vulnerable locations, with personnel from the Armed Reserve and Telangana Special Police expected to support local teams. The rapidly expanding suburban areas, including parts of Rajendranagar and Shamshabad, have emerged as areas requiring closer monitoring following administrative changes and increasing population and industrial activity. Police are assessing whether manpower shortages are affecting routine

patrolling. Recent cases underline the concern. A history-sheeter was stabbed to death near Palacheruvu following an alleged dispute over money and personal issues. Police said the victim had previously been booked in several cases, including a ganja-peddling case.

Police have also reported continuing action against drug networks. In July, the Hyderabad Commissioner's Task Force arrested three people, including a rowdy-sheeter, and seized 22.22 kg of ganja in Shaheenagar. Officials are reportedly focusing on habitual offenders frequenting hotels, restaurants and deserted areas around Mailardevpally, Falaknuma,



Chandrayangutta, Katedan and Jalpally. Allegations of intimidation, extortion and disputes being settled through threats have heightened concerns. Police have also stepped up

monitoring of rowdy-sheeters ahead of the Ganesh festivities. The Attapur police recently counselled history-sheeters and warned them against involvement in unlawful activities during the festi-

val period. The latest measures are aimed at increasing police visibility, monitoring repeat offenders and preventing further violence, particularly in isolated and rapidly developing suburban areas.

# Kaloji's Legacy Honoured

Nalgonda, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

District Collector B. Chandrashekhar said the literary works of 'People's Poet' and Padma Vibhusan awardee Kaloji Narayana Rao continue to offer valuable lessons for everyday life. He made the remarks while paying tributes to Kaloji on his birth anniversary at the Nalgonda District Collectorate on Wednesday.

The Collector garlanded Kaloji's portrait at a programme held in the conference hall and recalled his contributions to literature and the Telangana movement. Born on September 9, 1914, in Karnataka, Kaloji completed his primary education in Warangal and developed an interest in



literature from an early age. Chandrashekhar noted that Kaloji was proficient in several languages and published his first poem in 1941. From then until

the end of his life, he made a lasting contribution to Telugu literature, particularly through writings reflecting the social and political realities of Telangana.

He said Kaloji's poems questioned social injustice and the prevailing system during the Telangana movement, inspiring people and contributing to the struggle

for statehood. In recognition of his contribution, the state government named its Health University after him as Kaloji Narayana Rao University of Health

Sciences. Describing Kaloji's poetry as simple yet profound, the Collector said his writings effectively communicated his ideals and the spirit of Telangana to ordinary people. He urged the public to follow Kaloji's principles and translate the values expressed in his writings into action. He also observed that the works of poets such as Kaloji, Dasarathi, Sumati and Vemana have the power to influence and guide people's lives. Additional Collector (Revenue) J. Srinivas, Trainee Assistant Collector Srikanth Reddy, DRO Dasarath, Collectorate Admnistrative Officer Motilal and other officials and staff participated in the programme and paid tributes.

## Malla Reddy Birthday Marked at Asha Jyothi Ashram

Medchal, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

Birthday celebrations of former Minister and Medchal MLA Chamakura Malla Reddy were held on a grand scale at the Asha Jyothi Ashram near Shanta Biotech in Medchal town. The programme was organised under the guidance of Dr. Bhadra Reddy. A cake was cut in the presence of around 350 students of the ashram, who conveyed their birthday wishes to Malla Reddy. Later, a meal distribution programme was conducted, with BRS leaders joining the students for lunch. Speaking on the occasion, TRS leader and former co-opted member Akiti Naveen Reddy extended his greetings to Malla Reddy and wished him good health and a long life. He expressed hope that the former minister would continue serving the people and reach greater heights in public life. Naveen Reddy also wished Malla Reddy



many more years of active public service and continued success in his political career. BRS leaders and activists, including Saddi Sushanth Reddy, Mandala Ravi, Gongalla Shekhar Reddy, Kola Venkatesh, Daggu Pavan, Raghu, Srinath and Varun Reddy, attended the celebrations. Ashram administrators and students also participated in the programme. The event concluded with birthday greetings and interactions between party leaders and the students.

## Loan App Threatens Woman Over Repayment

Hyderabad, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

A woman from Boduppal was allegedly harassed by loan app operators who threatened to circulate morphed photographs of her Class 10 daughter on social media over a delayed loan repayment. The Medipally police have registered a case and launched an investigation into the incident. The 42-year-old woman, a resident of Rajalingam Colony, had reportedly taken a loan through the 'Vardhan' app for the needs of a relative. After she stopped paying the EMIs, she began receiving repeated calls from individuals demanding repayment. Even after she blocked the numbers, the callers allegedly continued contacting her from different phone numbers. According to her complaint, the harassment escalated when the operators

allegedly morphed photographs of her daughter and sent the edited images to the woman through WhatsApp. They reportedly warned that the photographs would be posted on social media unless the outstanding amount was paid. The woman approached the Medipally police after receiving the threats and submitted a complaint. Police registered a case against unidentified persons and are working to trace the callers and establish their connection with the loan application. The incident highlights continuing concerns over aggressive recovery practices linked to digital lending platforms. Hyderabad and Telangana have witnessed several complaints in recent years involving loan app operators allegedly misusing borrowers' personal photographs and contacts to pressure them into making payments.

## Temple Hundi Robbed

Mancherial, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

A theft at the Sri Bugga Raja Rajeshwara Swamy Temple in Kannala of Mancherial district has caused concern among devotees and local residents. Unidentified persons reportedly broke into the temple at midnight and stole around \$40,000 from the hundi. According to preliminary information, the offenders allegedly damaged the CCTV cameras installed on the temple premises before targeting the donation box. They subsequently broke open the locks of the hundi located near the sanctum sanctorum and escaped with cash offerings made by devotees. Temple priests and staff discovered the damage when they arrived in the early hours and immediately alerted the police. A police team from Talala Gurajala reportedly visited the temple, inspected the premises and collected evidence as part of the investigation. A case has been registered based on a complaint lodged by the temple committee.

Police are examining available clues and checking the movements of suspected persons in nearby areas to identify those responsible for the theft. The incident has triggered anger among villagers and devotees, particularly because similar thefts have reportedly occurred at the temple every few years. Locals have urged the police to identify and arrest the culprits and take strict action against those involved. Devotees have also appealed to the Endowments Department to strengthen security at the temple by appointing a night watchman and improving surveillance arrangements. They said the temple attracts a large number of devotees and requires adequate security, particularly during night hours. The temple committee and local residents are awaiting further developments in the police investigation. Authorities are expected to examine the circumstances surrounding the destruction of the CCTV cameras and the break-in to determine whether the theft was carried out after prior reconnaissance.

## Conductor Injured in Depot Accident

Kodad, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

A serious accident at an RTC depot in Kodad has raised concerns over safety procedures and supervision after a bus reportedly ran over the legs of conductor Kommu Kotaiah while he was walking towards his two-wheeler after completing his duty. The incident occurred late Tuesday night when the bus was reportedly being moved into the depot garage for parking. According to preliminary accounts, the vehicle was handed over to an outsourced worker identified as Kumar for the parking operation. The bus allegedly went out of control while being manoeuvred and crashed into two-wheelers parked inside the depot. Kotaiah was reportedly caught beneath the bus and suffered severe injuries to both legs. He sustained substantial blood loss and was initially shifted to the Government Hospital in Kodad for emergency treatment. As his condition reportedly worsened, he was later moved to a private hospital in Hyderabad for advanced medical care. The accident came to light only later, prompting questions among RTC employees and unions over the circumstances surrounding the incident. Colleagues alleged that the bus was operated for parking by an outsourced worker who did not have adequate experience or the required training to handle a heavy passenger vehicle. Employees also questioned the practice of allowing assistant mechanics and outsourced personnel to operate buses without proper supervision and training. They reportedly alleged negligence on the part of depot garage officer Dasarath for handing over the vehicle for parking. Workers further claimed that inadequate monitoring by depot officials may have contributed to the accident. Allegations that attempts were made to keep the incident from becoming public have also emerged, although these claims require independent verification. RTC employees and union representatives have demanded a comprehensive inquiry by senior officials to establish how the bus lost control, determine whether established safety procedures were followed and identify any lapses in supervision or training. They have also sought appropriate action against anyone found responsible for negligence and urged the authorities to strengthen safety protocols at depot garages to prevent similar incidents. No official statement from the RTC authorities regarding the allegations was available at the time of publication.

## Jeevan Kumar Earns PhD

OU, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

Jeevan Kumar has been awarded a PhD in Sanskrit by Osmania University, marking a significant milestone in his academic journey. He received the doctoral degree during the university's 85th convocation ceremony held on September 8. Hailing from the Mancherial region, Jeevan Kumar achieved the prestigious doctorate after years of dedicated study, research and hard work

while overcoming several challenges. Apart from his academic pursuits, he has remained actively involved in student and social movements. During the Telangana movement, he participated as a student leader at Nizam College. He later served in several organisational positions at Osmania University, including ABVP OU Secretary, ABVP State Joint Secretary and as a member of the national executive committee. He was also involved in various initiatives and

movements concerning student and youth issues. Describing the award of his PhD as a memorable moment in his life, Jeevan Kumar credited his family, mentors, friends and well-wishers for their support and encouragement throughout his academic and research journey. Family members, friends, mentors, colleagues and well-wishers congratulated Dr. Jeevan Kumar and wished him continued success in his future academic and social endeavours.



# Battle for Sporting Glory

Quthbullapur, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

The Quthbullapur Zonal-level sports competitions and selection trials began with great enthusiasm at Surya Global School in Bachupally under the aegis of the 70th School Games Federation. The opening day witnessed intense Kabaddi competitions, with around 800 student-athletes from various schools participating. The sporting arena was filled with excitement as young players competed fiercely, aiming to demonstrate their talent, secure selection and advance to the next level of competition. Inaugurating the event, Bachupally Mandal

Educational Officer Ramakrishna said victory and defeat were natural parts of sports and should be accepted with true sportsmanship. He expressed confidence that talented athletes emerging from the zonal-level competitions would perform well at the district level and bring recognition to the Quthbullapur Zone. Quthbullapur Zonal Secretary P. Nagaraju Goud said sports were not merely about winning medals but also played an important role in developing discipline, self-confidence, perseverance and leadership qualities among students. He urged athletes to maintain a fighting spirit until the end and not become

discouraged by defeat. Instead, he encouraged them to consider every setback as a stepping stone towards future success. With clear goals, determination and consistent practice, students could achieve greater heights in sports, he added. Samina, Academic Head of Surya Global School, and Physical Directors Vinod, Vijay, Ramesh, Suresh and Sunil were among those who participated in the programme. The organisers ensured the smooth conduct of the competitions and the athlete selection process, providing a grand platform for young sporting talent from the Quthbullapur Zone.



## Students Launch Lake Cleanup

Medchal, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

Students of Loyola Academy Degree and PG College organised a cleanliness and awareness drive at Alwal Lake on Wednesday as part of a community outreach initiative titled 'Save Alwal Lake.' The programme aimed to promote lake conservation and encourage the public to maintain a clean environment. Second-year B.Sc. students from the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence department

actively participated in the drive, removing accumulated plastic waste and garbage from the surroundings of the lake. The students also interacted with members of the public and highlighted the importance of protecting water bodies from pollution. During the awareness campaign, participants urged residents and visitors to refrain from littering or dumping waste near the lake. They emphasised that preserving lakes was essential not only for the environment but also for ensuring

their continued utility for future generations. Officials and representatives from the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) participated in the programme and supported the students' efforts. GHMC Deputy Commissioner Bogeshwar Rao, Deputy Executive Engineer Sandeep, and sanitation officials Prabhakar and Swami were present on the occasion. The college administration also joined the initiative. Principal Fr. Dr. N.B. Bababu, Correspondent Fr. Dr. A.



Rex Angelio, Vice Principal Fr. Peter and Extension Officer Stephen Ashirvadam participated in the event. The cleanup drive reflect-

ed the growing role of educational institutions and students in promoting environmental responsibility. Through the 'Save Alwal Lake' initiative, the

participants sought to inspire greater community involvement in protecting and preserving Hyderabad's valuable water bodies.

## ACB Catches Education Officer

Sangareddy, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) officials on Wednesday caught Sangareddy Regional Inspection Officer of Intermediate Education R. Govindaram allegedly accepting a Rs 20,000 bribe at his office Rs in the District Collectorate. The trap followed a complaint from the management of a private junior college over a demand for a favourable inspection report. According to reports, the officer had allegedly demanded Rs 50,000 for submitting a positive inspection report connected with the renewal of provisional affiliation of a junior college in Sangareddy. The college management had already paid Rs 30,000 as the first instalment. After the officer allegedly contacted the management and demanded the remaining Rs 20,000, the complainant approached the ACB. Based on the com-

plaint, the agency laid a trap at the District Intermediate Education office. A team led by Medak ACB DSP Sudharshan Reddy caught Govindaram while he was allegedly accepting the remaining amount. ACB officials recovered the tainted cash from his possession and registered a case. Further investigation is underway. The incident has drawn attention to the regulatory role of the District Intermediate Education office, which oversees matters concerning junior colleges, including inspections and the feasibility of sanctioning new institutions. The official Sangareddy district administration website lists the District Intermediate Educational Officer as a key district-level authority dealing with intermediate education affairs. A report by Hyderabad Mail stated that the officer was arrested and would be pro-

duced before the II Additional Special Judge for Trial of SPE and ACB Cases in Hyderabad. The ACB has repeatedly urged citizens to report demands for illegal gratification by public servants. Officials advise complainants to approach the bureau rather than paying bribes, enabling investigators to verify complaints and conduct trap operations where appropriate. The latest case is part of continuing anti-corruption efforts targeting alleged bribery in government offices. The Sangareddy district administration, meanwhile, continues to oversee intermediate education services across the district, which has 151 junior colleges on its rolls, including government and private institutions.



## DSP Warns Rowdy-Sheeters

Nalgonda, Sept 9 | TPN Bureau

Nalgonda DSP Shivaram Reddy warned that strict action would be taken against anyone attempting to disturb law and order during the upcoming Ganesh festivities, irrespective of their social or political status. Addressing rowdy-sheeters during a counselling session at his office on Tuesday, the DSP said those involved in anti-social activities would face serious consequences. He cautioned that political influence or support from leaders would not protect any-

one who violated the law. Around 80 to 100 rowdy-sheeters from Nalgonda town attended the counselling programme and were reportedly bound over as a preventive measure. The DSP directed them to maintain discipline and avoid activities that could create tensions or disrupt public peace during the festivities. Shivaram Reddy specifically warned that rowdy-sheeters would face severe action if they crossed the limits set by law. He stressed that the police would closely monitor sensitive areas and take preventive measures to ensure



peaceful celebrations. The DSP appealed to residents and festival organisers to cooperate with the police and follow safety and security guidelines. He said maintaining communal harmony and public order would remain the priority dur-

ing the Ganesh celebrations. Police officials urged people to report suspicious or unlawful activities promptly and assured that necessary measures would be taken to ensure peaceful festivities across Nalgonda town.

## Editorial

### Screen Image Is Not Character

People often tend to believe and trust those they see on screen, assuming that visibility and popularity are proof of character, credibility and integrity. But this assumption can prove costly. Before placing faith in a celebrity, social-media influencer or any public personality, people must make an effort to understand the person behind the image. The latest Nandu's World case is a reminder of how dangerous blind trust can become.

Nandu reportedly gained popularity through reels and built a substantial following on social media. Over time, followers developed a sense of familiarity and trust with her. That trust, according to complaints, was allegedly exploited by collecting money from people on the promise of arranging visas. What began as online popularity eventually turned into a serious financial controversy, with people reportedly losing crores of rupees.

The disturbing question is not merely how such an alleged fraud could happen, but why people were willing to part with large sums of money without adequately verifying the credentials, promises and arrangements involved. It was only after complaints emerged that many apparently began questioning the claims and examining the reality behind the celebrity image.

Victims naturally deserve sympathy when they are deceived. However, sympathy cannot replace caution. Financial decisions, particularly those involving substantial amounts, cannot be based merely on social-media popularity, screen presence or personal familiarity created through reels and online content.

The lesson is straightforward: \*a celebrity image is not a character certificate\*. Popularity does not guarantee honesty, and followers are not necessarily friends who can be trusted with money. Whether the person is a celebrity, influencer or an ordinary individual, every financial promise must be independently verified.

People must stop treating social-media fame as proof of credibility. Blind faith can be expensive. Verification, documentation and due diligence are not signs of distrust; they are essential safeguards. The Nandu's World case should therefore serve as a warning that appearances, however convincing, must never replace evidence.

## Jadavpur University: From Red Ideology to a New Cultural Awakening



Jadavpur University has never been an ordinary university. It has been one of India's most intellectually vibrant academic institutions, producing scholars, scientists, writers, engineers and public intellectuals of national and international reputation. Yet its campus has also been known for intense student politics and ideological contestation. For years, the walls of the university have carried revolutionary slogans, including slogans associated with Maoist politics and the rhetoric of "Azadi". The gradual disappearance of such slogans from the campus walls may therefore signify something more than routine cleaning. It may indicate the beginning of a larger cultural transition.

Swami Vivekananda, perhaps the greatest modern interpreter of India's spiritual heritage, wore the saffron robe. His saffron represented renunciation, strength, fearlessness and service to humanity. In India's national flag, saffron occupies the place of honour at the top. It symbolises courage and sacrifice. To celebrate saffron, therefore, need not mean celebrating a political party. It can mean celebrating an India that values courage, sacrifice, knowledge, spirituality and national responsibility. For decades, however, sections of India's student politics have been dominated by the vocabulary of the international

Left. Marx, Lenin and Mao became familiar. The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 was a historic turning point. Communist governments disappeared from much of Eastern Europe. Political movements based on orthodox Marxism lost their earlier global momentum. Even where communist parties survived, they had to adapt to radically different economic and political realities. India's Left too has faced a serious crisis of imagination. West Bengal's electoral history tells an important story. The leftist ideology cannot be allowed to dictate educational policy at the expense of students' future opportunities. The situation becomes particularly significant when we look at university campuses. Students deserve political freedom, but universities cannot become ideological ghettos. A student may admire Marx, Lenin or Mao. Another may admire Vivekananda, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose or Sri Aurobindo. A third may prefer Ambedkar, Tagore or Gandhi. The university must provide space for all these intellectual traditions. But intellectual pluralism also demands historical honesty. Why should an Indian student be encouraged to memorise Maoist revolutionary slogans while knowing little about India's own revolutionary heritage? Why should Lenin occupy a larger symbolic space than Netaji

Subhas Chandra Bose? Why should Mao become an icon while Khudiram Bose, who sacrificed his life for India's freedom, remains comparatively underrepresented in some political narratives? These are legitimate questions. Netaji's relationship with the Left has always been historically complex. He represented one of the most powerful currents of Indian nationalism. His Indian National Army brought together Indians across religion, language and region under the call of freedom. To discuss Netaji seriously on an Indian campus is therefore not an act of ideological conformity. It is an essential part of understanding modern India. The same argument applies to Vivekananda. Vivekananda cannot be reduced to a symbol of contemporary political Hinduism. His vision was much larger. He spoke of the dignity of the human being, the strength of character, service to the poor, national regeneration and the universal dimension of Indian spirituality. His message—"Arise, awake"—continues to inspire generations of young Indians. A saffron renaissance at Jadavpur, if it is to have genuine meaning, should therefore be intellectual rather than merely electoral. It should encourage students to read the Upanishads alongside Marx, Vivekananda alongside Lenin, Tagore alongside Mao, Ambedkar alongside European



Dr Ratan Bhattacharjee

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political thinkers, and Netaji alongside the history of global anti-colonial movements. This would not destroy the Left tradition. It would challenge its monopoly. A university becomes stronger when one ideology cannot claim ownership of intellectual space.

The question of "Azadi" also deserves serious examination. Freedom of expression is a fundamental principle of a democratic society. Students must have the right to debate Kashmir, nationalism, state power and minority rights. Freedom of expression cannot mean freedom from responsibility. A university should teach students the difference between dissent and disintegration. Jadavpur University's reputation also demands attention to campus safety. Reports and allegations concerning ragging, violence and substance abuse in educational institutions should never be dismissed as mere student politics. The real transformation of Jadavpur University must therefore occur at a deeper level. The campus should become a place where the Indian civilisational inheritance receives the same intellectual seriousness that is given to European revolutionary thought. Students should be able to explore India's philosophical traditions, scientific achievements, literature, art, freedom struggle and social reform movements without being labelled politically. There is no contradiction between patriotism and intellectual freedom. Indeed, genuine patriotism demands intellectual freedom. The celebration of saffron should thus be understood as an opportunity to reclaim a wider cultural vocabulary. Saffron can represent the courage of the freedom fighter, the renunciation of the monk, the sacrifice of the revolutionary, the dedication of the teacher and the service of the citizen. It should represent

Vivekananda's fearlessness, Netaji's determination, Khudiram's sacrifice and the civilisational confidence of India.

But there is one important warning. If saffron merely replaces red as another colour of political domination, the university will have learned nothing. The objective should not be to erase one ideology and install another. The objective should be to break ideological monopolies. Jadavpur University deserves walls that speak not merely of revolution but of knowledge. Let Marx remain available for study. Let Lenin remain available for historical analysis. Let Mao remain an object of serious scholarly examination. But let Vivekananda, Tagore, Netaji, Ambedkar, Nazrul, Vidyasagar, Sri Aurobindo and countless other Indian thinkers stand beside them. That is the true meaning of intellectual freedom. The future of Jadavpur University should not be a battle between red and saffron. Perhaps the time has come for Jadavpur's walls to tell a new story. A story in which Indian students do not merely inherit slogans from distant revolutions but discover the extraordinary intellectual and cultural resources of their own civilisation. A story in which nationalism is not the enemy of scholarship. A story in which dissent does not require contempt for the nation. A story in which Vivekananda can stand beside Marx, Netaji beside Lenin, and Tagore beside every thinker whose ideas have shaped the modern world. That would not be the end of Jadavpur University's radical tradition. It would be its intellectual renewal. In international Tagore Award, multilingual writer and poet Dr Ratan Bhattacharjee is a former Affiliate Faculty of Virginia Commonwealth University, USA, and President, Kolkata Indian American Society, USA.

## The One Above the Sky and The Other Below the Ground - Two Disruptive Technologies



### Part 1 - The One Around Us and Above

Looking up used to be an exercise in imagination. When I was a child of five or six years old, looking at the sky was my favourite pastime. Anyhow, in those days, for a child, homework was unheard of, and we were not always forced to look down, do homework, no play and think (only thinking, no imagination) of scaling high. How is it possible? The skies over Kerala boasted a pristine, bright blue, framed by silver clouds and the striking green combs of coconut leaves. Today, however, that vibrant contrast has been replaced by a chaotic canopy. The modern child's vision in Kerala or elsewhere in urban India is strangled by a web of electric wires and cable TV lines, rendering the simple act of watching the sky nearly impossible without the intrusion of overhead cables. We lost the mighty chances of finding the horse-shaped or duck-shaped clouds and the Divya Velicham (divine aura) beneath the clouds.

This visual pollution in our skies perfectly mirrors a more insidious, hidden menace beneath our feet. The slow poisoning of our groundwater by obsolete sewage networks. We find ourselves caught in an infrastructural paradox where disruptive technologies threaten to make old networks obsolete, yet we remain stubbornly tethered to systems that endanger our health and our environment. Anyhow, we will discuss the one beneath our feet in tomorrow's column.

A Laser Mesh in the Sky

While our local streets remain tangled, the broader horizon of connectivity is undergoing a massive transformation overhead. SpaceX's Starlink is redefining internet infrastructure through a vast and ever-expanding network.

Since 2019, Starlink has deployed

another via laser links, they remain unaffected by ground-level catastrophes or natural calamities. If physical undersea fibre cables are severed, the Starlink network continues to function without a hitch.

"Elon Musk claims that Starlink is like a laser mesh network that creates a network that is immune to ground-level disruptions. Musk has pitched Starlink's satellite internet services as a way to connect underserved parts of India, particularly rural areas."

This resilience is a game-changer for disaster relief. During the devastation of the Tsunami, my friends and colleagues at the IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) across India had to scramble to restore urgent communication after affected areas lost all communication channels, communication towers, and electrical connectivity. Students from the IEEE Trivandrum chapter were heavily relied upon to self-build hand-cranking battery chargers for mobile phones and set up alternative WANs to replace failed cell towers in the affected areas.

Today, Starlink provides free disaster relief and rural access, as demonstrated during the flash floods in Nepal. Musk has emphasized that while vast sums of money are spent launching these satellites, the company does not act opportunistically to charge users during calamities.

However, physics still applies; Starlink's broad satellite beams struggle with accessibility issues in densely populated high-rise concrete jungles. Therefore, while it cannot entirely replace cell towers in urban centres, it serves as the ultimate complementary network connecting wireless to these towers, excelling in natural disaster zones and previously underserved rural communities in Himalayas, hillocks, Rajasthan deserts or the fishermen in the deep waters.



Ram Kamal

Social Engineer

This new disruptive technology is already with us. But we are yet to know about its environmental hazard. SpaceX's Starlink is not considered entirely environmentally friendly, as scientists and researchers warn that frequent rocket launches and the mass destruction of re-entering satellites cause notable atmospheric and light pollution. Starlink satellites have a short lifespan of about five years. When they retire, they intentionally burn up upon re-entering Earth's atmosphere, releasing aluminium oxide and other metallic particles that can harm the ozone layer. All scientists and poets used ozone layer too much. Who now cares? Ozone or uninterrupted internet is the choice.

Starlink (Internet Provider), Connects your home or device to the global internet, similar to a traditional cable or fibre provider. It assigns local or shared network addresses but does not encrypt your browsing traffic or mask your IP address by default. Eventually the VPN (Virtual Private Network) and the software or service that encrypts your internet traffic and routes it through an external server to hide your real IP address and secure your data have to be used with a third-party VPN services (such as OpenVPN, WireGuard, or commercial VPN apps) over Starlink connection.

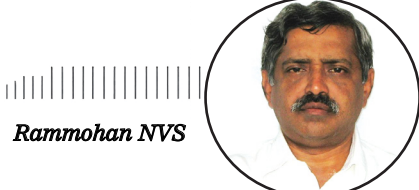
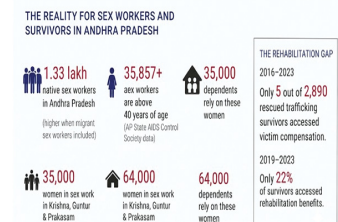
Standard residential Starlink plans use CGNAT (Carrier-Grade Network Address Translation), which means outbound VPN connections on individual devices work fine, but hosting your own incoming VPN server can be difficult without a specialized business plan.

Opinions on Facebook are mixed regarding whether a VPN is strictly necessary for daily use, as basic network security relies on your router settings, though a VPN adds extra encryption. Additionally, users on Reddit generally agree that a VPN cannot spoof your physical location to bypass Starlink's regional restrictions, because the dish uses its own internal GPS.

But one thing is sure: our children or us are going to lose our skies in the day and the Night Sky is going to have Interference from thousands of reflective satellites disrupt astronomical observations and change the natural appearance of the night sky. Tomorrow, let us look at another disruptive technology that can give us relief if # Modiji, Naidu Garu and Reddy Garu do something!

## Development Must Reach Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent

### 40 Years of the Right to Development



Rammohan NVS

Secretary HELP, Ongole

ic life.

The consequences are particularly severe for women and girls. They experience the intersection of caste or descent discrimination with gender inequality, poverty, violence, trafficking, insecure livelihoods and exclusion from decision-making. UN Women has highlighted that women from communities discriminated on work and descent face multiple and overlapping forms of discrimination affecting education, health, justice, political participation and economic opportunity.

This means that development programmes cannot claim to be inclusive simply because they are available to everyone. Equal access on paper does not automatically produce equality in reality. When generations of discrimination have denied a community education, land, financial resources, skills and decent employment, additional measures are necessary to create genuine equality of opportunity.

The principle of "leaving no one behind" must therefore move beyond a slogan. Development planning must identify who is being left behind, understand why they are excluded, and place their voices at the centre of decision-making.

Communities discriminated on work and descent should not be treated merely as beneficiaries of welfare programmes. They must be recognized as rights-holders, development partners and leaders. Their lived experiences are essential evidence for designing effective policies.

Governments must strengthen implementation of anti-discrimination laws, improve access to quality education and healthcare, create decent and dignified employment opportunities, expand financial inclusion, protect land and livelihood rights, and ensure meaningful representation in institutions and development planning.

The private sector also has an important role. Corporate social responsibility and responsible business practices should

actively address structural barriers faced by marginalized communities through skills development, entrepreneurship, employment, supply-chain inclusion and access to markets and finance.

Civil society organizations and community-led institutions can bridge another critical gap. They can help communities understand their rights, access government schemes, document discrimination, build leadership and hold institutions accountable.

The Right to Development also requires us to rethink the meaning of development itself. A new road, industrial project or economic investment cannot be considered successful if the communities living beside it remain without decent housing, education, healthcare, secure livelihoods or a voice in decisions affecting their lives.

Development must be measured not only by what is built, but by whose lives are improved.

The 40th anniversary provides an opportunity to renew the commitment made four decades ago. The international community has repeatedly affirmed equality, dignity and participation. The challenge now is implementation.

For Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent, the demand is neither charity nor special privilege. It is equality, justice, dignity and the right to participate fully in development.

If the world is serious about achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and building inclusive societies, the people who have experienced exclusion for generations must be at the centre of the solution.

The true test of the Right to Development is not how far the most privileged have progressed. It is whether those who have been left behind for generations are finally able to move forward with dignity, equality and freedom.

On its 40th anniversary, that must become the unfinished promise-and the urgent agenda-of the Right to Development.

# Cabinet Approves Three Railway Multitracking Projects Worth Rs 10,783 Crore

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved three railway multi-tracking projects with a total estimated cost of Rs 10,783 crore. The projects, which are planned for completion by 2029-30, will strengthen rail infrastructure across West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. The approved projects include the Kharagpur-Jharsuguda (Bagdehi) fourth line, the Katni-Pendra Road fourth line and the Bilaspur (Uslapur)-Pendra Road third line. Together, the projects will increase

the existing Indian Railways network by about 656 kilometres and cover 14 districts across the five states. The additional capacity is expected to improve mobility, enhance operational efficiency and strengthen service reliability. The multitracking works will also help streamline train operations and ease congestion on important railway routes. The projects are being developed under the PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan, with emphasis on improving multimodal connectivity and logistics efficiency through integrated planning and consultations with stakeholders. The



enhanced railway network is expected to facilitate smoother movement of passengers, goods and services.

The projects will improve rail connectivity to around 4,790 villages with a combined population of about 56 lakh. The expanded net-

work is also expected to support comprehensive development in the region by creating better opportunities for employment and self-employment. Several important tourist and religious destinations will benefit from improved connectivity. These include Taratarini Temple, Shri Khetra Jagannath Temple, an ancient temple near Jharsuguda, Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, Virateshwar Temple, Amarkantak Temple, Jwaleshwar Dham, Achanakmar Tiger Reserve, Khutaghat Dam, Malhar Archaeological Site and Ratanpur Mahamaya Temple.

The railway routes are also important for transporting major commodities such as coal, cement, iron and steel. The capacity augmentation is expected to generate additional freight traffic of around 27 million tonnes per annum. The Railways, as an energy-efficient and environment-friendly mode of transportation, is expected to contribute to the country's climate goals while reducing logistics costs. The projects are estimated to reduce oil imports by around 12 crore litres and lower carbon dioxide emissions by approximately 62 crore kg, equivalent to planting about 2.48 crore trees.

## Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati Takes Oath As J&K, Ladakh High Court Chief Justice



Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court on Wednesday, with Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena administering the oath of office at the Shalimar Auditorium of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST), Kashmir. Saxena, who was discharging the functions of the J&K Lieutenant Governor during the leave of Manoj Sinha, administered the oath to Justice Bhati. The ceremony began with the rendition of the national song, followed by the National Anthem. The Registrar General of the High Court read out the President's warrant of appointment before Justice Bhati took the oath. Justice Bhati and Saxena subsequently signed the oath roll, following which the warrant of appointment was formally handed over to the new Chief Justice. The ceremony concluded with the national song and the National Anthem. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, National Conference president Farooq Abdullah, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Abdul Rahim Rather, senior judges of the High Court, Cabinet ministers, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat and other senior civil and police officials were present at the ceremony. Born on September 21, 1970, Justice Bhati served as a judge of the Rajasthan High Court before being elevated as Chief Justice of the J&K and Ladakh High Court. He holds law degrees, including an LL.M. in Mercantile Law and a Ph.D. focusing on public employment and the role of the Supreme Court of India. Justice Bhati enrolled as an advocate in 1992 and practised for nearly 25 years before the Rajasthan High Court. His legal practice covered writ jurisdiction, criminal law, public interest litigation and revenue law. During his legal career, he served as Additional Advocate General for Rajasthan and as Standing Counsel for the Indian Railways for 16 years. Justice Bhati was appointed an Additional Judge of the Rajasthan High Court on November 16, 2016, and became a permanent judge on March 16, 2018. His appointment as Chief Justice of the J&K and Ladakh High Court marks his elevation to the leadership of the high court serving the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

## Global Dryland Congress 2026 To Begin In Delhi



More than 800 scientists, policymakers, farmer representatives and development partners from across Asia, Africa and the Americas will convene in New Delhi for the three-day Global Dryland Congress 2026 from September 10 to 12. The Congress, themed "Transforming Dryland Agriculture with South-South Cooperation", is being jointly organised by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT). It will be held at the National Agricultural Science Complex and will also mark 50 years of the ICAR-ICRISAT partnership. The Congress comes at a crucial time for dryland agriculture, with drylands accounting for around 45 per cent of the world's land surface and supporting more than two billion people. A large section of these communities comprises smallholder farmers facing challenges including climate variability, land degradation, water scarcity and changing markets. Over the three days, participants will deliberate on six key themes covering breeding, climate resilience, nutrition and markets, farming systems, seed systems, and gender and youth inclusion. Discussions will be conducted through panel discussions, keynote and lead presentations, parallel sessions and poster exhibitions. The Congress will also commemorate the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation on its concluding day. A special ceremony and dedicated sessions will focus on strengthening South-South and Triangular Cooperation in agricultural research, in association with CGIAR. The proceedings will conclude with the adoption of the Delhi Declaration on Dryland (3D). The event will also witness the announcement of new partnerships, memorandums of understanding and awards recognising significant contributions to dryland science. Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan will address the Congress as the Chief Guest. The event will bring together Dr Himanshu Pathak, Director General, ICRISAT; Cathy Reade, ICRISAT Board Chair; Dr M.L. Jat, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR; CGIAR Chief Scientist Dr Sandra Milach; former ICAR Directors General Dr R.S. Paroda, Dr Panjab Singh and Dr T. Mohapatra; Prof. S.G. Mohammed, Director, Centre for Dryland Agriculture, Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria; former ICRISAT Director General Dr William Dar; and other global experts and leaders working to advance dryland agriculture.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development on Wednesday launched the ninth Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2026 at the Rudraksh International Cooperation and Convention Centre in Varanasi, beginning a month-long nationwide Jan Andolan for nutrition under the theme "Hamari Anganwadi, Hamari Jimmedari". The launch was attended by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Union Minister for Women and Child Development Annpurna Devi, Minister of State for Women and Child Development Savitri Thakur, Uttar Pradesh Minister for Women Welfare, Child Development and Nutrition Baby Rani Maurya, senior officials, development partners, frontline workers and beneficiaries. Addressing the event, Yogi Adityanath highlighted the role of Anganwadi Centres in strengthening grassroots nutrition services under Poshan Abhiyaan. He said sustained coordination between departments, community participation and the commitment of frontline workers were essential to achieving a malnutrition-free India. Yogi Adityanath said Anganwadi



Centres had been upgraded and renovated into vibrant community institutions with improved infrastructure and learning environments. Anganwadi Workers have also been equipped with smartphones for real-time data entry and digital monitoring. He highlighted the regular provision of Hot Cooked Meals and Take Home Ration to eligible beneficiaries, saying investment in nutrition provides lifelong benefits through healthier children, empowered families and a stronger nation.

Annpurna Devi reiterated the government's commitment to improving nutrition outcomes through Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0. She said more than 14 lakh Anganwadi Centres are currently providing nutrition, health and early childhood care services to over 7.5 crore children, 1.10 crore pregnant and lactating women and nearly 16 lakh adolescent girls. She said the government is upgrading two lakh Anganwadi Centres into Saksham Anganwadis, with around 24,000

## Supreme Court To Hear Marital Rape Pleas; Centre Says Parliament Must Decide

The Centre on Wednesday told the Supreme Court that criminalising marital rape is a matter for Parliament and the executive, and not for the judiciary to decide. The Supreme Court was hearing a batch of petitions challenging the marital rape exception under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). A bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice V Mohana directed that the matter be listed for final hearing after three weeks, on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, said that any decision to criminalise marital rape falls within the domain of Parliament rather than the Supreme Court. The challenge centres on Exception 2 to Section 63 of the BNS, which carries forward the marital rape exception contained in Section 375 of the earlier Indian Penal Code. Under the provision, sexual intercourse or sexual acts by a man with his wife, pro-



vided she is not below 18 years of age, do not constitute rape. During the hearing, Justice Joymalya Bagchi stressed that the protection, safety and physical security of women are crucial concerns. He questioned whether the State's definition of an offence should determine whether a woman subjected to involuntary sexual intercourse within marriage is considered a rape victim. "A woman subjected to involuntary sexual intercourse [in marriage] is undoubtedly a victim. We

will protect victims. Only question is whether State defines it as rape," Justice Bagchi observed. He further said marriage cannot mean the "extinction of a woman's autonomy". The court said it would examine two key questions - whether prosecution can be sustained even if the marital rape exception continues to remain in force, and whether the exception itself is constitutionally valid. Senior Advocate Karuna Nundy, appearing for one of the petitioners, argued that a husband

should not receive legal immunity for causing grievous injury to his wife merely because of the marital relationship. Nundy submitted that marriage cannot provide a licence to engage in sexual acts against a wife's will or to inflict severe physical harm. The Centre had earlier stated in its affidavit that it was not in favour of making marital rape a separate criminal offence. The government has maintained that criminalising marital rape could have serious repercussions for the institution of marriage and affect the stability of marital relationships. The Centre has also argued that sexual relations within marriage should be addressed through existing legal provisions rather than being treated on par with ordinary rape. The issue reached the Supreme Court after the Delhi High Court delivered a split verdict in 2022 on whether marital rape should be criminalised. The matter is now before the apex court for consideration.

## Meta India Executives Appear Before NCPCR in Child Abuse Ad Probe



Senior executives of Meta India, which operates Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp, appeared before the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) on Wednesday in connection with an inquiry into alleged advertisements related to child sexual exploitative and abuse material (CSEAM) on its platforms. The details of the questioning were not immediately available. The NCPCR had on July 3 taken suo motu cognisance of a media report by BBC Eye regarding alleged advertisements related to CSEAM and sought an explanation from Meta Platforms, Inc. Meta submitted its response to the commission a week later. Following the response, the NCPCR decided to institute an inquiry to establish the facts. As part of the proceedings, the commission summoned the Managing Director and Head of Meta India to appear before it on Wednesday, officials said. The inquiry comes amid growing concerns over the alleged availability and promotion of child sexual exploitation material through online platforms and the effective-

ness of safeguards put in place by technology companies. In July, the government issued a stern notice to Meta over alleged CSEAM appearing in paid advertisements on Instagram. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) directed Instagram to disable advertisements and content promoting or facilitating access to such material and sought a detailed explanation from the company.

The action followed a direction from IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw to MeitY officials to summon Meta over Instagram advertisements allegedly promoting child sexual abuse material. The regulatory scrutiny came after a BBC report alleged that Meta's recommendation algorithm had promoted videos containing child sexual abuse material, raising concerns over gaps in the platform's safeguards. The BBC investigation also

allegedly found advertisements of this nature appearing on Facebook and Instagram despite Meta's advertising policies prohibiting nudity and sexually explicit content. According to the allegations, Instagram displayed paid advertisements using search terms such as "rape video" and "child video", which directed users towards Telegram channels where such material was reportedly being offered for sale. The NCPCR's inquiry is aimed at examining the allegations and determining the extent to which such content and advertisements may have been accessible through Meta's platforms. The appearance of senior Meta India executives before the child rights body marks a significant step in the ongoing examination of the platform's compliance and child-safety mechanisms.



# Markets Hit 3-Month Low; Nifty Below 23,450

Indian equity markets extended their decline on September 9, with the benchmark indices ending sharply lower amid sustained selling pressure. The Nifty slipped below the 23,500 level and closed below 23,450, while the Sensex declined 813 points, falling 1.08%. The latest decline pushed the Nifty to a three-month low, highlighting continued weakness in investor sentiment. Selling pressure remained visible across key sectors, with IT and realty stocks leading the market decline. The broader market also remained under pressure, although it performed relatively better than the benchmark indices. The Nifty Midcap and Nifty Smallcap indices declined 0.5% each, indicating that selling was not limited to large-cap stocks but was comparatively less intense in the broader market. The sharp fall in the Sensex and Nifty comes amid heightened caution among investors, with global and domestic factors continuing to influence market sentiment. The recent weakness in equities has increased concerns about the



near-term direction of the market, particularly as benchmark indices remain below important technical levels. IT stocks were among the major contributors to the decline. The sector remains sensitive to global economic conditions, currency movements and expectations surrounding interest rates in major economies. Weakness in technology shares therefore added to the pressure on the benchmark

indices. Realty stocks also witnessed selling, reflecting concerns around interest rates, financing costs and broader market sentiment. A sustained period of weakness in the equity market can affect investor confidence in interest-rate-sensitive sectors. Despite the decline in the broader market, the relatively smaller fall in the Midcap and Smallcap indices suggests that selling was

concentrated more heavily in benchmark and large-cap stocks. Investors may be adopting a selective approach as volatility remains elevated. The Nifty's close below 23,450 is likely to keep the technical outlook under pressure. Market participants will closely monitor whether the index can regain key support levels or whether continued selling pushes it towards lower levels in the coming sessions. The Sensex's 813-point decline further underlined the intensity of Wednesday's selling. With both major indices extending their recent losses, investors are likely to remain cautious until stronger positive triggers emerge. Market participants will now track global cues, foreign fund flows, sectoral trends, currency movements and upcoming economic developments for signs of stabilisation. Until buying support returns decisively, the market could remain volatile, with investors focusing on risk management and stock-specific opportunities.

# SEBI Lifts Ban on JPMorgan Unit Copthall, Mansi



The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has lifted restrictions on JPMorgan unit Copthall and Mansi over allegations related to index manipulation, allowing both entities to regain broader access to the securities market. However, the entities will continue to remain barred from participating in the equity segment's cash-settled futures and options auction process (CAS), either directly or indirectly, until further orders. The market regulator had earlier imposed restrictions on the two entities in connection with alleged manipulation of an index. The latest decision provides the entities with wider market access while retaining the specific restriction relating to CAS participation. The development comes after the impounded amount linked to the matter was deposited with the regulator on August 20, a day after SEBI issued its order against the two entities. The deposit of the impounded funds appears to have been an important step in the subsequent easing of the broader restrictions.

While Copthall and Mansi can now participate in the wider market, the continuing CAS restriction means they cannot directly or indirectly take part in the specified equity-market segment. The restriction will remain in force until SEBI issues further directions. The action highlights the regulator's approach of using targeted restrictions while proceedings concerning alleged market manipulation continue. Such measures are intended to protect market integrity and prevent entities under regulatory scrutiny from influencing market activity in areas connected with the alleged violations. Index manipulation allegations are particularly significant because benchmark indices serve as reference points for a wide range of financial products and investment strategies. Any attempt to influence index-linked instruments can have implications beyond individual securities and potentially affect broader market participants. For investors, the case also underlines the importance of regulatory oversight in maintaining transparency and orderly functioning of India's capital markets. SEBI has increasingly focused on preventing practices that could distort prices or provide unfair advantages to market participants. The lifting of the broader restrictions does not, however, amount to an unconditional removal of all regulatory measures against Copthall and Mansi. Their continued exclusion from CAS participation indicates that SEBI has retained specific safeguards while allowing them greater access to other market activities. The entities will therefore remain subject to the CAS restriction until further orders from the regulator. The latest decision represents a partial easing of the action taken against them, while leaving the regulator's specific concerns regarding participation in the equity segment's CAS unresolved. The development is expected to be closely watched by market participants as SEBI continues its regulatory proceedings and assesses the implications of the alleged index manipulation.

# Enviro Infra Shares Jump 10% on Fresh Order

Shares of Enviro Infra Engineers rose nearly 10% to a one-month high of Rs 215 on Wednesday after the company announced that its step-down subsidiary, Suyog Urja, had secured a fresh order worth Rs 190 crore. The new order triggered buying interest in Enviro Infra, with investors responding positively to the subsidiary's latest business win. The announcement also lifted sentiment across the water and wastewater infrastructure sector, leading to gains in other listed companies. Shares of VA Tech Wabag rose 7%, benefiting from the positive sentiment generated by Enviro Infra's order announcement. Denta Water also witnessed a rub-off effect as investors turned their attention towards companies operating in the water infrastructure and treatment space. The sharp movement in Enviro Infra shares came against a weak broader market backdrop. Indian equity benchmarks were under

pressure during the session, with the Sensex and Nifty extending their recent declines. Against this backdrop, the gains in water-infrastructure stocks stood out as investors focused on company-specific developments. The Rs 190 crore order secured by Suyog Urja is expected to strengthen the order pipeline of the Enviro Infra group. Fresh orders are closely tracked by investors in infrastructure companies because they provide visibility over future revenue and execution activity. The water and wastewater management sector has attracted increasing attention as governments and urban authorities expand investments in sewage treatment, water supply, recycling and related infrastructure. Companies with established execution capabilities and strong order books are expected to benefit from continued spending in the sector. The positive response in VA Tech Wabag and Denta Water indicates



that investors were also willing to reassess other sectoral opportunities following the order announcement. Such moves can occur when a new contract highlights improving business prospects across an industry, although individual companies may have different order books, financial profiles and execution risks. For Enviro Infra, the immediate focus will remain on the execution of the newly secured order and its impact on the company's future financial performance. Investors

are likely to monitor additional order wins, revenue growth and margins for further confirmation of the company's business momentum. The nearly 10% rise in Enviro Infra shares therefore marked a strong outperformance during a weak market session. Meanwhile, the gains in VA Tech Wabag and Denta Water reflected broader sectoral optimism, with investors betting on continued opportunities in India's water and wastewater infrastructure market.

# Sonaselection India IPO to Open on September 17

The initial public offering (IPO) of Sonaselection India is set to open for subscription on September 17, with the company expected to announce the price band for the issue in the next few days. The IPO comprises entirely a fresh issue of 1.43 crore equity shares. Since the offering consists only of newly issued shares, the proceeds raised through the issue will accrue to the company, subject to issue-related expenses and other applicable costs. The upcoming public issue is expected to draw attention from investors looking for new opportunities in the primary market. The company's decision to proceed with the IPO comes amid continued activity in India's equity capital markets, where several companies have been tapping investors to raise funds for expansion and other corporate requirements. The price band will be a key factor for investors assessing the issue.



Once announced, investors will be able to evaluate the offer price against the company's financial performance, valuation, business prospects and industry peers before deciding whether to subscribe. According to the issue schedule, the Sonaselection India IPO will open on September 17. The shares are expected to begin trading on the stock exchanges

from September 24, following completion of the subscription, allotment and listing process. The fresh issue structure means the IPO will increase the company's equity base after listing. The funds raised could provide additional financial resources to support the company's business plans, depending on the stated objectives of the issue.

Investors will also closely watch the response from qualified institutional buyers, non-institutional investors and retail investors once the subscription window opens. Subscription levels across these categories can provide an indication of overall investor appetite for the issue. The announcement of the price band in the coming days is likely to be the next major development for the IPO. The final offer price, issue size in rupee terms and valuation will allow investors to make a more detailed assessment of the public offering. With the IPO scheduled to open on September 17 and listing expected on September 24, Sonaselection India is set to become one of the companies attracting attention in the primary market this month. Market participants will now await the price-band announcement and further details of the issue before subscription begins.

# Gold Posts One of Its Strongest August Rallies in 25 Years



Gold prices surged 13% in August 2026 to \$4,563 an ounce, marking one of the precious metal's strongest monthly rallies in 25 years, according to the World Gold Council. The sharp increase was driven primarily by strong inflows into gold-backed exchange-traded funds (ETFs) and a weaker US dollar. The rally highlights renewed investor interest in gold as global markets navigate economic and geopolitical uncertainty. Gold is traditionally viewed as a safe-haven asset, with demand often increasing when investors seek protection from currency volatility, geopolitical risks and concerns over economic growth. ETF inflows provided a significant boost to prices during August. Increased purchases through gold-backed investment products indicate stronger institutional and investor demand for the metal. Such inflows can amplify price movements by adding financial-market demand alongside physical consumption. The weaker US dollar also supported the rally. Since gold is primarily priced in dollars, a decline in the US currency generally makes the metal more affordable for investors holding other currencies. A softer dollar can therefore encourage demand and provide additional upward momentum to gold prices. With gold reaching \$4,563 an ounce, attention is now turning to the Federal Reserve's September interest-rate decision. Expectations surrounding US monetary policy are likely to remain a major influence on gold's near-term trajectory. Interest rates are particularly important for gold because the metal does not generate interest income. Expectations of lower interest rates can reduce the opportunity cost of holding gold compared with interest-bearing assets, potentially supporting demand. Conversely, expectations of higher rates can strengthen the dollar and put pressure on gold. The Federal Reserve's September decision will be assessed against changing economic and geopolitical signals. Investors are likely to closely monitor inflation, employment and broader economic data for clues about the future path of US monetary policy. The August rally has strengthened gold's position as one of the key performers in global commodity markets this year. However, after such a sharp monthly increase, price volatility could remain elevated as investors reassess their positions ahead of the Fed decision. For gold investors, the combination of ETF demand, dollar movements, monetary-policy expectations and geopolitical developments will remain crucial. A continuation of strong ETF inflows and expectations of easier monetary policy could provide further support, while a stronger dollar or hawkish signals from the Federal Reserve could trigger profit-taking. The September rate decision therefore represents an important test for gold after its exceptional August performance.

# Innovision, Enviro Infra Shares Rise on Contract Wins

Stock-specific buying remained in focus on Dalal Street on September 9, with investors reacting to fresh corporate developments even as broader market sentiment remained weak. Shares of Innovision surged 12% after the company received a Letter of Award (LoA) worth Rs 243 crore. The contract win triggered strong buying interest, with investors viewing the order as a positive development for the company's business prospects and future revenue visibility. Enviro Infra Engineers was another stock that attracted attention, rising 6% after the company announced a new contract win. The gains reflected investor optimism over the company's order pipeline and prospects for stronger business activity. The positive movement in the two stocks came against a backdrop of weakness across several sectors. The IT index declined 3%, emerging as the biggest sectoral laggard during the session. The IT sector remained under pressure as investors continued to assess global economic conditions and their potential impact on technology



companies. Auto, FMCG, media and realty indices also traded lower, declining almost 1% each. The weakness across these sectors indicated that selling pressure remained relatively broad-based, rather than being confined to a single segment of the market. However, metal and energy stocks bucked the broader trend. Both the metal and energy indices gained around 1%, providing some support to the market. The strength in these sectors came as investors continued to track commodity

prices and developments in global markets. The contrasting sectoral performance highlighted the importance of company-specific triggers in the ongoing volatile market environment. While broader indices remained under pressure, stocks announcing new contracts or orders attracted buying interest as investors focused on earnings visibility and potential business growth. For Innovision, the Rs 243 crore LoA represents a significant business development and is likely to

remain a key focus for investors as they assess the company's order book and execution capabilities. The market will track the company's progress in implementing the contract and its potential contribution to future financial performance. Similarly, Enviro Infra Engineers' contract win strengthened sentiment around the stock, with investors looking for further order inflows and sustained growth in the company's infrastructure business. The sharp gains in both stocks demonstrate how fresh orders can drive stock-specific momentum even when the broader market is weak. Investors, however, are likely to remain cautious as sectoral volatility persists and benchmark indices face continued selling pressure. With IT stocks leading declines while metal and energy shares gained, trading remained highly selective. Corporate order announcements such as those from Innovision and Enviro Infra Engineers provided pockets of strength amid a largely subdued market.

# Tim Cook Replies To Tech Founder In 4 Days

Melvin Hagberg, founder and CEO of Scape, was left stunned after Apple executive Tim Cook personally replied to an email he sent just four days earlier. The unexpected exchange quickly attracted attention on social media, with Hagberg using the experience to encourage people to simply reach out to influential figures. Hagberg said he decided to email Cook after the Apple executive stepped down as CEO and passed the role to John Ternus. The message was not a business proposal or request. Instead, Hagberg wrote to express his admiration and thank Cook for his contribution to Apple. "I have such massive respect for

you as a CEO, and everything you've done for Apple as a company," Hagberg wrote. "You are a huge inspiration for me. Thanks for everything!" To his surprise, Cook responded with a short but personalised message: "I appreciate your very kind note. Thanks so much." Hagberg later shared the exchange online, writing, "I emailed Tim Cook last week. He replied." He added a simple observation that resonated with many users: "You can literally just email people." The interaction prompted social media users to share their own experiences of contacting prominent business leaders and receiving unexpected responses.



One user recalled emailing Mark Cuban on a Sunday morning about getting his daughter's inhaler listed on Cost Plus Drugs. According to the user, Cuban replied within hours, connected them with an employee and helped them purchase the medicine at a significantly lower price. Another person said they were continually surprised that email could provide access to almost anyone, regardless of whether the recipient was a CEO or another public figure. However, another user noted that responses are not guaranteed. They said they had previously contacted Cook about a safety issue involving an Apple device but did

not receive a response, highlighting the element of chance involved in reaching high-profile executives. Cook has led Apple since 2011 and will become the company's executive chairman. John Ternus, who succeeds him as CEO, has described Cook as an important mentor. The exchange between Hagberg and Cook has therefore become more than a brief email conversation. For many online users, it served as a reminder that reaching out directly can occasionally result in an unexpected response from even the most prominent figures in the technology industry.

# Samsung's Advice To Apple On Foldable iPhone

As Apple prepares to enter the foldable smartphone market, rival Samsung has offered some advice based on its own experience: keep the device as light as possible. Reports suggest Apple is preparing to launch its first foldable iPhone, rumoured to be called the iPhone Ultra. The device is expected to be unveiled as the company enters a category that Samsung has been developing for years. Speaking to WIRED, Samsung welcomed Apple's entry into the foldable market and said competition was "absolutely welcome". However, the company emphasised that weight remains one of the biggest challenges for foldable smartphones and could determine how easily consumers adopt the technology. Samsung has spent seven years working on the engineering challenges associated with foldable devices. Hee-Cheul Moon, head of Samsung's Advanced Mechanical R&D Group, said the company was proud to see other brands entering a category it helped pioneer. "The key to providing the highest



customer value in this market is all about the weight of the device. As you know, it's not easy," Moon said. Foldable phones generally require additional components compared with conventional smartphones. A large internal display, specialised hinges and extra structural elements can all add weight, making the devices heavier to carry and use.

Samsung reportedly made extensive changes while developing its latest Galaxy Z Fold line. Engineers re-evaluated approximately 270 core components and more than 180 support parts in an effort to reduce the device's overall weight. The company ultimately brought its flagship book-style foldable down to around 201 grams, making it lighter than many conventional

premium smartphones. Apple's upcoming foldable iPhone could be considerably heavier. Leaks suggest the device may weigh between 230 and 241 grams, putting it above Samsung's latest foldable in terms of weight. The expected device is also rumoured to carry a premium price tag. According to Bloomberg, Apple has targeted a price of around \$1,999, positioning the phone just below the psychologically important \$2,000 mark. With Apple now reportedly preparing to enter the segment, the competition between the two technology giants is set to intensify. While Samsung has years of experience with foldable smartphones, Apple's entry could bring significant attention to the category. For consumers, the focus may ultimately come down to whether Apple can combine its design approach with the durability and portability expected from a premium foldable phone. Samsung's message is clear: when it comes to foldables, every gram matters.

# BYD Claims 12-Minute EV Charging In Extreme Cold



Chinese electric vehicle maker BYD has claimed that its latest Flash Charging technology can charge an electric vehicle from 20% to 97% in just 12 minutes at temperatures as low as -30 degrees Celsius. The company says the technology is aimed at addressing one of the biggest challenges for electric vehicles in extreme weather: slower charging and reduced battery performance in very cold conditions. According to information published by BYD, its second-generation Blade Battery is designed to maintain strong charging performance even in severe cold. Under normal-temperature conditions, BYD says its Flash Charging system can charge a battery from 10% to 97% in nine minutes. In a separate test conducted at -30 degrees Celsius, the battery reportedly reached 97% from a starting level of 20% in 12 minutes. BYD has clarified that these figures are based on its own testing. They should therefore be viewed as company-reported performance figures rather than independently verified benchmarks. The company is also rapidly expanding the infrastructure required to support its high-speed charging technology. BYD said it opened its 10,000th Flash Charging station in China on August 28, 2026. The network had reached 332 cities across the country, while the company has set a target of building 20,000 Flash Charging stations in China by the end of 2026. BYD says its Flash Charging system can deliver charging power of up to 1,500 kW. However, the actual charging speed experienced by a vehicle can vary depending on factors such as the battery, charging system and operating conditions. The development comes as Chinese EV manufacturers compete to reduce charging time, one of the major concerns among potential electric vehicle buyers. While EV technology has advanced significantly, long charging times compared with conventional refuelling remain a barrier to wider adoption. The company's cold-weather claim is particularly significant because low temperatures can reduce battery efficiency and increase charging times. If BYD's reported performance can be consistently reproduced under real-world conditions, the technology could make electric vehicles more practical in colder regions. At the same time, the 12-minute figure should not be interpreted as a universal charging time for every BYD vehicle. It represents a specific performance claim involving the company's Flash Charging technology and second-generation Blade Battery under stated test conditions. BYD's push reflects the growing race among EV manufacturers to deliver faster charging, stronger battery performance and greater usability across different climates.

# Greater Noida Man Gets Cow Dung Instead Of Android Device

A resident of Greater Noida was left shocked after an online order for an Android device worth Rs 1,999 arrived with cow dung instead of the electronic product he had paid for. The incident has been reported as a suspected case of online shopping fraud, with police now investigating how the parcel was substituted. The victim, identified as Akash Nagar, lives in the area under Dankaur police station. According to Nagar, he had ordered an Android device through an online website a few days earlier for work purposes. He made the full payment online and expected the product to be delivered within the promised period. The parcel reached his home by courier at around 5:00 PM on Monday. However, when Nagar opened the package, he was stunned to discover cow dung manure inside instead of the device. "I ordered a device worth Rs 1,999, but received a packet of cow dung manure instead," Nagar said. He added that he had lodged a complaint with the cyber crime police and sought strict action against those responsible. The unusual delivery has raised concerns over the risks associated with purchasing products from unfamiliar online platforms. While fraudulent websites and fake sellers can advertise electronic products at attractive prices, buyers can sometimes receive counterfeit goods, unrelated items or, in this case, material bearing no resemblance to the product ordered. Police officials confirmed that an investigation into the incident is underway. Authorities are examining the website through which the order was placed, along with the payment transaction and courier delivery details. Investigators are also expected to verify the credentials of the seller and trace the movement of the parcel to determine where the alleged substitution occurred. Further legal action will be taken based on the findings of the investigation, police said. The incident also highlights the importance of exercising caution while shopping online, particularly when purchasing expensive electronic products. Cybersecurity experts regularly advise consumers to verify the credentials of sellers before making payments and to prefer established companies or official websites. Buyers are also advised to be cautious about unverified third-party sellers and unfamiliar shopping platforms. Checking website details, payment security measures, seller ratings and return policies can help reduce the risk of falling victim to online fraud. For Akash Nagar, however, the online shopping experience ended with something far removed from the Android device he had ordered - a parcel containing cow dung instead of the product for which he had already paid.



# Meta Layoff Made Employee Richer

Losing a job is generally considered a major financial setback, but one former Meta employee claims that being laid off actually left them financially better off. In an anonymous post on career platform Blind, the former tech professional explained how a carefully timed job switch allowed them to earn income from two employers at the same time. According to the employee, they received a termination notice from Meta but managed to secure a new job almost immediately. They then joined the new company a couple of months before their official departure period from Meta ended. As a result, they continued receiving salary from Meta while also collecting paychecks from their new employer for around three months. The employee also received a scheduled stock payout from Meta during the notice period, further increasing the financial benefit of the unexpected job loss. "I started a new job a couple months before the end of my termination period and collected about 3 months of meta paychecks



while collecting paycheck from new job," the former employee wrote in the post. They added that they also received their August stock vest and invested about an additional \$30,000. According to the employee, this left them with considerably more money in their accounts than they would have had if they had not been laid off. "Isn't this kind of ironic or does this mean that getting laid off from big tech can be a good thing if you play your cards right," the

employee questioned. The post quickly attracted attention and sparked a debate among technology workers and social media users. While some appeared to congratulate the former Meta employee on turning an unpleasant situation into a financial opportunity, others questioned whether the experience could be considered representative of the broader technology job market. One commenter argued that the situation was not something to celebrate, claiming that layoffs and

workplace uncertainty can have serious consequences for employees and their families. Another user congratulated the employee but warned against viewing the experience as typical. The commenter pointed to what they described as survivorship bias, saying that the current job market is unusually difficult and competitive. "The top 20% are doing well, the rest are in cutthroat positions," the user wrote. The discussion highlights how the financial impact of a technology layoff can vary significantly depending on circumstances. While severance arrangements, notice periods, stock vesting schedules and the ability to secure another job quickly can cushion the impact for some workers, others may struggle to find new employment after losing a position. For the former Meta employee, however, an unexpected layoff appears to have temporarily created an unusual financial advantage rather than the setback normally associated with losing a job.

# Piyush Goyal, Kiren Rijiju Join AI 80s Photo Trend

A wave of nostalgia is taking social media by storm as users turn to artificial intelligence to recreate their photographs in the style of the 1980s. The viral trend, often called the ChatGPT 80s photo trend, has now attracted celebrities, influencers and Indian politicians, who are sharing AI-generated images featuring the fashion, hairstyles and photography styles associated with the decade. Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal was among the political figures to embrace the trend. Sharing an AI-generated retro image, Goyal wrote, "Vibing to the 80s trend." In the picture, Goyal appears in a tailored grey suit, white shirt and aviator sunglasses. The image uses sepia tones, film grain and a faded texture to give it the appearance of an old studio portrait. Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju also joined the trend, sharing his own retro-inspired image on X. His picture shows him wearing sunglasses, a blazer and an open shirt while posing beside a car. Rijiju accompanied the image with a tongue-in-cheek caption about the sudden return of 1980s nostalgia. "Why is everyone going back to the 80s vibes? I'm also forced to 80s



nostalgia," he wrote. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma also joined the viral trend by sharing an AI-generated throwback image. He wrote, "Getting to any trend which has nostalgia attached to it. Back to

the 80s eh!." The concept goes beyond simply applying a vintage filter to an existing photograph. Users can ask an AI image-generation tool to recreate their appearance as though the photograph had actually been taken during the

1980s. Prompts can instruct the AI to retain recognisable facial features while changing clothing, hairstyles, accessories, poses, backgrounds and lighting. The resulting images can resemble old family photographs, Bollywood publicity stills, magazine portraits, wedding pictures or classic studio photographs. For an Indian 1980s aesthetic, users commonly choose colourful sarees, statement jewellery, voluminous hairstyles, mustaches, wide-collared shirts, high-waisted trousers and retro sunglasses. Vintage studio backdrops, warm lighting, soft focus, faded colours and analogue-style film grain are also used to strengthen the period look. The trend draws heavily from 1980s Bollywood, where dramatic poses, elaborate costumes, bold hairstyles and studio photography were prominent features of popular visual culture. The participation of political figures such as Piyush Goyal, Kiren Rijiju and Himanta Biswa Sarma shows how quickly AI-generated nostalgia has moved beyond entertainment and influencer circles. By recreating familiar personalities through a distinctly retro lens, the trend has given social media users a playful way to revisit the visual style of a bygone era.

## Courtois Puts Belgium Career on Hold Until 2027

Belgium goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois has decided to put his international career on standby until September 2027, meaning he will miss the upcoming Nations League campaign under new head coach Mark Van Bommel.

The 34-year-old Real Madrid goalkeeper has made 115 appearances for Belgium and played his most recent international match at this summer's World Cup. However, he has opted not to take part in the entire Nations League campaign and plans to return to the Red Devils squad for the Euro 2028 qualifiers next year.

Belgium's Nations League campaign begins with a match against Italy on September 25. Courtois will not be available for the fixture or the remainder of the competition unless an injury crisis forces Van Bommel to call him up.

"I have made the choice not to play the entire Nations League campaign with the Red Devils," Courtois told Belgian newspaper Het Laatste Nieuws after Real Madrid's 2-1 Champions League



victory over Inter Milan on Tuesday.

"Unless the national coach runs into injury problems; then I can be called up exceptionally," he added.

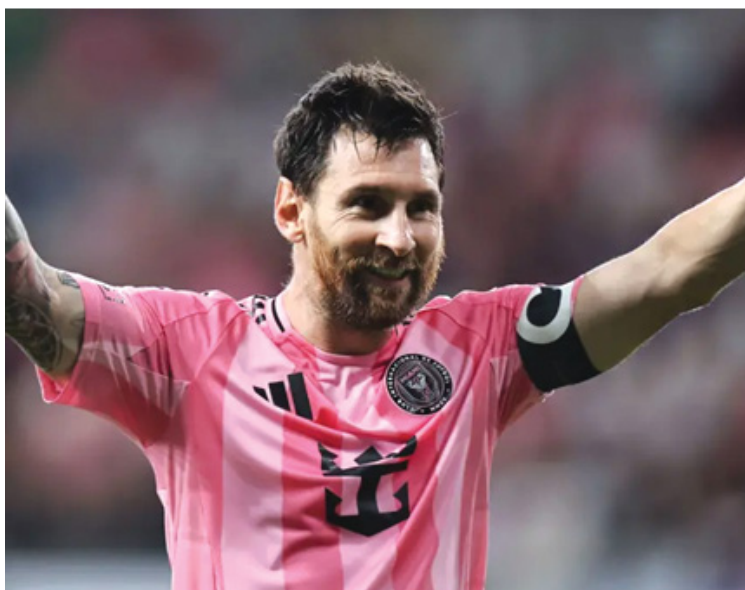
Courtois' decision follows a conversation with Van Bommel, who had informed the goalkeeper that he could not guarantee him the starting No. 1 position. Rather

than competing for the role during the Nations League, Courtois has chosen to step away temporarily and return when Belgium begins its European Championship qualifying campaign. "I am making myself available again for the European Championship qualifiers," Courtois said. The decision could provide an opportunity for

younger goalkeepers to establish themselves in the Belgium team. Among the options available to Van Bommel are Manchester United's 24-year-old Senne Lammens and Chelsea's 21-year-old Mike Penders.

Courtois, however, made clear that his temporary absence does not mean he has given up his ambitions with the national team. He intends to compete for his place when he returns. "If the goalkeeper playing in the Nations League performs well, Van Bommel might continue with him," Courtois said. "However, I want to fight for my place. I want to prove that I can be the first-choice keeper again." The move gives Van Bommel an opportunity to assess Belgium's younger goalkeeping options while Courtois focuses on his club commitments with Real Madrid. The experienced goalkeeper is expected to return to international duty in September 2027, with his sights firmly set on reclaiming the starting position.

## Messi Agrees to Buy Spanish Second-Tier Club Eldense



Argentine football great Lionel Messi has reached an agreement in principle to become the new owner of Spanish second-tier club C.D. Eldense, marking another major step in the Inter Miami forward's growing involvement in football club ownership.

Eldense said Messi is close to completing a deal to purchase 100% of the shares held by Colombian investment group TH Soluciones Group S.A.S., the club's current majority shareholder. The transaction is expected to be completed in the coming days, although several legal and regulatory procedures remain pending.

"At this time, the operation is pending completion of the final legal and contractual procedures, including the corresponding due diligence process, as well as the mandatory authorisation from the High Council for Sports (CSD)," Eldense told Reuters.

The club said it could not provide a fixed date for the completion of the takeover. TH Soluciones Group has also been contacted for comment.

Messi, 39, is poised to become the majority owner of a second Spanish club. Earlier this year, on April 16, he purchased UE Cornellà, a club competing in Spain's fifth tier. His latest move involving Eldense further underlines his interest in football beyond his playing career.

Messi is also expected to receive a stake in Inter Miami after his current playing contract with the Major League Soccer club expires.

Eldense were taken over by TH Soluciones Group last October and currently occupy 20th position in the Segunda standings. The club's recent history has been marked by a significant rise through the Spanish football pyramid, having spent years competing in regional divisions before reaching the country's second tier.

A takeover by Messi would bring global attention to a club currently battling near the bottom of the Segunda table. It would also add another prominent name to the growing list of footballers investing in clubs and taking on ownership roles while still active in the sport.

For Messi, the Eldense deal represents an expansion of his football portfolio in Spain, where he spent the majority of his illustrious playing career with Barcelona. With the final legal procedures and CSD authorisation still required, the formal completion of the acquisition is now the remaining step before Messi can officially take control of Eldense.

## Akram Says Pakistan Cricket Problems Run Too Deep



Pakistan great Wasim Akram has admitted that he does not believe he can single-handedly help revive the country's cricketing standards, arguing that the problems within the system run far deeper than the performances of the national team or decisions made by the cricket board.

Pakistan's cricket team is enduring a difficult period and is facing England in the third and final Test of the three-match series at Edgbaston. Akram said he would not be surprised if Pakistan suffered another defeat and completed a 3-0 series sweep by England.

The former Pakistan captain believes the team's struggles are the result of problems at multiple levels, including the mentality of some players and weaknesses in the domestic system.

Akram said Pakistan has a saying that two hands are needed to clap, underlining that improvement requires collective effort rather than depending on one individual.

"I knew before the series we were going to lose 3-0 to England," Akram said. "Our batting is struggling, our bowling is below average and our fielding is worse. It's not rocket science."

Akram has repeatedly been asked whether he could play a role in helping Pakistan cricket recover. However, the legendary fast bowler believes the difficulties are too deep and widespread to be solved simply by his involvement.

"I get asked all the time, 'Can you do something to help Pakistan cricket?' But the issues are a lot deeper. These are the top players, there's nothing else there. The systems aren't there below that," he said.

According to Akram, Pakistan's domestic first-class structure has suffered from a lack of consistency and patience in recent years. He believes those problems eventually affect the national team because there is not a strong and stable system consistently producing quality players.

"The first-class structure domestically has been all over the place the last few years and there's no consistency, no patience," Akram said.

He also pointed to the reaction of supporters, saying repeated changes and frustration following defeats had contributed to a situation in which little stability remained.

"That dribbles down to the fans, too. They see the team lose and they want to rip it all up, too. We've done that so many times and now there is nothing really left," he said.

Pakistan are set to field multiple debutants in the third Test against England, beginning Wednesday. The match comes at a critical juncture for a side struggling for consistency across batting, bowling and fielding. Akram's comments highlight the scale of the challenge facing Pakistan cricket, with the former fast bowler suggesting that rebuilding the game will require long-term structural reforms, patience and a stronger domestic pathway rather than another short-term change at the top.

## Indian Cricketers to Stay at Asian Games Hotels in Nagoya

Indian cricketers competing at the upcoming Asian Games in Japan will stay at accommodation designated by the Games organisers in Nagoya, BCCI vice-president Rajiv Shukla said, dismissing concerns over the quality of hotels arranged for the team.

Shukla said the accommodation issue arose because Nagoya has a limited number of top-rated hotels. While the players will not be staying in the five-star properties normally used by the Indian team on overseas tours, he said the arrangements were comfortable and had been reviewed by the BCCI.

"Whatever they (organisers) are providing, we are staying there and we are keeping a watch what kind of accommodation is being given so that our players are comfortable. Definitely those are not of five-star but a good accommodation," Shukla said at the send-off ceremony of the Indian contingent.

He added that the BCCI had received photographs and videos of the proposed accommodation and was satisfied with the facilities. Sending the players to Tokyo



or Osaka was considered impractical because both cities are located away from Nagoya.

Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President PT Usha also said the accommodation issue had been resolved, although there was some lack of clarity over which organisation had booked rooms for the cricketers. "No problem, I think. We have already booked. For every player, we cannot book hotel rooms because the accommodation is not like (Athletes') Village. They (organisers) are providing a ship and small villas also," Usha

told PTI.

Usha said the IOA had arranged hotels for other athletes, while the BCCI had also made arrangements for the cricketers. Shukla clarified that Indian players would not stay in twin-sharing rooms and would instead have separate rooms.

The team will leave for Tokyo on September 20 and play a historic T20 match against Japan on September 22. India will begin their Asian Games campaign on September 28.

Shukla said the more important concerns had been related to the

playing conditions, including the ground, wickets and dressing rooms. An Asian Cricket Council (ACC) team had inspected the facilities and was satisfied with the arrangements.

"The big issue was the ground, wicket and dressing rooms. They (organisers) have addressed those things. Asian Cricket Council's team had gone there and now they (ACC team) are satisfied with the ground, the wickets and dressing rooms, everything is fine," he said. According to Shukla, accommodation is being organised by the Indian Olympic Association, Asian Games Organising Committee and Japan Cricket Association. He said assurances were given at an ACC meeting in Bangkok that player comfort would be prioritised.

India are the defending champions in both the men's and women's competitions from the last Asian Games in China. Shukla also rejected speculation that India were sending a second-string team, saying the country would field a strong and talented contingent with hopes of winning in Japan.

## Iyer to Miss West Indies ODIs for Asian Games Duty

India batter Shreyas Iyer will miss the upcoming ODI series against the West Indies as he leads the country's men's cricket team at the 2026 Asian Games in Japan, creating an unusual situation for Indian cricket in October.

Iyer, who serves as the T20I captain for the Asian Games squad, is also the vice-captain of India's ODI team. He was appointed to the ODI vice-captaincy in October 2025. However, his Asian Games commitments mean he will be unavailable for the ODI series against the West Indies, which takes place at the same time as the continental event.

India's men's cricket team will directly enter the Asian Games quarter-finals on September 28 in Aichi-Nagoya. The semi-finals are scheduled for October 1, while the medal matches will be played on October 3. The third ODI between India and the West Indies is also scheduled for October 3 in New Chandigarh.

If India reach the Asian Games final, two Indian cricket teams could therefore be playing on the same day in different countries.



The Asian Games matches will be played in the T20 format, with Iyer leading the Indian side.

The Indian men's team is expected to reach Japan before September 22. On that day, Iyer-led India will face Japan in a historic T20 match. Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) President Mithun Manhas has backed both the men's and women's cricket teams to per-

form strongly at the Asian Games. He expressed confidence in the entire Indian contingent and said the athletes' preparation and enthusiasm could help them win gold medals.

"I wish them all the very best, not just the cricket teams, but our entire contingent heading to the Asian Games. I hope they give their best performance. The entire

country is behind them, and so are we. I wish them every success and hope they win gold medals and bring glory to the nation," Manhas told ANI.

He added that the hard work put in by the players had created confidence within the squad.

"Absolutely, there will be a full effort from the team. Given the hard work they have put in and the enthusiasm within the squad, I am confident they can win gold and make the country proud," he said.

India's Asian Games squad includes captain Shreyas Iyer, Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson (wicket-keeper), Ishan Kishan (wicket-keeper), Shivam Dube, vice-captain Tilak Varma, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Varun Chakaravathy, Ravi Bishnoi, Jasprit Bumrah, Harshit Rana, Arshdeep Singh and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi.

India are the defending champions in both the men's and women's cricket competitions from the previous Asian Games in China, and the team will be aiming to retain its title in Japan.

## Shelton Knocks Out Defending Champion Alcaraz

Ben Shelton stunned defending champion Carlos Alcaraz in a thrilling five-set quarter-final at the US Open 2026, ending the World No. 2's bid to retain his title and securing the biggest win of his career against the Spanish star.

Shelton defeated Alcaraz 6-7(5), 6-1, 6-3, 1-6, 7-6(7) in a dramatic contest that featured huge momentum swings and lasted deep into the early hours. The American claimed his first career victory over Alcaraz and advanced to his second Grand Slam semi-final.

Alcaraz, returning to competitive action after a four-month injury absence, showed signs of rust throughout the match. The Spaniard struggled to reach several shots that he would normally cover comfortably, while Shelton consistently pressured him with powerful serving, aggressive returns and blistering forehand winners.

The opening set was tightly contested, with Alcaraz eventually edging Shelton in the tiebreak. However, the American responded emphatically in the second set.



Moving forward on returns and taking control of rallies, Shelton raced through the set 6-1 before continuing his momentum into the third.

Shelton broke early in the third set and maintained his advantage to win it 6-3, leaving Alcaraz facing elimination. The defending cham-

pion refused to surrender, however, raising his level in the fourth set with precise baseline hitting and greater consistency.

Alcaraz dominated the fourth set 6-1 to force a deciding set, setting up a tense finish on Arthur Ashe Stadium. The match continued past 2:50 am local time and eventu-

ally ended at 3:33 am, making it the latest finish in US Open history.

The final set was another closely fought battle, with neither player able to secure a break. The contest ultimately went into a deciding tiebreak, where Shelton kept his composure under immense pressure.

The American closed out the tiebreak 10-7 to complete a memorable victory. Backed by a passionate home crowd, Shelton's fearless shot-making and powerful serving proved crucial at the decisive moments.

For Alcaraz, the defeat brought a disappointing end to his first tournament following his extended injury layoff. Although he produced flashes of the form that helped him win the previous US Open, his lack of match sharpness appeared costly against an opponent playing with confidence.

Shelton now moves into the semi-finals with considerable momentum and the belief that he can challenge for his first Grand Slam title after eliminating the defending champion in one of the tournament's most dramatic matches.



## Vijay Deverakonda's Ranbali Teaser Creates Buzz

Vijay Deverakonda is back in a powerful mass avatar with Ranbali, a period action drama directed by Rahul Sankrityan. The teaser of the upcoming film has been released, creating considerable buzz on social media and raising expectations among fans. The teaser combines emotion, action and intense drama, with the story set against the backdrop of the British era and a devastating famine. The visuals depict the people of Annapurna Desh struggling with starvation and desperately fighting for a handful of grains. The scenes underline the suffering of ordinary people during one of the darkest periods in the region's history.

Vijay Deverakonda's introduction is one of the major highlights of the teaser. His imposing screen presence, body language and dialogue delivery showcase a different intensity compared with his recent films.

His character's fierce determination is reflected in a mass dialogue about protecting every grain from crossing the border while the people struggle for food.

The teaser indicates that Ranbali draws inspiration from real events between 1854 and 1878, particularly the devastating famine of 1876-78. References to the enormous loss of life caused by hunger and the anger that followed suggest that the film will explore the resistance and fighting spirit of people facing extreme hardship.

The teaser also features powerful lines conveying the scale of the tragedy, including a reference to millions of people who died of hunger and the anger left behind by their deaths. These elements indicate that the film aims to combine its action-driven narrative with an emotional and historical backdrop.

Ranbali is produced by Mythri Movie Makers and presented by T-Series. Rashmika Mandanna is paired opposite Vijay Deverakonda, while Hollywood actor Arnold Vosloo plays a ruthless antagonist. The film has been mounted on a large scale, with elaborate sets, action sequences and an intense background score adding to its visual impact. The combination of Vijay Deverakonda's mass image, Rahul Sankrityan's period setting and the historical backdrop has further increased curiosity around the project. The makers have announced that Ranbali will be released worldwide on October 16 as a Dussehra special. With the teaser receiving a strong response, expectations are high that the film could become an important milestone in Vijay Deverakonda's career.

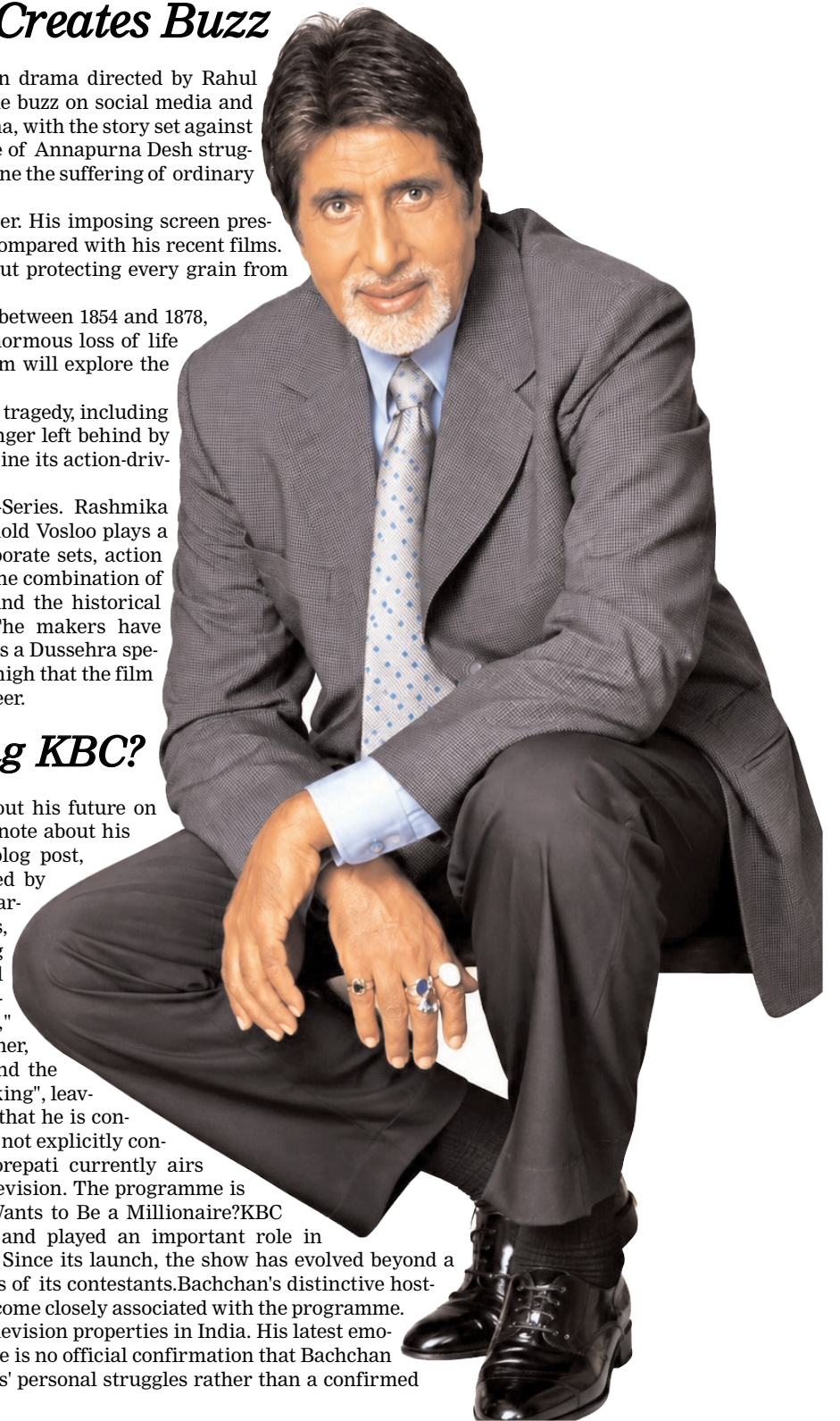
## Is Amitabh Bachchan Quitting KBC?

Superstar Amitabh Bachchan has sparked speculation about his future on Kaun Banega Crorepati (KBC) after sharing an emotional note about his experience hosting the popular quiz show. In a recent blog post, Bachchan reflected on the deeply personal stories shared by contestants who appear on the programme. He said some participants arrive carrying serious and painful experiences, making it emotionally difficult for him to continue hosting the show. "Some contestants come with such grave personal stories, that it becomes difficult to conduct not just our feelings for them but also to continue hosting the show," Bachchan wrote. He added that he would not elaborate further, saying it could affect the understanding between a host and the channel.

Bachchan described the experience as "heart-breaking", leaving fans wondering whether his remarks could indicate that he is considering stepping away from KBC. However, his post did not explicitly confirm that he is quitting the show. Kaun Banega Crorepati currently airs

Monday to Friday at 9 pm on Sony Entertainment Television. The programme is the Indian adaptation of the British quiz show Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? KBC marked Bachchan's first major television appearance and played an important role in strengthening his connection with audiences across generations. Since its launch, the show has evolved beyond a

conventional quiz programme, largely because of the emotional stories and personal journeys of its contestants. Bachchan's distinctive hosting style, memorable interactions with participants and his iconic "lock kiya jaye" line have become closely associated with the programme. The actor has hosted most seasons of KBC, turning the show into one of the most enduring television properties in India. His latest emotional comments have therefore generated considerable curiosity among viewers. For now, there is no official confirmation that Bachchan is leaving KBC. His remarks appear to reflect the emotional impact of listening to contestants' personal struggles rather than a confirmed announcement about his departure.



## Suriya's

## Film With Jithu Madhavan Titled Scene



Suriya's much-awaited collaboration with director Jithu Madhavan has been titled Scene, with the makers announcing that the film will hit worldwide screens on November 6 for Deepavali 2026.

Suriya shared the title teaser on his X timeline, introducing the project that was until now being referred to as Suriya 47. The actor wrote that the film would arrive in cinemas on November 6, adding to the excitement surrounding the Deepavali release.

The teaser opens with a voice-over questioning whether Suriya's character's talent is being used to hide his allegedly unpleasant nature. The film then introduces Suriya as a police officer named Inbaraj, who arrives at a crime scene and asks a constable who was killed. The constable replies that Inbaraj is there to find out.

The teaser presents Inbaraj as an intimidating and unpredictable police officer. A character describes him as someone who sits casually, smokes and displays an attitude, while a jail warden says suspects begin behaving erratically whenever they see him.

The warden is also shown warning prisoners to remain inside their cells because Inbaraj is arriving. In another striking sequence, Inbaraj tells a constable to look closely at his face, explaining that while he may be the only police officer who has arrested him, the constable is merely one among nearly 900 criminals he has sent to prison.

These glimpses suggest that Scene will revolve around a police character with an unconventional and intimidating personality. The teaser has already generated curiosity among fans eager to see Suriya in a new role under Jithu Madhavan's direction.

The film went on floors with a traditional pooja ceremony in December last year. It is produced by Zhagaram Studios and has been among the most anticipated projects since the collaboration between Suriya and Jithu Madhavan was announced.

Nazriya Nazim plays the female lead, while rising actor Naslen has an important role. The cast also includes John Vijay and Anandaraj, among others.

Scene also features a strong technical team. Vineeth Augustian is handling cinematography, while Sushin Shyam is composing the music. Ashwini Kale is responsible for production design and Ajmal Sabu for editing. Chethan D Souza is the stunt choreographer.

With Suriya portraying the intense police character Inbaraj and Jithu Madhavan at the helm, Scene is expected to be a major Deepavali release.

The film is scheduled to reach theatres worldwide on November 6.

## Nivetha Thomas Returns With Women-Centric Film Srimathi



Actress Nivetha Thomas is set to return to the big screen after a gap of nearly two years with a women-centric film titled Srimathi. The makers have unveiled the first look of the project, featuring Nivetha in the role of a middle-class homemaker.

The first look presents the actress in a kitchen setting, offering a glimpse into the character and the family-oriented world of the film. The makers have described Srimathi as a family entertainer that revolves around the life, experiences and challenges of a homemaker. The story is expected to explore everyday emotions and situations in a way that connects with audiences across households.

Srimathi is directed by Vishvak Khanderao, who previously helmed Skylab. The film is produced by Niranjana Reddy and Chaitanya Reddy under the PrimeShow Entertainment banner.

Nivetha Thomas was last seen in the 2024 film 35 - Chinna Katha Kaadu, where her performance received appreciation from audiences. Following the film, the actress took a brief break from movies.

With Srimathi, Nivetha is returning with a story that places a female character at the centre of the narrative. Her portrayal of a homemaker marks a different setting and character space for the actress, who has previously appeared in a variety of roles across Telugu and other South Indian films. The makers are expected to announce further details about the cast, technical crew and release date in the coming days. With Nivetha Thomas leading a women-focused story and Vishvak Khanderao at the helm, Srimathi has already generated interest following the release of its first look.

## Gandhari Review: Taapsee Leads a Routine Thriller

Taapsee has increasingly become a dependable choice for women-oriented stories in Bollywood, with several films proving her ability to carry a narrative on her shoulders. Gandhari, directed by Devashish Makhija, is another attempt in that space. The film has been streaming on Netflix since September 3 and is available in Hindi and other languages. The story follows Bani (Taapsee), who is travelling by train with her husband Gokul (Ishwak Singh) and their five-year-old daughter Misti. When the train stops at Jaipur station, an unidentified woman kidnaps Misti. In the attempt to save her daughter, Bani suffers severe damage to her eyesight. Despite repeatedly approaching the police for help, Bani finds little support.