



CM Revanth Reddy Vows All-Round Development

Hyderabad, September 3 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy assured that his administration would rise above political considerations to drive comprehensive development across the historic 'Original City' (Old City) of Hyderabad. Addressing a public gathering at the Chanchalguda Government Degree College grounds following the inauguration of the 3.2 km Chanchalguda-Santoshnagar steel flyover, the Chief Minister reiterated his resolve to transform Hyderabad into the nation's most developed metropolis. Demonstrating immediate action, Revanth Reddy sanctioned RS.25 crore for the infrastructural development of Chanchalguda Degree College. He directed Malakpet MLA Ahmed Bin Abdullah Balala to personally supervise the project to ensure completion within 18 months, confirming that an official Government Order (GO) would be issued within a month. Furthermore, the Chief Minister announced that all civic development proposals submitted during the event by Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi would be sanctioned, emphasizing that the government remains fully prepared to allocate whatever funding is necessary for educational advancement. Detailing key regional projects, the Chief Minister highlighted that Mir Alam Tank is being developed into a major tourist destination at an estimated outlay of RS.500 crore. He noted the completion of strategic flyovers at Aramghar and Shastripuram, alongside ongoing citywide underground cabling and road infrastructure projects. In a major public transit update for Old City residents, Revanth Reddy announced that construction on the long-awaited Metro Rail extension connecting Gowliguda to Chandrayangutta will commence this December, as land acquisition for the alignment nears completion.

CS Sanjay Jaju Directs Nodal Officer Appointments Ahead of Assembly Sessions



Hyderabad, September 3 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju has directed all government departments to complete advance administrative preparations and ensure seamless inter-departmental coordination ahead of the state Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council sessions, scheduled to commence on September 7. Chairing a high-level review meeting at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar State Secretariat on Thursday, the Chief Secretary instructed senior bureaucrats and department heads to prepare comprehensive, data-backed responses well in advance to address questions raised by members of the House. To streamline the administrative workflow, CS Jaju mandated the immediate designation of a dedicated Nodal Officer within every government department. These nodal officers will be responsible for continuously monitoring legislative queries, gathering required departmental information, and expediting the drafting of accurate responses within stipulated timeframes. Emphasizing the need for a robust inter-departmental coordination network, Chief Secretary Jaju stressed that if supplementary information or clarification is requested during legislative debates, the relevant departments must compile and transmit the details without delay. He further instructed officials to expedite the processing of any pending legislative questions and immediately submit the required documentation to Assembly secretarial officials to prevent procedural bottlenecks. The Chief Secretary reiterated that administrative readiness and proactive information management are vital for facilitating productive legislative proceedings and upholding executive

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Governor Assents to Konda Surekha's Cabinet Dismissal; BC Women Get Key Posts

Hyderabad, September 3 | TPN Bureau

Ending days of political speculation, Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla approved Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's recommendation to drop Endowments Minister Konda Surekha from the Telangana Council of Ministers with immediate effect. The formal communique issued by Lok Bhavan came after Surekha declined to submit a voluntary resignation following her disciplinary review by the All India Congress Committee (AICC).

Simultaneously, the state government rescinded the appointment of former minister Dr. G. Chinna Reddy as Vice-Chairman of the Telangana Planning Board. In a strategic social-equity balancing exercise following the cabinet shuffle, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy appointed three prominent Backward Class (BC) women



leaders to high-profile administrative posts.

Former Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi has been appointed as the Vice-Chairperson of the Telangana Planning Board with Cabinet rank, filling the vacancy left by Chinna Reddy. Furthermore, women's rights activist Nerella Sharada was

named full-time Chairperson of the Telangana State Commission for Women, while former Rajya Sabha member and Warangal Mayor Gundu Sudharani was appointed Chairperson of the Kakatiya Urban Development Authority (KUDA).

The stern organizational actions taken by the AICC high command and the Chief Minister have drawn wide-

spread satisfaction from Congress cadres, who viewed the decisions as essential for upholding party discipline and administrative authority. Party workers emphasized that enforcing firm measures against leaders who publicly breach party lines sends an unequivocal message that organizational loyalty takes precedence over individual political stature.

Konda Surekha Terms Cabinet Dismissal 'Unjust', Questions Party Action



Hyderabad, September 3 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister for Endowments Konda Surekha expressed deep anguish on Thursday over her abrupt removal from Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's cabinet, characterizing the decision as unjust and criticizing the party leadership for dismissing her without providing a fair opportunity to explain her position. Speaking to media persons in Hyderabad following her cabinet exit, Surekha pointedly questioned why she was being penalized for public comments made independently by her daughter, Konda Sushmita Patel. She asserted that a min-

isterial portfolio was merely an "ornament" to her and maintained that she would have voluntarily submitted her resignation had the leadership requested it. Alleging that her dismissal was orchestrated through "blackmail politics" and internal factionalism, she claimed that central AICC leaders had no initial intention to drop her. Surekha further claimed that discontent remains widespread among several sitting ministers and MLAs who are hesitant to speak out against a "monopoly-like attitude" in state governance. She urged the administration to shift its focus toward fulfilling the promised 'Six Guarantees' and called for an immediate end to the alleged harassment of her former Officer on Special Duty (OSD), Sumanth. Emphasizing that effective leadership relies on collective consultation rather than unilateral actions, she warned that key administrative corrections are necessary to secure future electoral success. Reaffirming her resolve to stay within the Congress party fold, Surekha declared that she will continue serving as an MLA and representing her constituency. She added that she feels no shame over her removal since she committed no fault.

KTR Questions Congress Over Unfulfilled Rythu Declaration Guarantees



Miryalaguda, September 3 | TPN Bureau

Bharat Rashttra Samithi (BRS) Working President K.T. Rama Rao launched a scathing attack on the Congress administration during a farmers' protest (dharna) in Miryalaguda on Thursday, demanding accountability over the 33 promises made under the 2022 Warangal 'Rythu Declaration'.

Addressing the gathering in Nalgonda district, Rama Rao displayed details of the election commitments and questioned why key pledges remained unfulfilled. He highlighted the government's failure to deliver the full RS.2 lakh farm loan waiver, provide RS.15,000 per acre under Rythu Bharosa across three crop seasons, extend financial support to tenant farmers, and implement the promised RS.500-per-quintal bonus alongside a RS.2,500 support price for paddy and cotton.

The BRS leader recalled former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao's prior warnings that trusting the Congress

would plunge agricultural communities into distress. He noted that while urea was delivered directly to fields during the BRS tenure, farmers are once again facing acute fertilizer shortages. Rama Rao alleged that the government has betrayed the farming community by skipping Rythu Bandhu disbursements three times while failing to clear outstanding loan waiver arrears.

Furthermore, Rama Rao accused Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy of neglecting local agricultural interests by withholding water from the Nagarjuna Sagar Left Canal while releasing water to Andhra Pradesh via Pothreddypadu. He characterized the water allocation as a political "Guru Dakshina" to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, warning that Nalgonda farmers are being forced to plead for basic irrigation supplies.

Vowing to raise the irrigation crisis during the upcoming Legislative Assembly session, Rama Rao affirmed that the BRS would continue its agitation until all agricultural grievances are resolved.

Congress Infighting Peak: Minister Konda Surekha Dismissed from Telangana Cabinet

Ravi Podili

The persistent culture of internal friction and public dissent within the Congress party has reached a flashpoint in Telangana, culminating in the dismissal of Endowments Minister Konda Surekha from Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's cabinet. The episode underscores how the party's long-standing tolerance for internal squabbles under the moniker of "internal democracy" continues to destabilize its state administrations, repeatedly shifting organizational focus from public governance to internal power management.

This pattern of structural friction mirrors the political turbulence that previously impacted the Congress government in neighboring Karnataka. Following the party's election victory three years ago, an intense power struggle erupted between senior leader Siddaramaiah and state unit chief D.K. Shivakumar over the Chief Minister's post. Although a tenure-sharing formula was brokered by the party high command, months of factional jockeying were required before Shivakumar ultimately assumed governance reins. A similar battle for organizational dominance has now fully surfaced in Telangana, where veteran leaders who harbored ambitions for the top post maintained a quiet resentment following Revanth Reddy's ascension to the chief ministership after leading the party to power in December 2023.

The conflict between the state leadership and Konda Surekha erupted into open confrontation over electoral ticket allocations in the Warangal region. The primary driver of the dispute was the Konda family's strategy to launch their daughter, Konda Sushmita Patel, as their political successor from the Parkal constituency in the upcoming assembly elections. However, relations deteriorated sharply when Chief Minister Revanth Reddy vis-

CM Revanth Reddy Inaugurates Rs.620 Crore Chanchalguda Steel Flyover



Hyderabad, September 3 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday formally inaugurated the newly constructed 3.2-kilometer-long Chanchalguda-Santoshnagar steel flyover, delivering long-awaited traffic relief to residents and daily commuters across South Hyderabad. Built by the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) at a total cost of Rs 620 crore, the four-lane elevated corridor is engineered to bypass major congestion bottlenecks including Chanchalguda, Saidabad, Madannapet, and IS Sadan. Prior to the ceremonial unveiling, the Chief Minister inspected a specialized photo exhibition depicting the flyover's structural design, engineering layout, and key execution milestones. Following the review, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy inspected the entire length of the newly commissioned steel bridge while traveling in an open-top jeep alongside senior public representatives. The strategic elevated road is

set to cut peak-hour commute times between Nalgonda Cross Roads and Santoshnagar from nearly 30 minutes to just five minutes, substantially easing vehicular movement toward Owaisi Hospital and nearby defense establishments.

Reaffirming his government's focus on urban transformation, the Chief Minister emphasized that infrastructure projects across the Old City remain a top priority for state development.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, Minister Mohammed Azharuddin, Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi, MPs Anil Kumar Yadav, Vem Narendar Reddy, and K. Raghuvver Reddy, alongside local Karwan MLA Ahmed Bin Abdullah Balala. Senior municipal administrators and police officials were also in attendance to manage proceedings.

Featuring 88 reinforced cement concrete pillars and dedicated entry-exit ramps, the flyover stands as one of the longest elevated steel structures in the state.



ited the constituency and publicly declared that the sitting MLA would be re-nominated for the seat. Displeased by the announcement, both Surekha and her daughter openly challenged the Chief Minister's authority, escalating a localized ticket dispute into a full-scale political confrontation.

As the rift widened, administrative protocol courtesies extended to the minister were progressively curtailed by the state establishment. Most notably, Surekha's name was omitted from the official inauguration plaque at a major government event in Mahabubabad, despite her holding cabinet portfolio responsibility for the undivided Warangal district. Recognizing that her removal from the cabinet was imminent, Surekha prepared for an open confrontation with the party leadership, causing the state's political drama to shift directly to the national capital. Summoned to Delhi by the All India Congress Committee (AICC) leadership, Surekha mounted a stern defense before central party representatives. She questioned why she was being held account-

able for statements made independently by her daughter, explaining in a letter to party seniors that her daughter had reacted after being provoked by the Chief Minister's unilateral declaration regarding the Parkal candidacy. Invoking her Backward Classes (BC) identity, Surekha pointedly asked why she was being targeted for disciplinary action while other senior leaders who publicly criticized the Chief Minister faced no scrutiny. She demanded that if disciplinary measures were to be enforced against her, similar action should first be initiated against Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.

Despite initial suggestions that she voluntarily submit her resignation to minimize political damage, a formal letter recommending her dismissal from the Council of Ministers was dispatched to Lok Bhavan before she could tender a resignation. The cabinet drop marks an unprecedented escalation in the ongoing leadership struggle within the Telangana Congress, leaving the state unit grappling with deep factional divides as senior leaders continue to air their grievances in Delhi.

Congress Will Act Against Anyone Crossing 'Lakshman Rekha': Mallu Ravi

Hyderabad, September 3 | TPN Bureau

Dr. Mallu Ravi, Chairman of the Telangana Congress Disciplinary Committee, on Thursday emphasized that the Congress party will enforce strict disciplinary action against any leader-regardless of their stature or prominence-who crosses the party's "Lakshman Rekha" (line of discipline). Addressing the media in Hyderabad, Ravi defended the recent disciplinary measures and cabinet removal of Endowments Minister Konda Surekha and State Planning Board Vice-Chairman G. Chinna Reddy following detailed reports submitted to the All India Congress Committee (AICC).

Explaining the procedure, Mallu Ravi stated that the Disciplinary Committee thoroughly reviewed formal complaints forwarded by district and Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) presidents before recommending stern action to send a unequivocal message across the party cadre. He noted that the decision-



making process took time because the Congress high command operates democratically, offering leaders multiple opportunities to present their stand before party President Mallikarjun Kharge and General Secretary K.C. Venugopal, in stark contrast to the abrupt dismissals

seen during previous regimes.

Addressing specific allegations, the committee chairman expressed strong displeasure over Konda Surekha's failure to condemn disparaging public comments made by her daughter against Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. Dismissing claims of political conspiracy or caste bias, Ravi maintained that the disciplinary action was strictly based on individual errors and breaches of party protocol. He reiterated that the committee scrutinizes all complaints impartially and will act against any leader if similar violations arise.

Emphasizing that the AICC retains sole authority over leadership decisions and election ticket allocations, Mallu Ravi stated that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy speaks and acts strictly in the party's collective interest. He concluded by clarifying that despite her removal from the cabinet, the party desires Konda Surekha to continue serving within the Congress fold.

CM Revanth Unveils Steel Flyover, Announces Mega Infrastructure Push

Hyderabad, September 3 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy formally inaugurated the 3.2-kilometer-long Chanchalguda-Santoshnagar steel flyover in Hyderabad on Thursday, taking the opportunity to announce a series of major urban development, Metro expansion, housing, and social welfare initiatives for the historic area.

Addressing a large public gathering at the Chanchalguda Government Degree College grounds following the inauguration, the Chief Minister criticized the previous BRS administration, alleging that it merely performed ceremonial ground-breaking ceremonies without allocating actual funds for construction. He emphasized that the present Congress-led government provided the necessary resources to complete the Rs 620-crore project.

Reiterating his stance that the area should be recognized as the "Original City" rather than the "Old City," Revanth Reddy directed municipal officials to approve all development proposals sub-



mitted by Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi. Responding to a request from Malakpet MLA Ahmed Bin Abdullah Balala for Rs 20 crore toward educational infrastructure, the Chief Minister sanctioned Rs 25 crore instead, mandating that the college project be completed within 18 months. He praised Owaisi's patriotic stance during 'Operation Sindhur', stating that while political ide-

ologies may differ, unity remains paramount on national issues.A

Unveiling major infrastructure plans, the Chief Minister announced the construction of a 3-kilometer cable bridge across Mir Alam Tank, modeled after the Durgam Cheruvu structure. On public transit, Revanth Reddy assured that Metro Rail services from Gowliguda to

Chandrayangutta would be completed before the next assembly elections. He also revealed plans to extend Metro lines connecting Nagole to LB Nagar, Vanasthalipuram, Rajendranagar, and Shamshabad.

Highlighting welfare initiatives, the Chief Minister announced the allocation of one lakh Indiramma houses for poor families in Hyderabad. He emphasized that state growth relies on harmonious co-existence between communities, recalling the Congress party's role in pioneering four percent reservations for Muslims. Reaffirming plans for the Musi Riverfront development and promoting a vibrant night-time economy, Revanth Reddy accused the BRS and BJP of attempting to obstruct civic progress.

Concluding his address, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy struck a firm political note, asserting that he cannot be intimidated by threats or political pressure. He stated that his administration remains dedicated strictly to developmental governance once elections conclude.

Sacked Minister Konda Surekha Accuses CM Revanth of 'Blackmail Politics'



Hyderabad, September 3 | TPN Bureau

Former Endowments Minister Konda Surekha launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday following her unceremonious removal from the state Cabinet, alleging that the Chief Minister resorted to "blackmail tactics" by threatening to resign if she was not dropped from the Council of Ministers. Addressing a press conference in Hyderabad shortly after her dismissal, Surekha asserted that the All India Congress Committee (AICC) high command had no genuine intention of taking action against her. Describing her ouster without being granted an opportunity to offer an official explanation as deeply humiliating, she remarked, "Even a prisoner sentenced to death is asked for his last wish, but I was removed without being asked for an explanation". Affirming her political trajectory, Surekha clarified that she has no "Plan B" and will continue as a loyal Congress MLA representing Warangal East. Releasing copies of detailed letters previously submitted to AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge and senior central

leaders, Surekha questioned why she was held accountable for remarks made independently by her daughter, Konda Sushmita Patel. She pointedly asked why disciplinary measures were enforced against a Backward Class (BC) woman leader while male colleagues like T. Jayaprakash 'Jagga' Reddy and Komatireddy Raj Gopal Reddy faced no scrutiny for making adverse public statements. She further alleged a systematic campaign to curtail her administrative authority, claiming that key decisions within her departments were taken directly by the Chief Minister's Office without her involvement. Surekha alleged that several sitting legislators and ministers remain dissatisfied with the state administration's functioning due to unfulfilled public assurances and stalled developmental works. Advising the Chief Minister to introspect, she suggested conducting an independent grassroots survey to gauge ground realities. While noting satisfaction that her political trial paved the way for three BC women to secure key government posts, she expressed regret over the simultaneous removal of Dr. G. Chinna Reddy from the State Planning Board.

Bandi Sanjay Slams Revanth's Owaisi Remarks, Demands Fee Dues Clearance



Hyderabad, September 3 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar launched a double-barreled attack against the state government on Thursday, praising the BJP's surprise demonstration at the Telangana Secretariat over pending fee reimbursement arrears while strongly criticizing Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy for certifying AIMIM leaders as "patriots."

Addressing the media following the detention of senior BJP leaders, Bandi Sanjay commended the flash siege led by BJP State President N. Ramchander Rao, MP D.K. Aruna, and BJLP leader A. Maheshwar Reddy. He condemned the police action against leaders who attempted to submit a memorandum signed by over eight lakh students seeking the release of Rs 15,000 crore in long-pending fee reimbursement dues.

Demanding the unconditional release of all detained party workers, the Union Minister warned that the BJP's statewide agitation would continue unabated until the government clears all dues.

Turning his guns on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's praise for AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi during the Chanchalguda flyover event, Bandi Sanjay sharply questioned the Owaisi brothers' national loyalty. He asked how leaders who routinely refuse to recite the national song 'Vande Mataram', face allegations of lake encroachments, and have previously made provocative speeches could be characterized as patriotic. Issuing a direct political challenge, Bandi Sanjay announced that the BJP will soon organize a massive gathering in the Old City, where lakhs of citizens will unite to sing 'Vande Mataram'. He asserted that the event would demonstrate true nationalism across the state.

Health Minister Hails Doctors for Saving 52 Lives

Hyderabad, September 3 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Health Minister C. Damodar Rajanarsimha commended the medical team and support staff at the Bhadrachalam Area Hospital on Thursday for their swift emergency intervention, which successfully saved the lives of 52 individuals.

The patients-comprising 47 children and five adults-were rushed to the Bhadrachalam hospital late Tuesday night from Gollaguppa village in the Polavaram district of neighboring Andhra Pradesh. The group had developed severe adverse reactions and fell ill shortly after consuming chloroquine tablets administered during a local health camp. Recognizing the critical nature of the situation, emergency medical personnel at the Bhadrachalam facility responded immediately, providing intensive medical care that stabilized all affected individuals.

Expressing delight over the successful medical outcome, Minister Rajanarsimha stated that the prompt response highlights the state government's commitment to



delivering high-quality, life-saving healthcare even in remote, border, and agency forest regions. He lauded the hospital superintendent, attending physicians, nursing staff, and administrative workers for their exemplary dedication and round-the-clock care. The minister emphasized that state-run government hospitals across Telangana remain fully equipped with essential medicines, emergency infrastructure, and trained medical professionals to handle critical healthcare emergencies efficiently.

Minister Seethakka Launches Free Coaching Drive for Police Aspirants

Mulugu, September 3 | TPN Bureau

State Panchayat Raj, Rural Development, and Women and Child Welfare Minister Danasari Anasuya (Seethakka) launched a dedicated educational initiative by distributing free study materials to 250 Sub-Inspector (SI) and Police Constable aspirants at an awareness conference held at the RDO Conference Hall in the Mulugu district headquarters on Thursday. Addressing the aspiring candidates alongside Mulugu District Collector Hemanth Sahdev Rao, Minister Seethakka urged the youth to pursue their career goals with relentless determination, discipline, and hard work. She emphasized that joining the police force is a profound commitment to public service, noting that law enforcement represents safety, public trust, and societal confidence across communities. Highlighting the state government's focus on empowering rural and tribal youth, Minister Seethakka announced that active administrative efforts are underway to establish a dedicated, state-of-the-art free coaching center at the Mulugu district headquarters specifically for these 250 candidates. She reassured the youth that lack of financial resources should never stand in the way of merit and ambition, inviting aspirants to reach out to her directly if they encounter any personal or operational hurdles during their examination preparation.



District Collector Hemanth Sahdev Rao assured full administrative coordination to ensure top-quality faculty, structured study environments, and periodic mock assessments for the enrolled candidates. He called upon local candidates to maximize the opportunity provided by the district administration to secure respected positions in uniform. The event concluded with the ceremonial handover of comprehensive preparation books tailored for the Telangana State Level Police Recruitment Board examinations. The initiative was widely lauded by local community leaders, revenue officials, and student representatives as a vital step toward boosting competitive employment prospects in the agency district.

Komatireddy Directs R&B Officials to Fast-Track Infrastructure Projects



Hyderabad, September 3 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Roads and Buildings (R&B) Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy has instructed officials to expedite all ongoing road and infrastructure construction projects across the state, emphasizing that works must be completed within their stipulated deadlines without compromising on quality standards. Chairing a high-level review meeting at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar State Secretariat on Thursday, Minister Venkat Reddy evaluated the progress of major road networks, bridge structures, and government building projects. He underscored that robust transportation infrastructure remains vital for state development and public convenience, directing departmental engineers to maintain strict field surveillance and enforce high execution standards. The Minister urged senior offi-

cers to foster seamless inter-departmental coordination to resolve administrative bottlenecks, fast-track pending clearances, and eliminate procedural hurdles that delay infrastructure works. He warned that negligence, unnecessary delays, or sub-standard construction practices would invite stern administrative scrutiny. Furthermore, Minister Venkat Reddy stressed the necessity of prioritizing high-density traffic corridors, mandal-to-district connectivity routes, and essential civic structures to ensure uninterrupted mobility and regional economic growth. He called upon engineers to execute field inspections regularly and ensure that ongoing construction causes minimal inconvenience to the traveling public. The strategic review meeting was attended by R&B Department Special Chief Secretary Vikas Raj, alongside Chief Engineers and senior administrative heads

Chinna Reddy Affirms Dignity Intact Following Planning Board Exit



Wanaparthi, September 3 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister Dr. G. Chinna Reddy affirmed on Thursday that his personal dignity remains intact regardless of holding official office, declaring that he will stand firmly by the party workers and constituents who have placed their trust in him throughout his political career. Addressing media persons while engaging in agricultural work at his native farmland in Jayanna Thirumalapuram village in Gopalpeta Mandal, the senior Congress leader broke his silence regarding his removal from the post of Vice-Chairman of the Telangana State Planning Board. Chinna Reddy clarified that he voluntarily surrendered his official vehicle, driver, security detail, and cabinet-rank perks immediately upon receiving the revocation order. He noted that his original appointment order did not specify a fixed

tenure duration and refuted assertions that he had ever approached Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to seek political postings or favors for his son. Attributing the disciplinary action to reports drafted by Congress Disciplinary Committee Chairman Dr. Mallu Ravi, Chinna Reddy highlighted his decades-long allegiance to the party, noting that he stands as the state unit's senior-most leader alongside V. Hanumantha Rao. He recalled his foundational role during the Telangana statehood movement, including mobilizing 42 MLAs for a historic rally in Wanaparthi to reinvigorate the agitation. Asserting that official posts are temporary while public trust is permanent, Chinna Reddy emphasized that his bond with grassroots cadres remains unbroken. He pledged to stay among the people and continue serving the constituency, regardless of whether he holds an administrative position.

Assembly Works Inspected Ahead of September 7 Session

Hyderabad, September 3 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Legislative Council Chairman Gutta Sukhender Reddy on Thursday inspected ongoing infrastructure and renovation works across the State Legislature premises ahead of the Legislative Assembly and Council sessions scheduled to commence on September 7. Accompanied by Legislative Council Secretaries Dr. Narasimhacharyulu and R. Tirupati, the Chairman closely monitored progress in key areas, including the Central Hall and the official chamber of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. Issuing firm directives to engineering and administrative staff, Sukhender Reddy

ordered that all remaining construction tasks be executed on a war footing to meet the strict deadline. He emphasized that there should be no compromise on structural quality or logistical arrangements under any circumstances. He instructed multi-departmental officials to work with seamless coordination to ensure smooth proceedings and prevent any inconvenience to public representatives, administrative officers, and visiting dignitaries. Warning that strict disciplinary action would be taken against personnel exhibiting negligence or causing delays, the Council Chairman reiterated that all venue preparations must be fully completed prior to the opening day.

CM Appoints Three BC Women Leaders to Key State Posts in Social Equity Push

Hyderabad, September 3 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has appointed three prominent women leaders from Backward Class (BC) communities to top nominated posts within the state government, executing a strategic social-equity rebalancing following the removal of Endowments Minister Konda Surekha and Planning Board Vice-Chairman Dr. G. Chinna Reddy.

Under administrative orders issued by Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju, former Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi has been appointed Vice-Chairperson of the Telangana State Planning Board with Cabinet rank, filling the vacancy created by Chinna Reddy's exit. Vijayalakshmi, daughter of government public affairs adviser K. Keshava Rao, joined the Congress in March 2024 after serving as GHMC Mayor.

Simultaneously, women's rights activist and state Congress executive member Nerella Sharada, who was serving as in-charge head of the Telangana State Commission for Women since July 2024, has been elevated as its full-time Chairperson. In Warangal, former Rajya Sabha member and current Municipal Corporation Mayor Gundu Sudha Rani has been named Chairperson of the Kakatiya Urban Development Authority (KUDA) for a two-year tenure.

The appointments carry notable social significance, as the leadership of both the Planning Board and KUDA previously held by leaders from the Reddy community-have now been entrusted to BC women leaders. Within ruling party circles, the strategic nominations are seen as a concerted effort to maintain gender representation and reinforce the government's commitment to Backward Classes following recent cabinet reshuffles.

Distribution of Development... How Far Beyond Hyderabad?

Telangana's Journey: From Three Cities Toward a Fourth City

There is no debate about the rapid pace of Hyderabad's growth. IT, pharmaceuticals, fintech, real estate, and services have multiplied the city's economic heft several times over. The Outer Ring Road (ORR) provided a wider geographic horizon to that expansion. Today, ambitious concepts like the Regional Ring Road (RRR) and the 'Fourth City' represent attempts to propel Hyderabad into its next developmental phase. Yet, this is precisely where the core question of the Telangana Development Audit begins with the aggregate volume of growth is one metric; how far and to how many people that growth reaches is another. Has the economic orbit encircling Hyderabad translated into authentic regional development? Or do wealth, capital investment, and employment remain concentrated within a select few enclaves?

Surging Wealth... But What About Equitable Distribution?

Economic indicators across districts within the Hyderabad Metropolitan Region reveal stark disparities when compared to the rest of Telangana. While Rangareddy, Hyderabad, and Medchal-Malkajgiri register high household incomes, heavy capital inflow, and rapid urbanization, the nature of growth in peripheral districts like Medak and Sangareddy within the same economic orbit looks quite different. The central issue is not merely who earns more; it is about what share of the economic value generated in a region actually accrues to local residents. Industries have been set up, land values have escalated, highways have been laid, and new residential colonies have mushroomed. But how much sustainable, long-term employment has been generated for local youth? What tangible opportunities have emerged for local entrepreneurs? How much has median local household income risen? These questions form the true benchmarks for assessing the equitable distribution of development.

The Gap Between Industrial Growth and Local Employment

The industrial nodes across Sangareddy-Patancheru, Medchal, and Rangareddy are vital not just to the capital, but to Telangana's entire industrial ecosystem. Bulk drugs, manufacturing, heavy engineering, logistics, warehousing, and MSMEs have reshaped these local economies. However, attracting large-scale industrial plants is not, by itself, a sufficient metric of regional progress. How many locals are actively employed in these facilities? Are local youth being equipped with industry-relevant technical skills? Are localized ancillary industries and vendor networks forming around major anchor plants? To what extent are secondary service sectors—such



Chennu Peddiraju

Senior Journalist

as transport, food services, housing, and commercial trades—expanding? A capital investment can only be hailed as true

Historically, Hyderabad expanded alongside Secunderabad as twin cities. Later, the IT boom gave birth to Cyberabad as a



regional development when it converts into sustained local income.

The Lesson of the Outer Ring Road

The ORR proved to be far more than a traffic management solution: it radically expanded the economic geography of Hyderabad. Real estate values along the 158-kilometer loop surged, commercial activities flourished, integrated townships emerged, and logistics parks proliferated. Crucially, the ORR delivered an essential urban planning lesson: infrastructure attracts development, but only deliberate, proactive planning anchors that development locally. Therefore, the upcoming RRR must not remain merely another highway project. It demands comprehensive advance master planning so that economic hubs, industrial clusters, logistics parks, civic amenities, and skill development centers emerge concurrently. The government has likewise outlined a vision to develop the belt between A ORR and RRR into a manufacturing powerhouse, cultivating specialized industrial corridors along key radial roads.

After Three Cities... The 'Fourth City'



land cannot match the enduring economic security provided by sustainable local jobs, homegrown businesses, robust civic services, quality healthcare, and accessible education. A rigorous development audit must therefore evaluate real estate not simply as a headline milestone, but by how deeply it connects to the productive real economy.

The Structural Limits of Urban Sprawl

Unchecked urban expansion brings compounding systemic challenges. Gridlocked traffic, water stress, rising pollution, overburdened stormwater drainage, surging living costs, extended commutes, and pressure on public transit infrastructure increasingly burden the metropolitan region. In 2025, the jurisdiction of the Hyderabad Metro Region (HMR) was expanded out to the proposed Regional Ring Road—encompassing 10,472.72 square kilometers, 1,355 revenue villages, 104 mandals, and 11 districts. This vast geographic footprint cannot function under a monolithic, centralized urban model. Simply absorbing every peripheral area into the administrative sprawl of Hyderabad is unsustainable. Establishing self-contained employment hubs within these newly integrated areas is critical to curbing long-distance daily commutes. Urban planning must shift from a disjointed "commute to work, reside elsewhere" approach toward a polycentric urban model where work, housing, and essential public services coexist within the same zone. This represents the cornerstone of true decentralization.

From the Fourth City... A New Development Model for Telangana?

The story of Hyderabad's evolution through three urban iterations offers a clear lesson: economic activity need not be tied to a single urban center. The Fourth City, the RRR, and new peri-urban industrial-logistics hubs provide a tangible blueprint to apply this insight at scale. Ultimately, the defining benchmarks remain clear. Was a new city merely built, or was a self-sustaining economic ecosystem created? Were roads simply laid, or did local employment centers take root? Did land prices merely spike, or did household incomes sustainably rise? Only when these questions are resolved can we conclude that the Hyderabad Metro Region has transitioned from centralized concentration to equitable distribution. Hyderabad must serve as the primary growth engine for Telangana. However, for an engine to pull the entire train forward, its tractive power must reach every coach. Only when the wealth generated by Hyderabad translates into widespread opportunity across peripheral regions will metropolitan growth become authentic, statewide development.

CS Sanjay Jaju Directs Nodal Officer Appointments Ahead of Assembly Sessions Continue

accountability during state Assembly deliberations. The review meeting witnessed the active participation of several top state bureaucrats, including Special Chief Secretaries Vikas Raj, Naveen Mittal, B.M.D. Ekka, and Vani Prasad, alongside Principal Secretaries Sandeep Kumar Sultania and Yogita Rana, among other senior administrative heads.

High Tension at Secretariat as BJP State Chief Ramchander Rao and Leaders Arrested



Hyderabad, September 3 | TPN Bureau

Police intercepted and arrested Telangana BJP State President N. Ramchander Rao along with several party activists during a surprise march toward the Secretariat on Thursday. Rao was leading the demonstration to hand over representations containing signatures of over 8 lakh students, demanding the immediate release of RS.15,000 crore in long-pending fee reimbursement arrears. The march was organized after Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy failed to respond to a formal request sent three days prior seeking an official appointment to present the student petitions. Unmoved by the government's indifference, BJP leaders and cadres marched directly to the seat of power to voice the concerns of the student community. High tension prevailed as police personnel blocked the protesters at the

Secretariat's main gate. In response, Ramchander Rao and party workers staged a sit-in demonstration at the entrance before police forcibly took them into custody and shifted them to the Chikkadpally Police Station. Lashing out at the Congress administration following his detention, Ramchander Rao accused the government of harboring an anti-student mindset. He asserted that the non-clearance of RS.15,000 crore in pending dues has severely impacted the academic futures and career opportunities of nearly 40 lakh students across the state. Rao stated that while the police may detain leaders, they cannot suppress the collective outrage of the student community. Reaffirming the party's resolve, he declared that the Bharatiya Janata Party will continue an uncompromising statewide struggle until every single rupee of pending fee reimbursement is fully disbursed.

MP DK Aruna Visits Hospitalized Mother of BJP Leader Nagam Varshit Reddy



Secunderabad, September 3 | TPN Bureau

Mahabubnagar MP D.K. Aruna on Thursday visited Yashoda Hospital in Secunderabad to inquire after Sridevi, the mother of Nalgonda District BJP President Nagam Varshit Reddy. Sridevi was emergency-admitted to the medical facility after suffering a severe heart attack caused by intense shock and panic during a recent violent attack on her residence, allegedly carried out by Congress workers. During her visit, MP Aruna spoke directly with the attending team of doctors to assess Sridevi's current health condition, treatment plan, and ongoing recovery progress. Expressing deep concern over the traumatic ordeal, the senior

BJP leader offered prayers for her speedy and complete recovery. Interacting with Nagam Varshit Reddy at the hospital, Aruna offered strong personal consolation and urged him to remain resilient. She strongly condemned the violent raid on the party leader's home, characterizing it as an unacceptable act of political intimidation and lawlessness. The Member of Parliament assured Varshit Reddy that the Bharatiya Janata Party leadership and cadre stand firmly behind his family during this difficult time and will extend all necessary support. She also demanded that police authorities conduct an immediate, impartial investigation to arrest and prosecute all perpetrators involved in the violent assault on the leader's household.

Congress Exposed as 'Commission Government': BJP Chief



Hyderabad, September 3 | TPN Bureau

BJP Telangana State President N. Ramchander Rao on Thursday launched a scathing attack on the ruling Congress administration, characterizing it as a corruption-ridden, "30% commission government." Highlighting growing internal friction within the ruling party, Rao asserted that recent political developments have laid bare the rampant corruption and factionalism plaguing the state government. Referring to the removal of Konda Surekha from her ministerial cabinet post, Ramchander Rao stated that while disciplinary actions are an internal matter for Congress, it was the minister's own daughter who publicly exposed the corrupt practices within the administration. He emphasized that these serious allegations are no longer coming solely from the Opposition, as Congress leaders themselves are

acknowledging the government's commission-driven nature. Rao also targeted Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his rhetoric regarding women's empowerment, highlighting the stark contrast with the party's actual record. He pointed out that Congress-ruled states such as Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka have no female cabinet ministers, while in Telangana, one of only two women ministers was abruptly stripped of her portfolio, exposing what he termed the party's anti-women mindset. Addressing widespread speculation regarding Konda Surekha potentially joining the BJP, Rao dismissed the reports as baseless. He clarified that a recent interaction with her at the airport was merely a courtesy call with no political significance, reiterating that all decisions regarding official party inductions rest exclusively with the BJP national leadership.

BC Welfare Association Slams Konda Surekha Sacking, Warns of Agitation

Hyderabad, September 3 | TPN Bureau

BC Welfare Association National President Jajula Srinivas Goud strongly condemned the dismissal of Endowments Minister Konda Surekha from the Telangana Cabinet, characterizing the decision as highly unjust and deeply humiliating to the Backward Classes (BC) community. Addressing the media in Hyderabad on Thursday, Goud criticized the ruling Congress administration for acting in an autocratic manner. He cautioned Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to draw lessons from the political fate of the previous Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) regime under former CM K. Chandrashekar Rao. Goud recalled that during BRS rule, the unceremonious removal of prominent Dalit and BC ministers—namely Dr. T. Rajajiah and Eatala Rajender—triggered widespread public backlash that eventually relegated the party to the opposition. Describing the abrupt dropping of a senior BC woman minister as a grave error, the BC leader asserted that such heavy-handed actions undermine democratic norms. He demanded that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and the Congress high command immediately



reconsider their decision and revoke Konda Surekha's cabinet dismissal. Issuing a stern ultimatum, Goud warned that if the state government fails to revoke the dismissal, the BC Welfare Association alongside allied social organizations will launch a massive, statewide agitation against the Congress administration. He emphasized that the Congress party would face severe political consequences in upcoming elections if it continues to marginalize Backward Class leadership.

Talasani Warns of CM Residence Siege Over GO 97 Controversy

Hyderabad, September 3 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister and Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Deputy Floor Leader Talasani Srinivas Yadav warned on Thursday that the opposition party, alongside agitating students, would lay siege to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's official residence if Government Order (GO) 97 is not revoked by September 7. Attending a massive demonstration organized by polytechnic students at Indira Park, the BRS leader extended full solidarity to the protest, which has been ongoing for over three weeks. Srinivas

Yadav strongly criticized the Congress administration for ignoring the demands of more than one lakh polytechnic students whose technical education, lateral entry options into engineering, and career prospects have been thrown into uncertainty. The former minister alleged that the state government issued GO 97 with an underlying motive to seize control of valuable assets and lands belonging to government polytechnic institutions across Telangana. He charged that bringing polytechnic colleges under the newly formed Young India Skill University—which operates on a public-private partnership model—

is a calculated move to hand over or mortgage public properties to private entities while gradually shifting financial burdens onto students. Expressing regret over senior administrative officers endorsing what he termed ill-conceived state decisions, Srinivas Yadav questioned why students were forced onto the streets to defend basic educational rights. Drawing parallels to recent youth-led 'Gen Z' movements in Delhi that compelled central policy reconsiderations, he urged the agitating students to maintain their resolve and assured them of unwavering BRS support in the upcoming Legislative Assembly session.

aNarayanpet, September 4 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister and senior Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader V. Srinivas Goud strongly condemned the dismissal of Endowments Minister Konda Surekha from the Telangana Cabinet, characterizing her removal as an appalling act of injustice targeted specifically at a prominent Backward Class (BC) woman leader.

Addressing a massive gathering at the 'BRS Rythu Garjana' (Farmers' Roar) protest rally in Kosgi, Narayanpet district, Goud questioned the Congress leadership's selective enforcement of party discipline. The demonstration, organized under the leadership of former Kodangal MLA Patnam Narendar Reddy to mark opposition against the Congress government's 1,000-day rule, was attended by former Minister Sabitha Indra Reddy alongside thousands of BRS cadres.

Lashing out at the administration, Srinivas Goud pointed out that numerous Congress legislators and senior leaders had repeatedly voiced public grievances against Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's leadership without facing disciplinary action. He challenged the ruling party to explain why Konda Surekha was singled out and unceremoniously dropped, alleging that her social identity as a BC woman made her vulnerable to targeted party action. The former minister accused the Congress administration of maintaining blatant double standards, noting that several sitting ministers facing grave allegations of corruption and kickbacks continue to enjoy immunity. He asserted that the Congress party has repeatedly betrayed the trust of the Backward Classes and acted vindictively toward Surekha, warning that the BC community across Telangana would hold the government accountable for its discriminatory posture.

Sealed Property Sees Active Construction

Quthbullapur, September 3 | TPN Bureau

Residents of Krushi Colony in Saibaba Nagar (Division 292, Kompally Circle) are expressing deep concern over ongoing construction activity directly abutting the main road. The site had previously been sealed by civic authorities following formal complaints from the neighborhood, but work has now inexplicably resumed. The sudden restart has sparked sharp criticism from locals, who are questioning the role of municipal oversight. Residents are demanding immediate clarification from Town Planning officials on whether the original sealing orders were officially revoked or if the construction is proceeding in direct violation of regula-



tions. Locals allege that despite repeatedly notifying officials at the Kompally Zonal

Office and the concerned Deputy Commissioner, no corrective action has

been taken. Community members point out that Town Planning officers have yet to perform a physical site inspection to verify the ongoing activity on the premises. The construction poses significant safety risks, as the structure directly abuts a busy thoroughfare heavily used every day by commuters from multiple surrounding colonies. Beyond the legal ambiguity, residents fear the building will cause long-term obstruction and severe traffic hazards. In light of these developments, Krushi Colony residents are calling on senior civic authorities to conduct an immediate field inspection, clarify the legal status of the sealed property, and take prompt enforcement action against any violations to safeguard the public interest.

Road Works Launched in Rajiv Gruhakalpa



Quthbullapur, September 3 | TPN Bureau

The long-standing civic woes of Rajiv Gruhakalpa Colony residents are finally coming to an end with the formal launch of comprehensive road development works across Blocks 1 through 14. Located within the limits of Saibaba Nagar (Division 292) in Suraram, the neighborhood has struggled for years with severely damaged roads, persistent dust pollution, and deep monsoon mud. Senior BRS leader Varala Vinod Kumar formally inaugurated the long-awaited construction project, which was sanctioned through key development initiatives undertaken by Quthbullapur MLA KP Vivekananda Goud. The official commencement of these infrastructure works marks a major milestone for local residents who have endured hazardous commuting conditions for years. Speaking at the launch event, Varala Vinod Kumar highlighted that MLA KP Vivekananda Goud consistently prioritizes essential public infrastructure and

civic welfare. He emphasized that local leadership proactively identified the daily difficulties faced by Rajiv Gruhakalpa residents and took concrete measures to address them. He added that the launch of these road works is not merely a routine development effort, but a vital step forward in improving the colony's overall infrastructure. Relieved locals expressed immense happiness over the initiative, noting that improved road facilities will ease daily commuting and upgrade overall living standards. They also appealed to government officials and elected public representatives to maintain this positive momentum and focus specifically on resolving the remaining civic issues in the neighborhood. The program saw active participation from prominent local leaders, including Raj Kumar Mudiraj (President of Blocks 1-14), Rangappa (President of Jai Bhim Nagar), Bhaskar, Maitri Nagar Raju Yadav, Badri, Jai Simha Reddy, Gajula Madhavi, Ragula Pandu, Erukala Anji, Mangala Suresh, Satish, and several other community members.

BJP Condemns Arrest of State President N. Ramchander Rao Over Fee Reimbursement Protest

Hyderabad, September 3 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has strongly condemned the police detention of BJP State President N. Ramchander Rao and several senior leaders on Thursday. The leaders were intercepted while heading toward the Secretariat to submit a representation to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy concerning the pending fee reimbursement dues of students across the state. In a press statement, BJP State General Secretary Thulla Veerender Goud termed the arrests illegal and autocratic. He criticized the Chief Minister for refusing to grant an audience or even accept a peaceful memorandum, stating that the police action demonstrates the administration's deep-seated insecurity and desperation. The delegation was attempting to hand over petitions signed by nearly 8 lakh students as part of the party's ongoing campaign titled "Fee-la Bakayi- BJP Ladayi" (Fee Arrears - BJP's Fight). Goud noted that despite formally seeking an appointment with the Chief Minister to present the students' grievances, the party received no response from the government.



Police intercepted the procession and arrested key figures, including Ramchander Rao, BJP Legislature Party Leader Eleti Maheshwar Reddy, Mahabubnagar MP D.K. Aruna, MLC Malka Komaraiiah, State General Secretary Dr. Gautam Rao, and BJYM State President Ganesh Kunde. The arrested leaders and numerous party activists were subsequently shifted to the Chikkadpally Police Station. Demanding the immediate and unconditional release of all detained leaders, Veerender Goud urged the state government to acknowledge the plight of the student community and clear the pending fee reimbursement funds without further delay. He warned that the BJP would escalate its statewide agitation if its demands are not met immediately.

BJP Slams Congress Over Internal Cracks and Delayed GHMC Polls



Hyderabad, September 3 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday launched a scathing attack against the ruling Congress government led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, alleging that growing internal bickering and party dissent are crippling state governance at the expense of common citizens. In a press statement issued in Hyderabad, BJP State Chief Spokesperson and Media In-charge N. V. Subash cited reported disciplinary action against Minister Konda Surekha as clear evidence of escalating cracks within the ruling establishment.

Subash claimed that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy remains preoccupied with protecting his personal leadership position, causing key election promises made to the public to fall by the wayside. Subash further highlighted that discontent is no longer limited to the Opposition, with several Congress leaders themselves openly raising concerns regarding alleged financial irregularities under the current administration. He noted that internal party members are drawing unfavorable comparisons between present governance and the financial mismanagement of the previous BRS regime, while grave allegations are also surfacing against the Chief Minister and his family members. Additionally, the BJP spokesperson asserted that widespread public dissatisfaction and internal turmoil are the primary reasons behind the government's delay in conducting the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) elections. Alleging that Congress fears facing the electorate's verdict, Subash insisted that political instability within the ruling party must not be allowed to compromise municipal governance and public welfare.

Fee Reimbursement Agitation: Maheshwar Reddy Slams 'Dictatorial' Arrests



Hyderabad, September 3 | TPN Bureau

BJP Legislature Party Leader Eleti Maheshwar Reddy strongly condemned the state government's "dictatorial attitude" following his detention alongside Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) leaders during a peaceful protest in Hyderabad on Thursday. The leaders were arrested by police while heading toward the Secretariat to submit student signature petitions demanding the immediate release of pending fee reimbursement funds to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. Expressing outrage over the police action, Maheshwar Reddy characterized his detention as an illegal and inhumane act reflecting autocratic governance in the state. He sharply criticized the Chief Minister for failing to grant an appointment to elected public

representatives seeking to address the critical grievances of lakhs of impoverished students whose academic futures remain in jeopardy. Reddy asserted that police detentions and arbitrary arrests would fail to suppress student agitations across Telangana. He demanded the immediate, unconditional release of all detained BJYM leaders and activists, while urging the administration to give up its obstinate stance toward public grievances. Issuing a stern ultimatum to the government, the BJP leader demanded the immediate clearance of ₹15,000 crore in long-pending fee reimbursement arrears. He warned that if the state government fails to disburse the funds promptly, the Bharatiya Janata Party will escalate its protest movement under its leadership across all districts of Telangana to protect the interests of the student community.

BRS Stages Agitation Over Unfulfilled Guarantees

Quthbullapur, September 3 | TPN Bureau

Alleging that the ruling Congress government has failed to deliver on its poll promises, the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) launched a widespread agitation. Responding to a directive from party Working President KT Rama Rao, BRS leaders staged a protest and submitted a formal memorandum at the Dundigal-Gandimaisamma Mandal Tahsildar's office on Thursday. The demonstration was spearheaded by Medchal District BRS President and MLC Shambhipur Raju, who led a delegation of party activists to meet the Tahsildar. Submitting a representation detailing public grievances, the leaders voiced strong disapproval over administrative delays in addressing pressing local welfare concerns. Highlighting critical issues, party leaders expressed concern that numerous 2BHK housing units constructed during the KCR administration remain unallocated. They demanded the immediate allotment of these completed homes to eligible, impoverished families. Additionally, the delegation urged the



state government to expedite housing construction under the 'Indiramma Houses' scheme to ensure timely delivery to beneficiaries. MLC Shambhipur Raju also demanded an immediate and permanent resolution for citizens struggling with lands classified under the restrictive '22-A' section. Accusing the government of systemic neglect toward public welfare commitments, Raju warned that BRS would intensify its agitation across the region if pending demands are not met promptly. The protest witnessed large-scale participation from BRS public representatives, party cadres, local activists, and community supporters.

CEO Inspects SIR Hearing Process



Quthbullapur, September 3 | TPN Bureau

State Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) C. Sudarshan Reddy has directed election officials to conduct the hearing of notices, scrutiny of applications, and resolution of objections under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR)-2026 swiftly and meticulously. Accompanied by District Collector and District Election Officer Manu Chowdary, CEO Sudarshan Reddy personally inspected the ongoing SIR hearing centers in the Dommara Pochampally area of Dundigal Mandal on Thursday. During the visit, he thoroughly examined voter identification procedures, document submissions mandated by the Election Commission, field-level assistance, and record verifi-

cation mechanisms. The CEO instructed officials to pay special attention to records concerning unmapped voters and cards flagged with discrepancies. He advised that administrative decisions be taken only after strictly verifying voter details and credentials in full compliance with ECI regulations. Emphasizing the systematic registration of every eligible voter, Sudarshan Reddy called for deploying adequate staff to ensure the entire revision is completed within the stipulated timeframe. He instructed officers to drive progress using daily targets, standard operating procedures, and a comprehensive action plan. Following a detailed review of field operations, Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs), supervisors, and Booth Level Officers (BLOs) were urged to maintain absolute transparency and efficiency throughout the revision process. Key officials in attendance during the inspection included Additional Election Officer Vasam Venkateswarlu, Quthbullapur Zonal Commissioner Pinkish Kumar, RDO Shyam Sundar, Dundigal MRO Rajeshwar Reddy, alongside several other election personnel.

Court Sentences Three to 'Swachh Bharat' Service for Public Drunkenness



Nacharam, September 3 | TPN Bureau

A local court has sentenced three individuals to two days of community service under the 'Swachh Bharat' initiative after they were caught creating a public nuisance in an inebriated state. According to the Nacharam police, the individuals were identified as Ladda Bhanu (29), a resident of Ambedkar Nagar in Nacharam, alongside Vamsi Krishna (21) and Abhishek Biswal (20), both hailing from Chilkana. The trio had consumed alcohol in an open public area in Snehapuri Colony and subsequently caused a significant disturbance to local residents and passersby.

Following police intervention, the individuals were booked and produced before the court. Upon examining the details of the case, the magistrate ordered all three offenders to perform mandatory sanitation and cleanup duties as part of the 'Swachh Bharat' program for two consecutive days as punishment. Welcoming the corrective sentence, local police officials issued a stern warning to the public against open-air drinking and rowdy behavior. Law enforcement authorities emphasized that strict legal action will inevitably follow for anyone consuming alcohol in public places or disturbing neighborhood peace, reiterating that regular patrolling will continue across the division to enforce civic order.

Three Youths Apprehended for Ganja Use Near DCP Office



Quthbullapur, September 3 | TPN Bureau

Despite ongoing enforcement measures by law enforcement to combat illegal narcotics, the brazen public consumption of contraband continues to pose a major concern. In a striking incident, the Jeedimetla police apprehended three youths caught consuming ganja (cannabis) in a parking facility situated directly adjacent to the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) office. Acting on credible intelligence, police personnel conducted a targeted inspection on Wednesday in the parking area along Pipeline Road in Shapur Nagar, located right next to the senior officer's

headquarters. During the operation, officers caught three individuals red-handed while consuming the illicit substance. The detained youths have been identified as Ramkolli Sangamesh (25), Avije Nitin (29), and Dasarathi Ganesh Kumar (24). Following their apprehension at the scene, law enforcement officers conducted rapid urine tests using standard drug testing kits, which yielded positive results confirming recent ganja usage for all three individuals. After completing all necessary procedural formalities in the presence of independent witnesses, the suspects were taken into custody and transported to the Jeedimetla police station. Senior officials confirmed that formal legal proceedings are being initiated against the trio under relevant provisions of the law. The audacious nature of the offense-taking place virtually on the doorstep of a key police headquarters has underscored the urgent need for heightened vigilance. Local community members are calling for expanded anti-narcotics drives, stricter field checks, and enhanced surveillance across public spaces to curb drug abuse in the region.

CMC Plans Green Waste-to-Bio-Briquette Plant

Hyderabad, September 3 | TPN Bureau

In a significant push toward sustainable urban waste management, the Cyberabad Municipal Corporation (CMC) is preparing to set up a green waste-to-bio-briquette plant designed to transform tree-pruning and horticultural refuse into high-efficiency industrial fuel. The municipal corporation's Standing Committee has formally approved a proposal to issue an Expression of Interest (EOI) to execute the environmental project through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. The proposed processing facility aims to capture substantial volumes of organic waste generated across the civic body's jurisdiction, including avenue plantation residues, routine garden trimmings, and fallen biomass. By converting this material into dense bio-briquettes, the initiative will offer a clean, renewable alternative to conventional coal and fossil fuels for industrial heating applications. Providing



details on the project's progress, Additional Commissioner G. Venugopal Reddy clarified that the proposal remains

in its preliminary phase while a comprehensive feasibility assessment is being conducted. Under the envisioned PPP

operational framework, the civic body will allocate dedicated municipal land and ensure a steady supply of raw green waste. The selected private partner will be responsible for capital expenditure, infrastructure installation, daily plant operations, workforce deployment, and the commercial distribution of the final briquette products. The initiative addresses persistent urban environmental challenges by curbing the hazardous open dumping and toxic burning of green waste in residential neighborhoods. Designed as a model circular-economy initiative, the project also creates financial opportunities for the municipal authority through product sales and potential carbon credit monetization. Further official updates, tenders, and civic notices regarding municipal solid waste management schemes are periodically published on the official Telangana urban development portal at

BJP SC Morcha Protests Defaced Sant Ravidas Portrait

Hyderabad, September 3 | TPN Bureau

BJP SC Morcha State President Kanthi Kiran, along with party leaders, performed a traditional purification ritual (Abhishekam) with pure milk on a portrait of spiritual icon Jagadguru Sri Sant Ravidas Maharaj on Thursday. The gesture came after the portrait was allegedly defaced with black paint by Youth

Congress workers, sparking widespread outrage among community members.

Following the milk Abhishekam, the BJP SC Morcha delegation offered a floral garland and paid rich respectful tributes to the revered saint and social reformer. The party leaders strongly condemned the vandalism, characterizing it as a provocative and disrespectful act against a

revered spiritual figure.

Subsequently, Kanthi Kiran and his team staged a demonstration at the location, raising slogans and questioning police personnel over the lack of progress in the investigation. The BJP leaders confronted law enforcement officers, demanding to know why no legal action or arrests had been initiated against the Youth Congress elements

involved in the incident despite clear evidence.

Warning authorities against taking a partisan approach, Kanthi Kiran demanded the immediate arrest and prosecution of the culprits. He asserted that if the police fail to take swift action against those responsible for desecrating the portrait, the BJP SC Morcha will escalate its protests across the state.



Janmashtami Celebrated with Zeal at Abhaya Prada School

Nacharam, September 3 | TPN Bureau

Janmashtami was celebrated on a grand and festive scale at Abhaya Prada School, located in Raghavendra Nagar, Nacharam, on Thursday. The school campus resonated with joy and devotion as students, teachers, and administrative staff assembled to mark the auspicious festival. The young students captivated everyone present by dressing up in exquisite traditional attire as Lord Krishna and Radha. A

colorful lineup of cultural activities formed the chief highlight of the day, featuring charming dance routines and lively Dandiya performances presented by the children, which drew continuous applause from the audience. Following the cultural programs, the traditional 'Utti Kotte' (pot-breaking) ceremony was organized with immense excitement and enthusiasm, thrilling the young participants. A total of 30 students actively participated in the day's festive events. Teachers joined



hands with the children throughout the program,

creating a vibrant, joyful atmosphere and making

the Janmashtami celebration a memorable success

for the entire school community.

Chennai Shopping Mall Launches 4th Mega Exhibition



Quthbullapur, September 3 | TPN Bureau

The fourth mega sale exhibition organized by Chennai Shopping Mall

officially opened with great fanfare at Sri Convention in Kompally.

Popular film actress Hebah Patel graced the occasion as the chief guest and formally inaugurated the ten-day shopping extravaganza, which aims to bring premium fashion choices directly to local shoppers. Speaking at the launch, Hebah Patel highlighted that the exhibition, running for ten days starting September 3, features an extensive range of high-quality clothing at remarkably low prices. She praised the organizers for curating a vast collection under one roof, making

it convenient for families to fulfill all their festive and casual wardrobe needs while benefiting from exclusive discount offers. Chennai Shopping Mall Director Krishna Rao expressed delight over the grand opening and noted that this is their fourth exhibition in the city. Encouraged by the enthusiastic customer response, Rao revealed that plans are already underway to launch another major exhibition in RC Puram in the near future.

He explained that the core objective of organizing such neighborhood sales is to assist customers who face commuting difficulties traveling to distant main showrooms. By setting up accessible venues nearby, the management ensures shoppers get top-grade apparel without hassle. The organizers have warmly invited residents from surrounding areas to visit the Sri Convention exhibition during the ten-day event and make the most of the attractive promotional deals.

New 12.5 MVA Power Transformer Inaugurated



Nacharam, September 3 | TPN Bureau

To address the escalating electricity demand across the region, a newly installed 12.5 MVA power transformer was officially inaugurated at the Nacharam substation on Thursday. The infrastructure upgrade aims to significantly strengthen the local distribution network and ensure an uninterrupted power supply throughout the Nacharam division, which operates under the Habsiguda zone. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Engineer Ramesh stated that proactive measures are continuously being implemented to upgrade power systems in direct alignment with public needs. He revealed that the high-capacity transformer was brought into active service specifically to manage peak load surges

and prevent voltage fluctuations during the demanding monsoon and summer seasons. Electrical department officials highlighted that the addition of this 12.5 MVA unit will dramatically improve overall grid performance, resolve low-voltage complaints, and offer crucial operational relief to both residential and commercial consumers across the entire locality. Prominent engineering and field staff in attendance at the inauguration included Superintending Engineer Venkanna, Divisional Engineers Subbarao and Ramakrishna Reddy, Assistant Divisional Engineers Prabhudas, Prashanth, and Jayashree, Assistant Engineers B. Nagaraju and Ravi Varma, Senior Line Inspector Pratap Vaidji, Line Inspector Madhusudan Reddy, along with several other department personnel

MLA Anil Jadhav Launches Pending CC Road Construction

Ichoda, September 3 | TPN Bureau

Boath Constituency MLA Anil Jadhav performed the groundbreaking ceremony for a long-pending Cement Concrete (CC) road project in front of Sri Saraswati Shishu Mandir in Ichoda mandal headquarters on Thursday. The construction resolves a persistent civic infrastructure issue that had inconvenienced students and residents for a prolonged period. Following the ceremony, MLA Jadhav toured the school premises and held an informal interaction with students to inquire about their academic progress, well-being, and campus facilities. He urged the young learners to pursue their studies with discipline and strive to reach great heights in life.

Expressing gratitude on behalf of the institution, Principal Marathi Santosh Kumar felicitated MLA Jadhav for addressing the grievance and initiating the roadwork. Acknowledgements were also extended to local Sarpanch Jalaija,



Deputy Sarpanch Shirish Reddy, and ward members Kolluri Shekhar and Sumitrabai for their proactive role in facilitating the initiative. The event was attended by BRS party leaders including Tula Srinivas, Krishna Reddy, Gadge Subhash, Narvade Ramesh, and Gaddam Bhim Reddy, along with local MPTC members. School committee members K. Narayan Reddy, Rajender, and Santosh, alongside teaching staff members Bharati, Manjula, Shankar, and Sindhuja, were also present.

ABVP Stages Massive 'Fee Deeksha' Over Rs 11,000 Crore Reimbursement Dues

Hyderabad, September 3 | TPN Bureau

The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) organized a massive "Fee Deeksha" (protest) at Indira Park Dharna Chowk on Thursday, demanding the immediate release of long-pending fee reimbursements and scholarship arrears accumulated under the Congress administration. Addressing the demonstration, ABVP National Joint Organizing Secretary Balakrishna alleged that the education sector in Telangana has plunged into a severe crisis. He criticized the state government for allocating a mere 8% of the four-lakh-crore budget to education—far short of the 18% demanded by educationists—resulting in widespread dropouts and the closure of private institutions. ABVP South-Central Zone Organizing Secretary Chirigi Shiva Kumar criticized Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, alleging that the administration is actively conspiring to scrap the fee reimbursement scheme by treating it as a financial burden. He further questioned the government's decision to introduce a separate State Education Policy rather than adopting NEP 2020,



causing confusion among students. Detailing the crisis, ABVP State Secretary Macharla Rambabu highlighted that nearly 20 lakh students across Telangana rely on government fee assistance. He noted that pending arrears have reached Rs 11,000 crore, forcing over 2 lakh students to drop out annually and preventing thousands more from obtaining their degree certificates. Warning the administration of severe political fallout, ABVP leaders vowed to convert university campuses into battlegrounds for a statewide agitation if the government fails to clear all outstanding dues immediately. City Secretary Pruthvi Teja, State Joint Secretaries Raju, Shyam, Mahesh, Deepika, and Chhatrapati, alongside thousands of student activists, participated in the protest.

ED Raids Absconding Ganja Kingpin Neetu Bai's House

Hyderabad, September 3 | TPN Bureau

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday carried out extensive searches at the Nanakramguda residence of notorious, absconding drug peddler Neetu Bai as part of a high-profile money laundering investigation. The federal agency initiated its probe based on an FIR registered by the Telangana Elite Action Group for Drug Law Enforcement (EAGLE). Neetu Bai, who faces over 20 cases under the NDPS Act, has been evading law enforcement since escaping a targeted police operation in June 2026. The 48-year-old kingpin, originally hailing from Dhoopet, operated a primary distribution hub out of Lotha Basti in Nanakramguda, aggressively catering to software professionals in the city's IT corridor. Despite staying underground for over a year, she allegedly managed a vast narcotics empire generating an estimated daily earnings of Rs 2.60 lakh. Officials identified her as a primary bulk importer with direct supply links to ganja cultivators across Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Uttar Pradesh. According to police sources, Neetu Bai—



also known as Ganja Kalavati—commands an extensive network of over 300 street-level peddlers and offers specialized doorstep delivery services to affluent consumers. A close relative of recently apprehended drug operator Angoori Bai, Neetu Bai operated the multi-state contraband syndicate as a family business, utilizing multiple cash-counting machines at her premises. This is not her first brush with major law enforcement action. In August 2023, she was arrested by TGANB and Golconda police, leading to the freezing of bank balances exceeding Rs 180 crore and the seizure of properties valued at Rs 4.80 crore. However, after securing bail, she quickly resumed her illegal trade. Special teams from the Telangana State Task Force (TG-STF) have now intensified multi-state searches to locate and arrest her.

KCR Has No Moral Right to Continue as Opposition Leader: Parameswar Reddy

Nacharam, September 3 | TPN Bureau

Congress Party Assembly in-charge for the Uppal constituency, Mandumula Parameswar Reddy, declared that former Chief Minister and BRS chief K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) has no moral right to continue as the Leader of the Opposition. Demanding KCR's immediate resignation, Reddy led expansive bike rallies and protest demonstrations across various divisions in the Uppal constituency, including Nacharam, HMT Colony, Mallapur, Meerpeta, HB Colony, and Shakti Sai Nagar. Addressing party cadres during the rally, Parameswar Reddy remarked that the Leader of the Opposition is expected to serve as the voice of the people and hold the government accountable on public issues. However, he sharply criticized KCR for remaining distant from the electorate and confining himself to "farmhouse politics," alleging that the BRS chief consistently ignores the grievances of farmers, unemployed youth, and common citizens. Echoing these criticisms, TPCC SC Department official spokesperson H.R. Mohan asserted that a leader who fails to actively



advocate for public welfare is unfit to hold such a responsible position. He insisted that KCR step down immediately and issue a public apology. In light of ongoing agitation, Parameswar Reddy called upon party cadres to ensure the grand success of the major statewide protest meeting scheduled for September 6 at Indira Park in Hyderabad. The protest program witnessed large-scale participation from Congress division presidents, senior leaders, and representatives from the Women's Congress, Youth Congress, NSUI, and the SC Department.

Police Hold Peace Meeting for Vinayaka Chavithi



Nacharam, September 3 | TPN Bureau

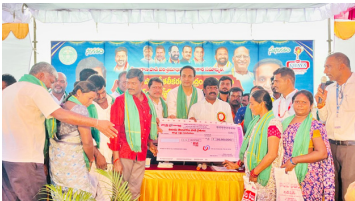
Ahead of the upcoming Vinayaka Chavithi festival, a comprehensive peace committee meeting was convened at the Nacharam Police Station to ensure that festivities are celebrated in a smooth, safe, and harmonious atmosphere across the locality. The coordination meeting was conducted under the supervision of Detective Inspector (DI) Mansingh, along with Sub-Inspectors P. Prabhakar Reddy and Govardhan. Prominent Ganesh festival organizers, community leaders, and local representatives from various neighborhoods in Nacharam attended the meeting in large numbers. During the session, police officials outlined crucial guidelines and regulatory frameworks to be followed during the festival. Detailed instructions were issued

regarding the proper setup and clearance of Ganesh pandals, noise control regulations, CCTV installation, traffic flow management, and the coordinated immersion process. Officials stressed that maintaining public order and safety remains the highest priority for the police department. Addressing the attendees, police officers appealed to all organizers to extend full cooperation to law enforcement personnel on duty. They advised pandal committees to deploy dedicated local volunteers around the clock to manage crowd movements, assist visitors, and prevent any untoward incidents. In response, the organizers assured authorities of their commitment to adhering strictly to official directives, maintaining peaceful conditions, and fostering communal harmony throughout the festive celebrations.

MLA Vemula Veeresham Inaugurates Milk Chilling Center

Chityala, September 3 | TPN Bureau

Government Whip and Nakrekal MLA Vemula Veeresham inaugurated a newly established milk chilling center at the Chityala Market Yard on Thursday, marking a significant boost for the regional dairy sector. Demonstrating the administration's commitment to supporting local agrarian livelihoods, the lawmaker also presented a financial grant cheque worth Rs 20 lakh to dairy farmers during the official ceremony. Addressing the gathering, MLA Veeresham stated that the state government is firmly focused on expanding rural infrastructure and driving sustainable economic empowerment for livestock rearers. He emphasized that the newly commissioned chilling facility will substantially increase local milk storage capacity, prevent spoilage, and ensure dairy farmers receive fair and remunerative prices for their daily yield. Highlighting the importance of cooperative dairying, Veeresham noted that strengthening local processing capabilities is essential for diversifying farmer incomes and protecting rural households from market volatility. He assured the public that additional development initiatives would be implemented across the Nakrekal constituency to further strengthen agricultural and allied sectors. The event witnessed active participation from cooperative leaders, municipal authorities, and community members. Prominent dignitaries present at the ceremony included Vijaya Dairy Chairman Gutta Amit Reddy, Market Committee Chairman Narra Vinod-Mohan Reddy, and Municipal Chairperson Pandiri Geetha-Ramesh. They were joined by numerous public representatives, local political leaders, and a large contingent of beneficiary dairy farmers from across the Chityala belt who welcomed the facility's inauguration.



Schools Celebrate Sri Krishnashtami with Cultural Grandeur

Ichoda, September 3 | TPN Bureau

Sri Krishnashtami was celebrated with profound spiritual fervor and vibrant cultural grandeur across the Ichoda mandal headquarters in Adilabad district on Thursday. Educational institutions throughout the town organized elaborate events to mark the birth anniversary of Lord Krishna. The primary highlight of the day was the enthusiastic participation of young school children, who captivated onlookers by dressing up in traditional costumes as Lord Krishna, Radha, and Gopikas. School campuses resonated with festive cheer as students performed lively cultural programs, devotional music, and traditional dances depicting the legendary childhood stories and playful antics of 'Bala Krishna.' Addressing the gatherings, faculty members explained the deep spiritual significance and historical context of Sri Krishna Janmashtami to the young learners, encouraging them to embrace the core values of truth, righteousness, and universal harmony. School management, teaching staff, and students participated



in the festivities with immense joy and devotion, transforming the mandal headquarters into a bustling hub of cultural celebration.

Editorial

Congress Politics:
Revanth Reddy Faces
Growing Trouble

Congress politics in Telangana has once again turned into a surprise, with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy appearing to face growing resistance from within his own party. One by one, leaders and groups are raising their voices, creating an atmosphere of internal tension that could become a serious challenge for the government. The political developments in Warangal are particularly significant. Konda Surekha, who has been trying to strengthen her political grip over Warangal district along with Konda Murali, is reportedly facing resistance from sections of the local Congress leadership. Though the Konda family has continued to manage its political affairs, the latest developments indicate that differences within the party are becoming increasingly visible. Revanth Reddy's political journey from the Telugu Desam Party to Congress is well known. His decision to announce a seat for Hariswara Reddy for the Parakala Assembly constituency has reportedly angered the Konda family. Hariswara Reddy is considered a close associate of Revanth Reddy from his TDP days and also belongs to the same community. The decision has therefore been viewed by the Konda camp as politically significant. The Konda family's response, particularly through their daughter Sushmita, has further exposed the growing friction. What was initially an internal political disagreement now appears to be developing into a larger challenge for the Congress leadership in Telangana. Against this backdrop, reports that Revanth Reddy persuaded the Congress High Command to initiate action against Konda Surekha have added another dimension to the controversy. If the objective was to control dissent within the party, disciplinary action could instead intensify the resentment among local leaders. Congress is already facing criticism and what its opponents describe as negative public sentiment. Continued internal conflicts, rebellion and leadership disputes could further weaken the government's political position. Revanth Reddy now faces the difficult task of balancing party discipline with regional leaders' ambitions. How he handles the Konda issue could have wider consequences for Congress politics in Telangana.

-Editor

Journalism Is Not a Profession-
It Is a Crusade for Truth



Journalism is often described as a profession, just like medicine, law, teaching or business. But at its highest and noblest level, journalism is much more than a means of earning a livelihood. It is a public responsibility, a commitment to truth and, in many circumstances, a crusade for justice. A journalist does not merely report what happened. A responsible journalist tries to discover why it happened, who was affected, who is responsible and what the public has a right to know. Beyond a Paycheck A journalist may receive a salary, but the real reward of journalism is not the monthly paycheck. It is the knowledge that one's work can bring an injustice to light, expose corruption, give a voice to the voiceless and help society correct its mistakes. A doctor treats the illness of an individual. A journalist, in a different way, can diagnose the ailments of society. When a poor person's land is illegally occupied, when a widow is denied justice, when public money is misused or when an innocent person is wrongly accused, journalism can become the bridge between suffering and justice. That is why journalism cannot

be reduced to a commercial transaction. Truth Is the First Loyalty The first loyalty of a journalist should be to truth, not to a political party, business house, government, advertiser, powerful individual or even the journalist's own personal preferences. A journalist may make mistakes because journalism is performed by human beings. But deliberate distortion of facts destroys the very foundation of journalism. The journalist's duty is not to manufacture a convenient truth. It is to search for the truth, verify it and present it honestly. Sometimes the truth may be uncomfortable. It may embarrass those in power. It may anger influential people. It may even create difficulties for the journalist. Yet, if a journalist retreats whenever truth becomes inconvenient, journalism loses its purpose. Giving a Voice to the Voiceless One of journalism's greatest responsibilities is to speak for people who cannot easily speak for themselves. A wealthy businessman can hire lawyers. A powerful politician can hold a press conference. A large corporation can employ public-relations agen-

cies. But an ordinary citizen whose voice is ignored may have only one hope-the conscientious journalist. Consider a daily-wage worker who has not received wages for several months. His complaint may remain unnoticed in an office file. But a newspaper report can bring the matter to the attention of officials and the public. Similarly, a neglected government hospital, a dangerous road, an uncompleted public project or an injustice against a vulnerable citizen may become a matter of public concern only after a journalist reports it. In such situations, journalism becomes an instrument of social accountability. The Courage to Question Power Democracy does not merely require elections. It requires people and institutions capable of questioning authority. That is why journalism is often called the watchdog of democracy. A journalist should be willing to ask uncomfortable questions: Where did the money go? Why was this decision taken? Who benefited? Why was this promise not fulfilled? Why was this person denied justice? The journalist's role is not necessarily to oppose the government or support it. The role is to

P Subbarao



Veteran Journalist

question power wherever necessary and acknowledge good governance wherever it exists. A journalist who praises everything becomes a propagandist. A journalist who criticises everything also loses credibility. The true journalist follows evidence. Journalism Has a Price A genuine crusade for truth is rarely without a price. There may be pressure from political authorities, advertisers, proprietors, social groups or influential individuals. There may be threats of professional isolation. Sometimes there may even be financial consequences. This is where the character of a journalist is tested. It is easy to report a popular story. It is much harder to report an unpopular truth. The history of journalism across the world demonstrates that many courageous journalists have endured hardship because they refused to compromise their conscience. Their greatest legacy was not wealth or position but credibility. Technology Has Changed Journalism-Not Its Mission The digital age has transformed journalism. News now travels through smartphones and social media within seconds. Anyone with a mobile phone can become a content creator. But speed is not journalism. A forwarded message is not journalism. A viral post is not necessarily journalism. An opinion presented as fact is not journalism. The basic principles remain unchanged: verification, accuracy, fairness, independence and accountability. Technology can change the tools of journalism, but it cannot change its moral foundation.

The Journalist's Real Identity A journalist may work for a newspaper, television channel, radio station, digital platform or independent publication. Those are professional platforms. But the deeper identity of a journalist comes from a different place. It comes from conscience. When a journalist sits before a blank page or an empty screen, the fundamental question should not be, "What will make this story popular?" It should be, "What does the public need to know?" That distinction separates journalism from mere content production. A Crusade, Not a Commodity Journalism certainly needs money, institutions, technology and professional management. Journalists deserve fair salaries and secure working conditions. Newspapers and media organisations must remain economically sustainable. But when journalism becomes only a commodity, its soul is endangered. The true journalist understands that every report carries a responsibility. A careless sentence can damage a reputation. A suppressed fact can perpetuate injustice. A courageous investigation can change a life. Therefore, journalism is not merely a profession. It is a public trust. It is not merely a trade in information. It is a crusade for truth. And whenever a journalist chooses truth over convenience, public interest over personal gain and conscience over pressure, journalism rises above a career and becomes a form of public service. The journalist may earn a living through journalism-but the true journalist lives for the truth.

THE HIMALAYAN WARNING

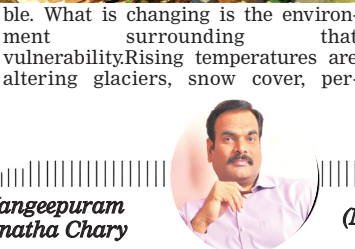
Nepal's flash floods remind us that in a fragile climate, preparedness is no longer optional.



Mountains give us an illusion of permanence. They stand unchanged across generations, while glaciers appear frozen in time and rivers quietly follow ancient paths through their valleys. But in the Himalayas, permanence can be deceptive. On 26 August 2026, Nepal witnessed how quickly a familiar landscape could turn into a corridor of destruction. A violent surge of water, ice, rock, mud and debris swept through Himalayan valleys, destroying homes, roads and vital infrastructure. More than 1,100 deaths had been reported within a week, while thousands remained missing. Entire communities were left confronting a painful question: how could something so enormous happen so suddenly? For the rest of South Asia, however, there is another question to ask: what is Nepal's tragedy trying to tell us?

When the Mountains Change Scientists are still investigating the exact chain of events behind the disaster. Preliminary evidence points to a major high-altitude collapse involving ice and rock that generated an extraordinary downstream surge. Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Dhading, Chitwan, Gorkha and Tanahun were among the affected districts. The physical scale is staggering. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) estimates around 2.2 million tonnes of debris in the areas assessed, while government figures cited by the agency indicate that more than 84,000 people across 17 municipalities were affected. Power infrastructure, roads, bridges and public facilities were also damaged. Yet numbers cannot capture what a flash flood takes away. A house is not merely concrete and timber. A field is not merely acreage. A village is memory, livelihood, identity and belonging. When a torrent erases them in minutes, rehabilitation requires much more than rebuilding walls.

A New Himalayan Reality The Himalayas have always been geologically young and naturally vulnera-



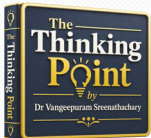
Dr Vangeepuram Sreenatha Chary

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therefore, is not development versus environment. It is reckless development versus resilient development. The Most Valuable Minutes

Perhaps the most important lesson lies in something disasters rarely provide: time. We cannot command a glacier not to collapse. We cannot stop extreme rainfall from reaching a mountain. But technology can sometimes detect danger before destruction reaches communities below. Satellite observation, glacial-lake monitoring, river sensors, automated alerts and scientifically prepared hazard maps can provide precious warning. Equally important are evacuation routes, community drills, trained local responders and communication systems that work even when electricity and mobile networks fail. In a flash flood, ten minutes can be worth more than ten years of compensation. That is why disaster management must move from relief after tragedy to anticipation before tragedy.

Nepal Is Not Far Away For India, Nepal's catastrophe cannot remain a neighbour's misfortune. The Himalayas are one interconnected ecological system. Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and other mountain regions live with similar combinations of glacial hazards, landslides, intense rainfall and rapidly expanding infrastructure. Rivers cross borders; climatic processes do not carry passports. Every major Himalayan disaster should therefore become a shared classroom for South Asia. Scientific data must cross borders as freely as rivers do. India, Nepal, Bhutan and other Himalayan stakeholders need deeper cooperation in glacier monitoring, river-basin management, early-warning systems and disaster research. Nepal will rebuild. Roads will reopen. Power will return. Homes will rise again. But reconstruction should not simply restore what existed before. To rebuild vulnerability is to prepare the ground for the next tragedy. The floods of Nepal have left behind more than debris. They have left a message for every government, planner and citizen living in the shadow of the Himalayas. The mountains are changing. Our thinking must change faster. (The Author is a Consultant Psychologist, Rehabilitation Professional - RCI, Academic & Research Mentor, and Guinness, Asia, Limca & India Book Records Holder)



Teachers' Day:
The Master Profession that Shapes Every Profession



A doctor saves lives. An engineer builds bridges. A scientist discovers new possibilities. A lawyer upholds justice. An administrator governs society. But who shapes the people who become doctors, engineers, scientists, lawyers and administrators? - The teacher. Every great profession begins in an ordinary classroom. Every successful person once sat before a teacher who taught not merely lessons, but also discipline, confidence, perseverance and the courage to dream. This is why teaching is often described as "the profession that creates all other professions."

Teachers' Day, therefore, should be more than a celebration with greetings, flowers and speeches. It should be a moment of reflection: What kind of human beings are our schools, families and society creating? When Knowledge Increases but Wisdom Declines

We live in an age overflowing with information. A child can find an answer to almost any question within seconds. Yet, strangely, some of the most essential lessons-respect, patience, empathy, gratitude, self-control and responsibility-are becoming increasingly difficult to teach. Marks, ranks and competitive examinations are important, but education cannot end with a certificate. A brilliant mind without a good heart is not the ultimate achievement of education. As the saying goes, "Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself." Its purpose is not merely to make children employable, but to make

them responsible, thoughtful and compassionate human beings. The Screen That Is Stealing Childhood

Technology has transformed our lives, and the mobile phone can certainly be a useful educational tool. But uncontrolled screen use is quietly changing childhood. Short videos, online games and social media can consume hours that once belonged to books, playgrounds, conversations and family life. The greatest danger is not simply the time spent on a screen, but the valuable things being replaced by it. When instant entertainment becomes a habit, patience becomes difficult. When virtual approval becomes important, real relationships may lose their value. Technology should remain our servant-not become our master. Behind Every Disturbing Incident Is a Child Who Needed to Be Heard Cyberbullying, online dangers, violent conflicts, emotional distress and other disturbing incidents involving young people should not be treated merely as news headlines. They should become warnings for parents, teachers and society. Children do not always say, "I am struggling." Sometimes they become silent. Sometimes anger is their language. Sometimes withdrawal is their cry for help. A sudden change in behaviour, disturbed sleep, loss of interest or



Kasula Ravi Kumar

Poet | Teacher | Founder, LEAD Rural Libraries

isolation should invite conversation-not immediate punishment. Before correcting a child, let us first understand the child.

Parents: Give Them Presence, Not Just Presents

Parents provide food, clothing, education and every possible comfort. But children need something even more valuable-their parents' time and attention. If we want children to read, let them see us reading. If we want them to control their phones, we must examine our own dependence on them. If we want respect, let respect begin at home.

Instead of repeatedly asking, "How much did you score?", let us sometimes ask, "How are you feeling?"

One honest conversation can sometimes achieve what a hundred instructions cannot. Teachers: Moulders of Minds, Builders of Character

The teacher's responsibility does not end with completing the syllabus. A true teacher teaches students how to think, how to accept failure, how to respect differences and how to distinguish success from mere achievement. "A teacher affects eternity; one can never tell where his influence stops." The lesson taught in a classroom today may influence a decision made by a student twenty years later.

If Education Is Good, Everything Else Will Follow

Parents cannot do it alone. Teachers cannot do it alone. Society cannot do it alone. Children need classrooms that inspire, homes that listen and communities that provide books, libraries, sports, nature and positive role models. For if education is good, professionals become better; institutions become stronger; families become healthier; and society becomes more humane. So, on this Teachers' Day, let us salute those silent nation-builders who mould minds, nurture character and light the path of generations. Their greatest reward is not a gift or a garland, but the sight of their students becoming good human beings. To every teacher who teaches with knowledge, leads with values and inspires with love-this is not merely a celebration; it is a heartfelt tribute to you.

India, Belgium Agree to Double Trade, Boost Defence Ties

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Belgian Prime Minister Bart De Wever held bilateral talks at Hyderabad House in New Delhi, focusing on strengthening cooperation in defence, security, trade and investment. The two leaders also discussed regional and global issues of mutual interest and reaffirmed their commitment to deepening bilateral relations. Addressing a joint press conference after the meeting, Modi described defence and security cooperation as a key pillar of the relationship between India and Belgium. He said both countries had agreed to enhance military exchanges and training cooperation.

Modi said agreements reached between the governments and defence industries of the two countries would create new opportunities for defence co-development and co-production. He also announced plans to further strengthen intelligence sharing and cooperation between the respective agencies in combating crime. The Prime Minister highlighted the strong foundation of India-Belgium relations, pointing to shared democratic principles, robust market economies and close people-to-people connections. He said these factors had made the two countries "natural partners". Trade and investment



emerged as another major focus of the discussions. Modi and De Wever agreed on measures aimed at doubling bilateral trade over the next five years. As part of the effort, the two sides agreed to establish a business forum and an investment forum to provide greater opportunities for companies and investors from both countries. The leaders also agreed to initiate a consular dialogue, which is expected to strengthen institutional engagement and address issues concerning citizens, businesses and mobility between India and Belgium. The defence agreements are expected to provide greater scope for collaboration

between the two countries' defence industries, particularly in joint development and production. Enhanced military exchanges and training programmes are also likely to expand cooperation between their armed forces. The talks reflected an effort by India and Belgium to broaden their partnership beyond traditional economic engagement and build stronger cooperation in security, defence, investment and institutional dialogue. Both Modi and De Wever reiterated their resolve to further deepen bilateral ties while working together on regional and international matters of shared interest.

Mamata Warns BJP of Delhi Protests



Former West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday condemned the alleged vandalism at the Trinamool Congress (TMC) office on Camac Street in Kolkata and warned that her party would stage demonstrations outside the residences of BJP leaders in New Delhi if such incidents continued. Addressing the issue through a Facebook Live session, Banerjee accused BJP-backed men of vandalising the party office, looting documents and removing electronic equipment. She alleged that the attackers carried out the incident after taking the Kolkata Police "in confidence". "We condemn the vandalism at our party office early in the morning in Kolkata. If this is the law and order situation in Kolkata, just imagine what is prevailing in rural areas," Banerjee said. The former three-term chief minister accused the BJP of promoting what she described as "total lawlessness" in West Bengal. She also condemned the alleged violence at Jadavpur University, calling the incident "hooliganism of the BJP". "What happened at Jadavpur University was the hooliganism of the BJP. We condemn this," Banerjee said. She further alleged that an atmosphere was being created to restrict her movement and claimed that she was being threatened with being prevented from leaving her home. The TMC supremo warned that her party would not remain silent if attacks against its leaders and offices continued. "If these atrocities on the TMC don't stop, we will stage dharnas outside BJP leaders' homes in New Delhi," she said. Her remarks came hours after TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee alleged that BJP-backed armed men had vandalised the party's Camac Street office during the early hours. Mamata Banerjee also shared purported CCTV footage on social media that showed several masked and helmeted men leaving the premises while carrying electronic equipment, including television sets and a printer. The footage also showed a room inside the office with damaged furniture and electronic equipment. Police subsequently detained six people in connection with the incident, according to an officer. The allegations have triggered another political confrontation between the TMC and BJP in West Bengal, with both parties trading accusations over law and order and political violence. The latest dispute comes amid continuing political tensions in the state, with Banerjee accusing the BJP of targeting her party and its leadership, while the incident and subsequent police action are likely to remain a major point of political debate.

ISRO Set to Launch EOS-5 on GSLV-F17

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is preparing for a crucial return to the launch pad with the planned launch of EOS-5, one of its most ambitious Earth observation satellites, aboard the Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV F17). The launch is scheduled for 2:55 am on September 4 from the Second Launch Pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. The mission comes after nearly eight months away from the launch pad and two consecutive failures involving the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV). EOS-05 is designed to provide India with a continuous bird's-eye view of the country from nearly 36,000 kilometres above Earth. If the mission succeeds, the satellite will strengthen India's ability to monitor its territory, coastline, weather systems and disaster-prone regions. The satellite will also support border surveillance through its high-resolution imaging capability. EOS-05 is India's first imaging satellite designed to operate from Geosynchronous Orbit, expanding the country's Earth-monitoring capabilities from a much higher vantage point. The satellite has an estimated launch mass of about 2,367 kilograms. The mission is designed to place EOS-05 into a Sub-Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit. The GSLV-F17 stands 51.7 metres tall and has a liftoff mass of 420.5 tonnes. The launch vehicle uses a three-stage configuration and features a composite four-metre-diameter payload fairing designed to accommodate large spacecraft. Its first stage combines an S-139 solid rocket motor with four liquid strap-on boosters. The S-139 stage carries 138 tonnes of solid propellant, while the four liquid boosters collectively carry about 170 tonnes of UH25 and nitrogen tetroxide propellants. The second stage uses liquid propulsion technology and carries 42 tonnes of UH25 and dinitrogen tetroxide propellants. It takes over after separation of the first stage and continues accelerating the vehicle towards the targeted transfer orbit. The third stage is the indigenous CUS-5 cryogenic upper stage, powered by liquid hydrogen (LH2) and liquid oxygen (LOX). It carries 15 tonnes of cryogenic propellant and performs the crucial orbital insertion manoeuvre required to place EOS-05 into its intended orbit. The satellite will remain enclosed within the vehicle's payload fairing during ascent and will be deployed after the cryogenic upper stage completes its mission.



India Offers Help to End Russia-Ukraine War

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said India is ready to assist in efforts to end the Russia-Ukraine war, stressing that lasting peace can only be achieved through dialogue, diplomacy and negotiations. During his visit to Kyiv, Jaishankar held discussions with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha, with the ongoing conflict and its wider consequences forming a key part of the talks. Jaishankar said India has consistently maintained that this is not an era of war and that solutions cannot emerge from the battlefield. Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent remarks in Bishkek, he said endless war must give way to an end to war. He said every passing day of conflict brings more deaths and destruction and that it is ultimately for the parties involved to find a way forward. However, he made it clear that India is prepared to contribute in any manner if its involvement can help end the conflict. The discussions also covered



attacks affecting commercial shipping. Jaishankar noted that Indian seafarers work on vessels flying the flags of several countries and have been among those affected. Shipping disruptions have also created wider concerns for Global South countries, particularly regarding the availability of fuel, fertilisers and food. Jaishankar highlighted India's humanitarian assistance to

Ukraine since the beginning of the war. India has sent 19 consignments containing around 160 tonnes of supplies, including generator sets, medicines and medical equipment. He said further humanitarian assistance would also be discussed with Sybiha. Bilateral economic relations were another focus. Jaishankar said India and Ukraine have trade ties in pharmaceuticals, food and agri-

culture, fertilisers, machinery, chemicals and consumer goods. While the war and logistical difficulties have disrupted trade over the past four years, he said the relationship has shown resilience and new possibilities have emerged. Education was also discussed, with Jaishankar noting that many Indian students continue to study in Ukraine. He thanked Ukrainian authorities for taking care of them. Looking beyond the conflict, Jaishankar said India sees scope for cooperation in digital capabilities, innovation, startups and artificial intelligence. He identified healthcare, education, agriculture and governance as areas where AI could create new opportunities. On Russian oil purchases and possible US sanctions, Jaishankar said the conflict cannot be resolved through decisions on buying or selling oil, alumina, minerals, metals or fertilisers. He reiterated that the war will ultimately require dialogue, diplomacy and negotiation.

Heavy Rain Kills Five in UP, Flood Alerts Across States

Heavy rain disrupted normal life across several states, leaving five people dead in Uttar Pradesh, pushing the Ganga towards its highest flood mark in Bihar, triggering landslides in Himachal Pradesh and affecting train services in West Bengal. In Uttar Pradesh, five people, including three members of a family, were killed in separate rain-related incidents in Chitrakoot, Amethi and Barabanki districts. In Chitrakoot, a mud house collapsed in Barachhi village during heavy rain, killing a 32-year-old man and his two children, aged five and one. His wife and daughter were injured in the incident. A 66-year-old man in Amethi died after a mud wall collapsed amid heavy rain in Naya Purwa village. In Barabanki, a 62-year-old man was killed and his son-in-law injured after a mud wall collapsed on them in Dhanouli village. Barabanki is among 23 districts in Uttar Pradesh affected by floods. In Bihar, authorities intensified



vigilance as the Ganga continued to rise. The river was expected to breach its highest flood mark at Patna's Gandhi Ghat. Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary inspected the rising water level along JP Ganga Path and directed officials to take measures to ensure public safety. Residents in riverbank and low-lying areas of Bhojpur, Patna, Saran, Vaishali, Nalanda,

Begusarai, Lakhisarai and Jehanabad were advised to remain alert and avoid unnecessary movement near ghats and embankments. Deputy CM Vijay Kumar Chaudhary, who also holds the Water Resources Department portfolio, reviewed the flood situation through a video conference. He said severe erosion by the Ganga in Kajikoraia-Raghopur and adjoining areas of Bhagalpur had

been brought under control. The river was also expected to cross its highest flood mark at Hathidah in Mokama. In Himachal Pradesh, heavy rain brought debris onto the Chandigarh-Shimla highway in Solan, affecting traffic. Landslides in Kangra damaged gravity pipelines supplying drinking water to Dharamshala. As many as 95 roads remained closed. Bilaspur's Naina Devi recorded 130.6 mm rainfall. In West Bengal, the Damodar Valley Corporation issued flood alerts after releasing water from Maithon and Panchet reservoirs. Purba Bardhaman, Paschim Bardhaman, Bankura, Hooghly and Howrah were identified as likely affected districts. Train services were also disrupted after soil beneath tracks between Tilpara and New Farakka eroded. Several long-distance trains were delayed, while repair work was undertaken by railway teams.

Raghav Chadha's Rajya Sabha Seat Safe, Says Expert

The deletion of Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha's name from Punjab's draft electoral rolls has triggered a political controversy, but constitutional and parliamentary experts have clarified that the development will not by itself affect his membership of the Upper House. Chadha's name was included in the Absent, Shifted, Deceased and Duplicate (ASDD) list published on August 13, with "permanently shifted" recorded as the reason for deletion. He is among around 20.66 lakh voters, or approximately 9.7 per cent of Punjab's pre-Special Intensive Revision (SIR) electorate, whose names have been excluded from the draft rolls. The deletion led to speculation that Chadha could face a threat to his Rajya Sabha membership. However, former Lok Sabha Secretary General PDT Acharya said there was no such constitutional or legal consequence. "It's not that if his name was deleted from the draft electoral roll, his Rajya Sabha membership will be jeopardised," Acharya said. He explained that Rajya Sabha election rules do not require a candidate to be registered as a voter in the state from which the person is elected.



Under the existing law, a person contesting a Rajya Sabha election only needs to be registered as an elector in any parliamentary constituency in India. The requirement was changed in 2003 through an amendment to the

Representation of the People Act, 1951. Acharya also pointed to the Rajya Sabha's election-related guidelines issued in 2016, which clarify that a candidate seeking election from a particular state does not necessar-

ily have to be an elector of that state. Chadha, who was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Punjab as an Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) candidate in 2022, questioned his classification as "permanently shifted". He said his voter registration is in Mohali and indicated that he was pursuing remedies available under the SIR guidelines. "This does not seem like a mere clerical mistake. This is a clear case of political vendetta," Chadha said in a detailed social media post. He alleged that the AAP government was using the state's administrative machinery against leaders who had left the party. Chadha claimed that since leaving AAP, its leadership had targeted him and alleged the use of the Punjab Police and state administration against those who refused to remain silent. He further alleged that other MPs who left AAP and joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had also faced similar targeting by the Punjab government. The controversy is now focused on the electoral roll revision process, while Chadha's Rajya Sabha membership remains unaffected by the deletion under the applicable election rules.



Trump Says He Is 'Happy' Harry and Meghan Left US

US President Donald Trump said he was "happy" that Prince Harry and his family had left the United States and relocated to Britain, while criticising Harry and Meghan, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, over their treatment of the royal family. Speaking in the Oval Office, Trump said he had not been a fan of the couple and believed they had shown "great disrespect" toward the British royal family. Harry and Meghan had moved to California six years ago but have now returned to Britain. "I am happy about it. I was not a fan," Trump said when asked about their relocation. Trump said he had a "good relationship" with the late Queen Elizabeth and her successor, King Charles, who is undergoing treatment for cancer. He specifically criticised Meghan, saying he disliked the way she had behaved and considered her "terribly disrespectful". Harry and Meghan stepped back from royal duties and moved to the



United States after publicly discussing their difficult relationship with the royal family. In an interview with Oprah Winfrey, Harry accused members of the royal family of neglect, while Meghan spoke about concerns allegedly raised within the family over the possible

skin colour of their son before his birth.Prince William, Harry's older brother, defended the royal family following the allegations and said, "we're not racist."Harry also cited intense press scrutiny and concerns over security arrangements for his family as

reasons for relocating to California. The couple are now expected to remain non-working royals after returning to Britain. A person close to the family said last month that Harry and Meghan planned to live somewhere outside London for an extended period with their children, Prince Archie, 7, and Princess Lilibet, 5. The children are expected to attend school in Britain. The reason behind the couple's decision to relocate remains unclear; although Harry has previously expressed a desire for his children to spend more time in Britain. Trump questioned the decision by the royal family to maintain ties with Harry and Meghan. "If I were the royal family, I would not have taken them back," he said.His comments add another chapter to the public discussion surrounding Harry and Meghan's relationship with the British monarchy, which has remained strained since their departure from royal duties and move to the United States.

Russia to Shut German Cultural Centres



Russia will shut German cultural centres across the country following a diplomatic escalation with Berlin over an alleged drone attack near Leipzig/Halle Airport, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Thursday. The announcement came after Germany blamed Moscow for an attempted attack at the airport and announced plans to close the Russian Consulate in Bonn and the Russian House cultural centre in Berlin. Lavrov said German cultural centres operated by the Goethe-Institut would be closed in Moscow, St. Petersburg and Yekaterinburg. He added that Russia would need to take the step, as failing to respond would demonstrate a lack of "self-respect". Speaking at the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok, Lavrov said Germany "could not have failed to understand" that the closure of Russian House would mean the end of Germany's cultural presence in Russia. The dispute follows the discovery of a drone laden with explosives near a Ukrainian aircraft at Leipzig/Halle Airport on August 4. The device was later defused. The airport is a major international freight hub and has been used to provide support to Ukraine. Western officials have repeatedly accused Russia of conducting sabotage and disruption campaigns aimed at weakening European support for Ukraine and destabilising European countries. Russian President Vladimir Putin has rejected the allegations, arguing that Berlin is attempting to divert attention from its own problems and dissatisfaction among voters. Putin said any evidence being presented had been "planted".The European Union also discussed possible measures in response to the attempted attack. EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said the incident had the hallmarks of state-sponsored terrorism and questioned how the bloc should respond without resorting to military action. EU foreign ministers considered options including additional sanctions, visa restrictions and the closure of Russian consulates. The EU has already imposed almost two dozen packages of sanctions against Russia over the war in Ukraine, targeting more than 3,000 officials, oligarchs and entities, including banks, energy companies and drone manufacturers.Kallas said the EU was preparing further travel bans and asset freezes targeting another 1,600 people.Germany said it was "not at war" but had become a daily target of what it described as the Kremlin's hybrid campaign. German Foreign Minister Johan Wadephul said Berlin had carefully prepared its response and that Russia would have to face the consequences. Wadephul also urged Moscow to demonstrate readiness for reasonable talks and negotiations, particularly concerning the situation in Ukraine.

US Strike Hits Wedding in Southern Iran

A US missile struck a home in southern Iran where dozens of people had gathered for a wedding celebration, according to Iranian state media and a rights group, raising fresh concerns over civilian casualties in the six-month war. The strike hit the coastal town of Kuhestak near the Strait of Hormuz during the latest round of US bombardment in southern Iran. Iranian state media reported that four people, including two women and two children aged four and 16, were killed and at least 68 others wounded. An earlier statement from provincial Deputy Governor Ahmad Nafisi had put the death toll at five, with no immediate explanation for the change. The home belonged to Ali Mallahi, a fisherman who was celebrating his daughter's wedding. Mallahi told Iranian state television that the missile destroyed the ceiling of the house and that another missile struck a neighbouring home sharing the same yard. Mallahi belongs to Iran's Baluch ethnic minority.



Images released by Iranian media showed a large crater, heavily damaged walls and roof, a smashed car and debris scattered across the site. Wedding guests' shoes were also seen among the debris.At a hospital in nearby Minab, Iranian media showed wounded women and children receiving treatment. One injured man said he heard aircraft overhead while travelling to the wed-

ding and arrived as the explosion occurred. He described blocks falling and striking people, particularly children and women. The nearby port of Kuhestak was also reportedly targeted. Iranian state media said a communications tower was hit, while Moein Arjomand, director of the Balochistan Human Rights Documentation Network, told The Associated Press that witnesses

reported at least two missiles striking the tower and another hitting a pier. The rights group said the 16-year-old victim was killed by shrapnel while riding a motorcycle near the communications tower rather than at the wedding. The US military said the strikes targeted air defences, radar systems and maritime assets. US Central Command spokesman Capt. Tim Hawkins said the military was looking into reports about the wedding strike but did not say whether a formal investigation had been launched. Weapons expert N.R. Jenzen-Jones, director of Armament Research Services, examined images of weapon fragments and identified them as pointing to an American air-delivered guided weapon. He initially assessed it as a SLAM-ER cruise missile but later said it was more likely a JSOW guided bomb, while not ruling out a SLAM-ER or multiple weapons. US Central Command declined to comment on the findings

New York Restricts AI Use for Students



New York has announced a one-year restriction on student use of artificial intelligence through eighth grade, with Mayor Zohran Mamdani saying the move is aimed at protecting children's education, mental health and human connections. The restriction will affect nearly 600,000 public school students through eighth grade and is expected to draw attention across the United States, given that New York City's school board is the largest in the country. Under the new rules, only high school students, typically aged 14 and above, will be allowed to use AI through limited pilot programmes. They will also receive AI literacy classes twice a year. Companion chatbots specifically designed to provide emotional support will be prohibited across all grades. Mamdani said the technology industry was trying to present AI-based early education as inevitable and necessary, but his administration did not agree. He stressed that children need teachers and human interaction to learn, develop skills, build relationships with educators and work through difficult problems independently. Teachers, however, will still be allowed to use AI for lesson planning and administrative work. A task force comprising students, teachers, parents, elected officials and industry experts will assess the impact of the restriction throughout the 2026-2027 school year. The group will study how the policy affects education and publish its findings after completing its review. New York Governor Kathy Hochul supported the move, saying authorities have a responsibility to ensure rapidly changing technology helps children and their learning instead of interfering with their development. The new restrictions follow an AI framework released in March that had permitted students to use artificial intelligence for research, exploration and creative projects. The earlier approach faced strong criticism from parents and teachers, many of whom considered the rules too permissive. Following the backlash, New York City Schools Chancellor Kamar Samuels acknowledged that school leaders had "missed the mark" in communicating the policy. He said his office would review the feedback received from parents and teachers and consider it while developing future regulations. The latest decision reflects growing concerns over how quickly AI is entering classrooms and the potential effects on students' learning habits, emotional development and interpersonal relationships. New York's year-long restriction will provide education officials with an opportunity to examine whether limiting student access to AI can strengthen traditional learning while allowing educators to explore controlled uses of the technology.

Iran Launches Missiles, Drones at Kuwait

Iran launched missiles and drones toward Kuwait on Thursday, escalating regional tensions as the conflict with the United States intensified. Kuwait said its air defence systems were intercepting the attacks, describing the strikes as a "blatant Iranian aggression." The attacks came as Iran continued retaliatory operations following US bombardments earlier in the week. Kuwait's Ministry of Defence said sirens sounded early Thursday as its air defences responded to incoming missiles and drones. The latest attacks followed similar developments in neighbouring countries. US allies Bahrain and Jordan said their air defence systems intercepted several Iranian aerial attacks on Wednesday, highlighting the widening regional impact of the conflict. Fighting between the US and Iran has intensified this week after the United States struck Iranian rocket launchers on an island in the Strait of Hormuz on Sunday. The US said the launchers were being prepared for use in an Iranian



plan to deploy mines in the strategically important waterway. The escalation has increased concerns over the security of Gulf countries and vital shipping routes through the Strait of Hormuz, a major corridor for global energy supplies. The conflict is unfolding alongside political developments in Israel, where Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu is seeking to consolidate the country's fragmented right wing ahead of the October 27 election. With his political legacy at stake, Netanyahu is urging allied right-wing parties to unite into larger blocs that have a stronger chance of entering parliament. Several small pro-Netanyahu parties are competing ahead of the election,

but their presence could divide support among his traditional voter base. Among the groups posing a challenge are hard-line blocs led by Cabinet ministers Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich. Their parties have significant support among Netanyahu's right-wing allies but could weaken his electoral prospects if votes are split among multiple groups. The election is expected to serve as a major test of Netanyahu's nearly uninterrupted 17-year political rule. His tenure has been shaped by mass protests, the Hamas attacks of October 7, 2023, and nearly three years of war. A victory would strengthen Netanyahu's political comeback after years of controversy and pressure. A defeat, however, could bring an end to the rule of the leader who has played a central role in shaping Israeli politics for three decades.The latest Iranian attacks on Kuwait add another layer of uncertainty as the wider Middle East faces continuing military and political tensions.

Rubio Warns India Over Iran Trade

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has warned that countries helping Iran evade US sanctions could themselves face sanctions, while saying he does not believe India and Iran are currently negotiating a trade deal. Rubio's remarks came after Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on the sidelines of the 26th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The two leaders discussed bilateral relations, trade and the prevailing situation in West Asia. Speaking to Brian Kilmeade on The Brian Kilmeade Show, Rubio was asked whether India and Iran were working toward a trade arrangement. "Well, I don't think there's a trade deal between India and Iran," he said. The US Secretary of State acknowledged that countries for-

mulate their own foreign policies and that several nations maintain contact with the Iranian regime. However, he cautioned against helping Tehran bypass American sanctions. Rubio said countries assisting Iran in creating mechanisms to generate revenue and circumvent US sanctions could face sanctions themselves. His comments come amid heightened tensions in West Asia and Washington's continued pressure on Tehran. During his meeting with Pezeshkian, Modi reiterated India's commitment to strengthening its long-standing friendship with Iran across diverse sectors. He also said New Delhi wanted to expand and diversify bilateral trade. "Met President Masoud Pezeshkian in Bishkek. Reiterated our commitment to strengthening India's long-standing friendship



with Iran across diverse sectors. We want to expand and diversify our trade basket in the times to come," Modi said in a post on X. The two leaders also discussed recent developments in the region and reaffirmed support for efforts aimed at achieving lasting peace. The Ministry of External Affairs described the meeting as "fruitful" and said the discussions covered

bilateral ties and developments in West Asia. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said Modi reiterated India's consistent position that regional issues should be addressed through "dialogue and diplomacy". He also stressed the need for continued efforts to promote peace and stability. The talks also covered the safety of commercial shipping, seafarers and civilians amid the ongoing conflict in West Asia. Modi reiterated India's readiness to cooperate closely with Iran through multilateral platforms, including BRICS and the SCO. Modi also said he looked forward to welcoming Pezeshkian to India for the BRICS Summit scheduled in New Delhi from September 12 to 13.Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and other senior Iranian delegates were also present during the bilateral meeting.

Big Tech PM Quits Six-Figure Job to Build His Own Path

After six years as a Product Manager at a Big Tech company, Teja has walked away from a six-figure salary and a stable corporate career to explore a future on his own terms. Teja revealed on social media that July 31, 2026, was his last working day. One month into unemployment, he explained that the decision was driven by a desire to discover what he could build independently after spending

years helping develop someone else's vision. For Teja, the timing felt important. He said that as people grow older, responsibilities increase and making a major career change can become more difficult. Rather than Teja believes 2026 offers more opportunities to earn a living through different paths than ever before. Instead of watching that transformation from the sidelines, he wants to par-

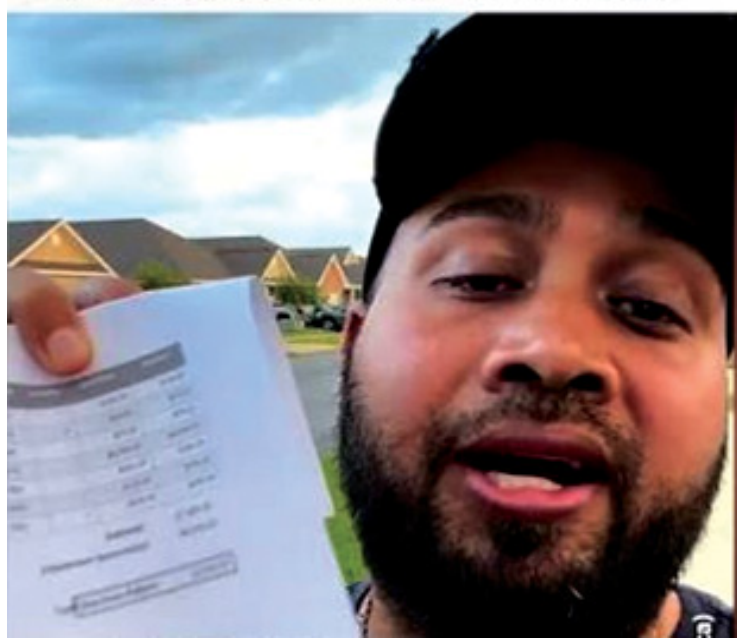


ticipate in it by building something himself. His decision, however, is not focused entirely on professional ambitions. Teja also wants greater freedom in his personal life. He said his family and friends are in India and that he deeply values the time spent with them. At the same time, he wants to meet new people, visit different places and create a network based on his own experi-

ences. He described his goal as having a "life without borders", allowing him to travel, stay wherever he chooses for as long as he wants and return home whenever he wishes. For Teja, being a global citizen does not mean losing his connection with his roots. Despite leaving a lucrative position, Teja does not claim to have a detailed plan for the future. He openly

admitted that he is still figuring out what his next chapter will look like. For now, he intends to document the journey and take it one step at a time. His decision reflects a growing willingness among technology professionals to reconsider traditional career paths and experiment with independent work, entrepreneurship and greater personal freedom.

NRI Shocked by \$2,500 Quote for One Tooth Extraction



A social media video by Nitin Malhotra, an NRI who has lived in the US for around 15 years, has gone viral after he shared his experience of being quoted \$2,500, approximately Rs 2.37 lakh, for extracting a single tooth despite having health insurance.

Malhotra regularly shares content about NRI life and recently posted a video on Instagram describing his experience at a US dental clinic. What he expected to be a routine procedure instead became a major expense, prompting him to compare the cost with dental treatment in India.

According to Malhotra, the dentist quoted him approximately \$2,500 for extracting one tooth even after insurance coverage. He said a similar procedure in India would cost around Rs 15,000 to Rs 20,000, highlighting what he described as one of the less-discussed financial challenges of living abroad.

In his social media post, Malhotra questioned whether such a high bill was justified or whether patients were being overcharged. He also described the expense as a "hidden cost" of being an NRI that people often do not discuss when comparing life in India and the US.

The video quickly attracted attention, with several social media users sharing their own experiences of dental treatment in both countries.

One user stressed that having good dental insurance in the US is important and said people should choose their insurance plans. At the same time, the commenter suggested that India can remain a much more affordable option for dental treatment, while Mexico could also be considered by some patients.

A third commenter shared a personal experience involving a root canal. The user claimed the procedure had cost less than \$100 in India and was completed with a same-day appointment, while a similar treatment in the US had resulted in a bill of around \$3,500.

Other users advised patients to understand their dental insurance coverage before agreeing to procedures, noting that unexpected expenses can arise even when insurance is available.

Some also said India has become a practical destination for overseas residents seeking dental treatment, particularly for procedures that can cost thousands of dollars in the US.

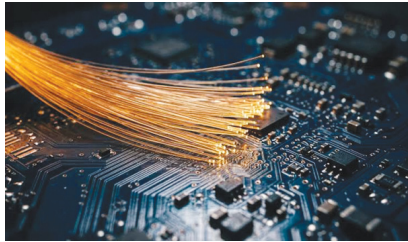
However, another commenter offered a more cautious perspective, pointing out that dental charges can vary depending on the insurance plan, treatment and individual circumstances.

The viral discussion has ultimately drawn attention to the striking difference in dental costs experienced by some patients in India and the US, while also highlighting the importance of understanding insurance coverage before undergoing treatment.

Google Launches Gemini

3.8 Flash With Cyber Security Focus

Google has launched Gemini 3.8 Flash, just weeks after introducing Gemini 3.7 Flash, positioning the latest model as a more capable option for complex reasoning, engineering tasks and professional applications. The technology giant has introduced Gemini 3.8 Flash at the same introductory price as Gemini 3.7 Flash. The model costs \$0.75 per million input tokens and \$3.75 per million output tokens, keeping its pricing accessible while Google highlights improvements in performance. According to Google, Gemini 3.8 Flash is designed to "work harder" on complicated tasks. The company said the model demonstrates greater diligence by carrying out additional reasoning steps and repeatedly using tools when required. At higher effort levels, the model may use more tokens in an attempt to maximize performance. Google said Gemini 3.8 Flash has outperformed most larger frontier models in autonomously solving complex engineering problems from beginning to end. The company cited results from the DeepSWE v1.1 software engineering benchmark, where it said the new model achieved strong performance at a fraction of the cost of larger models. The model has also reportedly surpassed Gemini 3.7 Flash and other frontier models on benchmarks focused on specialized professional tasks. These include the Vals Finance Agent V2 benchmark and Harvey's Legal Agent Benchmark, indicating that Google is targeting applications beyond general-purpose chatbot use. Gemini 3.8 Flash also recorded 54.9 per cent on HLE-Verified, according to Google. The company said the result demonstrates the model's ability to handle multi-step reasoning across areas including science, technology, humanities and professional fields. Alongside the standard model, Google has introduced Gemini 3.8 Flash Cyber, a version aimed specifically at cybersecurity-related applications.



South Indian Doctor Falls for the Sweetness of Awadhi

After moving from South India to Uttar Pradesh, Dr Anitha Punyodaya Misra has found herself developing a special affection for Awadhi, the traditional language of the region. The experienced obstetrician and gynaecologist, who now lives in Gonda and practices and operates at Gonda Medical Centre, recently shared her unusual language journey in a video posted on Instagram.

Dr Anitha said she is originally from South India and learnt Hindi after marriage. However, it was Awadhi that eventually captured her attention and became her favourite language.

She said she feels particularly happy when her patients speak to her in Awadhi while explaining their health problems. For her, listening to the language has become more than simply understanding what a patient is saying.

Dr Anitha described the experience as being similar to listening to poetry, highlighting the softness and expressive quality she finds in



the regional language.

At the same time, her affection for Awadhi comes with a humorous challenge. Although she has learnt to understand much of the dialect, she admitted that conversations can sometimes leave her struggling to follow what a patient is saying. Recalling one such interaction, Dr Anitha said a patient spoke entirely in Awadhi, leaving her temporarily "trapped" because she could not understand the conversation properly. Her light-hearted account showed that even her growing familiarity with the language does not guarantee that every conversation will be easy.

Rather than being discouraged, however, she sees learning Awadhi as a continuing journey. Dr Anitha said it is not something that can be mastered by completing a course or studying it for a short period. Instead, she believes understanding the language develops gradually through everyday interactions and experiences.

Her story also reflects how lan-

guage can become a bridge between people from different regions. Having moved from South India and established her life in Gonda, Dr Anitha has embraced a local form of expression that is deeply connected with the area's culture and everyday life.

Awadhi is traditionally spoken across much of Uttar Pradesh's Awadh region and has a rich literary history. It is closely associated with works such as Goswami Tulsidas's Ramcharitmanas and Malik Muhammad Jayasi's Padmavat. The language is often appreciated for its musical, soft and expressive character.

For Dr Anitha, however, Awadhi appears to have become personal rather than merely cultural. Her enthusiasm for hearing patients speak it has turned everyday medical conversations into opportunities to experience the language.

She ended her video with a cheerful celebration of her adopted home and its language: "Jai Awadhi! Jai Gonda!"

Anthropic Back in Trump's Favour, Says US Commerce Chief



US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick has said artificial intelligence company Anthropic is "back on the right side" with the Trump administration, signaling a possible easing of tensions between the AI firm and the US government.

Lutnick made the remarks in an interview with Axios, according to a report cited by Reuters. His comments come after a dispute between Anthropic and the US military over restrictions on how its artificial intelligence technology could be used.

The disagreement intensified after US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth blocked Anthropic from certain military contracts. The decision followed the company's refusal to permit the US government to use its Claude AI models for domestic surveillance or autonomous weapons.

Anthropic challenged the government's position in court, filing a lawsuit in California. The dispute has focused on how advanced AI systems should be used in military operations and the limits companies can place on government access to their technology.

On August 27, a US judge sided with Anthropic in its legal battle

with the American military over AI safety on the battlefield. The ruling added another layer to the increasingly high-profile debate surrounding the use of artificial intelligence in national security and defense.

The disagreement between Anthropic and the Trump administration has also highlighted a broader tension facing major AI companies. While governments are seeking access to increasingly powerful AI systems for defense and security purposes, technology companies are attempting to estab-

lish boundaries around applications they consider particularly risky.

Anthropic and the US Commerce Department did not immediately respond to requests for comment from Reuters regarding Lutnick's remarks.

Meanwhile, Anthropic co-founder Tom Brown appeared at a technology-focused G20 event in North Carolina on Wednesday morning. His appearance came as the company continues to engage with policymakers and officials over the development and deployment of

AI infrastructure.

Brown emphasized the importance of data centers during the gathering and urged officials to provide permits for their construction in their respective countries. The availability of large-scale data centers has become increasingly important as AI companies expand their models and require substantial computing infrastructure.

Lutnick's statement that Anthropic is once again viewed positively by the Trump administration could mark a change in the relationship following the military contract dispute. However, the underlying questions about AI safety, government surveillance and autonomous weapons remain central to the debate.

The episode reflects the growing importance of negotiations between governments and AI companies as advanced models become increasingly relevant to defense, national security and critical infrastructure. It also shows how disagreements over the acceptable uses of AI can quickly develop into legal and political disputes involving some of the world's most powerful technology firms.

Chinese Entrepreneur Turns Itch-Scratching Into Unusual Business

A 32-year-old Chinese entrepreneur has turned an everyday need for comfort into an unusual business, offering customers professional back-scratching and itch-relief services for a fee.

Zhang Xiaojiao, from Hubei province, launched the service in Shenzhen under the brand Suma. Customers lie on beds in an environment similar to a massage parlour, while trained staff use specially designed pointed nails to gently scratch different parts of the body.

The service costs 300 yuan, around Rs 4,200, per hour and is marketed as a way to relax, reduce stress and improve sleep. Customers can also tell staff which areas are particularly itchy, allowing them to focus on specific spots. The sensation can sometimes be ticklish enough to make customers laugh.

Zhang believes the unusual service has found a market among stressed urban residents. "In first-

tier cities, people generally experience high levels of stress. As a result, this service is in great demand," he said.

Zhang opened his first Suma outlet in Shenzhen's Baoan District in May. A second branch followed in Futian District a month later. Together, the two outlets reportedly generate around 100,000 yuan, approximately Rs 14 lakh, in monthly gross revenue and have reached the break-even point.

The business attracts both men and women, with male customers accounting for about 70 per cent. Zhang said some customers have described the service as more relaxing than a conventional massage, helping the business build a strong base of repeat clients.

The idea reportedly came from a combination of social media and Zhang's childhood memories. Last year, he watched a short video showing a woman scratching her husband's back. Comments under



the video caught his attention, with several people saying they would be willing to pay someone to scratch an itch for them. The idea also reminded Zhang of his childhood, when his father

would scratch his back to help him fall asleep. He began wondering whether the simple act of comfort could become a professional service.

Since there was little precedent for such a business in China, Zhang said he developed the service from scratch, experimenting with techniques and methods to make the experience comfortable for customers.

The venture marks another turn in Zhang's entrepreneurial journey. After university, he tried seven different jobs in one year before founding two cross-border e-commerce companies. He later moved into the social media industry, but his earlier ventures did not achieve the success he expected.

His latest idea, however, appears to be gaining traction. Zhang now hopes to expand Suma to 100 outlets across China and turn professional itch-scratching into a recognised service profession.

Teenager Vishesh Sharma Takes Four-Shot Lead At Telangana Golconda Masters

Local favourite Vishesh Sharma strengthened his position at the top of the leaderboard with a six-under 64 in the third round of the Rs 1 crore Telangana Golconda Masters golf tournament, opening up a four-shot advantage ahead of the final day. The 19-year-old Sharma, who began the round tied for the lead with Amardeep Malik, produced a composed display featuring seven birdies and just one bogey to move to 20-under 190. Playing on his home course, Vishesh has maintained at least a share of the lead in every round of the tournament. His impressive sequence of 60, 66 and 64 has put him in a commanding position going into the final round. His opening 60 had equalled the course record. Amardeep Malik remained Vishesh's closest challenger after carding a two-under 68 to reach 16-under 194. The 41-year-old from Noida, a two-time winner on the PGTI, made three birdies but dropped a shot on the par-three ninth. Delhi's Honey Baisoya climbed one place to third at 14-under 196 after another 68. Starting the day two shots behind the joint leaders, Baisoya mixed four birdies with two bogeys to stay within striking distance of the leading group. Dhruv Sheoran of Gurugram, who had shared the opening-round lead, slipped to fourth at 13-under 197. Sheoran carded an even-par 70, making three birdies and three bogeys during his third round. The biggest move of the day came from current PGTI Rankings leader Saptak Talwar. Beginning the round tied for 17th, Talwar fired the lowest score of the day, a seven-under 61, to surge into fifth place at 12-under 198. Vishesh's four-shot cushion gives him a significant advantage, but Malik, Baisoya and the chasing pack will look to mount a challenge in the final round. With the teenager already showing remarkable consistency across three rounds, attention will now be on whether he can convert his dominant position into his biggest title yet.



Messi To Receive Mid-Game Tribute Across Argentina

Football teams across Argentina will pay tribute to Lionel Messi with a special mid-game minute of applause following his decision to retire from international duty after a remarkable 21-year career with the national team. Referees will pause play at the 10-minute mark of every match in the upcoming round of the Clausura tournament, as well as fixtures in other men's and women's leagues across Argentina. The tribute is being organised in recognition of Messi's extraordinary contribution to the national team, the Argentine Football Association said. The 39-year-old Messi, who famously wore Argentina's No. 10 jersey, announced on Monday that he would no longer represent the national team. His decision brings an end to an international career that has made him one of the most celebrated figures in Argentine sporting history. Messi made 207 appearances for Argentina and scored 125 goals, both national records. His international career reached its greatest moment in 2022, when he captained Argentina to the FIFA World Cup title in Qatar. He also led the team to two other World Cup finals during his career. The forward has become an iconic figure in Argentina, where he is idolized by millions of supporters. His achievements with the national team eventually ended years of debate over his legacy after he delivered the World Cup trophy in 2022. Despite his legendary status in Argentina, Messi never played professional football in his home country. He moved to Barcelona at the age of 13 and went on to build a once-in-a-generation career in European football. His performances, records and trophy haul have led many to regard him as the greatest player of all time. While his international career is coming to an end, Messi will continue playing at club level. He currently represents Inter Miami in Major League Soccer, where he remains a major attraction and one of the sport's most influential players. The nationwide tribute will give supporters across Argentina an opportunity to collectively honour Messi and celebrate his extraordinary service to the national team. The 10th-minute pause is a symbolic gesture reflecting the shirt number that became inseparable from his identity and legacy.



VVS Laxman To Coach India At Asian Games 2026



VVS Laxman, Director of Cricket at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence (CoE), will take charge of the Indian men's cricket team at the upcoming Asian Games 2026 in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan. Laxman will be supported by a coaching team comprising Sunil Joshi, Hrishikesh Kanitkar and Subhadeep Ghosh, according to the list of coaches released by the Sports Ministry. The appointment marks another Asian Games assignment for Laxman, who previously coached the Indian men's team at the 2023 Asian Games in Hangzhou, China. India went on to win the gold medal in cricket at the continental event under his guidance. Laxman's experience with the Asian Games campaign is expected to be valuable as India prepares to compete in the 2026 edition. The tournament will bring together leading sporting nations from across Asia, with cricket again forming part of the programme. As Director of Cricket at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence, Laxman has remained closely involved in the development and preparation of Indian players. His appointment also provides continuity from the previous Asian Games campaign, where he successfully guided the men's side to the top of the podium. Sunil Joshi, Hrishikesh Kanitkar and Subhadeep Ghosh will form part of Laxman's support staff for the campaign. Their collective experience in Indian cricket is expected to help the team manage the demands of a major multi-sport event. The Asian Games 2026 will be held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, later this month. India's cricket team will enter the competition with expectations of defending its gold-medal success from Hangzhou. For Laxman, the assignment adds another significant responsibility to his role with the BCCI. Having already experienced the pressure and expectations surrounding an Asian Games campaign, he will now look to guide another Indian squad towards success in Japan. The inclusion of cricket in the Asian Games provides players with an opportunity to represent India on a major continental stage. With Laxman leading the coaching setup and supported by Joshi, Kanitkar and Ghosh, the Indian men's team will aim to build on its gold-medal-winning performance from 2023.

North Delhi Strikers Crown DPL 2026 Women's Title



North Delhi Strikers (Women) were crowned champions of the Delhi Premier League (DPL) 2026 Women's competition after defeating South Delhi Superstarz (Women) by six wickets in the final at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. Chasing a modest target of 123, North Delhi Strikers kept their composure and reached 128/4 in 19 overs to secure the coveted title. The successful chase capped a disciplined all-round performance from the Strikers, who controlled key moments of the final and prevented South Delhi Superstarz from building enough pressure. Earlier, South Delhi Superstarz posted 122/6 in their allotted 20 overs

after being put under sustained pressure by the Strikers' bowling attack. Captain Shweta Sehrawat top-scored for the Superstarz with 31 runs from 32 balls. She struck three boundaries during her innings but was unable to provide the acceleration needed to push the team towards a challenging total. Wicketkeeper Nishika Singh provided crucial resistance at the other end, remaining unbeaten on 39 from 30 deliveries. Her innings included four boundaries and a six, helping South Delhi Superstarz cross the 120-run mark and give their bowlers a target to defend. However, North Delhi Strikers' bowlers delivered a disciplined performance throughout the innings. Priya Mishra, Nazma, Archana, Reshika Beniwal and Apeksha Anand claimed one wicket each as the Strikers consistently kept the Superstarz batters under pressure. The controlled bowling effort proved decisive as South Delhi Superstarz struggled to accelerate during the middle and closing stages of their innings. Their total of 122/6 ultimately left North Delhi Strikers with a manageable chase. The Strikers then approached the run chase with confidence, reaching 128/4 in 19 overs. Although they lost four wickets during the pursuit, they maintained control of the required run rate and avoided a late collapse. The six-wicket victory secured the DPL 2026 Women's championship for North Delhi Strikers and marked a successful conclusion to their campaign. South Delhi Superstarz, despite their determined effort in the final, had to settle for the runners-up position. The final also highlighted the importance of disciplined bowling in restricting an opposition side in a title contest. North Delhi Strikers' collective effort with the ball ensured that their batters were presented with a modest target, which they ultimately chased down with an over to spare. The Arun Jaitley Stadium witnessed the Strikers complete their campaign with a convincing six-wicket victory and lift the DPL 2026 Women's trophy.

BCCI Backs Rohit Sharma, Clarifies Agarkar Position After Review Meeting

The BCCI has offered a clear indication of its stance on Rohit Sharma while ruling out any immediate discussion over the tenure of chief selector Ajit Agarkar following a crucial review meeting involving India's senior cricket leadership.

BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia addressed the media after the meeting and dismissed speculation surrounding Rohit's future. He said the veteran opener has been performing superbly and questioned the need for continued speculation over his international career.

Rohit, who has been linked with uncertainty over his place in India's plans for the 2027 World Cup, recently scored 130-140 runs in his last match. Saikia said there was no reason to fuel rumours about the player while praising his current form.

Ajit Agarkar did not attend the meeting, with Saikia explaining that the review was called at short notice. Although there had been speculation that Agarkar's tenure as chief selector could come under discussion, the BCCI secretary clarified that no such discussion took place.

The meeting was attended by India head coach Gautam Gambhir, Test and ODI skipper Shubman Gill, T20I captain Shreyas Iyer and VVS Laxman, Director of Cricket at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence (CoE). India's recent white-ball defeats in Ireland and England, along with the Test series win over Sri Lanka, were among the key matters reviewed.

Player injuries, particularly those involving Jasprit Bumrah and Hardik Pandya, also emerged as an important concern. Saikia said the heavy schedule, including two months of IPL before international commitments, was taking a toll on players.

The BCCI is considering changes to future Future Tours Programmes to provide players with adequate rest, acclimatization and practice matches before major series in SENA countries. The board is also taking feedback from captains and the head coach to develop a strategy for managing injuries.

The vacant head of sports science position at the CoE was another issue discussed. Saikia said

around 16 people are currently handling fitness and rehabilitation facilities, but the board is seeking a highly qualified person to supervise the programme.

Meanwhile, there are no plans to appoint a new Director of Cricket. VVS Laxman will coach India at the Asian Games 2026, while Gambhir will remain with the senior team for the home ODI series against the West Indies.

Mana Panel Promises Welfare Push in Producers Council Polls

With the Telugu Film Producers Council elections approaching, members of the contesting Mana Panel held a press meet and outlined their plans for the welfare of producers and other members of the film industry. C. Kalyan said the panel was unanimously choosing him as President and that he had also spoken with Bandla Ganesh. He alleged that the Guild, despite receiving support from the Council, was now working against the organisation, appearing mainly during elections, taking commission amounts that should come to the Council and denying membership to eligible producers. Kalyan said the panel was following the path of Dasari Narayana Rao and had held a positive discussion with Balakrishna. He said the panel would meet both Chief Ministers of the Telugu states to explain industry-related issues. He recalled that they had introduced medical insurance and promised to increase coverage from Rs.4 lakh to Rs.5 lakh after winning, while providing insurance cards immediately where possible. He said the panel would support small producers and explore insurance coverage even for producers who had made only one film. It would also provide Rs.30,000 for education and marriage assistance, including financial support for the marriage of a producer's daughter. A pension committee would be formed to assist senior citizens and families of deceased producers. Kalyan said discussions were underway with APFDC Chairman Bharat Bhushan on industry properties in both Telugu states. He praised Bharat Bhushan's performance and said he would raise the issues with both Chief Ministers. From 2032, the panel proposed using 30% of rental income from an earlier constructed building for the benefit of industry members. It also plans to create OTT opportunities for small films through a dedicated website. Chadalavada Srinivasa Rao said producers were like farmers in the film industry because of their hard work. He defended the nomination process and responded to Ashok Kumar's allegation that he was deliberately forced to withdraw his nomination. Srinivasa Rao said Ashok Kumar approached the court and urged him to respect the industry and withdraw the allegations. He explained that Ashok Kumar had filed three nominations and became ineligible after failing to withdraw additional nominations within the stipulated period. Other candidates who filed multiple nominations withdrew the extras within the deadline. Thummala Prasanna Kumar said the panel's medical insurance and welfare services were documented in official records. He said Mana Panel had also supported struggling senior citizens as a charity initiative. Prasanna Kumar maintained that the nomination process followed the rules and said the panel respected the court. He also acknowledged the support and services provided by Chadalavada Srinivasa Rao, Sunil Narang and actor Shivaji.



Mahesh Babu Praises Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Romanchakam

Telugu superstar Mahesh Babu has extended his support to director Venu Gopal Reddy's romantic drama Romanchakam, produced by ace director Sandeep Reddy Vanga, describing the film as "entertaining and promising." Mahesh Babu shared his reaction on X, wishing Sandeep Reddy Vanga, Pranay and the entire team success. He praised the love, passion and hard work invested in the project and expressed hope that the team would receive the same enthusiasm back from audiences. The unexpected endorsement delighted the Romanchakam team, with Sandeep Reddy Vanga's production house Bhadrakali Pictures expressing its gratitude. Responding to Mahesh Babu's post, the production house called the moment special and said the team would cherish the superstar's gesture for a long time. Romanchakam has generated considerable curiosity ahead of its worldwide theatrical release. Interest increased further after the makers released a glimpse video a few weeks ago, offering a glimpse into the unusual romantic storyline. The video initially presents the characters played by Sumanth Prabhas and Ananthika Sanilkumar as deeply in love. However, the relationship takes a dramatic turn, with the couple eventually appearing to develop hatred for each other. This sudden shift has added an element of mystery to the film. Another point of intrigue is the role played by Upendra Limaye, who appears to portray a police officer. His character has further contributed to speculation about the direction of the story. Apart from Sumanth Prabhas, Ananthika Sanilkumar and Upendra Limaye, the cast includes Venkatesh Kakumanu, Narendra Ravi, Mani Aegurla and Sai Sohan among others. Romanchakam is produced by Pranay Reddy Vanga, while Pavan Pappula has handled cinematography and Vasuki Vaibhav has composed the music. Gobind Kotap has choreographed the dance sequences, with Akunur Keerthana responsible for the costumes. Mahesh Babu's public appreciation has added another layer of attention to the film, particularly because the endorsement came ahead of its theatrical arrival. With its contrasting portrayal of romance and conflict, Romanchakam is now entering cinemas with heightened expectations from audiences.

Virender Sehwag Gets Emotional Over Hanuman Ansh



Former India cricketer Virender Sehwag has shared an emotional reaction after watching the recently released Hindi film Hanuman Ansh, which is based on the life and teachings of spiritual guru and Hanuman devotee Neem Karoli Baba, popularly known as Maharajji. Hanuman Ansh has reportedly achieved strong box-office success despite featuring no major stars. The film has crossed Rs.70 crore in collections in Hindi, with positive word of mouth playing a major role in its theatrical performance. Directed by Vishal Chaturvedi, the film explores the life, personality and spiritual teachings of Neem Karoli Baba. After watching the movie, Sehwag described it as a devotional tribute to Maharajji and reflected on his own long-standing interest in the spiritual teacher. Sehwag said some experiences and personalities cannot be adequately described through words. He recalled that some of his friends were devotees of Neem Karoli Baba and had introduced him to the spiritual guru about a decade ago. Since then, he said, he had continued to hear and read about Maharajji. The former cricketer said Maharajji's personality and devotion had deeply attracted him and that his blessings had transformed the lives of many people. According to Sehwag, portraying an entire life in a single film is impossible, but Hanuman Ansh has presented Maharajji's story beautifully. A particular scene involving snakes surrounding Maharajji reportedly moved Sehwag deeply. He also highlighted a dialogue in which a devotee describes Maharajji as innocent like Lord Shiva. Maharajji responds that the devotees themselves are innocent because people see through their eyes what exists in their hearts. Sehwag suggested that the statement could carry a message for everyone and described saints like Maharajji as rare figures in India's history. He said understanding such a personality completely may be impossible, but people can still experience a glimpse of his life and teachings through the film. His post has added further attention to Hanuman Ansh, which has been relying heavily on audience response rather than star power. The film's reported Rs.70-crore-plus collection has already made it a notable success. Sehwag urged those familiar with Neem Karoli Baba to watch the movie and encouraged those who had never heard of him to watch it as well. His heartfelt endorsement has given the film an unusual connection with cricket fans and audiences interested in spirituality.

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Prabhu Deva's Moonwalk Set for Diwali Release

Prabhu Deva's upcoming film Moonwalk is set to arrive as a Diwali treat this year, with the makers officially announcing its festive release. The film has already attracted attention for bringing together dance, music and comedy, while also marking Oscar-winning composer A.R. Rahman's acting debut. A.R. Rahman, who is composing the music for Moonwalk, will reportedly appear in a special guest role. His first appearance on the big screen as an actor has become one of the film's major talking points. Directed by Manoj N.S. and produced by Behindwoods Productions, Moonwalk is being presented as a complete family entertainer built around entertainment, music and dance. The makers have said the film is designed to offer a festive experience that can be enjoyed by audiences across age groups. One of the film's unusual attractions is comedian Yogi Babu, who is playing as many as 16 different characters. The movie also features a large ensemble cast, including Aju Varghese, Arjun Ashokan, Nishma, Susmitha, Redin Kingsley and Motta Rajendran. Director Manoj said the film was conceived with the festive atmosphere of Diwali in mind. He explained that Diwali strengthens family bonds and expressed his hope that Moonwalk would similarly become a celebration filled with laughter, dance and music for families. The film has already generated interest through its songs. Tracks including Yethu, Tinga and Macarena have received a strong response from listeners. The makers are now preparing to release a fourth song titled Mayile, which will feature Prabhu Deva and A.R. Rahman together. The combination of Prabhu Deva's dancing and acting, A.R. Rahman's music and screen debut, and Yogi Babu's multiple roles has given Moonwalk a distinctive promotional appeal. The film is expected to target family audiences during the festive season. Anup V. Shailaja is handling cinematography, while Romeo Pictures has acquired the worldwide distribution rights. Lahari Music has secured the audio rights. Moonwalk will be released simultaneously in Tamil, Telugu and Hindi, giving the film a wider reach beyond its primary Tamil audience. With its Diwali release, the makers are positioning the project as a colourful family entertainer built around music, comedy and dance, while A.R. Rahman's acting debut adds an additional reason for audiences to watch the film.



Yeshanagula Sets YouTube Record in Five Days

Nani-starrer The Paradise is generating growing excitement, and the film's second song Yeshanagula has added another major milestone to its promotional journey. The song has crossed 50 million views on YouTube within just five days of its release, with the makers announcing that it has become the fastest Telugu song to reach the mark. Directed by Srikanth Odela, The Paradise has Nani in the lead role, while Keerthy Suresh also appears in the Yeshanagula song. Released on August 29, the track combines the flavour of Telangana folk music with a contemporary musical treatment and has quickly attracted attention from listeners. The song has been trending not only on YouTube but also across social media platforms, where fans have been sharing reels and dance videos inspired by it. The makers have said the song has received a strong response from audiences since its release. Yeshanagula has also made an impact on YouTube's global charts. The official account of The Paradise stated that the song was trending at number one on the global chart, adding to the significance of its rapid viewership. The track has music by Anirudh Ravichander, lyrics by Kasarla Shyam, and vocals by Prabha Bangarigalla and Addula Jangireddy. The combination of folk-inspired elements, modern production and the presence of Nani and Keerthy Suresh has helped the song gain momentum among Telugu cinema audiences. Interest surrounding the song was further boosted during its release phase when Nani made a surprise appearance at Anirudh Ravichander's concert in Dallas. Nani's presence on stage created excitement among fans and added to the buzz surrounding Yeshanagula. The song's quick rise on YouTube comes at a time when expectations around The Paradise are steadily increasing. With Srikanth Odela directing the project and Nani playing a key role, the film has already attracted considerable attention. For Yeshanagula, crossing the 50-million-view mark in five days has turned the song into a notable digital success even before the film reaches audiences. Its continued presence on global charts and the growing number of fan-made reels indicate that the track has moved beyond a conventional film-song release to become a social media trend.